

Greetings!

District 12 is one of the best places to live, work and play in Dallas. From our beautiful neighborhoods to our parks and the ever-expanding Preston Ridge Trail, the quality of life offered is envied by the rest of the city.

Our neighborhoods are our best asset. That's why I worked hard this past budget season to continue adding 200 police officers to keep our city safe and maintain essential City services. We were also able to provide additional resources to reinvent our Code Department. We are moving from code enforcement to code compliance by providing staff with the resources and tools to help educate residents on how to bring their properties into compliance and enhance the curb appeal of our neighborhoods. We were able to do all of this without a tax rate increase.

Maintaining lawns and eliminating high weeds, and placing garbage/recycling at the curb on the appropriately assigned day makes a neighborhood more aesthetically pleasing. If we all take pride in our communities and focus on complying with our City codes rather than relying on officers to enforce them, we can ensure that we'll have cleaner, safer neighborhoods.

Many of you have volunteered and stepped up to the plate wherever and whenever you're needed. Take, for example, the volunteers who planted 1,400 trees along the Preston Ridge Trail, together with the dozens of homeowners' organizations, the VIP and crime-watch groups and many civic organizations whose sole purpose is making our community a better place to live, work and play. You are the eyes and ears of our district and I appreciate your involvement.

For those of you who have sat on the sidelines, I encourage you to get involved in our community. Join one of the many groups and organizations that have been a part of this great neighborhood for many years.

I am honored to represent you on the Dallas City Council and assure you I will continue to work full-time to make District 12 and the entire city a showplace.

As always, please contact my office with any concerns, ideas or suggestions. Together, we can make our district and our city an even better place to live and raise our families.

**Best regards,
Ron Natinsky, District 12**

Moving along on the Preston Ridge Trail

Construction on the Phase II portion of the Preston Ridge Trail is nearing completion, adding 1.3 miles to the trail's length.

The new 6.5-mile trail will start at the intersection of Hillcrest Road and the Bush Turnpike and wind its way toward the intersection of Coit and Spring Valley roads.

Significant new landmarks have been created, including a 100-foot pedestrian bridge and several new trail amenity nodes that feature benches, trash receptacles, bicycle racks and doggie waste-bag dispensers.

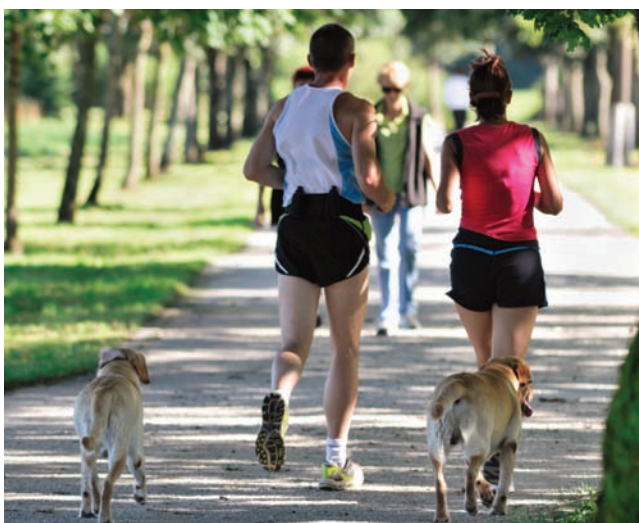
Together with businesses and community volunteers, the City is working to make the trail corridor a more attractive, park-like environment. Oncor Electric Delivery Company played an essential role in making Preston Ridge Trail a reality, as the trail is located primarily on company property and easements. The community stepped up to assist the City with more than 1,400 tree plantings and the required ongoing watering to keep them thriving. These trees will provide seasonal color and enhance the trail's natural beauty. Plans are under way to continue tree plantings during the next three years along the entire length of the trail.

Although the trail offers recreational and fitness opportunities, it also provides a means of alternative transporta-

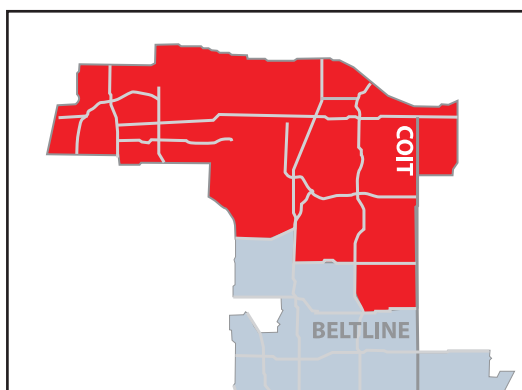
tion from neighborhoods to multiple schools, parks and other destinations by connecting to other trails that will have connections to DART light rail stations.

The Preston Ridge Trail is an essential link in the City's existing and planned trail network, which will eventually connect the northern limits of the city to areas such as the East Dallas/White Rock area, downtown and the Trinity River Corridor. The City is also working on plans for the Cotton Belt Trail

To view the City's Trail Network Master Plan, visit www.dallasparcs.org, where you'll see how the City is working to develop a premier trail system that everyone can be proud of.



DISTRICT 12



Libraries:

Renner Frankford, 6400 Frankford Road
214-670-6100

Timberglen, 18505 Timberglen Road
214-671-1365

Recreation Centers:

Campbell Green, 16600 Parkhill
214-670-6314

Timberglen, 3810 Timberglen Road
214-671-0644

Police Division:

North Central: Sgt. Michael Nonnenmacher
214-670-7247

Are you helping to build a Greener Dallas?



Take the first step and make a commitment to recycle by joining the City's "Too Good To Throw Away" program. In District 12, each household participating in the program is recycling an average of 46 pounds per household per month! That's up from last year's 25 pounds per month, and it beats the City's goal of having each household recycling an average of 30 pounds each month. Want to join the success? Call 311 to get a Big Blue recycling cart delivered to your home.

Mission: possible



Code department focuses on relationships, solutions in District 12

District 12 Code Manager



North Central
Macklin Wright
469-556-8919

"We're problem solvers. We love knowing that we've helped people"
– Macklin Wright

District 12 Neighborhood Code Representative



North Central
Kelli Stevens
214-517-6722

"My goal is to educate our citizens about City codes. That's the best way to get compliance."
– Kelli Stevens

With a newly reorganized department and the addition of 20 neighborhood representatives, Dallas Code Compliance is starting to get tougher on code violations.

But that doesn't mean it's getting tough on citizens. Rather, the new neighborhood representatives are putting a face on the department by acting as liaisons between citizens and Code.

The City recently decentralized and reorganized its Code Compliance districts so that neighborhood representatives can respond more quickly to resident requests. The goal of these changes is to allow Code employees to get to know a specific area: the people and businesses, the compliant properties and the troubled areas.

Macklin Wright is manager of the North Central Division, which includes District 12.

"It's a great thing," he says of the reorganization. "When we get a call, we can get right out there. When the citizens have a concern, they can just come to our office at 8940 Adlora [Mapsco 27T] or give us a call."

Mr. Wright and his neighborhood representatives are busy familiarizing themselves with the concerns of residents in the district. They are getting quite a bit of hands-on experience with one of those concerns: illegal signs and banners.

"These violations take many forms, including using merchandise such as rugs and banners to advertise," he says. "In an effort to improve aesthetics and build attractive neighborhoods, we address complaints received through calls to 311 and designate specific times each week to sweep neighborhoods for illegal signs."

Bulk trash set out for pickup too early or late is another area that needs to be addressed, he says. Another chief concern is foreclosed properties with code violations. Bringing such properties into compliance with City ordinances is one of his goals.

Code is taking a holistic approach, working together with other City departments,

including Police, Streets, Sanitation and Building Inspection. This coordinated approach is crucial, as noncompliant properties frequently have other problems outside the scope of Code Compliance, such as crime, structural failure or street damage. By working together, the departments have a much better chance to solve core community problems. Managers and neighborhood representatives are making a habit of attending meetings of crime-watch groups and homeowners associations. Cooperation with police and neighborhood groups is crucial to Code Compliance's success.

This initiative is not just helpful for code compliance, but also supplements law enforcement strategies.

Another important part of improving code compliance is taking a more citizen-friendly approach, with an emphasis on education and the occasional helping hand. Because homeowners and business owners often do not know every ordinance that applies to their properties, a neighborhood representative will inform a noncompliant citizen of a violation, offer solutions and, if necessary, suggest resources he or she can call for help.

The new neighborhood representatives are putting a face on the department by acting as liaisons between citizens and Code.

The department's new approach calls for Code employees to be more proactive with residents and property owners, helping them solve problems before citations are issued.

"We've increased our efforts to educate businesses about recent amendments to the sign ordinance and to enforce illegal signage and banners along storefronts," Mr. Wright says. "We're problem solvers. We love knowing that we've helped people."

District 12 looks



It's been a year since the City of Dallas launched www.GreenDallas.net as part of its commitment to environmental responsibility. This comprehensive site is dedicated solely to environmental issues.

Dallas is well on its way to becoming one of the greenest cities in the nation. But such an effort requires the involvement of government and residents alike in District 12.

Here are five simple ways to build a greener Dallas:

1. RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE

Dallas offers single-stream recycling — that means no sorting. It all goes in the same Big Blue container. If you don't have yours already, then call 311 and order your recycle roll-cart today.

2. GREEN YOUR GROCERIES

Have you noticed the latest fashion accessory? It's the reusable bag. Next time you're asked "Paper or plastic?" just say "Neither." Many stores now offer their own cloth reusable bags.

3. SAVE A TREE

By paying your bills online, you'll not only save a tree, but also

time and postage. Of course, you can always make the world a little greener by planting a tree.

4. MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT

Although 70 percent of Earth's surface is covered in water, we need to conserve all that we can. Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when you've got a full load; water your lawn in the evening (less water will evaporate); take shorter showers; and turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth.

5. CLEAN THE AIR BY GREENING YOUR RIDE

Did you know you can help clean the air by doing routine maintenance on your vehicle? Inflate your tires — you'll get better gas mileage and spew fewer emissions from your tailpipe. Fuel up in the evening — the gas fumes won't bake in the Texas sun all day and cause smog/ozone. Consider carpooling, riding DART, biking to work or telecommuting.