

Eye on Crime: CC CRIME WATCH AND COPS PATROL

The Coomer Crime Watch and Citizens on Patrol kept busy this summer despite the record number of extreme heat days. July was our most active summer month with a total of 28 incidents reported, 14 being criminal mischief and thefts under \$500. These were mainly related to the graffiti activity of previous months. More serious crimes were also up in July: 5 habitations and 6 vehicle burglaries. August was a much quieter month with activity tapering off to a total of 14 reported incidents: 2 habitat, 1 building and 1 vehicle burglaries with the remaining being criminal mischief and theft. September totals were not available at the time this was written so please visit our website for monthly updates between newsletters: <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/garland/coomercreek/main.htm> Linda McAllister



### **School Zone Safety and Bus Safety**

I wanted to remind everyone that every year we have problems with motorists who do not know the laws regarding flashing lights on school buses or who speed right through the school zones. When a school bus is flashing yellow lights, it is preparing to stop so the students can disembark. When the lights flash red, vehicles in BOTH DIRECTIONS must stop until the driver turns the flashers off to resume their route. The only exception is when it is a divided highway. In that particular instance, only the traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus is required to stop—but stopping for a few moments is better than injuring a child.

School Zones, much like flashing lights on buses, are established for the safety of the students crossing the street. Crossing guards are not available at every intersection near every school, and children don't always remember to look both ways before crossing a street. Please be careful and obey the laws.

In case anyone needs a little more persuasion to be careful in school zones and around school buses be aware of the new fines: fines to motorists will increase dramatically as our cities are finally getting serious about the safety of our children. Motorist caught going 1 (one) mile or more over the speed limit in a school zone will be fined \$200.00. Additionally, any motorists caught passing a stopped bus with its stop sign out and lights flashing will be fined an automatic \$1,000.00. Please share this information with everyone and let them know that we all want to see our children safe at all times.

Leah Filzow-Perez

One generation plants the trees: another gets the shade. – Chinese Proverb



**Coomer Creek Citizens on Patrol:** This summer the neighborhood was painted, stickered and damaged. The offenders are being prosecuted thanks to our NPO Officers Duncan and Gooch as well as the all the officers. Many of the young people came from out of the area. The Citizen on Patrol volunteers spent hours on the look out , taking pictures and observing who was out and about. This included noticing some drug related activity. COPS thanks our officers for working with us. If you would like to help keep our area safer, contact Linda or Lee

**NEW PROPOSAL—NEW COOMER CREEK COMMITTEE**: Rick Johnson

Jonathan Swift stated "Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others". What I see are paths and trails connecting our community called Coomer Creek to the rest of Garland and beyond. I hear my neighbors comment that it would be nice to simply hike or bike to the Mall, Starbucks, the fitness center, to visit friends or to access a bus easily. A trip of one half mile to school or other places takes a car – maybe the bus. I envision a day when we in Coomer Creek can simply take a bike to the downtown DART rail station, the yet-to-be—built community college, to the Rowlett Creek Preserve, to all the shops at Firewheel Town Center. Wouldn't the merchants love that as the space would be more retail use and less paved lot? I don't see families, walking, skating, roller skating, jogging, walking the dog, walking to the fitness center, walking to the mall, walking to the bus stop, walking to the library, namely Dallas, Richardson, and Plano have all invested in the infrastructure of their cities by building nice, inviting paths for citizens to enjoy. Dallas has just received and allocated 10 million dollars to build and connect several trails that enhance the ability to enjoy the community. I believe that Garland has an opportunity to join her sister cities in this effort. For this to happen, the vision I have painted needs to be accompanied by a strong dose of action...before there is no more room to convert this vision to reality.