

ANNEXATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) and how is the ETJ determined?

A. The ETJ of a municipality is the unincorporated area that is contiguous to the corporate boundaries of the municipality. The size of the ETJ depends on the population of the city. The City of Fort Worth's ETJ extends 5 miles beyond the city boundaries and includes all unincorporated territory that is not located in another city's ETJ. The Texas Legislature declares it the policy of the state to designate certain areas as the extraterritorial jurisdiction of municipalities to promote and protect the general health, safety, and welfare of persons residing in and adjacent to the municipalities.

Q. What authority does the City have in the ETJ?

A. The City holds authority over development standards in the ETJ through its Subdivision Ordinance.

Q. What City services will be provided on the day an area is annexed into the City?

A. In accordance with State law, the following services will be provided on the effective date of the annexation:

- Police protection
- Fire protection
- Emergency Medical Services
- Solid Waste collection
- Operation and maintenance of water and wastewater facilities that are not within the service area of another water or wastewater utility
- Operation and maintenance of roads and streets, including road and streetlight
- Operation and maintenance of publicly owned parks, playgrounds, and swimming pools; and,
- Operation and maintenance of any other publicly owned facility, building, or service

Q. How will annexation affect my taxes?

A. If your property is annexed this year, City property taxes will be assessed for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2006. You will receive your first tax bill in fall, 2006, which must be paid before February 1, 2007, to avoid penalties. The City Council adopts a new tax rate each fall. The current tax rate in Fort Worth is .865 per \$100 assessed value. Your actual tax bill could be reduced if you qualify for tax exemptions.

Q. Does the City provide exemptions on ad valorem taxes?

A. Yes - The City of Fort Worth allows exemptions for a number of conditions that will lessen the ad-valorem taxes you would pay. Exemptions currently being claimed by Fort Worth property owners are Homestead, Over-65, Disability and Disabled Veterans.

The City Council has the option to increase or decrease certain exemptions presently being claimed by property owners in Fort Worth.

These 'local option' exemptions include:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| General Homestead/Residential | 20% |
| Senior Citizen | \$40,000 in addition to Homestead |
| Disability | \$40,000 in addition to Homestead* |

Other state approved exemptions may apply to your property, including Agriculture.

**Homeowners cannot claim both the Senior Citizen and Disabled exemptions.*

Q. How would these exemptions affect my tax bill?

A. Using the average value of single-family residential properties in the proposed annexation areas of \$105,000, as well as property of greater or lesser values, the following chart shows the impact of the various optional exemptions.

2004 City Taxes (.865/\$100) on a house with a value of:

| <u>Exemptions:</u> | <u>\$50,000</u> | <u>\$105,000</u> | <u>\$150,000</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| No exemptions | \$432.50 | \$908.25 | \$1,297.50 |
| General Homestead | \$346.00 | \$726.60 | \$1,038.00 |
| Sr. Citizen with General Homestead | \$0.0 | \$380.60 | \$692.00 |
| Disability with General Homestead | \$0.0 | \$380.60 | \$692.00 |

The average valued home of \$105,000 with a general homestead exemption is \$726.60 per year or \$60.55 per month in City ad-valorem taxes, based on the 2004 tax rate.

Q. Will I still have to pay county taxes?

A. Yes - however, you should discontinue paying the Emergency Services District #1 tax or any other Emergency Services District Tax. County taxes are collected from all property owners throughout the county, whether a resident of a city or not, to provide the services administered by the county.

Police:

Contact: David Garrett, Planning Manager 817/392-4241

Email: David.Garrett@fortworthgov.org

Q. What about response time?

A. Response time is defined as the length of time from when the dispatcher receives a call until the officer arrives on the scene. Officers respond from their beat in the community, **not** from a police station. The Police Department has 3 categories of response time: Priority 1, 2 and 3.

Priority 1 is used for emergency calls that need an immediate response due to threat to life.

Priority 2 is for calls that do not have an immediate threat but have the potential to escalate, or there is a threat to property. Most calls for service are in this category.

Priority 3 is for calls that do not require immediate response and there is no potential threat to life or property.

The business plan for the Police Department includes these 3 items as performance measures and our objective for the fiscal year (citywide) is 6.5 minutes for Priority 1 calls, 16 minutes for Priority 2 calls, and 35 minutes for Priority 3 calls.

Average response time varies for different areas of the city and is also impacted by frequency of calls and other factors. The Police Department can provide statistics for response time for Beats and Police Reporting Areas as an open records request.

Q. Will there be neighborhood patrols?

A. The Police Department provides neighborhood-policing services to all areas of our jurisdiction. The city is currently divided into 77 beats. There are 5 patrol officers for each beat (to provide 24-hours - 7 days-a-week-coverage) and a Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) is also assigned to the beat. The NPO's work variable hours and work closely with neighborhood groups, residents, and businesses to solve police-related problems. Based upon a recently completed management study of the police department these beats are scheduled for reevaluation in the near future.

Q. Does a police officer have to come to my location for all reports?

A. No, for minor offenses a resident can contact the police department and make a report themselves using Police Department automated reporting systems. However, if a resident prefers, we will send an officer on all reports.

Q. Will the city build a police station in my area?

A. The Police Department currently has 4 Field Operations Division and each is housed in a city-owned building. There is a possibility, based upon the recently completed management study, of increasing the number of Field Operations Divisions, which would require new buildings. Future locations are not known at this time. The Police Department leases Neighborhood Policing District headquarters that are not staffed on a 24/7 basis. No expansion of these facilities is currently anticipated.

Q. Will detectives be assigned in my area?

A. Each of the four Field Operations Divisions has detectives assigned that conduct follow-up investigations on a number of offenses including shoplifting, theft from automobiles, burglaries and robberies. Units located at the main police headquarters downtown investigate offenses such as homicides, sexual assault, auto theft, etc.

Q. How many police officer positions does the city have?

A. The City currently employs 1,342 police officers, including all ranks.

Q. What services can I expect other than neighborhood patrol?

A. The following additional services are provided:

The Police Department has a traffic division that investigates accidents and provides comprehensive traffic control and enforcement. They also have a motorcycle section with 20 positions, and hit and run investigators.

The Air Services Unit has two Bell Helicopters that provide patrol coverage and conduct searches for missing persons, lost children, and suspects. They have a Flir (Forward Looking InfraRed) device that has been successfully used on many occasions for this purpose.

There is a Crime Response Team (CRT) in each Field Operations Division that can be used to address specific outbreaks of crime within the division. If necessary they can be combined to address an emergency or other serious crime situation.

The Police Department offers security surveys conducted by members of the police department who have completed advanced training in crime prevention. The service is for residences and businesses and can be obtained by contacting the Neighborhood Policing District headquarters or the Neighborhood Police Officer on the beat. Crime Prevention Specialists also provide crime prevention materials to groups or individuals, hold periodic crime prevention fairs, safe bicycle training, and other programs for children. Automobile Etching is another valuable crime prevention tool used by the department. Two vans have equipment that can be used to etch driver's license numbers of vehicles and property to aid in the recovery of these items.

Residents can enroll in the Citizens Police Academy, a multiple session program that provides comprehensive information on Fort Worth Police Department operations.

Neighborhoods can form Citizens on Patrol groups. Members receive 6 hours training from police officers on patrol techniques, recognizing and describing suspects, etc. Members are issued distinctive hats and windbreakers and the group receives magnetic signs to affix to cars (with the neighborhood name on the sign) and portable police radios to report suspicious behavior and contact officers. There are also neighborhood watch groups throughout the city that report suspicious activities in their neighborhood using telephones and who distribute information regarding crime prevention to their neighbors. Thanks to the efforts of citizens and police officers the Fort Worth Police Department has won a number of awards for community policing over the past decade.

Fire:

Contact: Eddie Burns, Executive Deputy Chief 817.392.6849
Email: Eddie.Burns@fortworthgov.org

Q. What will be the response time for fire service?

A. We strive to achieve a city-wide average response time goal of 5 minutes; in areas outside the 820 Loop it could be longer. Our response time is impacted by location of the fire station to the incident, condition of roads and streets and the way streets are laid out, traffic calming devices, as well as, traffic congestion, also weather conditions.

Q. Our area does not have fire hydrants, how will the fire department put out our fires?

A. The Fire Department has two water tankers available to shuttle water to fires in areas without fire hydrants; in addition, most of our fire apparatus are equipped with water tanks to provide initial fire attack.

Q. Will the city build a fire station in my area?

A. This has yet to be determined; the Fire Department will recommend sites for new fire stations based upon providing the best protection to the most people. The initial criteria used to determine when a fire station is needed are: response time, (which is previously stated to be five minutes); call volume, (is the projected number of calls for a given area), projected fire load, and population density.

Q. Will the Fire Dept., be conducting building inspections? If they find something wrong what will the property owner have to do?

A. Yes, the Fire Department annually inspects all commercial occupancies. If there are fire hazards, appropriate correction notices will be issued to enhance the safety of the occupancy.

Q. Why does Fort Worth call it a service if they make you pay for ambulance services?

A. The City of Fort Worth is a member of the Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority (AMAA), which operates under the trade name MedStar. In Fort Worth, ambulance service is partially subsidized by the City from the general fund; the balance of the cost of the service is borne by the users. This is not unlike many other city services that are funded through fees and other charges.

Streets:

Contact: Jean Petr, TPW 817/392-7915

Email: Jean.Petr@fortworthgov.org

Q. Will the city put up streetlights?

A. It is City policy to install new streetlights on public streets at these locations (when city funds are available):

- Intersections
- The end of dead-end streets longer than 200 feet
- Significant curves in the street
- Mid-block 300 feet between lights

Q. Who do I call to get a streetlight?

A. The TPW Traffic Services Division at 817-392-6596. They will investigate your location to see if it qualifies.

Q. How long will it take to find out if my location qualifies for a streetlight?

A. It will take about 4 weeks for staff to investigate and assess the location to see if it qualifies for a streetlight.

Q. What happens if my street qualifies for a streetlight?

A. The City will install the light if power and funding is available. If there is no power available, the City will request an easement from the property owner, if there is no funding available the request will be considered for inclusion in the next bond election.

Q. How long does it take to put the streetlight in?

A. If no easement is required, the light will be installed approximately six to eight weeks after the investigation. If an easement is required, the light will be installed approximately six to eight weeks after the easement is notarized. If the request is from a neighborhood association for an upgrade of existing lights, six months to one year for installation, depending on the number of lights involved.

Q. Who pays the cost to install the streetlight?

A. The City does. The only exception is if a neighborhood wants to upgrade from the standard streetlight fixture to a "special" light fixture, or if the existing street does not have underground electric service and the neighborhood wants to convert to underground service. In such cases, the one-time expense of changing the service would be charged to the neighborhood, but the City would operate and maintain the lights at its expense.

Q. Who do I call when a streetlight is out or there is an emergency street or drainage condition?

A. Call 817-392-8100.

Q. How can I get my street repaired?

A. For minor and emergency repairs, such as patching potholes; flooding; cleaning drainage ditches, gutters, inlets, and culverts, call Customer Service at 817-392-8100.

Requests for more extensive repairs, such as overlay, reconstruction or correction of major drainage problems, should be directed to the Engineering Services Division at 817-392-7802 or 817-392-7915. Staff will investigate each request and recommend the project for inclusion in the appropriate maintenance or capital improvement program.

Q. How can I get new traffic signs?

A. Call 817-392-8770 and request assistance. Most traffic signs are considered a matter of public safety, and as such are handled on a priority basis. Shortly after annexation, staff will investigate field conditions to make sure that STOP signs and other traffic controls meet current city standards.

Q. How can I get my street fixed?

A. For routine maintenance, such as potholes, call 817-392-8100; conditions will be promptly inspected and repair work will be scheduled depending upon severity.

For major repairs such as overall poor pavement, call 817-392-7802; one of our technical staff will investigate to determine appropriate treatments. Major repairs are made through annual maintenance programs that are planned several years in advance.

Q. A utility company (Water Department, TXU Gas, TXU Electric, Cable TV, Southwestern Bell Telephone) has dug a hole in my street. Who is supposed to make repairs?

A. Each utility company is responsible for leaving the cut in a safe condition until the company, or their contractor, can make permanent repairs.

Q. I live on a street with open ditches. How can I get a street with curb and sidewalk?

A. This type of improvement must be included in a bond program approved by the voters. These projects are evaluated on the basis of need and must compete with similar projects for available funds.

Q. Will I have to pay for maintenance or reconstruction of public streets and drainage ways?

A. No. Routine and major repairs are paid for by annual operating funds of the City. Total reconstruction of streets or drainage ways and installation of streetlights are paid for by bond funds approved by the voters. Abutting property owners will not have to pay for any of these improvements.

Q. I have a flooding problem. Who should I call?

A. For routine cleaning of ditches and culverts in the street right-of-way, call 817-392-8100. For reconstruction and upgrade of these facilities, call 817-392-7517 or 817-392-7857. Our technical staff will investigate, evaluate and make recommendations for programming any necessary improvements

For further information, please visit us at our web site:

<http://www.fortworthgov.com/tpw/index.htm> or call us at 817-392-7800.

Water:

Contact: Doo Kim, Water Engineering, 817/392-8240
Email: Doo.Kim@fortworthgov.org

Q. I have a water-well and/or septic system. Will I have to hook up to city water and wastewater mains?

A. Existing water wells and septic systems (On-Site-Sewage-Facilities) may remain in use until such time you choose to hook on to City Services or until such times as extensive repairs are necessary. At the time these sort of repairs occur, you may be required to abandon your well and/or septic system and connect to city services. The City and the County Health Department have a responsibility to the public as a whole. Once leakage, cracks, seepage, etc., start, public health concerns follow. As long as your existing services are in good working condition the city sees no reason why you would need to connect to city utilities. Also, please note, you are not assessed a fee for these services if you do not use them. The Tarrant County Health Department will continue to inspect your existing systems.

Q. Do impact fees apply to existing development?

A. Only if an additional demand is being placed on the public system. For example, if a larger meter is installed in an existing home for a swimming pool or irrigation system, an impact fee is assessed based on the size of the new meter.

If a business or individual chooses to switch service from a private water well or a septic tank to the city's water and/or sanitary sewer system, then the customer will be charged an impact fee.

Q. What are the required water and sewer fees at the time of tying into the water and sewer services? And, how much are the fees?

A. The chart below lists the most commonly used meter sizes. Water and wastewater impact fees are determined by the size of the water meter installed. The size of the water tap and service line supplying the meter does not affect the amount of the impact fee charged. Fees for other meter sizes are available on request. Irrigation meters must pay the water impact fee, but the wastewater impact fee does not apply. There are no impact fee charges on fire lines.

Current fees effective August 16, 2004

| Meter Size | Water Impact Fee* | Wastewater Impact Fee* |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3/4" | \$644 | \$276 |
| 1" | \$1,075 | \$461 |
| 1 1/2" | \$2,145 | \$918 |
| 2" | \$3,433 | \$1,479 |

| | | |
|-----|----------|----------|
| 3" | \$7,515 | \$3,219 |
| 4" | \$13,524 | \$5,792 |
| 6" | \$30,055 | \$12,872 |
| 8" | \$51,520 | \$22,064 |
| 10" | \$81,575 | \$34,936 |

**Water and wastewater impact fees are collected at 35% of the total maximum assessable amount.*

Additional information is available on the City's Web page:
<http://www.fortworthgov.org/water/ImpactFees/impactfee.htm>

- Q. Who pays for the plumbing reroute from the water well and septic tanks to the service taps at the property line?**
- A. The property owner must hire an approved plumber to get a plumbing permit from the City of Fort Worth and is responsible for the costs for plumbing reroute.
- Q. What are the City of Fort Worth Water and Wastewater Rates for 2005?**
- A. In September 2004, the Fort Worth City Council adopted the following water rates, which took effect January 1, 2005. The water bill for these customers consists of two primary charges: a monthly service charge based on the size of the meter serving the customer; and the volume charge, which is based on the volume, measured in cubic feet (cf), of water used.(1 cf = 7.48 gallons; 1 ccf = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons). Rates for customers outside the city limits are two times the in-city rate.

Water Rates

| Inside Fort Worth | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Class | Cubic Feet (cf) | | |
| Residential Rates | First 1,000 cf | 1,000 – 3,000 cf | Over 3,000cf |
| | \$1.77 per 100 cf | \$2.21 per 100 cf | \$2.90 per 100cf |
| Commercial Rates | First 250,000 cf | Over 250,000 cf | |
| | \$1.93 per 100 cf | \$1.46 per 100 cf | |
| Industrial Rates | First 250,000 cf | Over 250,000 cf | |
| | \$1.78 per 100 cf | \$1.46 per 100 cf | |

Monthly Service Charge Based on Meter Size

| In Fort Worth | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Meter Size | Service Charge |
| 5/8" or 3/4" | \$ 5.50 |
| 1" | \$ 8.00 |
| 1 1/2" | \$14.50 |

| | |
|-----|----------|
| 2" | \$22.00 |
| 3" | \$47.00 |
| 4" | \$82.00 |
| 6" | \$180.00 |
| 8" | \$310.00 |
| 10" | \$485.00 |

Wastewater Service Rates

In September 2004, the Fort Worth City Council adopted the following wastewater rates that took effect January 1, 2005.

| Wastewater Rate Types | Rates in Fort Worth |
|--|---|
| Service Charge (all users) | \$4.50 per month |
| Residential | \$2.51 per 100 cubic feet |
| Non-monitored Commercial & Industrial | \$2.51 per 100 cubic feet |
| Monitored Commercial & Industrial Volume charge BOD charge TSS charge | \$1.97 per 100 cubic feet \$0.248 per lb. \$0.129 per lb. |

Q. How could I get City water if another water company is currently providing me water service?

A. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Austin is the state authority that assigns the water service area rights to each water company. Comments or petitions about the services provided by the water company will need to be forwarded to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission:

Frank Espino, DFW Regional Director
2301 Gavel Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76118-6951
817/588-5800 Fax: 871/588-5700

MC 172
PO Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087
512/239-5100 Fax: 512/239-0532

Office of Executive Director
Mr. Glenn Shankle, Executive Director
Mr. Mark Vickery, Deputy Exec. Dir.
MC 109
PO Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087
512/239-3900 Fax: 512/239-3939

Office of Legal Services
Lydia González Gromatzky,
MC 218
PO Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087
512/239-0600 Fax: 512/239-0330

Office of Compliance and Enforcement
Mr. John Steib, Deputy Director

Q. How soon will water and/or wastewater facilities be available to annexed areas?

A. Several factors determine the timing of service availability. These factors include:

- o The distance of a property from existing service mains
- o The number of residents in a particular area interested in service

- The existence of any proposed developments that may speed up the service being provided

The City is required by State law to have made progress toward providing service within 2 ½ years from the date of annexation with an additional 2 years provided for the construction of infrastructure

Q. How far will the water and sewer mains be extended into my neighborhood?

A. Water and sewer mains will be extended to the entrance of a subdivision. Further extension through the subdivision will be based on the City's standard policy, which provides for 200 linear feet of water and sewer main credit per existing occupied residential or commercial property, this credit is good until such time you request hookup. To apply for the credit, a petition requesting the credit must be submitted to the Fort Worth Water Department Director. Any costs beyond the covered credits will be divided equally among all petitioners.

Q. Is Fort Worth able to meet the water service commitments required by the state?

A. Yes, we addressed this issue with the state when we applied for the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to be the water provider within a significant portion of our ETJ. We recently received approval from the state for this major CCN amendment.

Zoning / Land Use Regulations:

Contact: Jesse Torres, Planning Manager 817/392-8004

Email: Jesse.Torres@fortworthgov.org

Q. Will a property owner be able to continue to use their property in the same way after annexation?

A. Yes, you may continue the existing use of your land provided that it is a legal use. Section 43.002 of the Texas Local Government Code says that after annexing an area, a municipality may not prohibit a person from continuing to use land in a legal manner for which the land was being used when it was annexed or from beginning to use land in a way that was planned before annexation if the owner meets certain requirements. The law does not prevent the city from imposing certain types of regulations, such as regulations relating to public nuisances. City staff can address questions about specific existing land uses.

Q. I don't want certain business or uses established next door, will the City help protect our land?

A. Yes, the City's Zoning Ordinance helps protect yours and surrounding land. All property within the City must be zoned for specific uses. Registered neighborhood groups and property owners within 300 feet of the property are notified of proposed zoning changes and have the opportunity to address the Zoning Commission and the City Council concerning the proposed change. The City's Code Compliance Department enforces compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.

Q. Who will determine the zoning placed on my property?

A. If your property is annexed, your participation in the zoning process is sincerely appreciated. City staff will notify you of a community neighborhood meeting to discuss the various zoning categories. At this meeting you will be asked to consider the current and future use of your land. Staff will work with you to identify the best zoning for your land and surrounding properties. The formal process of zoning includes a hearing before the Zoning Commission and their recommendation being considered by City Council.

Q. If I am annexed, will I have to change school districts?

A. No, annexation into the City of Fort Worth has no bearing on school district boundaries.

BUILDING CODES:

Contact: Gary Caldwell, Assistant Building Official 817/392-8093

Email: gary.Caldwell@fortworthgov.org

Q. Do I need a building permit and inspections for construction of what was already started before annexation?

A. No, existing structures are grandfathered and do not require permitting or inspecting. However, to protect yourself from legal problems, it is suggested that you declare your project to the City so that it can be recognized as a structure already started. Contact Allison Gray at 817-392-8030

Q. Will I have to get a certificate of occupancy on my commercial buildings?

A. Yes, all commercial businesses need to be inspected by a three - inspector team comprised of a Building Inspector, Electrical Inspector and Fire Inspector. Upon inspection, a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) or a notice of correction will be issued. Upon passing inspection, a CO will be issued. Most properties will receive a CO at first visit. Some will have to make repairs and will receive a CO upon a subsequent visit.

Q. Will I have to bring my home up to city code if I sell it?

A. Not by the City. When you sell your home, you will not be required to bring your home up to city code requirements; however, you will be required to meet the Texas Real Estate Inspector's requirements before selling. As such, the Real Estate Inspector may note several items that are not within code. Those items would be dealt with in the selling process and could affect the selling price of your home.

Q. How do I obtain a building permit?

A. Permits may be obtained in-person at 1000 Throckmorton St, Lower Level, Fort Worth TX. In some cases, permits may be obtained by calling Customer Service 817/392-7851 or by fax 817/392-8116, or by using the appropriate request form available on the City's web page:

<http://www.fortworthgov.org/development/permit/Permit.asp>

Information Needed to Obtain a Building Permit:

- Identify and describe the work to be covered by the permit for which application is made
- Describe the land on which the proposed work is to be done by legal description, street address or similar description that will readily identify and definitely locate the proposed building or work
- Indicate the use or occupancy for which the proposed work is intended
- Be accompanied by plans, diagrams, computations, specifications and other data as required to clearly define the work being performed
- State the valuation of any new building, structure or any addition, remodel or alteration to an existing building
- Be signed by the applicant, or the applicant's authorized agent
- Provide such other data and information as may be required by the building official

Health and Public Safety:

Contact: James Agyemang, Animal Control Manager

817/392-3743

Email: James.Agyemang@fortworthgov.org

Q. How will annexation affect my ability to keep horses, cows or chickens on my property?

A. The City of Fort Worth allows horses, cows, and chickens on property within the city limits. There is a specified square footage requirement per animal. If a resident currently has livestock or fowl on their property, they will be grandfathered in; if the animals exceed the limit as specified by the city, the property will be given a legal, nonconforming designation.

Q. If I sell my property, can the buyer bring in livestock and fowl?

A. The new owner can have livestock and fowl on the property if, at the time of the sale, the property was used for livestock and fowl. The new owner will be allowed to continue to keep the number of livestock and fowl that were present on the property at the time of annexation or the number of livestock and fowl allowed under current ordinance; whichever is greater.

Q. How many animals can I have?

A. A residence may house up to three (3) dogs and three (3) cats.

Q. Will leash-laws apply to my pets?

A. Yes - upon annexation, all city health and safety requirements become effective. The City of Fort Worth requires dogs to be kept behind physical fences to separate them from the public.

Q. Do I have to get licenses for my animals?

A. The Municipal Code requires that all dogs, cats, ferrets and pot-bellied pigs be registered with the city. All are licensed annually. You may register your dogs, cats and ferrets at most veterinary clinics when you get your pets their annual rabies vaccinations as required by Texas law. Licenses are also available at the Animal Care and Control Center, 4900 Martin St., or by mail. Cost is \$7. Pot-bellied pigs have several requirements for registration. Cost is \$50. Please contact the division for more information.

Q. What purpose does Animal Control serve?

A. The Animal Care and Control Division protects the community from the threat of rabies and other diseases and injuries caused by roaming animals. The Division does this by promoting responsible pet ownership through education, enforcement and legislation. The Animal Care and Control Center is a full service shelter operated by the Animal Services Division.

Additional information on pet requirements and free educational programs are available through the City's web page: www.fortworthgov.org/health/AC/AC2001.asp

Garbage Collection:

Contact: Tara Sims, Solid Waste Call Center Manager

817-392-3279

E-mail: Tara.Sims@fortworthgov.org

Q. Who will pick up my trash?

A. The Department of Environmental Management is responsible for providing collection of garbage, recyclables, yard waste and bulky waste to the residents of Fort Worth. You will have a choice. You can continue with your current service for up to two (2) years following the annexation or you can subscribe to the City service immediately or anytime in the two year period. At the end of the two year period you will be required to use the city provided service.

Q. Do I have to pay for water / sewer just to get the trash pickup?

A. No. If you subscribe to the City's service, you will receive a utility bill from the water department but it will only have the sanitation (garbage) charge on it.

Q. What is the current cost for trash pick-up?

A. Residential Fees: The deposit and monthly fee for residential collection services is billed and collected by the City of Fort Worth Water Department on the monthly water bill. The residential deposit is \$15.00. The monthly fee structure is based upon the size of garbage cart that you choose to use. The rates for the carts are as follows:

Residential Curbside Service

| | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------------------|
| B | 32-Gallon Cart | \$ 11.45 plus Texas sales tax |
| a | 64-Gallon Cart | \$16.45 plus Texas sales tax |
| g | 96-Gallon Cart | \$21.45 plus Texas sales tax |

Residential Elective Carryout Service \$30.00 plus the cost of the cart above plus Texas sales tax

Service is also available for commercial properties on a volume-based fee. Call 817-392-3279 for more information.

Q. When would my garbage collection day be?

A. Collection routes are established by the City in coordination with our contractor Waste Management. To verify what day your garbage will be collected, please call 817-392-EASY (3279). Please be ready to provide the Customer Service Representative your Water Account number or your address. You can also check on-line collections map on our website at:

<http://www.cfwnet.org/DEM/pickups.htm>

Q. Is recycling available?

A. Yes, recycling pickup is provided to all residential customers in Fort Worth on a weekly basis. The City's contractor, Waste Management of Fort Worth, Inc., provides this service. A blue 64-gallon recycling cart is provided to each household for use in this program. Your recycling collection day is the same as your garbage collection day. Your recycling cart and your garbage cart must curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Collection crews will empty recyclables from the recycling cart and leave the empty recycling cart at the curb for your reuse.

Q. I'm used to being able to burn my brush and bulky waste, what happens now?

A. Brush and bulky waste collection service is provided to each Fort Worth household once per month. To ensure that your items are collected, please follow these guidelines:

The brush and bulky waste crews pick up items that are too large, heavy or bulky to be collected during normal garbage collection. These items include:

- Tree trimmings and limbs that are less than 8 feet in length and less than 18 inches in diameter
- Furniture
- Debris that results from minor remodeling performed by the resident
(See exceptions below)

For more information on this service please call 817-392-EASY (3279) or visit our website at: http://www.fortworthgov.org/dem/new_brush.htm

EXCEPTIONS:

Items that will not be picked up by brush and bulky waste crews:

- No household garbage or plastic bags. (Put garbage in the brown garbage cart.)
- Automobile parts, batteries and tires
- Contractor remodeling and demolition debris such as shingles, wallboard and lumber
- Electronic equipment such as computers and televisions *
- Household appliances that contain coolant, gasoline or other chemicals, including air conditioners, refrigerators and lawnmowers
- Dirt, rocks or concrete
- Liquids, poisons or explosives

Code Compliance:

Contact: Carl Smart, Code Compliance Director 817/392-6345

Email: Carl.Smart@fortworthgov.org

Q. What does Code Compliance do?

A. Code Compliance Officers perform inspections and investigate complaints concerning dangerous buildings, substandard structures, junked motor vehicles, vehicles illegally parked in front and side yards, excessively high grass and weeds, accumulations of trash and debris, miscellaneous animal related violations, illegal dumping, zoning violations, and other general nuisance related violations.

Q. The structure across the way is falling down and no one lives there. What will you do about it?

A. When a complaint is received regarding a substandard structure, an Officer inspects the premises to determine if the complaint is valid and warrants further action. If sufficient cause is found, the Officer will prepare a report documenting the violations. A copy of the report is sent to the property owner along with a letter directing that repairs or demolition work be started within 30 days. The Officer routinely monitors the location to determine if any work has commenced, or if sufficient progress has been made. If the owner fails to respond, the Officer may initiate criminal action through issuance of Municipal Court citations. In the alternative, civil action may be initiated by presenting the case to the Building Standards Commission for the purpose of obtaining a demolition order. If the Commission recommends the demolition of a substandard structure, the City Council is asked to approve the award of a demolition contract. Based on the impact of those structures on the surrounding community and the availability of funds, staff determines submission of substandard structures to the City Council. The costs for razing a structure include the contractor's charge as well as a \$300 administrative fee. Failure to pay the demolition costs will result in a lien being levied against the property.

Q. Are you police officers?

A. No, but we are authorized to pursue criminal and civil remedies to abate nuisances within Fort Worth. Environmental or nuisance complaints vary. Many complaints are received by Code Compliance on nuisance issues which cover things such as high weeds and grass, proper keeping of animals in the city, trash and rubbish accumulation and disposal methods, illegal dumping, junked motor vehicles, discarded appliances and other conditions which may be unsanitary, hazardous, detrimental or offensive to the public health. Protocol for nuisance complaints differ according to the specific violation and the magnitude of the problem to be corrected.