

Dallas City Hall District 12 Enews

July 8, 2023

Connecting You With City Information, News, and Resources



Summer Break, Bike Lanes, and lots more!

The City Council is on break for July. That means we don't have any scheduled council meetings and collectively we take some time off. City departments and District 12 staff, Luis and Jandis, are both available to assist if help is needed. (contact info below). Madison is expected to return from maternity leave later this month and we're excited to have her back.

This edition includes important information below.

The most timely item below is **BIKE LANES**. The city is updating the bike plan and soliciting input. We've sent

this information out previously, but the <u>deadline is TOMORROW (Sunday)</u>. In the plan they are proposing putting bike lanes on:

- Campbell Road
- Meadowcreek/Parkhill
- Genstar/Bentwood/Desert Trail
- Davenport/Amberwood/La Manga
- Pear Ridge
- Trinity Mills/Voss/Briargrove
- Knoll Trail

Kelly Blvd

If you have strong thoughts about this, either for or against it, or you want to see more about the plan and proposed locations, please take a moment to review it and provide comments. Here is the link:

https://dallascityhall.com/departments/transportation/bikeway/Pages/Bike-Plan-Update.aspx

If you would rather, you are welcome to send an email directly to me (cara.mendelsohn@dallas.gov) and Gus, the Director of Transportation (ghassan.khankarli@dallas.gov). Please include your name and address if you want your comments included. I expect any bike lanes contemplated between the tollway and Coit Road will be delayed pending the outcome of the ongoing study of Preston Road and evaluation of changes to traffic patterns by DART's Cotton Belt/Silver Line.

Many of you have engaged with town halls, open houses, online forums and walk-in office hours to give input in the past few months. Thank you for your engagement and thoughtful comments and suggestions to help make better and more informed decisions. Your care for each other, the city, and our future is exactly why I love District 12!

Sincerely, Cara Mendelsohn

Council Liaison: Madison.Johnson@dallas.gov (on maternity leave)

Council Policy Analyst: <u>Jandis.Price@dallas.gov</u> Council Assistant: <u>Luis.Delgado@dallas.gov</u>

Visit the District 12 Website

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL INAUGURATION

On June 20th, the newly elected City Councilmembers and Mayor were sworn in and held a ceremony at the Meyerson in Downtown Dallas. Mayor Johnson gave a speech setting his highest priorities for his next and final term (he serves a 4 year term, max 2 terms). I'd like to share a few words from his speech with you, as I fully support them and plan to work diligently on them.

"In four years, we have made undeniable progress toward preserving Dallas as a place of genuine opportunity for all. That is why this Administration is once again calling for unity behind a "back-to-basics" agenda and more steady progress toward three critical goals. This Administration will lead Dallas further down the path toward becoming:

- 1. The safest major city in the United States;
- 2. The major city with the best park system in Texas; and
- 3. The major city with the lowest tax rate in the North Texas region."

"Why? Because opportunity begins and ends with safety. And because a vibrant park system creates opportunities for kids and families in every Dallas community to experience a decent quality of life. And because without meaningful property tax relief, residents may choose or be forced to forgo the opportunity to live and work in Dallas."

Full article about the inauguration:

https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2023/06/20/dallas-mayor-lays-out-priorities-for-final-term-public-safety-parks-property-taxes/



QUICK UPDATES

- What is being built on the tollway @ Trinity Mills where the YouFit used to be? A veterinary hospital and clinic.
- What is being built at the tollway @ Frankford where Smith & Wollensky used to be? Unknown, although several projects that do not need special zoning, and would not come to the city council, have started and stopped in the last two years. Code compliance has been working with the owner to ensure property standards are enforced.
- Continue to contact me if DART or its contractors perform work outside the allowed hours or days. A ticket was issued by the city and work was ordered to

- cease on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18. They are allowed extended work hours of M-F 7am-9pm, Sat 9am-7pm.
- Thank you to the Parks Department maintenance staff for replacing the rusted out trash cans at Waggin Tails Dog Park on Keller Springs!
- Thank you to TXDOT for restriping Preston Road southbound between Mapleshade and Lloyd Circle, addressing the "vanishing" lane.
- Applications are open for local poets interested in being the next Dallas Poet
 Laureate. The Dallas Poet Laureate is charged with engaging diverse voices,
 activating the community and broadening perspectives in shaping and furthering
 literary arts and culture through creative expression. For complete guidelines and
 to apply, visit www.dallaslibrary.org/poetry
- Thank you to the new group, Friends of the Marni Kaner Trail, for the patriotic decorations that lined the trail. In its first year, the trail group has made holidays a bit more festive this year! Anyone interested in joining a Friends group of a park or trail, or interested in starting one for your neighborhood park, please contact Lane Conner, our D12 representative on the park board at lane.conner@dallas.gov.
- DART applied on behalf of the NCTCOG and member cities to receive federal funding for the Cotton Belt trail which will run alongside the rail. \$25 million was recently awarded. Thank you to the HOAs along the trail who wrote letters of support. The trail will be built in phases, and the parts that must be done before the train is active are being built as the line is built. In our area, that includes from Preston Green Park to the east side of Hillcrest and under Coit. Other parts will be built in phases as funding becomes available. Here is an article about it: https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/dart-awarded-25-million-dot-grant-to-build-trails-along-silver-line
- In case you missed it, Short-Term Rentals finally got a vote at city council. They have been banned from single family neighborhoods, with enforcement to begin December 15. It's a red-hot real estate market and I hope many of these will become either long-term homes for families or rental homes for more than 30 days.





FRANKFORD CAR WASH

Thank you to all the residents who came to the meeting with Assistant Chief Watson at the Chick Fil A in late May to give direct input on the problems at the car wash located at Frankford and Pear Ridge. With a directive from Chief Garcia, the North Central Patrol Division created an operational plan to address the chronic loud music and other illegal activity that was reported.

DPD's plan ran from June 1st to June 18th. During this time period units from across the Dallas Police Department, including Air Support Unit (Helicopter), Undercover Patrol Unit (CRT/Deployment), Gang Unit, Place Network Investigative Unit, Speed/Racing Task Force, Narcotics and Vice Unit all assisted, resulting in over 140 patrols of the area and 165 operational hours.

The operation found no signs of illegal drug sales or prostitution and helped to deter citizens at the location who were loitering. Moving forward, the North Central Patrol Division will continue to monitor the location and provide at least an additional 3 patrols per day at the location along with the Speed/Racing Task Force patrolling the area throughout the weekends.

Please report loud noise, gunfire, street racing, prostitution, drug sales, or any other active criminal activity to 911 (this is not something that you would put in an online report if it is happening at the time you call). Thank you!

IN THE NEWS

BUDGET

https://candysdirt.com/2023/06/27/with-inflation-and-property-taxes-on-their-minds-dallas-city-council-weighs-in-on-proposed-budget

RESIDENT SATISFACTION WITH CITY OF DALLAS SURVEY

https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/mixed-grades-in-dallas-resident-service-satisfaction-survey

https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2023/06/23/dallas-residents-satisfaction-declines-regarding-citys-direction-survey-says/

https://www.keranews.org/news/2023-06-22/survey-resident-satisfaction-low-as-dallas-city-council-grapples-with-public-perception

https://candysdirt.com/2023/06/22/dallas-infrastructure-crime-prevention-are-top-priorities-in-the-citys-2023-community-survey/

YOUR TAX DOLLARS

https://candysdirt.com/2023/06/19/after-ban-dallas-short-term-rental-operators-say-this-is-not-the-end

DALLAS ETHICS CODE CHANGES

https://candysdirt.com/2023/07/06/dallas-is-now-operating-under-ethics-code-that-makes-it-easier-to-investigate-city-officials/

https://www.dallasobserver.com/news/dallas-wrestles-with-how-to-handle-city-hall-corruption-16766764

HOMELESSNESS/MASTER LEASING PROGRAM

 $\frac{https://candysdirt.com/2023/07/04/dallas-spends-3m-on-master-leasing-program-to-move-homeless-into-permanent-housing/$

https://www.dallasobserver.com/news/dallas-adopts-a-master-lease-program-for-the-homeless-16922629

https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2023/06/29/dallas-to-give-housing-forward-3-million-to-help-get-apartments-for-homeless-people/

DART RETURN OF SALES TAX

https://candysdirt.com/2023/07/03/dallas-council-reluctantly-agrees-to-accept-reduced-amount-in-dart-sales-tax-revenue/

https://www.keranews.org/transportation/2023-06-15/dart-dallas-city-council-90-million-contract

https://www.dmagazine.com/frontburner/2023/06/facing-losing-90-million-dallas-city-council-grits-its-teeth-and-says-yes-to-dart/

CRIME IN DISTRICT 12

https://candysdirt.com/2023/06/05/district-12-has-lowest-crime-rate-in-dallas-but-is-plagued-by-traffic-accidents/

2024 BOND

https://candysdirt.com/2023/07/01/dallas-voters-what-would-you-do-with-1-billion-pick-your-projects-for-2024-bond-election/

POKER ROOMS

https://www.keranews.org/news/2023-06-28/know-when-to-hold-em-dallas-city-council-ups-the-ante-in-poker-house-legal-fight? fbclid=IwAR0um w9OkSIDd2CfRRI14by1Qxnp6WYmgjBHvcN2Vo6Nn1P31AxZ27h6AU

SHORT TERM RENTALS

<u>https://candysdirt.com/2023/06/19/after-ban-dallas-short-term-rental-operators-say-this-is-not-the-end</u>

https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2023/07/05/for-dallas-short-term-rental-ban-whats-next-court-defiance-owners-experts-weigh-in/

 $\frac{https://www.dallasobserver.com/news/dallas-bans-most-short-term-rental-properties-leaving-airbnb-hosts-pondering-next-move-16852616$

MOSQUITOS & WEST NILE VIRUS

There is significant mosquito activity in Far North Dallas. Please continue to do everything you can to prevent mosquito bites that transmit the West Nile Virus and other diseases. Remember the four Ds: DEET, Dress, Drain, and Dusk to Dawn.

- DEET: Whenever outside, use insect repellents that have the active ingredient DEET or other EPA-registered repellents, and always follow label instructions.
- DRESS: Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.
- DRAIN: Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace where mosquitoes could lay eggs.
- DUSK to DAWN: Limit your time outdoors from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

Please help eliminate insect breeding areas and larvae before they develop into adults by removing standing water. The City of Dallas will spray for mosquitos if traps reveal mosquitos that test positive for West Nile virus. You can sign up with 311 if you do not wish your home address to be sprayed.

SMART SUMMER READING

The summer heat has begun and so has the Dallas Public Library SMART Summer Reading Program! If you haven't already, visit <u>dallaslibrary.beanstack.org</u> to register. Make a goal to read each day and learn something new or explore the lives and times of a different era.





DART COTTON BELT/SILVER LINE

Construction continues - and will for approximately 2 more years. Throughout the project in our area, they are continuing to set sound walls and there are many construction vehicles on the road. Please be extra careful as you drive or walk, as they stop irregularly and traffic lanes are shifting.

Here's an update of the items I think are most important to know. You can find out information directly by attending the DART monthly community meetings, signing up for DART alerts, and checking out their website. There is a Facebook group for people who live near the tracks and want to keep up with information called Neighbors Sharing Cotton Belt Information that is run by a track-adjacent neighbor. Please let me know right away if DART is working during hours or days not allowed, if something is happening that seems out of the ordinary or if there are unsafe conditions.

There were a series of questions I asked at the May DART community meeting that DART staff responded to after the June community meeting. I will share those questions and answers in the next enews.

Here's a construction update by intersection:

Tollway - nightly closures of lanes on the Dallas parkway and /or tollway will begin Monday as work is done to cross from Addison to Dallas. Construction noise is expected.

Knoll Trail - construction of the station is on-going. Construction noise and truck traffic

continues.

<u>Davenport East-West</u> - construction of the pillars in White Rock Creek and setting of sound walls continue. Construction noise and truck traffic continues.

<u>Campbell</u> - lane closures continue - sometimes one lane, sometimes two. Drive slowly since changes are happening frequently. At some point in mid to late August, they will need to close Campbell for 3 days to set the rail and that will be the last step in the work on Campbell. Campbell will not be finished before school begins.

<u>Preston Green Park</u> - construction of the trail bridge continues. A new park designer has not been contracted, as several potential consultants have declined the project while DART is working on the property.

<u>Hillcrest</u> - one lane of traffic remains open in each direction. DART drill shaft work for the pump station is complete. Excavation of the road has begun. The City Manager has approved a permit for DART to close Hillcrest from mid January 2024 to mid January 2025. Construction noise and vibration continue.

<u>McCallum</u> - some work has begun on McCallum at the track site. Because of the rules for traffic management, this impacts McCallum on the west side of Hillcrest as well. One lane of traffic each direction will remain open, with the exception of three days where track will be laid, similar to Meandering Way and Dickerson. Dallas police cars will be able to retain access. Try to avoid this area if possible.

Meandering Way and Dickerson - complete

<u>Coit</u> - 55,000 cars per day use Coit Road at the place where the construction is happening. The six lanes have been reduced to four. Friday, DART adjusted the lanes so a north bound lane is now in a lane previously used to go south. There are no turn lanes. There was significant confusion and traffic problems Friday because the contractor didn't put down lane striping, created a very sharp curve in the road to move the lanes, and had a poor placement of signage. Thank you to all the residents that let me know what was happening and sent photos and video. City of Dallas staff went to the site and have changed the curve of the lane changes, moved the signs, and got some striping put on the roadway, per our city guidelines. The transportation department is working to see if protected turns can be added at Sugar Cane. Construction on Coit is expected to last approximately two years.

TEEN ALL ACCESS PASS

Below (in the graphic) is information about the Teen All Access Pass. This is an incredible offer for teenagers to end the "I'm bored!" part of summer. Come explore Dallas museums and recreation venues at no cost! Go pick one up today, as there are a limited number available. You can learn more about the Teen All Access Pass at https://dallasparks.org/574/All-Access-Pass.











Visit your nearest Dallas and pick up pass beginning on July 3rd, 2023.

For more information, please call 214-671-8847

POKER ROOMS

At the June 28th city council meeting, the council authorized \$70k additional funds for outside council to defend the ruling by Judge Moye that the poker room activities are illegal under the Texas constitution, which is being appealed by poker rooms. Specifically, Judge Moye ruled in favor of the building official's denial of a certificate of occupancy upholding that poker is illegal in Texas using the current model of the poker rooms. Some city councilmembers want to find a way to allow poker rooms while this appeal is ongoing and have asked the city attorney to find a way to allow poker rooms to operate legally. You can watch this portion of the meeting by going to the one hour, 7 minute mark of this meeting: https://dallastx.new.swagit.com/videos/257151 There is a link to a news article above that reports on the council discussion and vote on this issue.



DALLAS MAYOR'S BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

If you are enrolled in CFBISD, PISD, DISD or RISD, you are eligible for FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES if you live in the City of Dallas and income qualify. This initiative is supported by many of Dallas' largest companies and the Junior League of Dallas. If you work with kids who could benefit from this incredible program, help them sign up! The QR code and website are listed in the graphic below. Someone with the confirmation code must pick up the supplies at Fair Park. Must register

here: www.mayorsbacktoschoolfair.com

NOTE: We are working on a pilot program to bring the school supplies to Timberglen Rec Center for people who reside in 75287 on August 5th but it is not confirmed. If you register and live in 75287, you will be notified if this is an option.





MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN MONTH

In District 12, we've held two town halls to share information about becoming a foster parent and written about the issue in this enews several times. Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in the number of children in the Child Protective Services (CPS) system. A majority of the children are housed outside our area due to the lack of available foster families.

Communities with specific religious observances, including food restrictions, should consider making sure there are families who can accept children who match with the same beliefs and lifestyle.

With the growing need for foster homes, we'd like to share this information with those who have a desire to make a difference in a child's life.

To become a foster parent, an individual or couple must:

- Be at least 21 years of age, financially stable, responsible
- Complete an application
- Share information regarding background and lifestyle
- Provide relative and non-relative references
- Show proof of marriage and/or divorce (if applicable)
- Agree to a home study with all household members
- Allow staff to complete a criminal history background check on all adults in the household
- Attend free training to learn about issues of abused and neglected children.

In addition to the basic requirements, foster parents must:

- Have adequate sleeping space
- Allow no more than 6 children in the home, including your own children or children for whom you provide daycare
- Agree to a nonphysical discipline policy
- Permit fire, health and safety inspections of the home
- Vaccinate all pets

- Obtain and maintain CPR/First Aid Certification
- Obtain TB testing as required by the local Health Department
- Attend 20 hours or more of training each year.

Foster families provide daily attentiveness and nurturing of the children in their care, advocate for them at schools and within the community, keep caseworkers informed of changes or issues that arise, work to reunite children with birth families in coordination with caseworkers (as appropriate), provide a positive role model, and help children learn life skills.

If we all take the opportunity to help, where we can, it would make a difference in the lives of these children who, through no fault of their own, find themselves alone and in need of care and community.

*Special thanks to Denton County Judge Andy Eads for promoting this month and for sharing many of the words written above.

ONLINE REPORTING OF CRIME

Following the recommendations of the KPMG study and professional criminologists who have studied our city, Dallas Police Department is now accepting crime reports online for certain offenses. Reports filed electronically or by phone will be investigated the same as if given directly to an officer. This change is anticipated to save over 135,000 patrol hours, the equivalent of 65 officers. (note: we are continuing to actively recruit new officers. If you know someone looking for a career in public service/public safety, please send them to DPD Recruiting!)

PLEASE CALL 911 if you are unsure how to report a crime. All crime should be reported. In the graphics below are some examples of when online reporting should be used and how those reports will immediately move the crime report to the detective units.

To report a crime online, go to www.dallaspolice.net. If you have a crime tip for DPD, you can report with your name or anonymously using the free app iWatchDallas, which goes directly to the detectives. If you see a crime or hear about a crime in the neighborhood, please share your information with DPD through the iWatchDallas app. Thank you.

Dallas Police Online Reporting and Over the Phone Reporting		
#	Offense	Examples
1	Burglary Coin Machine	Person breaks into a coin operated machine in order to steal currency and fleds location.
		(Ex.Vending Machine, Car Wash Machine)
2	Burglary Motor Vehicle	Person reports someone broke into their vehicle and took property without permission and is no longer at location. (Ex.
		items taken from the bed of a truck; vehicle is ransacked, rummaged, vehicle broken into)
3	Criminal Mischief	Person caused intentional damage or destruction to tangible property and is not at location. (Ex. Random damage to a
		vehicle, broken windows, intentional damage to a fence.)
4	Graffiti	Person intentionally or knowingly makes markings, drawings or painting on a owner property without their consent and no
		longer at location. (Ex. spray painted a vehicle or someone's yard.) Not related to hate crimes.
5	Child Custody Interference	Parents with joint custody or custody rights did not return their child on the appropriate date and time as per court orders.
6	Credit Card Abuse	Person reports unknown or known suspect is using her credit card without authorization and is not at location. (Card must
ь		be being used inside the city limits of Dallas.)
7	Harrassing Phone Calls	Person receiving calls that involves known or unknown individual(s) calling repeatedly. Individual calling over 10 times, or
		repeatedly after being advised to cease contact.
	Identity Theft	Person(s) reports fraudulent use of their personal information for financial gain. (Ex. Person used their identify to obtain a
8		credit card, line of credit and loan and is not at location,citizens name/social security# used to open an account).)
9	Reckless Damage	If damage to a vehicle or if a vehicle causes property damage. (Ex. Vehicle bumps a parked car in a apartment complex,
		Vehicle hits an apartment complex fence.)
10	Lost Property	Any property lost or misplaced (Ex. Wallet or cellphone left at any location).
11	Theft	Person (s) took property without permission. (Ex. person(s) take rims or tires from off a vehicle, a catalytic converter, license

		plate is taken, stolen firearm)
	Theft of Service	Person left an establishment without paying for the service that was rendered.(Ex. skipping out on a tab at a restaurant, not
12		paying for a Taxi service, not paying for a beauty service.)
13	Theft Shoplifting	Person(s) took goods from a store without paying for them. (Ex. Walking out of a store with clothes, putting merchandise in
		pockets or bag and walking out.)
14	Minor Accidents	Drivers have mutually exchanged information and need documentation for insurance purposes to account for the accident.
		No tow truck or EMS is required. Not to include hit and runs.

DALLAS POLICE ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM





Non-emergency reports must be filed online!

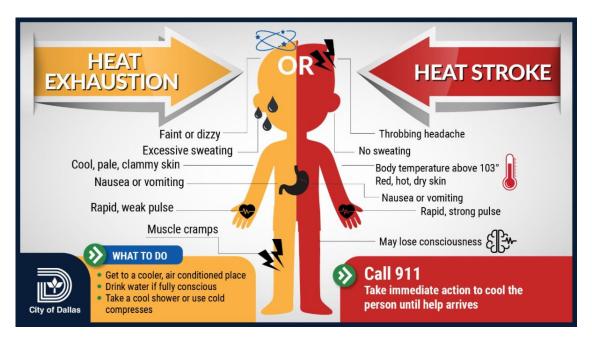
NO WAIT TIME! EASY! QUICK!

ONLINE REPORTING

Accident Reports - Harassing Phone Calls Burglary of a Motor Vehicle - Graffiti Theft - Credit/Debit Card Abuse Criminal Mischief - Reckless Damage **Identity Theft - Lost Property** Theft of Service - Burglary of a Coin Machine Shoplifting - Interference with Child Custody

The investigative process is the same as if an officer took the report at the incident scene.





DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dallas Public Library's catalog system returned to full operation on Friday, June 23 after more than seven weeks of all-analog service at the library. The City of Dallas ransomware attack infected the library system, which was scheduled for a major software update. With the system down, the city went forward and installed the new system and it is a big improvement.

Library customers and staff can now search the collection, place requests, use digital databases and apply for library cards. Customers who have been holding on to checked out materials should now return them to the library when they are due.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED! If you'd like a short-term volunteer opportunity, libraries across the city would love your help as they catch up with checking-in books and media. Contact your nearest branch for more information.

PEAR RIDGE, TIMBERGLEN, HAVERWOOD, GRAMERCY OAKS

While District 12 continues to have the lowest number of crimes in the City of Dallas, there are concentrations of crime are occurring at the apartments on these streets. Special initiatives are underway by various units, but resident input is key to addressing these problems. Thank you to all the folks who came out to talk directly to Chief Garcia, along with more than two dozen officers from various parts of the police force. This is exactly the kind of collaboration that will help improve safety in the area for all. Special thanks to Assistant Chief Watson, Major Harris, our NPOs, and the specialty units that participated and made connections with residents.











DALLAS ANIMAL SERVICES

Dallas Animal Services is over capacity. They can hold 300 dogs and they have more than 350. If you are looking to add a pet to your home, you're in luck, because adoptions are free during July! See the graphic below for details. ps -I have two big dogs adopted from Dallas Animal Services and I know you'll find just the right pooch for your family!



PRESTON RD, FORWARD DALLAS & 2024 CAPITAL BOND

Thank you to all the residents who attended the town hall meeting focused on the 2024 bond and those who stopped by one of the three open houses to provide input on Preston Road, Forward Dallas, and the 2024 bond! Great attendance and engagement by District 12 residents!

Information about the bond can be found here: https://dallascityhall.com/departments/bond-construction-management/Pages/default.aspx

There will be opportunities to speak to the city-wide bond committee at upcoming

meetings. This is important so they can understand the needs of District 12. Here are the dates they will meet with public speakers:

Community Bond Task Force Meeting: August 15, 2023 at 6:30 PM Community Bond Task Force Meeting: August 22, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Community Bond Task Force Town Hall Meeting: September 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM Community Bond Task Force Town Hall Meeting: September 26, 2023 at 6:00 PM

You must sign up to speak. Here is the registration form: https://forms.office.com/g/BJRyYqt0Sk









Need help, got a question, or want to give input?

Email: Cara.Mendelsohn@DallasCityHall.com Office phone: (214) 670-4067 Text phone: (214) 490-1036

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