

Take Steps to Protect Yourself From Identity Theft

This is the time of year when accountants are very busy, but identity thieves are also just as busy. When collecting items to complete your taxes for last year, be sure to take some precautions to help reduce your chances for identity theft.

1. Do not carry social security cards, birth certificates, or passports except when needed.
2. Never throw credit card receipts out with trash.
3. When ordering new checks, do not have them sent to your home address. Have them sent to a post office box or arrange to pick them up at your bank.
4. Shred all papers with personal information printed on them.
5. Carefully review your credit card statements for unauthorized use.
6. Shred pre-approved credit card offers. Don't just

throw them in the trash or recycle bin. We recommend a cross cut shredder.

7. Do not allow mail to sit in your mail box for any extended time. If possible install a locking mailbox at your residence or business to reduce mail theft or use a post office box.
8. When paying bills by mail do not place the envelopes in your curbside mailbox for the mail carrier to pick up. It is best to drive to the post office to mail bills with money or checks inside, or hand them directly to your mail carrier.
9. Order your credit report once a year to check for inaccuracies or fraudulent use of your accounts.
10. Do not give out any personal information over the telephone without verification.

Please report any suspicious activity to North Richland Hills Police Department at 817-427-7000.

Residents Urged to Enter the "Cannes-gestion Film Festival"

Tired of traffic? Want your state legislators to know how congestion is affecting your life and how important transportation solutions are to this region?

Dust off your video camera and submit an entry for the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition's 2009 "Cannes-gestion Film Festival," a YouTube video contest. The contest is open to anyone. Each entry should be a one- to two-minute video documenting your experiences and frustrations with congestion in our region and what you see as the solutions or alternatives to traffic.

The top three winning entries will receive cash prizes. TRTC will also share the videos with North Texas' elected officials as they consider transportation legislation during the 81st Texas Legislative Session.

Visit the TRTC web site at www.trtcmobility.org for contest rules and instructions or call 972-580-0662 x24 for more information.

The contest runs until March 16, 2009. Videos can be uploaded at TRTC's YouTube site at www.youtube.com/group/trtcfilms.

We hope that you will consider participating in the contest and communicating how critical effective transportation is to our economy and quality of life.

Welcome New Businesses

Anna's Chicken (Restaurant)

6644 Rufe Snow Drive, 817-428-6004

Good Beginnings School (Pre-School)

8521 Davis Blvd., 817-281-1400

Renal Center of the Hills (Dialysis Clinic)

6331 Boulevard 26 #200, 817-284-3343

SIG / Insurance Solutions

7540 N.E. Loop 820, 817-354-6800

Sujey Tax Service

3601 Bonzer Ste. D, 817-948-1790

Did you know the City of North Richland Hills is home to more than 1,200 businesses? You can view the NRH Business Database online at www.nrhtx.com. Simply go to the Online Services link and select Business Database. You can search the database by business name, street or type.

The City of North Richland Hills encourages you to support local businesses and shop NRH first!

New Economic Development Program Offers BIG Results

The City of North Richland Hills prides itself on being both pro business and pro development. The new Business Improvement & Growth Program (B.I.G.) is a City funded program that provides technical and financial assistance to independent businesses seeking to renovate and restore their exterior appearance.

B.I.G. Coverage Area:

- Located in North Richland Hills
- Located south of Mid Cities Boulevard
- Storefronts facing Boulevard 26, Davis Boulevard, or Rufe Snow Drive
- Businesses must meet all three requirements listed above in order to be eligible for this program

The Program Provides:

- A matching grant for storefront improvements up to \$10,000
- A matching grant for a new monument sign up to \$3,000
- Up to \$2,000 for removal of non-conforming pole sign
- Technical and design assistance for FREE
- This adds up to a possible value of \$15,000

Improvements covered under the B.I.G. program should provide visual interest both day and night. Every effort should be made to create a new/improved identity. For more information on the Business Improvement & Growth Program or other information on how to enhance your business please contact the North Richland Hills Economic Development Department at 817-427-6090 or visit www.nrhupclose.com.

AARP Tax-Aide Offered at NRH Public Library

AARP Tax-Aide helps taxpayers of any age file their personal income tax returns. Volunteers are trained to assist in filing the 1040 tax form and basic schedules. Electronic filing (e-filing) is offered. E-filing ensures a more accurate tax return and faster processing of tax refunds.

The AARP Tax-Aide Service is available at the NRH Public Library on Mondays beginning February 2, 2009 and continuing through April 13, 2009. Hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each Monday. You must have an appointment to get the free service. You can sign up for the service at the Library Reference Desk.

Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

The North Richland Hills Public Library is located at 9015 Grand Ave. For more information, please call the Reference Desk at 817-427-6814.

Upcoming Events

Companies in Action

The City of North Richland Hills is proud to host the 2009 Companies in Action. This fun-filled program offers local businesses and organizations the opportunity to compete against one another for awards and bragging rights. Events are scheduled to begin with dodgeball on **February 28** and softball on **March 21**. No company is too large or too small to participate! For more information, please call 817-427-6600.

CPR Classes

The North Richland Hills Fire Department is offering CPR classes on **March 6** and **April 10**. The CPR classes are American Heart Association approved and participants will receive an AHA certification card. The cost is \$25 for Heartsaver CPR and \$35 for Healthcare Providers. To sign up or get more information, please call 817-427-6900.

Camp NRH - Spring Break!

Spend your spring break at the NRH Recreation Center! Forget school and have some fun. Activities include arts and crafts, dodgeball, gym games and trips to the park. You will also spend one day on a field trip! Camp NRH will be held **March 16 – 20** from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$95 per child. Space is limited so register early at the Recreation Center or register online! For more information contact the NRH Recreation Center at 817-427-6600 or email RonNewman@nrhtx.com

Teen Court Training

Students with an interest in law are invited to participate in the NRH Teen Court. A Teen Court training session will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, **March 23** for teens interested in being an attorney for trials held in Teen Court. Participants must be willing to speak in public, act as defense attorney or prosecutor and seek justice for the side you are representing. Middle and high school students ages 13 to 18 may participate. The training is held at the NRH Municipal Court, 6720 N.E. Loop 820. For more information about Teen Court, please call Heather Hollingsworth at 817-427-6705.

Citizens Fire Academy

The North Richland Hills Fire Department is taking applications for the next Citizens Fire Academy (CFA). The CFA will begin **March 26** and continue each Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through May 21. This program includes training in CPR and First Aid, which enables residents to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their homes and neighborhoods. Participants will also get hands on experience in basic firefighting techniques, auto extrication, extinguisher use, technical rescue, hazardous materials, and a demonstration of the Bomb Squad's capabilities. To register or get more details, please call 817-427-6900 or visit www.nrhhtx.com and click on the Fire Department link.