



**WINDOWS TO OPENA!
1st Quarter, 2023 NEWSLETTER
Volume 4, Issue 1**

**Next OPENA Meeting:
Saturday, February 18th at 1:30 pm**

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OPENA 2023 February Program

Program Title: "Getting Involved with City Government"

Program Date and Time: Saturday February 18, 2023 from 1:30 to 3 pm

Location: Parish Hall, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 1302 W Kiest Blvd, Dallas, 75224

Program Description:

A presentation on the opportunities that exist for residents and citizens to get involved and make an impact in their community and across the City of Dallas. This presentation will also share tips and advice on engaging with city elected and appointed officials. Links to applications and opportunities will be provided. OPENA will serve light refreshments at the meeting! Join us for a fun time to socialize with your neighbors and listen to a great program!

There are numerous examples of residents in our neighborhood who have been effective in getting things done working with City Hall. Bert Rakowitz of Druid Hills single-handedly got the city to put in the Gabion Wall which saved our residents from a potential cave-in of the road along the creek at W. Five Mile Parkway and Holliday Rd. His neighbor Yolanda Nolan got the city to put in a new street light. Kelly Joe Williams has worked tirelessly to get more police patrols in the areas along Nokomis and Navajo Streets.

Brandon J. Vance Bio:



Brandon J. Vance is an active community member and leader. He previously served as Council District 4 Homeless Commissioner, a member of the Dallas Police Chief's Community Task Force, President of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, and Vice President of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats-Dallas Chapter. Brandon has also run for office on two occasions, including for the Council District 4 seat in 2018. You can count on finding Brandon out in the community knocking doors and talking to his neighbors.

WELCOME to a new year in OPENA!

We encourage you to join us and network with your neighbors by joining the neighborhood association. Together we can greater impact change for our neighborhood and for our city. Feel free to come by the meetings to visit and find out more.

2023 OPENA Door Hangers will be delivered to every one of the 900 homes in Oak Park Estates, Druid Hills and St. Annes Hills Neighborhoods over the next two weeks! The door hanger provides information on OPENA such as our 2023 Calendar, how to reach us on social media and how to join us.

Be sure to support our Business Supporters who ran ads with us, including James Fairchild, Realtor, Christina Bristow, Realtor, the Dallas Examiner and Kessler Community Church. Support Local !!

Let us know if you don't get a door hanger on your door and we will personally deliver one to you! You can email us at: oakparkestates1@gmail.com

See Hanger on Next Page

You can pay dues by the following methods:

- **Online with Card:** Click [HERE](#), then select "**Buy Now**" at bottom of the page to be taken to secure link
- **With Check or Cash:** Can be paid at the next OPENA meeting, Saturday, Feb. 18th, 1:30pm
- Or contact us by email: oakparkestates1@gmail.com.

We hope to see YOU on Saturday, February 18th at 1:30pm!

Hey Neighbor, Come join OPENA!

The mission of the Oak Park Estates Neighborhood Association (OPENA) is to serve Oak Park Estates, Druid Hills, and St. Anne's Hills by helping to make our neighborhoods nicer and safer places to live! We provide a forum and active support group for all our neighbors!

2023 MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday, Feb 18	1:30pm-3:00pm
Tuesday, May 16	6:30pm-8:00pm
Tuesday, Aug 15	6:30pm-8:00pm
Tuesday, Oct 3 Nat'l Night Out	5:30pm-7:00pm
Saturday, Nov 18 Holiday Party	1:30pm-3:00pm

Meetings will be held at the St. Augustine's Episcopal Church located at 1302 W. Kiest Blvd. Check our website for updates! The location for NNO event is TBD.

Visit us at:

Website:	www.opena.org
Email:	oakparkestates1@gmail.com
Facebook:	@OakParkEstates
Nextdoor:	Oak Park Estates/Druid Hills

Member Dues (per year):

General Household:	\$25
Senior (Over 60):	\$15
Business:	\$50



Join us at: <http://www.opena.org/join-us.html>

Check out our new Neighborhood Handbook & Directory at: <http://www.opena.org/neighborhood-handbook-and-directory.html>

OPENA Business Supporters

Invested
in
Oak Cliff
and
Oak Park
Estates



United
Real Estate

Dallas

Christina Bristow
Realtor
214 418 3766

your neighborhood realtor for over 20 years

The Dallas
EXAMINER

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Local News - National News - Health - Politics
Education - Money Matters - Business
Local Commentaries and more!

DallasExaminer.com

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GET IT ON Google play



Your hometown church
near the heart of the city

2100 Leander Dr.
Dallas TX 75211



Sundays at 10:30 am!

February is Black History Month!

Participate in Black History month with a trip to the African American Museum in Dallas, located at 3536 Grand Avenue, Dallas, TX, in Historic Fair Park, Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am - 5pm. The African American Museum is the only one of its kind in the Southwestern Region devoted to the preservation and display of African American artistic, cultural and historical materials. It has one of the largest African American Folk Art collections in the US.

Come see the current exhibit "Black Cowboys: An American Story". Or enjoy a warm intimate evening of "Music under the Dome" on Thursday, February 23rd. Rob Holbert is scheduled artist. Seating is limited, but click below to reserve your ticket:



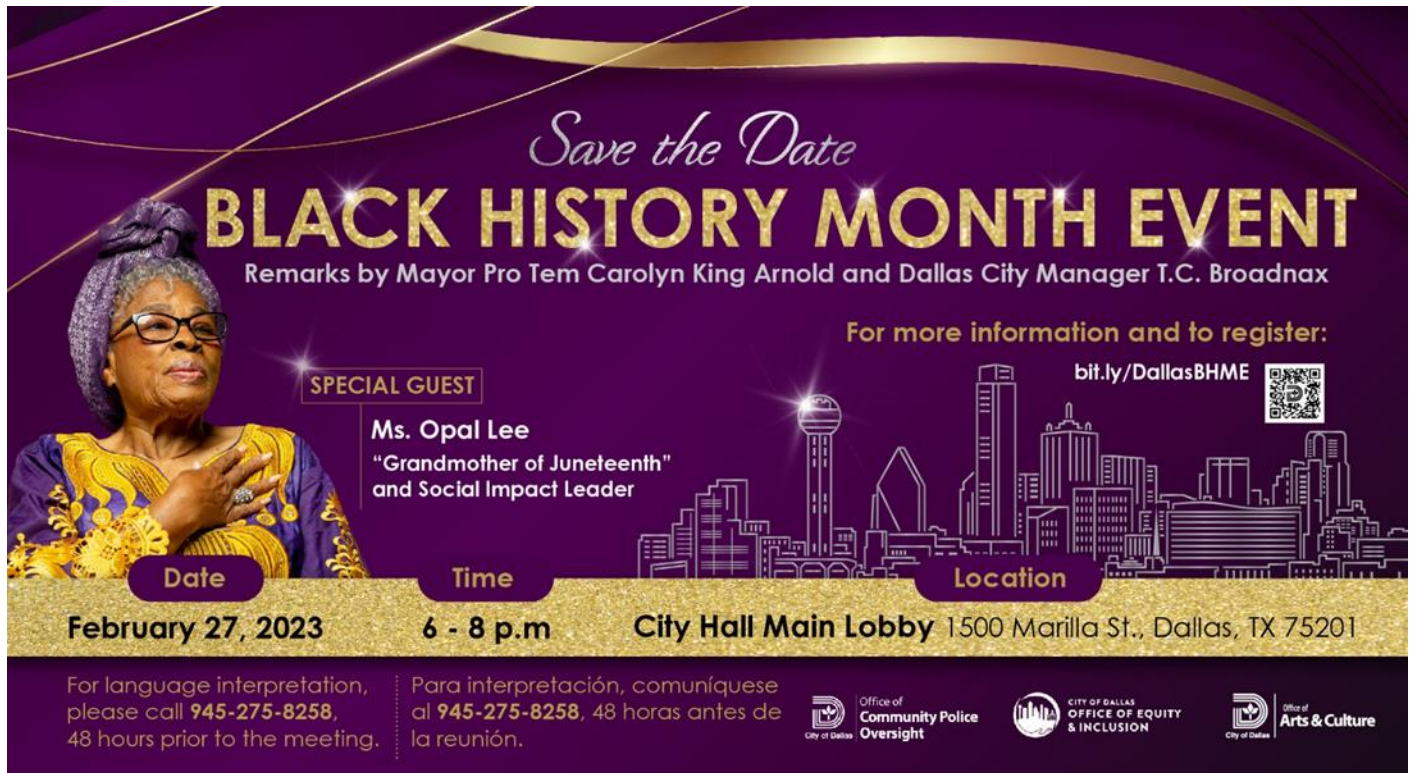
To access the African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave., Dallas 75210, enter through Gate 5 at Historic Fair Park.

[Click below for Interactive Map](#)

	Rob Holbert	THURSDAY FEB. 23RD 7:30PM
	Sherel Riley	THURSDAY MAR. 23RD 7:30PM
	Reuben Lael	THURSDAY APR. 27RD 7:30PM
	Rob Holbert	THURSDAY MAY. 25TH 7:30PM




Also, be sure to join Carolyn King Arnold, Mayor Pro Tem, for Black History Month celebration on February 27th, 6 to 8pm, with special guest Ms. Opal Lee, Grandmother of Juneteenth!



Save the Date
BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT
Remarks by Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn King Arnold and Dallas City Manager T.C. Broadnax

SPECIAL GUEST
Ms. Opal Lee
"Grandmother of Juneteenth"
and Social Impact Leader

For more information and to register:
bif.ly/DallasBHME 


Date
February 27, 2023

Time
6 - 8 p.m

Location
City Hall Main Lobby 1500 Marilla St., Dallas, TX 75201

For language interpretation, please call 945-275-8258, 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Para interpretación, comuníquese al 945-275-8258, 48 horas antes de la reunión.

 Office of Community Police Oversight
 CITY OF DALLAS OFFICE OF EQUITY & INCLUSION
 Office of Arts & Culture



NAVIGATING CITY SERVICES

RSVP: [BIT.LY/3RE1CS9](http://bit.ly/3RE1CS9)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

10:00AM - 11:30AM

**MARTIN WEISS REC CENTER
1111 MARTINDELL AVE. DALLAS, TX 75211**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

6:30PM - 7:30PM

**VIRTUAL EVENT | VIA WEBX
[HTTP://BIT.LY/3RFMURX](http://bit.ly/3RFMURX)**

Intended for residents interested in learning how the City of Dallas operates and the neighborhood-specific services provided by City departments which can impact the viability of neighborhoods.

Email: pud@dallas.gov | Website: dallascityhall.com/departments/pnv

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



DALLASPLANUD



Do you want to be involved in our neighborhood development and growth of Dallas?

City of Dallas has programs given by Planning and Urban Design Department

(PUD), holding workshops for residents and groups who want to better understand and develop their neighborhoods. The next workshop is coming up!

"Navigating City Services" Workshop

Saturday, February 25th, 10 am

Martin Weiss Rec Center

1111 Martindale, Dallas, 75211

Or **virtual WebEx presentation on March 1st, 6:30pm:**

You can **RSVP:** bit.ly/3RE1cs9

or to **join:** <http://bit.ly/3RFMuRx>

This is a great way to learn about all of the city services that are available to residents. You just need to know the "who, what, when and where" for all of these services. This program will give you all of this know-how!

A previous workshop was held on Jan. 28th, "How to Kickstart your Neighborhood Association". Our OPENA President, Tom Forsyth, attended and said "Sandra and Chenille from the Dallas PUD Department did a great job".

Our contact in the PUD Department is **Chanel Williams, Senior Outreach Specialist**, who can be reached by email at: chanel.williams@dallas.gov or called at: **214-671-8873**.

Planning & Urban Design (PUD) Department develops comprehensive plans, policies and programs through effective community engagement. Their goal is to advance livability, economic vibrancy, sustainability and equity within the City of Dallas.

Their website is: <https://dallascityhall.com/departments/pnv/Pages/default.aspx>

JOIN US FOR SPRING CLEANING!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Next OPENA Quarterly Clean Up Drive is planned for March 18, 2023.

Let us know if you can volunteer to help with the neighborhood clean up -
Sign up

on [FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/events/884204432816139/?ref=newsfeed) <https://www.facebook.com/events/884204432816139/?ref=newsfeed>

Or email us at oakparkestates1@gmail.com.

Code Compliance Services
City of Dallas

JOIN US

WHERE?
Kiest Park Rec Center
3801 S Hampton
Dallas, TX 75224

WHEN?
March 18th 2023
8am-12pm

OPENA Clean-Up Drive

Meet at our booth at Keist Park
Recreation Center between 8a-9a
Email:
oakparkestates1@gmail.com

Oak Park Estates
Druid Hills

OPENA Residents and Friends attended the *Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting Ceremony in Kiest Park* during last December's holiday season. These beautiful lights illuminated the Kiest Park area for the holiday month and added a festive touch to our corner of the city. This spectacular Oak Cliff event was so appreciated by Dallas residents that it's expected to be an annual event!

Our thanks to Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn King Arnold and the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department for their hard work to make this event such a success!



THERE ARE TWO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OUT THERE!



HOME RESOURCES FAQ FIND HELP

English

Login

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Texas Homeowner Assistance website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, RESOURCES, FAQ, and FIND HELP, along with a language dropdown set to English and a Login button. Below the navigation bar is a large hero section with a background image of a house. On the left side of the hero section, there is a "Program Update" box with a "See the Latest" button. Below that, the main heading reads "Texas Homeowner Assistance" followed by the question "Behind on home loan payments or related expenses?". Underneath, it states "Texas Homeowner Assistance is here to help." and provides a brief description of the program. On the right side of the hero section, there is a dark blue box with the text "Utility Assistance Now Available" and a "Learn More" button.

Texas Homeowner Assistance Fund Provides Free In-Person Help for Struggling Households Across the State

If you, or someone you know, is struggling to meet their house or utility payments, the state of Texas has nearly \$500 million to provide support! Governor Greg Abbott is encouraging qualified homeowners to apply.

Texas homeowners financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic after January 21, 2020, now have access to local in-person support from the [Texas Homeowner Assistance Fund](#) (TXHAF). The program has nearly **\$500 million dollars available statewide to help eligible Texans who are behind on mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, homeowner/condo association fees, and/or utility bills.**

Each household can receive **up to \$65,000** in total assistance from TXHAF for mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, homeowner/condo association fees, and/or utility bills. Among the requirements for eligibility, homeowners must have experienced financial hardship after January 21, 2020, due to the pandemic and have household income at or below 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or United States median income, whichever is greater.

For a full list of intake centers, housing counseling, and legal counseling services, visit TexasHomeownerAssistance.com/find-help/. Full program details, an eligibility screening tool, [Applicant Success Checklist](#), program dashboard, and online application are available at TexasHomeownerAssistance.com.

For questions, a toll-free multi-language call center is available at 833-651-3874, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.– 6 p.m.



SENIOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

UP TO \$10,000

Select Dallas residents may be granted up to \$10,000 for household home repairs. Residents must apply by March 3, 2023 to be eligible.

To be considered, qualified residents must be:

- ▶ Over the age of 65
- ▶ At or below 80% area media income (AMI)
- ▶ In need of repairs at their primary residence to increase accessibility OR reduce risks threatening life or safety

Some repairs eligible under the program:

- ▶ Correction of code violations and elimination of specific conditions detrimental to public health and safety
- ▶ Accessibility updates like wheelchair ramps
- ▶ Replace/repair HVAC, roofing or water heaters

For a full list of eligible repairs or to download an application visit: ▶



▶ Dallas residents may pick up an application at the Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization offices at City Hall 2CN or any Dallas Public Library or Recreation Center. Residents may also attend special application seminars taking place throughout February. For a full schedule of in-person seminars, please visit:



Questions? Need assistance filling out your application? Housing staff may be reached at 214-670-3644 or by visiting their offices at City Hall, 1500 Marilla St., 2CN, Dallas, TX 75201

City of Dallas, Department of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization's Senior Home Repair Program offers approved senior applicants up to \$10,000 in grant funds aimed at home repairs improving accessibility within the home, increasing safety and efficiency.

Scan the QR codes above with your phone for more information.

Or follow the link to the online

application: <https://dallascityhall.com/.../housing.../Pages/default.aspx>

To be eligible for the program, a resident must be 65 years of age or older, at or below 80% area median income (AMI) and in need of repairs at their primary residence.

Residents needing assistance filling out an application can reach out to Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization staff at (214) 670-3644 or by visiting their offices at City Hall.

The grant funds are available to residents in need of accessibility improvements such as wheelchair ramps, as well as to address significant concerns to the health and safety of the residents. Funds may also be used to repair or replace HVAC systems, plumbing or water heaters.

“To be able to help our most vulnerable residents is the top priority of the City Council and the City of Dallas staff,” Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn King Arnold said. “These grant funds will help our aging residents make crucial repairs to their homes to keep them safe and comfortable.”

“The approval of this grant program is a step in the right direction to be able to accommodate our aging population’s housing needs.” Chair of the Housing and Homelessness and District 3 Council Member Casey Thomas, II said. “By adding accessibility improvements to their primary residences, we can affordably prevent aging residents’ displacement.”

Residents may apply starting February 1st by [downloading an application online](#) or picking one up at the Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization office in City Hall (1500 Marilla St., 2CN, Dallas, TX 75201) OR at any City of Dallas library or

recreation center. In order to submit an application, residents will need to show proof of household income, proof of Identity, proof of age, proof of primary homeowner occupancy and proof of ownership.

The deadline to apply is March 3, 2023 and residents may drop off their application at the Housing office in City Hall or any library or recreation center.

“Housing is proud to deliver a program that will address the demands of our Senior

homeowners, who struggle with repair needs and lack the resources to fix them. As we prepare to launch this program, we hope it builds the momentum needed, for future growth,” Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Director, David Noguera said.



Carolyn King Arnold
Mayor Pro Tem, District 4

Valentine's Day

HEARTS 4 HEARTS

***Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn King Arnold invites
you to a Valentine's Senior Lunch & Learn!***

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

HIAWATHA WILLIAMS RECREATION CENTER

(FORMERLY CUMMINGS REC. CENTER)

2976 CUMMINGS STREET, DALLAS, TX 75216

For more information, call our office at 214-671-9347 or
District4@dallas.gov



Happy Valentines Day to you and all of those you love!



Oak Park Estates Neighborhood Association (OPENA)
Serving Oak Park Estates, Druid Hills & St. Anne's Hills

Visit us on Facebook [@OakParkEstates](#)
Join us at: <http://www.opena.org/join-us.html>

Our mailing address is:
oakparkestates1@gmail.com

*If you have comments or concerns, please direct to OPENA Publications Chairperson:
Paula Cantrell pkcantrell@gmail.com*