

Greetings!

What makes District 9 a great place to live and raise a family? It's the people, and the special landmarks we've all enjoyed for many generations. Think of all the special places we have: White Rock Lake, the Dallas Arboretum and the most popular dog park in the city.

We also have many unique neighborhoods. Each has its own style and character and each has plenty of proud homeowners. Mid-century moderns, sprawling ranches and funky Little Forest Hills charmers — there's a fit for every taste.

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. We have added a new Community Prosecutor who will help make our neighborhoods even better.

You may have noticed that work is under way for improvement and repair of the White Rock Spillway. Construction is to be completed in the spring of 2010. I encourage you to keep track of our progress and get updates on the project Web site: http://www.dallascityhall.com/dwu/whiterock_spillway.html

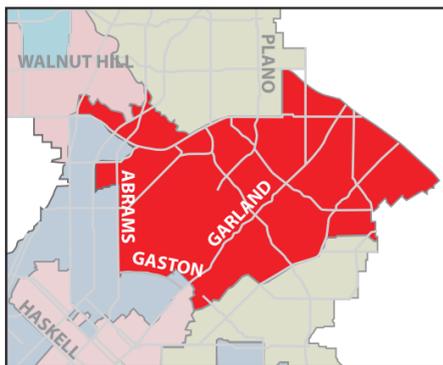
And we are also working to expand our trail system. In the coming months, you'll hear about expansions to the Katy Trail as well as development of new ones, such as the East Dallas Veloway, Trinity Strand, Cottonwood, Preston Ridge and Five Mile Creek trail.

We have recently secured funding to move forward with the Garland Road Vision plan. This is exciting.

I am committed to serving you. Please contact my office with any concerns, ideas or suggestions. Together, we can continue building a strong, vibrant community.

Best regards,
Sheffie Kadane
District 9

DISTRICT 9



Library:

Casa View, 10355 Ferguson Road
214-670-8403

Recreation Centers:

Harry Stone, 2403 Millmar Drive
214-670-0949

Ridgewood/Belcher, 6818 Fisher Road
214-670-7115

Police Division:

Northeast: Sgt. Keitric Jones
214-670-7768

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 9, each household participating in the program is recycling an average of 22 pounds per household per month! That's a really good start — but the City's goal is to increase that amount to 30 pounds for each household each month. Want to help? Call 311 to get a Big Blue recycling cart delivered to your home.



Mission: possible

Code department focuses on relationships, solutions in District 9

District 9 Code Manager



Northeast
Bob Curry
214-876-8258

"We're developing a good relationship with police, attending neighborhood watch meetings and inviting them to Code meetings."
— Bob Curry

District 9 Neighborhood Code Representative



Northeast
Sharon Benham
972-978-2067

"We have more than 900 City codes, so it's difficult for the average citizen to know them all. That's why we're here — to educate people and keep them abreast of any changes. It's a kinder, gentler approach."
— Sharon Benham

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 tough 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.

Bob Curry is manager of the Northeast Division, which includes District 9. He calls the area a "very interesting, diverse area." In the district's transitional neighborhoods, for example, the influx of Hispanics has led to complaints caused by what essentially boils down to cultural misunderstandings.

"Otherwise, it's pretty routine," he says. "The main complaint I hear these days is about illegal carports. As you can see all over town, there are thousands of them, and they've been there many years. But neighbors don't like them and want them taken down, and it causes a lot of discussion."

To diffuse tensions, a good working relationship with law enforcement can come in handy, he says. That's why 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. Mr. Curry sees cooperation with police and neighborhood groups as crucial to Code Enforcement's success.

"We're developing a good relationship with police, attending neighborhood watch meetings and inviting them to Code meetings," he 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 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.

One of Mr. Curry's favorite success stories came from just such an approach.

"A guy and some friends from a motorcycle group went over and helped replace the roof on this guy's shed," Mr. Curry says. "He'd had issues with compliance, but didn't have the resources and was mentally

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

and physically challenged. We saw that there wasn't a City program that fit, so we went over and did it. Earth-shaking? Not really. But in terms of expressing our heart, I think that it was a good situation."

Community champions

The Lone Ranger had Tonto. Batman had Robin. But who can help you fight chronic crime and complex code cases?

Contact a Community Prosecutor. They work in partnership with residents, law enforcement and Code Compliance staff to develop long-term, community-based solutions to quality-of-life issues such as code and noise violations, prostitution, alcohol offenses and transient crimes. In addition to three national awards from the Department of Justice, the Community Prosecution program continues to be recognized for its ability to use creative and applicable

strategies to gain voluntary compliance with code violators, and its use of neighborhood partnerships to enact positive change in the community. Last year, the Community Prosecution team worked approximately 660 active egregious code cases, to gain compliance.

Community Prosecutors:

- Listen to community members' public safety concerns and take those concerns to the courthouse;
- Participate in neighborhood meetings that address crime and quality of life issues;
- Serve as a prosecutorial resource to law enforcement, City departments and community members; and
- Develop and implement innovative strategies to educate the public about the criminal justice system and to prevent crimes.

How can community members get involved with problem-solving efforts? Each targeted neighborhood has an A.C.T.I.O.N. team (for "All Coming Together In Our Neighborhood") that meets once a month. Contact a Community Prosecutor to learn about A.C.T.I.O.N. meeting times and locations.

"My goal is to open another line of communication between the community members and the City to help make Dallas an even better place to live."
— Daniel Ryan

District 9 Community Prosecutor



White Rock Hills area
Daniel Ryan
214-724-8892

District 9 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 who live in District 9.

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.