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YOU BREAK INTO A COLD SWEAT AS THE WORD “SOLD” is slapped onto the for sale sign of your new home. It’s now official – you’re moving to Texas...Frisco, Texas – and the fun has only just begun.

Visions of long lines in rooms lit only by green-hued florescent lights and cooled only by a single rusted oscillating fan dance in your head.

In your scenario, you go to get your new Texas driver’s license, discovering that you first need Texas license plates and registration stickers. The taillight of your SUV was busted a week ago with the advent of your 15-year-old’s driving practice and the car dealer can’t get the replacement in for another month. So now your car won’t pass inspection. You think, “Wonder if they will take out-of-town checks?” You can’t get new checks because you can’t get a Texas driver’s license! And don’t even begin to fathom the multitude of tasks waiting to be done such as obtaining an alarm permit and school registration for your driving impaired adolescent. Let’s not forget setting up water, gas, electric, cable television and Internet service.

Suddenly the image of florescent lights mixes with salty tears and you decide it must be hopeless. Don’t worry, it’s not.

Sergeant Bonnie Moore of Collin County Department of Public Safety said state law requires that people register their vehicles before they get Texas drivers’ licenses. Once the car license is taken care of, it’s time to get your driver’s license. Don’t wait too long to start this process because state law requires a Texas driver’s license within 30 days of moving to Texas.

Moore says that if you have a valid driver’s license from another state, you need to provide that license plus a social security card and some other form of identification. If you do not have a valid license, you can provide a United States birth certificate or a valid

U.S. passport. Whichever route you take, it will cost you \$24.

“We’re here to help you to understand what you need to do and where you need to go to do it,” said Moore.

Frisco’s website, www.ci.frisco.tx.us, has a link just for newcomers with phone numbers for everything that you’ll need

from the Department of Public Safety, alarm permit information to school district websites. The website also has a “Contact Us,” link with an expanded directory with more useful numbers.

Whether it’s through church, sports or a common interest, it is important to get plugged into your new community. One available resource is Newcomer Friends of Greater Plano, an organization serving North Dallas communities that is dedicated to “help women who are new to the community make new friends and get involved in activities,” according to Janet DeLaurier the club’s president.

DeLaurier said that many newcomers literally do not know anyone. Some didn’t even have an emergency contact number to give to their alarm company.

Newcomer Friends meets once a month as a large group and has small groups that meet more often. They also take day trips around Dallas so members can become familiar with the area. For more information on Newcomer Friends of Greater Plano, visit www.newcomerfriends.org.

As you get settled into your new house, take advantage of all the resources available to make Frisco your new home. After all, the fun has only just begun.

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welcome home: the journey to frisco

by sarah farris