

Feb / Mar 2007

*The Worth Ross Tenant Newsletter Service*

## Your Worth Ross & Associates Team!

Contact Us: (214) 522-9100

### Worth Ross

Broker/Owner, Ext. 202  
worth@worthross.com

### Kevin Curran

Property Mgr., Ext. 212  
kevin@worthross.com

### Oliver Roberts

Property Mgr., Ext. 207  
oliver@worthross.com

### Chris Vogel

Property Mgr., Ext. 215  
chris@worthross.com

### Melissa Zacha

Property Mgr., Ext. 216  
melissa@worthross.com

### Jere Becker

Property Mgr., Ext. 214  
jere@worthross.com

### Pete Webb

Property Mgr., Ext. 218  
pete@worthross.com

### Steve Smith

Property Mgr., Ext. 219  
steve@worthross.com

### Jayne Morin

Accounting, Ext. 205  
jayne@worthross.com

### Ping Liu, CPA

Accounting, Ext. 211  
ping@worthross.com

### Leslie Moore

Work Order Supervisor, Ext. 204  
leslie@worthross.com

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**Celebrate  
President's Day  
February 19, 2007**

## COPING WITH THE COLD

The weather, in many areas of the country, has been unusual. It has been spring in December in New York and Washington, D.C., while California and Texas have had unusual snow and freezing temperatures. When this happens, people often do not know what to do.

If more extreme temperatures occur, here are some tips on how to cope with the cold.

- Use extra care with infants, children, seniors, or the disabled to help them cope with the cold.
- Insulate or wrap pipes and allow faucets to drop to avoid freezing.
- Learn where and how to shut off the water valves if pipes burst.
- Move plants indoors or cover with cloth or blankets to avoid frostbite.
- Keep windows and doors closed at all times.
- Do not completely turn off the heat, even if away for an extended period - it takes more to reheat the residence than to keep the heat on low. This also prevents pipes bursting in ceilings and walls.
- Never bring in a heating device intended for outdoor use, such as a barbecue or other fuel-burning devices. They can produce carbon monoxide that is deadly and often undetectable.
- Layer loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of very heavy clothing. If

possible, use water repellent clothing on the outside.

- Wear a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf when outside to protect your lungs.

Beware these exposure symptoms for yourself and family members.

- Confusion, dizziness, shivering, and exhaustion are signs of hypothermia. Seek medical attention at once.
- Symptoms of frostbite are gray, white, or yellow skin discoloration, as well as numbness or waxy skin. Medical attention is crucial.
- If there is overexposure to freezing temperatures, remove wet clothing immediately and warm the body with a blanket and/or warm fluids.

We are here to help you when you have maintenance problems caused by freezing temperatures. During unusual weather, please remember everyone is has the same problems and we ask for your patience. The vendors experience heavy workloads, which can cause delays for normal maintenance issues. Emergencies must take first priority during any extreme weather, such as freezing, fires, tornados, etc.

You can find more information on what to do during emergency conditions at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).



**Worth Ross  
Management Co. Inc.**  
4145 Travis St., #204  
Dallas, TX 75204  
(800) 522-9119  
(214) 522-9100  
Fax: (214) 528-6889  
[worth@worthross.com](mailto:worth@worthross.com)  
[worthross.com](http://worthross.com)

## Report Your Maintenance On The Internet!

### Did You Know?

Did you know that you could report your maintenance on our updated Web Site? It's easy, just go to [www.worthross.com](http://www.worthross.com) and choose Resident Information, and then, Maintenance Form. Just fill in each item, tabbing from one to another, and send. We will send a confirmation e-mail to you.

### Know Someone Who is Looking for a Home?

Do you know a homeowner who would like to rent out their home? Refer them to us and we will reward you. We just need a name and telephone number of the person you are referring, or simply have them mention your name when they call us. Call, fax, or send us an e-mail to earn your reward today.



4145 Travis St., #204  
Dallas, TX 75204

[worthross.com](http://worthross.com)

## Good Credit is Essential!

It is always important to keep your credit in good standing, whether you are renting a property, procuring a new credit card, buying a car, considering buying a new home, or anything that requires good credit. There is an agency that has passed legislation that gives you the opportunity to check your credit. The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) requires each of the nationwide consumer reporting companies - Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union - to provide consumers with a *free* copy of their credit report at their request every twelve (12) months. You can obtain a free annual report three ways:



1. Go online - [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)
2. Telephone, toll-free, (877) 322-8228
3. Complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form and mail to
  - Annual Credit Report Request Service, PO Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

If you find errors, you *should* dispute the information. Under the FCRA, both the consumer and the entity that reports the information, are required to be responsible for accurate reporting or correcting wrong or incomplete information. Take advantage of this service and check your credit report annually, at a minimum to safeguard your credit.