

Andy Sommerman Dallas County Commissioner District 2 Newsletter

December 2023



Letter from the Commissioner

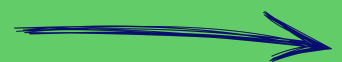
Greetings District 2!

My first year as a member of the Dallas County Commissioners court has come and gone, and what a fulfilling time I have had working for the people of District 2 and Dallas County!

As I reflect on the past year serving as your County Commissioner, it is a privilege to share the highlights and progress we've made together. From legislative victories to community engagement, join me to revisit a few milestones I achieved as we prepare to celebrate the journey ahead.

The Commissioners Court approved the purchase of 3 tracts (7.04 acres) of land located at the southwest corner of Forest Lane and Stults Road. The purpose of this project is to provide workforce housing for residents in Dallas County that work to provide a public service, like teachers, hospital workers, and first responders. So far, we anticipate around 29 homes to be built for this project.

In April, the Commissioners Court debated my payroll idea, which I affectionately nicknamed "The Box." The Senior Staff Pool Program is in essence a box of funds that each department head can use to staff their department as they see fit. It is my hope that by consolidating positions and having the flexibility to attract a higher-quality employee by paying them more, Dallas County can be more competitive in the cutthroat DFW employment market.



This year marked my first budget season with the County, and it has been such a fascinating process of “learning how the sausage gets made.” I am so pleased that many of my first-year priorities that I spent hours discussing while knocking on doors and speaking at events during the campaign season have been included in this year’s budget. Two programs included in the budget were the Law Enforcement Education/Training (LEET) program, which aims to enlist a different kind of law enforcement recruit to work within the ever-changing landscape of today’s society, and a pilot Childcare program for Dallas County employees. By making childcare affordable and accessible to our employees, we can help them breathe easier while they are on the clock serving the needs of Dallas County residents.

Another project I’m proud of is my collaboration with many great organizations in Dallas County to build and open the Northaven Trail Bridge at US 75 and Northaven Road. This pedestrian bridge will provide a safe route between two pedestrian and bicycle trails in Dallas, which will enhance recreational activities and reduce obstacles for alternative transportation methods. The bridge provides an arched 201-foot-long bridge across the highway for pedestrians and cyclists and connects the North Dallas trail to both the Cottonwood Creek and White Creek trails.

I’ve learned a lot from the hardworking employees at Dallas County. I work daily with public servants who are true professionals and care deeply about the people who live in this great county. These accomplishments could not have happened without them, and I am thankful for their support in making my ideas become a reality.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Commissioner Andrew Sommerman

WHEN YOU WORK WITH YOUR DOPPELGÄNGER...



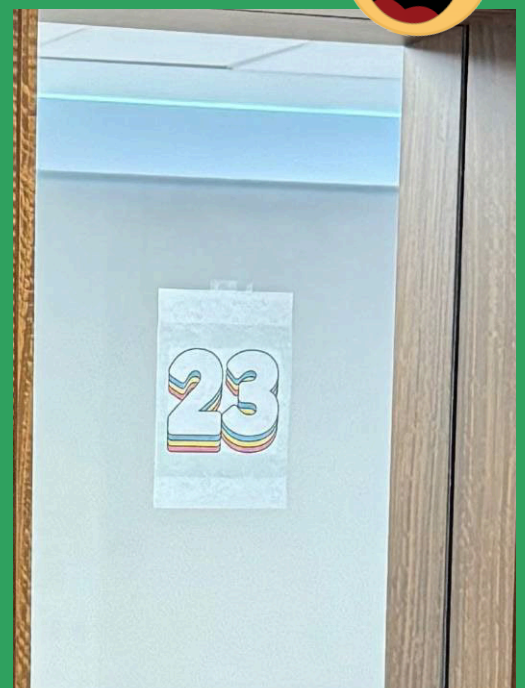
It started when they first met in 2021. The first timid question gave way to an incessant drumbeat of folks wanting to know the same thing.

“Hey, are you two related?” No, they are not. The two former rivals during the 2022 Commissioner Place 2 campaign are now working together and let the record show that Commissioner Andy Sommerman did not violate any Dallas County Human Resources nepotism policies when he hired Tom Ervin for his Chief of Staff position.



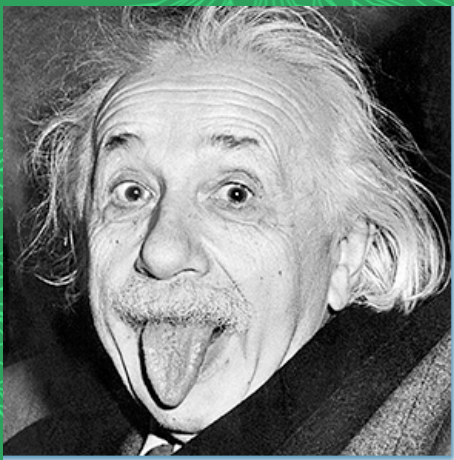
They just happen to look alike! A lot alike. So much alike, that a running joke for the Commissioner’s staff has been keeping track of how many times they are confused for each other while at work. So far, it’s been 23 times.

The people of District 2 can rest assured that they are receiving twice the bang for their buck in having Commissioner Sommerman and his Chief of Staff working towards the same goal—making Dallas County the best place to live, work, and play!



Dallas County Trivia

1. Which high school is the oldest in District 2?
2. What city is District 2's only airport located in?
3. What is the name of the new pedestrian bridge?
4. What is the name of the log cabin next to the Dallas Records Building?
5. When does Commissioners Court start?



Are you a District 2 genius?



Answers on the last page

CAN YOU FIND ALL OF THESE WORDS?

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

CHRISTMAS
 HAPPY HOLIDAYS
 PRESTON ROAD
 FIREWORKS

KWANZAA
 GREENVILLE AVE
 COIT ROAD
 DALLAS COUNTY

HANUKKAH
 HALLMARK DRIVE
 HAPPY NEW YEAR
 FARMERS BRANCH



Word Search

Word

Definitions/Fact Sheet



Christmas - Celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.

Kwanzaa - A week of festivities honoring African American culture and heritage.

Hanukkah - Jewish festival commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Greenville Ave - was known as the "Richardson Road" or the "Richardson Pike". Before the construction of the North Central Expressway in 1950, Greenville Avenue was the main route to Richardson, Plano, McKinney and north to the states of Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Swiss Avenue - In 1857, a Swiss Immigrant Henri Boll named it in honor of his native land. Swiss Avenue was lengthened and paved as part of Munger Place.

Hallmark Drive - Located in the northeast city of Dallas.

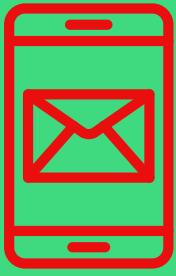
Preston Road - Oldest north-south road in the state and a commonly used commute from Collin County to Dallas. The commercial highway of Preston Road, the namesake of the original trail, stretches from Dallas through Addison, Plano, Frisco, Celina and Prosper.

Coit Road - Named after William Henry Coit, who was one of the first pioneers to reside in that part of Dallas.

Happy New Year - first day of the year; January 1st

Dallas County - Founded in 1846, is the second-most populous county in Texas.

Farmers Branch - Known as the city of farmers and is an inner-ring suburb of Dallas.



Have Great News in District 2 to add to the newsletter? Would you like Commissioner Sommerman to attend your next neighborhood meeting? Contact us at District2Office@dallascounty.org

How many did you get correct?

TRIVIA ANSWERS



1. Richardson High School
2. Northaven Trail Bridge
3. Addison
4. John Neely Bryan
5. 9 am

