



DR. ELBA GARCIA

Dallas County

District 4 Newsletter



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Message From Dr. Elba Garcia

Working Together, We Make a Difference In Dallas County District 4

Welcome to our first District 4 Newsletter. I hope you find it informative and enjoy seeing just a few of the things that have been happening in our district. We have had a busy 18 months since I took office as commissioner for District 4. We have done so much and I am proud of all that we have accomplished. But what I am most proud of is our team here at Dallas County and the partnerships we have formed with our cities, community organizations and other groups throughout our district. Construction of Hunter-Ferrell Road is underway thanks to the teamwork of our Public Works Department and the Cities of

Irving and Grand Prairie. We have opened two new trails under the leadership of our Trail and Preserve Program board, County Staff and the City of Irving Parks Department. We opened the Grand Prairie COPC which was built by our great team at Parkland in partnership with the City of Grand Prairie. We are also



Dr. Garcia visits the Hampton-Illinois Library Summer Reading Kickoff

moving forward on MCIP projects on Denton Drive and Medical District Drive, with input and cooperation from our friends at the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce and the Stemmons Corridor Business Association. And I cannot forget our own District 4 Road and Bridge Crew, the partnerships they have formed and the work that they do with all of our District 4 cities. None of these things could be accomplished without teamwork. We have a great team here at Dallas County, and we have great partners in the cities and organizations throughout our district. Together, we can accomplish so much. I look forward to working with all of you and continuing the fantastic things that we have started for all of the residents of District 4.

New Grand Prairie Health Center Opens



On July 2nd, Parkland Health & Hospital System and the City of Grand Prairie celebrated the opening of the new 39,000 square foot E. Carlyle Smith, Jr. Health Center. Parkland's newest community-based health clinic is located at 801 Conover Drive and was built to serve 40,000 patient visits per year. It will offer pediatric, adult and geriatric care. In addition, specialty services such as

psychiatry, psychology and dental care will be provided. "This clinic is extremely important for our community," said Charles England, Mayor of Grand Prairie. "Thousands of Grand Prairie residents will be able to take care of their health care needs here in town now instead of having to travel to Parkland Hospital in Dallas." This marks Parkland's 12th community oriented primary care clinic (COPC). Parkland selected Grand Prairie for the site of its new clinic because it is not geographically close to other Parkland clinics, it is split between Dallas

and Tarrant counties and the community has one of the lowest physician-to-population ratios in the region. Research shows that community health clinics provide greater access to care and a medical home for preventive health services. Prevention leads to financial savings because fewer patients with chronic conditions visit emergency rooms, where the cost of care escalates. Dr. Garcia says, "This clinic is a great example of how local government can really impact people's lives in a positive way and what can happen when we work together to improve the quality of life in our communities."

Irving Trails For District 4



River Hills Trail
Opening, Irving TX

Trails are great and we want more trails in District 4. Trails provide important green space, walk-able and ride-able paths, add desirability to neighborhoods, and increase property values. Trails also provide a scenic and fun way to improve the health of people and pets. Dallas County works in close partnership with the city governments to plan and build trails. There have been several trail projects in District 4 and more are being planned. In April 2012 the River Hills trail,

part of the Campion Trail in Irving was completed. The Valley Ranch Trail, also a part of Campion Trail, was completed in October of 2011. Currently, there are two more County-funded trails in District 4 that are in various phases of planning. Chalk Hill Trail, in Oak Cliff and the Lone Star Trail, a connection between Grand Prairie and Irving, have all been approved by the Dallas County Trails

and Preserve Program Board. Pending approval by the Dallas County Commissioners Court, we will add two more trails to District 4.



“Trails provide important green space, walkable and rideable paths, add beauty to neighborhoods and increase property values.”

- Dr. Elba Garcia

Community Development in Cockrell Hill

The Dallas County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has helped to fund two projects in Cockrell Hill. The first, provides a new home for a family and the other helps to pay for needed water infrastructure maintenance and improvements. The CDBG Replace-

ment Housing Program helps mid to low income rural (municipalities with 50K population or less) families who own a home that has structural damage tear-down and rebuild funds. This program exists throughout Texas, and thankfully, one family in Cockrell Hill is benefiting.

In partnership with the City of Cockrell Hill, the Dallas County CDBG program funds are being used to repair and rebuild essential water lines. Working with Dallas County, those eligible individuals and municipalities can take advantage of the CDBG program.

Grand Prairie Sub Courthouse Groundbreaking



The Dallas County Grand Prairie Sub-courthouse is a \$6.1 million, design and build project. The two-story, 32,000-square-foot masonry building will include the truancy and justice of the peace courts, juvenile probation department, constable and tax offices, and support spaces.

The facility is being built on a former retail building site in downtown Grand Prai-

rie. As part of Dallas County's major capital development fund, the building project was approved after reviewing the cost of maintaining older facilities versus building a newer, more efficient facility. "This will be a big boost to the revitalization of downtown," said Mayor Charles England.

Located near the city's historic Main Street, the building will bring 250 employees to the area. "The town has grown so much in the past 20

years that we're now at almost 190,000 people. That courthouse was built for about population of 50,000 -- our old courthouse," said England. Dr. Elba Garcia added, "This project is a tangible, physical symbol of Dallas County's dedication to offer better access to government and to serve the residents of Grand Prairie. And I am proud to be a part of it." The facility is scheduled to open in March 2013.

Dallas Major Capitol Improvements Program (MCIP)

Dallas County's Major Capital Improvements Program (MCIP) is a replacement to the traditional bond financing approach to infrastructure improvements. Large infrastructure projects that would normally take five years to complete, from funding approval to construction, undergo a process in which each year projects will be authorized for funding while other projects are being completed. This means that in each year there will always be projects in each of the

various phases of implementation. Dallas County Public works typically implements new MCIP projects every 2 to 3 years through a county-wide 'call for projects' that evaluates infrastructure improvement projects that improve capacity and safety on regional roadways and multi-modal pathways. Denton Drive reconstruction is one example MCIP project. The Denton Drive MCIP project reconstructs a two lane undivided road into a 3 lane urban transit-

oriented roadway with a center turn lane. This is a Regional Transportation Council project (RTC) that includes funding from the City of Dallas (\$1 million) and Dallas County (\$7.5 million). Other MCIP projects in District 4 include, but are not limited to: Cockrell Hill Road in Cockrell Hill and Dallas, Las Colinas Blvd. and Story Rd. in Irving, and Hunter-Ferrell Rd.



Summer Heat: Energy Assistance Program

Prolonged exposure to heat can be dangerous especially for individuals with chronic health problems, very young children and the elderly. As the temperatures are expected to rise, DCHHS along with The Meadows Foundation are once again teaming up to help residents in Dallas County to beat the summer heat.

The Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) provides air conditioners to low-income resi-

dents. CEAP's priority is the elderly, disabled and households with children 5 years and under. The Emergency Heat Relief Fund accepted gifts from individuals, organizations and foundations throughout the year. This allowed the county to buy air conditioners when prices were lower.

Dallas Foundation donors contributed \$22,800 to the fund in the summer of 2011. The Meadows Foundation, the Harold Simmons

Foundation and the Communities Foundation of Texas also donated a total of \$110,000 to the effort in 2011. To donate to the Emergency Heat Relief Fund, please visit dallas-foundation.org and follow the "Donate to a Fund" link at the top right corner.

If you need relief from the heat, please call (214) 819-6001 to see if you qualify for assistance.



Elderly Residents are at high-risk for heat related illness

District 4 Spotlight - Road & Bridge

I am especially proud of all of the hard work and accomplishments of the District 4 Road & Bridge crew. In FY 2011 we brought in almost \$2 million in revenue through our Road & Bridge projects by partnering with the various municipalities in District 4. These partnerships are important because they help us save taxpayer money. A few District 4 Road & Bridge projects that you might have seen are: Rock Island Road between Grand Prairie & Irving, the 14 different resurfaced

roads in Irving and the Duncanville Main Street overlay, which came in under budget. There are numerous other projects completed, underway or in planning. I would also like to recognize one of our Dallas County Employees of the Month, the Superintendent of District 4 Road & Bridge, Mr. Donald Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy has worked for Dallas County for 28 years and has served as Superintendent of District 4 Road & Bridge for 17 years. Mr. Kennedy's years before and

while with the County have been representative of a lifetime of service to the people of Dallas County. Congratulations and thank you Mr. Don Kennedy.





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District 4

Dallas County District 4 is most of western Dallas County and includes parts of the cities of Dallas, Grand Prairie, and Irving, and all of Cockrell Hill. The northern boundary of District 4 is Interstate 635 and the southern boundaries are the Mt. Creek area of Dallas and the city limits of Grand Prairie.



www.DallasCounty.org/department/comcrt/district4/home.php

Dallas County Services & Court Update

Mosquito Season in Dallas County typically runs from May to October, with peak activity in August. Health officials are urging the public to take protective measures in preventing illness. There are 3 ways that you can fight the bite. Defend yourself using the 3 Ds: DEET, Dress, and Drain. Use insect repellants that contain DEET or any other EPA approved repellant. Wear long, loose, and light colored clothing outside during dusk and dawn hours. Remove all areas of standing water by changing water in wading pools, pet dishes, birdbaths several times a week. And don't forget to check overhead gutters. Have a Safe Summer. For more information visit

www.DallasCounty.org/hhs

Changes to Vaccination Policy

The Texas Department of State Health Services has developed policy changes to the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) childhood vaccine program in response to reductions in state and federal funding. The TVFC patient eligibility changes that went into effect on January 1, 2012 states that children who have private insurance that cover vaccines will no longer be eligible to receive TVFC vaccines in Dallas County Health and Human Services Immunization clinics. Instead, these children will be referred to their medical home for immunization services. immunize/school. For more information regarding VFC policy changes, visit the DSHS website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school>. For more information call (214) 819-2163 or visit www.dallascounty.org/hhs

Children who have private insurance coverage will no longer be eligible to receive TVFC vaccines at DCHHS



Commissioners Court

Update:

There will be no Commissioners Court July 17th, July 24th, and July 31st 2012 due to summer recess.