



The Villages of **PARK GLEN**

Neighborhood Association



A great place to live

The Voices of Park Glen

Mission Statement:

Achieving positive changes on our community through communications, enhanced curb appeal, amenities, and neighborhood involvement.

February 2012

Ready, Set, Trasherercise!!!

By Jeanne Rankin - Resident



Looking for a new way to burn those calories and lose some weight? Look no further than your own Park Glen neighborhood. Pick up a plastic grocery bag, some kitchen tongs, your jacket and walking shoes and step outside. While you are enjoying a leisurely walk, pick up the trash in your immediate neighborhood, street, cul-de-sac, etc. Bend for that fast food sack in the road! Lunge for that aluminum can that someone "accidentally" threw in your neighbor's yard! You'll be surprised by the extra steps you take walking over to fetch that candy wrapper the kids have "inadvertently" thrown down on their way home from school!

Seriously, let's all work together to make living in Park Glen a pleasure. Our neighborhood is beautiful and there is nothing wrong with working regularly to keep it that way. At the very least, pick up the trash in your own yard and on the street in front of your house. As my mother used to say, "Many hands make light work!"

What are the advantages you ask? Property values will remain stable or increase if our neighborhood is trash free. Selling your home will be easier if prospective buyers see that the neighborhood is clean and tidy. You will feel a sense of pride when walking or driving through Park Glen. Most of all, you will be a good example to your children.



2012 Eggs-travaganza!

As we are nearing closer to April Park Glen will begin planning the annual Eggs-travaganza. This year's date is March 31, from 10am - 2pm. Each year we have FREE cotton candy, popcorn, snowcones, bounce houses, games, prizes and of course pictures with the Easter Bunny. Do you want to be a vendor at this year's event? Vendor booth applications are available now at www.parkglen.org

Reminders From Your HOA:

It is that time of the year when we have to continuously rake- keep your lawns looking clean and manicured - rake those leaves please!

Also, it is well past the winter holiday months. Avoid a violation and take down your decorations and lights on your houses.

Your Home Town Scouts

If you happen to be walking though Park Glen and you run into a Cub Scout or Boy Scout there is a very good chance that they are from our neighborhood Troop or Pack. Troop & Pack 205 based at Alliance United Methodist Church right here on Park Vista. You will see the Scouts in the community serving. They clean up Acadia Park & Teal Street. You might see them raising funds at a carwash or volunteering at some of the activities at the church or the Park Glen Neighborhood Association, such as, The Turkey Trot, Holiday in the Park or the Lords Acre, and you will definitely see them carrying the colors on the 4th of July during The Park Glen Parade.



The Boy Scouts meet Monday's at the Family Life Center at the Alliance United Methodist Church developing their Scouting skills. The Cubs have their monthly Pack Meeting also at the Alliance United Methodist Church.



If you are interesting in Scouting in our community come and join us at our weekly meetings. Monday's at 7PM at Alliance United Methodist Church or you can contact Bob Kilburn @ bobkilburn@sbcglobal.net

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Things to Consider When Selling your House

By Board Member - Sian Vrana

On the news, in our local newspapers or on the internet we continually we see headlines stating the following:

- Mortgage rates at all time lows
- Mortgage companies looking for homebuyers to finance new loans
- Refinance rates still tumbling – or leveling out
- Layoffs at large banks
- Layoffs at mortgage companies

In our neighborhood we continually see houses that are listed for sale. Some of these have been For Sale for a very, very long time. Why, you ask?

After working to sell our house the last 3 months and to buy another, I thought I'd share what I've uncovered. Let's start with a little updated history so you know what you are up against...

TODAY there are 52 houses for sale in Park Glen
23 have been for sale for less than 90 days
16 have been for sale for 91-180 days
12 have been for sale for 181 -365 days
1 has been for sale over 1 year! WOW...why?

Current average days on market is 83
79 properties have been sold in the past 6 months
35 properties are expired listings with average days on market of 218.

That is a lot of expired listings! Was the price too high, the property not in a condition to be sold, property violations or in disrepair? Many things should be considered.

Houses in our neighborhood are selling for average of \$70-\$74 per square foot. When you price your home out of the market, meaning for more money per square foot than a majority of properties, you can expect that it will take longer to sell your house. Find a realtor; ask for referrals from friends or family if you don't know anyone. Have a realtor provide you with a market survey and take it seriously. I started out higher and had to reduce to a "market" rate. Just because you think your house is worth \$200,000 doesn't mean it is. Find comparable properties that have been sold recently. How are they the same, what's different? What is for sale now? Look at your competition!

Houses typically don't sell quickly, plan for it! De-personalize your home. Just because you like lime

green and orange together doesn't mean anyone else does. Put away your high school pictures from the 70's and 80's, remove family pictures, bills, receipts and other clutter. If Fluffy or Fido has trashed your carpet, get it cleaned. If you don't want to replace it, maybe you could offer a flooring allowance as an incentive to a buyer. Keep your litter boxes clean and vacuum often. Create a game plan and engage everyone in your family to help. If you are serious about selling, a buyer will pick up on it and be a lot more interested.

Food for thought – did you also know that the PGNA website has information on it that the title company will utilize when buying and selling within our community. A resale certificate is required. The cost is \$400, typically paid for by the seller. This package INCLUDES the TRANSFER FEE – where in MOST communities it does not include the Transfer of documents, Current Year Budget, Community Insurance, Community Documents: (1) By Laws, (2) Deed Restrictions, (3) Welcome Letter, (4) Community Interest Form. Direct your realtor or title company to the following site:

http://www.propertymgt solutions.biz/solutions/outside_home.asp

As we go into the New Year and new residents move into our neighborhood all these things are to be considered especially the copies of our Bylaws and Deed Restrictions. Some people are afraid to purchase a home in a neighborhood with restrictions. In actuality it is our restrictions that we have in place that protect our investment and the integrity of our neighborhood. The written documentation provided by the title company explains how this neighborhood operates as well as acceptable improvements and the processes around it. For more information check out the website at www.parkglen.org.

Information deemed RELIABLE but not GUARANTEED
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Stevie's Diner is the brainchild of two young lovebirds, Steve & Michelle, best friends and high school sweethearts. They have used their passion for vintage culture to create a unique, independent, family-owned and operated throwback dining experience.

Whether you're in the mood for a delicious breakfast or lunch, head over to Stevie's Diner where you can experience \$5.99 made-from-scratch weekday lunch specials, including the award-winning Chicken-Fried Steak (served every Wednesday!) If you are in a hurry, you can call your order in at 817-656-0822, for quick pick-up at the convenient drive-thru window; however, if you have the time, we would recommend eating-in for a dining experience that is guaranteed to be a "blast from the past!"

Stevie's Diner is conveniently located at 5500 N. Tarrant Parkway in North Fort Worth/Keller. The restaurant is open daily from 7am - 3pm, and every Friday it is open from 7 a.m - 'til 9pm.

You can check out the menu online at www.steviesdiner.com or better yet, "Get back to where you once belonged" and visit Stevie's Diner today!

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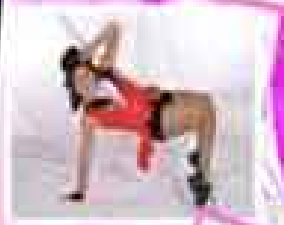
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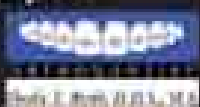
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Wildlife in the Park Glen Area

By Resident - Jeff Turner

Even though the Park Glen area is surrounded by a seemingly endless sea of houses and commercial buildings there are several types of wildlife close by that many residents are not aware of or may have never seen. In the vast majority of cases they pose no threat to people or property, but there are some things all of us should be aware of when going through brushy areas of the park or by the creek.

Inside of our park and in nearby areas there are five types of animals the city of Fort Worth have listed to possibly live in our area.

They are feral hogs, coyotes, cougars, bobcats, and alligators. It should be noted that there have not been confirmed sightings of most these in our specific area but the flora and fauna around the creek could support their existence. Most importantly, most of these species are no immediate threat to Park Glen residents, but we should be aware of it if we're in very brushy areas or down in the creek beds.

Here's a little bit of information about each animal.

Coyotes: Coyotes, mainly scavengers, are perhaps the most numerous type of wild animal in the area. They are the size of a medium sized dog in most cases. While they are mostly nocturnal they will come out in broad daylight to look for food. While they are not a threat to humans they will attack small pets: keep your pets inside at night when they could be roaming about. If you run into one making a loud noise will usually run it off.

Feral Hogs: Feral hogs are becoming more numerous and they are also the type of animal to be most wary of. Feral hogs travel in groups, usually one or more sows and several piglets. Feral hogs are usually the size of a medium sized dog. Feral hogs will eat anything, plants and animals alike. Their preferred habitat is a brushy area near a watercourse such as a creek. They are known to be aggressive to humans and will charge if threatened to protect their young. Their long tusks can cause injury to someone attacked. They will also damage vegetable gardens by rooting out and eating the plants. Like coyotes they will also attack and eat small pets. If you see one, leave the area quickly: where there is one hog there are several. The City has stated that hogs have been sighted at the far north end of our park near North Tarrant Parkway and traps are going to be set to remove them.

Bobcats: Bobcats are predators that will prey on small animals. They travel alone except when a mother has young. Bobcats are the size of a medium sized dog. Since they prey

on small animals, pets can become an easy target for a bobcat. Make loud noises and motions if you run into one.

Cougars: Cougars are native to this area but are extremely rare. Like bobcats they will prey on small animals and also larger ones like deer and even feral hogs. Cougars can be large, growing up to five to seven feet long in the case of males. Make loud noises and motions if you run into one. While no cougar has been sighted in Park Glen the City reports that there have been sightings of cougars at the City's nature area along Lake Worth.

Alligators: Alligators are native to our area and have been seen in the Trinity River and bodies of water connected to it. They can become large and grow up to several feet long. They will eat plants and animals both which are in the water or along the shore. Unlike the other animals above they will not venture far from watery areas. If you encounter an alligator leave its vicinity quickly.

Park Glen residents should be aware there are wild animals in the area. Most of the time none of these animals will cause someone harm, but you should be aware some of them could be a threat to people, pets, and things like a garden.

For more detailed information on these animals the City of Fort Worth has documents on the Code Compliance Department's webpage for each of the types of wild animals in our area. Visit www.parkglen.org for more information about the animals in our area.

Report any sightings to the City Of Fort Worth Code Compliance department at 817-392-7297, not the Police. Call 9-1-1 if someone was injured by an animal.



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Free Trees Program

Free? Did someone say FREE? Yes, neighbor, you can get free trees! What's the catch? None, really. You don't have to buy soap or popcorn or cookies. You just have to sign up and give us some information on how to contact you when the trees are delivered. You do have to plant and water your new tree, but that would be the case if you went down to your local home improvement store or nursery and picked one out.

How can we give away free trees? It's simple -- we ask the City of Fort Worth Urban Forestry department for them. The City of Fort Worth is a major sponsor of trees, participating in the Arbor Day Foundation's "Tree City USA" program. Part of that effort is maintaining the trees we have, especially the really large and historically and biologically significant specimens, and another part is sponsoring the growth of new "urban forests" and your front yard can be part of that urban forest!

If you've lost a tree in your front yard or got a 30 to 50 foot space along the street where no tree exists, then you probably qualify for the program. The Park Glen covenants vary by phase, but generally require every house to have at least one or two trees in the front yard, depending on the size of the lot. The City's "Neighborhood Tree Planting Program" provides one or two trees for the "parkway" between the sidewalk and the street (which is legally City property).

The trees are native or well-adapted species, and are grown by the City Forester here in our area so they are already acclimated to our weather. They are 5 gallon size, so just about anyone can handle them (usually only 3 to 5 feet tall). The City only asks that you plant the tree in the parkway (not your front lawn area), and that you water it and nurture it to help it get established for the first 2 years at least. They also ask that you return the 5 gallon plastic bucket so that they can grow the next generation of trees. The program website is here:

<http://fortworthtexas.gov/forestry/info/?id=78894>
The Park Glen ACC is sponsoring the effort to get more trees planted throughout all phases. This winter, we would like to see hundreds of new trees planted. If you are interested, please email your full name, home address, a phone number where we can reach you, and any preference of species of tree to Trees@ParkGlen.org and we will add your name to the list.

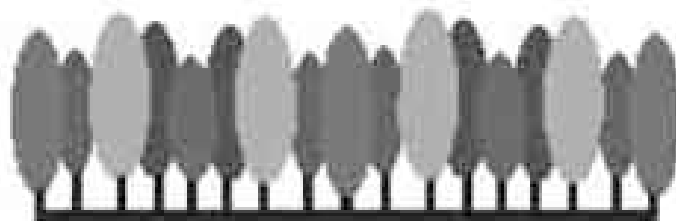
These species are currently available:

- Live oak
- Red oak
- Chinquapin oak
- Bur oak
- Bald cypress
- Green ash
- Trident maple
- Redbud
- Mexican buckeye
- Cedar elm

More information is available in this FAQ document (especially pages 5 and 7):

http://fortworthtexas.gov/uploadedFiles/PACS/Forestry/NTP_FAQ.pdf

Feel free to email Trees@ParkGlen.org with any questions you may have. If you want to participate but think you may need help getting your tree home or planted, let us know and we will facilitate assistance. The program is first-come-first-served, and the available trees are limited, so don't delay!



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Lawn Care Calendar:

When to mow, scarify, sow seed, lay turf, feed, water...

February

If there are frosts / frozen ground / waterlogged soil then you should keep off the lawn. If conditions allow then remove any worm casts by brushing with a broom and remove leaves / twigs with a light rake.

March

This is when the major work starts as temperatures are usually high enough to mean that significant grass (and weed) growth is occurring. Before cutting the lawn it should be raked with a spring tine rake so that the grass 'sits up' for the mower. Adjust the mower blade height if possible so that just the tips of the grass are removed. You should only need to mow about twice in March.

At the end of March Scarify the lawn using an electric lawn scarifier or a spring tine rake. This will remove dead grass, thatch and moss.

April

Early April is a good time for overseeding (applying lawn seed to existing areas of lawn) then now is a good time to do so, make sure to vigorously rake the intended areas of overseeding before scattering the seed so that the seed 'settles down'.

Apply a lawn fertiliser to feed the lawn and apply lawn weed control products where necessary. Use a lawn aerator to aerate areas of the lawn where soil compaction has occurred.

Continue to mow the lawn and reduce the mower blade height a little (you should not take more than a third off the height of the grass). Do not mow immediately after overseeding (at least not the overseeded areas).

May

Remove worm casts before mowing. Reduce the height of the mower blades, mowing will increase in frequency as the grass will be growing vigorously now due to the warmer weather and prior application of fertiliser. Keep edges trimmed using a strimmer or lawn edging shears.

June

It may be necessary to mow twice a week. If rainfall is low then water the lawn thoroughly but not frequently to encourage deep root growth.

If weeds are still prevalent then apply a lawn weed



treatment when the soil is moist. If clover exists then rake lawn before mowing.

July

Mow regularly. Trim edges. Water thoroughly if rainfall low. If necessary apply a lawn fertiliser at recommended levels to help lawn health and 'greenness'.

August

Continue to mow regularly at low cutting height. Trim edges.

If weeds are still prevalent then apply a lawn weed treatment when the soil is moist. If clover exists then rake lawn before mowing.

September

Remove worm casts by brushing with a broom before mowing. Continue to mow and water as necessary. Mowing frequency will start to reduce as the days reduce in length and the temperatures start to fall.

Aerate the soil if it has been heavily trampled over the summer and then top dress the soil. Overseed areas of lawn which require it. Trim and repair lawn edges. Carry out lawn repairs including smoothing out bumps and hollows.

Scarify the lawn in late September to remove the build up of dead grass / moss etc. The removal of thatch by scarifying helps remove the type of environment that many lawn diseases such as red thread and dollar spot enjoy.

October

Early October is the last chance to aerate / top dress / feed the lawn before winter if you haven't already done so. Raise the height of the lawn mower blades and reduce frequency of mowing.

November

If the lawn requires mowing then set the mower blades high. After the last cut clean down the lawn mower and if necessary sharpen the blades or book it in for a service for sometime before February at your local mower repair specialist.

December

If possible, try and avoid walking the lawn. If the ground is not frozen or waterlogged you can remove leaves with a light rake or leaf blower. Also remove heavier debris such as fallen branches / pine cones.

ACC Purpose

The Homeowners Association of Park Glen is charged to protect and enhance the property values of all homeowners of Park Glen and is dedicated to help keep Park Glen a neighborhood with an environment and appearance that the homeowners desire.

A major element contributing to successfully achieving these objectives is to maintain a desirable set of building/construction requirements that are set forth in the covenants of The Park Glen Homeowners Association. The purpose of the architectural control committee is to ensure that new construction and/or modifications to existing buildings comply with these applicable covenants.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide information for the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) that will help to render an equal and consistent review of all improvements submitted to the committee.

Additionally, in order to facilitate a clear understanding among all parties involved, these guidelines shall also be included with the information checklist that is provided to the applicant upon initial contact with the ACC. By signature on the appropriate form, the applicant indicates he/she has read these guidelines and thereby understands what information the ACC will require for review and why.

The ACC strongly recommends the owner and/or builder review the Deed Restrictions that can be found on line prior to submitting the ACC applications.

No alteration in Park Glen may be erected or altered until plans have been approved by the ACC. In the case of a color change, new roof, new deck or fence, etc, ACC approval is required in all cases.

*See page 10 for form



Volunteers!



Top Reasons to Volunteer for the Association

1. Protect your self-interests. Protect your property values and maintain the quality of life in your community.
2. Be sociable. Meet your neighbors, make friends, and exchange opinions.
3. Give back. Repay a little of what's been done for you.
4. Have some fun. Association work isn't drudgery. It's fun accomplishing good things with your neighbors.

Get INVOLVED !

*See page 11 for form

February 2012

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Property Modification Approval Request Form for Existing and New Modifications

1. ABOUT THE RESIDENT(S)

Name(s)			
Address	Phase:	Lot:	Block:
Community Name			
E-Mail			
Phone(s)		Best time to call	

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Proposed start date	Proposed completion date
Describe the nature of the project (attach pages as necessary)	
Location (attach sketch/drawing)	
Dimensions	Distance from fences and easements
Colors	What impact will this have on your neighbors, if any?
Materials	
Builder	Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Project already started	<input type="checkbox"/> Project already completed

3. ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS

YES	NO	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		I/We have read the appropriate Deed Restrictions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I/We have obtained a building permit (attach copy) Copies of applicable permits must be provided to the committee; until received, applications requiring permits will carry a condition requiring the submission of permits.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		This project will require fence removal (if yes, inform Association Manager)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Completed project will be visible from the street

Include a plan view or plat drawing to scale, and any other supporting documents that explicitly project location. Include multiple perspectives if helpful. Specify distance from fences, easements, other structures and neighboring properties. Also include blueprints and rendering, pictures, or drawing of the finished product. Specify any that apply: Construction and finish materials, including color, siding, stain or paint colors (include name brand, color number and color chips), masonry type (i.e. brick, stone, etc.) drainage plan, plant sizes and types, electrical or plumbing, wood type. Include rendering or picture (designating colors and materials) of finished projects. Specify impact on neighbors both during construction and after completion.

As each of us bought our property, we agreed by our signatures to abide by the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (a.k.a. CCRs or Deed Restrictions). The Deed Restrictions protect our property values by keeping the community a highly desirable place to live. ACC (Architectural Control Committee) approval must be obtained prior to the start of your project. To avoid delay, make your request as complete as possible and type or print legibly. Incomplete requests will be returned for additional information. Incorrect information or changes made after approval invalidates approval. The ACC tries to assure that all changes to our properties conform to the appropriate Deed Restrictions. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Signature of Property Owner

Date

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Hardwood barks, consisting of oak, gum, and hickory. Bark is hammer milled through a screen to provide a shredded, fibrous material for excellent hold on sloped surfaces.	Ground native Cedar trees, with leaves, bark, and white wood included. Cedar Mulch repels insects, has a pleasant aroma, and is a reddish brown color. Lasts longer than other mulches.	Totally organic, aerobically composted humus containing manure, cotton seed meal, wheat straw, hardwood shavings, and other valuable components. Free of weed seeds and insects.
\$4.00 per bag	\$5.00 per bag	\$6.00 per bag

Scout Salesman			Bags	Ea.	Total
Customer Name		Hardwood		\$4	\$
Delivery Address		Cedar		\$5	\$
City	Zip:	Compost		\$6	\$
Weekend Phone		Donate			\$
Email		Order Total			\$
Any note regarding delivery instructions:		<i>*Donations will be given to the Park Glen Community Garden</i>			

To Order:

Contact Deanna Kilburn 817-229-4051
 email mommadeanna@gmail.com
 Online at www.Troop205tx.org
 Or Ask Any Troop 205 Boy Scout

Orders will be delivered on Saturday March 10th!
 If you are not home we will leave on your lawn or walkway.

Thank you for Supporting Boy Scouts of America Troop 205

Tax Season

This year, the deadline for filing your federal tax return is April 17. Taxpayers get an extra two days to file because April 15 is a Sunday and April 16 is Emancipation Day in Washington, D.C.

But don't let the two-day reprieve lure you into complacency. Waiting until the last minute to file increases the chance you'll make an error on your return. And the sooner you file, the sooner you'll get your refund.

As you prepare for tax season, here are some things you need to know:

You may be able to prepare and file your federal tax return for free through the IRS Free File program. The program, a partnership between the IRS and private tax software developers, is designed to encourage taxpayers to file their tax returns electronically.

This year, the program will be open to taxpayers with adjusted gross income of \$57,000 or less. That covers about 70% of taxpayers, says Diane Fox, director of the Free File program. About 15 tax-preparation companies are in the program this year, and all have different eligibility criteria that are typically based on

age, income, state residency or military status. To find a program, go to irs.gov/freefile.

Taxpayers who are ineligible for Free File can use Free File Fillable, an electronic version of paper forms. The program won't give you tax advice, but it will do the math for you and contains links to IRS publications.



Tax filing changes

Once you've completed your taxes on Free File Fillable, you can e-file your federal tax return for free. You can find the forms at www.irs.gov.



Tax software providers also offer free online tax preparation for taxpayers with simple returns. You can prepare and e-file your federal return at TurboTax Free Federal Edition Online (www.turbotax.com). A state return costs \$27.95.

H&R Block at Home (www.hrblock.com) also offers a free edition for first-time filers or taxpayers with simple tax returns. Preparing and e-filing your federal return is free; a state return is \$27.95.

TaxAct's Free Edition (www.taxact.com) is available to all, regardless of the complexity of their tax return. Preparation and e-filing of one federal return is free; a state return costs \$14.95.

Senior citizens, members of the military and low-income taxpayers may be eligible for free tax preparation. In addition to providing preparation assistance, volunteers can also help you file electronically. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites are located at libraries, schools, shopping malls and military bases. To locate one near you, call 800-906-9887.

In conjunction with the IRS, the AARP Tax Aide program offers tax counseling for low- and middle-income taxpayers 60 or older. To find the nearest AARP Tax-Aide site, call 888-227-7669 or go to www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide.

New IRS regulations require that all tax preparers have a Preparer Tax Identification Number, part of an ongoing program by the IRS to regulate tax professionals. Tax preparers must use their PTIN when they sign taxpayers' returns. If your tax preparer doesn't have one, find another preparer.

Park Glen Solid Waste

Services

City of Fort Worth Garbage Collection



There seems to be confusion around our trash container deed restrictions and city ordinances here in Park

Glen. I would like to let everyone know that receiving a friendly reminder from the HOA is not a bad thing compared to the ticket alternative from the City.

Fort Worth provides residential curbside garbage pickup one time per week in the resident's choice of three brown cart sizes. The carts are easy to roll to the curb, keep animals out of garbage, help prevent blowing litter and reduce odors.

- All garbage must be contained in plastic bags within the brown cart.
- The lid must be completely closed.
- Overstuffed carts will not be picked up.
- Bags left outside the cart will not be picked up (except city-issued "Pay Bags").
- The cart must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on your pickup day.
- You may set out your cart after 6 p.m. the night before your pickup day.
- Garbage, recycling and yard trimmings are all picked up on the same day.
- Place cart so that the handle faces your house and the serial number faces the street.
- Place cart a few inches from the curb or edge of the street; do not place cart in street.
- Retrieve cart from curb by midnight on your pickup day.
- City ordinance require residents store carts so it can't be seen from a public street.

Pay Bags

Be sure you use only City-authorized Pay Bags beside your cart on your regular garbage day. They're easy to purchase. Just call 817-392-EASY (3279).

Please be trash container smart and store them out of street view and only place them out when allowed.

Citizen On Patrol

Did you know that Fort Worth has a Citizen on Patrol (COP) program?

Citizens on Patrol

On October 15, 1991, 105 persons representing eleven neighborhoods attended a twelve-hour training session at the Fort Worth Police Academy. The training was conducted for three hours per night over a four-night period covering legal liabilities, patrol procedures, communications, and the penal code. At the conclusion of training each graduate was given a diploma, cap, T-shirt, and windbreaker each bearing the Citizens on Patrol insignia.



After the initial program each citizen was required to ride in with a uniformed officer and meet with the officer in charge of the program in their division to go over any regulations established by the commander in charge of the area. Once accomplished, the individual is then released for citizen patrolling. Each Citizens on Patrol group selects a leader who completes the neighborhoods patrolling schedule and works on program development.

The groups are furnished with 800 mhz portable radios, similar to those issued to police officers, to report suspicious activity back to their base station. The Base Stations may be housed at an individual's home or at the local Field Operations Division. The base unit then contacts police officers for a prompt response. The citizens can contact the dispatcher if necessary and a channel is available which allows the responding officer to directly contact the citizens patrol group to obtain additional information.

Nobody anticipated how successful the Citizens on Patrol Program would be. Over 2,666 volunteers remain active in 120 neighborhoods. The program has been credited with being a primary factor in decreases in Part I Crimes especially those of theft, burglary, and auto theft. It is also serving as a catalyst in strengthening neighborhoods, and remains in an expansion mode. Advanced training has been instituted at the Field Operations Divisions and the department has a biannual recognition luncheon for all COPS members and their families.

Finally, they have provided general support services to the neighbors in the area to which they are assigned, ranging from trash pick-ups to encouragement of persons to move into their area.



2012 PEDESTRIAN PLAN COMMUNITY MEETINGS

We need your help to shape the future of Fort Worth

Attend a Walk! Fort Worth meeting and tell us:

WHY you like to walk in Cowtown

HOW the City can make Fort Worth more friendly for pedestrians

WHERE the City should make pedestrian improvements

Your input will be used to finalize the Walk! Fort Worth Pedestrian Plan.

Location	Date	Time	Address	Bus Route
Northwest Regional Library	January 25	6:30 PM	6228 Crystal Lake Drive	
TCC Opportunity Center	January 26	6:30 PM	5901 Fitzhugh Avenue Room 1300	9
Greenbriar Community Center	January 30	6:30 PM	5200 Hemphill Street	72*
Ella Mae Shamblee Library	February 6	6:30 PM	1062 Evans Avenue	4
Southwest Community Center	February 8	6:30 PM	6300 Welch Ave	66
Summerglenn Library	February 9	6:30 PM	4205 Basswood Blvd.	62E
Diamond Hill/Jarvis Library	February 13	6:30 PM	1300 N. E. 35th St.	1C
Southwest Regional Library	February 16	6:30 PM	4001 Library Lane	25

*Must request stop at Greenbriar Community Center.

For more information, contact Julia McCleary at 817-392-2593 or visit www.fortworthtexas.gov/walkFW

These facilities are wheelchair accessible. For accommodations or sign interpretive services, please call Julia McCleary at 817-392-2593 48 hours in advance.



Timely Tip for February Gardeners:

February is a great time to gear up for Spring planting!

Treat your special Valentine this year with fresh, living flowers. America's favorite flower, the Rose, can be planted and enjoyed all year. Cool season flowers such as Pansies, Primrose or Cyclamen can also be planted in containers to give a burst of color to your landscape, patio or garden. And don't forget about indoor plants. Indoor houseplants can beautify your home and purify the air. Gloves, tools, wind chimes also make great gifts. The list is endless, let your imagination "grow green" as you peruse your local garden center!

Please join us for FREE in-store clinics on informative and timely gardening topics this month. Clinics begin at 10:15 a.m. and are facilitated at every store.

Saturday, February 4: Spring Green in Your Lawn (10:15 a.m.)
Be the envy of your neighborhood this year. Stop weeds with pre-emergents! Learn how to maintain a lush lawn.

Saturday, February 11: Creative Container Flowers (10:15 a.m.)
Learn to design your own container garden using exotic blooms and foliage with plants like Orchids, Bromeliads, Cyclamen and more!

Saturday, February 18: Earth-Kind® Gardening (10:15 a.m.)
Informal talks by Master Gardeners presenting conservative concepts including the beauty and practicality of Earth-Kind® Roses.

Saturday, February 25: Water-wise Gardening (10:15 a.m.)
Learn the ways to conserve our precious water resources, yet maintain a glorious garden! Native plants and Earth-Kind® approaches.

Don't forget to join us for one of the biggest gardening events of the year – Gardenfest! Learn more at www.calloways.com/gardenfest. For more gardening information, visit www.calloways.com. Hope to see you in the garden soon!

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