

February 2020

# The Woodland WORD



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The Villages of  
**Woodland Springs**  
Homeowners' Association

The purpose of a homeowners association (HOA) is to maintain, enhance and protect the common areas and interests of the subdivision or neighborhood. Individual homeowners, as members of the association, pay periodic assessments, support & utilize neighborhood amenities (ponds, pools, parks, tennis courts, etc.). The assessments pay for community expenses such as entrance monuments, landscaping, amenities like clubhouses, tennis courts, or walking trails, insurance for commonly-owned structures and areas, an on-site management company, or any other item delineated in the governing documents or agreed to by the homeowners' association.

**Board Members**

President.....	Tony DeVito
Vice President .....	Jim Houston
Treasurer .....	Chad Pack
Secretary .....	Frank Friar
Director .....	Chuck Stark
Director .....	Chris Collins
Director .....	Frank McArthur

The Villages of  
**Woodland Springs**  
Homeowners' Association

**The Villages of Woodland Springs Homeowners Association Professionally Managed by FirstService Residential**



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RESIDENTIAL

**FirstService Residential**

**Customer Service: 877-378-2388**

Please use this telephone number to report all non-emergency complaints and information.

**On-Site Management Team:**

Craig Asaff, General Manager  
Craig.Asaff@fsresidential.com

Claudia Lindsey, Assistant General Manager  
Claudia.Lindsey@fsresidential.com

Taunya Pair, Administrative Assistant  
Vows.Admin@fsresidential.com

VOWS Office email - vows.admin@fsresidential.com

The On-Site office is located at the Amenity Center at  
12209 Timberland.

On-Site Hours: Monday- Friday 9am-6pm  
Saturdays 10am-4pm

On-Site Number: 817-741-1719

On-Site Fax: 817-741-1720

**Account Services: 877-378-2388**

**www.woodlandspringshoa.com**

At FirstService Residential we have very strong values!

We strive to meet these values every day for our residents and hope you will join us in recognizing those individuals who go above and beyond in delivering great customer service.

- ▶ Have you witnessed an associate doing something great?
- ▶ Have you been exceptionally pleased with the service you have received?
- ▶ Do you want to let others know how awesome someone is?

Help us show recognition to our Star Performers. Please email your feedback to [starserviceonsite@fsresidential.com](mailto:starserviceonsite@fsresidential.com). Be sure to list the Star performers' name and community. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Your HOA Management Team

**The Woodland Word**

Is the only authorized and official monthly publication for the residents of the Woodland Springs Community with news and a calendar of community events endorsed by the Woodland Springs HOA & its members.

**PUBLISHED BY**

Community News Connection, Inc.  
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972-396-8855 • [www.communitynewsconnection.com](http://www.communitynewsconnection.com)

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**Advertising Deadline for the March 2020 Issue  
Is January 31, 2020**

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# Daddy Daughter Dance

*We will have two dances this year!*

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Dance • 4:30-6:30pm || 2<sup>nd</sup> Dance • 7-9pm

12209 Timberland Blvd.

Tickets \$5 per person

Registration is open

Fathers, Uncles,  
Grandfathers, or anyone  
with a special girl is invited  
to spend a semi-formal  
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# WINTER ACTIVITIES *for your family*

*Did you know that Allen, Texas has many opportunities to keep your family busy and active during winter months?*

On one of the pleasant winter days when the weather isn't too cold, your family can play Disc Golf. There is a Disc Golf course at Bethany Lakes Park located at 745 S. Allen Heights Dr. Disc Golf is a game similar to golf in which the person with the lowest score wins. Disc golf is played with plastic disc that is thrown into a series of metal baskets on an outdoor course. The whole family can enjoy this fun outdoor game as well as encourage a little friendly family competition.

It might not snow in Allen this year, but Ice skating can be an entertaining activity for the family anyway. Allen Community Ice Rink has open skate times for all ages/all levels for \$5.00 a person. Check their website for more details and times.

Does your family like to swim? The Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium is an excellent way to let your kids swim, keep busy and be active in winter months. No need to have a membership to the Natatorium, open swim times are available to the public three days a week. An adult can swim for \$5.00 and kids are \$4.00. Be sure and check their website for open swim times.

Bowling as a family can be an enjoyable activity. There are several bowling options in Allen but if you have not visited PINSTACK yet, you will be surprised that there is much more to do than bowl in one of their 28 bowling lanes. PINSTACK has a full-service restaurant, a two-level laser tag area, a high-ropes course, rock climbing and video games. Bowling and all the other activities at PINSTACK can be enjoyed by all members of the family.

*This winter, don't be stuck inside your house. Remember there are lots of fun family activities in Allen!*



## City of Fort Worth

**Get connected and stay informed about city services and programs**

The City of Fort Worth is launching a new information delivery service to help you get connected to your city government and stay informed about services and programs.

With the addition of this new GovDelivery platform, subscribers can choose the topics they wish to read about and determine when and how often these topics are delivered to them. Daily and weekly digest of information will be available.

All city departments will be using GovDelivery as their mechanism for news and information to residents. No content is going away – it will just look a tad different and be delivered in a new, more convenient format.

If you are an existing subscriber or member of a city email list, we have transferred your email to this new program.

Visit the subscriber preference pages at the link below to manage your subscription, sign up for new topics and tell us how often you want to receive updates so you continue to receive important community news.

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXFTWORTH/subscriber/new>



## NOTARY ON SITE

Notary Public services are now at the VOWS HOA office. Services are provided by appointment only.

Please call or send an email to [claudia.lindsey@fsresidential.com](mailto:claudia.lindsey@fsresidential.com) to schedule and appointment.

Services are free to VOWS residents.



**Yard of the Month is taking a break.**

*See you next Spring!*

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[www.northcentralballet.com](http://www.northcentralballet.com)  
@northcentralballet



# VOWS OWLS

**O**lder, **W**iser, **L**ively **S**eniors



**Every Wednesday  
VOWS Amenity  
Center  
10 AM – 11:30 AM**

Over 50? Meet with fun folks at our weekly event. Bingo, card games, exercise classes and potlucks are just a few of the activities planned. Our goal is to bring together senior residents in our neighborhood for fun activities. We plan to meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the Amenity Center.

For more information, please contact the HOA office at  
817-741-1719.

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## Important Reference Numbers

### Important Reference Numbers

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Code Enforcement.....	817-392-1234
Fire (non-emergency).....	817-922-3000
Graffiti.....	817-392-3670
Police (non-emergency).....	817-392-4222
Trash/ Recycle.....	817-392-1234
Water.....	817-392-4477
VOWS (onsite office).....	817-741-1719
VOWS (after hours).....	877-378-2388



### VOWS Safety/Security Committee: VACATION HOUSE CHECKS

Planning to be out of town? Even with a neighbor or a friend watching the house, it's a good idea to contact the VOWS Off Duty Officers to come do a Vacation House Check. (available year round)

Home owners just need to email them a week in advance, please include the details of the attached sheet, you'll get a response it was received. They really need at least a week to hear from you in case more info needed, so don't wait until the last minute to email them!

Off Duty Officers that VOWS hires will come by and check on the house, NOT just drive by. They will check the door, etc.

Just email : [Police4VOWS@gmail.com](mailto:Police4VOWS@gmail.com)



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Jennifer McCutcheon, DVM | Lauren Carroll, DVM



## COVENANT CORNER

# How to Read the Association's Financial Report

Many states require association boards to submit financial reports to association members—or, at least, make them available on request. A financial report includes information that association board members use to plan the community's annual budget and direct its financial operations. Examining the association's financial reports shows you how your money—and your neighbors'—is being used.

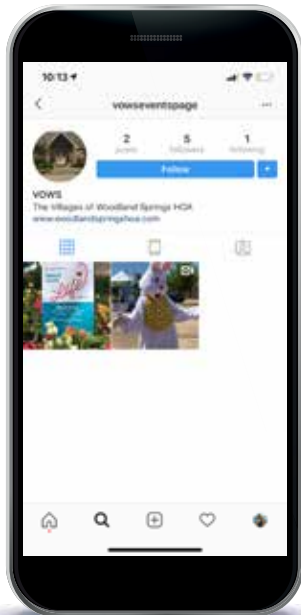
The following may help you understand what your association report contains:

- Start with the summary. The year's financial highlights—what was earned, what was spent and what remains available in reserves—is usually summarized in simple language in the first page or two of the report.
- Read essential financial data. Pay attention to the association's cash position and reserve fund balances, which will be indicated separately from the operating funds. The financial report should be separated into the following parts:
  - » The balance sheet includes the association's assets (income and reserves) and liabilities (what is owed) at a specific point in time.
  - » The income statement indicates what money the association can expect from regular and special assessments and other sources like clubhouse rental or interest from investments.
  - » The statement of cash flow is a summary of anticipated income and expected expenses than may include utilities, maintenance contract payments—landscaping, pool, trash pickup, elevators—as well as insurance costs, payroll and taxes.
- Review marketing information. Prospective buyers often ask to see an association's financial statements, so basic marketing data about the community may be included in the report. This information can be valuable in marketing your own home if you decide to sell.

## FOLLOW US!

## The Villages of Woodland Springs is on Instagram!

Follow @VOWSEventsPage for event updates and featured volunteers! If you see someone doing a good deed in the neighborhood please be sure to tag the new page!



BRING BACK THE 80S

# RETRO Party

## RIGHTEOUS!

VOWS is hosting its 2nd annual 80's dance party that will be like totally cool! Throw on those neon leg warmers, grab a date and jump back in time! There will be pizza, arcade games, a photo booth and a live band to help you dance the night away.

**Saturday, February 15th**  
**Festivities will start at 7pm • Amenity Center**  
**12209 Timberland Blvd. • Fort Worth, TX 76244**  
**Registration is required**

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# CODE BLUE CONNECTION

## *The Spirit of Volunteering*

The VOWs community has MANY kind hearted residents who step-up at a moments' notice to help residents in need. Whether it's advice, time, labor, transportation, services, support or monetary contributions, VOWS residents are known for open arms, big hearts and deep pockets! Some of which are so humble, they remain anonymous their entire life. We as a community should be proud that the residents of VOWS care enough to make a difference in North Fort Worth.

We can be daily examples to our children of the "Spirit of Volunteering." By our commitment, they can see firsthand how a community comes together. Show your child how a little effort on your part can make an impact on the community.

Don't assume there isn't enough time to volunteer. Volunteering can be as simple as picking up trash as you walk your dog or walking with the neighbor kids while you walk your child to school. You can create your own act of kindness that can become a repeated gesture.

There are many volunteering opportunities that require training. Some are more structured, do to rules and regulations of an establishment, such as a hospital, organization or a place of business. These require more time but can become a real passion and a labor of love.

The Citizens on Patrol are committed to fighting crime in VOWS. We are trained by FW Police officers and given the opportunity to ride with a patrol officer. After



training, we are issued police radios, shirts, badges and signs for our car. We can participate as much as we like, because crime is not going away. There are even volunteer opportunities for shut-ins who can be trained to become a base radio operator. They monitor the patrolers, right from the comfort of

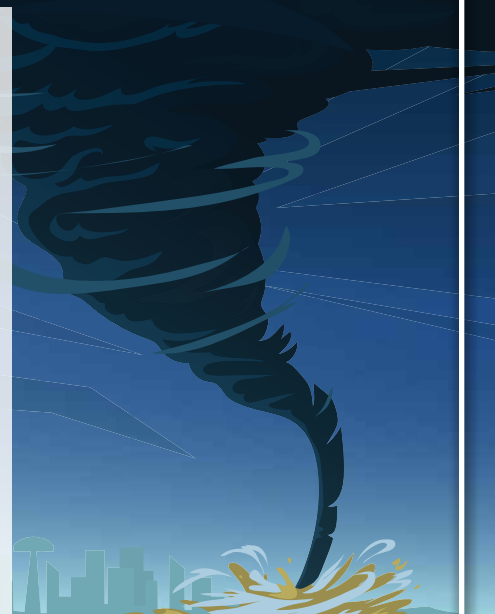
their own home.

We encourage you to find your passion and show your community spirit by volunteering. If you are interested in the Citizen on Patrol Program in VOWS please contact the North Div. Coordinator Cindy Strause at [Cindy.Strause@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Cindy.Strause@fortworthtexas.gov).

## Reaching Others When **DISASTERS** Strike

The first thing many of us do during or immediately following a natural disaster is to call family and friends. Unfortunately, in the minutes and hours after a disaster, overloaded cell phone networks can make it difficult—if not impossible—to reach others. While there is no guarantee, the following tips can increase your chances of getting through when it matters most.

- Even if you have a traditional landline, keep a corded phone in your home. It will work even if you lose power.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers in your cell phone and near your home phone.
- Prepare a family contact sheet with at least one out-of-town person who can serve as your family's emergency contact. Often it's easier to make long distance rather than local calls during an emergency.
- Have charged batteries and car phone chargers for back-up power.
- Subscribe to text alert services from local or state governments and schools to receive emergency alerts.
- Use text messaging, e-mail or social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Linked In instead of making calls on your cell phone. Texts and e-mails are less likely to experience network congestion. You can use social media to let family and friends know you're okay.
- Keep phone calls brief to avoid tying up voice networks.
- Conserve your cell phone battery by reducing screen brightness and closing apps you are not using.
- Limit streaming videos, downloading music or playing video games on cell phones after a disaster to help emergency calls get through to 911.
- Call 911 only if you have a life-threatening emergency.







LANDSCAPE &amp; GROUNDS COMMITTEE

# LANDSCAPE CORNER

For Woodland Word & E-blast  
Newsletter provided by

**JIM HOUSTON**

Landscape & Grounds  
Committee (LGC)  
Chairperson & VP  
Board of Directors

## Look for Future Articles on:

Plantings on Berms Along Park Vista Blvd?  
New West Beach = Summer Fun!  
Circle Azalea Bed at The Slide Pool, a Real Beauty!  
What's Zoysia? New Grass Sodding around VOWS  
Foot Lighting - Walking path enjoyment, Extended  
Median Nose Tip Landscaping - Pretty Turns  
Woodland Springs Entry Drive - Tree Replacements  
Parkway Trees - City of Fort Worth Partner  
West side Clean up efforts in the drainage areas

## New Westside Sand Beach = 2020 SUMMER FUN!

### Hello Neighbors!

Just a quick reminder - we can all make a difference by reporting landscape issues that are of concern to our management office or by reaching out directly to the LGC via email at [vowslandscapeandgrounds@gmail.com](mailto:vowslandscapeandgrounds@gmail.com).

It's cold outside right now. But, will you be ready to bury your toes in warm beach sand and hit a few balls around this summer? If so, the new Westside Sand Beach will be the place for you. Equipped with a Volley ball net, Tether ball and Corn Hole boards, the Westside Sand Beach is a close-to-home destination for summer fun. To create it, construction crews had to install over 250 cubic yards of real beach sand and then in some areas back-fill it up to 18 inches deep! They also created a rock swale midway across for quicker rain drainage. This inviting beach is ready-for-prime-time playtime for all our kids, big and small. Although we don't have any crashing waves, (and there is no swimming allowed in the retention ponds), we can all enjoy a brief respite, imagine aquamarine seas, and get our toes warm and sandy. Now put your slippers on before you freeze those toes off!

Both the west and east side sand beaches will be graded and cleaned regularly to keep them looking their best all year long. By creating sand beaches, we are following the Landscape Committee's, "3 Pillars" vision for a greener, shadier, and a more pedestrian friendly neighborhood for our residents to enjoy.

That's all for this time, I hope you enjoyed reading LGC Landscape Corner, and remember, it takes our entire community cooperating together to keep VOWS one of the best neighborhoods to live in, in North Texas!

Thanks, *Jim*

# Events 2020

**Daddy Daughter Dance - 2/1**

**80's Dance - 2/15**

**Egg Hunt - 3/28**

**Mother Son Social - 5/9**

**School's Out Luau - 6/6**

**Forth of July Celebration - 7/4**

**Back to School Bash - 8/1**

**Fall Fest/Chili Cook-off - 10/10**

**Goat Yoga - TBD**

**Breakfast with Santa - 12/5**

**Firefighter Meet and Greet - TBD**





# Save the Date!

If you are not currently receiving emails from the HOA, please email us so that we can add you to the list:  
[vows.admin@fsresidential.com](mailto:vows.admin@fsresidential.com)

## February 2020 Upcoming Events:

Daddy Daughter Dance .....	February 1st
Annual Meeting.....	February 4th
Daytime Crafters.....	February 13th
Valentine's Day .....	February 14th
80's Dance.....	February 15th
Early Voting .....	February 18th – 28th
Board Meeting .....	February 25th



Calling  
**AFTER-HOURS**  
 877-378-2388

After regular business hours, our management company has a very efficient emergency response system in place in order to respond to appropriate emergencies, which are situations that can cause the damage of property. You may reach out Customer Care Center after hours at 877-378-2388.

Our management company can do little about your neighbor's dog barking at 3am. We recommend calling the police non-emergency number at 817-392-1234. The best way to handle this kind of situation long term, is for you and other affected neighbors to report it in writing each time an incident occurs and submit it to the City of Fort Worth.

Prowlers and vandals are best handled by the local law enforcement officials. The quickest, most effective response and enforcement will come from the Police department.

However, if a broken common area sprinkler or irrigation timer is threatening property, the management company should be notified by calling the Customer Care Center number listed above. Our staff is on call, and will handle the emergency as soon as possible.

A rule of thumb to remember when determining whether or not to call the management company after-hours is that if the property threatening situation can be addressed by one of the Association's contractors, and if not reported immediately will cause personal or property damage, then call.

Remember, our Board of Directors and management depend on the eyes and ears of the community to make sure that all of community's needs are met. Please don't hesitate to contact management during normal business hours with any questions you may have about the after-hours policy.

## AMENITY CENTER RULES & REGULATIONS

### Thinking of renting the Amenity Center for a party or event?

**Please call the office today at  
 (817) 741-1719 to reserve your spot.**

The Amenity Center can be rented by VOWS homeowners for their personal use. However, in the interest of maintaining the Center, avoiding extra work for the on-site staff, avoiding potential damages and keeping the Center in good condition, rules and regulations have been established for its use. A few rules are as follows: No Alcohol, no pets, and no fog machines. For a complete list of rules visit our website at [www.woodlandspringshoa.com](http://www.woodlandspringshoa.com).

When each homeowner rents the Amenity Center, a contract must be signed signifying their understanding, acceptance, an agreement to follow the rules and regulations regarding the rental. Violation of any of these rental conditions is cause for denial of future rentals.

A deposit of \$500 is also required. This deposit will be returned in full after the event if the Amenity Center is cleaned, put in order, and determined to be damage-free. A list of the charges that will be deducted from the deposit for non-compliance is provided each renter at the time the rental contract is signed.

Each renter should take pictures and provide them to the office staff to verify the condition of the Amenity Center when the rental is started in order to avoid potential deductions from the deposit amount.

## Here's a Bright Idea

Advertise in this publication and reach the colorful characters right in your own neighborhood.

**Contact us today!**

972-396-8855

[info@communitynewsconnection.com](mailto:info@communitynewsconnection.com)

## CONNECT RESIDENT PORTAL

For resident specific questions, governing documents and account information visit the resident exclusive website

<https://thevillagesofwoodlandsprings.connectresident.com/>

Residents Can:

- Download meeting minutes and financial documents
- View or pay their account balance
- Sign up for text and voice community alerts
- Manage their emergency contact information
- View a calendar of community events
- View or download community forms and documents
- Contact the 24/7 Customer Care Center

## Late Fees on Past Due Assessments

Semi-annual assessments are due on January 1st and July 1st each year. Please pay the full amount due by January 30th and July 30th respectively, or late fees will occur. Payments can be made online at ClickPay.com, the online payment provider for FirstService Residential. Homeowners can make one-time payments or set up monthly payments through ClickPay. Payments can be made by e-check (ACH) for free, or by credit/debit card for a small processing fee. Get started by creating your account at [www.ClickPay.com/FirstService](http://www.ClickPay.com/FirstService). For help getting started, visit [www.ClickPay.com/GetHelp](http://www.ClickPay.com/GetHelp) or call 1-888-354-0135.



### Late fee schedule as follows:

**30 Days late:** \$270.00 Dues + \$25.00 1st Late fee + \$15.00 Reminder Notice = \$310

**60 Days late:** \$310 Balance + \$25.00 2nd Late fee + \$15.00 Second Notice = \$350

**90 Days late:** \$350 Balance+ \$25.00 3rd Late fee + \$80.00 Demand Letter = \$455

A late fee of \$25.00 will be applied each month until the balance exceeds \$800.00. Once the balance exceeds \$800.00, the account will be transferred to the attorney for collection and homeowner will incur substantial additional legal expenses.

## DFWHS Pet of the Month

### Meet Brownie!

For any of you concerned about your diet, I'm a Brownie that doesn't come with the guilt! I'm big and beautiful as well as playful and energetic. I love toys and running and water and playing and fetching and loving. I could go on, but I have to save some mystery for when you come to meet me. I am a friendly 3-year-old gal. I am best suited as your only fur baby due to my size and energetic personality. I like a lot of attention. I will be a loyal companion. Let's meet— at DFW Humane Society (www.dfwhumane.com)



Society (www.dfwhumane.com)

Brownie is ready for her loving forever home and includes the following:

- Spay/Neuter
- Heartworm Test
- Distemper/Parvo shot
- Bordetella
- General Deworm
- Microchip
- Microchip Enrollment
- Free Exam at Vet within 10 days of adoption
- Leash

If you'd like to express interest in adopting, please contact us at [www.dfwhumane.com](http://www.dfwhumane.com) or call 972-721-7788





# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

*If you'd like to inform residents of a club, group, hobby, or interest, let us know - email the management office at [vows.admin@fsresidential.com](mailto:vows.admin@fsresidential.com) with the subject **ACTIVITIES**. Only residents who are current with VOWS HOA assessments may participate. All meetings below are at the Amenity Center unless otherwise noted. Please note that scheduled activities or details may change after The Woodland Word goes to print, but up-to-date info can be found at: [www.woodlandspringshoa.com/community-events-calendar/](http://www.woodlandspringshoa.com/community-events-calendar/)*

## VOWS OWLS

Over 50? Meet fun folks at our weekly event. Bingo, card games, exercise classes and potlucks are just a few of the future activities planned. Our goal is to bring together senior residents in our community for fun activities. Meets every Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the Amenity Center.

## DAYTIME CRAFTERS

Crafters group that meets monthly at the Amenity Center. Open to anyone in the HOA. Bring any project you want to work on or just come and see what others are doing. Bring your own food and drink and feel free to come and go at any time. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, share ideas and have fun. Email Janas Horner at [janashorner@earthlink.net](mailto:janashorner@earthlink.net) for more information.

## ADULT INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS ENGLISH CLASSES

Meet new friends as you learn English! Classes are available at beginning, advanced beginning, and intermediate levels. Focus is on vocabulary, grammar, and conversation as well as on learning everyday tasks like banking, shopping, making appointments, and completing job applications. Students from varied backgrounds and language groups are welcome. Contact Dorothy O'Grady (817.337.7458) or Lawrence Duhon (817.431.2545) to register. Location: First Baptist Church of Keller, 225 Keller Parkway, Keller, TX 76248, Room 224. Fee: \$5 total for class book and workbook. Now offering citizenship classes.

## VOWS BOOK CLUB

Meets the second Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm. Books are nominated and voted on by members. Add yourself to the Facebook group "woodland springs book club" for more information.

## WALKERS/RUNNERS/BIKERS/TRI-ATHLETES

Saturdays 6:30 am; meet at Bray Birch Park to go for a walk, run, or bike ride. Walkers/Runners are diverse in experience.

## HOMESCHOOL GROUP

VOWS residents who homeschool children are invited to join the homeschool group, created to support each other. Please contact Holly Bender by email at [vowshomeschool@gmail.com](mailto:vowshomeschool@gmail.com) with HOMESCHOOL in the subject line.

## PLAYGROUP

Bray Birch Park after school 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!

## TODDLER PLAYGROUP

Playgroup for preschool age children. Please go to the VOWS Facebook page at [facebook.com/woodland.springs](https://facebook.com/woodland.springs) and search "VOWS Playgroup in the search box for more information on this group.

## CRAFT NIGHT

VOWS hosts a craft night each month – see calendar for date. Admission is an item to share for the potluck meal; please bring your own drink. (No alcohol). For more info: [dikes1@aol.com](mailto:dikes1@aol.com) with the subject "CRAFT NIGHT".

## THE COWTOWN STACKERS CUP STACKING CLUB

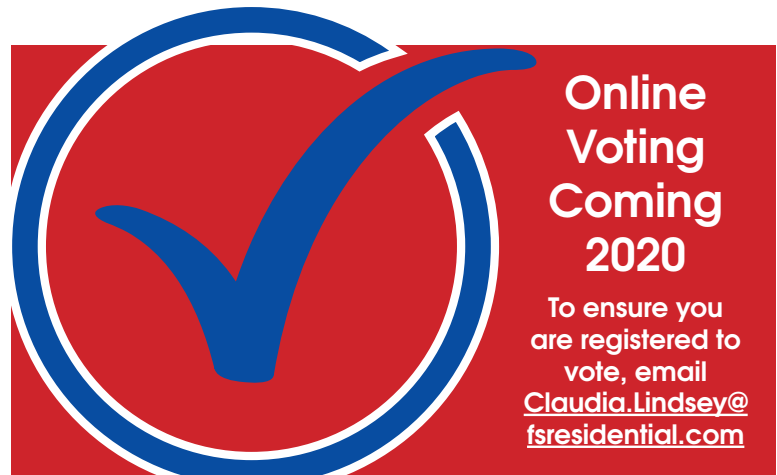
This group meets Thursdays from 5:00 pm -6:00 pm at the VOWS amenity center on Timberland Blvd. Stackers from ages 5-95 with skill levels from beginner to expert are invited to attend. Cost is free but please bring your own cups, timer, and stack mat. For more information, contact Jimmy and Carmen Griffith at [jcgx4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcgx4@sbcglobal.net).

## VOWS ANNUAL MEETING

February 4, 2020

6:30pm

Amenity Center  
12209 Timberland Blvd.  
Fort Worth, TX 76244



# A GUIDE TO STAIN REMOVAL

## Simple Stain-Removing Solutions

If there's an accident on your carpet or a rug, start by scooping up any solids and soaking up any unabsorbed liquids. Then, blot the stain with a white cloth or paper towel. You should work from the outside in so you don't spread the spill, and dab at it instead of rubbing or pressing hard.

You also can try spot cleaning with a soapy water mix. Dilute a ¼ teaspoon of clear hand-dishwashing soap with 1 cup of lukewarm water. Spray the solution on the stain, and mist the area with clean water or blot with a wet towel. Then blot the area with a dry towel. Repeat this process until you get as much residue out as possible.

Follow these specific instructions for cleaning up the more stubborn stains and sticky spots on your floors:

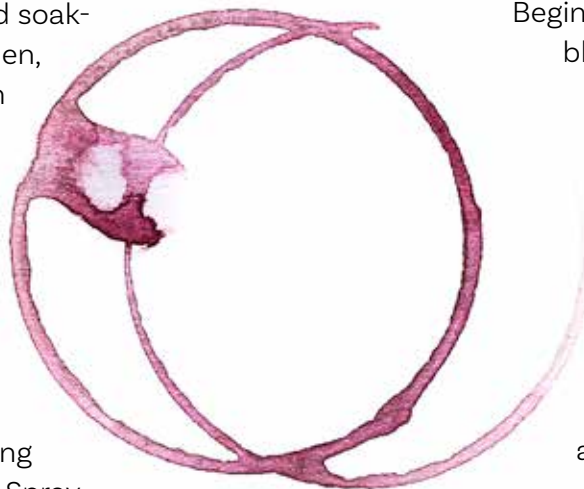
### RED WINE

Begin with the same three steps—blot, apply soapy water and rinse. Then, dribble very hot water from a sponge onto the spill.

Continue to blot with a clean towel, and repeat until the carpet no longer shows any red.



Try as you might to prevent them, spills, drips and splatters in your house are inevitable. Whether you, your family or your guests are the culprits, stains happen. Most, if not all, are treatable, especially if you act quickly and use the right stain-removing technique.



### SOFT DRINKS & COFFEE

Begin with the same three steps—blot, apply soapy water and rinse. Then dab on hydrogen peroxide. Wait one hour before repeating the process. Hydrogen peroxide bleaches a stain without breaking down carpet dyes. Use a 3 percent solution, which can be found at a drugstore, and apply at full strength.

### CANDLE WAX & CHEWING GUM

These are easiest to remove when hot or cold. For the cold method, harden the spot by rubbing it with an ice cube inside a plastic bag. Then, carefully scrape off the residue with a dull knife or a plastic card, such as an expired credit card. For the hot method, apply paper towels over the waxy area, and then use a clothes iron on low heat to soak up the wax. Replace the paper towels until all the wax is removed. Use a hair dryer to heat gum. Then with a plastic bag over your fingers, pull the goo off.



### SO THE NEXT TIME...

your carpeting endures a nasty spill, rest assured that it doesn't have to become a permanent stain. With these simple tips, you can keep your carpets and rugs looking great for years to come.







## How to Donate Used Items Efficiently

Spring cleaning is right around the corner, and for many homeowners that could mean out with the “old” and in with the “new”—but what to do with the “old” when it’s not quite ready for the landfill? Donating used items is a great option as long as you do a little homework to find out which local organizations and donation centers are most appropriate for the items you’d like to give away. Use the following tips as a guideline for determining what goes where and how to get it there.

- **Many items are eligible for donation.** You might be surprised to learn exactly what items you can donate. In addition to clothing and furniture, cars, cell phones and other electronics, fitness equipment, home appliances—even art supplies and old towels—are widely accepted by specialized organizations. If you’re looking to donate a unique item, or several of the same items in bulk, do some further research about local organizations and donation centers in need of specific things.
- **Consider what shape your items are in to determine where you donate.** If you’re planning to donate a broken refrigerator, make sure the organization is aware the item is in need of repair. Some donation centers accept broken items for parts; however, most organizations and donation centers prefer to accept gently used items in working condition. Be sure to communicate the item’s condition prior to arranging a donation.
- **After choosing where to donate, decide how you’ll get the items to the organization.** Oftentimes large organizations and donation centers are able to arrange a day and time to pick up your unwanted items directly from your home or business. Smaller organizations in need might instead have certain days and times available for you to arrange a drop off at a specified location.
- **Make sure to get a donation receipt for tax purposes.** Before donating, make a detailed list of the items you’ll be giving away along with the estimated values. Keep in mind that, since the items are used, price points might be lower than expected. When your items are picked up or dropped off, request a receipt from the organization or donation center to keep track of what to count as a tax deduction. Speaking with a tax professional for advice also is a good idea.

Consider donating to our local charities such as Community Storehouse, Donation House, or volunteer your time at Sunshine Spaces.

Remember, the community garage sale is April 24th – 26th.

## VOWS E-News Periodical



Check out our newest form of communication, an upgraded, eye catching e-blast specifically built for fast communication with all VOWS residents. If you are not currently receiving e-blasts from the office please sign up to not miss out on important news updates and events within VOWS. To sign up, email [Claudia.Lindsey@fsresidential.com](mailto:Claudia.Lindsey@fsresidential.com) with your name, home address and best contact email.



As a nonprofit hunger relief organization, we distribute donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of more than 340 Food Assistance Partners in 13 counties. Every day, we support the nutritional needs of children, families and seniors through education, advocacy and strategic partnerships.



**North Texas Food Bank**  
**4500 S. Cockrell Hill Road**  
**Dallas, TX 75236-2028**  
**214.330.1396**  
**[ntfb.org](http://ntfb.org)**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Daddy Daughter Dance 4:30pm
2	3	4 Annual Meeting 6:30pm	5 VOWS OWLS 10-11:30am	6 Cowtown Stackers 5-6pm	7	8
9	10	11	12 VOWS OWLS 10-11:30 am	13 Daytime Crafters 10am – 3pm Cowtown Stackers 5-6pm	14 Valentine's Day	15 80's Dance
16	17	18 Early Voting	19 VOWS OWLS 10-11:30 am Early Voting	20 Cowtown Stackers 5-6pm Early Voting	21 Early Voting	22 Early Voting
23 Early Voting	24 Early Voting	25 Board Meeting 6:30pm Early Voting	26 VOWS OWLS 10-11:30 am Early Voting	27 Cowtown Stackers 5-6pm Early Voting	28 Early Voting	29



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Restrictions apply, see Center Director for details. Offer valid only once per family at Children's Lighthouse Woodland Springs location only.