

THE SUMMERFIELDS

A COMMUNITY WHERE DIVERSITY
IS VALUED, COMMUNICATIONS
ARE ENCOURAGED AND AN
ATTITUDE OF LEARNING FROM
ONE ANOTHER IS RESPECTED



SPOTLIGHT

FOCUS ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD

A Publication of the Summerfields Neighborhood Association

JULY 2020

WE'RE BACK!!!

The SNA is proud to announce that we are bringing back our-popular monthly newsletter, The Summerfields Spotlight, on a trial basis. After 13 years of publishing our paper newsletter and delivering it to the doors of about 6,000 homes every month, we were forced to discontinue publication in 2008. Rising print costs and loss of volunteer deliverers made it impossible to continue.

We still get comments on how much it is missed, so we decided to bring it back as a downloadable on-line publication that will be posted monthly on our web site, www.summerfieldsna.com. We plan to include the same information affecting the neighborhood as we did with the original.

We will provide area information such as development, neighborhood crime statistics, the most common code compliance issues, volunteer opportunities, SNA activities, and other information we feel will be valuable to our residents.

We hope this on-line version of our newsletter continues the tradition of the original and will be a valuable tool for our community. Please tell your friends and neighbors about it. It has always and will continue to address issues facing our community as we work together to keep Summerfields a vibrant, viable community.



Presidents Corner

I've really missed our monthly meetings. I really enjoy seeing everyone and listening to your ideas and suggestions. Unfortunately, with the ongoing pandemic having no end in sight, we had to cancel our April quarterly meeting. We are monitoring the virus situation closely and will make a decision on our July meeting in late June. When return to a more normal situation, we can get back to a more normal lifestyle

I can only hope that you are in good health and observing all the safety guidelines. This pandemic has put a lot of stress on families. Tragically, suicide rates are climbing as people lose jobs and feel they have no hope. Stay strong and please keep those folks experiencing difficulties in your thoughts and prayers.

I am so happy we decided to create an on-line newsletter for our residents. We hope it will be a valuable communications tool and keep everyone informed. We plan to post it the first part of each month on our web site. We want everyone to be aware of what's going on within our community and city.

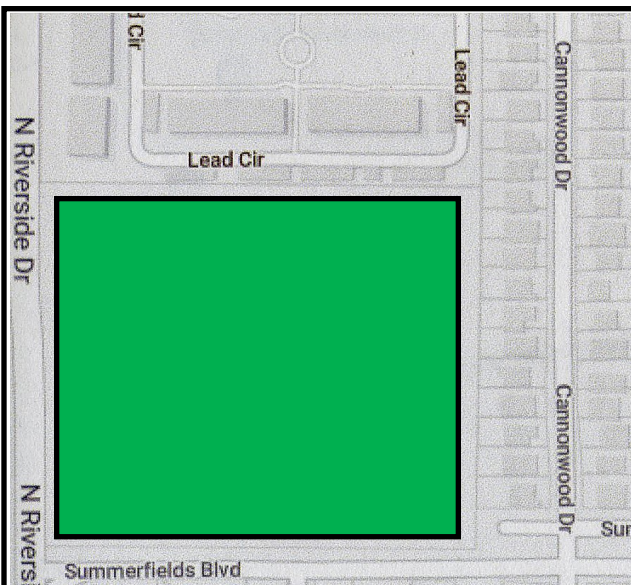
It is so special to work with folks interested in their community. I look forward to our getting back together to continue our efforts to keep Summerfields a place we are proud to call home. Also, please vote on the CCPD renewal (see page 4).

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Construction has started on a Four Points by Sheraton Hotel located along the I35W northbound access road between the Rudy's BBQ and the Bel Terra Apartments. We feel this will be a good addition to our area. Our understanding is this construction was vetted with the residents of the townhomes located directly to the east of the site.



The SNA has been working with a developer who wants to build a seniors only (55+) multi-family facility on the vacant land located at the northeast intersection of Summerfields Blvd. and N. Riverside Drive. This land is currently zoned commercial. See Page 3 for more details,

Area Road Construction Update

As everyone is probably aware, construction is going full bore on widening N. Riverside Drive to a four lane road from N. Tarrant Parkway south to Basswood Elementary school. This project will also install two traffic circles at the Summerfields Blvd. and Thompson Road intersections with N. Riverside. When completed this will make N. Riverside a four lane road up to North Tarrant. Construction is proceeding well and should be finished, weather permitting, by the fall of 2021.

A second road improvement project will continue widening N. Riverside Drive from N. Tarrant Parkway up to the existing traffic circle/four lane road at Shiver Road. It is funded and in the design phase. This project will not begin until the current N. Riverside project is complete. This means we have a couple of years before N. Riverside is a four lane road in our area.

Other road improvements are planned for the Basswood Blvd. and N. Beach intersection. This project was funded in the last Capital Improvement Program and will install two turn lanes in every direction to help alleviate traffic congestion at this busy intersection. No start date is known.



Artists concept for the planned Senior Housing Facility

Over the last few years the SNA has met with several developers wanting to build standard multi-family units on this tract of land, similar to the complex just to the north of this tract. We feel we have too many standard apartment complexes in the area so we have opposed all of these efforts. However, this senior multi-family complex appears to be a good fit for this location without many of the negatives of a standard complex. Commercial facilities such as strip centers generate a lot of car traffic and frequent delivery & dumpster truck traffic which have a high noise impact. The following are the reasons our Board of Directors decided to support this development:

1. The proposed development site is undeveloped land currently zoned commercial. This land is surrounded by residential development on three sides with more residential development planned on the vacant land to the west. The site is located near three schools, one elementary, one intermediate, and one middle school. Most commercial developments could easily exacerbate traffic issues and increase the noise level.
2. Our neighborhood has a growing percentage of elderly residents who have lived in this area for a long time. The area is woefully short of services for our aging population. As they grow older, they often cannot stay in their homes and are forced to move to facilities such as the one proposed. This development would provide them the option to stay in the area where they have lived for many years and not have to leave familiar surroundings.
3. The rapid growth in North Fort Worth has seen our traffic infrastructure sorely lag development. We therefore look at the traffic impact of every new development affecting our area. Since it is limited to older residents, mostly retired, with no juveniles, we believe this development would have the least traffic impact when compared with most potential commercial developments. It also should not create a noise problem.
4. The development is near two major shopping centers, two hospitals and supporting medical specialists' offices. This would be a huge benefit to the older residents residing at this proposed facility.
5. This development would add to the Keller Independent School District's tax base without adding students into the school system.
6. At our request the developer laid out the development to protect the privacy of the single family homes on Cannonwood. Most of the eastern side of the development is a large plaza. The two buildings on the east side use landscape screening and are aligned so that no balconies overlook the homes.

CRIME CONTROL PREVENTION DISTRICT (CCPD) UP FOR RENEWAL

A very important vote is coming up on July 14, 2020.– the renewal of the CCPD. The City of Fort Worth uses the revenues generated by the CCPD's half cent sales tax to augment FWPd funding. The CCPD has been instrumental in drastically reducing Fort Worth's crime rate. Before its inception Fort Worth had one of the highest crime rates in the nation. Programs and equipment provided under the CCPD budget are directly responsible for the plunge in crime rates. In the late 1990s Summerfields averaged 75-80 crimes a month. It is now a bad month when we exceed 30 crimes. Since the CCPD was instituted, Fort Worth has been recognized with National Safe City Awards. The CCPD also funds Fort Worth's Community Policing Programs such as their volunteer Citizens on Patrol program, which has become a benchmark for the nation.

The SNA strongly endorses renewing this highly effective funding vehicle for our police department. We feel that the "Defund the Police" initiatives would be counterproductive to what its proponents want to achieve. Stories are surfacing on the internet that cities that have defunded their police are seeing soaring crime. If we are to study and implement changes to our policing policies, we need to assure the funds are there to support the change process and implement resulting changes. Whatever your decision, be informed and vote!

If passage fails, the CCPD will terminate on September 30, 2020. If approved, the CCPD will continue for a 10 year term (through September 30, 2030). The vote for renewal will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. Election day locations for the 76137 zip code are: Bluebonnet Elementary, Park Glen Elementary, Parkview Elementary, The Summerglenn Library, & First Baptist Church of Fort Worth located at 5001 NE Loop 820. Early Voting is June 29 – July 10, 2020. The nearest early voting location for our residents is the Woodland Springs Amenity Center located at 12209 Timberland Blvd.

The following provides some background and statistics on the Crime Control and Prevention District.

Background:

- In 1995, the citizens of Fort Worth voted to establish a CCPD.
- It was first established in 1995 to help combat Fort Worth's extremely high crime in the late 1980s.
- The CCPD has been continued by voters in 2000, 2005, 2009, and 2014 for subsequent five-year periods.
- The CCPD receives funds from a ½ cent sales tax.
- Funds support crime reduction strategies pertaining to enhanced enforcement, neighborhood crime prevention, partners with a shared mission programs, recruitment and training, and department equipment, technology, and infrastructure.
- Between 1995 and 2019, the per-capita incidence of major crimes (murder, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, robbery, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) has declined 63%.
- The CCPD generated \$78 million in FY2019 for crime reduction programs.

Next Step:

- The FWPd's Finance/Personnel Bureau is the lead for the CCPD renewal.
- This vote will determine whether we terminate or continue the ½ cent sales tax for the CCPD. If renewed, it will be for a ten-year term instead of past five year intervals.
- A Police working group was assembled to prepare educational materials ahead of the CCPD election.
- Virtual meetings are planned in June, and educational materials are provided on the CCPD website and on social media.
- For more information contact the FWPd at:
 - <https://police.fortworthtexas.gov/CCPD/>
 - Phone at (817) 392-4040 or email at ccpd@fortworthtexas.gov

Important to Know

Our main issue in Summerfields is solid waste incorrectly placed curbside. Not following the guidelines usually results in waste not picked up, which detracts from the street's appearance and can lead to fines. No one wants to live in a neighborhood with trash sitting by the street for too long. It detracts from the neighborhood's appearance, makes selling homes more difficult, and eventually lowers property values. Because of this the SNA aggressively monitors waste disposal violations and reports them to Code Compliance. We do not like reporting violations that can result in fines, but there is often no alternatives left to us, We much prefer that residents become educated on the City's waste disposal processes, but will not stand idle while trash accumulates in our neighborhood.

The following are the most common violations we observe:

- Plastic bags containing solid waste (including leaves) placed curbside. **Anything in a plastic bag must be placed in the brown garbage cart to be picked up.** Hardware stores sell acceptable paper yard bags for disposing of yard recyclable waste such as clippings, leaves and small branches
- Bulk waste placed curbside too early, sometimes up to three weeks before the next scheduled pickup. Doing so detracts from the street's appearance and could impact neighbors trying to sell their homes.
- Placing bulk waste too close to objects in the yard. Many of the trucks use hydraulic arms to load waste, and if you place it too close to objects such as mail boxes or light poles it may prevent them from picking it up.
- Different types of bulky waste mixed together. Brush and paper-bagged leaves should be separated from furniture and other bulk items. They are picked up by different trucks and go to different locations. Brush and yard clippings are taken to a City facility where along with the paper bags are converted into mulch. This is the main reason they will not pick up yard waste in non-recyclable plastic bags.
- Mixing waste and recyclable items in the Recycle container. Waste and recyclables are picked up by different trucks. Contaminating the Recycle container with household waste will result in the bin not being emptied.
- Placing household and yard chemicals in the recycle or trash containers. These items should be taken to the Environmental Collection Center (ECC) on Bridge Street. You simply drive through, show your driver's license to show you are a Fort Worth resident, and they empty your vehicle for you. See details on the City's web site.
- Placing any electronic item or major appliance curbside for pick up. All electronics should be taken to Brennen Street for disposal. Electronic items such as TVs have integrated circuitry that contain hazardous chemicals such as arsenic. They are disposed of separately so as not to contaminate the landfills.
- Overflowing Waste and Recycle bins. Called "snow cones" because the lid cannot be closed, they can result in the bin not being emptied. Again, the trucks are automated and if the operator feels they cannot empty the container without spillage they will usually bypass the container, thus leaving the resident with another week before it is again eligible for pick up.
- Trash bins left on the street for days after the scheduled pickup date.

Also remember that small limbs (less than 8 feet in length and four inches in diameter) can be placed curbside for pickup with your scheduled weekly trash. Only larger limbs have to wait for the monthly bulk pick up..

BULK WASTE GUIDELINES

Note: Bulk pickup week for Summerfields begins on the second Monday of each month and runs through the following Saturday. Bulk waste should not be placed curbside until the weekend before your scheduled week. For more information we urge our residents to visit the Solid Waste webpage on the City's website (see the link at the end of this article).

The following information was provided by the City of Fort Worth Solid Waste Department:

Bulk collection is once a month. The New guidelines are in place, so brush up before your next monthly collection

The city's Solid Waste Services has new easy-to-follow steps to make residential bulk collection safer and more effective for pickup. (continued on page 6)

BULK WASTE GUIDELINES—Continued from page 5

The goal is to not only collect the waste, but to dispose of it in a safe manner and, when possible, keep it out of the landfill. For example, tree limbs, branches and yard waste are turned into mulch.

To help curbside pickup go as smoothly as possible, follow the program directions and avoid incurring fines. Here are some best practices and program guidelines:

- Bulk items must be placed on the curb by 7 a.m. Monday of your scheduled collection week. Make sure the pile is not blocked by a vehicle.
- Bulk piles are limited to 10 cubic yards (6 feet by 8 feet by 6 feet), the size of a Volkswagen bug car.
- Plastic bags are not allowed; residents may incur fines if plastic bags are placed curbside.
- All piles, paper yard waste bags and carts must be separated by at least 2 feet to be collected and to avoid extra fees. No materials can be placed between piles since this creates one large, out-of-compliance pile.
- Any items that fit in the brown garbage cart are not considered bulk and should be put in plastic bags and the placed into the brown garbage cart.
- Large limbs refers to those more than 4 inches in diameter and over eight feet long. Brush smaller than this is considered yard waste and can be collected on your weekly trash pickup day as part of the yard waste collection. It must be separated from carts, large limbs and any bulk pile.

To learn more about the program details, including what materials cannot be set out for bulk collection, check the Solid Waste webpage. <http://fortworthtexas.gov/solidwaste/bulk/>

Solid Waste Services At-A-Glance					
Questions? Download the Fort Worth Garbage & Recycling App					
	WHEN	HOW	AMOUNT/SIZE	DETAILS	NO
YARD	Weekly on pickup day; set out by 7 a.m.	In paper bags, or optional purchase of green yard cart	Unlimited paper yard bags - 30 gallon size	Place 2 ft. from carts or other objects (cars, trees, mailboxes, water and gas meters.)	No plastic bags or trash
Yard Trimmings Leaves, twigs, grass, shrubs					
Brush, Tied Small Branches	Weekly on pickup day; set out by 7 a.m.	Bundled, tied with string or twine	Unlimited bundles, 8 ft. long, 40 lb. max	Place 2 ft. from carts or other objects	No nylon or plastic straps, ties or wire
Brush, Untied Large Branches	Weekly on pickup day; set out by 7 a.m.	Stacked branches only. All branches should be in one pile	Limited to 10 cubic yards (8 ft. long x 6 ft. wide x 6 ft. tall) max, about size of VW Beetle car. Branches no longer than 8 ft. and up to 4 inches in diameter	Place 2 ft. from carts or other objects. More than 10 cubic yds. collected within 72 hours billed to resident	No stumps, plastic bags, trash, fencing, lumber, or household bulk items
RECYCLING	Weekly on pickup day; set out by 7 a.m.	Unbagged items. Close cart lid completely. Clean, dry and empty items.	As much recycling as can fit with the blue cart lid closed. Second blue cart available on request - free.	May take extras to a drop-off station. Only put acceptable items in the cart. Place 2 ft. from carts or other objects	No plastic bags, Styrofoam, paper towels, food, plastic wrap, electronics, clothes, medical waste
Visit website or app for all items that can be recycled. Blue Cart	Can set cart out after 6 p.m. the day before your pickup day				
GARBAGE	Weekly on pickup day; set out by 7 a.m.	In tied plastic bags inside brown cart. Close lid completely. Place 2 ft. from carts or other objects.	Your choice: a -32, 64- or 96-gallon cart (price varies with size). As many bags as can fit in brown cart with lid closed	Options for extra garbage: 1. Take to drop-off station 2. Upgrade cart size 3. Purchase city-authorized Pay Bags	No unbagged items; no bags outside cart or stacked on cart
Household waste only. Brown Cart	Can set cart out after 6 p.m. the day before your pickup day				
BULK ITEMS	Monthly on pickup day; set out by 7 a.m. the Monday of your assigned week; pickup will be any time between that Monday and Saturday	Stacked on curb in one pile. Acceptable items that are too large to fit in the garbage cart. Separate household bulk and large brush piles	Limited to 10 cubic yds. (8 ft long x 6 ft. wide x 6 ft. tall) max; size of a VW Beetle car. More than 10 cubic yds. billed to resident.	Can be set out after 6 p.m. the Friday before your assigned week. Includes fencing, stumps, lumber in bulky pile. Take extra to a drop-off station	No plastic bags, tires, glass, business waste, electronics, sheet-rock, or appliances with coolant or gas
For items too heavy/bulky for the cart. Visit the website or app for more details. Place 2 ft. from carts or other objects.					
DROP-OFF STATIONS	Open: M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. (Hours subject to change) Free for Fort Worth Residents	Drop-off Station #1: 2400 Brennan Ave. 76106 Drop-off Station #2: 5150 Martin Luther King Jr. Frwy 76119 Drop-off Station #3: 6260 Old Hemphill Rd. 76134 Drop-off Station #4: 301 Hillshire 76052		Bring a recent water bill, drivers license or other official ID to prove Fort Worth residency	No commercial waste, no rock or concrete
Fort Worth Residents Only. Accepting recyclables, brush, electronics, items for Goodwill and more!					

The recent passage of a large Keller ISD bond package will see varying degrees of updates to all of the schools in our neighborhood. The main impacts will be at Heritage and Parkview Elementary schools. They will be completely torn down and have new, modern facilities built at those locations. Fossil Hill Middle School will also receive a major upgrade. We are not aware of the schedules for these projects and there is a possibility students will have to go to other campuses during the construction process.

The following was extracted from KISDs enews:

Watch KISD High School Graduations On-line

Central, Timber Creek, Keller, and Fossil Ridge graduation ceremonies will be held over four nights at the Rangers' new ballpark. All ceremonies will begin at 7:30 p.m. and our community is invited to join the live stream each evening at www.KellerISD.net/GraduationLive and join the celebration on social media by sharing your favorite moments and photos using [#KISDGrad20](https://twitter.com/KISDGrad20). New Directions High School will host a graduation ceremony Thursday, July 16.

Drive-Through Meal Pick-Up Extended through July

Meal distribution for Keller ISD families has been extended through July, though pick-up sites will be reduced to three campuses – Basswood, Caprock, and Friendship elementary schools. Meals can still be picked up from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday. July 6 distribution will include meals for the entire week as there will be no meal distribution on July 8.

Board Approves 2020-21 Budget; Lower Tax Rate Expected

Keller ISD's Board of Trustees unanimously approved at its June 22 Monthly Regular Meeting a \$333 million budget in the General Fund for the District's 2020-21 fiscal year, which includes a slight surplus for the second consecutive year. Keller ISD's Board of Trustees will adopt a new tax rate in August, and the overall rate is expected to be lower than the current rate of \$1.4084 per \$100 property valuation.

Planning Continues for 2020-21 School Year

Keller ISD continues to plan for the start of the 2020-21 school year and is preparing several potential learning models to employ depending on guidance from local, state, and federal officials. While guidance from governing entities will help determine to what degree Keller ISD will be able to make in-person instruction available, the District will provide choice – to the extent allowed by the Texas Education Agency – for parents who do not feel safe sending their students to school or to those at a high risk of health concerns.

Summerfields Area Crime Map for June 2020



Summerfields Crime Trends for June 2020:

- About 80% of car burglaries were of unlocked vehicles. Unlocked Car burglaries are our most common crime.
- One hand gun was taken from an unlocked car. In 2019 North Division had about 160 hand guns taken from cars.
- Over half of car burglaries were in area apartment complexes.
- Most residential burglaries were from open garages.
- Auto parts thefts consisted of two catalytic converter and one license plate theft.

Crime Prevention Recommendations:

- If you park your car in the driveway or on the street, make sure it's locked. Most residential car burglars are juvenile "door pullers" who walk the street at night looking for unlocked vehicles which they enter and rummage through.
- Do not leave anything viewable from outside the vehicle. Doing so could motivate a burglar to break a window.
- Close and lock your garage door. Remember, the door from your garage into your house is very flimsy.
- Install motion detector LED lights to illuminate your property - criminals like it dark.