## CENTRAL DIVISION PRESS FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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#### Newsletter Published By:

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## **Move Over or Slow Down**

While millions of Texans commute to work on highways every week, they pass inches away from the worksites for thousands of law enforcement personnel, first responders and road maintenance crews. Unfortunately, many of them are killed in crashes every year on the job, which is why TxDOT is calling on Texas drivers to keep roadside workers safe by remembering to "Move Over or Slow Down."

The state's Move Over or Slow Down law requires drivers to move over putting a lane between them and roadside workers or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when passing law enforcement, tow trucks, utility vehicles, emergency responders and TxDOT vehicles stopped with activated overhead lights on the side of the road. Changes to the law went into effect on Sept. 1, 2023, and impose heftier penalties for violations, including fines of up to \$1,250 for a first offense. Stricter penalties for drivers who cause serious injuries by failing to follow these rules now include possible jail time and a fine of up to \$4,000.

Every year, law enforcement officers, tow truck drivers and other roadside workers do essential work protecting and maintaining our roads, but some are hit, injured or killed while serving our community. TxDOT's Be Safe. Drive Smart. public awareness campaign asks all drivers to respect these workers who are vital to keeping our roads clear and safe.

### The Move Over or Slow Down law requires drivers to:

- Be on alert and pay attention when approaching roadside law enforcement, emergency vehicles, tow trucks, utility vehicles and TxDOT vehicles with flashing lights on.
- When possible, move out of the lane closest to these vehicles.
- Slow down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit if safely switching lanes is not possible or the road doesn't offer multiple lanes.
- Reduce speed to 5 mph on roadways with posted speed limits of 25 mph or less.
- The state's Move Over or Slow Down law was first passed in 2003 and applied to law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services vehicles. The Texas Legislature has since extended the law's protections to include TxDOT vehicles, tow trucks and utility service vehicles.

### October is National Crime Prevention Month.

Each of us can do our part and work together to make Fort Worth a safer and more caring community. There are several ways to get involved; getting to know your neighbors, forming a crime watch group, joining Citizens on Patrol and promoting safe practices with friends/family are just a few. Do not wait to become a victim to practice crime prevention.



## CPR & AED training - Shamblee Library Thursday, October 03, 2024 | 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM

Professional Fire Department EMTs and Paramedics will introduce participants to hands-only CPR and explain the basics of how to use Automated External Defibrillators (AED) machines.

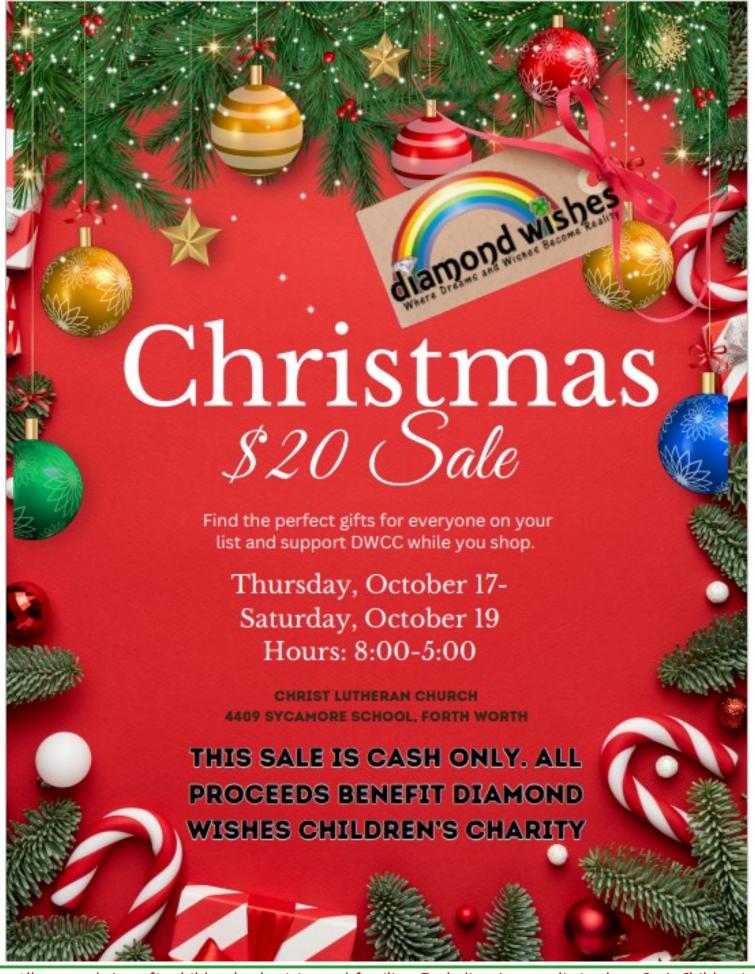
This workshop is **free to the public**, is taught in a bilingual English/Spanish setting and is available on a first-come-first-served basis. Please note, that this is not a comprehensive CPR Certification Course.

**CPR** - You could save a life! Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can *double or may triple* the chances of survival after cardiac arrest. The American Heart Association recommends hands-only CPR for use by people who see a teen or adult suddenly collapse in an out-of-hospital setting (such as at home, at work or in public).

**AED -** Don't be afraid to learn about these lifesaving tools! AED use can greatly increase a cardiac arrest victim's chances of survival. The American Heart Association states that the deployment of AEDs *should not* be limited to medical professionals.

Your Fort Worth Public Library is proud to partner with the Fort Worth Fire Department to bring free, lifesaving training to our community. Following the workshop, explore your library and learn about all the adult programs we offer.

Teens are welcome to attend, however, we also recommend our <u>free ABCs of Babysitting</u> course which also includes CPR training.



All proceeds benefit children's charities and families. Including, but not limited to, Cook Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Foster Families and more.

## September Photos









TCTCPA Crime Prevention Association Auction and Seminar Photos



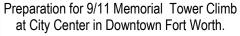




Patrolling In Style: Code Blue Bandana modeled by Oakhurst Patrollers Pup

NPO Norman and Crime Prevention Display at Texas Health NICU Reunion









Crafts with COPs at Cook Children's Hospital









# Did you get a call or email saying you missed jury duty and need to pay?

### It's a scam

By: Yajie Mu - Federal Trade Commission

Missing jury duty can come with real consequences. You could face a fine, go to court, or even get arrested. Scammers take advantage of that to get your money or sensitive information. But their story is a lie.

This scam usually starts with a phone call or an email from someone claiming to be from the police department or a court official. (They're not.) They say you missed jury duty, even though you never got a jury duty notice. They'll tell you there's a warrant out for your arrest, and the only way to cancel it is to pay a fine. (It's a lie.) If you refuse, they may threaten you with jail. Or they might ask for personal information like your Social Security number or date of birth to <u>steal your identity</u>. To make the scam seem real, scammers also might give you a fake sheriff's badge number and case number.

## Here's how you can tell it's a scam.

Courts never ask for immediate payment over the phone. In fact, no government agency will do that.

Only scammers insist that you can only pay with <u>gift cards</u>, a <u>payment app</u>, <u>cryptocurrency</u>, or a <u>wire transfer service</u> like Western Union or MoneyGram because it's very hard to get your money back if you pay in these ways.

Courts never ask for sensitive personal information over the phone, like your Social Security number or date of birth. Only scammers do.

If you get a call or email like this, hang up or don't respond. Don't pay or give them any personal information. If you think a call or email could be real, call the court directly at a number you know is correct. Learn more about <u>other ways scammers pretend to be the government</u>. If you spot it, tell the FTC at <u>ReportFraud.ftc.gov</u>.



### **Looking for Work? Watch Out for Fake Job Postings**

Watch out for Craigslist job scams using the names of real organizations to lure in potential job seekers. These posts look just like real jobs, but take precautions before sending your resume.

### **How the Scam Works:**

You see a job post on Craigslist.org. It says Clearpoint, a non-profit organization that provides credit counseling, is hiring an "Office Admin Assistant." The ad looks completely legitimate. The business is real, the job description is standard and the entire post is typo-free. You decide to apply for the job. The "manager" replies to your email, saying that he/she needs further information from you. Unfortunately, this information includes your credit card number!

Job scams especially have many different variations. Watch out for scams using different business names and position titles. Also, scammers may ask job seekers to pay upfront for training, which never materializes. Or they may "hire" you and send a fake check. The con artists will instruct you to deduct a fraction for payment and wire the rest back.

## Tips to Avoid Falling for Fake Job Scams:

Spot a job scam before you waste your time and money.

- **Some positions are more likely to be scams**. Use extra caution when looking at ads for jobs with generic titles, such as admin assistant or customer service representative. These often don't require special training or licensing, so they appeal to a wide range of applicants.
- Check out the business' website to make sure the opening is posted there. If you are still skeptical, call the business to check on the position. Don't rely on websites or phone numbers provided in the advertisement; find the "employer" on your own to make sure it's the real deal.
- Watch out for these phrases. Scam ads often contain the phrases "Teleworking OK," "Immediate Start" and "No Experience Needed." Watch out for ads that urge you to apply immediately.
- **Search for the position in Google**. If the result comes up in many other cities with the exact same job post, it is likely a scam.
- Be cautious of any job that request personal information or money. Scammers will often use the guise of running a credit check, setting up direct deposit or paying for training.



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