

# ETNP News

A Save Elm Thicket Publication Serving ETNP

This Issue Sponsored by Democrat for Justice of the Peace Pct. 5-2 Candidate Omar Narvaez ([www.omarfordallas.com](http://www.omarfordallas.com))



## DEVELOPER FACING MAJOR HURDLES IN DEVELOPMENT OF GARVIN CEMETERY

As a follow-up to the story on the Garvin Memorial Cemetery located at 4000 W. Northwest Highway, the ETNP News spoke with the city about what the developer, Andrew Strong would have to do in order to build townhomes on that sacred piece of property.

A brief recap of what is at stake: Garvin Memorial Cemetery is the final resting place of freedmen who lived and died in Elm Thicket and the surrounding Freedmen Communities at the turn of the 20th century. Also interred at the cemetery are Civil War officers



A Stop Work order is posted at the Garvin Memorial Cemetery to prevent further damage to the headstones. The Notice of Violation was for the builder's failure to get a Certificate of Appropriateness before conducting work on the site. No date has been set for the rezoning case because no site plans have been submitted as of this publication date.

and soldiers and their family members. Strong, through a company he created called 4000 Northwest Highway LLC, wants to build townhomes on that sacred ground. Save Elm Thicket is taking action to prevent the developer from building on this site. For a more detailed account of what has happened at Garvin Memorial Cemetery, please see our [April 2026](#) issue.

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# ETNP News: Message from the Publisher

Hello ETNP Readers:

Here's hoping this finds everyone well and preparing to celebrate their moms on Sunday, May 10th for Mother's Day.

There is a change that has taken place with Save Elm Thicket and its publication, *ETNP News*, that I thought you should know about. At the end of last year, I was asked to serve on the Dallas Board of Adjustment (BOA) by District 6 Councilwoman Laura Cadena. After some consideration, I accepted the position and am happy to serve our city in this manner.

After my first two meetings, however, it became clear that I cannot write for the *ETNP News* or help direct Save Elm Thicket. Save Elm Thicket was created in 2021 during the rezoning case that involved our entire neighborhood. It was designed as an advocacy group for our historic Ellum Thicket with the goal of protecting our neighborhood by reporting homes that do not comply with the new building standards and keeping you, our readers and neighbors, informed of zoning changes that will impact our community. It was because of Save Elm Thicket's diligence in 2023 that the city realized its error in granting building permits that did not follow the new rezoning changes.

*ETNP News* is published under the banner of Save Elm Thicket. While we write about the senior group at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center, spray park hours, holiday events, special programs, etc., we also write about zoning cases that will impact our neighborhood and provide information on how to have your voice heard at city hall.

Because I have to maintain an impartiality, writing for the *ETNP News* and helping to guide Save Elm Thicket would be a conflict to serving on the BOA. So this "From the Publisher" will be the last thing I contribute to the *ETNP News* until my term on the BOA is done.

So what does this mean for the newsletter and Save Elm Thicket? You probably will not notice much of a change. Gus, my husband, will take over editorial control and writing the newsletter as well as guide Save Elm Thicket. We have a media person that is responsible for posting on FB and Instagram as well as maintaining our subscription list. Gus will ensure the newsletter is sent at the first of the month or close to it and those who receive a paper copy will continue to receive that as well.

If you have any questions, news, or neighborhood history you would like to share please contact Gus at [etnpnews@gmail.com](mailto:etnpnews@gmail.com) or you can reach him at 214-930-7712. Gus would love to print more *ETNP News* stories around our ETNP history, so hit him up if you also have old neighborhood pictures to share.

Here's wishing all the moms a happy and blessed Mother's Day. Here's hoping you are celebrated by everyone in your family.

Your neighbor,  
Mimi Perez



**VOTE ATTORNEY**

**KATELYN LOGIE**

**FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

**PRECINCT 5 • PLACE 2**



**VS**

**ATTORNEY**

**Katelyn Logie**

- ✓ Civil Litigation
- ✓ Criminal Defense
- ✓ Community Advocate
- ✓ Small Business Owner

**POLITICIAN**

**Omar Narvaez**

- ✗ Not an Attorney
- ✗ No Legal Education
- ✗ Career Politician

\*No college degrees listed on any publicly available bios or campaign website. Please compare our websites, resumes, or see LinkedIn. Thank you.

**Justice of the Peace is a Judge.  
It's a legal job — not a political one.**

**EARLY VOTING MAY 18-22 | ELECTION DAY MAY 26**

Pol. Ad. Paid for by Katelyn Logie for Justice campaign.  
Christy Aderemi, Treasurer.

For more information or to donate please visit  
[www.LogieForJustice.com](http://www.LogieForJustice.com) or scan this QR code.



# K. B. Polk Seniors Page

## Seniors Support The Volunteer Center and Enjoy Lunch



©Rec Center Staff

The Active Senior Adult Program members took a trip to The Volunteer Center and then had some delicious Mexican food at Señor Bean. Thank you to the owner & servers for making the experience great! There is nothing better than good food and great company.

### Print & Play Puzzle Corner: May Word Search

D B G D J G P L E A S A N T P  
U Y U L B U T T E R F L I E S  
M Q S M U S S U N S H I N E O  
M E Q N B A P L A Y O F F S G  
O V M S I L L F L O W E R S F  
T C Z O E L E C T I O N S P L  
H P R M R Z P B P M I B G B A  
E L F A M I E W E V A L A A W  
R A L Y I A A U U E F O R L N  
S N O P A N Y L H E S S D L M  
D T W O O T B D D Y A S E O O  
A I E L S H D O A A L O N T W  
Y N R E G N J V W Y Y M I B E  
R G S S H O W E R S A S N O R  
D C I N C O D E M A Y O G X S

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| BallotBox   | MayDay      |
| Blossoms    | Maypole     |
| Bumblebees  | MemorialDay |
| Butterflies | MothersDay  |
| CincoDeMayo | NBAPlayoffs |
| Elections   | Planting    |
| Flowers     | Pleasant    |
| Flowers     | Rainbows    |
| Gardening   | Showers     |
| Lawnmowers  | Sunshine    |

Answer Key can be found at [www.save-etnp.org/etnp-news](http://www.save-etnp.org/etnp-news).



# OMAR NARVAEZ

Democrat for Justice of the Peace Precinct 5-2

OMAR'S PROMISE IS SIMPLE: TO DELIVER JUSTICE THAT IS FAIR, ACCESSIBLE, AND EFFICIENT WITH COMPASSION. AS OUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBER OMAR WAS OUR CHAMPION AT CITY HALL. HE WILL BE OUR CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE. OMAR IS TESTED AND PROVEN AND HIS LEADERSHIP CAN BE TRUSTED AS OUR NEXT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

## BACKED BY LEADERS. CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE.

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NATIONAL LATINO LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION - DALLAS CHAPTER  
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LGBTQ+ VICTORY FUND



STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS



**VOTE OMAR NARVAEZ IN THIS DEMOCRATIC RUNOFF: MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
EARLY VOTING FROM MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 22<sup>ND</sup>.**

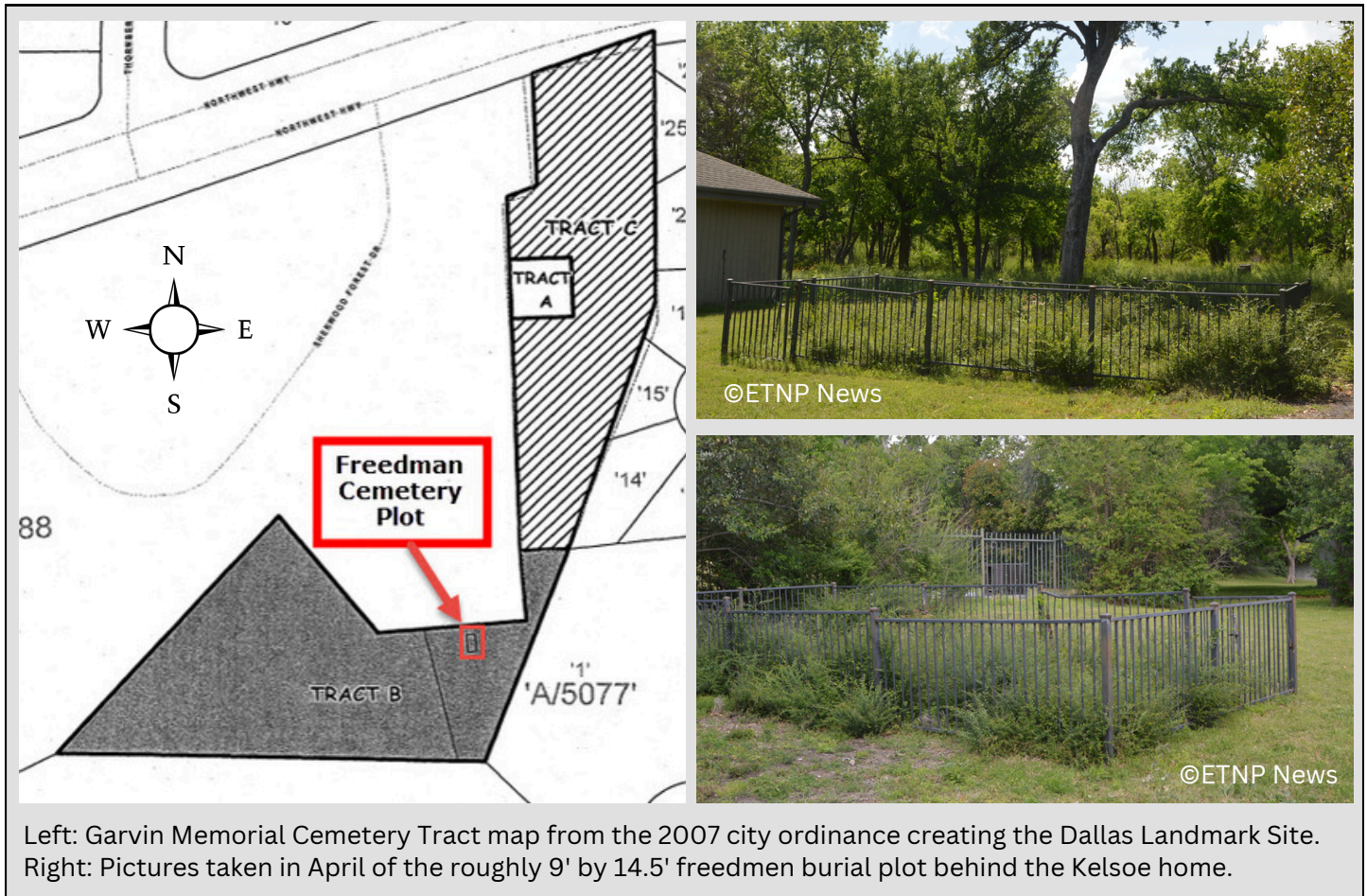
POL. AD. PAID FOR BY THE OMAR NARVAEZ CAMPAIGN.

# Correction: Freedman Burial Location in Tract B Incorrectly identified in April 2026 *ETNP News*

The area known as Tract B where many freedmen were buried at Garvin Memorial Cemetery was misidentified in the April 2026 edition of *ETNP News*. Upon additional research, it was discovered that Tract B was claimed by Dallas Attorney Frank Finn who acquired Tract B in 1998-99 in what was described by the Dallas Pioneer Society as a “questionable court case.” The Tract B property was then sold to G.H. Kelsoe who lived adjacent to this site in 2003.

Upon Mr. Kelsoe’s passing in 2003 and soon after the sale from Mr. Finn, Tract B has been maintained by his widow, Mary Kelsoe. Tract B has the freedmen burial site

The location of the freedmen cemetery plot used for 10-12 freedman burials was clearly located in the map provided in the city ordinance that was passed in April 2007 (see map below). The ordinance states that no new construction can occur on Tracts A and B. It is Tract C where the developer wishes to build townhomes.



It is important to note the western parcel of Tract B has been zoned for commercial use while the eastern portion where the freedmen cemetery plot is located is zoned residential according to DCAD records. To further complicate matters, according to DCAD records, the legal owner of the small 131-sqft. freedmen cemetery plot in Tract B is still owned by Mr. Finn and was not sold to Mr. Kelsoe in 2003 with the rest of Tract B.

If anyone knows of any living relatives of those buried in Tract B or in the small cemetery plot can contact *ETNP News* at [etnpnews@gmail.com](mailto:etnpnews@gmail.com).

# Developer Facing Hurdles at Garvin Cemetery (From Page 1)

Trevor Brown, Planning & Development Manager with the City of Dallas, detailed the process the builder would have to go through to build on that site.

Mr. Brown said the damage to the cemetery and grave markers will have to be corrected first. No additional work can be done on that site until the cemetery damage is addressed.

While the developer is fixing the damage, he can still proceed with the rezoning request at the City Plan Commission (CPC). It will be at this time that Elm Thicket/Northpark neighbors can begin speaking for or against this development.

If the developer is able to satisfy the Landmark Commission requirements so that the historical landmark is protected AND obtain zoning approval from the CPC and city council, work can proceed on the construction.

Texas law and city ordinance requires that any work on landmark sites be examined for human remains if any of the construction work disturbs the soil deeper than 6 inches. Below is a brief overview of the process the developer must follow:

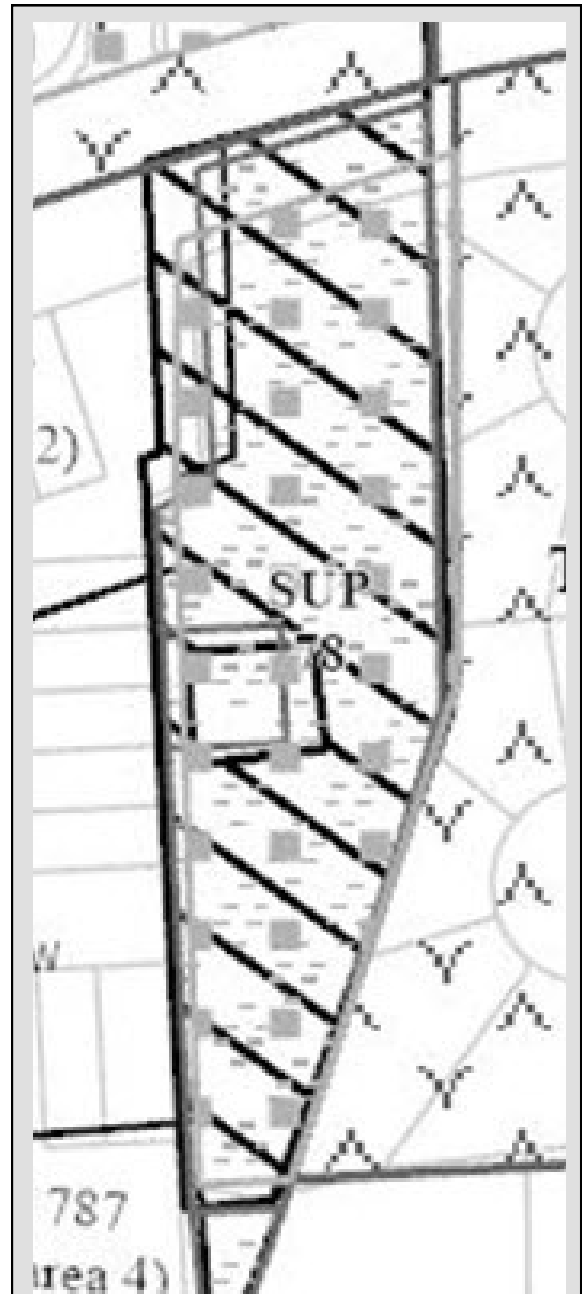
- The Texas Historical Commission's Archeology Division is brought in to ensure state laws are followed.
- Certified archaeologists are hired to conduct the painstaking work to identify where the remains of those buried on the property are located.
- Researchers identify any living relatives for any remains found and will ask for permission to move those remains or keep them on site.
- The developer is responsible for recovery and reburial of identified remains on site or at another cemetery at the request of the living relatives.

All costs involved are on the developer to pay.

"I think they (the applicants) are starting to understand the level of work needed," Mr. Brown said when he explained the process to the developer's consultant from Baldwin & Associates. "But they showed interest in moving forward with the zoning."

"The developer is in for a very lengthy and costly proposition if the zoning is approved," Mr. Brown said. "We are just getting started."

Save Elm Thicket will continue to keep our neighbors updated on this zoning case. When the time comes for us to speak out against the plans to develop Garvin Memorial Cemetery with the CPC and city council, we must stand united in protecting the history and legacy of those former Elm Thicket freedmen and others buried there.



The area shown with the diagonal lines is where the developer is seeking to build townhomes. This is considered Tract C where perhaps dozens of unmarked graves are currently located.

## Early Voting Set for May 18-22 for May 26 Primary Runoff Races

The May 26 Primary Runoff election is fast approaching and all ETNP voters are being encouraged to vote early to avoid possible long lines and confusion that took place during the March 3 Primary election. The good news is you can once again vote at any Dallas County polling location and are not forced to go to your specific precinct for this election on Election Day.

This is still a very important election with federal, state, and county offices being decided.

To vote early, the nearest location is the Grauwlyer Park Recreation Center at 7780 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas, Texas 75235. You can also look up early voting locations on the Dallas County Elections Department website ([click here](#)). All polling locations will be open from 7 am to 7 pm starting Monday, May 18 to Friday, May 22.



If you wait until the May 26 Primary Runoff Election Day, you can vote at the K.B. Polk Vanguard Elementary School at 6911 Victoria Ave, Dallas, Texas 75209 which is the only voting location within the ETNP neighborhood. All Dallas polling locations will be open from 7 am to 7 pm.

Save Elm Thicket is asking for everyone to make time to vote early or on Election Day. Our best way to have our voices heard is by being unified and voting in every election regardless of the candidates or party. When our elected leaders see we are a strong block of voters, they are more likely to listen to us when we ask for their help in doing the work to Save Elm Thicket.

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## Mother's Day Celebration Held April 30 at Rec Center

Mothers were invited to the recreation center on April 30 to celebrate Mother's Day. The event was sponsored by the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department and the Active Senior Adult Program (ASAP).

There was a great turnout with everyone enjoying the food, guest speaker, and festivities. Special thanks go to the Rec Center Staff and ASAP volunteers that made this year's event successful.



Members of the Active Senior and Adult Program and other guests are enjoying the special Mother's Day event held at the Rec Center on April 30. Thank you moms for all you do!