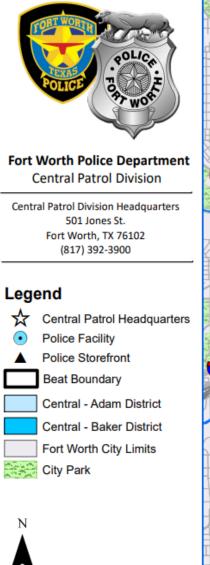
# CENTRAL DIVISION PRESS FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 2024 PAGE 1 OF 8

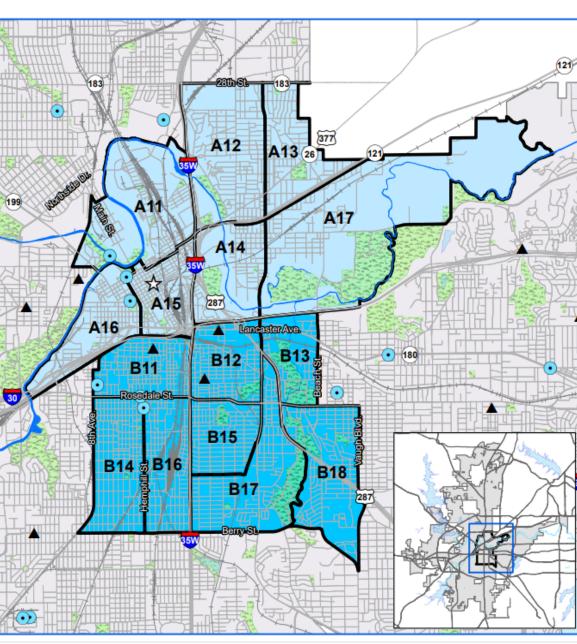
Published By: Eartha Pitre, M.A.

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# **Central Division**

Central Division encompasses a large, diverse area that includes the Downtown Business community, Near Southside (Hospital District), Texas A&M downtown campus, and many historic neighborhoods immediately surrounding these areas. Included in these boundaries are the major shelters for homeless individuals and families. The business, medical, and educational communities located within this division create a significant transient population commuting to and from work each day. After business hours, the Central Business District transforms to a vibrant entertainment venue consisting of Sundance Square, Bass Performance Hall, as well as many popular restaurants, bars and events.





You may begin to see the sign on the right posted around the city. It is meant to encourage people to donate to organizations that offer help and services to unhoused individuals.

Scan the QR Code to donate to organizations that directly help the homeless.



#### **HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS**

Stay aware of others around you in close quarters.

Pick pockets do not need much time or space.

Use a timer for lights at home if you travel.

Ask a trusted neighbor to collect mail, packages, and newspapers.

You should not stop and open your purse or wallet to donate.

Keep a few dollars in your pocket to have curbside donations ready before hand.

Be mindful about disposing of large boxes from expensive items at the curb on trash day. Break boxes down; no one needs to know you have a new flat screen television or other expensive items.

Before shopping, have plans to make your most expensive and/or large purchases just before your shopping day ends. You don't want to have large items in your vehicle or take a chance on being followed and robbed.

Lock your doors and never leave items visible in your vehicle.





Fort Worth Municipal Court has launched VanillaDirect Pay, a simple way to skip the courthouse and pay a citation with cash at local retailers.

**Why it matters:** Residents can make fast, easy and secure payments at CVS, Walgreens, 7-Eleven and more. No credit or debit card is needed – just cash and a barcode.

**About VanillaDirect Pay:** VanillaDirect Pay is a cash-based payment solution that allows residents to pay citations — such as traffic and parking violations, nontraffic offenses and more — at participating retailers. This service provides a convenient alternative to court-house payments by eliminating the need for credit or debit cards and reducing the need for in-person visits.

### **Key benefits**

- Convenience: Payments can be made at retail stores throughout the community.
- Cash payments: No credit or debit card is needed just a barcode and cash.
- **Extended hours:** Residents can make payments during store operating hours, offering more flexibility than courthouse hours.
- Real-time processing: Payments are reflected in the court's system guickly.

### **How VanillaDirect Pay works**

- **Receive a barcode:** Residents will receive a barcode (digital or printed) through the court's payment portal.
- Visit a participating retailer: They can take the barcode to any CVS, Walgreens, Family Dollar or 7-Eleven.
- **Make the payment:** At checkout, the cashier scans the barcode, confirms the total and adds a \$1.50 convenience fee.
- Complete the transaction: Residents approve the amount, pay in cash and receive a receipt as proof of payment.

## Important details to remember

- **Barcodes:** Multiple fines can be combined into one barcode. A single convenience fee applies, no matter how many cases are paid at once.
- **Payment errors:** Residents should not add the convenience fee themselves cashiers will apply it automatically.
- Receipt: Residents should keep the receipt as proof of payment in case of any disputes
  or issues.
- Retail store hours: Payments can be made during store operating hours, providing greater flexibility than courthouse hours.





Thomas Risher - Pastor

God's House Non-Denominational Church 2828 South Riverside Drive Fort Worth TX 76104

Free Free Free

Toys and Food Giveaway

\*\*Child must be Present for Toys\*\*

Dec. 14, 2024

From 11:00a - 2:00p until We Run Out Fort Worth SPARC

Showtime Corvette Riding Group Fort Worth Police Department Crime Prevention Slingshot Family

> BC Fit Club I-20 Riders MC

Free Phones

Visit with your local state and federal elected Officials



# November to Remember





# <u>Child Safety</u> <u>Day Event at Hillside</u>

During the event children and families interacted in a half court basketball game with officers while waiting to have their child identification cards processed.

Photos show court time and id registration process.













Riverside Boo Fest

Braver Together Event-Evans Plaza

Palladium Club House









# Calling a funeral home about prices and services

By Alvaro Puig, Federal Trade Commission

Maybe you are pre-planning a funeral for yourself or a loved one and decide to get some pricing information by calling a few funeral providers. Or you need to make urgent arrangements for a loved one who passed away in another state. When you are making funeral arrangements, you have a right to get funeral pricing information over the phone.

A new <u>FTC staff report about funeral providers' practices</u> revealed that it can often be hard to get clear and accurate price information over the phone. FTC staff made calls to funerals homes at all times of day. They were unable to get funeral price information by phone from some providers. For others, staff had to make several calls, especially after hours.

When FTC staff did get price information by phone, some providers gave different prices for the same services on different calls. Others gave out estimated prices or price ranges, instead of specific prices. And some didn't disclose required third-party fees or government fees unless asked.

The Funeral Rule gives you the right to get accurate information over the phone.

If you're researching funeral costs by phone

- Ask the funeral provider what types of services they offer, how much these services cost and what's included in the price. If they offer a package of goods and services, ask about itemized prices. They must let you buy only the services you want and need.
- Ask if there will be other costs. For example, fees to transport the body, get required permits or death certificates, or place obituary notices.

If a funeral provider won't give you accurate price information over the phone, try calling another provider. To learn more, check out <u>Shopping for Funeral Services by Phone or Online</u>.



# Helping kids navigate the online world: welcome to Youville

By Jim Kreidler- Consumer Education Specialist

If the young people in your life spend lots of time online watching videos, playing games and texting friends do they have the skills to question and evaluate what they find there?

The Federal Trade Commission's new educational materials and classroom-based tools could help. Whether you're an educator, parent, or youth group leader, head over to <u>Youville</u> and start exploring.

<u>Youville</u> teaches kids ages 8 -12 about privacy and online safety, spotting scams, digital citizenship, and understanding advertising. The free, standards-based, in-class educational program has fun activities to help you teach kids how to safely navigate the online world.

Through twelve lessons, kids find out things like what information is personal, what to do if someone uses bullying language online, how to understand the advertising techniques that target them, and how to spot free offers that aren't really free. Educators guide students on their learning adventures with activities all around Youville in a skatepark, an aquarium, and a garden helping save the Youbies from The Claud, a powerful energy that causes chaos.

Reach out to the teachers, librarians, youth leaders, aftercare professionals, and any other educator in your life. Tell them about Youville's free lesson plans, slides, activity sheets, posters, and bookmarks. In a time crunch? Each lesson stands alone, so you can pick and choose topics and activities that work best for your kids.





# How to avoid TSA PreCheck scams

By Eunice Kim-Consumer Education Specialist

No one likes waiting in airport security lines. To speed things up, some people opt to get TSA PreCheck. Scammers know this and send emails that look like they're from TSA PreCheck but they're not. The emails want you to click a link that takes you to a scam website that only looks like the official site but it's not. If you pay to "enroll" or "renew" your TSA PreCheck, you may not even realize you've paid a scammer until you get to the airport for your next trip. But there are ways to spot these scams.

If you're applying for TSA PreCheck for the first time, you don't pay the application fee online. To get PreCheck, you complete the application and pay in person at a <u>TSA enrollment center</u>. **Again: you don't pay online.** Only a scammer will ask you to pay online to enroll.

If you already have TSA PreCheck, you can renew and pay in person or take care of both online. The real TSA even sends renewal reminder emails out. But to avoid a scam, start your renewal at <a href="mailto:tsa.gov/precheck">tsa.gov/precheck</a> instead of clicking a link. A scammer's link will take you to a scam site that looks real, but if you pay and give your information, the scammer will steal it.

# To avoid scammers impersonating TSA PreCheck:

- Don't click links in unexpected emails or text messages, no matter how real they look.
- Don't be rushed. If someone insists that you to pay right away, chances are that's a scammer.

**Start at** <u>tsa.gov/precheck</u>. Typing in that URL yourself is the best way to avoid the scam. And remember that all TSA PreCheck sites are .gov sites, not a .com.



Another year has ended, funny how time flies! It has been my pleasure to create and develop this Newsletter since Central's opening in 2008. I sincerely appreciate the support and feedback from my readers. My warmest thoughts and best wishes for each of you in 2025 and for many years beyond.

