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Nichols Park

Neighborhood Association Newsletter

www.NicholsPark.org

Spring 2012

Neighborhood Association Garage Sale a Success!

The annual NPNA garage sale event was a huge success! Thanks to all who bought and sold. More than 25 houses participated by holding sales over the weekend. It was hot and sunny, but we got to meet and greet friends and neighbors, swapping stories as well as treasures.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the first weekend in May 2013 and plan on joining us for the next neighborhood garage sale. Remember, whenever you plan to have a garage or yard sale, you will need to get a free permit from the City of Irving. It has been reported that a few houses, unfortunately, were ticketed last weekend for not having permits.

The event this year raised over \$100 to help support our neighborhood picnics. Thanks to all who contributed! If you were unable before, but would still like to make a contribution, you can do so at the spring picnic on May 19th. See you there!

2012 NPNA Date to Note

Annual NPNA Spring Picnic
Saturday, May 19th
11 am - 1 pm at Nichols Park

Bring your family to Nichols Park on Saturday, May 19th, for our annual Nichols Park Neighborhood Association spring picnic. Free hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served and the company is great! In the event of rain, the picnic will be held the following weekend, Saturday, May 26th.

Non-perishable food items will be collected for Irving Cares.

Your NPNA Board of Directors:

- Pete Miller**, President
- Marion Courtney**, Vice President
- Eileen Parks**, Secretary
- Richard Wilson**, Treasurer
- Jana Whaley**, Crime Watch Coordinator
- Bill Jenkins**, Street Coordinator
- Kimberly Becerra**, Special Projects
- Kimberly Syper**, Special Projects

- Darin Furbush**, Events
- Brenda Wren**, Events
- Dena Smith**, Communications
- Tiffany Southerland**, Communications
- Victor Cannon**, Communications
- Brien Perkins**, Communications
- Debra Howard**, Communications

*Good neighbors are aware.
Good neighbors care.
Good neighbors share.
Please help our association
make a difference!*

Email: nicholspark@yahoo.com



facebook.com/nicholspark

O'Connor Road Project

The City will be widening O'Connor Road from 4 lanes to 5 lanes and adding a dedicated right-turn lane onto east bound Rochelle. As part of this project 2,900 feet of 8, 10, 12 and 15-inch wastewater main; 2,300 feet of 18, 24, 30, and 36-inch storm drain; and 3,500 feet of 8, 12, and 18-inch water main will be replaced.

The City expects construction to be completed by the end of March 2013.



Other City Items of Interest

Dragon Boat, Kite and Lantern Festival – Irving residents can enjoy a free opportunity to celebrate Asian culture during the annual Dragon Boat, Kite and Lantern Festival along the shores of Lake Carolyn from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on May 20th. The skies will be filled with colorful kites and there will be exciting dragon boat races, cultural performances, traditional Asian cuisine, arts and crafts, and educational activities for all to enjoy. The annual DFW Dragon Boat Festival - a premier sporting, cultural and educational event - is hosted by the Marco Polo World Foundation. For more information, visit www.dfwdragonboatfestival.com.

Online Crime Reports – The Irving Police Department has partnered with www.crimereports.com so residents can view crime data online and receive crime updates via email. The crime-mapping website compiles information on crimes that have occurred in Irving - by incident type, time and location - and marks them on a map of the city. Residents also can sign up to receive email updates that include all incidents that occurred within a specified area. To access the map, visit www.cityofirving.org/police and select "CrimeReports" at the bottom of the page. This will soon replace the Crime Summary email. For more information, call (972) 721-3515.

Citizen Emergency Response Team

Contributed by Brien Perkins

Don't have anything to do one weekend? Want to help your community? Want to learn some leadership skills that could help your family or your neighbors in an emergency situation? Consider taking a Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) class.

I had read about the classes in an email. So I checked to see if the city of Irving offered this training and, low and behold, they do! Last September I took the CERT class.

People who live or work in Irving are eligible and, though it is not training for children or even most teens, there is no age restriction for adults. The training lasts two days over one weekend, approximately six to seven hours each day.

What did I learn? How to do minor first aid, search and rescue, and triage patients who are victims of a natural disaster or even an accident like a plane crash. (Remember the Delta crash at DFW years ago?)

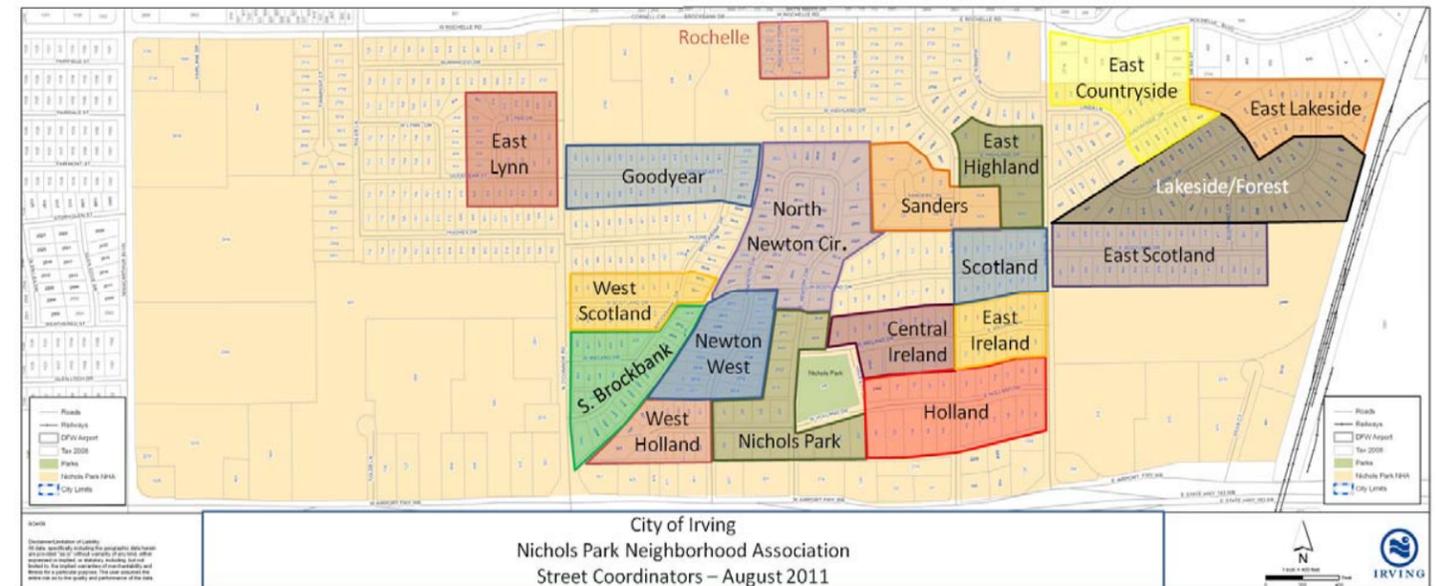
The participants of the class learned about communicating and working with First Responders and what their responsibilities are. We learned how to turn off gas lines in case of a tornado or other event. We also learned about being prepared for other types of emergencies, like when we had four days of snow in February 2011. (Then, I ventured out to go to the grocery store and found the shelves bare.)

Even when there is no emergency, there are ways you can contribute being a CERT team member. For instance, you can help with training exercises for police or fire personnel. A few months ago they had a big practice at the convention center that combined firefighters, police SWAT and other First Responders.

If there is a sheepdog inside you, you feel the need to help, and you'd like to make a difference – maybe during a critical time in someone's life - consider becoming a CERT member. It was well worth my time to learn what I needed to know about being prepared!

NPNA Street Coordinators Needed

The sections that are not highlighted on the map below need street coordinators. If you live in one of these areas, please consider volunteering for that role. You may contact us at nicholspark@yahoo.com.



The Top 10 Vehicles Stolen In Texas

- Ford Pickup
- Chevrolet Pickup
- Dodge Pickup
- Honda Civic
- Chevrolet Tahoe
- Honda Accord
- GMC Pickup
- Toyota Camry
- Ford Taurus
- Chevrolet Impala



The Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority, an office of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, was created by the Texas Legislature in 1991 to fund programs to reduce vehicle thefts. For more information, call 800-CAR-WATCH or visit the ABTPA website: www.txwatchyourcar.com.

In Texas in 2010, there were 263,479 motor vehicle burglaries, resulting in an economic loss of over \$219 million. In that same year, 68,219 vehicles were stolen, with resulting financial losses of more than \$635 million. The latest statistics from Texas law enforcement agencies indicate the top three locations from which vehicles are stolen are residences (41.6%), public parking lots or public garages (28.7%) and roadways, highway or alleys (12.2%). These statistics show that no area is truly safe from vehicle crime activity.

We are asking Texans to be more observant, lock car doors and check to be sure items of value are not visible to thieves. What people don't always understand is that it does not just stop at the auto burglary. Oftentimes, confidential information is left in the vehicle and thieves can continue committing a string of crimes, such as identity theft, just by breaking into a vehicle.

It is recommended that you put your insurance card in your wallet instead of your vehicle, as many do. If a thief finds your policy card, they have your home address. That provides them a ready opportunity to burglarize your home, knowing you are likely not there since your car isn't. Also, many individuals leave the garage door opener handy for the thieves, such as on the sun visor. This allows them easier access into a house because so many people do not lock the door between the garage and the home.

We want Texans to start thinking like thieves! When you do, you will find yourself using a greater level of caution and, hopefully, you will avoid becoming a victim of vehicle crime.