

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

June 2021

June 5th is Election Day for Mayoral Race

Early voting is over. On June 5th Fort Worth voters will select between Deborah Peoples and Mattie Parker for a runoff election to determine which candidate will succeed outgoing mayor Betsy Price. These two received the highest vote totals among the ten candidates vying for the Mayor's office and as the top two qualified for the runoff election. Peoples received 33.6% and Parker received 30.8%. The following is some information on the candidates that the SNA has pulled from various web sites and newspaper sources. We hope it helps you research the candidates and then vote for the candidate of your choice.



Deborah Peoples

Mattie Parker



Mattie Parker

Parker was the Chief of Staff for Mayor Betsy Price and the City Council for the last five years. She is the founding CEO of Fort Worth Cradle to Career and the Tarrant To & Through (T3) Partnership, which aims to ensure more students have the training needed to thrive in today's workforce. She serves on the board of directors for The Gatehouse's Legacy Early Learning Academy, Read Fort Worth, Operation Progress - Fort Worth, and ACH Child and Family Services.

She has been endorsed by Mayor Price, the Fort Worth Police Officer Association, the Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association, The Star Telegram, the Dallas Morning News, and several current and previous City Councilpersons. Parker believes the Fort Worth economy is the most important issue in this election.

Continued under Mayor's Race on page 4

SNA Presidents Corner



After 15 months without a meeting due to the pandemic, we are elated to announce that we hope to resume SNA meetings in July. We are very anxious to meet with everyone face-to-face and to get back on track with the initiatives that came out of the Fort Worth Community Engagement Office meeting in January of 2020. Due to the library operating with restricted hours, we do not as yet have a firm location. That decision will be made closer to the July meeting when we have a clearer picture of the library's hours of operation.

We have attempted to keep our members informed via updates on our website, emails, and this newsletter. However, I think nothing is better to direct meetings for discussing issues and generating ideas for improvement. We thank you for your patience and understanding as the SNA, like many other organizations and businesses, has had to restrict normal business due to the pandemic. Hopefully things will soon return to some form of normalcy.

I really want to express the importance of voting in the Mayoral runoff election on June 5th. Please take the time to research the candidates and go to the polls and vote. Unfortunately, local elections don't seem to be important to folks, with the outcomes usually determined by less than 10% of the City's registered voters. This is sad because local officials have such a major impact on the services and taxes we all take for granted.

Lastly a heads up. We are seeing a huge spike in catalytic converter thefts. Recycle prices on converters is at an all time high. Please report any suspicious activity, such as suspicious cars cruising your street late at night.

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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 has commenced at Parkview Elementary School. The construction phase officially started April 1st, 2021. Road closures on Bayberry and Longstow are coming. The old facilities will be torn down in stages, the current facility has to support students for the 2021/22 school year. After completion of the new two story structure most of the current school will then be taken down. Part of Summerfields Park has been fenced in to house construction equipment. The project is scheduled to complete in 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.

A Goodwill Industries store and drop-off station is nearing completion at the southeast intersection of Basswood and Sandshell Blvds. The opening date is unknown.

A car wash is under construction at the southwest intersection of Sandshell and Basswood Blvds. Signs on the property indicate they are now hiring for car wash staff.

Standard Multi-Family Apartments Proposed In Our Area

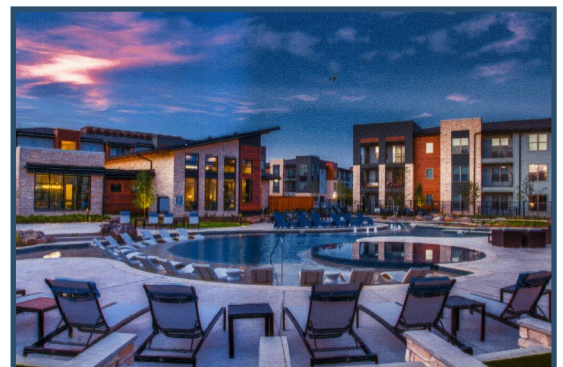


A zoning change has been approved to allow construction of a 200 unit apartment complex on the land bordered by Fossil Bluff, Hartnett, and Sandshell Blvd. This is the land just to the south of the Carriage Place townhomes who's Association the SNA supported during the zoning process.

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 with their negative impacts on traffic and crime, we conditionally supported building apartments on this land/



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 complete. The four lane roadway and the roundabouts are complete. The Summerfields Blvd. lane improvement from Cannonwood to the N. Riverside roundabout is also finished.

The project to widen N. Riverside Drive to a four lane road from North Tarrant Parkway to the Shiver Road roundabout started this month. Completion is schedule for August 2022. This second N. Riverside Drive road improvement project will provide four lanes from N. Tarrant Parkway northward to the existing Shiver Road traffic circle . It will also rework all four sides of the N. Tarrant and N. Riverside intersection as well as install updated traffic signals.

The residents on Creekfall are experiencing the inconveniences encountered when the City does a complete replacement of the street substructure and curbs. We live on Longleaf Lane which had this done about ten 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 near 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.

A Penny Paws veterinarian clinic plans to build at 3800 Basswood Blvd., just east of the existing 7-11.



With the completion of the southern N. Riverside and Summerfields Blvd. road projects, construction should start soon on the seniors only (55+) multi-family project. The SNA supported this project because we felt that considering the existing zoning it was a good fit for that location. It will have a minimal traffic footprint, offer a much needed housing option to area seniors, and pay KISD school taxes without adding any children to the school system.. We thought these positives outweighed the loss of a weedy field filled with low quality trees.



Concept
Drawing

Mayor's Race” continued from page 1

Mattie Parker (continued)

Parker said she would focus on increasing job opportunities and career training, lowering taxes, and encouraging community safety by supporting police and fire services. Parker graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and has a law degree from Texas A&M University School of Law where she was awarded the prestigious MacLean & Boulware Endowed Law Scholarship.

Deborah Peoples

Ms. Peoples recently stepped down as the chair of the Tarrant County Democratic party. She has positioned herself as the candidate for change in Fort Worth. Peoples said, “I love this city, and I tell everybody ... I happen to be the standard-bearer for change. When I am mayor, this will open the city up for so many residents that felt excluded”. Peoples is also a business executive, having worked for more than three decades at AT&T. While there, she started out as a laborer and union member, but over time she became a vice president in charge of 5,000 representatives and managers across 22 states. She feels this experience leaves her well prepared to be the mayor of Fort Worth.

The Texas Democratic Party (TDP) recognized Peoples through its Project LIFT program, which provides support for Democratic municipal candidates. Peoples has also earned the backing of EMILY's List, a Democratic political action committee, and former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke has also endorsed her.

Peoples has long fought for social justice issues, and she counted herself as part of the civil rights movement. After George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police last year, she spearheaded the painting of a large street mural declaring “END RACISM NOW.”

The SNA strongly encourages our residents to become familiar with the credentials, positions and planned policies of these two candidates and go to the polls to vote for the candidate of their choice. One major project the new mayor will head is the City Council redistricting effort — Fort Worth will soon add two new City Council Districts and redraw the boundaries for the eight existing Council districts. The mayors race is the only item on the ballot for our area. We encourages you to research the issues and candidates, then go to the polls and vote. Democracy depends on an informed electorate.

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

Southeast Drop-off Station
5150 Martin Luther King Freeway

Brennan Drop-off Station
2400 Brennan Avenue

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.

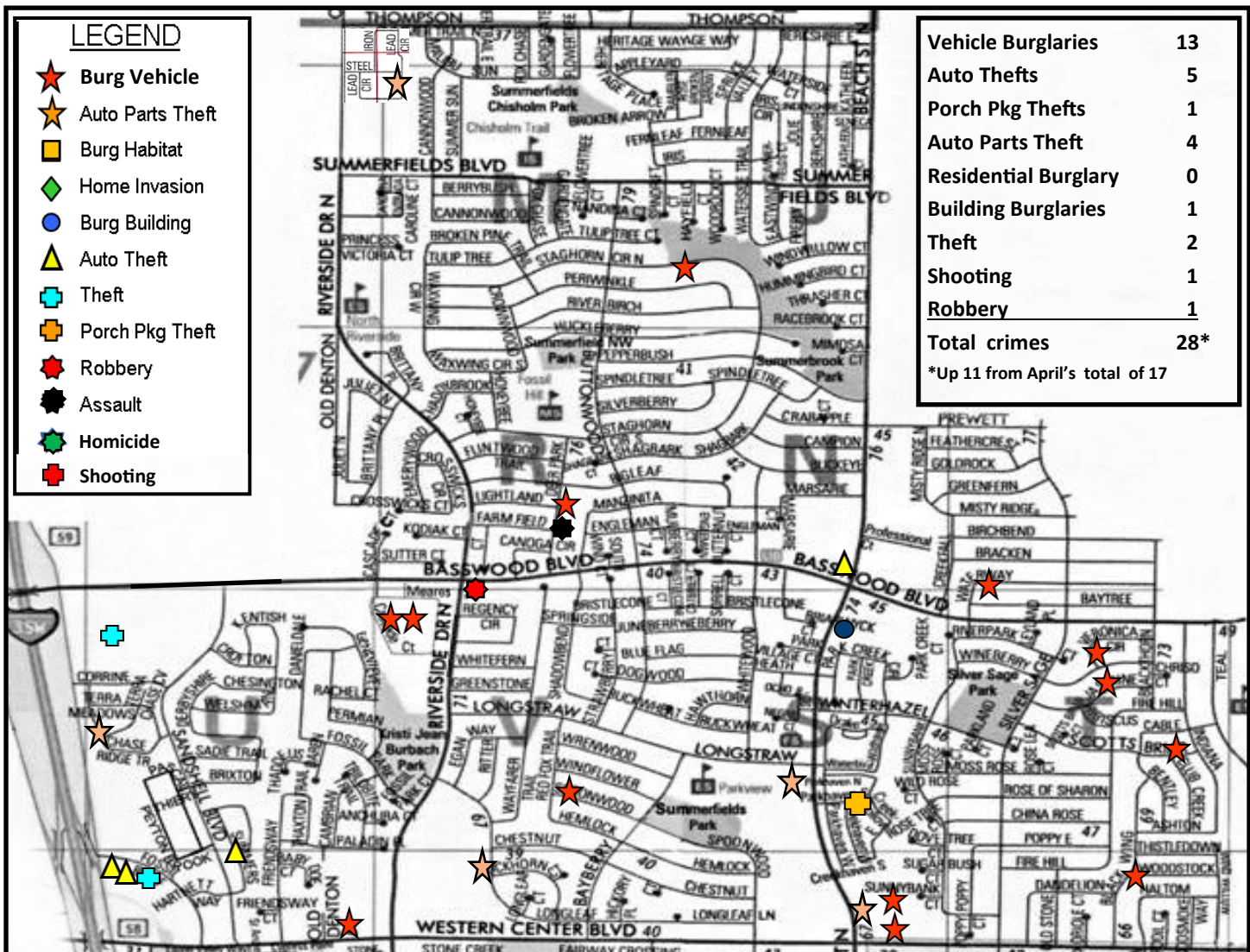
To help curbside pickup go as smoothly as possible, follow the program directions and avoid incurring fines. Here are some best practices and program guidelines:

- 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/>.

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!					

Summerfields Area Crime Map for May 2021



Summerfields Crime Trends for May 2021:

- Big jump in May car burglaries (BMVs), most 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.
- All of Fort Worth is 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!
- Start or join a Crime Watch program for your street. Install motion detector LED lights to illuminate your driveway and property - criminals like the dark.