



Kessler Plaza News

April 25, 2003
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The Newsletter of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association

Next Neighborhood Meeting:
Tuesday, April 29, 7 p.m.
Jefferson Blvd. Church of Christ



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Councilmember Garcia to Speak at April Neighborhood Meeting

Plan now to attend the next meeting of the Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, April 29, 2003. Featured speaker for the meeting is Dallas City Councilmember Dr. Elba Garcia.



*Dr. Elba Garcia
Dallas City Councilmember*

Dr. Garcia represents District 1 on the Dallas City Council. Following redistricting, Kessler Plaza is now part District 1. Dr. Garcia is unopposed for re-election to the council. She is a dentist and has lived in District 1 for 18 years. In addition to the city council, Dr. Garcia is actively involved with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, American Cancer Society (Hispanic Task Force), St. Cecilia's School, and the YMCA SW Chapter.

Dr. Garcia wants to improve basic city services for District 1 residents.

increase the number of Animal Control Officers.

Regarding her vision for the city of Dallas, Dr. Garcia says Dallas needs to be a great place to work and raise families and that the city council needs to work to improve inner-city neighborhoods and revitalize downtown. She has also indicated she fully supports the Trinity River Project and that it should be a place for residents to play and do business without destroying our natural resources.

She lists as her top priorities:

- Crime reduction
- Code Enforcement/ Animal Control
- Economic Development for North Oak cliff and West Dallas.

She has worked to increase police presence, increase neighborhood crime watch and is working to start a Prosecutor Program in North Oak Cliff. In addition, she is working to

At the meeting, Dr. Garcia will be available to answer questions and hear resident feedback regarding Kessler Plaza and the City of Dallas. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 29, 2003 at the Jefferson Blvd. Church of Christ.

Mayor/City Council/Bond Elections Scheduled May 3

Dallas voters return to the polls on May 3 for Mayor, City Council and Bond elections.

In the Mayoral race, incumbent Laura Miller is seeking re-election to her first full term. Other candidates in the race include Mary Poss, Jurline Hollins, E.

Edward Okpa, and Erik Saenz.

Following redistricting, Kessler Plaza moves into City Council District 1 where incumbent Dr. Elba Garcia is unopposed in her bid for re-election.

Voters will also decide 17 separate bond

propositions on the ballot.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on May 3, 2003. Registered voters living in Kessler Plaza will vote at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ, located at the corner of Jefferson Blvd. and Franklin St.



Fort Worth Ave. Moratorium

The Dallas City Council recently gave unanimous approval to a moratorium on building permits and certificates of occupancy along Fort Worth Avenue, from West Davis Street to Beckley Avenue.

The decision put the brakes on new businesses along Fort Worth Avenue—including controversial plans for a bus depot and used-car lot at the Bronco Bowl.

The Fort Worth Avenue Development Group praised the decision, saying the project clashed with its revitalization efforts. The group says it can finish the plan it started two years ago without having to worry about new developments that don't fit in.

Harvard Business School to Host Program for Minority Students

Rafael Anchia, DISD Trustee, has provided information regarding the following program.

The Harvard Business School is seeking high potential African American, Hispanic American and Native American students for their Summer Venture in Management Program (SVMP). The program seeks to expose talented minority college juniors to general management in the business world.

During one week in June, at no expense to the student, Harvard Business School hosts these talented college students and provides teaching instruction from leading

faculty, on campus housing and different seminars/events that introduce the students to business education. These students are immersed in a rigorous and stimulating classroom environment that mirrors the learning environment of Harvard's MBA Program.

Additional information can be obtained at

<http://www.hbs.edu/mba/experience/learn/prospectiveminority/svmp/index.html>

City of Dallas Bond Election to Feature 17 Propositions

Dallas voters will vote on 17 separate bond propositions as part of the May 3 City of Dallas elections. Following is a brief summary of the 17 bond propositions.

1. Streets. \$199 million to upgrade and improve 80% of the major streets and aging thoroughfares across Dallas.
2. Parks. \$57.3 million to improve existing parks and build new neighborhood parks and sports fields.
3. Libraries. \$55.5 million to build eight new branch libraries throughout Dallas and upgrade the city's main downtown library to provide high-tech learning capabilities.
4. Flood Control. \$16.4 million for flood protection and drainage improvements, with a strong focus on protecting older neighborhoods in Dallas.
5. Arts. \$11.3 million to fund the basic design and infrastructure for the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts.
6. Service Centers. \$16.8 million to assist with improving basic services by renovating two city service and maintenance centers and build a new one in Northwest Dallas, near Love Field.
7. Animal Shelter. \$11.8 million for 57,000-square-foot animal shelter to aid in providing homes for stray or unwanted animals, and finding lost pets.
8. Workforce Housing. \$3 million to purchase land for the development of affordable, owner-occupied single-family homes.
9. Solid Waste Management. \$24 million to build a levee to separate the McCommas Bluff Landfill from the Trinity River.
10. More Streets. \$67.9 million for additional street projects specified as "high priority" by each individual Councilmember, including renovations to reduce traffic and protect neighborhoods along LBJ Freeway.
11. Zoos & Parks. \$43.2 million for additional major improvements to citywide parks including the Dallas Zoo, the Arboretum, and Fair Park.
12. Community Arts. \$17.7 million to stretch interest for the arts beyond downtown with the Dallas' Artist Square, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, South Dallas Cultural Center and a new Oak Cliff arts facility.
13. Economic Development. \$6 million for major infrastructure improvements for business parks in the southern sector of Dallas.
14. Fire Facilities. \$19.8 million to build one new and four state-of-the-art replacement fire stations.
15. Farmers Market. \$3.2 million to renovate a section of Farmer's Market.
16. Police Facilities. \$23.5 million to purchase land in Cadillac Heights for a new police academy build a new police substation and renovate two substations.
17. Homeless Facility. \$3 million for a 24-hour intake shelter designed to reduce panhandling, get the homeless out of intersections and provide support, counseling and job search assistance.



I-30 Construction Project Continues

Local motorists may face challenges while navigating through the construction zone along I-30 in the next few years. The highway is in the midst of a \$97 million renovation. When complete, the highway east of Loop 12 will have five lanes in each direction to Westmoreland Road. It will have four main lanes and an auxiliary lane between entrance and exit ramps from Westmoreland to Sylvan.

All bridge and ramp layouts will remain the same, including the two westbound exit ramps to Sylvan Avenue. Although one of those exits was removed for construction, it will reopen at the end of the project.

The state will also comply with area residents' wishes to keep the

unusually designed Hampton Road bridge over I-30, which many consider unique to the area. To do so, crews will lower the road about 10 feet in the area and build a retaining wall where the bridge supports currently end. In addition, two lanes on the highway's south side just east of Sylvan will be built on a bridge over Coombs Creek.

Originally, the project included the bridge over the Trinity River adjacent to downtown. That portion, however, has been delayed until summer 2004 so that local leaders can find \$50 million to build Dallas' second planned bridge.

The Texas Department of Transportation estimates the project will last until mid-2007.

Yard of the Month Nominations

Spring is definitely in the air and Kessler Plaza residents have been busy working in their yards. The Kessler Plaza Yard of the Month award returns with a May Yard of the Month.

As you enjoy leisurely walks through the neighborhood, remember to contact Roman at 214.339.5679 or roman.smith@sbc.com to share your picks for March's Yard of the Month.

March Crime Statistics Reported

The following crimes were reported in the neighborhood for the month of March. This crime summary is provided by the Dallas Police Department.

Crime	Date	Address	Item(s) Stolen
Robbery	03/01/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Clothing
Theft	03/03/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Food
Vandalism	03/08/03	24xx W. Jefferson Blvd.	
Burglary	03/10/03	27xx W. Jefferson Blvd.	Televisions
Tel Harassment	03/10/03	26xx Marvin Ave.	
Auto Theft	03/11/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Vehicles
Theft	03/14/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Motorcycle/Minibike
Auto Theft	03/15/03	25xx Alden Ave.	Vehicles
Theft	03/17/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Food
Theft	03/20/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Food
Other Assault	03/22/03	25xx Marvin Ave	
Theft	03/23/03	27xx Duval Dr.	Tools
Theft	03/25/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Motorcycle/Minibike
Theft	03/27/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Auto Parts
Theft	03/28/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Motorcycle/Minibike
Fraud	03/31/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Tobacco Products
Theft	03/31/03	3xx S. Hampton Rd.	Motorcycle/Minibike

Block Captains

Following are the block captains for the neighborhood.

Alco Ave. (2400 and 2500/2600 blocks): Russ

Alco Ave. (2700 block): John and Roman, 214.339.5679

Alden Ave.(2500 block): Daniel, 214.339.5733

Alden Ave. (2600 block): Irene, 214.337.1919

Alden Ave. (2700 block): Don and Janie, 214.337.1064

Cavender St.: James (interim), 214.339.3160

Duval Dr.: Don and Janie, 214.337.1064

Hampton Rd.: Jennifer, 214.333.8333

Jefferson Blvd. (2700/2800 blocks): Laura and Rhonda, 214.330.3676

Marvin Ave. (North side): Nola Rae, 214.330.0557

Marvin Ave. (South side): Wade, 214.467.3400

Sunset Ave. (2400 block): Jennifer, 214.333.8333

Sunset Ave. (2500/2600 block): Dolores, 214.337.8252

Sunset Ave. (2700 block): James, 214.339.3160

Wentworth St.: John, 214.331.5449

West Tenth St. (2400 block): Sally and Dori, 214.333.9520

West Tenth St. (2500/2600 blocks): Emily, 214.339.3433

West Tenth St. (2700 block): John and Roman, 214.339.5679



Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association

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Operation Clean Sweep Plans Sustainable Summit

Operation Clean Sweep Southern Dallas County is sponsoring a summit on “Building Sustainable Communities.” The event is scheduled for June 10 and will feature guest speaker Rudy Giuliani.

The summit will allow attendees to hear from leaders who have created vibrant communities, improved economic conditions, and stimulated growth in their communities. The summit will also explore urban planning strategies and topics focused on how to guide new community growth.

Operation Clean Sweep Southern Dallas County is a coalition between Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Lancaster, and Oak Cliff. The Operation Clean Sweep focuses on assisting the five communities in achieving more sustainable cities by acting as a resource, an advocate, and a supporter.

For additional information regarding the summit, visit
www.cleansweepsoutherndallascounty.org

Calendar of Events

April 29 (Tuesday) – Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting
7:00 p.m. Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ
Special Guest: Dr. Elba Garcia, Dallas City Councilmember

May 1 (Thursday) – First day brush and bulky trash to be placed curbside

May 3 (Saturday) – City of Dallas elections. Registered voters in Kessler Plaza may vote at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ.

May 5-10 – Brush and bulky trash pickup for Kessler Plaza

May 9 (Friday) – Free concert by family entertainer Eddie Coker.
7:00 p.m. Kessler Park United Methodist Church lawn
1215 Turner Blvd.

May 20 (Tuesday) – Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting
7:00 p.m. Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ
Note date change due to Memorial Day holiday.

June 10 (Tuesday) – Operation Clean Sweep Southern Dallas County Summit
Daytime sessions 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
UNT Dallas Campus
8915 S. Hampton Rd.; Dallas, Texas
Evening session featuring Rudy Giuliani 7:00 p.m.
S. Gus Alexander Auditorium, Duncanville High School
900 W. Camp Wisdom Rd.; Duncanville, Texas

About Kessler Plaza

Kessler Plaza is bounded on the North by W. Jefferson Blvd., the South by 12th St., the East by Hampton Rd., and the West by Cavender St. The neighborhood association meets the last Tuesday of each month at the Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. For additional information visit www.kesslerplaza.com

**KESSLER PLAZA RESIDENT
DALLAS, TX 75211**