



## ETNP FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTION TO BE HELD AUG. 12

If you have not stopped by and toured the K.B. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper Street, you are missing out on what can easily be described as the heart of the Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood.

From the monthly ETNP Crime Watch meetings to activities for senior neighbors to registration for upcoming sports leagues, new Recreation Center Manager Juan Arevalo and his staff are up to the task of making sure there are plenty of activities for ETNP neighbors to enjoy.



That's why ETNP's next big event, the Back to School Bash, will be held in the gymnasium of the recreation center on Saturday, Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon.

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## DISTRIBUCIÓN GRATUITA DE ÚTILES ESCOLARES Y ROPA 12 DE AGOSTO

El vecindario Back to School Bash será el 12 de agosto de 2023 en el K.B. Gimnasio del Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper Street, de 10 a. m. al mediodía.

Los artículos incluirán útiles escolares, calcetines, camisetas, ropa interior, uniformes y más. La distribución será por orden de llegada. Ayúdenos a correr la voz sobre la fiesta de regreso a la escuela de ETNP. Queremos asegurarnos de que todos los estudiantes de ETNP tengan un buen comienzo este año escolar.

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# ETNP News: Message from the Publisher

Hello Elm Thicket/Northpark Neighbors:

Thank you to everyone who let us know how much they enjoyed the story on Eltee O. Dave and Dave's Bar-B-Q. It brought back a lot of good memories for many of our legacy residents. It is great to hear from everyone.

A special thanks to neighbor, Norris Woodson Jr., who provided us with much of the information regarding this month's article about ETNP. To continue our dedication to recording the stories and history of our beloved Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood, we have started interviewing many of our legacy residents to record their stories and memories. What better way to learn about the history of Elm Thicket/Northpark than from the residents who made said history. It is a blessing for us to hear the stories from the legacy residents that built our neighborhood.

It is with our legacy residents in mind that we ask you to please keep the family of Mother Eva Johnson in your prayers. "Big Mama" as she was known in Elm Thicket/Northpark, was 108 when she passed July 24, 2023. With permission from the family, we have borrowed the words from Beth Bentley who posted a tribute to Big Mama.

"I am blessed to have witnessed her first hand on this side of heaven through Mother Eva and the care of her children and generations of grandchildren. She served her Lord, her family and society well through encouraging thoughts, words of wisdom and through deeds that brought joy and sought peace. Her life was a gift to so many. She took time to know people, their names, their family. She genuinely wanted to know how you were doing so she could give you a word to encourage your heart. I was blessed to share in her love of her family, friends and neighbors. In her right mind as she slept into eternity, her life has been a joy! Her signature statement, 'You've got to love EVERYbody!' will resonate within me forever."

Big Mama brought joy, sought peace and lived her life as an example of how to love everybody whether they were family, friends or neighbors. She is a testament to a life well-lived that we should all do our best to emulate. To the Johnson family, please know that you are not alone as you mourn the passing of Big Mama. May the Lord grant you all grace so your sadness gets replaced by joy when you think of Big Mama. ETNP News sends the Johnson family all our love and deepest condolences.



**Mother Eva Johnson**  
**April 3, 1915 – July 24, 2023**



# Construction Violations Put ETNP Children, Pedestrians in Danger

Elm Thicket/Northpark has become dangerous for our children and neighbors who like to walk and run outside. Home builders have started parking their construction dumpsters on our public streets. This inconsideration makes it extremely dangerous for children and pedestrians because drivers are not able to see past or through these dumpsters.

It is a tragedy in the making and we need your help to keep our beloved neighborhood safe. If you see a construction/trash dumpster illegally dropped in the street, this is considered a construction site violation and it should be reported immediately to the Building Inspection Division.

To report a violation, follow these steps:

1. Call 214-948-4480 (City of Dallas Building Inspection Division)
2. Press 1 for English or 2 for Spanish
3. Press 3 to report a Code Compliance Violation

When you report the violation, you will need to give them the address and any other details. Emphasize that this is a danger to our neighborhood. A case will be opened and the property owner will be warned to move the dumpster off the public right of way and onto their property. If they fail to comply, they face a Code Compliance citation.



If you call before 8 a.m. or after 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday the call will be routed to 311. Please help keep our neighborhood safe for everyone.

## Violaciones de Construcción Pone en Peligro a Los Niños y Vecinos de ETNP

Hay mucha actividad de construcción en nuestro barrio y se ha vuelto peligroso para los niños que juegan afuera y los vecinos que caminan o corren por nuestro vecindario.

Algunos constructores de casas están poniendo el contenedor de basura en la calle. Los conductores no pueden ver más allá de los contenedores de basura donde los niños pueden estar jugando. Para mantener nuestro vecindario seguro, necesitamos que los vecinos informen estas violaciones a la ciudad.

Esta violación debe ser reportada inmediatamente a la División de Inspección de Edificios. Para denunciar esta infracción, debe:

1. Llame al 214-948-4480 (División de Inspección de Edificios de la Ciudad de Dallas)
2. Presione 1 para inglés o 2 para español
3. Presione 3 para reportar la violación

Cuando llame para denunciar la infracción, dígalos que le gustaría denunciar una infracción en un sitio de construcción. Déles la dirección de donde se encuentra la violación.

Se abrirá un caso y debería resolverse en unos días. Se le indicará al constructor que mueva el contenedor de basura a su propiedad. Si no mueven el contenedor de basura de la calle, se les emitirá una multa.

Si trabajamos juntos podemos mantener nuestro vecindario seguro para todos.

# ETNP History: The Beginning of Our Community

**Editor's Note:** Special thanks to ETNP legacy resident Norris Woodson Jr. for additional source materials used to develop this article.

With the exception of long-time, generational residents living in Elm Thicket/Northpark, few of the newer neighbors know how the neighborhood was formed and its rich cultural history. This story on ETNP history begins at the start of the 20th century.

As noted in the Texas State Historical Association Handbook of Texas, Elm Thicket was one of several Freedmen Communities that sprung up in the Dallas area after the Civil War where freed slaves settled. Although records are scarce, additional research shows that as early as 1912, the Elm Thicket community was established and was thriving by the 1920s.

The community name was apparently derived from the thicket of elm trees within the neighborhood.

The best view of the Elm Thicket boundaries comes from a Home Owner's Loan Corp., or HOLC, color-coded map that was drawn in the mid-1930s to explain the risks for making home loans in certain areas. The Elm Thicket community was depicted as the least desirable area for home loans with the color red. This is what became commonly known as "redlining."

As shown in the HOLC map below, the Elm Thicket community was relatively small and mostly surrounded by undeveloped land. At this time, Elm Thicket had the highest percentage of black residents in Dallas. A 1937 HOLC description placed the percentage of blacks living the area at 100%.



(Illustration Source: People Newspapers, Oct. 22, 2021)

# ETNP History: The Beginning (from Page 4)

In the 1930 aerial photograph below, the approximate boundaries are also depicted to show the location of Elm Thicket compared to major landmarks. A large thicket of trees can be seen in the top center of the neighborhood which is presumably the thicket of elm trees from which the neighborhood derived its name.



(Photo: SMU Digital Library; Boundary Source: BC Workshops, Jan. 16, 2015)

In the upper-left corner of the picture is the original Love Field. The eastern border of Elm Thicket runs along what was then and is now Roper Street. The south border is Mockingbird Lane. The west border is along Cedar Springs Avenue. The north border is University Blvd. coming from the east and turning to Grove Street past Lemmon Avenue going to the west.

With the expansion of Love Field starting in the mid-1950s, all of Elm Thicket to the west of Lemmon Avenue was swallowed up. Elm Thicket lost more than half of its area due to this expansion. This loss included the thicket of elm trees that was adjacent to the aptly-named Grove Street where the Elm Thicket Park and the Hilliard Municipal Golf Course once stood.

The thicket of elms may be gone, but the legacy of ETNP lives on through our shared history.

## References:

Texas State Historical Association Handbook of Texas, "Freedmantown/North Dallas" (Updated April 28, 2021)

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/freedmantownnorth-dallas>

People Newspapers, "Historically Black Neighborhood Faces New Challenges" (October 22, 2021)

<https://www.peoplenewspapers.com/2021/10/22/historically-black-neighborhood-faces-new-challenges/>

BC Workshops, "Race and the Control of Public Parks" (Jan. 16, 2015)

[https://issuu.com/bcworkshop/docs/parks\\_race\\_booklet\\_small](https://issuu.com/bcworkshop/docs/parks_race_booklet_small)

1930 Aerial Photograph courtesy of SMU Digital Library, "1930 Fairchild Survey"

<https://www.smu.edu/libraries/digitalcollections/dmp>

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And if you decide to advertise in our next issue, you will get a 50% introductory rate discount! We want to show our appreciation for those who will be our first advertisers.

Plus, know that advertising revenue goes toward printing costs so we can hand deliver the newsletter to legacy residents without internet access. You are not only helping grow your business, but supporting the ETNP community too!

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## Senior Group Meets for Fun and Fellowship at Rec Center



Many of our legacy residents have found fun and fellowship with the K.B. Polk Seniors who meet Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the recreation center. The activities range from educational seminars to excursions around the city to enjoying lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The K.B. Polk Seniors are an exceptionally fun group of people. For more information on joining the senior group, please call the rec center at (214) 670-6308.

# Registration for Fall Sports Leagues Begins Aug. 1

If your child is interested in playing a sport this fall then come on down to the K.B. Polk Recreation Center.

Rec Center Manager Juan Arevalo said registration for soccer and flag football begins Aug. 1, 2023. The leagues will be broken up by ages and will be co-ed. The registration fee covers uniforms, coaching, and games. Registration for basketball will begin Dec. 1, 2023.

## Flag Football Divisions

Age Division	Ages	Cost
8 & Under	6-8 yr olds	\$40 (\$50 after 9/15)
10 & Under	9-10 yr olds	\$40 (\$50 after 9/15)
12 & Under	11-12 yr olds	\$40 (\$50 after 9/15)

Age determined as of September 1st of the current school year.

This is a great way for all of our neighborhood children to get to know one another and create a sense of community. For more information, please call the rec center at (214) 670-6308.

## La inscripción para las ligas deportivas de otoño comienza el 1 de agosto

Si su hijo está interesado en practicar un deporte este otoño, venga al K.B. Centro Recreativo Polk.

La inscripción para fútbol y flag football comienza el 1 de agosto de 2023. Las ligas se dividirán por edades y serán mixtas. La cuota de inscripción cubre uniformes, entrenamiento y juegos. La inscripción para el baloncesto comenzará el 1 de diciembre de 2023.

## Youth Soccer Divisions

Age Division	Ages	Cost
4 & Under	3 - 4 yr olds	\$40 (\$50 after 9/15)
6 & Under	5-6 yr olds	\$40 (\$50 after 9/15)
8 & Under	7-8 yr olds	\$40 (\$50 after 9/15)
10 & Under	9-10 yr olds	\$40 (\$50 after 9/15)
12 & Under	11-12 yr olds	\$40 (\$50 after 9/15)
14 & Under	13-14 yr olds	\$40 (\$50 after 9/15)

Age determined as of September 1st of the current school year.

Esta es una excelente manera para que todos los niños de nuestro vecindario se conozcan y creen un sentido de comunidad. Para obtener más información, llame al centro de recreación al (214) 670-6308.

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**The K.B. Polk Center for the Academically Gifted and Talented has a new principal this year. Let us welcome Principal James Wallace to Elm Thicket/Northpark. In the September issue of ETNP News we hope to provide information on how best ETNP can support our students and our neighborhood school.**

# ETNP Free School Supplies Distribution (From Page 1)

D2 Councilman Jesse Moreno and D6 Councilman Omar Narvaez, along with State Rep. Rafael Anchia, and our ETNP Neighborhood Association will be donating items that neighborhood students will need this upcoming school year.

Arevalo said items will include school supplies, socks, shirts, underclothes, uniforms and more. The distribution will be on a first-come, first-served basis so please

help us spread the word about the ETNP Back to School Bash. We want to make sure every student in ETNP gets off to a good start this school year.

If you would like to donate school items to benefit the students in our neighborhood, please take items to the recreation center prior to Aug. 12.

Continue reading about all the great things happening at the recreation center inside this issue of the ETNP News.



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## Play Pickleball with the Polk Picklers

You are invited to celebrate National Pickleball Day with the Polk Picklers on Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, at the K.B. Polk Recreation Center from 10 a.m. to noon. It doesn't matter if you don't know how to play or have a paddle, the rec center has paddles, pickle balls and two nets.

And, if it turns out that you want to play again, then you are in luck because the Polk Picklers play every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. at the rec center.

The skill level of the core group that makes up the Polk Picklers are beginner to intermediate so they are extremely welcoming to new players. The group is made of neighbors that live in Elm Thicket/ Northpark, Bluffview, and other area neighborhoods.

There are always two courts available so you will get a lot of play time.

