

ETNP News

A Save Elm Thicket Publication Serving ETNP

ELM THICKET NEIGHBOR BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER THROUGH LIGHTS

Ellum Thicket neighbors are in luck if they have not made their way over to Robin Road to see the phenomenal Christmas lights display. In honor of the 40 days of Christmas, the lights will be up through Feb. 2, 2026. The majority of the Christmas display is located from University Blvd. to Locksley Avenue. To watch a video, click [here](#).

The festivity is brought by longtime Elm Thicket/Northpark neighbor Marco D., who moved into his home in the 7200 Block of Robin Road in 2008. In what began with his own yard, he has single-handedly organized the Christmas lights display on his street for more than 10 years. The display follows the Christian tradition of the 40 days of Christmas.

The wonderfully cheerful light display has grown to a total of 14 homes along Robin Road and Morton Street. It's been a labor of love for Marco from the beginning.

In 2013, Marco wanted to help some neighbors experiencing health and mental concerns have a brighter Christmas season. So he offered to help decorate their properties with Christmas lights.

"It gave them a lot of joy and pleasure," Marco said. "I believe these lights help with recovering from ailments and can help you heal faster. It made me feel good about what I was doing for them."

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"It's like a children's painting," says Marco of one of his favorite pictures of the lights on Robin Road. Photo courtesy of Marco D.



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ETNP News: Message from the Publisher

Happy New Year Ellum Thicket Neighbors!

We hope you and your family had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Years holiday. We have taken the holiday season to reflect on what the *ETNP News* has done well and where we can improve. The same goes with Save Elm Thicket.

Any changes we make are driven by the feedback we get from our neighbors. What is something you would like to see or read about, what activities would you like us to support or would simply like more information? From when Save Elm Thicket was formed our goal was to provide information so neighbors would have information to make the best decision for their families and our beloved neighborhood.

From what we've heard from a number of neighbors these past couple of months is that they would like more community activities or opportunities to meet other neighbors. We are currently in the process of working with interested neighbors to see what we can put together. Our goal is to present different opportunities to meet neighbors and enjoy our neighborhood in the February 2026 issue.

We consider ourselves incredibly blessed that in our more than 30+ years of living in Ellum Thicket we have gotten to know many of our neighbors and the adage of being "stronger together" rings true. If you have not already, please read the story about the Christmas lights along Robin Road. That is a great example of a neighbor inviting his neighbors to join in the fun of decorating and celebrating Christmas together. Then there was a neighbor on Morton who offered to hang free Christmas wreaths for neighbors in order to make their Christmas holiday brighter.

Then there was Brother Holiday, another long-time Elm Thicket neighbor, who shared several bags of freshly harvested collard greens, mustard greens and turnip greens with the Active Senior Adult Program at the K. B. Polk Rec Center. The greens were cooked and served during the senior Christmas celebration. They were delicious.

So stay tuned for February and we'll see what we can come up with in order to get to know one another better and build a stronger sense of community in Ellum Thicket/Northpark.

Here's hoping everyone has a safe and peaceful January. Happy New Year!

Your neighbor,
Mimi Perez



©Mimi Perez
Brother Holiday shares his delicious harvest with the A.S.A.P. members.



K. B. Polk Seniors Page



Top Left: Mrs. Alice Polk and Ms. Ruby West celebrate their December birthdays. Top Right: The Active Senior Adult Program members enjoy the Secret Santa celebration. Bottom: Willa Jones (L) Naomi Hill (R) visit Santa and Mrs. Claus during the District 2 Christmas Party at the Bomb Factory in Deep Ellum.

Print & Play Puzzle Corner: January Season Word Search

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

Coats	Mittens
EarMuffs	MLKJr
Fireplace	NewYear
Fireworks	Resolutions
Freeze	Scarves
Frosty	Sleet
Gloves	Snowflakes
HotChocolate	Solstice
Icicles	Sweaters
Jackets	Winter

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

Christmas Lights Bring Joy to ETNP (From Page 1)

Marco picked up the cost of all the lights and even connected his neighbor to his power supply so there would be no cost to them. With the addition of another neighbor's house the following year, the work started to become more than he could handle by himself. By either 2017 or 2018, Marco hired a work crew and rented a cherry picker to help with the set up. There were a couple of big trees, affectionately named "Megatreeton" and "Treezilla" that had huge trunks and limbs that could be quickly strung by the crew in the cherry picker. When those got lit up, it was a sight to behold Marco recalled.

That's when the other neighbors took notice and wanted to join in the festivity.

The biggest expansion of the lights along Robin Road began during the COVID-19 pandemic. Marco spoke about how people were confined to their homes and feeling down. Marco stepped up and got several more neighbors involved and more lights and decorations went up.

"The Christmas of 2020 was something special," said Marco. "People would drive up the street with their elderly parents or young children in their cars. My life had been so full of stress and I came out to stand on my porch to see the lights and it was a blessing."

It was during that time that Marco saw a transformation among his neighbors. "People started talking to each other," he said. "The community came together with the presence of the lights no matter their background. People all over loved the lights. Bringing people together, especially during COVID, transcended what I had originally intended."

As for Christmas 2026, if you live along Robin Road or Morton Street and want to become involved in the festive Christmas decorations, Marco says you can call him at 214-734-1229. He is already making plans to make the display more entertaining. He would like to add some music and maybe organize a group of Christmas Carolers to bring even more joy to the neighborhood.

While the cost of purchasing and putting up the the hundreds of thousands of lights can be substantial, Marco said the happiness and joy he gets from meeting neighbors and seeing the happy faces of people who visit the street makes it worthwhile.

"I don't have to do this," Marco said. "I don't have children and I'm not looking for attention. I feel compelled to give people a lot of joy. I want to make Ellum Thicket a better place."



Above is a small sample of what neighbors can enjoy along Robin Road between Locksley Ave. and University Blvd. through February 2.