



TORI JOHNSON NAMED NEW SENIOR RESOURCE ASST AT K. B. POLK REC CENTER

It's been said that to do what one loves is to never work a day in your life. If you want to know if that is true all you have to do is ask Tori Simmons Johnson. Mrs. Johnson started work in March as the new Senior Resource Assistant at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center.

"It is a dream come true. I feel at home," Mrs. Johnson said.

The daughter of Dorothy Simmons and Raymond Phifer, Mrs. Johnson is most definitely an Elm Thicket/Northpark legacy resident.



Mrs. Johnson, 4th from left, is welcomed by the K. B. Polk Seniors.

"I am one of the babies out here," she said with a laugh. "I live on Lockheed and walk to work. When I was a kid, I remember seeing Miss Faye walking to the rec." Georgia Faye Clark retired from the recreation center in February 2024 after 16 years of service.

As the senior resource assistant, Mrs. Johnson is responsible for working with the senior group and ensuring that they have plenty of activities to keep them busy.

"I'm getting a feel for what they want to do," she said. "My goal is to be here for them. I want to add some diversity to our senior group and get a lot more seniors to come to the rec. I'm just so glad to be here. This is my neighborhood. This is my home. I love kids and I love our seniors."

The Senior Group meets Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper Street. For more information you can call the recreation center at 214-670-6308 or email Mrs. Johnson at LaToria.Johnson@dallas.gov.

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ETNP News: Message from the Publisher

Hello ETNP Neighbors:

Happy Easter! Here's hoping everyone had a safe and blessed Easter celebration with family and friends. It is hard to believe that we are already into the month of April.

I don't know about your home, but April is what we call the "planning" month. May and June are filled with so many different events you need to start planning now. It is no different at the ETNP News.

We have a run-off election in May as well as the bond election. The run-off is between the two sheriff candidates. The ETNP News went through the bond package and specifically looked at how our neighborhood will benefit. If you want to know how much money will be coming to the Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood please read the story on Page 3 and then vote accordingly.

Once again, we have put all the information you need in this issue so you can make your plan to vote in the upcoming election. The ETNP News is committed to providing as much information as possible so it is easy for you to cast your ballot.

Another commitment we are making is to become voter registrars so whenever there is a community gathering we can register neighbors to vote and increase the voter rolls in our beloved Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood. Strong voter turnout is where we get our strength as a united neighborhood.

Planning is underway for the Elm Thicket/Northpark 14th Annual Juneteenth Celebration which is scheduled for June 15. Every year the celebration gets a little bigger and better. For more information on everything that is being planned and on how you can help please contact the Elm Thicket/Northpark Neighborhood Association at elmthicketnorthpark@gmail.com or Assoc. President Jonathan Maples at 214-868-5760.

A plan we all need to make now is to head down to one of the Dallas Public Library branches and get an enhanced library card. The enhanced library card is FREE for anyone 18 and older and is a way to get another picture ID that has your name, address, and date-of-birth. Unfortunately, it DOES NOT count as an ID that you can use to vote but it can be used as a supplement with other documents to prove your identity and residency.

As always, we love hearing from you. If there is an Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood or family history you would like to share, we would love to publish your story. Or, if you have anything you would like more information on please let us know and we will be glad to do the research and provide that information to everyone. The more we all know the stronger the Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood becomes.

Here's hoping everyone has a safe and fun month of April.

Mimi Perez
Publisher



Important May 4 City Bond Election Information

The City of Dallas is having a special bond election on Saturday, May 4, 2024. For Elm Thicket/Northpark, the City of Dallas has proposed to spend \$3.3 million of the \$1.25 billion in bond funds on infrastructure and improvements for our neighborhood which includes:

- K. B. Polk Rec Center – \$1,112,792 for Interior Upgrades, MEP, Fire Protection, Communication, Security
- K. B. Polk Rec Center Community Garden – \$250,000
- K. B. Polk Playground – \$250,000 for New Pavilion
- Cresthaven/Culcourt St – \$1,173,000 for Design and const. of a storm sewer conveyance system along Cresthaven and Culcourt to prevent runoff from flooding properties along Culcourt
- 4502-4630 Kelton Dr & 4507-4631 Newmore Ave – \$386,000 for unimproved alley construction
- 7702-7718 Roper St & 7703-7719 Linwood Ave – \$136,000 for unimproved alley construction

Proposed Total: \$3,307,792.00

ETNP News is providing this information so our neighbors can be informed in how they wish to cast their vote in this special bond election. You can get more information on the City of Dallas Bond and Construction Management website ([here](#)).

Early voting for this election runs from April 22 to April 30. When we are within 30 days of the election, you can find voting locations and the sample ballot at the Dallas County Elections Department website ([here](#)).

Joint Election – Saturday, May 04, 2024		
Early Voting		
Date(s)	Day of the Week	Time
April 22 – April 26, 2024	Monday – Friday	8 AM – 5 PM
April 27, 2024	Saturday	7 AM – 7 PM
April 28, 2024	Sunday	12 PM – 6 PM
April 29 – April 30, 2024	Monday-Tuesday	7 AM – 7 PM
Election Day		
Date	Day of the Week	Time
May 04, 2024	Saturday	7 AM – 7 PM

Four New Building Construction Permits Issued for February

Save Elm Thicket is continuing to monitor all new construction permits issued for our neighborhood and publishing the addresses. The four new building permits issued during the month of February include:

- 4707 Linnet Lane, 5032 Linnet Lane, 6541 Oriole Drive, and 6540 Starling Circle

We also ask everyone to watch and make sure the builders are following the required building codes prohibiting all flat roofs higher than one story and limiting lot coverage and height. For a complete list of addresses, construction rules, and how to report possible violations since the new zoning went into effect, go to the Save Elm Thicket website ([here](#)).

May 28 Democratic Primary Runoff Election for Dallas County Sheriff between Marion Brown and Lupe Valdez

The Democratic Primary Runoff Election for Dallas County Sheriff is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, and all ETNP neighbors are encouraged to go out and vote for either Sheriff Marion Brown or Former Sheriff Lupe Valdez. The winner of this election will essentially become our next Dallas County Sheriff because there is no Republican challenger on the November ballot.

On May 8, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Dallas will host the Dallas County Sheriff Democratic Primary Run-Off Candidate Forum. You can watch the live-streamed event on the NDCC Facebook page ([here](#)). If you would like to attend the event in person at the NDCC office at 5710 Lyndon B Johnson Fwy, Suite 100, you will need to register in advance ([here](#)) because seating is limited.

To learn more about each candidate, you can visit their campaign websites:

- <https://marianbrownforsheriff.com/>
- <https://www.lupevaldez.com/>



Sheriff Brown (2017 - Present)

Interesting Firsts:

- Sheriff Marion Brown is the first African-American Sheriff in Dallas County and one of only three African-American female sheriffs in the United States.
- Former Sheriff Lupe Valdez was the first Latina sheriff in Dallas County and in the United States.



Former Sheriff Valdez (2005 - 2017)

Election results from the March 5 Primary show both candidates did well in our two precincts within Elm Thicket/Northpark.

Brown garnered 184 votes (43.5%) and Valdez garnered 165 votes (39.0%) making it a very close contest. With runoff elections, every vote cast has more impact. Keep an eye out for more Democratic Primary Runoff voting information in the May edition of the ETNP News.

How to Watch the April 8 Total Solar Eclipse Safely

A once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse is coming to Dallas on April 8 and viewing it safely is a top concern from the viewing experts. The best way to view the eclipse is with special solar eclipse glasses that will block the sun's harmful light from damaging your eyes of those who look directly at the eclipse. The good news is all City of Dallas Recreation Centers are giving away free solar eclipse glasses to everyone (limit 4 per family). Click [here](#) for details.

If you cannot secure a pair, you can still “watch” safely by getting two sheets of white cardboard (e.g., paper plates), punching a pinhole in one sheet, and letting the light through the pinhole shine on the second sheet. The light will form the image of the eclipse on the surface. The do-it-yourself instructions can be found [here](#).

The only time you can look at the eclipse without eye protection is during the full total eclipse when the sun is entirely blacked out (“totality”). You will only have about 3 minutes, but it will be a sight to behold. Just immediately look away once the sun is about to peek out from behind the moon.

For those who want to experience this awesome spectacle with others, you can make plans to get to the Cotton Bowl or Samuell Grand Park where “Totality Dallas” events are scheduled.

Totality Dallas is a Solar Eclipse Festival that will give spectators family-friendly eclipse-related educational and recreational activities, including expert science presentations, food vendors, and entertainment. Click [here](#) for more information on these events and more.

Finally, here are the ETNP times for the eclipse:

- Partial eclipse starts: 12:23 p.m.
- Totality begins: 1:41 p.m.
- Totality ends: 1:44 p.m.
- Partial eclipse ends: 3:03 p.m.

Finally, let's hope there are no clouds! Enjoy!



FYI: Recent Home Sales in Elm Thicket/Northpark

Because knowledge is power, the ETNP News will periodically post homes that have recently sold in ETNP. We will try to pick homes from each corner of ETNP as well as do a mix of cottages and new builds.



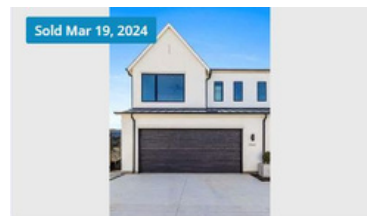
\$300,000
2 bd • 3 ba • 900 sqft
6834 Victoria Avenue, Dallas, TX 75209



\$1,350,000
5 bd • 4 ba • 4,018 sqft
4603 Newmore Avenue, Dallas, TX 75209



\$1,835,000
5 bd • 5 ba • 4,202 sqft
7403 Robin Road, Dallas, TX 75209



\$895,000
3 bd • 3 ba • 2,794 sqft
4602 Hopkins Avenue, Dallas, TX 75209

Easter Bunny Makes Appearance at Elm Thicket Easter Egg Roll

Elm Thicket/Northpark children and their families turned out for the annual Easter Egg Roll held at the K. B. Polk Sprayground on March 23. District 2 Councilmember Jesse Moreno, District 6 Councilmember Omar Narvaez, Texas State Rep. Rafael Anchia, K. B. Polk Seniors, K. B. Polk Recreation Center staff, and the ETNP Neighborhood Association all contributed to make the event a memorable one for our Elm Thicket/Northpark children.



Looking for a Way to Share Well Wishes? Publish in ETNP News!

ETNP News is offering space in future copies of the newsletter for our neighbors to share good news like weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, and the like. For only \$10, you can purchase a 2" x 3.75" space to announce it. If you need more room, just add \$10 for each 2" x 3.75"-page space (Horizontal or Vertical Layout).

We can work with you on the design and final version before we go to press. Just contact etnpnews@gmail.com or call/text Gus Perez @214-930-7712 before the 20th of each month to let us know and we can reserve the space for you. Below are some examples of 2" x 3.75" announcements. Money raised helps offset the printing costs for home delivery.



Elm Thicket/Northpark Juneteenth Celebration Set for June 15

Plans are underway for the 14th annual Elm Thicket/Northpark Juneteenth celebration. The neighborhood-wide party will be Saturday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center said Jonathan Maples, president of the Elm Thicket/Northpark Neighborhood Association.

The festivities kick-off with a neighborhood parade with participants gathering along Thedford starting at 9 a.m.

As in years past, the celebration will have members of the Polk Senior Group selling arts and crafts as a fundraiser, dancers, entertainment and free food. Elm Thicket neighbors who have businesses are encouraged to attend and share information about their company. Mr. Maples said he is organizing a spades and domino competition for this year's celebration.



As one of Dallas' historical Freedman's Communities, the Juneteenth Celebration is important to the Elm Thicket neighborhood because it is a great way to honor the history of our neighborhood and our legacy residents.

The ETNP Juneteenth celebration is also a wonderful way to catch up with neighbors you have not seen in a while as well as meeting new neighbors. There is no better way to celebrate the holiday.

For more information you can contact Mr. Maples at 214.868.5760 or email the ETNP Neighborhood Assoc. at elmthicketnorthpark@gmail.com.

If You're Interested in Learning Mahjong, Check Out the K. B. Polk Recreation Center on Tuesdays

If you are interested in learning how to play Mahjong, there are neighbors who have formed a group and are meeting at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center on Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

You do not need to know how to play in order to join the group. There is an instructor who will teach you the rules and help you along. Mahjong sets are provided so all you have to do is bring yourself and be ready to learn a really fun game.

For more information call the K. B. Polk Recreation Center at 214-670-6308.



Enhanced Library Card Now Available For Free to ETNP Residents

The Dallas Public Library is now offering an Enhanced Library Card that has a person's name, picture, date of birth and current address. While it is NOT recognized as a government ID, the Enhanced Library Card is FREE and can be used as a supplement with other documents to prove your identity and residency.

To get an Enhanced Library Card, just visit any branch in the Dallas Library System. The Bachman Lake Library is located at 9480 Webb Chapel Road, Dallas. For more information on how to get an Enhanced Library Card click [here](#).



Tarjetas de Biblioteca Mejoradas

¿Por qué debo obtener una Tarjeta de Biblioteca Mejorada?

- La tarjeta de la biblioteca mejorada es una tarjeta de Dallas Public Library y se puede usar para acceder a todos los recursos que están disponibles para los titulares de la tarjeta de la biblioteca
- La tarjeta posiblemente se puede usar como complemento de otros documentos para probar su identidad y dirección
- Las tarjetas de biblioteca mejoradas están disponibles para los residentes adultos de la ciudad de Dallas (mayores de 18 años) están disponibles de forma gratuita

¿Qué es la Tarjeta de Biblioteca Mejorada?

La tarjeta de biblioteca mejorada es una tarjeta de la Biblioteca Pública de Dallas que lleva impreso el nombre, la foto, la fecha de nacimiento y la dirección actual de la persona.

¡Disponible en 29 bibliotecas!



Escanee el código QR para obtener más información sobre las tarjetas de biblioteca mejoradas