



**Greetings!**

What makes District 13 a great place to live and raise a family? It's the people that live in our district. So many of you are engaged in our communities — there's no shortage of involvement and that makes for clean, safe neighborhoods.

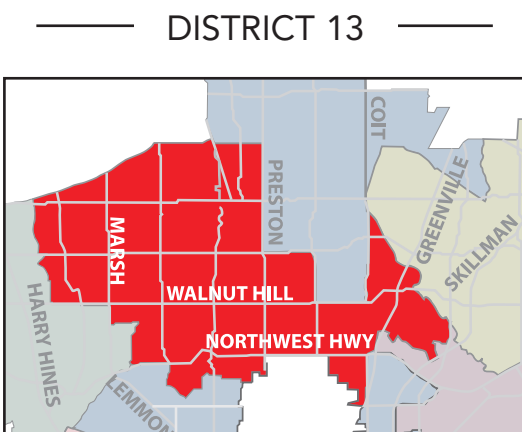
Our neighborhoods are our best asset, so that's why I worked hard this past budget season to add resources to reinvent our Code Department. We are moving from Code Enforcement to Code Compliance by providing staff with the resources and tools to help educate residents on how to bring their properties into compliance and enhance the curb appeal of our neighborhoods.

Residents' involvement is desperately needed. So many of you have volunteered and stepped up to the plate wherever and whenever you're needed. Take, for example, the 35 homeowners' organizations, several crime-watch groups and many civic organizations whose sole purpose is making our community a better place to live, work and play. You are the eyes and ears of our district and I appreciate your involvement.

I encourage you to get involved in our community. Join one of the many groups and organizations that have been a part of this great District for many years.

As many of you know, this is my last term on the City Council due to term limits. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve District 13 for the past eight years. I'm here to serve you until June 2009, so please contact my office with any concerns, ideas or suggestions. Together, we can make our district an even better place to live and raise our families.

**Best regards,  
Mitchell Rasansky  
Dallas City Councilmember  
District 13**



**Libraries:**  
Park Forest, 3421 Forest Lane  
214-670-6333  
Preston Royal, 5626 Royal Lane  
214-670-7128

**Recreation Centers:**  
Marcus, 3003 Northaven Road  
214-670-6599  
Marcus Annex, 2910 Modella Ave.  
214-671-0644  
Walnut Hill, 10011 Midway Road  
214-670-7112

**Police Divisions:**  
North Central: Sgt. Michael Nonnenmacher  
214-670-7247  
Northeast: Sgt. Keitric Jones  
214-671-7768  
Northwest: Sgt. Christopher Jaquez  
214-671-6202

**Are you helping to build a Greener Dallas?**



Take the first step and make a commitment to recycle by joining the City's "Too Good To Throw Away" program. In District 13, each household participating in the program is recycling an average of 31 pounds per household per month! That beats the City's goal of having each household recycling an average of 30 pounds each month. Want to join the success? Call 311 to get a Big Blue recycling cart delivered to your home.



**Mission: possible**

**Code department focuses on relationships, solutions in District 13**

**District 13 North Central Division**

**Division Manager**  
Macklin Wright  
469-556-8919  
**Neighborhood Code Representative**  
Kelli Stevens • 214-517-6722

**District 13 Northeast Division**

**Division Manager**  
Bob Curry  
214-876-8258  
**Neighborhood Code Representatives**  
Sherry Benham • 972-978-2067  
Barry Boyd • 214-405-3372

**District 13 Northwest Division**

**Division Manager**  
Kathy Hernandez  
972-768-3453  
**Neighborhood Code Representatives**  
Rodney Patterson • 972-333-2725  
Angela Nation • 469-261-0658

**“My goal is to educate our citizens about City codes. That's the best way to get compliance.”**  
— Kelli Stevens, North Central Division NCR

With a newly reorganized department and the addition of 20 neighborhood representatives, Dallas Code Compliance is starting to get tougher on code violations.

But that doesn't mean it's getting tougher on citizens. Rather, the new neighborhood representatives are putting a face on the department by acting as liaisons between citizens and Code.

The City recently decentralized and reorganized its Code Compliance districts so that neighborhood representatives can respond more quickly to resident requests. The goal of these changes is to allow Code employees to get to know a specific area: the people and businesses, the compliant properties and the troubled areas.

Kathryn Hernandez is manager for the Northwest Division, which includes the western part of District 13. One of the most prevalent issues in her area is the placement of illegal banners for businesses as well as "bandit signs" for garage sales and work-from-home schemes. Businesses that are in violation receive letters listing typical violations and giving a 30-day notice. Other typical concerns are bulk trash, vegetation in alleys, high weeds, litter and houses abandoned due to mortgage failures.

"There are houses in the area with pools, and people walk away from them," Ms. Hernandez says. "We have to keep those up because the neighbors are living in nice areas."

Macklin Wright is manager of the newly created North Central Division, which oversees code enforcement in the central part of District 13. He and his neighborhood representatives are busy familiarizing themselves with the concerns of residents in the district. They are getting quite a bit of hands-on experience with one of those concerns: illegal signs.

"I spend at least eight hours per week pulling signs," he says. "I also put calls in to the sign violators and the business owners to educate them regarding the sign ordinance."

We are all out there, including managers."

Code is taking a holistic approach, working together with other City departments, including Police, Streets, Sanitation and Building Inspection. This coordinated approach is crucial, as noncompliant properties frequently have other problems outside the scope of the department, such as crime, structural failure or street damage. By working together, the departments have a much better chance to solve core community problems. Managers and neighborhood representatives are making a habit of attending meetings of crime-watch groups and homeowners associations.

Such cooperation with police and neighborhood groups as crucial to Code Compliance's success.

"We're developing a good relationship with police, attending neighborhood watch meetings and inviting them to Code meetings," Mr. Wright says. "Also, the Building Inspection and Streets departments. Sometimes historically there has been pushing the puck back and forth, which is not always helpful, and we hope to alter that."

Code sees a need for a more citizen-friendly approach, with an emphasis on

The new neighborhood representatives are putting a face on the department by acting as liaisons between citizens and Code.

education and the occasional helping hand. Because homeowners and business owners often do not know every ordinance that applies to their properties, a neighborhood representative will inform a noncompliant citizen of a violation, offer solutions and, if necessary, suggest resources he or she can call for help.

**Turning red to green**

Dallas' newest firehouse is also a "green" house.

The city's newest fire station, Number 35, opened Dec. 1 at 3822 Walnut Hill Lane and is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.

The 12,000-square-foot station has highly efficient light fixtures and day lighting strategies that will save significantly on electricity. A new drainage system captures storm water and wash-off water that is filtered for secondary use. And, more than 75 percent of all waste generated during construction was recycled and nearly a third of all the construction materials used in the building of Station 35 were made of recycled content.

"Making this new station as 'green' as we could was one of the most important considerations," says Fire Chief Eddie Burns. "We think we've succeeded in combining the greenest criteria while making it efficient and comfortable for the men and women who will be staffing it around the clock."



**District 13 looks**



It's been a year since the City of Dallas launched www.GreenDallas.net as part of its commitment to environmental responsibility. This comprehensive site is dedicated solely to environmental issues.

Dallas is well on its way to becoming one of the greenest cities in the nation. But such an effort requires the involvement of government and residents alike in District 13. Here are five simple ways to build a greener Dallas:

- 1. RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE**  
Dallas offers single-stream recycling — that means no sorting. It all goes in the same Big Blue container. If you don't have yours already, then call 311 and order your recycle roll-cart today.
- 2. GREEN YOUR GROCERIES**  
Have you noticed the latest fashion accessory? It's the reusable bag. Next time you're asked "Paper or plastic?" just say "Neither." Many stores now offer their own cloth reusable bags.
- 3. SAVE A TREE**  
By paying your bills online, you'll not only save a tree, but also

time and postage. Of course, you can always make the world a little greener by planting a tree.

**4. MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT**  
Although 70 percent of Earth's surface is covered in water, we need to conserve all that we can. Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when you've got a full load; water your lawn in the evening (less water will evaporate); take shorter showers; and turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth.

**5. CLEAN THE AIR BY GREENING YOUR RIDE**  
Did you know you can help clean the air by doing routine maintenance on your vehicle? Inflate your tires — you'll get better gas mileage and spew fewer emissions from your tailpipe. Fuel up in the evening — the gas fumes won't bake in the Texas sun all day and cause smog/ozone. Consider carpooling, riding DART, biking to work or telecommuting.