

GARDEN'S GAZETTE

April Newsletter

Volume II, number 4

Mayor's message

Earlier this month the Department of Public Safety responded to two emergencies. On behalf of all DWG, I extend our sympathy for the losses endured by our neighbors.

On April 3, a tornado touched down in the North Western part of our city. The damage was fortunately limited; some residents suffered damage to their roofs. We are thankful that there were no injuries.

On April 4, a house fire broke out on Oak Trail. Firefighters arrived at the scene, but not in time to save the structure, as judged by the responding agencies. The decisions made at the scene have met with some criticism. The primary consideration was the safety of residents and firefighters. A secondary consideration was the expected improbable efficacy of aggressively fighting the fire. I commend the DPS for keeping the fire under control. I believe the decisions were sound and made with the best interest of DWG residents in mind. Please see below, Acting Chief, Jerry Vennum, has addressed the fire in the DPS news.

Congratulations to Councilmen, Wallace, Piland and Loe on their reelection. I am proud to continue serving with each of you. Thank you for your service to our city.

I welcome and encourage your input on new city ordinances that we are currently drafting regarding animal control, fire safety and outside displays.

Construction will begin soon on a new sidewalk in Elkins Park. I hope you will enjoy this addition to one of our city's beautiful public spaces.

Mayor Tedder

Park Board News-

Sidewalk Plans (10-year park plan)- The Park Board will meet with the city engineer to begin the design work for the sidewalk in the recreation area of the park. The grant/sidewalk project has been turned over to city staff for implementation.

Scout Project- The council approved Jake Harmon's eagle project to install pet waste stations in the park.

The next regular park board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 7:00PM

2007 Gardens Gathering - The council approved the date of Sunday, September 30, 2007, 2:30-6:30PM for this year's event.

"We're still happy to be in DWG, our rural oasis in the heart of the Metroplex" Neighborhoods will sponsor booths or activities. Each neighborhood is encouraged to have a coordinator. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and be involved in your community.

DWG Businesses can sponsor a booth; provide food or entertainment or a make a donation to the Gardens' Gathering.

A steering committee has been appointed that will coordinate this day of fun and entertainment. The Chairman is Cathy Stein (817)265-3430/csteindwg@yahoo.com. Other committee members are Beth Crymes, Cathy Allen, Mary Webster, Tracy Dodson, Donna Peck, and Susan Davis. Please contact one of these people if you are interested in assisting with the event.

City Council News

The following items were approved and discussed at the April 19, 2007, City Council Meeting:

Minutes of the March 8, 2007 Council meeting- approved

Cancellation of Election-approved

Gardens Gathering Date-approved for Sunday, September 30, 2007

Eagle Scout Project, pet waste stations- approved

City Clean-up Day- approved for Saturday, May 17, 2007

City News

The Mayor, City Council, and Staff and would like to welcome Beatrice Serna to the City of Dalworthington Gardens. Beatrice has accepted the position of water clerk, replacing Christine Davis, and will begin with us Monday, May 7, 2007. Welcome Beatrice!

DPS News

Mark Your Calendars!!! The 15th Annual Day with the Law has been scheduled for June 16, 2007, 10:00am-2:00pm

On April 4, 2007 there was a fire at 2911 Oak Trail. This house was being renovated at the time. There was no fire alarm system working in the house. Our dispatcher received the first call that there was heavy smoke at about 10:34PM, this call came from Dustin Trail. The caller said there was heavy smoke and they did not think the fire was in their house, but they were still looking. At this time, the Fire Department was dispatched to a fire on Dustin Trail as that is where the call came from. As firefighters approached the area of Pleasant Ridge and Flower Garden I requested mutual aid from Kennedale due to the amount of smoke. We arrived at Dustin Trail and were told that the fire was not there. It appeared that the smoke was coming from the east. I had DPS personnel go to Wooded Creek and to the west end of all streets from Burlwood to Harder, nobody could see the fire. I left the Dustin Trail area and was looking for the fire when a large ball of fire could be seen at the end of Oak Trail. At about the same time, a neighbor called to

say that the house at 2911 Oak Trail was on fire, this occurred about 10:53PM. Within a couple of minutes we had firefighters on scene. A significant portion of the house was fully engulfed with fire. The gate to the house was closed and there was a chain padlocked around the gate. The gate was forced and our quick-attack truck went in and started trying to knock down the fire. Kennedale's Quint (a ladder truck) came in next and a water supply line was laid to the Quint. The house fire was attacked from the north and south sides. My assessment was, and still is, that the fire was going to cause a total loss of the house. There was nobody home and there was very little property in the house. I gave the order that this would be fought as a defensive fire, there would be no interior attack and we would try to keep the fire from spreading to an adjacent building. We would raise the ladder and attack the fire by applying water from above, this would control flying embers coming off the house and knock down the fire. I had another DWG Engine go to the Dustin Trail area as a precaution, in case any burning embers started another fire, it could be extinguished quickly. We were able to save the building to the west of the house. We had 27 DWG personnel and 8 Kennedale personnel on scene. There were two attack lines on the north side of the house and one attack line and one master stream line on the south side of the house. Later, an aerial attack was made. There was approximately 100,000 gallons of water used on this fire. An offer was made by the Arlington Fire Department to come in and assist. I felt this was not necessary as this was going to be a defensive fire. During and after the fire, I had discussions with high ranking fire officials about my tactical decision to fight this fire in a defensive mode, all parties concurred on the decision that was made.

I asked the Tarrant County Fire Marshal to investigate the fire. They ruled the cause of the fire Undetermined. The investigation uncovered that there had been a fire in the house before 1:00PM the same day; the homeowner, contractor and workers were aware and believed the fire to be out, they did not notify the Fire Department. The house was left by workers, unoccupied and locked up. On the night of the fire, the wind was coming from the northeast and blowing the smoke to the southwest. Because the house sits back from the street and the smoke was blowing away from the neighbors nobody on Oak Trail noticed the fire until the fire had burned through the roof. I am proud to say there were no injuries or loss of life in this incident.

If you have any questions I would be happy to speak with you.

Jerry S. Venum
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Dalworthington Gardens DPS
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Water Conservation Tips

As warmer temperatures begin to arrive in our areas and the April shower season picks up, here are some tips to follow:

- Water only when the grass needs watering. Walk across your grass early in the morning. If your footprints remain, it needs water.
- Using low output sprinkler heads, bubblers, or drip irrigation systems help prevent runoff and are efficient ways to apply water.
- Please remember to conserve water, if it is raining or supposed to rain, please turn your sprinklers off.

RESIDENTIAL: rain and freeze sensors are required on irrigation systems installed on or after June 1, 2007.

NON-RESIDENTIAL: irrigation systems installed on or after June 1, 2006 must have rain and freeze sensors.

Existing irrigation systems must be retrofitted with rain and freeze sensors by June 1, 2007.

Annual inspection of the rain and freeze sensors, this inspection should be done in conjunction with the annual backflow assembly inspection. It must be performed by a licensed plumber or irrigator that is registered with the city of Fort Worth.

New Way to Pay Your Water Bill

To pay your water bills by credit card, Call Government Payment Service, 1-888-604-7888 24 hours or go to: www.governmentpayment.com. Have the Pay Location Code when paying: 1019.

A fee of 5% of the total amount for this service will be added to the total amount charged.

Credit Cards accepted include: Discover, Mastercard, Visa, and American Express.

New Businesses

English Realty- 2104 Roosevelt Dr.

Jim Bearden and Assoc.- 2404 Roosevelt Dr.

Anatomy Complete- 2114 Roosevelt Dr., suite D

Discount Merchandise- 3100 W. Arkansas Ln, suite I

PRE- GRAND OPENING sale Friday, May 4 from 12:30-5:30.

May Meeting Dates

Zoning Board of Adjustments, May 7, 2007, 7:00pm

Planning and Zoning-, May 1, 2007, 7:00pm

Park Board- May 10, 2007, 7:00pm

City Council Meeting-, May 17, 2007, 7:00pm