



ETNP NEIGHBORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN KEEPING NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE

An arrest warrant was issued on Wednesday, Jan. 29, by the Dallas Police Department for the individual who was identified by vigilant neighbors who posted photos of the man allegedly pulling car door handles looking for unlocked cars and entering garages that are left open.

At the monthly crime watch meeting held Jan. 28, Neighborhood Police Officer Michael Villarreal and Sr. Cpl. Jose Gamez said that a warrant was going to be issued the morning of Jan. 29 for this individual.

The officers said a number of different Elm Thicket/Northpark neighbors had sent them the photos and reported the individual directly to them. They hope to arrest the individual within the next few days.

On Jan. 24, an Elm Thicket resident posted on the Nextdoor app that "There's a man on a scooter near Cowan Ave. getting into people's cars and garages. If you see him please contact the authorities, he's been stealing in our neighborhood."

We included the photos that were a part of the post. If you see this individual please call 911 and let them know that there is a warrant out for his arrest. Please give the 911 operator as much detail as possible.

See ETNP Neighbors Working to Stop Crime... Page 4



Neighbors on Cowan Ave. took pictures of this alleged thief using a scooter to make his way through the neighborhood and allegedly take items from open garages and unlocked cars.

Inside This Issue

**A Message From the ETNP
News Publisher**

**Catholic Charities Begin
Monthly Food Distribution
from K.B. Polk Rec Center**

**Caridades Católicas
Comienzan la Distribución
Mensual de Alimentos de
Centro de Recreación**

**Board of Adjustment
Sides with Victoria Ave.
Builder**

**New Reading Area for
Elum Thicket Children**

**Nueva Área de Lectura
para Niños de Elum
Thicket**

**Seniors Page and Spring
Break Camp Included!**

To subscribe, contact
etnpnews@gmail.com for
a **free** monthly
subscription or if you
have ETNP news to share.

Follow us on Facebook and
Instagram (scan or click)



ETNP News: Message from the Publisher

Hello ETNP News Neighbors:

Happy Black History Month! For those neighbors who have just moved into the Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood you are living in a neighborhood encompassed with Black history. Elm Thicket/Northpark is one of several [Freedman's Communities](#) that were created after the enslaved were granted their freedom. The original Ellum Thicket was much larger but the expansion of Love Field Airport took more than half of the homes and Black owned businesses. You can read more about the history of the Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood in previous issues of the [ETNP News](#).

We are now back to our usual 8-page newsletter and we have it filled with information we hope you will find helpful. There is something in here for everyone.

The Active Senior Adult Program has started off strong and determined to grow their group this year. Last year, the number of active members doubled and there is little doubt that under the leadership of Tori Johnson, the ASAP senior rec asst., that goal will be achieved. Let me tell you, this is absolutely a group that every senior in our neighborhood needs to join. It is impossible to not leave with a smile on your face after spending time doing arts and crafts or playing bingo or sharing lunch with one another. Truly, it is a fantastic group of folks and everyone is welcome to join. Details on how to do so can be found in the story on Page 7.



Then we have a good news/bad news type story. The bad news is that there was an individual riding around on a scooter pulling door handles and entering people's garages in our neighborhood. One of the neighbors whose car was burgled called the police and posted the pictures of the individual on the Nextdoor app.

Here comes the good news. Other Elm Thicket neighbors saw that post and took it upon themselves to send the photos to our neighborhood patrol officers. Because of everyone's effort to help the police identify this individual, a warrant for his arrest was issued on Wednesday, Jan. 29. The really, really good news is the fact that many neighbors made the effort to reach out to our NPOs. That is what makes the Ellum Thicket neighborhood so special. We are a neighborhood that looks out for one another and takes the time to keep our NPOs informed of issues in our neighborhood. That benefits all of us. You can read the full story on Pages 1 and 4.

The last bit of information I want to talk about is the food distribution that happens on the first Friday of each month. The distribution is done by Catholic Charities of Dallas and volunteers from the neighborhood and the rec senior group help with distributing the food boxes. It is a true community effort. All you need to do is give your name and address the first time you get a distribution and then you will be on the list after that first time. Food items include a gallon of milk, rice, fresh fruits and veggies, meat, etc. Please share this information with your friends and family who could benefit from this. The distribution takes place the first Friday of the month, from 9 a.m. to noon. While this event is not sponsored by the recreation center, the distribution takes place at the parking lot of the K. B. Polk Rec Center, 6801 Roper Street. Volunteers are always needed.

Okay neighbors, that is all I have for this month. As always, please feel free to provide us with any feedback on the newsletter or if you have some neighborhood history that you would like to share, we would love to hear from you. You can reach us at etnpnews@gmail.com.

Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy Black History Month.

Your neighbor,
Mimi Perez, Publisher



Catholic Charities Food Distribution the 1st Friday of Every Month

During the last quarter of 2024, Catholic Charities of Dallas began doing food distribution in Elm Thicket/Northpark on the first Friday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon at the parking lot of the K. B. Polk Rec Center for neighbors who need some extra help.

Any ETNP neighbor is eligible to receive the assistance. All you need to do is provide your name and address the first time you receive a food box.

While what comes in each box varies, recipients always receive a gallon of milk, staples such as rice, oats, beans and a variety of fresh fruits and veggies.

The dates for the Elm Thicket food distribution for the first half of the year are: Friday, Feb. 7; Friday, March 7; Friday, April 4; Friday, May 2; Friday, June 6. The distribution will take place in the parking lot of the K. B. Polk Rec Center, 6801 Roper Street.



Volunteers help sort and unload food to be distributed from the K.B. Polk Rec Center parking lot.

Distribución de alimentos de Caridades Católicas el primer viernes de cada mes

Durante el último trimestre de 2024, Caridades Católicas de Dallas comenzó a distribuir alimentos en Elm Thicket/Northpark el primer viernes de cada mes de 9 a. m. al mediodía en el estacionamiento del Centro de recreación K. B. Polk para los vecinos que necesitan ayuda adicional.

Cualquier vecino de ETNP es elegible para recibir asistencia. Todo lo que necesita hacer es proporcionar su nombre y dirección la primera vez que reciba una caja de comida.

Las personas que reciben una caja siempre reciben un galón de leche, alimentos básicos como arroz, avena, frijoles y una variedad de frutas y verduras frescas.

Las fechas para la distribución de alimentos de Elm Thicket para la primera mitad del año son: viernes 7 de febrero; viernes 7 de marzo, viernes 4 de abril; viernes 2 de mayo; viernes 6 de junio. La distribución se llevará a cabo en el estacionamiento del K. B. Polk Rec Center, 6801 Roper Street.



Los voluntarios ayudan a clasificar y descargar los alimentos que se distribuirán desde el K.B. Estacionamiento del Polk Rec Center.

ETNP Neighbors Working to Stop Crime by Posting Suspect Photos on Nextdoor App (From Page 1)

Commenters on the post said the individual allegedly lives in Elm Thicket/Northpark. If you recognize him and know where he lives, please contact our neighborhood patrol officers. Their contact information is: Officer Michael Villanueva (214-681-4421) and Sr. Cpl. Jose Gamez (214-918-7289). You can also reach them via email:

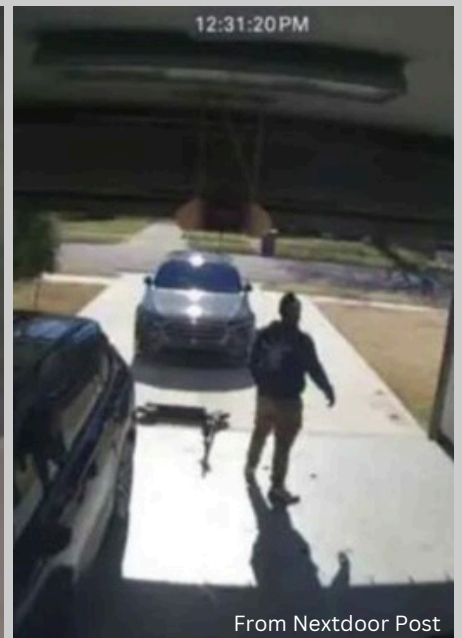
michael.villanueva@dallaspolice.gov and jose.gamez@dallaspolice.gov

The officers also reminded residents to ensure that they lock their cars and do not leave anything valuable in their car or anything visible to the naked eye.

Many thanks to all the neighbors who are vigilant and helping to keep Elm Thicket/Northpark safe for everyone.



From Nextdoor Post



From Nextdoor Post

These pictures of the suspect moving through the neighborhood and entering an open garage were shared on the Nextdoor app and were used by police to create an arrest warrant for this individual.

Board of Adjustment Reverses Nov Ruling and Sides with 6529 Victoria Ave Builder at Jan 21 Meeting

The builder of the duplex at 6529 Victoria can finish building the structure as is despite the pleas of Ellum Thicket neighbors and Save Elm Thicket to hold the builder accountable for knowing about the zoning changes and submitting non-conforming plans anyway.

The Dallas Board of Adjustment, led by David Neumann, refused to listen to the neighborhood and consider the evidence presented that the builder, F80 Capital, created their own self-inflicted harm when allowing the non-conforming structure to be built nearly 10 feet higher than the zoning allows.

Neumann said he was satisfied when the builder stated under oath that he did not know of the updated zoning prior to building the duplex next to The Greater North Park Church of God in Christ on Victoria Ave despite clear evidence presented multiple times showing otherwise. This false statement was apparently enough to swing the board to rule 4-1 in favor of the builder's variance request when the same building plan was denied 3-2 at the November hearing concerning the stop work order issued by the city.

Despite the travesty of justice that occurred at the January 21 BOA Hearing, Save Elm Thicket will continue to fight against those who continue to build non-conforming structures and seek relief for their illegal actions from the builder-friendly Board of Adjustment.

New Reading Area for Ellum Thicket Children

Elm Thicket/Northpark children have easy access to library books thanks to a joint effort between the K. B. Polk Recreation Center and the Bachman Lake Library. Toward the end of 2024, the library set up a bookshelf at the rec center and filled it with books that have been taken out of circulation.

This is a fantastic opportunity to encourage our neighborhood children to continue reading and feed their curiosity with books about how things work or take them on a wild adventure through stories.

Members of the library staff stop by the rec center to replenish the books and add new reading material every month so children always have something new to read. They are welcome to take the books home and bring them back or keep them so they can read them again.

Stop by the K. B. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper Street and check out the new reading section for our neighborhood children.



The Backman Lake Library has set up a reading area for children at the Rec. Center. Books can be taken home to be read.

La biblioteca de Bachman Lake ha establecido un área de lectura para niños en el Rec. Centro. Los libros se pueden llevar a casa para leerlos.

Nueva Área de Lectura para Niños de Ellum Thicket

Los niños de Elm Thicket/Northpark tienen fácil acceso a los libros de la biblioteca gracias a un esfuerzo conjunto entre el Centro Recreativo K. B. Polk y la Biblioteca Bachman Lake. A finales del año pasado, la biblioteca instaló una estantería en el centro de recreación y la llenó con libros que habían sido retirados de circulación.

Esta es una oportunidad fantástica para animar a los niños de nuestro barrio a seguir leyendo y alimentar su curiosidad con libros sobre cómo funcionan las cosas o llevarlos a una aventura salvaje a través de cuentos.

Los miembros del personal de la biblioteca pasan por el centro de recreación para reponer los libros y agregar material de lectura nuevo cada mes para que los niños siempre tengan algo nuevo que leer. Pueden llevarse los libros a casa y traerlos de regreso o conservarlos para poder leerlos nuevamente.

Pase por el Centro Recreativo K. B. Polk, 6801 Roper Street y consulte la nueva sección de lectura para los niños de nuestro vecindario.

K. B. Polk Seniors Page

Sponsored by The Senior Source®



3910 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas, Texas 75219
214-823-5700, info@theseniorsource.org
<https://theseniorsource.org/>



¡SÉ VOLUNTARIO COMO ACOMPAÑANTE PARA PERSONAS MAYORES!

Hombres y mujeres de 55 años o más pueden ser la razón por la cual un niño en la escuela sonríe o un adulto mayor puede permanecer independiente en su hogar.

Un estipendio por hora está disponible para personas mayores que cumplan con los requisitos de ingresos. Se requiere una solicitud y una verificación de antecedentes.

Beneficios del voluntariado:



Mejorar la calidad de vida



Hacer nuevos amigos



Ayudar a otros

Obtén información sobre nuestras
oportunidades de voluntariado en
TheSeniorSource.org/ACS
o llama al 214.525.6118

Print & Play Puzzle Corner: Valentine's Day Word Search

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

Admirer	Girlfriend
Affection	Hearts
Amorous	Hugs
Boyfriend	Kisses
Candy	Love
Cards	Lovebirds
Chocolates	Roses
Crush	Smitten
Cupid	Sweetheart
Flowers	Swoon

Answer Key can be found at www.save-etnp.org/etnp-news.

Best Cooks in Ellum Thicket are Part of the Active Senior and Adult Program, Join the Group Today

The word is out about the fun being had at the Active Senior and Adult Program (ASAP) at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center. Two new members joined in January and that is just fine with Tori Johnson, the senior recreation assistant for ASAP.

“We doubled the size of the group last year,” Mrs. Johnson said. “My goal is to double it again for this year.”

The program keeps seniors in the Elm Thicket/Northpark neighborhood active both physically and mentally. There are field trips, outings, guest speakers and activities, arts and crafts, volunteer opportunities, bingo and much more.



©Rec Center Staff

“We have so many seniors in our neighborhood,” Mrs. Johnson said. “If they knew how much fun we were having they would be at the rec center every day.”

During the first meeting of the year, the seniors selected their roster of officers for 2025. They are: Alice Polk, president; Sherrill Hearne, treasurer; Mimi Perez, recording secretary, and Marilyn Williams, purchasing agent.

“Not only will you have a good time but every Thursday we have a lunch prepared by our members, it is fabulous. The best cooks in Ellum Thicket are members of the senior program,” she said.

The dues for the group is just \$5 per month with the money being spent on monthly birthday celebrations.

The group meets Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center. To be eligible to attend any of the field trips or outings, you must attend at least three times a week. If you would like more information on how to join the senior program, please call Mrs. Johnson at 214-670-6308.



©Mimi Perez

Top: The K.B. Polk Seniors enjoy a lunch at Smokey John's BBQ after attending a concert to celebrate MLK Jr. Day.

Bottom: Senior Recreation Assistant Tori Johnson (Left) and Ms. Helen Johnson (right) prepare for a Active Senior and Adult Program lunch at the Rec. Center held in January.

Sign Up for Spring Break Camp Now Before All the Spots are Filled

With spring break just a short month away, do not delay in signing up your child for Spring Break Camp at the K. B. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper Street. The cost of the camp is \$65 for the week.

“We’re planning a lot of fun activities for the kids,” said Activities Manager Marisol Ramirez.

The camp will run from March 10 through March 14 from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. The rec always does a great job of caring for and entertaining campers.

“Come and join us for an exciting spring break week to keep your children moving and having fun,” Ramirez said.

For more information on how to sign your child up for camp please call 214-670-6308.



Inscriba a su hijo para el campamento de vacaciones de primavera

Con las vacaciones de primavera a solo un mes de distancia, no se demore en inscribir a su hijo en el campamento de vacaciones de primavera en el Centro Recreativo K. B. Polk, 6801 Roper Street. El costo del campamento es de \$65 por semana.

“Estamos planeando muchas actividades divertidas para los niños”, dijo la gerente de actividades Marisol Ramírez.

El campamento se desarrollará del 10 al 14 de marzo de 7:30 am a 5:30 pm. El rec siempre hace un gran trabajo cuidando y entreteniendo a los campistas.

“Ven y deja que tu hijo tenga una divertida semana de vacaciones de primavera para que se mantenga en movimiento y se divierta”, dijo Ramírez.

Para obtener más información sobre cómo inscribir a su hijo en el campamento, llame al 214-670-6308.