

Protect Your Vehicle From Auto Theft

Did you know that in a period of one year, 24 vehicles were stolen in North Richland Hills only because the keys to the vehicle were readily available to the criminal? This not only impacts the vehicle owner and all our insurance rates, but the safety of other motorists when the suspects are pursued by the police.

A new North Richland Hills ordinance will help protect your vehicle from auto theft. The ordinance prohibits motorists from leaving vehicles unattended with the keys in the ignition. The goal of this ordinance is to reduce the number of vehicles that are stolen because the keys are left in the ignition while the driver runs into a convenience store or other location.

The new ordinance does not apply to vehicles parked in a driveway at a single family home, although police strongly discourage you from warming a vehicle in your driveway, as this greatly increases the chance your car will be stolen. There is also an exception for vehicles that have an antitheft locking device.

Other North Texas communities including Bedford, Fort Worth, Haltom City and Hurst have instituted similar rules.

The Texas Transportation Code also prohibits drivers from leaving a vehicle unattended with the keys in the ignition on highways and public roads. In North Richland Hills, violators can be fined \$200 to help discourage this bad habit.

Drivers are also encouraged to follow these steps to help prevent auto theft:

- Always lock your car. Don't hide an extra set of keys in your car.
- Close car windows and sunroof.
- Don't leave valuable items in plain sight making your vehicle more attractive to criminals. Use the glove compartment and trunk to keep things out of sight.
- At night, park in well-lit areas. Try to park in high traffic areas or attended lots. Thieves are less likely to strike where they can be seen.
- Park your car in the garage. Most cars are stolen off the street.
- Install a car alarm.
- Install a GPS-based automobile security tracking device.

Welcome New Businesses

A1 Interior Auto Body Repair (Automotive Repair)

8208 Northeast Parkway #104, 469-321-1298

AGA Food Store (Convenience Store)

7601 Mid Cities Boulevard, 817-605-8484

Brian G. Pierce Engineering (Engineering Office)

6513 Smithfield Road Ste. E, 817-656-5800

Furniture First (Retail Store)

7245 Boulevard 26, 817-605-7632

Ironside Mixed Martial Arts (Instruction)

8053 Boulevard 26 Ste. C & D, 817-503-8354

Keynote School of Music (Instruction)

7229 Boulevard 26, 817-281-0088

Lone Star Mattress (Retail Store)

5198 Rufe Snow Drive #117, 817-788-2600

M.A.I. Graphix (Signs/Banners)

5600 Rufe Snow Drive #114, 817-427-3764

Miskel's (Retail Store)

7125 Boulevard 26 Ste. B, 817-595-7474

Ron Jara Printing (Retail T-Shirt Sales)

8053 Boulevard 26 Ste. B, 817-986-2933

Royal Groceries (Convenience Store)

8053 Boulevard 26 Ste. A, 817-788-5800

Simantis Inc. (Convenience Store)

6600 Davis Boulevard, 817-230-4981

TradeMark Electric (Offices)

8321 Sayers Lane, 817-656-8455

Vardiman Grounds (Lawn Maintenance)

3721 Flory Ste. C, 817-688-6438

Wooden Nickel Family Eatery (Restaurant)

7640 N.E. Loop 820 #110, 817-605-0051

Family 4th Fireworks Show

Celebrate our country's most patriotic holiday at the 4th Annual Quad Cities Family 4th Fireworks Show! **The show will start at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, July 4, and will include 20 minutes of dazzling and stunning pyrotechnics.**

The fireworks can be seen from the parking lots of Wiley G. Thomas Coliseum, 6108 Broadway Ave. in Haltom City, and the ATI Career Training Center, 6351 Boulevard 26 in North Richland Hills. Parking is free at both locations on a first come first served basis. Parking will not be allowed along the street.

Patriotic music will be simulcast live during the show on KDKR Radio 91.3 FM. Don't forget to bring chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, non-alcoholic drinks, and games for the family to play while waiting for the fireworks. Please, prepare food in advance. No outdoor cooking or grilling permitted. No personal fireworks allowed.

This free event is made possible thanks to the following sponsors: the cities of North Richland Hills, Haltom City and Richland Hills, Chesapeake Energy, North Hills Hospital, HealthMarkets, Northeast Times, Coca Cola, IESI, Sam's Furniture & Appliance, ATI, KDKR 91.3 FM, Birdville ISD, Northeast Tarrant Chamber and Quad Cities DFW Foundation. For more information, please call 817-281-9376.

North Richland Hills reminds residents it is illegal for you to set off fireworks in our community. For the safety of yourself and others, please enjoy the Family 4th Fireworks Show and refrain from using other fireworks as part of your July 4th celebrations. Violations can result in a fine of up to \$2,000.

Realize the Benefits of Automatic Bank Drafting

Still writing a paper check to pay your water bill? Perhaps you do not realize the benefits of automatic bank drafting. Automatic bank drafting benefits everyone involved - the City, the banks but most of all you!

- ✓ **It's Easy.** Bank draft payments are automatic and are deducted from your account on the due date of the bill. You never have to worry about finding your checkbook, buying stamps or having payments lost in the mail. You will never miss a payment or incur late penalties.
 - ✓ **It's Safe.** Checks contain a lot of personal information. With so much identity theft from the mail, do you really want just anyone having access to this information? With bank drafting you gain privacy and security. The bank protects your information and so does the City.
 - ✓ **It's Free.** There are no extra fees for bank draft service. You even save by using fewer checks and stamps.
 - ✓ **It's Environmentally Friendly.** Bank drafting reduces the use of paper which saves trees and other resources.
- If you are interested in signing up for automatic bank drafting, all that is required is a completed authorization form and a voided check. Please contact the NRH Utility Customer Service Office at 817-427-6200 for more details.

Sign Up for Vacation Watch

When taking your vacation, don't forget to protect your home while you are away. Make sure all entry points are locked. Place a hold on newspaper and mail delivery. Put interior lights and a radio on timers to give the appearance that someone is home. Have exterior lights on photocells that activate in the evening and shut off at daybreak. Arrange to have the grass cut and watered if your away for a long period. Tell neighbors of your absence and encourage them to contact the police regarding any suspicious activity.

Residents may also request a "Vacation Watch" before leaving town for an extended period of time. When you request this service from the NRH Police Department, officers will provide extra patrols by your residence while you are away, for up to 30 days. To request a Vacation Watch or for more information, please go to www.nrhtx.com/police or call 817-427-7000.

Garbage, Recycling Reminder

Garbage cans and recycle bins should be placed at the curb no earlier than 7 p.m. the evening before collection, nor later than 7 a.m. the day of collection. Containers placed out after 7 a.m. may be missed if crews have already been through your neighborhood.

For residents living north of the Cottonbelt Rail Line, garbage is picked up on Tuesdays and Fridays. For residents south of the Cottonbelt Rail Line, garbage is picked up on Mondays and Thursdays. Residents receive recycling collection on one of their designated garbage days.

If you have questions regarding garbage or recycling service please call Duncan Disposal at 817-317-2450.

July 4th Holiday Schedule

City Hall, the Library, Recreation Center and other non-emergency City offices will be closed on **Friday, July 4**. Iron Horse Golf Course and NRH₂O will be open. Trash and recycling will not be collected on July 4. Friday collections will be picked up Saturday, July 5, instead.

My Part of Town Movie Night

Join us on **Friday, July 11**, at Kay Granger Park at Mullendore Elementary for a FREE night of family fun. There will be games starting at 7 p.m. and "The Muppet Movie" will begin after the sun goes down. Parking is limited. Residents are encouraged to walk or ride their bikes to the park. For more details, call 817-427-6600.

Think Green - Energy Conservation

North Richland Hills is offering Think Green education sessions each month at the Recreation Center. The **July 19** session will focus on Home Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy. The cost is \$10 for adults and free for children 18 and under. Sessions are held from 1 to 3 p.m. To register or get more details, please call 817-427-6600.

Special Events at NRH₂O

- **Dive-In Movies** - Float in the wave pool or relax on the beach while watching your favorite movies under the stars. Movies begin at dusk every Friday night from **June 13 through August 1**.
- **Fireworks** - Float in the wave pool and watch fireworks light up the sky on Saturday **June 21, July 19 and August 16**. Fireworks begin at dusk.
- **Big Wii® Giveaway** - Sing in our virtual band for the chance to win great prizes on **July 16** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plus, all day you can sign up for a chance to win a Wii® Gaming System! (*Wii® is a registered trademark of Nintendo. All rights reserved. Nintendo is not a sponsor of the giveaway.*)
- **Dora the Explorer Visit** - Meet Dora and Boots live and in person from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 8. Don't forget your camera!

For more information, visit nrh2o.com or call 817-427-6500.

National Recreation & Parks Month

July is National Recreation & Parks month! **What can you do to celebrate?** There are 31 days so try 31 ways! Beginning, July 1 visit www.nrhtx.com to check out 31 ideas for celebrating National Recreation & Parks month with your family and friends! NRH has just over 20 miles of trails and 24 parks all within your reach, not to mention numerous recreation programs offered at the NRH Recreation Center, Richland Tennis Center, Dan Echols Senior Center and Bursey Road Senior Center. During the month of July we encourage the community to experience 31 ways...in 31 days of recreational opportunities throughout the North Richland Hills Parks & Recreation system.