



# SPIRIT OF LASCOLINAS

NEWS AND UPDATES

INSIDE: LPGA  
Volunteers of  
America Texas  
Shootout



Bi-Monthly Newsletter of LAS COLINAS ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2017

## ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS: DRIVING THE FUTURE

### Casting your vote drives the future

Forty-three years young, Las Colinas continues to be the ideal location for residents and commercial property owners/tenants. We are calling on you to elect board members either by proxy that was sent to you or by ballot in person at the Annual Meeting of Members on March 28th at 4:00 pm at the Las Colinas Association Headquarters.

### The Annual Meeting of Members

The Las Colinas Association Annual Meeting of Members takes place every year for the purpose of electing board members and voting on other business that may come before the board. Before the meeting can take place, however, there must be a quorum which is why it is important that we receive your proxy as-soon-as-possible. The quorum pertains to the minimum number of member votes needed to conduct business during the meeting. The Annual Meeting notice and proxies were recently mailed to all property owner members. If a member did not receive their proxy, please call 972-541-2345 to have the forms resent.



Carpenter Hall at the Las Colinas Association.

### The Board of Directors

The Las Colinas Association Board is comprised of volunteer community members that set policy regarding Las Colinas Association and ultimately, the Las Colinas community. Within the 7 board positions, there are 3 residential representatives, 3 commercial member representatives and one At-Large Position, currently held by the Declarant. Board members are elected for three-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms.

### The Candidates

This year, Las Colinas Association has three candidates for these three positions: Barton Hankins, David Cole and R.(Ben) Brewer (See Candidate Profiles on next page).

Your vote is important!  
Please send in your  
proxy!



**R. (Ben) Brewer**  
is a Director  
with Hines, the  
Houston-based  
international  
developer.

Current At-Large  
Position



**David A. Cole**  
is an owner  
of i Fratelli  
Ristorante and  
Wine Bar and i  
Fratelli Pizza.

Current Commerical  
Representative



**Barton Hankins**  
is the Owner/  
Managing  
Partner of  
Westway Ford  
in Irving.

Current Residential  
Representative



## Residential Property of the Month



5763 Waters Edge Drive at The Lakes of Las Colinas  
Omar Colon Gutierrez & L. Vicenti- Acosta

## CONSTRUCTION

Music Factory is scheduled to open in September of 2017. For more information, check out: <http://musicfactory.com>.

Gables Water Street, the mixed-use development in the Urban Center is still on track. Visit <http://retailstreetadvisors.com> for updates. Restaurants presently confirmed include: *Olivella's Neo Pizza Napoletana*, *Twisted Root Burger Co.*, *Barcelona Taco Bar*, *Main Street Bistro & Bakery*, *The Londoner Pub*, *Planet Sub*, *Grabbagreen*, *Go Fish Poke*, and *Café Herrera*.

## LAS COLINAS ASSOCIATION

The Las Colinas Association Annual Meeting of Members will be held Tuesday, March 28th at 4:00pm at 3838 Teleport Boulevard.

Plans for the Las Colinas Dog Park have been delayed due to a raw waterline that must be moved by the Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District.

## AREA EVENTS



The LPGA Event, *Volunteers of America Texas Shootout*, will begin April 24th. Tickets are \$25 and the kids under 17 get in for free. For more information on The Volunteers of *America Texas Shootout*, check out: <http://www.lpgatexasshootout.com/>

## Candidate Profiles

**Barton Hankins** is the Owner/Managing Partner of Westway Ford in Irving, which ranks in the top 1.5% of vehicle sales in the nation. He says he got the "car bug" selling cars while in college and worked his way up from selling cars to owning his own dealership. He's been in the automotive industry since 1989. As a Cottonwood Valley homeowner, Mr. Hankins has held numerous positions on Cottonwood's Board of Directors, including HOA President in 2015. He has also served on the LCA's Architectural Control Residential Review Committee and on The Highlands School Board of Trustees as Vice President since 2010. Mr. Hankins has served on the Las Colinas Association Board since May of 2015, filling an expired term.

**David A. Cole** is a lifelong resident of Irving and an owner of i Fratelli Ristorante and Wine Bar and i Fratelli Pizza in Austin and throughout the DFW metroplex. With 35 years of experience in the Food Service Industry, Mr. Cole holds an Associate's degree in Food Service Operations. He currently serves on the boards of the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Irving Family YMCA. He is a former board member of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce and a past commissioner on the Irving Planning & Zoning Commission. He is also a past president and a current member of the Greater Dallas Restaurant Association and a Lifetime Member of the Irving Heritage Society. Mr. Cole has been on the Las Colinas Association Board since 2013.

**R. (Ben) Brewer** is a Managing Director with Hines; the Houston-based international developer that purchased the remaining 600+/- acres of undeveloped land owned by the Las Colinas Land Limited Partnership in 2005 and has since developed a significant number of properties in the Metroplex. A certified public accountant, Mr. Brewer is a graduate of Baylor University and was a participant in their Study Abroad Program centered at Imperial College in London. In his current position as Managing Director for Hines, he manages the development process for Dallas-Ft. Worth residential properties. Mr. Brewer has been on the Las Colinas Association Board since 2012.





The Canals at Las Colinas



Campion Trail



Las Colinas Boulevard

## WALKING IN “THE HILLS”

Las Colinas is known for its many pedestrian-friendly walkways throughout the community. Las Colinas Boulevard, the Lake Carolyn Promenade, Campion Trail all come to mind for great walking paths but La Villita, Rochelle Park, Flagpole Hill, the perimeter of Hackberry Creek and Thomas Jefferson Park also offer great paths for a stroll.

The Mayo Clinic suggests that regular brisk walking helps maintain weight, strengthen bones and muscles, can improve your mood and also improve your balance and coordination. Of course, walkers should make sure they are wearing appropriate footwear; shoes that cushion your and also absorb shock. Meghan Rabbitt (2015) of Prevention Magazine further reiterates how walking improves mood but even 30 minutes of walking can encourage creativity and cut the risk of chronic disease in half. Walking may be a monotonous activity to some. You can “spice” up your walk with free Spotify music, audible books, podcasts (free) or you can challenge yourself with ankle/arm weights.

If you still aren’t motivated to get out and start moving, you might consider joining a bonified social walking club like Star Trekkers. It is a non-competitive group of walkers who walk pre-determined routes with directions and keep distance logs. The concept of a social walking group first began in Germany and was called Volkssport walking. Volkssport walking eventually spread to the United States and Texas can account for a total of 30 walking clubs. The DFW area has American Volkssports Association sanctioned walking clubs in Irving, Dallas, Plano and Tarrant County.

All over the country, walks take place in state parks, city downtowns, battlefields, historic parks and national parks, but Gary Whitford, Vice President of Star Trekkers, says that the walk in Las Colinas is “one of the best walks we have in Texas.” The Las Colinas 10k walk begins every Monday night (except for the first Monday night of the month) in the lobby of the Dallas Marriott Hotel Las Colinas located at 221 West Las Colinas Blvd. There is no start time as you set your own pace.

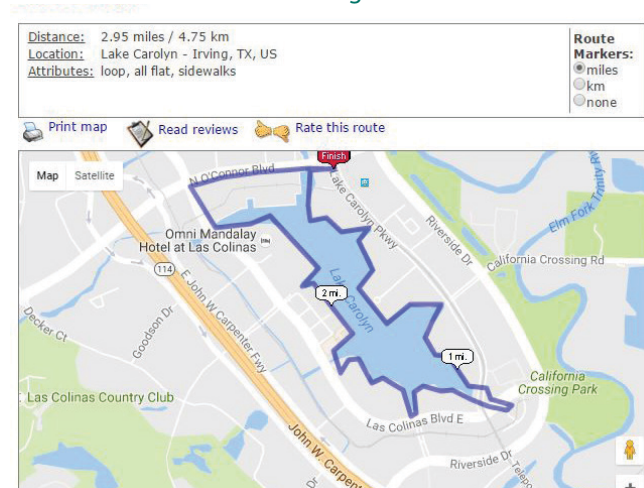
“If you walk, you get in good shape,” says Whitford. It really is as simple as that and is easy with all the scenic offerings of Las Colinas pathways.

For information on walking clubs, go to: AVA.org. <http://www.starttrekkers.org/> has information on Irving’s walking club.

*\*Take caution when walking at dawn and dusk hours, wear reflective clothing. Remember to hydrate. During summertime, it is important to use SPF, wear sun protection and SPF clothing.*



Scenic bridge on Las Colinas Boulevard



The Lake Carolyn Promenade. Retrieved from <http://www.usatf.org/routes/view.asp?rID=423501>





# THE ONLY LPGA TOUR EVENT IN TEXAS IS RIGHT HERE

Coming up on its fifth year at the Las Colinas Country Club, The Volunteers of America Texas Shootout will kick off the DFW golf season during April 24-30th. It is the only LPGA Tour event in Texas. Kristy Nutt, Tournament Director, says that the LPGA was “founded by 13 women that went state to state organizing their own events, getting sponsors and volunteers. They knew they wanted to build something that would last forever and would encourage young women and older women to get involved with the game of golf. They could see the importance of the business that it brings”. Only this event does more than bring about businesses, The Volunteers of America Texas Shootout benefits at-risk youth, Alzheimer patients, Mothers & Infants Together (MINT), recovering drug users and even provides housing assistance.

**“That’s the one thing I love about the LPGA is that you don’t have that celebrity distance...”**

**-Kristy Nutt, Tournament Director**

Besides an all-star female lineup of talent, two other important things set this tournament aside from all other tournaments: the international presence and the lack of distance between spectator and player. The tournament is more realistic for the average golfer. Spectators and fans “can relate to these women versus the men,” Kristi Tschudin, Tournament Coordinator, says “because you are not going to hit a drive 400 to 500 yards.” “However,” Nutt adds “there are some of the girls that can pound it down the fairway.” Additionally, the players are able to interact with the fans more so than what one might experience at other tournaments.

“That’s the one thing I love about the LPGA is that you don’t have that celebrity distance, it is ‘I’m a professional golfer because you’re out here supporting us and cheering us on. I wouldn’t be out here if it wasn’t for our fans, volunteers or sponsors” Nutt says.

International players are dominating the LPGA scene currently and this resonates with the amazing multicultural presence in Irving/Las Colinas. With players hailing from China, Germany, Japan, Korea,



Canada, Thailand, Spain and other nations, this all-female professional sport brings multicultural unity.

Nutt is confident that the community will continue to become more involved with the tournament and says that “one day we will be the equivalent of what Colonial and Byron have to offer.”

“They’re missing the best show in town if they aren’t coming out!”

Tickets are \$25 and the kids under 17 get in for free. Admission is also free for retired and current military members with an ID. For more information on The Volunteers of America Texas Shootout, check out: <http://www.lpgatexasshootout.com/>

## THE TASTE

By Amanda Star Cline

Tex-Mex style food in Las Colinas? There are a few places but you will definitely want to try El Picante at 4117 North Story Road. The owner, Nadeem Akhtar, recreates fresh and crisp recipes from an Oklahoma tex-mex restaurant where he worked as a college student in the 1980s. Their best-selling item is the quesadilla and their signature dish is the naanchaco which tastes like a fresher and fancier version of the chalupa, but made with naan.

What sets this place apart is the ability to customize your order. First,



Chicken Nachos with white queso

you pick your entrée, then you can select your proteins and toppings, adding as much as you want or making it simple (for those meat-and-cheese-only folks).

I ordered the nachos, naanchaco and I even got to sample chicken and biscuits from their cajun sister store next door called Krispy Crunchy Chicken. Before I can talk about my experience with the tex-mex, I have to touch on the honey butter biscuits from Krispy Krunchy Chicken. WOW! Think of a thin caramelized exterior hiding a dense, almost cake-like, biscuit. Soft, buttery, dense, warm and mouthwatering.

When it comes to El Picante, I cannot say enough about their amazing white queso! Yes! Smooth white queso. In fact, one of my friends went back with her husband just to get another order of nachos with extra queso. It really is that good! Completely addicting!



Naanchaco

Their fajita-style chicken is also a must! It had that perfect dark chargrilled flavor; the way grilled chicken should be, however; many restaurants seem to miss this mark.

When you have a hankering for unpretentious Tex-Mex or rich honey butter biscuits and chicken, visit Akhtar's El Picante or Krispy Crunchy Chicken.

The Taste is a section where I try local restaurants so you know where to go for great experiences and great food!

## AFTER 5 IN LC



Some of the top selling wines at i Fratelli Ristorante and Wine Bar

Wine drinkers can find bliss at i Fratelli Ristorante and Wine Bar located. With over 100 wines available, i Fratelli brings glasses of varietals from Washington, California, Argentina, Italy and many other countries. Aside from wine, the bar also offers classic cocktails and beer for those who aren't in the mood for vino. What is unique about this place, besides the tons of wine options is that you will not find one TV in the bar. The lack of TVs definitely creates a more organic ambiance of soft voices and less distraction so one can focus on their partners, friends, food, and wine. A breath of fresh air in modern society.

The long bar top can hold up to 15 people; perfect for happy hour with your coworkers and the bar (including a private room) can

accommodate up to 100 people. Of course, food fare from the kitchen, including their award-winning pizza, is available.

### What you should order:

Top sellers include cabernet and table wines, but if you aren't in a wine mood, you can't go wrong with a peach bellini. Bar Manager, Brittany Boucher says her favorite is the Cataldi Madonna Malandrino Montepulciano D'Abruzzo.

### Happy Hour Info:

Every day, 4pm-7pm. iFratelli is located at 7701 North MacArthur Blvd. Irving, Texas 75063.

After 5 in LC seeks to inform local business professionals on happy hour hotspots in Las Colinas. Where do you and your colleagues go to unwind after work? Please email Amanda S. Cline at [acline@lascolinas](mailto:acline@lascolinas).





## FEATURED BUSINESS Flowers of Las Colinas

Since 1994, Flowers of Las Colinas has provided premier floral displays of affection, sympathy, and good wishes. Barbara Faris, the owner of Flowers of Las Colinas, says that they have remained in Las Colinas because "it's a very prosperous area".

The shop has received numerous awards and even ranks in the top 100 (out of 40,000 shops worldwide) florists of the Florists' Transworld Delivery (FTD), a trade association and flower delivery network. Flowers of Las Colinas boasts a celebrity clientele including Amy Grant, Reba McEntire, Pati LaBelle and even Dr. Phil, who still calls for flower arrangements.

Versatile flowers are given at holidays but also used in weddings. Faris remembers a wedding at the Four Seasons Hotel that called for 3 ½ ft. tall arrangements. The arrangements were around \$700 per item and there were 20 tables so one can imagine all the work and planning involved. However, Faris says it "went off without a hitch" and Flowers of Las Colinas had no problem fulfilling that order.

Faris offers some words of advice for those purchasing flowers for lovers, family, and friends. "Never look on the internet and call someone that's located in New York City or San Francisco or Detroit. Call the city the delivery is going to be made in." The person at the other end of the line is called an order gatherer and they typically charge twelve to fifteen dollars for taking the order. "If you spend one hundred dollars, you're probably getting a sixty-dollar arrangement." Basically, shop locally. "Call the shop that's in that city."

Flowers signify important life events, many are happy and some are gloomy. Recently, a man came into Faris's shop and said he needed to purchase flowers for his friend's funeral. The friend did not have any family and the man did not want to attend a funeral in an empty church. "Here's \$5000 dollars", he had said, "put some flowers in that church." So Faris filled the church with flowers. "It was beautiful."

Flowers convey messages and feelings such as love, appreciation, concern, support, and encouragement. Shopping with a local florist gives one more control over the 'message', delivery and quality. "Know your florist". Faris says that she knows her repeat customers and often times gives them a little something extra.

Flowers of Las Colinas is located at 4030 N. MacArthur, #120 in Irving Texas, 75038. For information, call 972-258-0688.





## A LOVE STORY VICKI AND MEL DREWS

Sixteen years ago, on a Saturday night, February 10th to be exact, "fate" tapped Vicki on the shoulder at Cool River Café. "Fate" was wearing a black cashmere jacket and favored heartthrob Tom Selleck.

### *Vicki's Story*

*She was living in Tulsa at the time but a work-related trip brought her to Las Colinas. A few friends and coworkers wanted to blow off some steam so they decided to head to Cool River. It was a good restaurant and a nice bar where they would be able to dance and have cocktails.*

*"My girlfriend spotted him right off the bat," Vicki says of the handsome and outgoing Mel Drews. Vicki, however, didn't think much of it.*

*Vicki and her friend spent most of the night taking turns dancing with a doctor from Nacogdoches, Texas. While Vicki's friend was taking her turn, she felt a tap on the shoulder. "Care to dance?" Mel asked. The rest of the night was spent talking and dancing with Mel.*

*As the night came to a close, Vicki said her goodbyes with a handshake and a business card. She offered no home phone number or cell phone number. Careful and cautious is always the best. His response to that? "It was a challenge then."*

*That was the beginning of their love story.*

### *Mel's Story*

*Tom Selleck? "That was 16 years ago, my goatee was dark, I had all my hair..." he jests.*

*He first noticed her on the dance floor. "I watched and I looked to see if she had a ring on". She did not. He noticed Vicki and her friend taking turns dancing with another gentleman so he figured that she was single. He recalls her favoring Linda Ronstadt with thick brown hair, brown eyes, a great smile and a "terrific laugh".*

*He thought he could at least get a dance with*



Vicki & Mel Drews

*her. "If you don't ask, somebody else is going to." Mel wasn't going to chance it. He walked up to her, tapped her on the shoulder and the rest is history. He got her business card that Saturday night and Monday at 8 in the morning, he called Vicki. For the next week, they talked regularly.*

*Within 6 months, Vicki took a job in Las Colinas and began dating Mel. Although post marriage they had to move from the area, they are now back to enjoy life in Las Colinas. Mel says, "it was cool to come back, the area has really changed and there's so much energy here!"*

*The couple has advice for anyone looking for love. "Keep trying until you get it right. Don't give up in the game", Mel says, "and look for your best friend." However, Vicki divulges that "You just never know when fate is going to tap you on the shoulder".*

## OUR COMMUNITY

Las Colinas, a renowned, self-managed, master-planned community located in Irving, Texas. Be part of our newsletter and submit your story, photo or nomination via our Facebook page, Las Colinas Tex, or by emailing [acline@lascolinas.org](mailto:acline@lascolinas.org) before the 10th of the following month in order to be considered for publication. Thank you for helping us make Spirit of Las Colinas representative of our community.

*Spirit of Las Colinas is produced and published by the Las Colinas Association.*



# SPIRIT OF LAS COLINAS

3838 Teleport Blvd.  
Irving, Texas 75039-4303

[liaisons@lascolinas.org](mailto:liaisons@lascolinas.org)  
[www.lascolinas.org](http://www.lascolinas.org)  
972-541-2345

## NEW MEMBER PROFILE

MELANIE ROBERTSON

**Why did you choose to live in Las Colinas(over other areas)?** Originally I started living in Las Colinas due to proximity to work about a year ago. I chose to buy a house and continue to stay in Las Colinas because I enjoy how active people are in this area and how conveniently it is located. I also love the beautiful neighborhoods in the area and how friendly everyone has been.

**Favorite food?**

I love Tex-Mex but I enjoy the variety of options in Las Colinas.

**What are your hobbies? What groups are you involved with?**

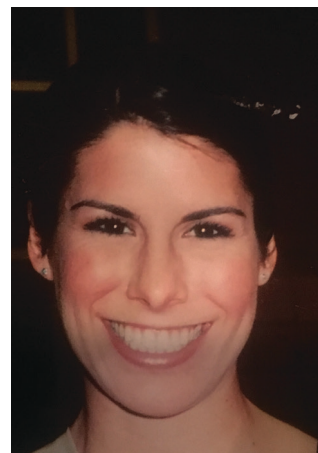
I enjoy running and biking and am a member of the American Association of Petroleum Landmen.

**Where did you move from? If moving from within Texas, How long have you been in Texas?**

I moved from Midland, Texas a year ago and have been in Texas my entire life but was primarily in West Texas.

**What restaurants, stores, events or activities would you like to see here in Las Colinas?**

I'm from a smaller town so I'm overwhelmed by the number of choices I have for restaurants, stores and activities in Las Colinas so I really don't have anything to suggest at this time. I am excited to see what shops and restaurants come in when the new construction on Lake Carolyn is complete.



Melanie Robertson

## FLAGS OVER IRVING PROGRAM

The Irving-Las Colinas Rotary Club invites you to join your friends and neighbors in displaying the American Flag on the five major holidays of Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Veteran's Day. The Flags Over Irving program gives Irving residents an opportunity to show their pride and love for our country. It gives our community a great patriotic spirit and at the same time helps so many people. Want to know how to be a part of Flags over Irving? Go to [www.flagsoverirving.com](http://www.flagsoverirving.com) for more information.