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December 2016 - Winter Newsletter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the Holidays are upon us, and we prepare close the year. I would like to share highlights from City Hall.



Little Free Libraries- A growing trend of homemade, landscaped little free libraries are popping up across communities in Dallas. First created in Hudson, Wisconsin; the initiative of small free library, in your front yard is geared to build community, spark creativity and inspire literacy. As this initiative has reached high popularity, the concern of libraries growing to each neighborhood visited the agenda of the City of Dallas Quality of Life Committee; later moving to full Council, where Council voted there would be no rule or regulation on little free libraries, and that these accessories would be governed as yard "ornaments, no different than bird baths".

For more information, [Click here](#).

DART Cotton Belt Decision Update- In late October, DART voted on the decision to fund its 20-year financial plan, to fund the Cotton Belt Rail Line and the Downtown Light Rail (D2). In a 12-3 vote, the DART Board decided to implement new routes for citizens in Dallas, and Dart cities to travel to the DFW Airport.



Costco Wholesale - Construction will begin in the next 2 weeks, and is projected to be complete mid-May.

The retail facility is described to have similar features as the typical Costco design, "with fuel pumps outside, a pharmacy, optical, and deli inside."

For more details on the North Dallas Costco, [Click here](#).



City Manager Search

After a week of interviewing several candidates, the City Council came to a consensus on Friday, December 9th on who would fill the City Manager position.

On Wednesday, December 14, 2016, the City Council voted unanimously to appoint T.C. Broadnax of Tacoma, Washington as the next Dallas City Manager. Broadnax currently holds the position as City Manager at the City of Tacoma, and will begin February 1st.

[Mayor announces new Dallas City Manager](#)



Dallas Police Fire Pension (DPFP)

On Wednesday, December 7, 2016, the City Council was briefed on the City Manager's recommendations for resolving the financial issues.

Recently, the City of Dallas unveiled a new website with details of the proposed plan to save the Dallas Police and Fire Pension.

Please visit www.savethepension.com for a comprehensive understanding of the Pension history, and current challenges.

[Click here](#) for more information.

City Hall - Holiday Schedule

City Offices will be closed on the following Holidays:

- Christmas - **Monday, December 26, 2016.**
- New Year's Day - **Monday, January 2, 2016**

Sanitation Services - Holiday Schedule

[Click here](#) to learn Holiday schedule for Sanitation Services.

2017 Bond Meetings

"The 2017 Bond Program, separate from the City's annual budget, focuses on improving capital funding for City of Dallas assets such as facilities, streets and alleys, libraries and parks. Funding initially estimated to be 600 to 800 million dollars will be provided by General Obligation Bonds and paid back over time."

Council Member Kleinman and City Staff will host 2 second round Town Hall meetings to discuss the City Manager's recommended program.

- **Thursday, January 12th at 6:30pm - 8pm** at Fretz Branch Library (Black Box Theatre) - 6990 Belt Line Road, Dallas 75254
- **Monday, January 23rd at 6:30pm - 8pm** at Churchill Recreation Center - 6906 Churchill Way, Dallas 75230

For more information on the 2017 Bond Program, visit www.dallasbond.com.



2017 MDHA's Annual Homeless Count

1,000 volunteers are needed in registered teams of 3-5 persons; for the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA)'s annual homeless count on **Thursday night, January 26, 2017 8pm - 1am.**

Required by federal law, the homeless count helps community identify and understand the extent and nature of homelessness in Dallas, throughout the country.

"Volunteers will fan out from two staging areas, First United Methodist Church of Dallas, and Wilshire Baptist Church, across Dallas County, to count the unsheltered homeless. Advance online and on-site training will be provided."

[Link to register your team](#)

[Click here to learn more about Homeless Count](#)



Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

As public safety is our number #1 priority; we would like to remind you of the following during the holiday season:

Shopping in Stores

- **Be informed about your surroundings**
- **Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.**
- **Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle.** Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
- **Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package.**
- **Do not leave packages visible in your car.** Lock them in the trunk, or if possible, take them directly home.

Shopping Online

- **Keep your personal information private and your password secure.** Do not respond to requests to "verify" your password or credit card information unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will not contact you in this manner.

- **Use secure websites for purchases.** Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or "https" in the URL address.
- **Shop with companies you know and trust.** Check for background information if you plan to buy from a new or unfamiliar company.

Package Delivery

- Pick up your package at your local post office
- Keep a camera pointed at your porch
- Use signature confirmation
- Leave delivery instruction
- Deliver to your workplace
- Try an Amazon Locker
- Redirect your package to a neighbor or relative
- Post a warning sign

[Click here](#) for more information on keeping your packages safe this Holiday Season.

Please feel free to contact our office, should you have any questions, or comments.



Lee M. Kleinman
Dallas City Council Member