

THE SUMMERFIELDS SPOTLIGHT

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

FOCUS ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD

A Publication of the Summerfields Neighborhood Association

January 2021

Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) Launches High Priority Vaccine Appointment Portal For Citizens

(Extracted from a Fort Worth Star Telegram article)

If you live in Tarrant County, you can register to be next in line for the coronavirus vaccine. A registration portal has been launched on the county's website at <https://tcph.quickbase.com/db/bq3q4uet8> that allows people to be placed in a queue for the vaccine. People eligible will be those who are 65 years or older and those over the age of 16 with an underlying health condition. Vinny Taneja, the county's public health director, warned that people shouldn't register at this time if they don't fall into these two priority categories because the website may crash and they're ineligible anyway.

To get an appointment, people will first need to show that they fit into one of the categories and then the Tarrant County Public Health Department will verify. After that, patients will need to register with the county's electronic medical system, and then they would receive an appointment.

The county health department was allocated 4,200 doses of the vaccine last week and expects to run out within the next two days. People will start to be vaccinated as more doses arrive in the coming week. The most important thing is people need to be patient,

Since coronavirus vaccines arrived in mid-December, hospitals in the county and the public health department have vaccinated healthcare workers and first responders as outlined in the state's phase 1A plan. But officials have now been instructed to start phase 1B, which includes vaccinating those who are 65 years or older and those over the age of 16 with an underlying health condition. Tarrant County is estimating the first two phases of vaccines will be done in the next two months. (Continued in TCPH Appointment Portal on page 2)



SNA Presidents Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I don't know about you, but I am very happy to put 2020 in my rear view mirror! For my wife and I, this has been a lost year. We really cherish our time with family, friends and fellow neighborhood volunteers. This prolonged quarantine has been difficult for us, as I'm sure it has for everyone. We are so anxious to get back to some semblance of a normal life.

The SNA had to cancel our last three Association meetings in 2020 because of the quarantine in place restrictions. Right now the SNA Board is looking forward to somewhat of a normal process in 2021. Our Secretary is reserving

the Summerglen Library meeting room for our April, July and October 2021 meetings. Prior to actually holding any meetings we will evaluate the situation to ensure we can do so safely.

On another note, I want to urge everyone to be very cautious while driving/ We have seen a big increase in accidents, especially on or near major intersections and freeway intersections. We monitor the police radio and we hear numerous major wrecks every day of the week. When we drive the neighborhood we see damaged car parts laying along the road. Everyone, please buckle up and drive with care.

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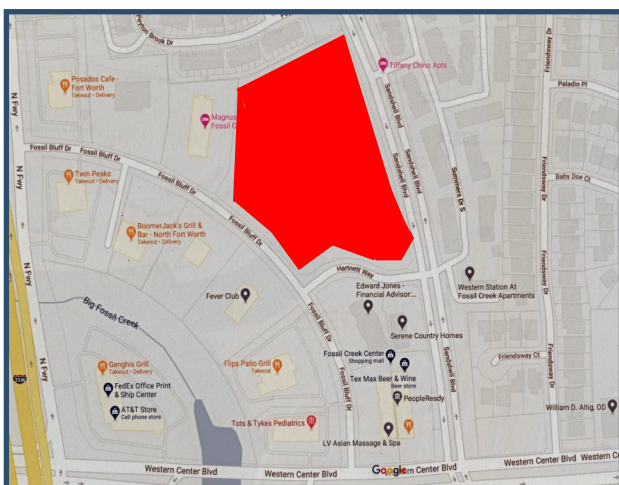
After reading the preceding Star-Telegram article, I understand that many people are concerned about taking the vaccine. Many fear it was developed too quickly, that potential undetected side effects exist, or they are afraid the vaccine will give them COVID-19. After doing research using trusted sites and consultations with our physician, my wife and I have registered with TCPH to receive the vaccine. I simply want to encourage each individual to consult their doctor and research reputable sources to make your decision. By reliable resources, I do NOT include social media. There is too much disinformation on those sites.

There seem to be two major concerns with the current vaccines.

1. Many believe these vaccines contain the COVID-19 virus. They are not like previous vaccines where they introduce a weakened form of the virus into your body. These vaccines do not contain the COVID-19 virus. This is new technology that has been in development for many years and could allow future virus vaccines to be developed much more quickly. They identify the characteristics of the invading virus and introduce modified RNA into the system to enable the body's own immune system to produce an effective defense against the invading virus. In case of the first two FDA approved vaccines the projected numbers show they are 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 infection.
2. There is no available data to show if these new vaccines will have long term side effects. This is true, but the studies, which involved tens of thousands of participants, showed a vast majority experienced no or only minor side effects.

Again, please consult your doctor and do your own research using reliable sources to make your decision. Just remember, not taking the vaccine will definitely leave you exposed to COVID-19 infection. I, for one, do not want to live the rest of my life in perpetual quarantine.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



Standard Multi-Family Apartments Proposed In Our Area

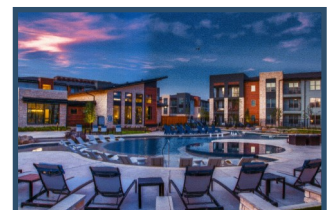
A developer has been working with Councilman Cary Moon and area neighborhood organizations, including the SNA, to construct a 200 unit apartment complex on the land bordered by Fossil Bluff, Hartnett, and Sandshell Blvd. This is the land just to the south of the Carriage Place townhomes who's Association we are supporting.

While the SNA has traditionally opposed new standard multi-family zoning changes, this is not a normal situation. This site is currently zoned G, high intensity commercial. This type of zoning allows several large non-residential facilities such as the Main Event bowling and gaming center in the Presidio

Shopping area. Because of the risk of such G-zoned facilities building on this land, the SNA has conditionally supported this multi-family development.



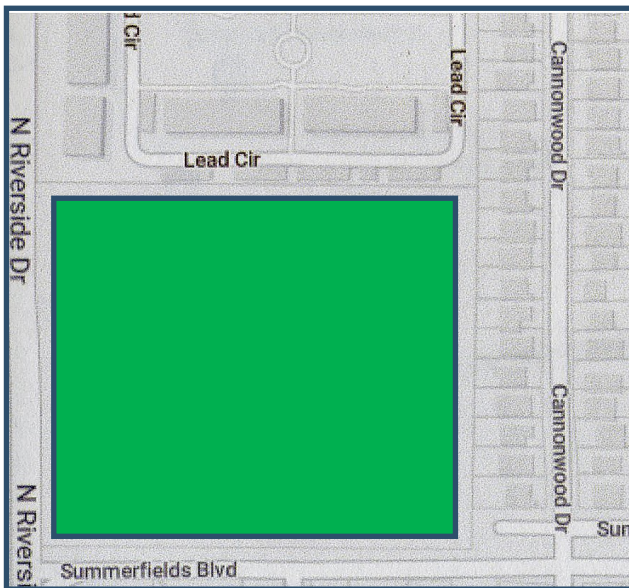
Concept Drawings from the Developer.
Final design is yet to be finalized.



TWO MAJOR SINGLE FAMILY DEVELOPMENTS SLATED FOR FAR NORTH FORT WORTH

The 3,300 single-family home development near Texas Motor Speedway covered in last month's newsletter already has company. Another large development has just been announced. A 2,900 home development is now in the works. This development will be located on Fort Worth land located northwest of Haslet. It is, just north of the existing Sendera Ranch neighborhood. That makes over 6,000 new homes in these two developments, which will house about 25,000 new residents. There will be many more to come.

The economic engine that is Alliance Airport will continue to drive Far North Fort Worth development. Hillwood Development, the builder of Alliance Airport, purchased all the land between the airport and the railhead to its west. The plan is to build a world class logistics center that will attract even more major businesses to our area. There is a very good reason we're seeing all this warehouse construction.



The SNA supported the development of a seniors only (55+) multi-family housing facility on the vacant land located at the northeast intersection of Summerfields Blvd. and N. Riverside Drive. The zoning change request for this facility was approved in August by both the City's Zoning Commission and the City Council.



Concept Drawing

There is no known date for the start of construction, but we'll pass you updated information when we receive it.

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. Currently Thompson Road east of N. Riverside is closed for traffic circle construction, This will make it inconvenient for parents taking to or picking up the children from the Thompson Road Middle School. Please be patient. 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 mid 2021.

A second road improvement project will continue widening N. Riverside Drive from N. Tarrant Parkway north 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 throughout our area.

Other road improvements are planned for the Basswood Blvd. and N. Beach intersection. This project was funded in the City's 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.

Final Six Candidates Named for Chief of Police Position

The City of Fort Worth has selected six finalists for the new chief of police. Chief Ed Kraus announced his retirement earlier this year. The six finalists were selected from a pool of more than 50 applicants for the position. Strategic Government Resources has been working with city leadership in conducting a national search for the new police chief.

“Choosing the individual who will lead our police department is one of the most important hiring decisions we have to make,” said City Manager David Cooke.

Details on the interview process and when the candidates will be introduced to the community will be provided to the City Council.

Meet the six finalists:

Wendy Baimbridge

Since March 2017, Baimbridge has been assistant chief of the Houston Police Department. Her tenure with HPD started in 1992. She has a master of arts degree in sociology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and a bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Houston.

Troy Gay

Gay has been with the Austin Police Department since 1991 and has served as assistant chief at the Austin Police Department since January 2013. Gay has a bachelor degree from Texas State University, performed graduate work in criminal justice at the University of Virginia and graduated from the FBI National Academy.

Christopher C. Jones

Jones has a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and graduated from the FBI National Academy. Since February 2020, he has been assistant sheriff with the Las Vegas Municipal Police Department.

Derick D. Miller

Miller has 28 years of service with the Carrollton Police Department and has served as Chief of Police there since November 2017. He has a master of arts degree in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Texas at Arlington and a graduate certificate in criminal justice education from the University of Virginia.

Neil Noakes

Noakes has a master of science degree in criminal justice and criminology from Texas Christian University and a bachelor degree in criminal justice administration from Tarleton State University. Since March 2019, he has been deputy chief of the Fort Worth Police Department.

Julie A. Swearingin

Swearingin is assistant chief of the Fort Worth Police Department. She has a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice administration from Tarleton State University and graduated from the FBI National Academy.

City Council Will Be Reconfigured to 11 Districts

In 2016 Fort Worth voters approved a City Charter Amendment to reconfigure City Council districts from nine to eleven. The City Council has appointed an eleven member Redistricting Task Force to advise on redistricting criteria and procedures.

Once the 2020 census figures are available, the task force will start working to divide Fort Worth into 11 smaller districts with roughly equal populations. In December 2018 the Task Force on Race and Culture in recommended the goal of ensuring that the City Council reflects the diverse communities that it represents.

By Dec. 8, 2020, the Task Force will present an interim report on its findings to the City Council. In January 2021 they will hold multiple public hearings, either physically or virtually, at locations throughout the city to solicit community feedback on redistricting criteria and procedures.

The Redistricting Task Force will make present its final recommendations to the City Council on March 2, 2021. All Task force meetings will be open to the public.

Our main code 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 though, 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 pickup 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.

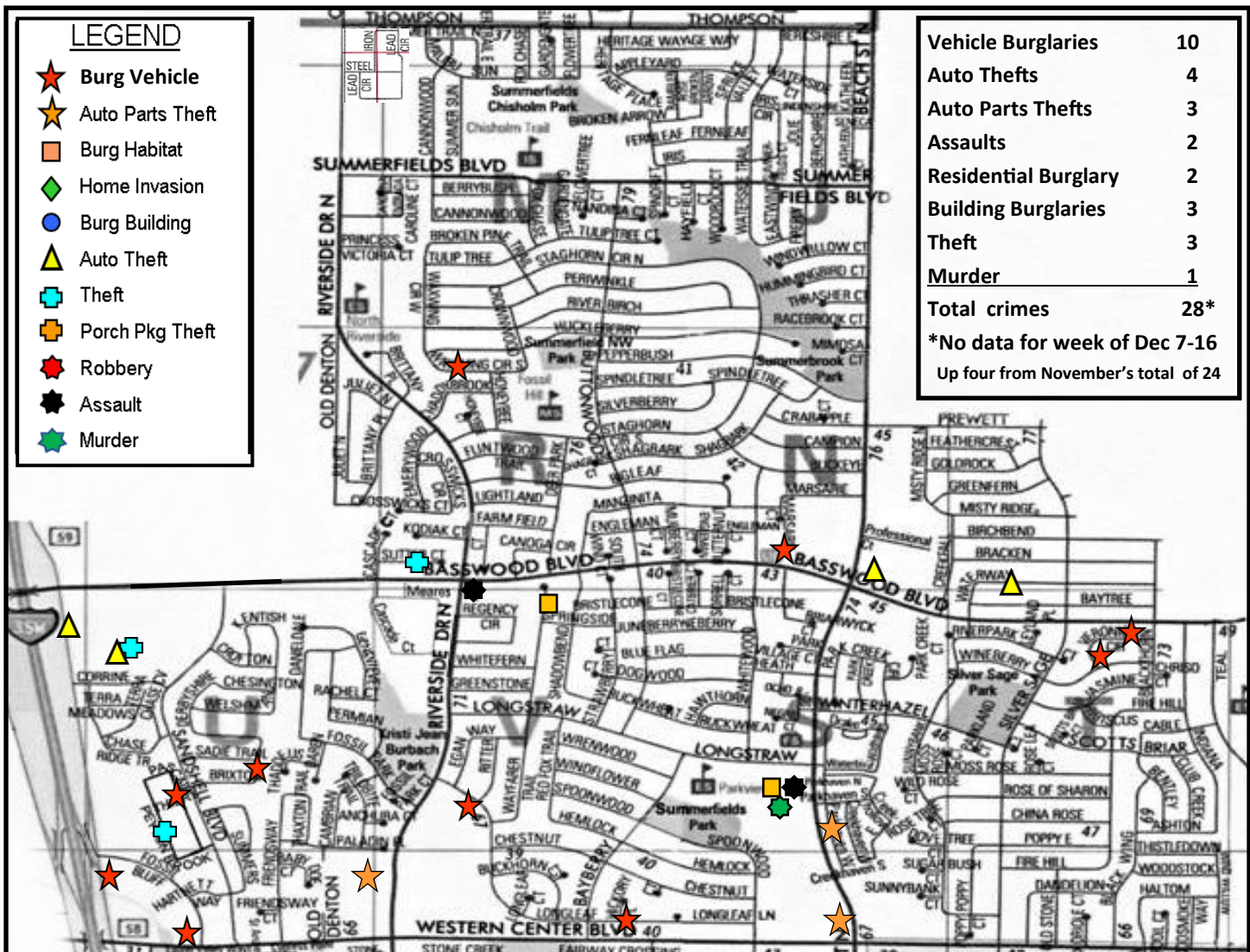
To help curbside pickup go as smoothly as possible, follow the program directions and avoid incurring fines. Here are some best practices and program guidelines:

- 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 outside the trash cart; 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 then 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 at the curb on your weekly trash pickup day as part of the yard waste collection program. It must be separated from items like mail boxes, carts, large limbs and any bulk piles

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/solid-waste/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) | 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! | Free for Fort Worth Residents | | | | |

Summerfields Area Crime Map for December 2020



Summerfields Crime Trends for November 2020:

- The majority of car burglaries (BMVs) were of unlocked vehicles, which remains our most common crime. The BMVs were located south of Basswood Blvd. It is strongly recommended that vehicles parked outside a garage be locked and nothing left in view from the outside.
- Auto thefts dropped in November, but we also had three restaurants burglarized.
- We are still seeing a spike in catalytic converters taken from a vehicle parked outside.
- One armed murder occurred on in an area apartment complex. A suspect has been identified.

Crime Prevention Recommendations:

- If you park your car in the driveway, on the street or in a business parking lot, make sure it's locked. Most car burglaries are of unlocked vehicles. Citizens on Patrol recently directed patrol officers to four actors on Friendsway who were walking the streets pulling on door handles to find unlocked cars. They had driven to our area from East Fort Worth. Police say this is not uncommon because our area has a reputation among thieves for not securing our property!
- Do not leave anything visible from the outside the vehicle. Doing so could motivate a burglar to enter it forcibly.
- Close and lock your garage door. Remember, the door from your garage into your house is usually very flimsy!
- Install motion detector LED lights to illuminate your driveway and property - criminals like the dark.
- Report juveniles walking the residential streets after midnight., especially if the wear hoodies and have backpacks.