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**Greetings and Happy New Year!**

**Dear citizens,**

As we start 2008, it is indeed a time of new beginnings. We said farewell to Charles Boswell as his three-decade career with the city came to an end. And, we say congratulations to Dale Fisseler who was selected in December to take the helm as Fort Worth's newest city manager.

Dale will have the rare opportunity to shape the executive staff of the city because of the need to hire three assistant city managers to fill his former position and that of Libby Watson, who retired, and Marc Ott, who was hired as the city manager of Austin.

The city also will begin to search for a new police chief after Ralph Mendoza retires this month.

Despite all of this change, we are moving forward with many initiatives as our city continues to grow.

In May, citizens will be asked to approve the 2008 bond package. This program is designed to focus on the improvement of various streets and major arterials throughout Fort Worth.

Our ever-expanding city has far more needs than can be addressed by this bond alone, but the current City Council is committed to funding what it can without a tax rate increase. The details of this bond package are available on the city's Web site at [www.fortworthgov.org](http://www.fortworthgov.org).

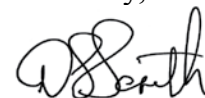
A Gas Drilling Task Force will be called to meet to again discuss the more recent issues that have surfaced as we face the unprecedented exploration of the Barnett Shale. The original task force did an excellent job. But, the city now has much more experience with drilling and production, and it is now time to

take another look at how the current ordinance might be improved to protect the safety and sanctity of our neighborhoods.

Inside this newsletter you'll find articles on park grants and planting trees as well as rental registration and how to join code blue. You also will find additional information about the 2008 bond program and articles concerning red light cameras and street light replacement. I hope you find all of these stories helpful.

Finally, as I begin my third year on this council, I look forward to meeting more of you as we work together to make Fort Worth a better place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,



Danny Scarth  
 Councilmember, District 4

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## Become a part of Fort Worth's finest

Fort Worth is recognized as one of the safest large cities in the nation. It's a credit to the Fort Worth police force — we call them Fort Worth's finest.

But police officers aren't the only ones with a hand in securing the safety of our citizens. Citizens on Patrol (COP) volunteers also are vital to this success. Think you have what it takes to be another set of eyes and ears for the Fort Worth Police Department? You can find out by joining COP, and becoming a watchful advocate for your own safety and that of your neighbors.

To join, you must participate in a one-day course to learn the basics. After that, you'll ride with



a uniformed crimefighter and meet with the officer in charge of the program in your division.

After completing the course and ride-along, you'll be a full-fledged COP member and ready to begin

patrolling your neighborhood.

Each Citizens on Patrol group selects a leader who completes the neighborhood's patrolling schedule and works on program development. All groups are furnished with portable radios — similar to those issued to police officers — to report suspicious activity to their base station.

Once a report comes in, the volunteer staffing the base unit contacts local police officers for a prompt response.

If you are interested in joining a COP group, call 817-335-4222, or visit [www.fortworthpd.com](http://www.fortworthpd.com). Under "Safety," click on "Community Policing."

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## Voters to consider bond package for streets in May

The Fort Worth City Council recently formulated a bond program to present to voters this spring. Election Day is May 10.

The 2008 bond is valued at \$150 million. If approved by voters, it will fund street improvements across the city over the next four years.

There are more than \$1 billion worth of existing street needs for some 74 arterial roads and 479 lane-miles of neighborhood streets in Fort Worth. To begin chipping away at these needed improvements, the proposed 2008 bond program will be spent on reconstructing high-priority streets and arterials, replacing traffic signals and improving intersections and bridges.

The bond does not cover routine street maintenance, which is included annually in the city's operating budget (approximately \$15 million in this year's budget).

Working with council members and citizens, city staff used a number of criteria to assess which streets require the most urgent attention.

Arterial streets are ranked according to safety, congestion, citizen feedback, mobility and others. Neighborhood street consideration takes into account safety and citizen feedback, but also includes evaluation of drainage concerns.

The proposed 2008 bond package calls for:

- \$81 million for arterial streets
- \$33 million for neighborhood streets
- \$22.2 million for bridges
- \$5 million for traffic signals
- \$3.3 million for transportation grant matches
- \$3 million for public art
- \$2.5 million for intersection improvements

In the City Manager's recommended bond package, each Council District will receive a pro rata share of bond money based on the need. District 4 ranks third in need for arterials and will receive \$13.1 million for arterials which is targeted to construct bridges for North Riverside Drive over Loop 820 and Fossil Creek. The design only of Randol Mill Road from East Loop 820 to Precinct Line Road is also funded.

The neighborhood streets of District 4 are in better shape relative to other districts ranking seventh in order of poor streets. The proposed package would provide \$1.5 million for street reconstruction.

If approved in May, the 2008 bond package will complement the \$150 million critical capital needs package that was approved by council last year.

To find out about specific improvements included in the 2008 bond program, visit the Fort Worth Web site at [www.fortworthgov.org](http://www.fortworthgov.org), or call 817-392-7621 for English or 817-392-8704 for Spanish.

## Residents can improve local parks

Parks are a crucial part of the quality of life we enjoy in our neighborhoods. That's why it's vitally important for residents to be directly involved in making sure parks are meeting the community's current needs.

The Neighborhood Development Program presents communities with a unique opportunity to leverage private resources with city funds for



park improvements. The goal of this program is to create a sense of neighborhood ownership through the construction or replacement of neighborhood park facilities.

The Neighborhood Development Program is funded by gas well royalties received from city-owned gas leases. Each year, a total of \$100,000 is available for this program. The

grant amounts are categorized into three tiers:

- Tier one: \$15,000-\$25,000
- Tier two: \$10,000-\$14,999
- Tier three: \$5,000-\$9,999

Any organized neighborhood or community-based group within the City of Fort Worth, private businesses and nonprofit groups are eligible to receive matching grant funds to develop local neighborhood parks.

Residents or groups interested in learning more about the Neighborhood Park Development Program may call 817-871-5700.

## Need some trees?

Does your neighborhood evoke a sense of place and charm? Do tree-lined streets give you a feeling of home?

Trees enrich our lives by adding beauty and color, and they perform vital functions such as filtering pollution from the air. We enjoy their shade and cooling effects, and trees even help us save energy. They soften the harsh lines of buildings, provide privacy screens and contribute to the general character of a home.

Trees can increase the selling value of properties; and, most of all, planting a tree today will leave a legacy for decades to come.

Your neighborhood can transform a treeless, hot street into a shady, tree-lined haven. The city of Fort Worth offers a free program to city neighborhoods to create beautiful, beneficial tree-lined streets. The Neighborhood Tree Planting



Program is available to make such a transformation possible.

So, how does one get involved? It's easy. Simply call Forestry at

817-871-5729 to get started.

A representative from the neighborhood must volunteer to become the neighborhood project coordinator and act as a liaison between your community and the forester.

Up to 75 addresses per neighborhood, per season are eligible to receive two free 5-gallon street trees. The trees are provided by city of Fort Worth Forestry and must be planted in the parkway or city right of way (this is often the area between the sidewalk and the curb). Participants agree to plant the trees and water them for up to two years or until the trees are established.

A tree-lined street is in your future, so what are you waiting for? Call Forestry at 817-871-5729, or visit the Web

site at: [www.fortworthgov.org/pacs/fwpcsd/forestry/index.htm](http://www.fortworthgov.org/pacs/fwpcsd/forestry/index.htm) to learn more about the free street tree program.

## Red-light cameras activated

Watch those yellow and red lights. Red-light cameras are now activated at several intersections in Fort Worth. Cameras have been installed at the following locations:

- Eastchase Parkway and Meadowbrook Boulevard
- East Long Avenue and Deen Road
- South Hulen Street and Bellaire Drive South
- McCart Avenue and Westcreek Drive
- Bryant Irvin Road and West Vickery Boulevard
- Eighth Avenue and Elizabeth Boulevard
- North Beach Street and Western Center Boulevard

Two more intersections will get red-light cameras after approval from the Texas Department of

Transportation.

Fines were not assessed during the warning period in December. However, motorists who are now photographed running red lights at these intersections will be issued a citation. The fine will be \$75, plus a \$25 late fee for vehicle owners who do not pay within 30 days.

The initial intersections were selected from 30 locations analyzed using a Violation Incident Monitoring System that records red-light-running violations, police reports of red-light citations



and traffic accidents.

Red-light cameras operate 24 hours a day and capture still photographs and video of every vehicle that runs a red light at the intersection. A Notice of Violation is sent to the vehicle's owner.

Violators may view a 12-second video clip on the Web site at [www.ViolationInfo.com](http://www.ViolationInfo.com).

Photo enforcement warning signs alerting drivers to the red-light cameras are installed at the intersections.

## New rental registration program in place

City Council approved changes to the rental registration ordinance that significantly alter the requirements for residential rental property owners within the city.

Starting Jan. 1, the Code Compliance Department began the registration of complexes with three or more rental units (a change from eight or more) and single- and two-family rentals with major code violations. Here are the major changes to ordinance:

### **One- and two-family rentals (with no violations):**

- Registration is voluntary.
- Requires out-of-state property owners to designate a local agent to accept legal service and a contact for local emergencies.

### **One- and two-family rentals (with previous violations):**

- Registration is mandatory.
- Annual registration fee is \$200 for one and two family units with violations.
- Requires out-of-state property owners to designate a local agent to accept legal service and a contact for local emergencies.

### **Rental complexes with three or more units:**

- Three and above means: three or more units under the same roof (triplexes); three or more on one lot under the same ownership; or three or more units on connecting lots all owned by the same person.
- Annual registration fee is \$24 for the first rental unit and \$8 for each additional unit.
- Requires out-of-state property owners to designate a local agent to accept legal service and a contact for local emergencies.

*For more information, contact the  
Code Compliance Department at 817-392-2572.*

# Council strengthens dangerous dog ordinance

The Fort Worth City Council unanimously passed new rules that now cover unprovoked attacks on animals as well as humans by unrestrained dogs.

The new dangerous dog ordinance allows for more aggressive enforcement of cases where a pet being walked on a leash is attacked by a free-roaming dog. Animal Care and Control officials hope the new ordinance will emphasize the need for pet owners to be responsible and make sure their dogs are restrained.

According to the new ordinance, a seizure warrant now will be issued after an aggressive dog report is filed with the Municipal Court. After Animal Care and Control seizes the dog, it will be impounded at the animal shelter until the court determines whether it is deemed dangerous.

Once a dog has been declared dangerous, the owner of the animal must comply with certain requirements within 15 days.



The dog will remain in Animal Care and Control's custody until compliance is verified or while any appeal processes are pursued by the owner. If an appeal is unsuccessful, the owner will pay all applicable sheltering fees for this time period.

For more information, call 817-392-3737 or visit [www.fortworthgov.org/publichealth](http://www.fortworthgov.org/publichealth).

## City bans tethering, chaining dogs

The City Council approved an ordinance banning use of chains, ropes, tethers, leashes, cables or other devices to attach an unattended dog to a stationary object or trolley system commonly known as dog tethering.

A dog still must be confined within a secure enclosure at all times.

The ban, which comes in light of evidence that shows tethering may increase aggressive behavior in animals, strengthens rules limiting the practice that were passed by the state legislature in 2007.

Under the new ordinance, the tethering of dogs still will be allowed under limited circumstances when the owner is present, such as at lawful animal events or city dog parks and during veterinary treatment, grooming, training or law enforcement activity.

Those who violate the new ordinance could face a fine as high as \$2,000. For more information or to report a violation, call the Animal Care and Control Division at 817-392-3737.

# Residents asked to help light up Fort Worth

The city of Fort Worth has launched a re-lamping program to light up Fort Worth. Driving on dark streets can be dangerous. That's why city leaders are asking for citizens' help by reporting outages.

Fort Worth has more than 60,000 street lights that must be maintained. Malfunctions include burned out lamps, lights working

intermittently, lights burning during daylight hours or knocked down poles. Last year, crews replaced 127 poles, performed 91 circuit repairs and replaced 4,684 lamps.

"We need neighborhoods to tell us when lights are out or malfunctioning," said Robert Goode, Transportation and Public Works director. "The city has 37 staff to perform all maintenance on

our street-light inventory. If we are to keep the lights burning, we need residents, police and people driving the streets to report outages."

Residents are asked to report street light outages and malfunctions by calling 817-392-8100 or online at [www.fortworthgov.org](http://www.fortworthgov.org).

Once an outage is reported, repairs can take three to 14 days.

# Revitalize your neighborhood

The Model Blocks Program is the City of Fort Worth's award-winning neighborhood revitalization initiative aimed at building strong neighborhoods, a safe community and a sound economy.

This special program can make a visible impact by concentrating city activities in a predefined area and using multi-year resources of \$2.4 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds.

From the inception of the program 15 years ago, 18 Model Blocks have been established. Neighborhoods compete for the Model Blocks award based largely on the following principles:

- **Comprehensive planning and implementation:** Residents, assisted by city staff, develop a neighborhood plan, including a vision statement, goals, objectives and strategies to implement the plan.
- **Resident empowerment:** Residents

develop the neighborhood plan and implement projects.

- **Public-private partnership:** Model Blocks neighborhoods work with area businesses, government agencies, banks, nonprofit organizations, housing developers, universities, churches and schools to effectively solve problems.
- **Leveraging of resources:** The Model Blocks Program has successfully competed for additional funds from various sources beyond the initial allocation.

The competitive award is made approximately every two years. The proposed area must be located within the CDBG Eligible Target Areas where at least 51 percent of the residents have low or moderate incomes.

The sponsoring organization must have bylaws and a steering committee containing at least five residents of the Model Block area who are willing to actively participate during




the entire process, including project implementation.

Many improvements to the neighborhood can be made, and the priority of projects is set by the participating neighborhood residents. The plan can cover projects in housing, infrastructure and community facilities.

The Home Improvement Loan Program is also a significant part of most Model Blocks programs. These home repair loans are available to income-eligible homeowners who reside in the Model Blocks area.

For more information, call 817-392-7331 or 817-392-7545.



## Fort Worth Gas Wells

### New consolidated gas well Web site available

The City of Fort Worth has consolidated all information on gas well drilling into a new Web site to help residents find the information they need in one place. Staff from Communications, Planning and Development, Parks, Engineering and Finance departments met to identify various components

of their operations as it relates to natural gas wells. The goal was to present the information as a topical Web format.

Highlights of the new consolidated gas well site include the ability to:

- See who is bidding to drill on city property
- Learn about the permitting process
- Access pending and approved permits
- Link to other information resources without having to remember which department handles that particular task.

Point your browser to [www.fortworthgov.org/gaswells](http://www.fortworthgov.org/gaswells) to see the new site.

# Helpful Numbers

This section is included to help residents find direct access to some of the most needed services.  
 If additional assistance is needed, please to contact District 4 Office.

|  |                                      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Report crime or non-emergency requests</b> .....                                      | Police .....                         | 817-335-4222   |
| <b>Trash, recycling, brush, bulky waste</b> .....  | Environmental Management .....       | 817-392-3279   |
| <b>Barking dogs, animal abuse,<br/>dead animal, lost or found pet</b> .....              | Animal Care and Control.....         | 817-392-3737   |
| <b>High weeds and grass, junk vehicles,<br/>debris, open and vacant structures</b> ..... | Code Compliance .....                | 817-392-1234<br><a href="http://www.fortworthgov.org/codecompliance">www.fortworthgov.org/codecompliance</a> |
| <b>Sidewalks, speed bumps,<br/>school zones, curbs</b> .....                             | Transportation and Public Works..... | 817-392-8100   |
| <b>Water service, billing, sewer issues</b> .....  | Water .....                          | 817-392-4477   |
| <b>Permits, inspections, licensing</b> .....   | Development.....                     | 817-392-7820   |
| <b>Construction services, engineering</b> .....  | Engineering.....                     | 817-392-8306   |
| <b>Housing services, concerns, complaints</b> .....                                      | Housing.....                         | 817-392-7546   |



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PLACE  
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**FORT WORTH**  
**CITY OF FORT WORTH**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**DISTRICT 4 COUNCILMEMBER**  
**DANNY SCARTH**  
**1000 THROCKMORTON ST**  
**FORT WORTH TX 76102-6311**





Danny Scarth  
Councilmember District 4  
City of Fort Worth  
1000 Throckmorton St.  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

*We want to hear from you!*

Please use this comment card to mail me your feedback about pressing issues in our district neighborhoods. You can remain anonymous if you choose. **You also can submit comments via e-mail at [district4newsletter@fortworthgov.org](mailto:district4newsletter@fortworthgov.org).**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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