

CENTRAL DIVISION PRESS
FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT
APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER
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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 the 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 many popular restaurants, bars and events.



Safety Topics: Preparing for spring storm season

The American Red Cross encourages everyone to prepare now for spring storm season. Each spring North Texas encounters severe weather events including tornadoes, lightning, thunder, hail and flooding that can cause significant damage or even death.

Stay informed with this month's City of Fort Worth Safety Topics focusing on Tornadoes, Flooding, Severe Thunder storms and lightning storms: [Severe-Weather.pdf\(PDF, 316KB\)](#)

Prepare your emergency kit and stay weather aware by downloading the free Red Cross Emergency app or visit redcross.org/prepare.

Newsletter Published By:

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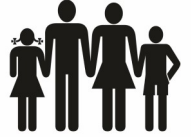
Crime Prevention Specialist-Central Division

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse-What You Can Do



(Information posted on [Child Welfare.Gov Website](https://www.childwelfare.gov))

To prevent child sexual abuse, it is important to keep the focus on adult responsibility, while teaching children skills to help them protect themselves. Consider the following tips:

- Take an active role in your children's lives. Learn about their activities and people with whom they are involved. Stay alert for possible problems.
- Watch for "grooming" behaviors in adults who spend time with your child. Warning signs may include frequently finding ways to be alone with your child, ignoring your child's need for privacy (e.g., in the bathroom), or giving gifts or money for no particular occasion.
- Do your best to ensure that organizations, groups, and teams that your children are involved with minimize one-on-one time between children and adults. Ask how staff and volunteers are screened and supervised.
- Make sure your children know that they can talk to you about anything that bothers or confuses them.
- Teach children accurate names of private body parts and the difference between touches that are "okay" and "not okay."
- Empower children to make decisions about their bodies by allowing them age-appropriate privacy and encouraging them to say "no" when they do not want to touch or be touched by others, even in nonsexual ways.
- Teach children to take care of their own bodies (e.g., bathing or using the bathroom) so they do not have to rely on adults or older children for help.
- Educate children about the difference between good secrets (such as birthday surprises) and bad secrets (those that make the child feel unsafe or uncomfortable).
- Monitor children's use of technology, including cell phones, social networking sites, and messaging. Review contact lists regularly and ask about any people you don't recognize.
- Trust your instincts! If you feel uneasy about leaving your child with someone, don't do it. If you are concerned about possible sexual abuse, ask questions.
- If your child tells you that he or she has been abused, stay calm, listen carefully, and never blame the child. Thank your child for telling you. Report the abuse right away.



Fort Worth launches pilot program to tackle homelessness crisis

The Fort Worth City Council approved a contract with My Health My Resources (MHMR) of Tarrant County for over \$1 million for a high-impact pilot program. This program aims to reduce homelessness in targeted areas.

Why it matters: With the end of the eviction moratorium and federal emergency rental assistance funds, homelessness has increased in Fort Worth.

Most nights emergency shelters are near capacity resulting in a sharp increase in unsheltered homelessness. Citizens regularly report homeless encampments throughout the City.

What's next: The high impact pilot program is a way to direct resources in a targeted way to reduce issues in seven areas initially identified as hard hit. Data gathered from this pilot project will be used to analyze whether the program should continue, be expanded, or end. If it is expanded, new areas will be selected based on the data at that time of areas that have been most impacted by increased homelessness. Resources that are being used to provide housing assistance and case management across the city will continue.

The high impact pilot program brings additional resources to these seven initially selected areas:

Camp Bowie West/Las Vegas Trail - Seminary/La Gran Plaza/Hemphill

Downtown - Near Southside - Historic Southside/Near Eastside

Beach Street intersections (from E. Lancaster to N. Tarrant Parkway) - Northside/Stockyards

Street outreach teams, Neighborhood Police Officers and the City's Homeless Outreach Program & Enforcement (HOPE) team will be asked to refer individuals who have either been reported in that area for a long time (more than two years) or are suspected of having severe mental illness. These individuals are being referred for housing assistance and services. The level of services offered will depend on the individual's needs.

The big picture: For those individuals with severe mental illness, a new community resource will be offered through this pilot program. The pilot program will offer low barrier housing and voluntary case management to referred individuals. The housing would be in the form of rental assistance and would be capable of being used at apartments throughout the City or in master leased apartments. Housing assistance for up to 40 people will be provided. The City will also leverage some existing housing vouchers to serve more people. The case management would be provided by My Health My Resources of Tarrant County.

Go deeper: Those who need a more intensive approach would transition to the care of the Housing First Assertive Community Treatment Team. The Housing First ACT Team would work with those with severe mental illness who are on the street and also those who are in housing but need more intensive services to stay housed.

The bottom line: The pilot program's performance measures will be that at least 70% of those offered housing enter housing within six months. To gather sufficient data, this is a 17-month pilot beginning May 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025. It is the intent to request funds in FY 2025 of \$2,200,000 for the remaining 12 months of the pilot.

MARCH PHOTOS



Photos right at the Columbia Renaissance Complex Crime Watch Meeting



Photos left taken at Versia Williams Elementary Career Day Event

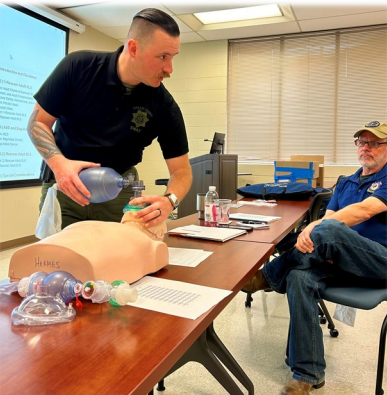
Photos right at Trinity Terrace Spring Expo

First shows Crime Prevention Display and Next photo shows Coffee chat with COP's



TCTCPA is involved in the community learn more [HERE](#)

Photos left show members in CPR/AED instruction, photo right shows members cooking and serving lunch to Community Food Bank employees and volunteers.



Easter Eggstravaganza ACJCC at Hillside





Garden of Eden Neighborhood Association

20th Annual 5K Fun Run & One Mile Walk - June 8, 2024

Awards and Prizes for Winners!

Registration Fee \$10 via Cash App \$TripleTPS1 - Eventbrite Registration Fee - \$10.00

Or via US Mail - 1412 Carson Street - Fort Worth, TX 76117

Sponsorships Available: Bronze \$250 - Silver \$500 - Gold \$1000

"20 Tried and Tested Years - PUSH THRU CHALLENGE"



Live broadcast via Facebook from Valley Baptist Church

6013 Elliott Reeder Road - Fort Worth, TX 76117

5K Fun Run Begins at 8:00am and One Mile Walk Begins at 9:00am

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/20th-annual-garden-of-eden-5k-fun-run-and-one-mile-walk-tickets-518346748077>

Contact Brenda Sanders-Wise @ 817 733 5293 or Trina Sanders @ 817 584 2311



Fraud and Scam Seminar

Tuesday, April 9th
10:00 am-2:00 pm

Free lunch for all attendees



Some of the topics include:

- Frauds and Scams
- Probate of Wills
- Financial information
- Important security information

The event will be at:
Christ Lutheran Church
4409 Sycamore School Road
Fort Worth, Texas

FREE TO ATTEND

Deputy Kelly Biggs

☎ 817-238-4216

KBBiggs@TarrantCountytx.gov



Anatomy of an Imposter Scam



By: Jennifer Leach , Division of Consumer and Business Education-Federal Trade Commission

Scammers say and do things that can tell us they're lying and they're not who they pretend to be. Of course, to hear or see those clues, we have to get past the panic scammers make us feel, thanks to the so-called emergencies they try to create. Since scammers are convincing, that can be hard to do. But recent scams are costing people their life savings, so here are some sure ways to spot the scammer.

Things only scammers will say or tell you to do:

- **“Act now!” That’s a scam.** Scammers use pressure, so you don’t have time to think. But pressuring you to act now is always a sign of a scam. It’s also a reason to stop.
- **“Only say what I tell you to say.” That’s a scam.** The minute someone tells you to lie to anyone including bank tellers or investment brokers, stop. It’s a scam.
- **“Don’t trust anyone. They’re in on it.” That’s a scam.** Scammers want to cut you off from anyone who might slow you down.
- **“Do [this] or you’ll be arrested.” That’s a scam.** Any threat like this is a lie. Nobody needs money or information to keep you out of jail, keep you from being deported, or avoid bigger fines. They’re all scams.
- **“Don’t hang up.” That’s a scam.** If someone wants to keep you on the phone while you go withdraw or transfer money, buy gift cards, or anything else they’re asking you to do: that’s a scammer. DO hang up.
- **“Move your money to protect it” is a scam.** Nobody legit will tell you to transfer or withdraw money from your bank or investment accounts. But scammers will.
- **“Withdraw money and buy gold bars” is a scam.** Always. Every time.
- **“Withdraw cash and give it to [anyone]” is a scam.** Doesn’t matter who they say: it’s a scam. Don’t give it to a courier, don’t deliver it anywhere, don’t send it. It’s a scam.
- **“Go to a Bitcoin ATM” is a scam.** Nobody legit will ever insist you get cryptocurrency of any kind. And there’s no legit reason for someone to send you to a Bitcoin ATM. It’s a scam.
- **“Buy gift cards” is a scam.** There’s never a reason to pay for anything with a gift card. And once you share the PIN numbers on the back, your money’s as good as gone. If you see or hear any version of any of these phrases, you’ve just spotted a scammer. Instead of doing what they say, stop. Hang up. Delete the email. Stop texting. Block their number — anything to get away from them.



What's a verification code and why would someone ask me for it?

By: Alvaro Puig, Consumer Education Specialist

When you log into your bank or credit card account, you might get a text message or email with a verification code. You then enter it at the login screen to confirm it's really you. That's a form of two-factor authentication that adds a layer of security to your account and keeps would-be scammers and hackers out.

Your account password and a verification code work together, like the lock on your door-knob and a deadbolt lock. If you unlock the doorknob but not the deadbolt, you can't get in. Likewise, if you know the account password but not the verification code, you can't get in. The same goes for scammers trying to get into your account. To break into your account, scammers need both keys. That's why they try to trick you into sharing your [verification code](#).

Scammers pretend to be someone you can trust, and say they've discovered a problem with one of your accounts or that someone's using your identity. They may know some things about you and sound very convincing. They may even be very sympathetic to your problem: offering to help you set things right and then asking for your verification code to get into your account.

If you give them the code, they can log into your account and transfer all the money out of your savings or investment accounts.

Never give your verification code to someone else. It's only for you to log into your account. **Anyone** who asks you for your account verification code is a scammer.

If someone asks you for your verification code, don't engage. Hang up. Block their number. Stop texting them. Then report them to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identitytheft).

If you're worried there's a problem with your account, contact your bank, credit union, or investment advisor directly. Use a number you trust, like the one on your statement or in your app. Never use the number the caller gave you; it'll take you to the scammer.

Did you get a call about
suspicious activity in your
Amazon account?

It's a scam. Hang up.



By: Alvaro Puig, Consumer Education Specialist

One way to spot a scam is to understand its mechanics. A new and complicated scam starts with a call or text message about a suspicious charge on your Amazon account. But it's not really Amazon. It's a scammer with an elaborate story about fraud using your identity that ends with you draining your bank or retirement accounts.

Here's what to know about this scam

It's not Amazon calling. Scammers spoof their phone number to make it look like it's Amazon calling. Don't trust the number in your caller ID and don't trust what the caller tells you. Worried about a suspicious purchase on Amazon? Log in through the website or app. Don't call back the number that called you or a number someone left in a voicemail or text message.

No one legitimate will tell you to keep it a secret. If there's a problem with your account or identity, always talk about it with someone you trust, especially if the stranger on the phone says it's serious or involves a crime or claims to be from the government. That's a scam.

No one used your Social Security number to open fraudulent accounts in your name. Scammers say this to scare you. Don't trust the person on the phone. To know for sure, get an instant copy of your credit report online for free and look for accounts you don't recognize. Visit (or have someone help you visit) [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com).

Don't believe a caller who says you'll be arrested for account fraud. That's a scam. If someone stole your identity to open fraudulent accounts, complete an Federal Trade Commission identity theft report at [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identity-theft), then put an [extended fraud alert](#) on your credit report. Do not transfer money or drain your savings to protect it from fraud.