

# Coomer Creek News



[www.neighborhoodlink.com/garland/coomercreek](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/garland/coomercreek)

SPRING 2008

## Coomer Creek Association and Crime Watch

### President: Lee Lutz

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## Spring Meeting

## Guest Speaker:

## The Honorable

## Ronald Jones, Mayor

## N Garland Library

Feb 26 Tuesday 6:45 PM

A voluntary association of neighbors CC is bounded by Beltline Rd, Glen Canyon north to Brand to NRS and on the east by Crist Rd.

### All are welcome

Voluntary dues are \$25 per year.

Pls mail dues and contact info to:

Linda McAlister 114 E Ridgeway Dr.  
Garland Tx 75040

### Notes from the President: Lee Lutz

Welcome. This month's guest columnist is Linda Barnes, V.P. of the Garland Citizen Alumni Fire Club, a member of a city board and multiple other groups. She is a long time resident and passionate about our city.

### A New Spin on an Old Problem – How To Protect Your Real Estate Values

Since we are in a rapidly changing environment, we need to be open to new ideas and ways of doing things in new *positive* ways. A new term called "social capital" is defined as a web of relationships that give us a sense of connection, and promotes "building social capital".

A healthy neighborhood is defined as a place where it makes sense for people to invest time, money, and energy; and where neighbors successfully manage day-to-day issues.

Embrace your local Realtors and talk up your neighborhood. Make sure they know you like your neighborhood and tell them *what* you like about it. Tell them about all the amenities in your neighborhood and invite them to participate in your activities. Help your local Realtors sell the vacant homes in your neighborhood, even if it means picking up trash around these vacant homes, and making sure that the yards are taken care of.

Does your neighborhood reflect "Price of Ownership"? Here's the lead-in to keeping property values up. Drive up appeal is everything – keep your yards groomed, pick up trash, keep your homes painted and plant trees and flowers. It's your neighborhood – Manage it – but with kindness.

**A Note on Foreclosures.** We are in a market where foreclosures are increasing at an alarming rate. Keep track of vacant homes nearby. Make sure the doors are secured so as not to invite vandals. If the grass needs cutting, call the name on the sign and request that they contact the owner to mow the yard. Admittedly sometimes the Realtor doesn't have any control, but you can try. If that fails, you and your neighbors mow the front yard. No, it's not your responsibility – but I promise you can make it fun, and it will be *contagious*. Organize a neighborhood clean-up and encourage everyone to participate.

Create a place that is attractive and will welcome newcomers. You will attract people like you that have pride of ownership and that make good neighbors.

By Linda Barnes, Coldwell Banker Apex, Realtors.

(Linda is a seasoned veteran in the real estate field and is involved not only in her own neighborhood, but in many city committees and organizations. If you have a question, you may contact her at [LindaandRodBarnes@coldwellbanker.com](mailto:LindaandRodBarnes@coldwellbanker.com) or call 972 839-6246.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, things aren't going to get better, there not!  
The Lorax, Dr. Seuss





The City of Garland Code Department can be reached at 972 485 6400 or [codenfc@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:codenfc@ci.garland.tx.us). This year the department has reorganized to include several ways of operating. The staff will have inspectors and specialists as well as units who handle complex or larger issues. They will continue to respond to complaints but have addressed concerns by city residents and landlords who requested every street should be reviewed. As a result, the code staff will examine all the issues they see in the neighborhood, rental and homeowner alike. Major issues will be addressed first. The multifamily inspection will also be more complete and examine more than the limited number of apartments that were seen during the usual annual inspection. Code is doing neighborhood sweeps in the whole city. They may not have visited your area yet but the department has sent tips to avoid issues in advance. The handout below is one requested by Councilwoman Chick and we now have a copy to guide us. These guidelines will help us stay in compliance without a visit from our code officer.

### **Limb Encroachment**

When tree limbs and bushes are allowed to grow over the street, alley, or sidewalk, they too can become a hazard for pedestrians and vehicles. This is important because many of the city's fire trucks, service vehicles, and school buses are very large and require a clearance of 14 feet over the street and alley. Sidewalks must have a clearance of 8 feet.

### **Parking on Unimproved Surfaces**

It is illegal to park any kind of vehicle (car, truck, boat, motorcycle, utility trailer, or recreational vehicle) on grass or dirt in a residential area. It should be parked on a designated improved surface.

### **Oversized Vehicles**

Oversized vehicles are prohibited in residential areas. Examples of oversized vehicles are a truck tractor, road tractor, semi-trailer, tow truck and passenger motor vehicles designed to carry more than 16 persons (including the driver).

### **Junk Vehicle**

A vehicle on private property is considered a junk vehicle by City ordinance if the vehicle has an expired registration or inspection and is wrecked, dismantled, on flat tires or not moved within the last 60 days. Vehicles parked on the street must have current registration and inspection stickers and must move every 48 hours.

### **Vehicle Encroachment**

When vehicles are parked so that they extend over the sidewalk, they can become a hazard for pedestrians and other vehicles. At no time should vehicles be parked so as to extend over the sidewalk or off of the property.

### **Crime Watch/Citizens on Patrol Winter Crime Update**

**Keep Our Neighborhood Secure! The holidays were active with vehicle burglaries. Keep on guard and if possible keep vehicles off the street, as they are easy prey. There were 12 vehicle burglaries during November and 6 during December. The good news is January has slowed due to increased patrols.**

**Officer Rumatz our NPO officer will be at the quarterly meeting February 26, 2008 with current updates. Check the weekly crime reports on our website for latest information: <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/garland/coomercreek/>. We are our first defense against crime; be aware and to call 911 about anything or anyone that seems suspicious.**

**- Linda McAlister**