



## **DANGER, DANGER:** RETRACTABLE DOG LEASHES

I see so many residents walking their dogs about the neighborhood on retractable dog leashes. When we first moved to Wortham in 1998, it was generally quite enjoyable to take our dogs on walks around the park. In the last several years however there appears to have been a significant increase in the number of people walking their dogs using retractable leashes. We no longer consider it to be safe walking our dogs around the neighborhood or park and here's why:

Retractable leashes substantially reduce (or eliminate) the control they have over their dogs as well as create an increased risk of severe injuries to the dog and the handler. The Consumer Products Safety Commission noted that in 2007, there were a total of 16,564 hospital-treated injuries associated with leashes although not all were related to retractable leashes. The injuries ranged from abrasions, "burns" and cuts from nylon leashes to amputations and compound fractures from retractable leashes.

Retractable leashes can extend to a distance of up to about 25 feet. People seem to feel that they are giving their dogs a more favorable experience by allowing them more freedom on these leashes. Unfortunately, there is no way you can successfully control or safeguard your dog on a leash of this length. A medium to large dog should be on a non-retractable leash no more than 4 feet long and smaller dogs on a 6 foot leash.

Retractable leashes are dangerous for other reasons. You or your dog can become tangled in the thin cord of a retractable and that can lead to serious injury to both you and your dog. Your dog can bolt into the street before you can reel him in and get him under control. The retractables – because of the mechanics involved – can and do malfunction and wear over time.

Applying basic physics to the issue, imagine a 60 pound dog who can run or bolt at 30 feet per second (that's less than two

full strides for a Labrador Retriever), the amount of force applied to the cord of the retractable leash is 840 ft. lbs. of force which is more than sufficient to cause the leash to snap, causing both a potential backlash to the handler and then you have a loose dog! Whether the cord snaps or doesn't, serious injury can be inflicted to the dog up to and including fractures of the neck, torn trachea, extremity injuries, spinal injuries, etc.

Retractable leashes can also cause behavioral issues with your dog due to the freedom of a retractable leash or, even worse, if they were ever injured by one. There appears to be a national trend evolving to ban retractable leashes in pet stores and dog parks; and some cities are banning them in residential areas as well.

There are also potential legal issues to consider as well. If your dog bites or otherwise injures someone or their dog, and your dog was on a retractable leash, you could well find yourself the defendant in a lawsuit or – at the least – having to submit a claim under your homeowner's policy and they may decline coverage for the incident.

Walking your dog should be a bonding experience. Your dog should walk at the "heel position" – on your left side on a loose leash. All dogs should undergo - at the very least - basic obedience training. Basic obedience – come, sit, down, stay, stand and heel – can well save your dog's life! Local pet stores offer basic obedience training as well as Canine Good Citizenship classes for a relatively nominal amount and there are several very good dog training centers in our area as well. Basic obedience training takes only about 15-20 minutes of your time but should be practiced every single day until your dog is consistently obedient. A note here: Obedience training involves teaching the owner how to train the dog and the whole family needs to be involved and consistent with training and commands at all times.

# Wortham Villages

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### MANAGEMENT

Crest Management ..... 281-945-4613  
Heather Esteban (Manager) ... heather.esteban@crest-management.com  
Robin Motley (Accounting) ..... Ext. 24  
Fax number ..... 281-579-7062

### BOARD MEMBERS

Stan Schoen ..... sschoen@worthamweb.org  
Jonathan Armstrong ..... jarmstong@worthamweb.org  
Steve Carter ..... scarter@worthamweb.org  
Rick Anderson ..... randerson@worthamweb.org  
Rebecca McShane ..... rmcshane@worthamweb.org

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architectural Control  
Crest Management ..... 281-579-0761  
Clubhouse  
Lisa Teague ..... lcteague@sbcglobal.net, 281-894-5460  
Directory  
Mindy Armstrong ..... 281-970-2187  
Info. Signs  
Angie Haine ..... angiehaine@yahoo.com, 281-890-0186  
Neighborhood Watch Chair  
Marie Trascher ..... fatrascherjr@aol.com, 281-970-1553  
Park Committee  
Martin Mayne ..... martin@mayne.us, 281-955-2240  
Recreational Facilities Committee  
Rick Anderson ..... 281-890-4878

### Sports Fields Reservations

Martin Mayne ..... martinmayne.park@mayne.us  
Social  
Rebecca Shane ..... 281-890-730  
Tennis Committee  
Dorota Jankovsky ..... 281-955-9626

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Life Threatening Emergency ..... 911  
Fire ..... 911  
Sheriff's Department ..... 911  
Poison Control ..... 800-222-1222

### NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance ..... 713-466-4073  
Sheriff's Department ..... 713-221-6000  
Harris County Health Dept. .... 713-439-6000  
Animal Control ..... 281-999-3191  
Gas - Centerpoint ..... 713-659-2111

### WATER & SEWER - MUD 222 (Municipal Operations)

Service & Billing ..... 281-367-5511  
Street Lights ..... 713-207-2222  
Garbage & Recycling (Republic Waste) ..... 281-446-2030

*NOTE: If you have complaints about garbage service, after you call Republic Waste please notify Municipal Operations of your complaint.*

### U.S. POST OFFICE - FAIRBANKS STATION

7050 Brook Hollow West ..... 713-937-9108

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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## Need to use the baseball or soccer field in the detention pond? Need the pavilion for a party?

Make a reservation so you can be sure it's available! The calendar is online at <http://my.calendars.net/worthamvillages>

Once you check to see if the date is available, send me an email at [park@mayne.us](mailto:park@mayne.us) and I'll get you on the calendar too!

## First Baptist Church of Cypress

*Jesus said, "Come to me ... and I will give you rest."*

### Sundays:

Traditional worship: 10:45am

Children's worship: 10:45am

Bible Study: 9:30am

### Wednesdays:

Dinner: 6:00pm

Worship & Acts Study: 6:30pm

### Thursdays:

Men's coffee & Life Focus: 9:00-10:00am

### Christmas Program:

Sunday Dec. 20 at

5:00pm

### Christmas Eve Service:

Thursday Dec. 24 at

5:00pm

14515 Cypress N. Houston Rd, 77429 281-469-0171 [www.fbccypress.org](http://www.fbccypress.org)

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# WORTHAM VILLAGES BOARD MEETINGS

Wortham Villages Board meetings are open to all homeowner's. Monthly board meetings are generally held the third Wednesday of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the offices of Crest Management (17171 Park Row, Suite 310, Houston, Texas 77084), but may be changed for various reasons, including due to scheduling conflicts. For an accurate notification of board meetings, dates and times please visit Crest Management's website [www.crest-management.com](http://www.crest-management.com), then click on communities, then scroll down to Wortham Villages and click on it. There is box for you to put your email address that will notify you when the board is going to meet. The board does meet on a regular basis, although do cancel occasionally if the board cannot obtain a quorum. If you are interested in attending a board meeting, we do ask that you contact Crest Management beforehand so time can be scheduled and set aside during the meeting to address your comments or request.

Your Wortham Board of Directors



# Wortham Villages

## Incident Report September 2015

INCIDENT	OFFENSE TOTAL	INCIDENT	OFFENSE TOTAL
911 Hang Up.....	2	In Progress.....	1
Acci/Unk Maj Min.....	4	Information Call.....	3
Accident/FGSI.....	3	Meet the Citizen.....	6
Accident/Major.....	1	Meet the Officer.....	1
Accident/Minor.....	13	Missing Person.....	1
Alarm Local.....	10	MUD Bldg Ck.....	30
Alarm/Sil/Pan/HU.....	1	Neighborhood Check.....	13
Animal Humane.....	1	Parking Lot Check.....	7
Assault.....	2	Road Rage Inc.....	1
Assault/Family.....	1	Stranded MV.....	1
Burglary/Hab.....	1	Susp Person.....	3
Burglary/Motveh.....	3	Telephone Harras.....	1
Check Business.....	21	Theft/Other.....	1
Check Park.....	31	Theft Residence.....	1
Contract Check.....	101	Traffic Initiative.....	2
Credit Card Abuse.....	1	Traffic Hazard.....	1
Dist/Fireworks.....	1	Traffic Stop.....	18
Dist/Loud Noise.....	1	Unk Med Emerg.....	3
Dist/Other.....	2	Vacation Watch.....	5
Domestic Prevent.....	1	Vehicle Abandoned.....	1
Drug?OD/Poss.....	1	Vehicle Speeding.....	2
DWI.....	2	Vehicle Suspicious.....	10
Follow Up.....	1	Vehicle Stolen.....	3
Fraudulent Use ID.....	1	Welfare Check.....	4



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## Santa is coming to Wortham

**December 11 & 12, 2015 at the  
Wortham Clubhouse**

Girl Scout troops 15316 & 15306 invite you for a weekend of Santa fun:

The Night Before Christmas Santa will begin caroling around the neighborhood Friday December 11th, 6 pm inviting all the boys and girls to the clubhouse. At 7 pm, Santa will light our Christmas tree and read The Night before Christmas!

The girls of troop 15316 are asking for a donation of new Kinder or Pre K children's books. The books we receive will be donated to a sister school in need. Please join us to make this a memorable event!

Breakfast with Santa

Will be Saturday December 12th, 9 am – 11am. Please come and tell Santa your Christmas wishes. Sit on Santa's lap, snap a photo then, enjoy breakfast and crafts with Santa's elves. Bring your camera to capture this special moment.

### WORTHAM ARTICLES

Please submit your articles, neighborhood news items, birthday announcements by the 10th of the month to get in the next month's newsletter.

*Email to [dehoophr@icloud.com](mailto:dehoophr@icloud.com)*

During this busy time of year,  
it's important to remember the  
most significant things in life . . .

*Family, Faith & Friends.*

Wishing you & your family many  
simple pleasures this holiday season.



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# Wortham Villages

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE BLOCK CAPTAINS

Apple Forest.....Monica Schreiber, 281-435-9409  
Aspen Bough.....Bruckner, Eric & Marie, 281-890-8667  
Azalea Creek.....Needs Block Captain  
Birch Falls.....Holly Lewis, 713-817-1815  
Birch Falls.....Allisson, Kelly, 281-639-0010  
Brook Mill.....Young, Deanna, 281-890-0598  
Carriage Lake.....Boushley, Connie, 281-890-3499  
Carriage Lake.....Meinecke, Betty-J., 281-890-4329  
Chestnut Woods.....Hutchinson, Mark & Jan, 281-894-8410  
Chestnut Woods.....Claiborne, Ed & Pam, 281-469-7646  
Dawn Point & Elm Bough...Ramos, Angelina, 281-970-8545  
Dogwood Blossom.....Sanchez, Brice, 281-894-0890  
Dogwood Blossom...Johnson, Jean & Lonnie, 281-300-8282  
Dogwood Blossom.....De Hoop, Herman, 281-894-0212  
Elm Bridge Court.....Need Block Captain  
Fern Vale.....Lawrence, Jeremy & Amy, 713-859-2785  
Harvest Dale.....Welch, Terri, 281-890-4061  
Harvest Dale.....Franklin, Vernetta, 281-807-3834  
Hickory Tree.....Need Block Captain  
Hillside Glen.....Smet, Guido & Shelia, 281-970-4766

Hillside Glen (North).....Need Block Captain  
Lark Brook.....Ellie Kennedy, 281-894-7322  
Lark Brook.....Lara, Peggy, 281-970-4052  
Magnolia Leaf.....MacDonald, Lori, 281-469-0874  
Magnolia Leaf.....Scanterbury, Eloise, 281-894-8424  
Orchard Hollow & Town Elm.....Dineen, Mike, 281-894-6256  
Orchard Hollow.....Tolbert, Toney & Shirley, 281-894-0085  
Plum Vale.....Kelley, Dale, 281-469-1371  
Reedwood Ridge.....Need Block Captain  
Reedwood Ridge.....McGlamory, Kay, 281-955-2107  
Shady Fern.....Thornton, Carolyn, 281-807-1816  
Spruce Knoll.....Meyer, Bob, 281-469-3740  
Sycamore Heights.....Sommer, Donna, 832-237-4684  
Timberland Trace.....Peterson, Sandra, 281-897-9875  
Tulip Garden.....Jones, David & Jill, 281-955-8972  
Tulip Garden.....Chisari, Paul, 281-894-7053  
Walnut Lake.....Heafner, Cissy, 281-477-9553  
Wortham Blvd.....Need Block Captain  
Wortham Blvd.....Culp, Susan, 281-300-2411

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