



Andy Sommerman Dallas County Commissioner District 2 Newsletter

February 2023

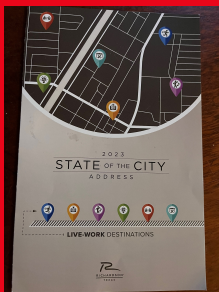
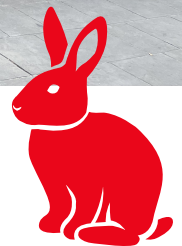
CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT



My family and I attended the amazing Lunar New Year Festival in Richardson.



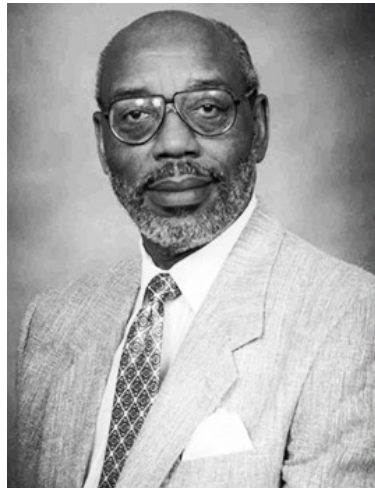
The rabbit is a symbol of prosperity, longevity and hope in Chinese culture. Here's to a peaceful 2023!



Our office was invited to attend Richardson's State of the City Address at the beautiful Eisemann Center last month. It was such a pleasure seeing how Richardson has grown. Thank you for the hospitality, Richardson!



LOUIS ARTHUR BEDFORD, JR. was a celebrated Black attorney, civil rights activist, judge, and a Dallasite through and through. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and the university now known as Prairie View A&M. Since law schools in Texas did not accept Black students at the time, he attended Brooklyn Law School, where he excelled in his studies and lived in a desegregated society. After his return to Dallas, he joined other Black attorneys to form the Barristers' Club. Bedford was a well-respected attorney, and represented low-income home owners and civil rights activists. He also assisted other attorneys in a series of lawsuits to desegregate Dallas public schools after Brown v. Board of Education. In 1966, Bedford became the first Black judge in Dallas County.



LIFE-CHANGING INVENTIONS BY BLACK AMERICANS

- PACEMAKER
- GAS MASKS
- POTATO CHIPS
- TRAFFIC LIGHT
- PEANUT BUTTER
- CLOTHES DRYER
- BLOOD BANK
- MAILBOX
- FOLDING CHAIRS
- AUTOMATIC ELEVATOR DOORS



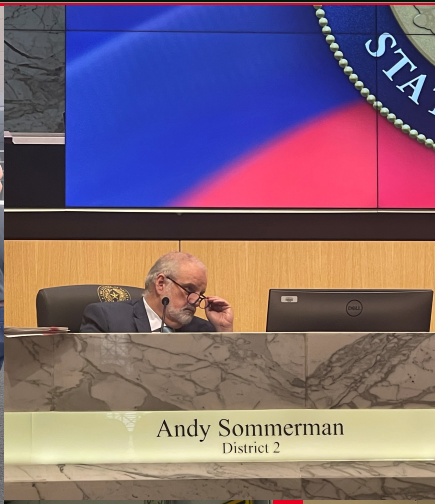
RUBY BRIDGES was just six years old when she desegregated her elementary school in New Orleans, Louisiana. Even though she was the only student in class that year, her teacher Ms. Henry taught her as if she were "teaching a whole class." Former United States Deputy Marshal Charles Burks recalled, "She showed a lot of courage. She never cried. She didn't whimper. She just marched along like a little soldier, and we're all very proud of her." Because of her efforts to desegregate her school, Ruby's father lost his job and the local grocery store refused to sell to her family. The Bridges family displayed astounding bravery in the face of such hostility, and paved the way for many more children to attend desegregated schools.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



GARRETT MORGAN was known as Cleveland's "Black Edison," and while he only completed school until the 6th grade, his inventions were impactful and are used to this day. Although he had a successful sewing and tailoring business, experimenting in his workshop was his passion. After dozens of garment workers perished in a fire, Garrett invented a safety hood device that was immediately embraced by firefighters, and used by the U.S. Army in the trenches during WWI. Garrett was the first Black man in Cleveland to own a car, which led to another great invention. The first traffic signals were rudimentary, and only had two lights, "Stop" and "Go." Garrett improved the traffic signal by adding a yellow "Caution" light, making the roads safer for us all.

AROUND DISTRICT 2



DALLAS COUNTY EVENTS



Feb 18, 10am
FrostFest
Irving
Levy Event Plaza



Feb 25, 8am
Run for Rover 5K
Carrollton
McInnish Dog Park



Know of an Event
in District 2? Let us
know!



Contact:
District2Office@dallascounty.org

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Commissioner Sommerman
attended Community meetings this
month -- he wants to hear what the
people have to say!



Commissioner
Sommerman's
Committees:

- Continuous Improvement (Chair)
- Civil Service
- IT Executive Governance Committee