



P.O. Box 830114, Richardson, TX 75083



www.CrowleyPark.com

# CPNA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

**Hey All,**

Spring is in full bloom. The trees are turning green, the Bradford pear trees are very showy for about two weeks, the red buds are a burst of red as their name implies and the tulips are flashing their brilliant colors. Time to rake up last fall's leaves, do a little trimming and plant some color in your yard. While outside recently, I enjoyed the smell of fresh cut grass and someone grilling. Spring is in the air, get out and enjoy it!

Last month there were 62 hearty souls down in Crowley Park for our annual Trash Bash, again organized by Leslie Gulledge. This year we collected 45 bags of trash and recyclables. A big thanks to all those that participated to help keep Crowley Park in good shape.

There are several activities coming up in the next couple of months that are being organized by CPNA. It is enjoyable to get involved in these activities. In addition to the St Patrick's Day Mixer, the CPNA is organizing an International Potluck Dinner Party for later in April.

At Memorial Day there will be another activity to recognize all our veterans. Finally, in June there will be an Ice Cream Social. There is something for everyone. Also the CPNA can always use volunteers to put on these events.

CPNA is an all-volunteer organization and I want to thank all those who help to move this organization: Dot Pitts, Sharol Clark, Bonnie Cash, Nancy Hatate, Glenda Jenkins, Rockie Marvel, Nancy Crowe, Bill Kinder, Chuck and Joan Johnson, Horace Satisfield, and I am sure I have forgotten someone. Next time you see one of these individuals please thank them for their work and time. We can always use more help.

**HELP WANTED:** We have a great need for members to get involved with the Board of Directors. There are 6 Board Meetings per year and they have never run over two hours. It is a great way to get connected with your neighbors.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING MONDAY APRIL 4 @ 6:30PM AT 2305 BLACKBERRY. ALL ARE INVITED! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.**

Your most Humble, Gracious, and Solicitous Leader of CPNA

At your service,  
Terry Ziegler

P.S. You know the difference between a bad haircut and a good hair cut???  
About two weeks!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2016**

*Save the Date!*



### International Potluck

April 23



### Salute to Veterans

TBD in late May



### Ice Cream Social

TBD in June  
at North Pavilion

### Membership Drive

TBD in August

## Fall

### Annual Meeting

TBD in September

### National Night Out

October

## CPNA Officers

### **President:**

Terry Ziegler  
terryziegler@zieglers.com

### **V. President:**

Bill Kinder  
wjkindr@att.net

### **Treasurer:**

Sharol Clark  
sharolclark@sbcglobal.net

### **Secretary:**

Dot Pitts  
dotpitts@gmail.com

## Committee Directors

### **Membership & Promotions:**

Nancy Hatate  
nancyhat@att.net

### **Social & Publications:**

Rockie Marvel  
rockiemarvel@gmail.com

### **Civic & Environmental:**

Chuck Johnson  
bjjnona@aol.com

### **Neighborhood Safety:**

Terry Ziegler  
terryziegler@zieglers.com

## “CROWLEY PARK TRASH BASH” HAS GLOBAL IMPACT

On Saturday February 13, the Crowley Park Neighborhood once again broke an attendance record for its winter Trash Bash with 62 volunteers. The event also broke a record for celebrities with the appearance of three representatives from the City of Richardson: Councilman Mark Solomon, Mayor Paul Voelker, and City Manager Dan Johnson! The “Crowley Park Trash Bash” participants enjoyed meeting their representatives and neighbors and reveled in the beauty of Crowley Park on a gorgeous sunny day. Their efforts resulted in a record breaking 45 bags of trash and recycling collected from the park’s woods and creek. Their efforts to clean up the park have many benefits for the residents and the wildlife. Among the benefits of events like the “Crowley Park Trash Bash” are:

- Beautify the community
- Improve our property value
- Protect park wildlife
- Promote a healthy planet
- Reduce subsequent littering

Since the “Crowley Park Trash Bash” is part of the citywide “Richardson Trash Bash” and that is part of “Keep Texas Beautiful” and that is part of “Keep America Beautiful,” our local efforts really do have global impact!





# PLAYING IN THE DIRT CAN BE FUN!

I admit it. I hate to garden. Actually I'm miserable at it.

If you love spending time in the yard, digging up weeds and planting flowers, I tip my hat to you. Martha Stewart and HGTV has tricked all of us into thinking we can recreate these beautifully-landscaped backyards in 30 minutes to an hour while wearing a white button down and STILL not get one drop of dirt on it. Please. It's not realistic and frankly it just makes me roll my eyes.

Still, after a long day at work and the kids are sound asleep in their beds, who doesn't like to sit out on a your deck, porch, whatever, grab a beverage and enjoy a few moments of peace and quiet?

With a little guidance from your local nursery, gardening will go from being a boring chore that you dread during the spring and summer, to a fun activity that just also happens to be rewarding! And even if you have a "brown thumb" like me, there are easy ways you can bring color and love to your yard. The first trick to gardening, and frankly everything in life, is to start slow.

Don't walk into the garden shop, find the biggest rose bush and wonder why it doesn't grow. You're setting yourself up for failure and that will discourage you from every picking up a shovel again. Instead of trying to tackle your entire yard, start your journey with a container garden, like those cute pots or planters you've seen on Pinterest that hold flowers, herbs and vegetables. This is really a win-win idea. Not only are you able to control many of the elements required for growing, but you can also introduce your family to gardening and show your kids how something simple like basil grows and eventually ends up in their favorite spaghetti sauce. And the Best Mom Award Goes To...

In our rather warm, and by warm I mean scorching, sometimes unbearable, summer weather, herbs like basil, mint, thyme and oregano will thrive in the hot conditions. Plants like vinca, purslane, moss roses and lantana will also do well. You can also ask your local nursery professional and they'll be able to tell you which items are the best for your climate.

Another thing that can be really intimidating is all of the fancy terms that you hear those "experts" mention on home and garden TV shows :Annuals, perennials and biennials. Oh My. Have fun in your yard! Choose plants and flowers that make you smile and will bring joy to your family. If you are really concerned about how long they will last, the folks at the garden shop will offer great suggestions that will not leave you more confused.

Now that you've gotten the 411 on gardening, grab your gloves, some clothes you don't mind getting dirty and let's get started!

*Happy Gardening!*



April 2016

## MAKE MULCH, NOT TRASH



### DIY Information

Mulching and composting provide nutrients needed for a healthy lawn. You'll save time and money by reducing fertilizer use in your yard and not need to buy bags to dispose of the trimmings.

Grass clippings can be left on your lawn - they'll break down quickly.

Leaves can be shredded (with a mulching lawnmower or your regular lawnmower) and mulched.

If you have a compost pile or bin, grass and leaves can be added to help your whole garden.

### Bag Them Up

Brush and yard trimmings can also be turned into mulch and compost through Richardson's Brush and Bulky Item Collection (BABIC) program.

Schedule a BABIC pickup.\* Be sure to mention you have yard trimmings for compost. Your BABIC pickup day is the same as your recycle day.

Put leaves and grass into a compostable bag and leave them by the street in front of your home. (Compostable paper bags may be purchased at local home improvement stores.)



Crowley Park Neighborhood Association • Richardson, Texas

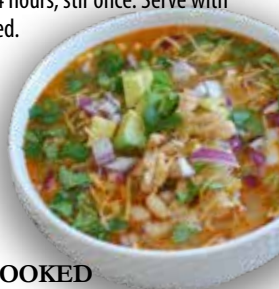
## WHITE CHICKEN CHILI FOR SLOW COOKER

3 cans Great Northern beans, rinsed & drained  
1 tablespoon ground cumin  
3 cups cubed cooked chicken breast  
1½ teaspoons white pepper  
1 jar (15 ounce) Alfredo sauce  
1 to 1½ teaspoons cayenne pepper  
2 cups chicken broth  
1 to 2 cans (4 ounce each) chopped green chilies  
1½ cups frozen gold & white corn  
1 cup (4 ounce) shredded Monterey Jack cheese

1 cup (4 ounce) shredded pepper Jack cheese  
1 cup sour cream  
1 small sweet yellow pepper, chopped  
1 small onion, chopped  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
Salsa Verde and chopped cilantro, optional

### Instructions:

In a 5 or 6 qt. slow cooker, combine the first 15 ingredients. Cover & cook on low for 3 or 4 hours, stir once. Serve with salsa verde & cilantro if desired.



## ONE POT SLOW COOKED CHICKEN DINNER

2½ lb. chicken breast fillets  
1 1/3 lb. small red potatoes (quartered)  
2/3 lb. baby carrots (trimmed and peeled)  
1/3 C freshly squeezed lemon juice  
1 tsp. dried oregano  
1 tsp onion powder  
2 tsp crushed garlic  
1 tsp salt  
freshly cracked black pepper

### Instructions:

Place all ingredients in the slow cooker

Cooking Time 4 hours on HIGH or 8 hours on LOW.

Yield: Serves 4



## PREPAREDNESS TIP: CREATE A HOME INVENTORY LIST

Protect yourself and your belongings by completing a full home inventory each year.

- Take pictures especially of jewelry and collectibles without serial numbers
- Document make/model and serial numbers
- Keep receipts and appraisal documents
- Organize by room and type of item
  - o If you utilize technology (available smartphone apps or other software), keep a printed copy - consider a fireproof container or safe deposit box

Residents can register their inventory on a secure, off-site server offered through the Insurance Information Institute at [www.knowyourstuff.org](http://www.knowyourstuff.org). Your inventory list can be retrieved by you at any time in the event of a loss due to theft, fire, flood or other event.

### A home inventory can help:

1. Aid police in identifying suspects and in recovering property.
2. Insurance adjuster will require a list of all damaged belongings.
3. Get your insurance claim paid faster and more accurately.



Let's Get Ready Richardson! Your planning and supplies could be the difference between remaining in your home or needing to seek shelter in an emergency. Resources, sample plans, and links are available online at [www.cor.net/em](http://www.cor.net/em) or for more information call 972-744-0900.



# HOME SAFETY TIPS

1. Store your valuables in another room other than the master bedroom. Thieves often scour the master bedroom but tend to leave other rooms untouched.

2. If your front entrance contains decorative glass, install your security keypad in a spot that is not visible from the doorstep or window. That way, burglars won't be able to peer in and see if the alarm is set.

3. Keep car keys next to your bed while you sleep. If you hear a suspicious noise and suspect that someone is trying to break in, press the Panic button on your key ring. The car alarm will sound, and the burglar will have no choice but to flee the scene.



4. Plant thorny shrubs beneath the ground-floor windows. They'll help to deter burglars.

5. If you're going away on vacation, ask a friend to check daily for flyers stuck in your front door. Crafty criminals have been known to leave pizza ads in doors to see how long it takes for residents to remove them.



6. Lower the volume on your telephone ringer. This way a passerby won't be able to hear it go to voicemail, which is an indication that no one is home.



7. If a contractor or unknown visitor uses the bathroom, check all your windows afterwards. He may unlatch a window so he can gain entry later.

8. If you don't have a security system, at least purchase a decal. Place it on your front door. While an accomplished thief is not fooled, decals may deter a less-experienced thief from entering.



Inspired from "13 Things You Never Knew About Home Safety" at [www.rd.com](http://www.rd.com)

April 2016

## DID YOU KNOW?



On the curb



On the brick mailbox

**Address numbers are a requirement in a City of Richardson Ordinance:**

- To enable the Police and Fire Departments to respond quickly to emergency calls
- To be posted for clear visibility from the street and alley
- To have numbers on the curb or curbside mailbox in the front of the home
- To have numbers in back of a residence on the home, garage, fence, between 3 and 10 feet off the ground.
- To have address numbers that are a minimum of 3 inches high so that they are easily seen



## To Light Up Crowley Park:

- It would only cost \$1.56 per year to turn on your porch light for 6 hours!!
- The average 800-lumen CFL uses 13 watts and costs \$1.56 per year to run.
- LEDs have just become what some people would call affordable in the last 12 months.
- The average 800-lumen LED has a life span of 22,000 hours and costs around \$11 per bulb.

If everyone in Crowley Park turned on their porch light at dusk, just imagine;

- taking an evening stroll before bedtime
- walking the dog before retiring
- security in our neighborhood

Crowley Park Neighborhood Association • Richardson, Texas

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**International Potluck** is being planned for April 23 at the North Pavilion. Date & time will be posted on Nextdoor and neighborhood signs (INT'L potluck) will be in place prior to the event. We are a very diverse neighborhood and it would be a great tasting experience for all.

- Bring a tray of your favorite traditional food for sharing
- Adults and kids wear traditional wear
- Traditional games
- Kite flying if it's windy

If you would like to be part of the planning please contact Fathima Abdul-Rahim at [amfathima@gmail.com](mailto:amfathima@gmail.com)



**Salute to Veterans** event is being planned for late May. Specific details are in the planning stage and neighbors will receive notification through flyers and signage in the coming weeks. This event honors our veterans for their service to the United States of America. Our first event was held in the park last year and it was quite successful. This year will be something different as details are still being planned. If you would like to be part of the planning please contact Glenda Jenkins, [dlgljenkins@aol.com](mailto:dlgljenkins@aol.com).

If you were a veteran who attended last year, we want you again. If you did not notify Glenda Jenkins that you were a veteran please contact her at [dlgljenkins@aol.com](mailto:dlgljenkins@aol.com).

## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR RICHARDSON SENIOR CENTER?

By Glenda Jenkins

The Richardson Senior Center welcomes adults age 55 and older. This facility is especially designed for senior enjoyment, and the staff looks forward to the opportunity to provide an atmosphere of enrichment and fellowship.

With cool or warm weather we still need to keep moving! The Senior Center has treadmills for walking inside out of the weather and other fun equipment. They have great fitness classes like: Zambia Gold, Tai Chi, Aerobic Exercise, and Fit for Life (which is one of my favorites), Pilates, Stretch and Strengthen, Dance Classes etc.

The senior consignment shop, Robin's Nest Craft Store, is located within the Senior Center. Looking for that special gift, stop by and browse the handmade crafts that are for sale. This shop is open to the public, Monday through Friday, 10 am-2pm.

The Senior Center has a large variety of other classes, trips and programs for everyone. Come check it out at 820 W Arapaho Rd. or read about these activities in the monthly *Richardson Today* newsletter.





## SHADE THE TRAIL - CROWLEY PARK TREE INITIATIVE

*update*

By Nancy Crowe

A great big THANKS to our Crowley Park residents who have donated to our "Shade the Tree" initiative in Crowley Park!! (Please see the Donor List in this newsletter.) Last fall a total of 13 trees were planted, eight paid for by the Richardson Parks Department as part of their budget, and five paid for by the Crowley Park Neighborhood Association and the Richardson Dedication Tree Program. Since then residents throughout our community have donated 15 more trees that will be planted this month. That is a total of 28 new trees in our park in less than a year!!

Crowley Park is a beautiful park—we might even say the BEST park in Richardson—and by enhancing it with additional trees to shade the trail and replace old, dying or fallen trees, we will continue to take care of this park and make it beautiful for generations to come.

"Shade the Trail" is an initiative to add 50 plus trees to our park, particularly along the trail. Our Richardson Parks Department does a wonderful job taking care of our park and we must work closely with them to jointly select tree type and location. They also do the planting and take care of the trees.

We often make an emotional connection with trees we plant, especially in memory of a loved one, or we become emotionally attached to the ones we see every day. The sentimental value of a special tree is simply immeasurable. That is why we invite our neighborhood community to be part of the "Shade the Trail" Program. A \$200 donation is matched by \$200 from the city to have a tree dedicated and planted in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special. While the city prohibits placing a dedication marker on a tree, you have the option of choosing the type of tree if you desire, and you would be informed where the tree is planted. The tree must be a Texas native variety and be chosen from the City of Richardson Approved Planting List. At this time, we are choosing canopy trees as they are the best for shading the trail. The "Shade the Trail" initiative also provides the option of making a smaller donation towards the purchase of a tree.

Let us continue to make Crowley Park a great and beautiful place for years to come! We are collecting donations for 15-20 additional trees to be scheduled for a fall 2016 planting. Please help us reach our goal!

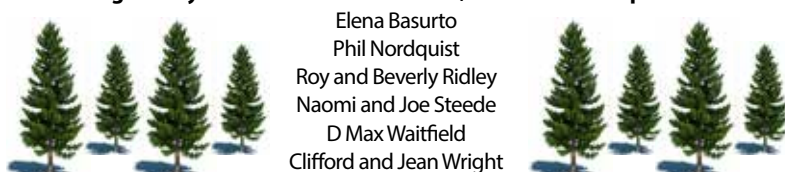
For more information, to make a donation, or to purchase a tree in memory of a loved one, please contact Nancy Crowe at 214-679-3091 or [ncrowe3@hotmail.com](mailto:ncrowe3@hotmail.com).

### Crowley Park Shade the Trail Donor List

#### The following Crowley Park Residents have donated \$200 to purchase a tree:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Dedicated To:</u>
Eric Chen	Chia Yang and Yu Ying Chen
Andrew Chuvarsky	Helen Chuvarsky
Sharol Clark	
Kathleen Crowe	William Crowe
Nancy Crowe and Van Niemela	Dave and Patti Stevens
Glenda and Dennis Jenkins	
Chuck and Joan Johnson	
Bill and Leslie Kinder	
Fulchu Li	
Lynne Lofgren	
Sabrina Skoblionok	Sofia Skoblionok
Steven Williams	Dorothy Charlene Elbersen Williams
Jean Wright	Judy Neslage
Terry Ziegler	

#### The following Crowley Park Residents have donated \$20-199 toward the purchase of a tree:



April 2016

## WELCOME COMMITTEE PROGRAM

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR WELCOME BOOK?

# Welcome to



CPNA's "Welcome Committee", was formed for the purpose of welcoming new residents into Crowley Park. Welcome Books are filled with information about Crowley Park and the City of Richardson. These books were compiled by the committee and are being distributed to new residents monthly.

As of February 2016, there have been 3 new residents in Crowley Park. If you have not received your Welcome Book, FREE blue recyclable bags and Goodie Bag please contact Glenda Jenkins at [dlgljenkins@aol.com](mailto:dlgljenkins@aol.com).

To date the Welcome Committee has delivered books, blue bags and goodie bag to all of the new residents.

Please join us in welcoming our latest new members to our wonderful neighborhood:

**Darrell & Louella Wilson on Orchid Dr**

**Mark & Makie Mosley on Orchid Dr**

**Monica Enfield & Evan Quaife on Blue Cypress Dr**

**Travis & Kate Padgett on Poinsettia Dr**

**Jonathan and Katy Palasek on Bluebonnet**



## WELCOME TO CROWLEY PARK!

Crowley Park Neighborhood Association • Richardson, Texas

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Dear Neighbors:

We are fortunate to be in our 6<sup>th</sup> year as a fully-functioning Crowley Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA). To clarify, CPNA is voluntary and NOT a homeowners association.

*"CPNA is a **voluntary** group that strives to develop the lines of communication with the city, promote a safe, clean and attractive community, and bring residents together to preserve and enhance the livability and value of our neighborhood."*

CPNA is open to home owners and tenants alike, **BUT, we need your support! We want to continue to be "your voice" and offer these great benefits and services.** Please be a part of the Crowley Park community by contributing your dues and volunteering your time and talents.

**Membership dues are only \$25 per year, per household, and provide & facilitate the following valuable services:**

- Crime Watch Patrol — by trained neighborhood volunteers
- Beautification & Civic Projects  
(as approved by the City and budgetary constraints)
  - ~ Crowley Park "Trash Bash"
  - ~ Entry landscaping and maintenance
  - ~ Sign Toppers
  - ~ Flag Program through Rotary Club  
(\$40 per household, per year to participate)
  - ~ Clean & paint perimeter wall @ Jupiter & Renner
  - ~ Various ongoing community projects
- Special Events
  - ~ Food Drive
  - ~ Ice Cream Social
  - ~ Spring Fling Mixer (March)
  - ~ Annual Meeting (September)
  - ~ National Night Out (October)
  - ~ Fall Festival (October)
  - ~ With your support . . . *many more!*
- Representation at City of Richardson meetings and coordination of matching projects.
- Interaction with Richardson Police and Fire Departments.
- CPNA Neighborhood News newsletter, distributed quarterly.
- Neighborhood Website ([www.CrowleyPark.com](http://www.CrowleyPark.com))
- CPNA Social Networking Site limited to residents only: (<https://crowleypark.nextdoor.com>)

***Please complete your Membership Form today. Thanks in advance for your support!***

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

By Dot Pitts

The 2015-2016 CPNA membership drive was conducted during the month of August. Everyone renewing memberships during the month was entered into a drawing for prizes at the annual meeting on September 29th. There were 165 families who paid membership dues of \$25 per household during this period.

The purpose for this August membership drive was to avoid the lines at the annual meeting in September. Thanks to everyone who participated in this membership drive.



### CPNA MEMBERSHIP

Crowley Park Neighborhood Association is a voluntary association for all designated Crowley Park area residents. Dues are \$25 per year which provide costs for various events throughout the year, newsletters, an annual meeting and more. This membership supports the neighborhood as noted on the Membership Benefits section (to the left) so we can continue to bring our community together and GROW!

### NEXTDOOR

NextDoor is an online forum for the neighborhood. It is a way for you and your neighbors to talk online and build a safe and informed community. It is free to sign up for everyone in the neighborhood. It includes alerts for safety, recommendations, announcements, classifieds, a directory, and community chat. *Note: Please keep in mind that joining Nextdoor is NOT the same as the CPNA membership.*

### CPNA ON FACEBOOK

Facebook is an online social network intended to connect friends, family, and business associates. You can sign up free with an email address. "Like" our page, which can be found as "CPNA-Richardson, TX."

### CROWLEYPARK.COM

The CPNA website is another resource with information including news announcements, newsletter archive, Board of Directors, bylaws, photos, membership and more. Visit [www.crowleypark.com](http://www.crowleypark.com) for details!

If you have any questions about your membership, would like more information, or inquire about the website, please contact Nancy Hatate at [nancyhat@att.net](mailto:nancyhat@att.net).



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Annual Dues for October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016

Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Adults \_\_\_\_\_

House Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*For communicating events, meetings, and alerts*

**Payment (\$25/household)** ☐ CASH ☐ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

*Payable to CPNA, mail with completed form to: CPNA, P.O. Box 830114, Richardson, TX 75083*

**We need your support by volunteering** *(check all that applies):*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Safety (Crime Watch Patrol) | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events**                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer/Newsletter Distribution            | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Contributor                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Committee                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash Bash (Crowley Park cleanup in February) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Suggestions _____                  |  |

*\*\* Volunteer can sign up for one or multiple events, such as the Spring Fling (March), Ice Cream Social (June), Fall Festival (October), Annual Meeting (September, etc.*

**For more info, visit [crowleypark.com](http://crowleypark.com), contact Nancy at [nancyhat@att.net](mailto:nancyhat@att.net) or Glenda at (972) 680-0885**

## THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

~ Crowley Park Neighborhood Association ~

*The Crowley Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) is a voluntary group that strives to develop lines of communication with the city, promote a safe, clean and attractive community, and bring residents together to preserve and enhance the livability and value of our neighborhood*

Committee Use Only:

Payment Received Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## FAMILY FUN AROUND DALLAS

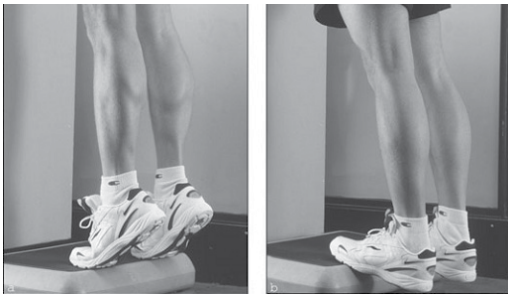
### GO BALANCE

Balance exercises help to prevent falls!! Here are a couple of ideas that can improve your balance at any age.

#### Heel/Toe Rises:

Using support with hands on back of a chair, gently rise up on toes and rock back on heels.

Repeat 15-20 times to complete the set. Now try using one hand or no hands. Work to increase the number of sets.

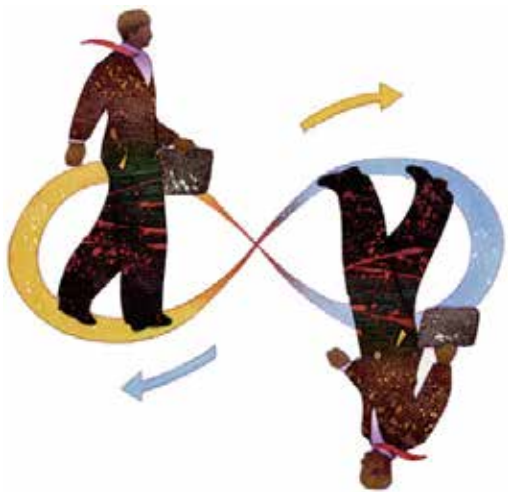


#### Walking Figure Eight:

Practice walking in a figure eight. Start with a large figure eight.

Making it more difficult by walking in a smaller figure eight.

Challenge yourself by looking straight ahead, not looking down.



With summer less than two months away, the following ideas could offer some fun filled hours for the family. Check out the websites for special rates for larger groups or certain times of the year.

1. Dallas World Aquarium - Located in the West End Historic District, this aquarium has tanks and sea life exhibits, but also features an array of birds and animals, too. Tours include toucans and ibis soaring through a tropical canopy, along with squirrel monkeys, sloths and crocodiles. Below there is a 400,00 gallon shark tank and 10 more tanks featuring sea life from around the world. This facility in downtown Dallas is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

2. Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens - With more than 66 acres of themed gardens, the Dallas Arboretum seasonal flowers and plants along with tiered fountains and reflecting pools. Cool Thursday concerts overlooking White Rock Lake offer music for all ages. It is also home to the Rory Meyers Children's Garden with its many activities for children of all ages.

3. Heard Museum and Nature Trails - Founded in 1967, this museum and wildlife sanctuary is located in McKinney, Texas. It has a 289 acre wildlife sanctuary, five miles of hiking trails, about fifty acres of wetlands, a two-acre native plant garden, a butterfly house, live animals, indoor and outdoor exhibits. There are many programs for all ages, including summer camps for kids. The regular hours are Tuesday- Saturday from 9 am -5pm and Sunday 1pm-5pm.

4. Irving Arts Center - An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. , the Irving Arts Center complex features two theaters, four art galleries and an artfully landscaped sculpture garden. The museum is open seven days a week.

5. Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano - Built in 1891 and restored after the death of its last owner, the Heritage Farmstead offers many programs throughout the year for adults and children. The farmstead is located on Park St. east of Custer Road in Plano. Check out the calendar of events at [heritagefarmstead.org](http://heritagefarmstead.org).

6. Local waterparks - Dallas and its surrounding cities and towns have a wide variety of water parks. You can check out some of the following:

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor - on I30 in Arlington  
NRH2O- a new water park in North Richland Hills

Hawaiian Falls Waterpark and Surf and Swim  
in North Garland

Wet Zone Waterpark- in Rowlett- southeast of  
Richardson off of I30





# US-75 PLANO PARKWAY PROJECT

## PLANNED INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS



Dave Carter, Assistant Director of Development Services-Traffic and Transportation, presented information about the improvement project on US 75 between President George Bush turnpike and Park Boulevard.

Mr. Carter stated that TxDOT is expected to begin a ramp improvement in March/April pending all agreements are finalized. The project is to be completed by the end of 2018.

The main components of the project will be:

- Widening of the direct connector lanes from PGBT onto northbound US 75 and from southbound US 75 onto PGBT
- Adjusting the location of various on and off ramps on US 75

- Widening the railroad bridge and Plano Parkway bridge
- Adding a lane to the northbound exit to Park Boulevard

During the duration of construction, part of the HOV lane on US 75 will be used as a main lane since traffic will be shifted to the middle, southbound from McDermott Drive to PGBT and northbound between Galatyn Parkway and Park Boulevard.

Various lanes and ramps will be closed at different times throughout the project.

The City of Richardson will coordinate with TxDOT on public announcements of construction impacts as the project proceeds.

### Attention All Veterans,

North Dallas Memorial VFW Post 3530 (Richardson, Texas area) is a low key post, primarily in Community Service, Americanism, veterans support and we activate Patriotic programs. If this is one of your goals, **please come to our next meeting, at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Thursday of the month, held at:**

Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
1210 W. Belt Line Rd., Richardson, TX 75080.  
**NON-SMOKING POST**

#### **For questions, contact:**

Ralph Rizzo, Commander 469-345-6563  
Art Hawkins, Quartermaster 214-893-3545  
Pablo Gonzalez, Adjutant 817-713-8342

**Visit our website: [www.vfw3530.com](http://www.vfw3530.com)**

Join us as members of the VFW Post 3530.

*Community Service,  
Fire & Police Award,  
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## International Potluck

*April 23*

- Bring a tray of your favorite traditional food for sharing
- Adults and kids wear traditional wear
- Traditional games
- Kite flying if it's windy



If you would like to be part of the planning please contact Fathima Abdul-Rahim at  
[amfathima@gmail.com](mailto:amfathima@gmail.com)



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## Salute to Veterans

*TBD in late May*

This event honors our veterans for their service to the United States of America.

If you would like to be part of the planning please contact Glenda Jenkins at  
[dlgljenkins@aol.com](mailto:dlgljenkins@aol.com)







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# MY TRIP TO ANTARCTICA

By Susan Harrison

The question I was asked most when I told someone of my plans to go to Antarctica was: ***"Why would you go there?"*** Here's the answer . . .

My parents instilled in me a never-ending love of travel. I think geographically and architecturally (in maps and floor plans) as well. Consequently, I spent my adult life thinking that if someone visits 5 continents, one is honor-bound to step foot on all 7 continents! Thus, I decided to visit South America (my 6th) and Antarctica (my 7th) in December 2015 to check off my biggest bucket list item!

After many hours of web research, I chose an expedition cruise that flew from Punta Arenas, Chile to Frei Station (Chile) on King George Island, South Shetlands. This is a relatively new way to visit Antarctica - having its first season in 2003. Before flying became an option, everyone had to cruise the Drake Passage (described as being the roughest stretch of water in the world) for 2 days to get to Antarctica vs. the 2-hour flight I took. You hearty souls can still cross the Drake Passage since it's still the way the majority of people get to Antarctica!

WOW! What a fabulous adventure I had! The first landing was on Cuverville Island. Once I was standing outside with penguins on their nests all around us - cooing and calling to mates - and, looking out at the vast wilderness of Antarctica, I knew I was one of the privileged few to have stood there and seen the view.

The expedition crew told us to stay 15 feet away from the penguins, but to stop and observe if they walked toward us. The penguins definitely did not care that we were there. They just walked right by us going on their merry way. I saw Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins on our various landings. I also saw Weddell seals, Elephant seals, Crabeater seals, Leopard seals, Orca whales, and Humpback whales in our 6-day trip.

During the trip, our expedition crew commented on things that surprised them. We had great weather - sunshine and calm seas! We saw an iceberg taller than our ship (this is not unusual for people who navigate the Drake Passage because the big icebergs get caught in the "Circumpolar Current"). We saw an iceberg that had a "slice" of land in it - complete with rocks - and a flat top. Not one of the expedition crew could figure out how that happened and this team had many years experience at both poles. A small group of us also saw the "ecosystem at work" when we watched a leopard seal troll for a penguin lunch, chase penguins after they jumped into the sea, capture a penguin, "skin" the penguin, then enjoy his lunch. Several of the expedition staff had never seen this for themselves except on a video.

If you had asked before I left for Antarctica, I would have told you this would be a one-time adventure. Now, I understand why some people go back over and over to this white wilderness. It's like no other adventure!



Gentoo penguins on Cuverville Island.  
Note: "Nests" are made of rocks.



Chinstrap penguins on Deception Island



Crabeater seals on iceberg

Want to see more photos and/or videos? Go to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/zig-e/sets/72157664438989019/>