



# Commissioner Garcia's District 4 Newsletter



October – December 2011

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Well, it's hard to believe that 2011 has come and gone. As I complete my first year as your District 4 Commissioner, I am proud of all that our team has accomplished this past year.

Our Road and Bridge Crew had an extremely busy year milling, overlaying and rebuilding roads in Cedar Hill, Duncanville, Irving, Coppell, and helping with CDBG and other special projects throughout Dallas County. We worked on over 33,881 lane miles of District 4 roads in 2011. We also finished work on Rock Island Road and will soon have a ribbon cutting to celebrate its completion.

There were many other exciting projects in District 4 this past year. After waiting for 20 years, we finally got construction underway on Hunter-Ferrell Road. New construction is also being planned for W. Davis Street, Medical District Drive, and several other projects through the Dallas County Public Works Major Capital Improvement Program (MCIP).

Our Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program was also active this year, completing work on the Champion Trail Extension in Irving, finishing up River Hill Trail, and beginning survey work and planning on Chalk Hill Trail.

Working with my colleagues we accomplished many things including – putting a new transparency policy in place, holding Parkland Hospital accountable, and revising the County's TIF policy to encourage business growth and new development.

We've had an exciting and productive year in District 4. We could not accomplish all of these things without working as a team at Dallas County and, of course, the support of the cities and citizens of District 4.

I'm looking forward to even greater challenges and bigger things in 2012.  
Best wishes to all of you for a great year.

Best Regards,  
**Dr. Elba Garcia**  
County Commissioner  
District 4

## Dallas County Commissioners Court

**During her campaign in 2010, Commissioner Garcia promised that she would donate a portion of her Commissioner's salary to charity. She fulfilled this promise Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Commissioners Courtroom. She donated over \$20,000 to local charities throughout District 4 and Dallas County. A complete listing of charities that received donations is attached. Congratulations to our recipients!**

BAPS – Irving  
Bear Creek Church Food Pantry – Irving  
Bible Way Church Food Pantry – Irving  
Bridges Safe House - Cedar Hill  
Casa Guanajuato – Oak Cliff  
Cockrell Hill Beautification Project – Cockrell Hill  
Coppell Community Garden at City Hall – Coppell  
Duncanville Outreach Ministry – Duncanville  
Friends of Latino Cultural Center – Dallas  
Friends of Oak Cliff Parks – Oak Cliff  
Grand Prairie Rotary Club – Grand Prairie  
Hippy Program - Irving  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

Irving Women's Network (Main Place) – Irving  
La Reunion – Dallas  
Metroplex Animal Coalition – Dallas  
Oak Cliff Lions Club – Oak Cliff  
Promise House, Inc. – Oak Cliff  
Resolana – Dallas  
Jaycee Zaragoza Recreation Center – Dallas  
Teatro Dallas – Dallas  
TeCo Theatrical Productions, Inc. – Oak Cliff  
The Resource Center – Oak Lawn  
Union por la Dignidad Latina - Dallas  
Unity Coalition of Grand Prairie - Grand Prairie  
West Dallas Community Center - Dallas



Commissioners Elba Garcia and John Wiley Price, along with staff took the time to learn lifesaving techniques from UT Southwestern's Dr. Paul Pepe. He brought kits for everyone to practice on while watching a video about CPR. The session was informative and provided useful techniques about compressions, defibrillator usage and the Heimlich maneuver.

### ***Did you Know?***

- Every second counts in an emergency situation, especially when CPR is necessary.
- As long as you do chest compressions on an individual it will maintain blood flow to the heart.
- It is better to do something than not do anything when a person stops breathing.
- The American Heart Association emphasizes the urgency that by taking a CPR class we are more prepared if involved an emergency.

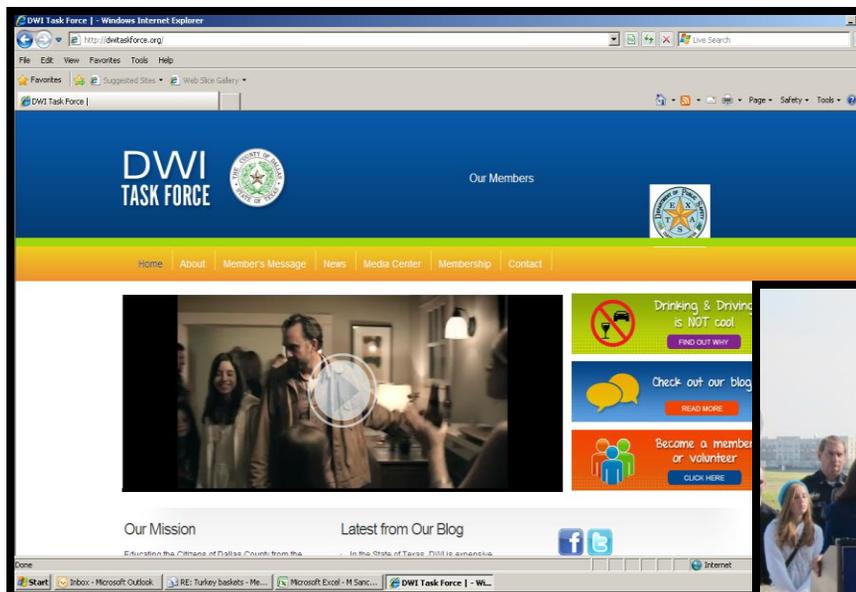
**The difference could be someone's life.**



Commissioner Garcia is chair of the DWI Taskforce. The DWI Taskforce has been in existence for 27 years. The main focus of the task force has been to bring people together from different organizations, including government and law enforcement agencies, in order to address the critical issues and tragic results of DWI and DUI in our county. We also make recommendations to the Texas Legislature in an effort to create laws and programs that will help reduce and prevent the occurrence of DWI/DUI accidents.

Our desire is to help make an impact on people that drink, to be responsible and not get behind the wheel of a car. There are many ways to prevent these types of accidents such as having a designated driver or taking a cab and leaving your car parked. If you are at a party and someone is leaving after drinking too much, be a friend and stop them.

It is our hope that you will use this site to learn about the ongoing costs and effects of DWI/DUI on the residents of Dallas County. We welcome and invite your input about how we can do more to educate people of all ages of the dangers of drinking or doing drugs while driving. If you or your family has been affected by DWI/DUI, or if you have a story to tell of your own experience of driving while intoxicated or impaired, we invite you to share your story. Please email us or join the conversation on our blog and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. [www.dwitaskforce.org](http://www.dwitaskforce.org)



Snapshot of DWI Taskforce website



Two cars involved in head on collision



Commissioner Garcia at Press Conference Introducing DWI Taskforce

# Commissioner Garcia receives Public Servant of the Year Award

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**Congratulations to Commissioner Elba Garcia for receiving *The Public Servant of The Year Award* presented by The Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce at the Bishop Arts Theater Center. Her years of hard work and dedication have made her a recognized leader for providing results and getting things done.**

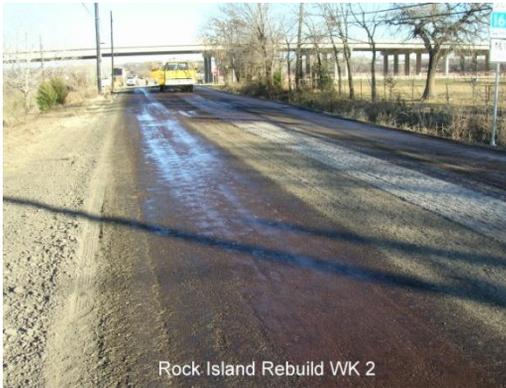
## Bishop Arts Theater Center



Commissioner Garcia thanking her family, staff and the Oak Cliff Chamber after receiving award



Dallas County Road and Bridge District 4 2011



Rock Island Rebuild WK 2

CURRENT DISTRICT



ROCK ISLAND



Rock Island Level Up 2-16-11 West of SH161



Rock Island Rd.-Seal Coat Shoulders of Road, 3-9-11 Chip (Rock) Spreader



Asphalt Before Being Rolled, Rock Island Rebuild, 3-10-11



Rock Island Rd., Irving

# Dirt Flying in District 4

CURRENT DISTRICT



NURSERY ROAD



Nursery Road-Irving 7/18/2011



Nursery Road-Irving 8/10/2011

COPPELL FARMERS MARKET



OLD DISTRICT



Coppell Farmers Market Site



09.18.2011 11.23



OLD DISTRICT



Heather Circle, Cedar Hill

HEATHER CIRCLE



11.01.2011

Heather Circle, Cedar Hill

# Commissioner Garcia's Road and Bridge Christmas Breakfast

Commissioner Garcia celebrated the holidays with her staff and Road and Bridge 4 crew with a hearty Christmas breakfast. Superintendent, Don Kennedy and crew cooked a wonderful breakfast consisting of eggs, bacon, sausage, and homemade biscuits and gravy!



Commissioner Garcia and Superintendent, Don Kennedy



**Transparency in County Government** – On March 15, 2011 we passed a new Transparency Policy for Dallas County. This was one of the promises I made during my campaign, and I was proud that we were able to pass it so quickly. The policy greatly strengthens our ethics rules, makes our county government more open and accessible, and will make county elected officials more accountable to the voters of Dallas County. Some of the items included are:

- Taking attendance at Commissioners Court meetings.
- Putting commissioner’s attendance records, commissioners court meeting minutes and individual voting items online.
- Changed lobbying rules
- Financial disclosure requirements for the Commissioners.

**Holding Parkland accountable** – we appointed new board members demanding answers for past issues (amputations, allegations of patient neglect, etc.) – and holding Parkland accountable not just for budgets but for the quality of patient care.

**Budget** – Closed a \$38 million deficit. We balanced the budget by working with departments and other elected officials – making them part of the process. Cutting smart – not just 10% across the board as in previous years. Using a scalpel – not an ax. By involving everyone in the process we were able to balance the budget without severe cuts in services and with NO TAX INCREASE.

**Campaign Finance Reports are now online for all County Elected Officials** – working with County Clerk John Warren and his staff, all campaign finance reports for the last two years for all officeholders and candidates in Dallas County are now available online. This was a major part of our transparency program and one campaign promise I was very glad we could fulfill.

**Video of Commissioner Court Meetings** – another campaign promise was putting video of Commissioners Court meetings online for public viewing. We hired our own videographer for the first 12 meetings, but thanks to the Sheriff’s Department the County began taping the meetings on a permanent basis in March. The videos can be viewed on both Dallas County’s website and my campaign website. Videos are generally posted by mid-day on Thursdays after our Tuesday court meetings.

**Master Calendar** - is now online as part of our efforts to make county government more transparent. This calendar contains all committee and other meetings attended by the County Judge and Commissioners.

**Redistricting** – In June we passed a new Commissioner District map that truly represents all of the citizens of Dallas County. The new lines take into account the changing demographics of the county, while still respecting communities of interest.

**Passed non-discrimination policy** - for sexual orientation, trans-gendered and gender identity. This was about fairness and justice. By passing this policy we were simply catching up with a majority of Fortune 500 Companies and the rest of the world.

**Hunter-Ferrell Road** – this is another campaign promise I am happy to show progress on. Located between Grand Prairie and Irving, and after 20 years of delay under previous Commissioners, I am proud to say construction has begun on this project.

**Appointments to Board and Commissions** – I am very proud of the appointments we have made to our Dallas County Boards and Commissions. We have a well qualified and committed group of citizens who have volunteered their time and efforts and truly represent the diversity of District 4. To see a complete list of board appointments go to [www.dallascounty.org](http://www.dallascounty.org), and under Transparency click on the link for Boards/Committees.

**Staying in touch with our constituents and keeping them informed** - Coppell Town Hall Meeting held June 22. Made presentations to numerous other groups in Grand Prairie, Irving, Oak Cliff, Duncanville – throughout the district. We've also upgraded our website to provide more information about County programs such as vaccinations, energy assistance and assistance to Dallas County residents without working air conditioners

**District 4 Road and Bridge Crew** – I am especially proud of all of the accomplishments of our very own District 4 Road and Bridge Crew. This past year we brought in almost \$2 million in revenue through our Road and Bridge projects – all while partnering with the cities of District 4 and saving taxpayers money.

Since January 2011 our Road and Bridge has:

- Finished construction on Rock Island Road between Grand Prairie and Irving
- Duncanville Main Street – overlay of approximately 1.25 miles – came in on time and under budget – gave refund of over \$16K back to Duncanville
- Resurfaced portions of Lake Ridge Parkway in Cedar Hill. Finishing other resurfacing and overlay projects in Cedar Hill.
- Completed work on Farmers Market in Coppell.
- Completed resurfacing 14 different roads in Irving.

**TIF Policy** – We recently revised the County’s TIF Policy to bring it in line with the cities’ policies, encourage businesses to invest in Dallas County and promote economic development throughout the area.

**Trails** – In September we opened the new Valley Ranch extension to Champion Trail in Irving. River Hills Trail will also be open soon, and we also recently surveyed the proposed Chalk Hill in Oak Cliff Trail. Several other trail projects are in the design stage throughout the district.

**MCIP** – The Dallas County Public Works Department is also partnering with cities in District 4 on road and other transportation projects through its Major Capital Improvements Program (MCIP). In January 2011 we met with each city’s Mayors and Public Works Department to determine what projects were important to them. The County then matches funding for each project and in some cases oversees the project. Some examples of these projects are:

- Davis Street – between Hampton and Westmoreland
- Story Road in Irving
- FM 1382 in Cedar Hill
- Hunter-Ferrell Road – located between Grand Prairie and Irving

**VOLUNTEER!**

- The following organizations are in need of volunteers and bi-lingual volunteers!**
- Friends of Oak Cliff Parks - <http://friendsofoakcliffparks.org/>
  - Meals on Wheels - <http://www.mealcall.org/meals-on-wheels/tx/dallas.htm>
  - West Dallas Community Centers Inc.- <http://www.westdallas.org/How%20to%20Help1.html>
  - Bridges Safe House (Cedar Hill)- <http://bridgessafehouse.org/>
  - Duncanville Outreach Ministry - <http://duncanvilleoutreachministry.com/>
  - The Resource Center – <http://www.resourcecenterdallas.org/>
  - Metroplex Animal Coalition – <http://www.metroplexanimalcoalition.org/contact.html>
  - Dallas CASA - <http://dallascasa.org/>

# Commissioner Garcia On The Go!

Coppell Town Hall



Irving Presentation



Oak Cliff Lions Club



Peabody Elementary



Irving Cinco de Mayo festivities



Grand Prairie Cinco de Mayo Parade



Presentation at Sta. Ma. De Guadalupe



Irma Rangel High School



Casa Guanajuato Halloween Party



North Oak Cliff Library



Pep Rally at Anson Jones Elementary



Duncanville Lions Club Presentation



# Resolutions

Recognizing the causes and people who make a difference in our communities

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Thank you to all of the organizations and individuals who make a difference in our communities!



Irving Girl Scouts



Las Obras



Dallas Children's Advocacy Center



Red Ribbon Week



MacArthur High School's Lady Cardinals

# Christmas Toy Drive

Once again the law offices of Royce West, DJ Weisbrod, Larry Friedman, and Domingo Garcia teamed up together for their annual toy drive. This year's effort was a huge success and thousands of toys were donated and distributed to area agencies, churches and schools that provided a Christmas to children who would have been without this year.



## **The gifts went to the following recipients:**

St. Cecilia Church  
West Dallas Comm. Cntr.  
Nuestra Sra. De Pilar Church  
Blessed Sacrament  
Casa Guanajuato  
Pierce Education Center, Irving  
James Hogg Elementary  
Lifeline Shelter, Grand Prairie  
Kirkwood Methodist Church

Bible Way Baptist Church  
Bear Creek Community Church  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
Santa Cops in Grand Prairie  
Cockrell Hill Baptist Church  
Santa Clara Church  
Calvary Church, Irving  
Lida Hooe Elementary/Head Start Program  
Grand Prairie Family Church  
and other families who were in need of assistance





Commissioner Elba Garcia, Judge Boyd Patterson, Dr. Michael Noyes, & Ron Stretcher



July 2011 CJAB Meeting

- The Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) is the forum for community, business and professional collaboration leading to an effective and fair criminal justice system that ensures Dallas County is safe, secure and prepared.
- The principle mission of the Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board is to identify opportunities for improvement in the criminal justice system of Dallas County using the following core strategies:
  - Synergize public safety programs and services across Dallas County.
  - Coordinate programs and systems to reduce crime.
  - Integrate the criminal justice system in a county-wide emergency response plan.
  - Maximize effectiveness of criminal justice resources throughout Dallas County.

### **SOME OF OUR KEY EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2011**

- **Bail Bond Taskforce – Formed and will be issuing a report in February.**
- **Law Enforcement Sub-Committee – Under the leadership of Chief Bates of the Garland Police Department an inmate transport agreement was developed between various cities and Dallas County.**
- **Working with Parkland Hospital, Dr. Paul Pepe, Dr. Lippmann and the Dallas County Criminal Justice Department to develop serial enibriate program.**
- **Initiated study with UTD to determine fiscal and social costs of various pre-trial release practices and their impact on recidivism and failures to appear.**