

# DR. THERESA DANIEL DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018



## 2018 District 1 Town Halls a SUCCESS

Each year Commissioner Daniel holds a series of town hall meetings to bring information and updates about Dallas County directly to the residents. This year meetings were held in Vickery Meadow, Pleasant Grove and Garland at the new Road and Bridge District 1 office. Residents learned about the Dallas County Tax Office and its relationship to our property taxes, the present risks of mosquito borne diseases and the upcoming importance of getting a flu vaccine from the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services, the progress of current and future road and trails projects to improve our connectivity and lastly, the difference between and the importance of the various Dallas County Diversion courts.

As Commissioner Daniel likes to say, "We don't do anything by ourselves and Dallas County works as a team for our residents."

The people who attended had access to free DEET insect repellent, mosquito dunks, information about Parkland services, and information about the Sixth Floor Museum and Old Red.

Commissioner Daniel raffled off tickets to the Sixth Floor Museum and copies of *Dallas County: A 21st Century Mosaic*.

Thank you to all of our presenters: County Tax Assessor John R. Ames, Ellen Hays and Norman Kasal from the Dallas County Tax Office; Judge Lela Mays; John Mears, Tushar Solanki and Alberta Blair from Dallas County Public Works.

We were joined by Councilmembers from Garland James Bookhout, Rich Aubin and Robert John Smith and Dallas City Councilman Rickey D. Callahan.

Also a big thank you to our hosts the Northwest Community Center and Eastfield Pleasant Grove Campus.



Top left to bottom right: County Tax Assessor John R. Ames, City of Dallas Councilman Rickey D. Callahan, Commissioner Theresa M. Daniel, Judge Lela Mays, Marisa Gonzales from Health and Human Services and Tushar Solanki from Public Works.

### Partnerships that Work

## D1 Seniors Get Connected With Pilot Program "DART Rides"

In 2015 Commissioner Theresa Daniel got a call from City of Dallas Senior Affairs Commission Cannon Flowers who was the Chair of the Transportation Committee. In this role, he updated us on a landmark study in Council Districts D5 and D7 to identify the number of aging residents with limited or no access to transportation.

The research presented troubling results. Commissioner Daniel helped to connect the committee with DART Board Member Michele Wong Krause and staff to work on the issue. With detailed and lengthy analysis, it is estimated that 4,000-5,000 residents of East/South Dallas (Pleasant Grove) have no access to transportation and up to 700 seniors in absolute isolation.

Effective October 2018, DART will be rolling out DART Rides Program for zip code 75217 and 75228, both in Dallas County District 1. DART Rides is a taxi subsidy program which will provide transportation for up

to 4.3 miles (to or from home), which will connect these residents to a fixed route, train, or even a final destination. DART will cover 75% of the cost of these rides. The resident will be issued a reloadable debit card. A subsidy may be purchased in \$5 increments up to \$25 per calendar month. Up to \$100 of taxi debit value per month can be purchased at a cost of \$25 to the rider. The rider is required to provide 25% of the card balance.

This program for the first year is being funded by a grant from the North Central Texas Council of Governments, with a promise for funding to become part of the annual DART budget thereafter.

This is a huge success and an example of partnerships that work.

For more information or to register, please visit:  
[www.dart.org/riding/dartrides.asp](http://www.dart.org/riding/dartrides.asp)

# Artwork at Road and Bridge 1

Commissioner Daniel believes that public spaces should be useable and accessible but also inviting and pleasant places to be. To that end, when the dust settled on the newly repurposed Road and Bridge 1 District office, we wanted to have a “Welcome” open house to invite the community to share in the new space. However, our walls were bare and we relied, once again, on our friend Dr. Scherry Johnson.

## Artists on Loan

Dr. Johnson called upon her studio-mates from the Continental Gin Building artists’ community and arranged for us to borrow some beautiful pieces from artists Bob Nunn, a patriarch of the Deep Ellum arts community; Marsha Moser, a New Orleans transplant; and Nancy Miller, a former teacher at Booker T. Washington Arts Magnet.

When the artists wanted to show at other locations, and the pieces were returned, we once again had bare walls.

## Jail Art Program

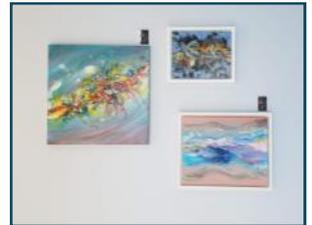
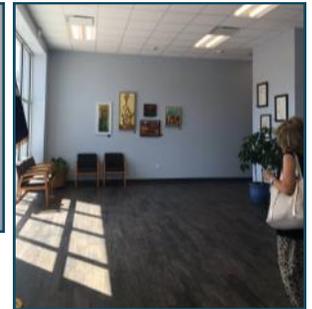
We then asked the Dallas County Jail’s art program if they would let us display some of the art produced by the inmates. Yolanda Lara, Director of Inmate Programs for the Dallas County Sheriff’s Department generously agreed. She gave us 15 pieces that are a combination of still life’s and landscaping designs created by detainees in the Dallas County jail under the instruction of art teacher, Sandra Lara.

Sandra works with incarcerated men and women at Lew Sterrett Jail in Dallas County and collaborates with an incredibly gifted director, producer, and writer named Cynthia Salzman Mondell.

They have worked on a project called Sole Sisters in which the female art students in the jail education program share their life struggles through their artwork.

Sandra has instructed Art classes at the jail for nearly ten years and has a passion for teaching detainees in jail and says they are the most creative students she has ever instructed.

Commissioner Daniel is a supporter of the Art program. And the Sheriff’s Department is happy for her to display the art pieces for the community to appreciate.



*Above: Artists from the Continental Gin Building studio displayed are Bob Nunn, Marsha Moser and Nancy Miller. All artists generously loaned Commissioner Daniel pieces for our ribbon cutting ceremony and open house.*

*Below: Artwork from the Dallas County Jail Art Program*

