

# ETNP News

A Save Elm Thicket Publication Serving ETNP

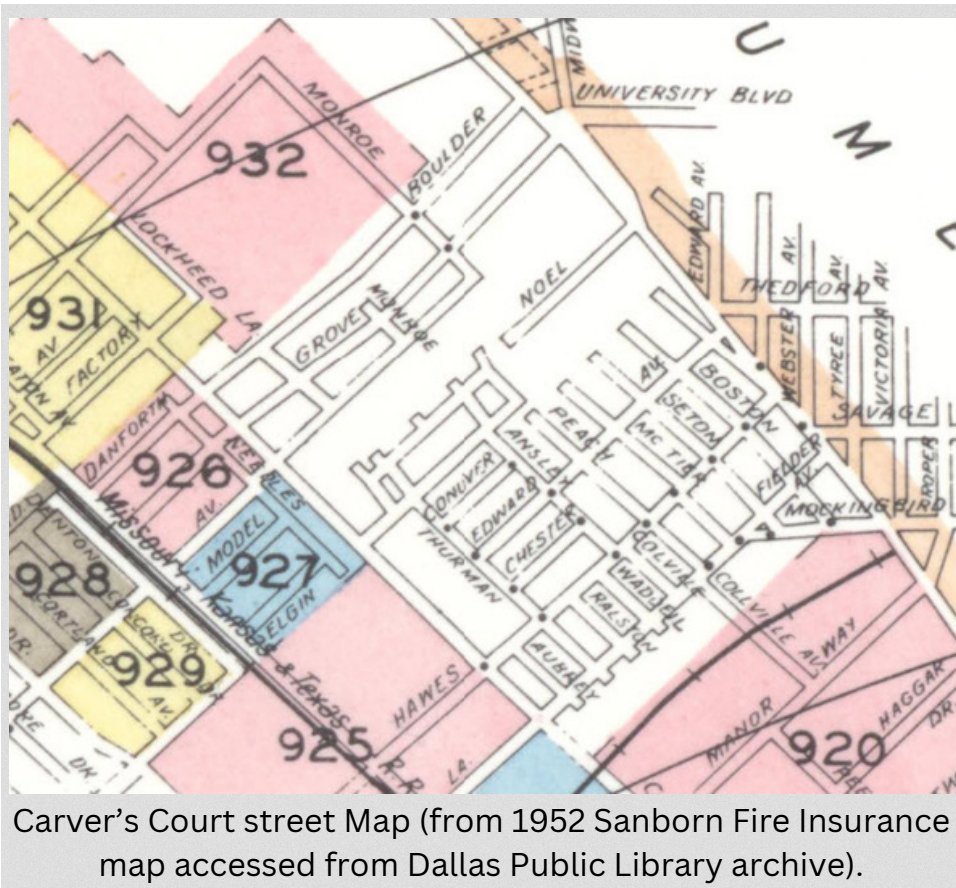


## ETNP HISTORY: CARVER’S COURT MEMORIES FROM HARRY L. WELLS, III

**Editor’s Note:** This is the first in a series of articles from ETNP residents or former residents who lived in the Carver’s Court area located west of Lemmon Avenue that was devoured by the eventual Love Field expansion in the 1950s and 1960s. Mr. Harry Lee Wells, III, reached out to ETNP News and shared his memories of living in Carver’s Court from 1945 to 1960.

January 12, 1945, marks the birthday of Henry Lee Wells, III, the son of Mr. Harry Wells, Jr., and Mrs. Faye Wells. As Mr. Wells celebrates his 79th birthday this month, he vividly recalled fond memories of growing up in Carver’s Court before he and his family moved to California in 1960.

“We were a tight-knit community” said Mr. Wells of his time in Carver’s Court. “It was the strength of the people that made us all family. Everyone looked out for each other.”



Carver’s Court street Map (from 1952 Sanborn Fire Insurance map accessed from Dallas Public Library archive).

## Inside This Issue

**A Message From the ETNP News Publisher**

**ETNP History: Carver’s Court Memories from Harry Lee Wells, III**

**K. B. Polk Seniors Out and About in Dallas in December**

**Pickleball Players Invited to Join the Polk Picklers every Tuesday and Thursday at the Rec Center**

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# ETNP News: Message from the Publisher

Happy New Year ETNP Neighbor:

We took the time over Christmas break to start planning the stories for our 2024 issues. The goal for ETNP News is to inform Elm Thicket/Northpark neighbors about good, positive news happening in our neighborhood as well as publishing helpful information such as who our elected representatives are and how to contact them.

We will also continue to inform you on happenings at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center. Under the leadership of Manager Juan Arevalo, the rec center is bursting with activity such as lunches and trips with the senior group, to after school activities, to pickleball. We encourage everyone to stop by the recreation center and check out the facility at 6801 Roper Street. The rec is a great resource for meeting and connecting with friends and neighbors.

Also in this new year the ETNP News will remain committed to researching and publishing our neighborhood's deep and rich history. I am embarrassed to say that until the neighborhood wide 2022 zoning case we did not know the depth of our historical Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood. We are committed to documenting and publishing that history not only for the current residents but for future neighbors who buy a home in ETNP.



As we enter this new year, it marks the 29th year my family has lived in Elm Thicket/Northpark. We have lived in this neighborhood longer than we have lived anywhere else in our lives and this is the only neighborhood our daughter has ever known. We are proud to call ETNP home and are committed to preserving the history of Elm Thicket/Northpark. That is how the spirit of our legacy residents, the residents who built this neighborhood, continues for future generations. That can only happen, however, if the information is gathered and shared. That is our goal.

To that extent, we want to offer a friendly reminder that the debut of the play “Elm Thicket” by playwright and Elm Thicket/Northpark legacy resident Anyika McMillan-Herod will run January 11, 2024, through January 20, 2024, at the ATT Performing Arts Center. The play tells the story about two former Elm Thicket neighbors, a man and a woman, who are reunited after one of them, who had moved away, moves back to Elm Thicket. “It is about how we navigate change,” McMillan-Herod said. “How do we protect the people and the neighborhood we love?” We hope everyone has the opportunity to see this play honoring our beloved neighborhood. To purchase tickets click [here](#).

Here's wishing you and yours a year filled with good health, much love and immense prosperity.

Your neighbor,  
Mimi Perez



# Pickleball Group to Begin Meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays at K.B. Polk Recreation Center

If you've thought about learning how to play pickleball, then you are invited to join the Polk Picklers Pickleball group that currently meets from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center. We will be meeting for the first time this year on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2024.

The age range of players is from 50 to 80 and the skill level of players ranges from beginner to intermediate. This is a non-competitive group. The goal is to get some exercise and meet some new friends and neighbors.

While you are welcome to bring your own paddle, the recreation center has paddles and pickleballs that you can borrow.

The Polk Picklers Pickleball group is extremely welcoming to new players and are willing to teach you the rules of the game. So if you are looking for a new way to get some exercise and have some fun then head over to the K. B. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper Street.

For more information, contact the recreation center at 214-670-6308 or Mimi Perez, the Polk Picklers group admin, at 214-215-5939.

## K. B. Polk Seniors Out and About in Dallas This December



Many of the K. B. Polk Seniors group attended the Christmas party at The Factory which was hosted by D2 Councilman Jesse Moreno.



The K. B. Polk Seniors took the rec center's new van on one of the many trips they take around Dallas. Photos courtesy of K.B. Polk Rec Center Staff.

If you are a senior and want to socialize and participate in activities then you are welcome to join the K. B. Polk Seniors for lunch Monday-Friday at the recreation center. For more information contact the rec center at 214-670-6308.

# ETNP History: Carver's Court Memories (From Page 1)

Mr. Wells also recalled the walk from his home on Edwards Street to K.B. Polk Elementary. "We walked through this heavy forest of trees to get to school. As a kid, it was kind of scary walking through there. It reminded me of Sherwood Forest." Mr. Wells agreed that the Elm Thicket neighborhood was aptly named for that thick growth of elm trees.

The other fond memories Mr. Wells recalled was the regular Friday fish fry at the Johnson family home in Carver's Court which brought everyone together. The Johnson sisters, Hattie, Florence, Patricia and their brother Butch, organized the fish fry events and everyone nearby would come to join in the festivities. Butch was Mr. Well's childhood best friend and they stayed close until Butch's untimely death.

Mr. Wells also remembered several African-American Dallas Cowboy football players coming to play dominoes and enjoy the welcoming company of those in Carver's Court.

**Editor's Note:** During their first three seasons (1960 through 1962), the Cowboys practiced primarily at Burnett Field which was a few miles south of Carver's Court.

Mr. Wells' father, Harry Wells, Jr., walked to work to his job at Texlite Electric Light Company which was then next to Manor Bakery. His mother, Faye Wells, worked as a cook/pastry chef and also as a reporter with a neighborhood column for the *Dallas Express*. Because his mother was a great cook and pastry chef, Mr. Wells recalled how all his childhood friends would enjoy coming over to his home to enjoy the sweet treats.



Harry Lee Wells, III, with his cap and gown upon graduation from the Munger Ave. Kindergarten. (From *Dallas Express*, January 26, 1952.)

Mr. Wells went on to graduate from K.B. Polk in 1958 and continued on to Booker T. Washington High School before moving to California. He finished high school and went to the University of Southern California on a football scholarship. A football injury ended his dream to go into professional football, but he chose another path in life by earning his Masters in Economics and doing some doctoral work from the New School for Social Research in New York City, New York. He continues to work as the Director of the Business Center for Young Entrepreneurs in New York City.

Mr. Wells occasionally comes to visit ETNP because he still has extended family in the area.

"I had a great childhood," said Mr. Wells. "(Carver's Court) was a supportive community. Our lives were so enriched growing up there. I think of the African Proverb: It takes a village to raise a child. The Carver Court adult community raised its children."

## Resources:

- "Cowboys practice facilities have come long way from rat-infested minor league park," *Dallas Morning News*, August 15, 2016.
- "North Park Highlights," *Dallas Express*, January 26, 1952.