



Spring Newsletter 2018

Dallas City Councilmember Jennifer S. Gates

April 2018

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Dear District 13 Neighbors,

With the weather getting warmer, things are heating up inside City Hall as well. I would like to take a moment to share a few highlights at City Hall.

Budget Survey

The City of Dallas is gathering input from citizens through both an informal online survey and through community engagement meetings to use as we develop the next biennial budget. Dallas has launched an online survey to get your feedback about priorities for next year's budget. The online survey consists of 7 questions and will only take a few minutes to complete. Click here to participate:

<https://bit.ly/2udzEmJ>

Staff Changes in District 13 Office

My assistant, Carolyn Williamson, is moving on to the City of Dallas Budget Office as a Senior Budget Analyst. I am sad to see her go but excited for her next step in the City of Dallas.

Please welcome Lauren Clayton as the new District 13 Assistant. Lauren has spent her career in government affairs and public service, having previously served as Chief of Staff to Judge Lee Jackson and Judge Margaret Keliher, and the late Senator Chris Harris. She transitioned to the private side at Exxon Mobil as a Major Investments Program Officer before making the leap back to local government. Lauren has a Master's degree in Public Affairs from UTD and a Bachelor's degree in Public Relations from Texas Tech. You can reach Lauren Clayton at lauren.clayton@dallascityhall.com and as always my main office number at 214-670-3816.

Welcome aboard Lauren and good luck Carolyn!



pictured above, District 13 secretary Alexandra Relayze, District 13 assistant Lauren Clayton, and outgoing assistant Carolyn Williamson

Youth Commission Application

We are pleased to announce that our Youth Commissioner Mary Orsak is graduating this year and will attend Yale University in the fall. Mary has been an excellent representative for District 13 on the Youth Commission.

With Mary graduating, there is a vacancy on the Youth Commission for a District 13 representative. We are looking for a strong replacement who is interested in representing our office well on the Youth Commission.

The Dallas Youth Commission is a group of civically engaged and diverse youth located in the City of Dallas. Originally founded in 1994, the Youth Commission provides a much needed voice for students here in Dallas with a purpose to address and advocate for issues and bring impactful change to the community. The Youth Commission is governed by a talented fifteen member board consisting of high school students (grade 9-12) and aims to serve their community while gaining the tools necessary to become effective and dedicated leaders in the future. During its tenure, the Youth Commission has spearheaded numerous projects that include youth forums, community service events, crime prevention programs, a smoking ordinance, and a youth resource guide. To see the meeting schedule for the Youth Commission click [here](#).

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on this commission please fill out the application [here](#) and return to our office at district13@dallascityhall.com. All representatives must currently be enrolled in high school and complete the board and commission application process at the City of Dallas. More information on that process click [here](#).

The deadline to receive applications is June 1, 2018. We will appoint a representative in early June. This is a fantastic opportunity to serve your

community and have your voice heard. We look forward to your application.

Ursuline Students Tour the Walcrest Pumping Station

Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) conducted two facilities tours of the Walcrest Pump Station for Ursuline Academy engineering students. The group of 30+ students was chaperoned by Ms. Anita Pezzimenti.

Since the facility is an active construction site and safety is paramount, the students were escorted to the safety of the construction trailer area and provided safety orientation and appropriate personal protective equipment. The students were provided an overview of the construction activities and the purpose and function of the pump station by DWU engineers and project manager. In addition, DWU engaged several of the City's consultant engineers to provide information on their education and experience in water resource engineering. The students were able to learn first hand how women can get involved in engineering from several female guest speakers, including DWU's project manager.

Special thanks to Ms Eva Gorgi, DWU Project Manager, and her team for facilitating the engagement with Ursuline Academy engineering students while keeping the students safe. We hope to have inspired their future careers with the unique exposure to water resource engineering.

A highlight of the Ursuline Academy site visit is posted on the Walcrest Pump Station social media site <http://walcrest.org/>



Public Safety ISO Presentation

Dallas Fire-Rescue joins an elite group of municipalities by receiving a Class 1 Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating. This is the first Class 1 ISO rating in the department's history. The ISO rating system is based on the department's efficiency in receiving and processing emergency calls, training, equipment and accessibility to a permanent city-wide water supply.

This is a great accomplishment for our City as it can stimulate economic growth efforts through its impact on commercial insurance rates.

Congratulations to Fire-Rescue Chief David Coatney and the entire DFR Department for their dedicated service being recognized.



Pictured above is the City Council Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee presenting the ISO Rating at the March 26, 2018 meeting.

Flight Tracking Update

On Tuesday, March 13th, Dallas Love Field will begin a new contract with Casper for their flight tracking system. Please see the Flight Tracking Update for [April 13th- April 19th](#).

If you would like to file a noise complaint, you may do so using the following link: <http://www.dallas-lovefield.com/noise-complaints.html>.

North Dallas Chamber Building Ribbon Cutting

Over 200 people attended the March 20 grand opening and ribbon cutting at the chamber's new headquarters at 10707 Preston Road. The new building replaces the original chamber headquarters built on the same site in 1979 and expanded in 1985. The North Dallas Chamber was founded in 1954, and for 64 years has served as the voice of the North Dallas business community as it works to make Dallas a better place to live, work, raise a family and build a business.



Pictured above are City of Dallas Councilmember Lee Klienman and Councilmember Jennifer Gates, Bruce Bradford, Former President & CEO of North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, Richard Vitale, Practice Manager and SVP, Not-for-Profit Healthcare and Institutions, North and Central Texas, Bank of America and Former NDCC Chairman of the Board, Carol Short, NDCC Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, Bill Siegel, Shareholder, Cowles & Thompson, NDCC Chairman of the Board, Jim Duffy, Councilmember, Town of Addison and NDCC Board Member, Ken Malcolmson, President & CEO, NDCC and Scott Kirksey, CEO, BenefitMall and NDCC Immediate Past Chairman.

Atmos and NTSB Report

Atmos provided a briefing to City Council on April 18, 2018, click [here](#) to see that briefing.

The National Transportation and Safety Board has issued a preliminary report for the recent natural gas explosion that occurred on Feb. 23, 2018. Please see the full report here: <https://goo.gl/hPTuwg>.

The NTSB's preliminary report notes the Feb. 23 explosion was preceded by two natural gas related events at 3527 and 3515 Durango Drive, Dallas, on Feb. 21 and 22, 2018. While all three events are natural gas related, the NTSB is investigating if the incidents are related to one another. Multiple leaks were identified by Atmos, the natural gas service provider, during its assessment of the Durango Drive incidents. Numerous other leaks have since been identified throughout the neighborhood.

The report states the investigative team formed three technical investigative working groups that inspected the accident site, pressure tested pipe, collected records of the pipeline operations, pipeline integrity management program and emergency response, and conducted interviews of Atmos and the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department personnel.

Information contained in the report is preliminary and subject to change as the investigation continues, and as such, no conclusions about probable cause should be drawn from the contents of the preliminary report.

Restoring the Neighborhood

As part of normal operations when replacing pipelines in neighborhoods, Atmos Energy crews may have to cut into streets, alleys, sidewalks and driveways. While work is going on, Atmos will make temporary repairs to the area. When work is complete, Atmos will make arrangements to permanently repair streets, alleys, sidewalks, roads and restore landscaping to its original condition.

Panhandling

On April 18, 2018 City staff presented the "End Panhandling Now" campaign at the City Council briefing meeting, see the briefing [here](#).

The goal of the campaign is to decrease giving directly to panhandlers by educating the public about the public safety and public health impacts of panhandling. The proposed project will involve 3 components: public education, community services, and enforcement. The public education campaign will utilize creative and impactful messaging and social media targeting to reach individuals who may contribute to panhandlers and educate them on the potential impact of giving to panhandlers. Staff will target "hot spots", identified by DPD data, 311 service requests, and public input. The community services component will deploy outreach workers to identify and engage known panhandlers, and to respond to panhandling reports. These outreach workers will work to understand the specific needs of the panhandlers and to refer them to community programs and services, such as shelters, mental health programs, substance abuse treatment, and job skills and training programs. DPD will continue to handle enforcement according to applicable city code. Where possible, DPD will issue citations, referring panhandlers to community courts, where they may access case management and programming referrals. This campaign is a collaborative effort between the Office of Community Care, Dallas Police Department, Public Affairs Office, 311, and the Office of Homeless Solutions.

City of Dallas Night Court

The City of Dallas and the Dallas County District Attorney's Office are collaborating with two new programs to reduce recidivism among the homeless population. The Dallas City Attorney's Office will hold "Night Court" to address issues involving Class C Misdemeanors, while the Dallas County District Attorney's Office Homeless Diversion Court Program will address Class A & B Misdemeanors.

Hours of operation for the City Attorney's Office Night Court will be held at 2014 Main Street, Courtroom #1 operating from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Thursdays. The District Attorney's Office Homeless Diversion Court Program will be held 1515 Young Street, operating from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays as well.

Community Partners include: Homeward Bound Inc, CitySquare Community Clinic, Salvation Army, MetroCare Services, The Central Business District, and

Social service providers and the Dallas Police Department will refer participants to the collaboration. The idea is to provide the program participants with proven solutions for a self-sufficient life with our community partners.

Street Update

There are a number of ongoing street projects with new projects being added daily. Some projects of note in District 13 are:

* Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) has a wastewater pipeline replacement project from **LBJ Freeway and Dallas North Tollway to Northaven Road**. All the wastewater pipeline has been installed up to just south of LBJ Freeway. Paving on Northaven Road, Inwood Road, Willow Lane, and in the concrete channel behind Jesuit and St. Rita's is complete. The entire project including the crossing of LBJ Freeway is expected to be complete in **summer 2018**, weather permitting. See the updated factsheet on this project [here](#).

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline replacement project on **Prestonshire Lane from Edgemere Road to Hillcrest Road (PID 5531)**. DWU contractor has finished pipeline installation and has been released to complete final paving restorations. Due to weather impacts on paving, the project is expected to be complete by late **May 2018**, weather permitting.

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline replacement project in the **Alley between Amherst Avenue and Lovers Lane from Linwood Avenue to Menier Street (PID 1206)**. DWU contractor has finished pipeline installation and currently is in the process of completing water tie-ins to the existing mains. Entire project including final paving and surface restoration is expected to be complete in late **May 2018**, weather permitting.

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline replacement project on **Lovers Lane from Taos Road to Elsby Avenue (PID 4801)**. DWU contractor has finished pipeline installation and has been released to complete final paving restorations. Due to weather impacts on paving, the project is expected to be complete by late **May 2018**, weather permitting.

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline replacement project on **Skillman Street from Abrams Road to Southwestern Blvd (PIDs 4923 and 4925)**. DWU contractor has finished approximately 95% of pipeline installation and recently completed paving repairs on Southwestern Blvd. The contractor is currently in the process of scheduling paving restoration on Skillman Street. Entire project including final paving and surface restoration is expected to be complete by the end of **spring 2018**, weather permitting.

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline replacement project in the **Easement west of Camellia Drive from State Highway 289 (Preston Road) to north of Royal Lane (PID 4954)**. DWU contractor has finished pipeline

installation and currently is in the process of completing water testing, sampling and service tie-ins. Entire project including final paving and surface restoration is expected to be complete in **May 2018**, weather permitting.

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline replacement project on **Lomo Alto Drive from alley south of Sherry Lane to north of Colgate Avenue (PID 4761)**. DWU contractor has finished pipeline installation and is currently working on the paving restoration. Entire project including final paving and surface restoration is expected to be complete in **April 2018**, weather permitting.

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline replacement project in the **Easement South of Orchid Lane from SH 289 (Preston Road) East (PID 4957)**. DWU contractor is in the process of scheduling final paving restorations. Entire project including final paving and surface restoration is expected to be complete in **summer 2018**, weather permitting.

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline replacement project on **Royal Lane from Cromwell Drive West (PID 4616)**. DWU contractor has completed the utility construction and paving restoration. The contractor is in the final stages of replacing sod impacted by construction. Project is expected to be complete in **April 2018**.

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline replacement project on **State Highway 289 (Preston Road) from Walnut Hill to Royal Lane (PID 4953)**. This project is scheduled to start in April 2018 and be completed during the **winter of 2018/2019**.

* Dallas Water Utilities has a pipeline project on **Royal Lane from Cox Lane east (PID 2534)**. Work is scheduled to start in April 2018 and be completed in **fall 2018**.

For more updates on streets in District 13 you can always visit the [District 13 website](#)

If you have additional questions or want to know more information about a certain project, please contact the District 13 office.

AARP

[AARP Flyer](#)



Dine and Discover with AARP!

It's always fun to learn something new!
Please join AARP Texas and the Treehouse for
a series of fun, free dine and discover events.

TAI CHI/QIGONG

Thursday, April 12, from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Come and learn about the health benefits of Tai Chi/Qigong. If you are looking for a low-impact, relaxing form of exercise that only requires about 20 minutes a day and rewards your efforts, Qigong is for you. Wear comfortable clothing so we can practice a bit of what we learned. *A light dinner will be served after the workshop.*

MAKE AND TAKE MINI SUCCULENT GARDENS

Thursday, May 10, from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Do you want to learn how to build a mini succulent garden? Join us for a class and take one home with you! Build your mini succulent garden with a decorative shaped rocks and low maintenance succulent or air plants. *A light dinner will be served before the workshop.*

HEALTHY HOME/HOME FIT

Thursday, June 14, from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

What does it mean to have a healthy home? Over the last several years, consumers have become more aware and concerned about the materials used to produce everyday household products, from flooring to furniture to cleaning products. Learn how to be intentional about what we put in our homes to minimize toxins. *A light dinner will be served before the workshop.*

TreeHouse
8021 Walnut Hill Lane
Dallas, TX 75231

Please RSVP at
1-877-926-8300
or register online at
**[aarp.cvent.com/
TX_TreeHouseSeries2018](http://aarp.cvent.com/TX_TreeHouseSeries2018)**



Fight Back Against Fraud!



For more information visit aarp.org/tx



Join us for a free shredding event

Every two seconds someone's identity is stolen. Shredding confidential documents you no longer need is one good way to protect yourself, and the AARP Fraud Watch Network, The Senior Source and the City of Dallas Park and Recreation wants to help. Bring your confidential documents to our Operation Stop Scams event, and we'll shred them for free. It only takes a few minutes and can save you lots of headaches later on.

Marcus Recreation Center

3003 Northaven Road, Dallas, TX 75229

Saturday, May 5 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (or until truck is full)

Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center

8701 Greenmound Ave, Dallas, TX 75227

Saturday, May 5 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (or until truck is full)

RSVP is not required but appreciated so we can plan for shredding truck capacity. To RSVP please visit aarp.cvent.com/TX_NFWStopScamsSeries_2018 or call 1-877-926-8300.

[Shredding Event](#)

MayFair 2018

The Office of Community Care invites you to attend "MayFair 2018: Engage at

Every Age." MayFair is an annual event celebrating the contributions of senior citizens in our community. The event will feature a luncheon, dance and vendor expo, and new this year, will also feature education sessions focused on mental health and the importance of socialization for older adults. Social isolation can contribute to depression, decreased longevity, adult failure to thrive and decreased quality of life. MayFair provides an opportunity for older adults to connect with one another and with programs and services in the community.

This year's event is scheduled for May 25th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The learning sessions and vendor expo will begin at 10am, and the luncheon will begin at 11:15am. The luncheon MC's are television personality, Scott Murray, and former Miss Senior Texas, Mary Frances Hansen.

Spring Highlights

Take advantage of the nice change in weather by visiting one of the City of Dallas many parks, or visiting the [Dallas Arboretum](#) to take in spring time flowers. The [Dallas Zoo](#) has a number of fun spring time activities, and don't forget to visit the [Perot Museum](#) and [Dallas Museum of Art](#) to see their new springtime exhibits. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or concerns at 214-670-3816.



Pictured above is my husband John and I with our two grandsons celebrating Easter

Sincerely,

Jennifer