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DISTRICT 1 UPDATE

December 23, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of crime watch groups. If you don't currently have an active crime watch group in your neighborhood, I encourage you to start one. A crime watch group is simply neighbors looking out for neighbors and when well organized, they are proven to be an effective crime deterrent. For more information and tips, please see page 5.

Also in this issue, is information on the new Amendments to the City's Animal Ordinance which the City Council passed in June 2008. I also want to send a reminder to everyone that the DPD will begin the Enforcement of Underinsured Motorist ordinance, which begins on the 1st of January, 2009.


Finally, the City Council is in recess and will return to session on January 5, 2009. If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate call my office at (214) 670-4052.

I wish you and your loved ones a safe and joyous holiday season! As always, thank you for your support and for the privilege of serving you.

Dr. Elba Garcia

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District 1

City of Dallas Closings and Schedules for Christmas Day and New Year's Holidays http://dallascityhall.com/pdf/pio/Holiday-closings_Dec08.pdf



Somehow, not only for Christmas, but all the long year through,
the joy that you give to others, is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing, the poor and lonely and sad,
the more of your heart's possessing, returns to you glad.

-- John Greenleaf Whittier

De alguna manera, que no solo en la Navidad pero durante todo el año,
la felicidad que les das a otros, sea la felicidad que recibes. Y que
entre más tiempo des ayuda al pobre, solitario o triste, que mas
felicidad regrese a tu corazón.

-- John Greenleaf Whittier



Happy Holidays from
The Garcia Family

Joaquin, Domingo, Elba and Fernando; and our dogs: Onyx, Lucky, Loba

City of Dallas New Amendments to Animal Control Ordinance

In June 2008, the Dallas City Council amended Chapter 7 of the Dallas City Code pertaining to animals. The new regulations strengthen the City's laws governing animal ownership. They include:

- Establishing a \$70 fee for intact animal permits
- Limiting the number of dogs and cats in a single family home to 6 or 8 if property is on one-half acre or more
- Prohibiting the use of animals as prizes
- Allowing the seizure and impoundment of a dog deemed dangerous
- Restricting tethering of unsupervised dogs to the amount of time necessary to complete a temporary task

For a complete copy of the amendments to the Ordinance #27250, please click on the link, http://dallascityhall.com/code_compliance/Downloads/animal_ordinance27250.pdf

Dallas City Code Chapter 7 Animal Ordinance Brochure

http://dallascityhall.com/code_compliance/Downloads/code_amendments_brochure.pdf

For more information call Dallas Animal Services at (214) 670-6800.



Southern Dallas Loose Dog Initiative

http://dallascityhall.com/code_compliance/loose_dog_initiative.html

Beginning December 8, 2008, the Department of Code Compliance will begin conducting a Southern Dallas Loose Dog Initiative. Neighborhood Code Representatives, Code Officers, and Animal Services Officers will distribute educational flyers, posters and door hangers throughout the Southwest, South Central, South East and Central parts of the city. The purpose of this initiative is to pick up loose dogs in these targeted areas and educate residents on Chapter 7 – Animals of the Dallas City Code.



Enforcement of Uninsured Motorist Ordinance to begin January 1, 2009.

<http://dallascityhall.com/police/towing.html>

Beginning January 1, 2009 the Dallas Police Department will begin enforcing the Uninsured Motorist Ordinance, approved by the Dallas City Council on May 28, 2008. Under this ordinance drivers stopped for a traffic violation who cannot show proof of auto insurance meeting state requirements will be issued a citation and will have his or her vehicle towed at the owner's expense. The City already tows the vehicles of uninsured motorists involved in traffic accidents.

Congratulations to the Winners!

The Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce held their 2008 Annual Awards Ceremony on December 9, at the Golf Club of Dallas. Winners were selected from ten different categories. These included:

“Best OC Public Servant” – Dr. Elba Garcia

“Chairman’s Award” – Yolanda Gills

“President’s Award” – Sylvia Camarillo

**“There’s No Business Like... The Best Oak Cliff Business in 2008”
Bolsa & The Paper Plate**

**“The Fought the Law... 2008 Award for Advocacy by Oak Cliff Individual
or Group” – Edna Pemberton**

**“I have another meeting tonight and won’t be home for dinner.
Chamber Super-Volunteer of 2008” – Jason Roberts**

**“Home Improvement Quality of Life Award: Organization that most
improved Oak Cliff in 2008” – Earth Day Oak Cliff**

“Best Oak Cliff Development” – 9th St. Townhomes

“Event Having Most Impact” – Democratic Watch Party

“Best/Worse Quote of the Year” – Debra Witter

Crime Watch Makes a Difference!

What is Crime Watch?

Crime Watch is a group of neighbors looking out for neighbors. It is getting to know each other and becoming familiar with your neighbor's habits and vehicles so that you will know when something is suspicious or out of the ordinary. In addition to recognizing potential suspicious activities, Crime Watch participants report such activity by calling 911. After calling 911, also notify your Crime Watch Chairperson or neighborhood voice mail.

All of this doesn't make you a nosy neighbor – in makes you a good neighbor in the old-fashioned sense of the word.

When in doubt, always call 911. The 911 dispatch center is staffed with trained operators who will evaluate your call, rank its priority, and dispatch it to the appropriate officer. Crime Watch does not mean being a vigilante. Participants do not confront suspects or take any personal risks at all.

How Can I be a Crime Watch Participant? Crime Watch doesn't take a lot of time or money. Contact your Block Captain or area Chairperson to find out specifically what Crime Watch can do for you and what you can do for Crime Watch. Some basics are:

Keep Informed. Attend Crime Watch meetings, read the Crime Watch materials provided to you, and if your neighborhood has "Crime Alert" voice mail, call it regularly to keep informed, learn about crime prevention and share the information with your neighbors.

Volunteer. Offer you help whenever you can. Many neighborhood groups need help with copying or distribution of materials, telephone calls, meetings, refreshments, etc. Pitch in to help whenever and wherever you can in the area that interests you most.

How Can I Prevent Crime?

These proven crime prevention measures will go a long way toward keeping you from becoming a crime victim:

- Keep your home's doors, garage, and windows shut and locked at all times.
- Improve your outdoor lighting.
- Don't leave lawn equipment or toys outside or in an open garage.
- Keep car doors locked and windows shut while driving and when parked.
- Don't keep valuables in plain view inside your car.
- Check behind when turning into your neighborhood or apartment complex and again before turning into your alley or driveway. If someone is in close proximity, drive past your home to a well lit and populated area to call 911.

Crime Watch (continued from page 5)

- Take vacation precautions:
 - Ask someone to pick up mail and newspaper daily.
 - Arrange to have your lawn mowed or leaves raked.
 - Even better, have someone stay in your home while you are away, if this is possible.
 - Sounds simple, doesn't it? But it works!

Crime Watch Overview

- Know your neighbors.
- Be observant.
- Be aware of what is suspicious.
- Always report any suspicious activities and crimes to 911 and then inform your Crime Watch Chairperson.
- Be knowledgeable about area crime and the related prevention tips.
- Take simple crime prevention measures to avoid unnecessary crimes.
- Attend area crime watch meetings.
- Volunteer with your area Crime Watch organizations.

For more information, call Southwest NPO/Crime Prevention at 214-670-6795.

Random Gunfire

Every year, lives are lost and families are devastated by random gunfire. This holiday season, Dallas residents are again reminded about the tragedies that can result by recklessly firing weapons into the air. Unfortunately, these celebratory bullets often come down on innocent men, women and children.

Dallas Police remind residents that those who fire into the air will face jail time or major fines. "The holidays should be celebrated safely with family and friends, not by firing a deadly weapon into the air," said Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Elba Garcia. "This dangerous tradition has become a public safety concern for the entire City and we urge residents to think of their neighbors; don't engage in this reckless behavior. Let's all do our part to make this holiday season safe for everyone."

Here's what residents can do to help:

- Keep firearms locked and secured at all times
- Call 9-1-1 immediately to report illegal possession or discharge of firearms
- Spread the word about the dangers of random gunfire

Additionally, Public Service Announcements, paid by Dr. Elba Garcia, have been made through various radio stations this week to educate the public about this important issue.



Happy Holidays