EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

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OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

When disaster strikes, city services may be cut off and local disaster relief and government responders may not be able to reach you as quickly as usual. You need to have plans and supplies in place to make it on your own, at least for a limited time, no matter where you are.

Learn how to create an Emergency Supply Kit for your home and your vehicle. You’ll find ways to create Family Emergency Plans and tips on establishing a Communication Plan. We’ll discuss helpful tips for preparing for your loved ones with functional needs as well as your family pets.

From teaching small children their full name, address, and phone number to creating a Family Emergency Plan and building an Emergency Supply Kit, no act of preparedness is too small to make a difference.

Don’t Wait. Communicate.
Make Your Emergency Plan Today!

Talk to your family, colleagues, and neighbors about how you can work together and test your plan to safely reunite your loved ones during an emergency.

1. Create a contact list for those you may need to reach during an emergency.
2. Establish alternate methods of communication like checking in using social media and texts.
3. Local phone lines will be needed for 911 emergency calls for help so have an out of state or area contact so loved ones know who to call.
Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance. How you will get to a safe place? How you will get back together? What will you do in different situations?

Ready.gov has made it simple for you to make a family emergency plan. Visit www.cor.net/em and click on the 'Make a Plan' page to download the Family Communication Plan for Parents and Kids (PDF). Fill out the sections then print or email it to your family and friends. Remember to capture important numbers you would need in an emergency like medical insurance and homeowner’s policy numbers. Do NOT rely on cell phone contacts alone. Keep your plans in a safe place in printed and electronic formats.

Your planning and supplies could be the difference between remaining in your home or needing to seek shelter. We experience the threat of tornados and severe weather every year. Let’s Get Ready Richardson!

Resources, sample plans, and registration links are available online at www.cor.net/em or for more information call 972-744-0900.

Don’t Let Ice Take You by Surprise this Winter

If these last few winters are any indication, icy conditions may soon visit your neighborhood. Primary concerns during these cold weather conditions are loss of heat, power, telephone service, and even a shortage of supplies in your household if conditions continue for more than a day. Prepare your home, office, and vehicles to have the supplies you need to stay safe.

**Items to have on hand include:**
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable NOAA All Hazard Radio to receive emergency information
- Extra water and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration such as granola bars, nuts, dried fruit
- Extra pet food and warm shelter
- First-aid supplies and extra prescription medications
- Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove, or space heater; make sure any heat source is properly vented to prevent fire or carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning
- Fire extinguisher, smoke and CO alarms; test these alarms once a month
- Extra diapers and other supplies based on the needs of your household

**In vehicles, carry a winter kit and be prepared:**
- Mobile phone and charger
- Blankets and a first-aid kit
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
- Windshield ice scraper
- Battery booster cables and rope
- Keep your gas tank more than half full
- Avoid traveling alone
- Let someone know your travel plans and route

Avoid unnecessary travel during poor weather conditions by working from home, rescheduling plans, and postponing events. Turn off sprinkler systems to prevent damage to your system from freezing water and to prevent ice on roadways. Learn more about winter weather safety at: www.ready.gov.

Additional planning resources are also available at: www.cor.net/em.

Let’s Get Ready Richardson!
2016 Heights Park Winter Wonderland and Light Parade

Let’s light up our neighborhood with white spiral trees for our lawns.

We are asking everyone to put out at least one spiral tree. These trees are easy to find and easy to install.

Most large retailers and box stores carry the trees. You can also look online. The trees vary in sizes so any size is fine. We ask that at least one tree have all white lights. They vary in price from $12.00 - $50.00.

We would like the tree or trees put out by Saturday December 3, 2016. We will be working on a neighborhood wide parade of lights with caroling, cookies and hot chocolate. The date for the neighborhood party will be Sunday December 4th around dusk. Details regarding the neighborhood party will follow.

Please make your commitment to participate in lighting our neighborhood.

Thank you. Your Heights Park Neighborhood Association Volunteer Board.

The Three R’s Read, Review, Renew

Heights Park Book Club was formed in 2004 shortly after we had our first Neighborhood Association meeting. Our first book was the Richardson Reads One Book (2004) “Pay it Forward”. We have continued to read all the Richardson Reads One Books, as well as attend the lectures by the authors.

We usually meet the 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm. There are two exceptions; November, which we don’t meet at all and December, when we meet on the 2nd Monday. We adjusted these meeting months because of the holidays.

There is no theme. One of the members chooses the book for the month, has the meeting at their home and leads the discussion. We’ve read all types, fiction and nonfiction.

We started with five members and currently have around 15 members. Usually between 8 and 12 members attend our meetings. We are always open to new members and welcome anyone who enjoys reading, discussions and relaxing. If you would like to join us, please contact Lynda Leverett at lyndajol@swbell.net, or Carter Tinsley at carter-tinsley@tx.rr.com.
The 2010 bond program projects are nearly complete, and Heights Park was quite the beneficiary. Since 2010, we have gotten several beyond-their-prime streets and alleys replaced, sidewalks improved neighborhood-wide, and not least of all a new recreation center and pool. The last bits of the program are expected to wrap up by the end of the first quarter of 2016, including bridge enhancements along Arapahoe and wrapping up the alley work.

This is all just in time for start of the 2015 bond program, which was recently approved by voters in November. This go round, the 700 block streets of Greenleaf and Winchester will be replaced, as will the alley serving the 500 blocks of Winchester and Parkview. Close to home, much needed traffic improvements are slated for the intersection of Beltline and Inge. Custer Road will be improved between Arapahoe and Campbell roads. And the Senior Center will also be remodeled and updated.

No word yet on schedule for the 2015 bond program work, but we'll keep you posted! You can also keep an eye on the city’s web page here http://www.cor.net/index.aspx?page=2211

**Lights**

Make sure your property is well lit. The use of timers for interior and exterior lighting is very important in crime prevention. Use lamp timers when traveling or on a consistent basis to keep the bad guys guessing.

A quick drive around our neighborhood at night will show you how many great hiding spots there are for criminals. Help yourself and your neighbors by keeping on your porch light, landscape lights or other exterior lighting on from dusk to dawn. Using low energy light bulbs will save on energy cost and help our environment. Even make a statement with a green light bulb, showing support for our military veterans.

The Richardson Police Department will come to your house and give you a security assessment free of charge. Contact the Crime Prevention Department of RPD.

**Cameras**

The Richardson Police Department has a video crime watch program that encourages residents to install and use video surveillance to help with neighborhood policing. Several suspects have been caught due to this program. Residents are asked to register with the police department and allow the police to review videos when a criminal offense has occurred around the resident’s home or neighborhood. Privacy issues are considered and can be discussed with the Crime Prevention Department.

**Action**

You are the eyes and ears for the police department. If you see something suspicious call 911 and let the police do their job. They would rather come out to investigate a situation that is nothing then to be called after something bad happens.

Volunteer and join our Neighborhood Crime Watch Patrol. Get involved, get to know your neighbors, host the National Night Out block party. Contact Marsha Mayo, Safety Chair and Neighborhood Crime Watch Coordinator at mmayo01@sprynet.com

Crime Prevention information can be found on the City of Richardson’s website, www.cor.net

Departments: Police Department Homepage: Crime Prevention.
Our neighborhood “Yard of the Month” starts again in May. Our Yard of the Month goes from May through December. Two months are exceptions, instead of just YOM for October and December we have “Decorated Yard of the Month”. Rules regarding Yard of the Month and Decorated Yard of the Month are below. Please nominate your own or any yard in the neighborhood.

To nominate a yard, go to HPNA website www.heightspark.com, click on Yard of the Month and place your nomination or you can also contact the environmental chair, Lynda Leverett at lyndajol@swbell.net. We need nominations by the 20th of the preceding month. After nominations are received, a YOM committee drives by to view all nominated yards and make the final decision by the end of the month. A Yard of the Month sign is placed in the recognized yard. Homes that won the previous year cannot win in the present year. A list of previous winners is on the website.

For “Decorated Yard of the Month”, October and December, we only have votes. No nominations. Those votes need to be in Sunday evening of the 2nd weekend of the month. The home that gets the most votes will have the Decorated Yard of the Month sign placed in their yard.

If you are interested in being on the committee which drives the neighborhood to vote on the yards, please sign up at our HPNA meetings.

Heights Park is a great neighborhood with truly beautiful yards!
**SIGN UP HERE**

You can learn about all kinds of neighborhood activity on Next Door Heights Park [https://heightspark.nextdoor.com](https://heightspark.nextdoor.com) as well as our Facebook group and HPNA website. [www.heightspark.com](http://www.heightspark.com). Stay informed about what's going on around us! There's a lot happening!

And if you know of someone who isn't on our email list (receiving monthly email updates), or isn't an HPNA member, tell them to send us a note via [www.contact@heightspark.com](http://www.contact@heightspark.com) or visit our website to sign up.

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**HPNA 2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

*(MARK YOUR CALENDARS)*

**TWO NEW EVENTS PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR!**

- **FEBRUARY 11 (THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M.): GENERAL MEETING, ELECTION, PROGRAM**
- **SPRING EVENT (NEW); ICE CREAM/SNO CONE TRUCK IN HEIGHTS PARK**
- **LATE JUNE: NEWSLETTER DELIVERED**
- **JULY 21 (THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M.): GENERAL MEETING, PROGRAM**
- **EARLY OCTOBER: NEWSLETTER DELIVERED**
- **OCTOBER 22 (SATURDAY, 11:30 - 1:30): OCTOBERFEST IN HEIGHTS PARK**
- **DECEMBER HOLIDAY EVENT (NEW); NEIGHBORHOOD CAROLING AND HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES IN HEIGHTS PARK**
- **HPNA BOARD MEETINGS HELD THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH; 6:30 P.M. AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. SEE HPNA WEBSITE FOR DETAILS. [WWW.HEIGTHSPARK.COM](http://www.heightspark.com)**

We always need volunteers to help out with specific events. If you can bake, organize, or provide needed supplies for any of our events, please let us know. More detailed information coming.

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Citizen Crime Patrol

Citizen Crime Patrol is a group of trained volunteers that patrol the neighborhood looking for suspicious persons and activities. Crime patrol is a major tool in crime prevention. Volunteers complete the online application through the police department for reference and background checks. Once the checks are completed and approved, you attend training. After completing training, you are asked to patrol a minimum of one hour per month, many patrolers patrol one hour per week. Due to busy schedules and time restraints, scheduling is flexible and can be worked out on an individual basis. Crime patrol meets every other month as a group for briefings and updates. Detailed information can be found on the City of Richardson’s website, www.cor.net under Departments: Police Department Homepage: Crime Prevention: Crime Watch Patrol.

Stay Informed - Get Involved

Keeping our neighborhood safe takes all of us working together. By joining the Heights Park Neighborhood Association you will be able to receive important information regarding crime alerts in and around our neighborhood. Email alerts from our association, postings on the Heights Park website, Heights Park Facebook page and postings on Next Door all provide important information for our residents. When a neighborhood has strong resident participation, there is no room for crime. Please stay informed and GET INVOLVED.

Summary of Volunteer Opportunities

Citizen Crime Patrol
Trained volunteer that patrols neighborhood to detect and deter crime.

Crime Watch Block Coordinator
Volunteer that organizes annual crime watch meeting for their block, typically on National Night Out, maintains roster for the block and provides proof of attendance to the crime prevention department of RPD.

Heights Park Neighborhood Association Block Representative
Volunteer that distributes neighborhood newsletters and other neighborhood correspondence and acts as crime watch coordinator until an official one is selected.

Volunteers for National Night Out celebration and other social gatherings are needed to enhance our neighborhood activities. Marsha Mayo, Safety Chair HPNA & Crime Patrol Coordinator, contact me at mmayo01@sprynet.com.

The schedule is flexible. You will be providing a great service to your neighbors and the neighborhood. Please consider helping, we need you.

National Night Out, TBA
(Proposed Tuesday, October 4, 2016)

National Night Out is a celebration of our crime watches. Neighbors are asked to turn on their porch lights as a show of support for crime prevention. Richardson Police call it a going away party for criminals. Many crime watches use this night as their annual meeting with potluck dinners a favorite theme. Upon request, police officers and fire fighters will visit the block parties. This is usually fun for the kids. The crime watch coordinator along with the support of the neighbors will organize the National Night Out celebration. More detailed information and sample invitations and flyers can be found in the crime prevention section of the police department section on the City’s website, www.cor.net under Departments: Police Department Homepage: Crime Prevention: Neighborhood Crime Watch.

Let’s make it a priority in 2016 to register each block in Heights Park for a NNO block party. Volunteer needed, contact Marsha Mayo at mmayo01@sprynet.com.
SIGN UP TO GET MONTHLY HPNA EMAIL UPDATES

Periodically – about once a month – we send a neighborhood email to our HPNA residents. This email contains brief neighborhood news, Yard of the Month info, maybe some City of Richardson information, or perhaps crime information or the latest scam making the rounds. It’s news that would be important for you to know about. We need your email address, however, to send these updates to you. We don’t distribute or sell your email address to anyone. It is strictly used to communicate neighborhood news to you. And no one can see your email because we send communications via Constant Contact, a secure site that keeps email information private.

Many of you are already on NextDoor.com or our FaceBook group, but the monthly updates are just one more means of communication that we use to get information out to you. Please send an email to contact@heightspark.com with a request to be added to the email update, or visit our HPNA website www.heightspark.com and sign up there.

Because it’s costly and sometimes difficult to provide a printed newsletter more than twice a year, electronic communications can be a very cost effective and timely method of bringing neighborhood and city news to you.

ABOUT HEIGHTS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Heights Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) is an organization created by the residents of the Heights Park area of Richardson, Texas, to promote communication and cohesiveness throughout the neighborhood. HPNA brings together neighbors to preserve and enhance the quality of life in our community. We promote safety, an attractive appearance, a family atmosphere and community pride. Our neighborhood is located in the northwest area of Richardson, bordered on the north and south by Arapaho Road and Beltline Road and on the east and west by Custer Road and Thompson Road.

WWW.HEIGHTSPARK.COM
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/HEIGHTSPARK
HEIGHTSPARK.NEXTDOR.COM
WWW.CONTACT@HEIGHTSPARK.COM
HEIGHTSPARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 833537
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75080
214.282.6921

HPNA BOARD MEMBERS

Janet DePuy, PRESIDENT; jdepuy@tx.rr.com
Jeff Davis, VICE PRESIDENT; jeff@davisphotography.com
Robbie Robison, TREASURER; rkrobison49@yahoo.com
Stephen Springs, CIVIC CHAIR; ssprings@brinkleysargent.com
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Nathan Beach, WEB/SOCIAL MEDIA DEVELOPER; nbbeach@gmail.com
Melanie Brown, SOCIAL CHAIR; melanie@browngraphics.com
Membership/Volunteer Coordinator; vacant

SIGN TOPPERS

Did you know that our Heights Park neighborhood was the first neighborhood in Richardson to have sign toppers installed? Now almost every neighborhood in Richardson has them!

Does a corner of your street need an HPNA Sign Topper? We’re evaluating the need to order a few more Toppers to be placed strategically throughout the neighborhood. Please let us know if you think your corner needs one.

Send an email to contact@heightspark.com. Also, if your street is interested in contributing to a Topper, let us know.
HEIGHTS PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

HPNA can’t continue its programs without your support!
Membership is open to all residents of Heights Park for $20 per year per household

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

HPNA MEMBERSHIP

☐ NEW MEMBER

☐ RENEWAL

FLAG PROGRAM

☐ SIGN ME UP!

HPNA Members, join our Flag Program to have an American flag planted in your front yard for five occasions a year (Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, September 11, Veteran’s Day). Flags usually stay up for several days.
You must be an HPNA member to join, and you must join the program before May 1.
Membership is $20 and the Flag Program is $40—a total of $60

Please return this form, with membership dues, to:
HPNA, P.O. Box 833537, Richardson, TX 75080
Membership questions? Contact: Janet DePuy, President
jdepuy@tx.rr.com or 214 282 6921
Other questions/comments, visit our website at www.heightspark.com