

# Andy Sommerman Dallas County Commissioner District 2 Newsletter

May 2023



## Resolution in Honor of Kathy Rogers



Friends of Kathy Rogers at the  
Commissioners Court meeting

In a heartfelt resolution passed on May 2nd, the Dallas County Commissioners Court honored the memory of Kathy Rogers and recognized the extraordinary contributions of the Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (RWRC) to wildlife conservation in North Texas. Kathy's lifelong dedication to rehabilitating injured and orphaned birds, which eventually led to the establishment of the RWRC, has left a lasting impact on the community.

Kathy's journey began in her own home, where she tirelessly rehabilitated birds for eight years. In 1989, she founded the RWRC, which initially operated from Samuel Farm in Mesquite before relocating to a sprawling twenty-acre wetland habitat in Hutchins. Today, the RWRC stands as the largest avian rehabilitation center in North Texas and serves as a refuge and rehabilitation center for over 90 Texas counties.

Over the past decade alone, the RWRC has provided vital medical treatment and care for more than 40,000 birds,

many of which are federally and state protected species. With the unwavering support of generous donations, Kathy and her team of dedicated staff and volunteers have made it possible to rehabilitate and release countless birds back into the wild, including notable success stories such as Beatrix, the Canadian Peregrine Falcon.

Kathy's passing in April 2023 has left a void in the hearts of her loved ones, the staff and volunteers at RWRC, and the community she inspired with her hard work and dedication to animal welfare. Her legacy lives on through the continued efforts of the center, which relies entirely on donations to sustain its operations.

By adopting this resolution, the Dallas County Commissioners Court not only pays tribute to Kathy Rogers but also expresses profound appreciation to the RWRC for their unwavering commitment to saving and protecting wildlife in Dallas County. The recognition serves as a reminder of the profound impact that individuals like Kathy can have when they channel their passion into making a difference for the natural world.

As Kathy's story continues to inspire, her legacy will undoubtedly encourage others to follow in her footsteps, fostering a culture of compassion and conservation for years to come.



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](mailto:District2Office@dallascounty.org)

*Cities*  
in District 2

Carrollton  
Coppell  
Dallas  
Farmers Branch  
Irving  
Richardson  
University Park  
Addison  
Highland Park



Dallas County Commissioner Andy Sommerman attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Mesquite Government Center in May. Situated in Mesquite, Texas, this state-of-the-art, two-story building spanning 56,325 square feet will become the new headquarters for various government departments and organizations. Notable features of the facility will include a Tax Office, Constable Office, Justice of the Peace and Juvenile Services, as well as dedicated spaces for community activities and early voting. The Mesquite Government Center project aligns with Dallas County's strategic priorities, such as meeting local business needs, promoting job creation, planning diverse housing options, and prioritizing workforce development. This facility will expand the county government's presence in Mesquite while providing a centralized space for key resources.

The construction, set to conclude in June 2024, follows a design-build partnership with builder Suffolk and architect Moody Nolan. Moreover, the building will incorporate sustainable elements, aiming for LEED Silver certification upon completion, underscoring the County's commitment to environmentally conscious design.

Jonathon Bazan, Assistant County Administrator, emphasized the project's significance by saying, "The Mesquite Government Center exemplifies our dedication to serving Dallas County residents and businesses. Carefully planned with inclusivity in mind, it prioritizes supporting small businesses and meeting the needs of our community. Effective service delivery remains a top priority, and this facility's construction will further that objective."

Commissioner Sommerman noted that the new facility was long overdue, as it will replace a small, cramped office space that is not meeting Dallas County's needs. "Providing fast, efficient service is a County priority," Commissioner Sommerman declared, "and this new office space will allow each department to meet their customer's needs."





# Tour of Medlock Treatment Center and Youth Village

Commissioner Sommerman and his staff recently toured the Medlock Residential Treatment Center and Youth Village in Dallas County. During the tour, particular attention was given to the school attended by the youngsters. Everyone's focus was on providing quality education and equipping the detained youth with essential skills for their future. The tour also included the gym and weight room, where the youth could learn about keeping fit. Commissioner Sommerman could not resist shooting some baskets in the gym generously donated to the Juvenile Department by the Dallas Mavericks. Overall, the tour of Medlock Juvenile Detention Center and Youth Village showcased a team of dedicated professionals who deeply care about the welfare and development of the youth in their custody. Their commitment to rehabilitation and providing a positive environment is a testament to their vital role in helping these young individuals turn their lives around.



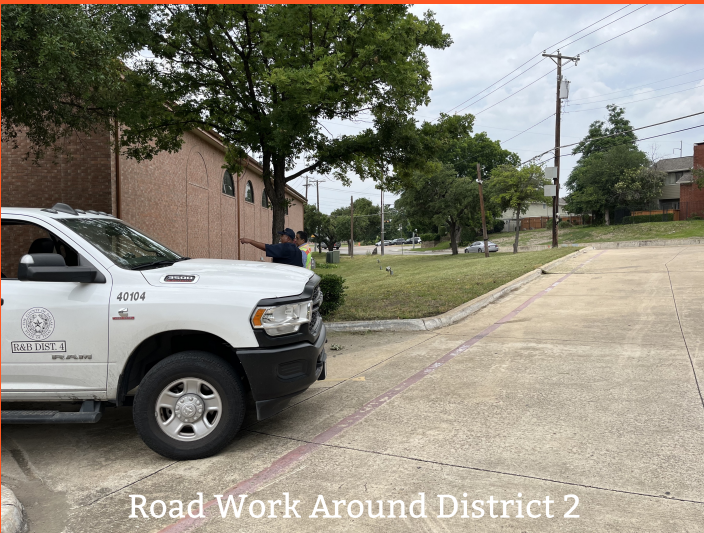




Mesquite Government Center  
Groundbreaking



Leadership & Management Academy



Road Work Around District 2



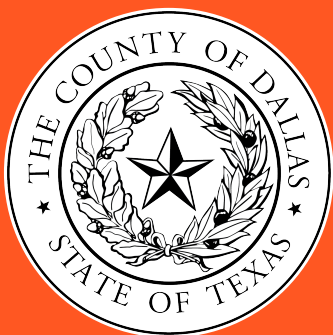
Meeting With Constituents



Resolution Honoring Older Americans  
Month



Resolution Honoring  
Mrs. Texas Senior America



# AROUND DISTRICT 2