

# THE SUMMERFIELDS SPOTLIGHT

FOCUS ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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

A Publication of the Summerfields Neighborhood Association

May 2021

## Mayor's Office Headed to a Runoff

With the voter turnout almost doubling the numbers from previous elections, Fort Worth voters appeared to take more interest this year. This is great news. Many people don't vote in local elections, I would guess because they don't get the press of State and National races. But the fact is these local representatives have a major impact on our day-to-day lives. They determine the quality of our City services, such as fire and police coverage, solid waste pickup, providing public parks, insuring the quality and upkeep of our public streets, and setting real estate tax levels on homes to name a few.

With most races having large numbers of candidates vying for every office in the May 2nd municipal elections, it was inevitable that runoffs would be required. In a runoff the top two vote-getters run against each other. The most prominent of these was for the office of the Mayor of Fort Worth. Candidate Mattie Parker, Mayor Price's Chief of Staff, and Deborah Peoples, former AT&T executive were the two who received the most mayoral votes. Peoples received 33.6% of the vote and Parker received 30.8%. There will also be runoff elections for council seats in Districts 6, 7, 8 and 9 where no candidate reached the 50% threshold. With over 51% of the vote, our incumbent District 4 Councilman Cary Moon appears to have avoided a runoff. There were five other candidates vying for the District 4 seat.

This year's elections are even more important. This Council and Mayor will oversee adding two new council districts in Fort Worth and redrawing the borders of the existing districts. We encourage you to research the issues and candidates and go to the polls and vote. Democracy depends on an informed electorate.

The runoff elections are scheduled for June 5th.

## SNA Presidents Corner



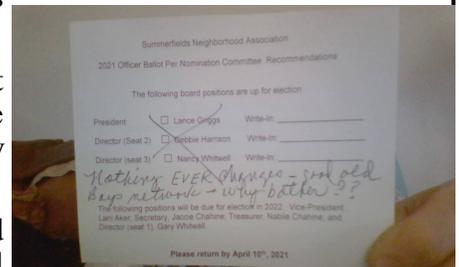
I want to thank all our members for returning their ballots. We had an 80% response on our ballot mailout. The SNA board and officer positions are for two-year terms. We alternate years so three are elected one year and four the next. We do this to assure continuity on the Board. This year I was re-elected as were Board Members Debbie Harrison and Nancy Whitwell.

One of the ballots came back with no officers selected. It was used as a scratchpad with the only entry being a note that said, "Nothing ever changes—good old boy network—why bother?" (see picture). We have no way of knowing who sent it.

The intent of the message was clear and made a valid point, our Board member positions have been static for a long time. I and the Board objected to the method of delivery, not the message. The "good old boy network" comment has negative connotations which questions the integrity of some very dedicated people.

The message that we need new people on the board is something of which we are very aware. All it takes to get on the ballot is for a dues-paying member to volunteer for one of the positions (it does not have to be a vacant position). Sadly, the simple fact is that over the last few years no one has ever stepped up and volunteered

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## KISD School Construction Has Begun in our Area

Three schools in our area are in different stages of construction. The new Heritage Elementary facility has been under construction for almost a year. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2021, in time for the new school year. After the new building is completed, the old Heritage Elementary facility will be taken down.

Construction trailers and fencing have been put up at Parkview Elementary School. The construction phase officially started April 1st, 2021. The new two story school will mostly be constructed on the land east of the existing structure. After the new facility is completed, most of the current school will then be taken down. A large part of Summerfields Park has been fenced in to house construction equipment. The project is scheduled to complete by the end of June 2022.

The construction phase of the renovation of Fossil Hill Middle School started on April 1st. Fencing has been installed in the parking lot behind the school. The renovation is scheduled to complete in June 2022.

## Developments Currently in Progress

A convenience store is under construction at 4550 Basswood Blvd., just to the east-of Ace Hardware. Long-time residents may remember that this site originally had a privately run recreational facility with tennis courts and a swimming pool. It went out of business in the early 1990s. For safety reasons the pool was filled in with dirt and the tennis courts removed. They've now removed the old swimming pool and poured the foundation for the convenience store. Work is underway to install the underground gasoline tanks and pumps.

We have confirmed that a car wash is being constructed at the intersection of Sandshell and Basswood Blvds.

## 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.



## Area Road Construction Updates

The Basswood and N. Beach intersection improvement project, funded in the City’s last Capital Improvement Program (CIP) bond package, started in April. This project will install two turn lanes in every direction to help alleviate traffic congestion at this busy intersection. It will also install curb crossings at all intersections, update the traffic light system, and add lane signs. It is planned to work one intersection at a time and is scheduled to complete in December 2021.

The construction to widen N. Riverside Drive to a four lane road from N. Tarrant Parkway south to Basswood Elementary school is scheduled to complete this June. The four lane roadway and the Thompson Road roundabout are completed. The Summerfields Blvd. intersection

The project to widen N. Riverside Drive to a four lane road from North Tarrant Parkway to the Shiver Road roundabout will start this June. Completion is schedule in August 2022. A second road improvement project will continue widening N. Riverside Drive from N. Tarrant Parkway northward to the existing traffic circle/four lane road at Shiver Road . It will also rework all four sides of the N. Tarrant and N. Riverside intersection and install updated traffic signals.

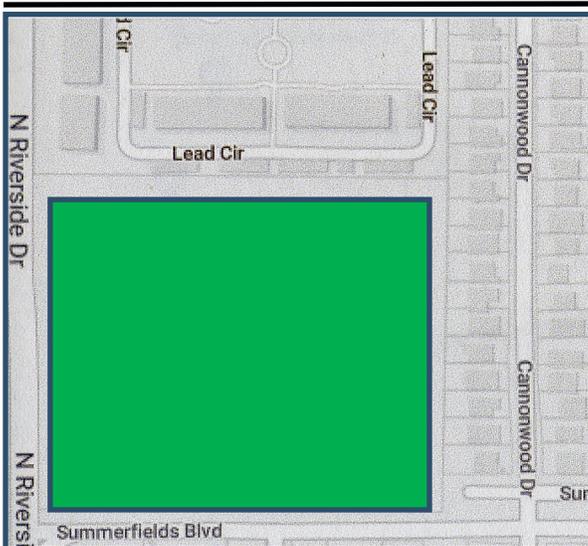
The residents on Creekfall are experiencing the problems encountered when the City does a complete replacement of the street substructure and curbs. We live on Longleaf Lane which had this done about 10 years ago, so we can share your pain.

## Other Developments

The old Boston’s Gourmet Pizza restaurant, located on the southbound I35W access road (behind Joe’s Crab Shack), is being renovated. Plans are to open a cigar bar at this location. No opening date is known.

The construction on North Beach in the Wal-Mart parking lot will house a Starbuck’s. No opening date is known.

Takara Japanese Restaurant hopes to move into the vacant building at 3088 Basswood Blvd, previously occupied by the Chinese Buffet that closed down last year. Takara has applied for a variance that would allow them to sell liquor, beer and wine with their meals. Since that property abuts a school (Basswood Elementary) alcoholic beverage sales are prohibited. The owners are working with Keller ISD and have submitted a variance request with the City.



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. It is anticipated that this project will start not long after the widening of the southern portion of North Riverside is



Concept Drawing

# “President’s Corner” continued from page 1

The SNA is a State of Texas registered non-profit corporation. We have existed since 1993, operate under a set of by-laws approved and amended by member vote. We hold these elections as directed by our bylaws. We also operate under a State Charter to educate and address the needs of the Summerfields community. All officers and Board members work as volunteers and receive absolutely no compensation in any form. Three of our Board members work full time jobs as well as volunteer their time. The other four are retired. We all have one thing in common, we are dedicated to keeping Summerfields a safe and viable community. We are not always right and do not always make the correct decisions, but then we are human. This neighborhood has homes approaching 40 years old, and without constant vigilance by caring residents it can easily deteriorate. We are dedicated to not letting that happen. Our biggest hurdle is the overall apathy within the community, we just cannot seem to get many of them involved. Unfortunately, this is quite common with most volunteer organizations.

We have realized for some time that our board has been static and needed new blood and new ideas. Some of the board members would like to be replaced when we can find a volunteer It has been a topic of conversation at several of our board meetings. In January 2020 we worked with Fort Worth’s Community Engagement Office about ways to increase membership and get the community more involved. They agreed to help and set up a meeting. They robocalled every phone number in the neighborhood, about 5,000 homes and around 20,000 people, advising them of the meeting. They then hosted the meeting at the FWPD sector on N. Riverside. We had about 20 people show up.

However, six of those people wanted to be an active part of the SNA. Despite the disappointing turnout, we were very encouraged to have six residents wanting to take an active part in the SNA. We were just starting to have follow-up meetings when the pandemic hit and put everything on hold.

We, like almost everyone else, had to shut down and go into a survival mode, trying to maintain things until the restrictions were lifted. We are hoping by July to have our first SNA meeting in 18 months. We are looking forward to trying to re-engage with what was started at the City Engagement Office meeting.

For over a year we have been unable to meet face to face as a board. We have held a few virtual meetings but are mostly in a holding pattern and communicate mostly by phone and email.

But even through the pandemic we continued to work issues in Summerfields. We continue to work variance requests, zoning changes and other development issues with the City. We have continued to drive the neighborhood identifying and reporting Code violations and inoperative streetlights. We continue to closely monitor our budget and do all the filings required of non-profit corporations. We keep our web site updated and put out a monthly online newsletter.

We welcome any new ideas to improve the SNA and encourage our members to become more involved at every level. However, we need to keep our discourse civil and communicate in a positive manner.

## City Drop-Off Locations

The City of Fort Worth is ready to help you with your spring cleaning.

Four drop-off locations provide residents a one-stop drop for everything from household and yard chemicals to bulky trash and furniture to yard trimmings. Residents can easily access the drive through and dispose of these items.

You can dispose of items like TVs and electronics, household and yard chemicals that are not picked up by the trash, recycle or bulk waste trucks. Items such as electronics,, household, yard and pool chemicals, automotive fluids, batteries, light bulbs and paint contaminate a landfill and must be properly recycled.

The drop-off stations are free to Fort Worth homeowners and are open on Monday through Saturday. Residents must provide a Fort Worth water bill or current drivers license with a Fort Worth address. Renters can drop off recyclables only if they present a current Fort Worth water bill.

### Drop-off Locations

Hillshire Drop-off Station  
321 Hillshire Drive, Haslet

Brennan Drop-off Station  
2400 Brennan Avenue

Southeast Drop-off Station  
5150 Martin Luther King Freeway

Old Hemphill Road Drop-off Station  
6260 Old Hemphill Road

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.

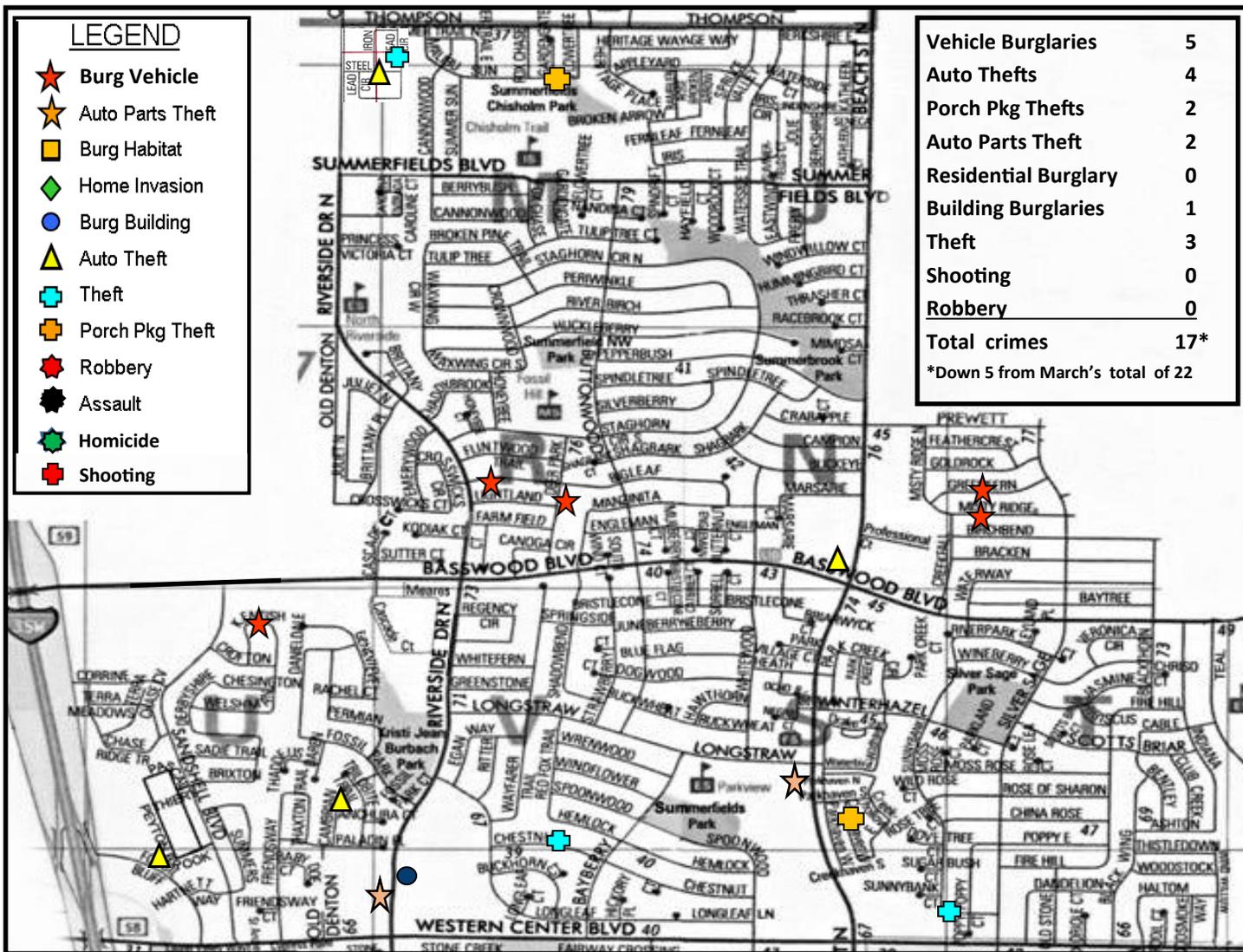
To help curbside pickup go as smoothly as possible, follow the program directions and avoid incurring fines. Here are some best practices and program guidelines:

- 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/](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
<b>YARD</b>					
<b>Yard Trimmings</b> <small>Leaves, twigs, grass, shrubs</small>	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
<b>Brush, Tied</b> <small>Small Branches</small>	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
<b>Brush, Untied</b> <small>Large Branches</small>	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
<b>RECYCLING</b>					
<b>Visit website or app for all items that can be recycled. Blue Cart</b>	Weekly on pickup day; set out by 7 a.m. Can set cart out after 6 p.m. the day before your pickup day	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
<b>GARBAGE</b>					
<b>Household waste only. Brown Cart</b>	Weekly on pickup day; set out by 7 a.m. Can set cart out after 6 p.m. the day before your pickup day	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
<b>BULK ITEMS</b>					
<b>For items too heavy/bulky for the cart. Visit the website or app for more details. Place 2 ft. from carts or other objects.</b>	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	Limitd 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
<b>DROP-OFF STATIONS</b>					
<b>Fort Worth Residents Only. Accepting recyclables, brush, electronics, items for Goodwill and more!</b>	Open: M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. (Hours subject to change) <b>Free for Fort Worth Residents</b>	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

## Summerfields Area Crime Map for April 2021



### Summerfields Crime Trends for April 2021:

- The majority of car burglaries (BMVs) involve unlocked vehicles, and remains our most common crime.. It is strongly recommended that vehicles parked outside a garage be locked and nothing left in view from the outside.
- Auto thefts continue to be a problem. Cars left unlocked with key fobs inside contributed. .
- The City is seeing an increase in violent crimes—assaults, homicides, robberies and shootings.
- Fort Worth is still seeing a spike in catalytic converters taken from a vehicle parked outside. The rare elements in the different converters sells for \$300 to \$2,000 at scrap yards, so they're a big draw for thieves.
- We had only one businesses forcibly entered and burglarized.

### 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. We have car burglars from all over Fort Worth come to our area and police say this is 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 forcibly enter.
- 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.