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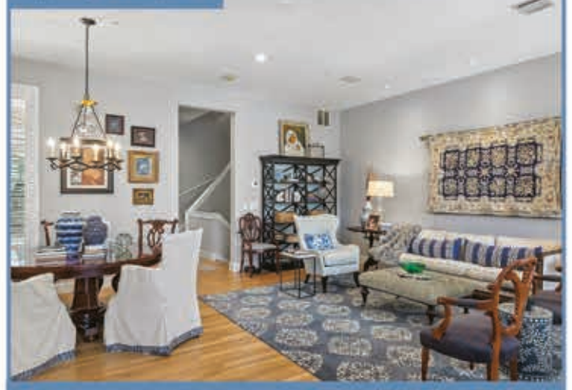
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A Season of Gratitude



November is a time to reflect on the people, connections, and acts of kindness that make our community so special. Here in University Park, we have so much to be thankful for, from welcoming new neighbors to celebrating the students, families, and local organizations making a difference.

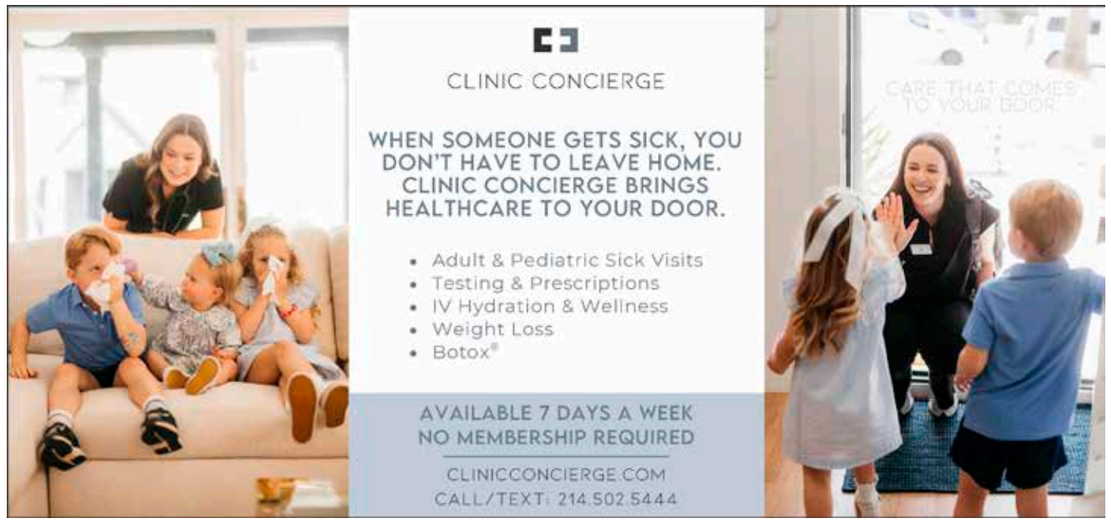
This month, we're sharing stories that highlight the heart of our community, including the Kane family, our local bass fishing team, and meaningful fundraisers supporting important causes. We're also shining a light on The Preston of the Park Cities in our Sponsor Spotlight.

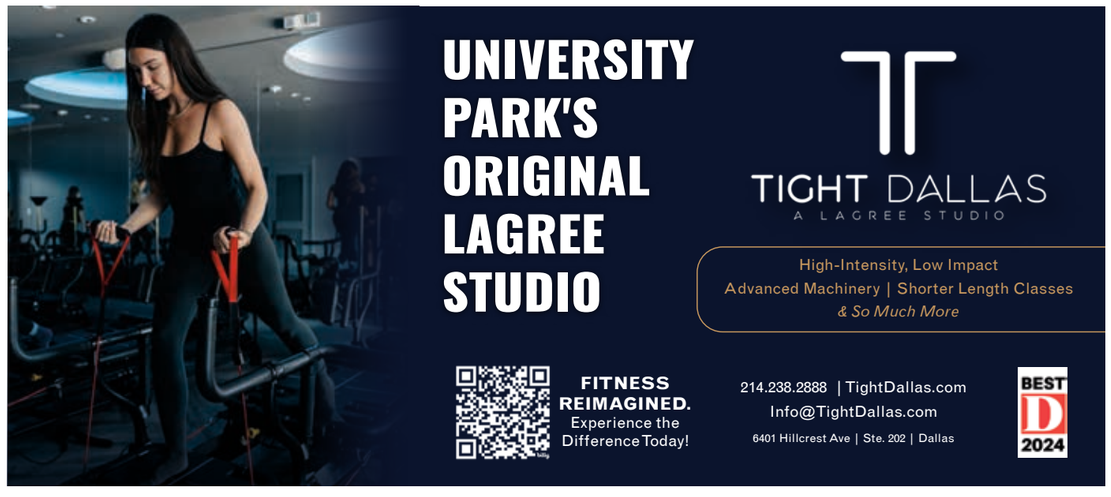
As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, may your holiday be filled with gratitude, laughter, and time spent with those who matter most.

Warmly,

Robin Lynne,

Publisher





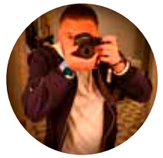
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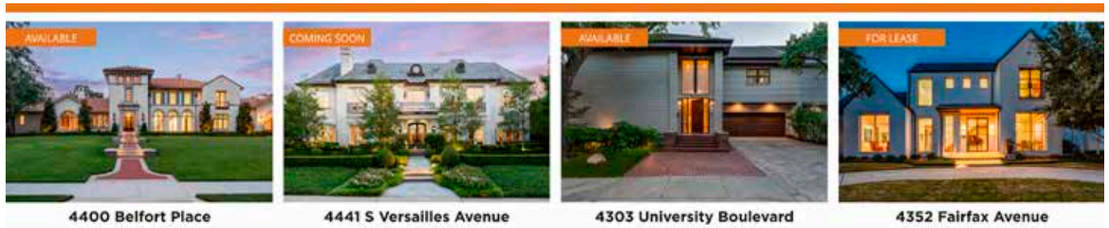
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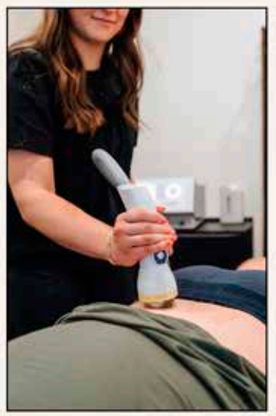
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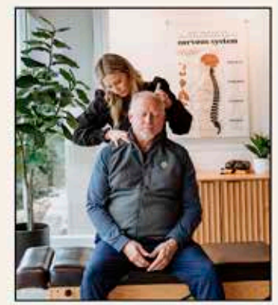


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THE KANES

Finding Home in University Park



For Mara and Evander Kane, life has always involved a little movement, a lot of adventure, and plenty of time together as a family. After years of traveling the world during Evander's 17-season NHL career, the couple and their four young children are beginning a new chapter in University Park, where they are already finding a sense of home.

The Kane family includes Mara, Evander, Kensington, 6, Iverson, 4, Hendrix, 3, and Penelope, 1½. Kensington recently started first grade, while Iverson and Hendrix, just a year apart, are nearly inseparable. Penelope, the youngest, keeps everyone on their toes. And rounding out the family is Fifi, their Pomeranian, who was the first to settle into Dallas and is affectionately known as the fifth child.

Mara grew up between Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and New York City, while Evander is originally from Vancouver, Canada. After finishing his 17th NHL season in Vancouver last year, the couple decided it was time to focus on growing their businesses and building their next chapter in Dallas. University Park stood out for its schools, walkability, and close-knit community.

The family arrived on September 15, 2026, and the welcome has already made an impression. "The tree-lined streets and the sense of community made it feel like home right away," Mara shared. Neighbors wave, the children are making friends on the block, and daily walks with Fifi and trips to neighborhood parks are quickly becoming part of their routine.

The family is still discovering local favorites. The kids love Doughbird for pizza, while Mara and Evander have made R+D a regular lunch stop for its Osaka sushi. Kensington is settling into her first year at HPISD, and the family is looking forward to connecting with more neighbors through school and community events. Mara recently joined The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary and hopes to find additional ways to get involved.

At home, family time often revolves around food, sports, and simple routines. Homemade pancakes and waffles are a daily tradition, with weekend breakfasts offering a chance for everyone to gather around the table.

The boys love hockey, following in their dad's footsteps, and golf is another shared interest they enjoy practicing with Evander. Long walks, park visits, and early family dinners round out their favorite ways to spend time together. A trip to Disneyland with all four children this past summer is already a treasured family memory.

Professionally, Mara is a beauty, fashion, and wellness content creator known as @MaraTeigen and the founder of three brands: PLIA Beauty Essentials, available on Amazon, Re'Fine Beauty Collective, and ÉVAUX, which is launching this holiday season. Evander is moving into business and real estate, with new projects in development.

For the Kanes, building is a family affair, whether that means growing a business, creating a home, or establishing new traditions. Their story together began more than 12 years ago, when Mara was 20 and living in New York City. After losing touch for more than six years, they found each other again and began building the family they have today.

Now, as they settle into Dallas, they are excited to make new memories, find a church in the community, and put down roots. "We're so grateful to be the newest family on the block," Mara said. "Thank you for making the move from Canada feel like coming home."







Photography by Kurtz Clicks









Finding a Place to Call Home at The Preston of the Park Cities

When families begin considering senior living, the process can feel like a lot to take in. At The Preston of the Park Cities, the team understands that finding the right place takes time, questions, and a willingness to take things one step at a time.

Located between the Park Cities and Preston Hollow, The Preston has served the area since 2019, offering Assisted Living, Memory Care, and a Bridge Program. Its location also puts residents close to some of Dallas's finest shopping and dining.

But life at The Preston is about much more than its address.

"No day is typical for our residents," the team explains. Residents have plenty of choices when it comes to how they spend their time, from using the fitness center and enjoying upscale dining to attending happy hour or heading out for a shopping trip.

There are also plenty of opportunities to stay active and connected within the community. Nature walks, facial spa days, educational series, Bible studies, games, fitness programming, live entertainment, and sing along happy hours are among the activities residents enjoy. And, of course, there is always bingo.

The goal is to give residents opportunities to make their own choices and enjoy their days in ways that feel meaningful to them.

The team also works closely with families who may be navigating senior living for the first time. Their advice is simple. "Take small bites of the very big meal that is finding senior living." Rather than trying to figure everything out at once, families can take the process a little at a time and make use of the resources senior living communities provide.

One misconception the team hopes to change is the idea that residents are not actively engaged by staff. At The Preston, the philosophy is straightforward. "Residents do not live where we work, rather we work where the residents live."

That perspective extends across the entire team, from the executive director, who previously served as the residential care director, to the culinary director overseeing Watermark's dining program, as well as the maintenance and housekeeping teams. Everyone has a role in creating a place residents can be proud to call home.

For families wondering whether it may be time to explore senior living, the team points to changes such as depression, loss of appetite, increased UTIs related to inadequate hydration, forgotten medications, poor hygiene, or an overall feeling of boredom as signs worth paying attention to.

And perhaps the most rewarding feedback comes directly from residents. "When we hear from the resident that they wished they moved sooner, that's a win that is so very gratifying."

With renovations on the horizon for 2027, The Preston continues to look ahead while focusing on the people who already call it home.

For University Park families beginning the senior living journey, the invitation is simple: "Come see us at The Preston. Let us guide you through the senior living journey."



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LIFE IS BETTER WITH BANKS: BECOMING PART OF THE FAMILY

AVERY JAMES, JUNIOR WRITER

MEET THE SCHULTIS FAMILY!

The Schultis family moved to University Park in July of 2016 and have loved every minute. Mark and Lauren Schultis have three children. Henry is in 8th grade at Highland Park Middle School, Bobby is in 6th grade at McCullough Intermediate School, and Liv is in kindergarten at Hyer Elementary. Bobby has relentlessly asked for a puppy since he was about two years old. Liv started kindergarten this fall, so Mark and Lauren finally felt like this was the right time for their family to care for a new puppy.

THE LATEST FAMILY ADDITION

The Schultis' family dog is named Banks, and he is a Golden Retriever with a beautiful white coat. The name Banks caught Lauren's eye as a polished, playful dog name with a fun nod to her Minnesota roots and Adam Banks from the hockey movie "The Mighty Ducks." She is a proud Minnesotan, and their family loves watching hockey. Banks was born on June 6, 2026. Lauren and Bobby flew to Nashville in early August to pick him up from a breeder with nearly 40 years of experience. Banks is their first family dog, and has already brought so much joy to their household.

A FEW OF HIS FAVORITE THINGS

Banks is an incredibly sweet puppy. He is playful, and likes to wrestle with his new siblings. He likes to sleep on the hardwood floors, with not much desire to use his plush dog bed. He loves to sniff out everything in the backyard, and stare at the swimming pool pondering a quick dip. In fact, Banks jumped in the pool at eight weeks old. He was jealous that the kids were all in the water, so he decided to join them! He has already learned that the kitchen is the place to be - hoping to find scraps on the floor! Lauren and Liv like to make him homemade frozen dog treats with plain yogurt, smashed bananas, and buddy butter for dogs. Banks also refuses to go outside for a potty break in the morning until everyone has hugged him and scratched his belly.

LIFE WITH BANKS

Their new puppy is growing fast. Anytime the family is away, they believe he naps all day long. Banks has already tripled in weight since they brought him home! He has created an extra level of connection between Henry, Bobby, and Liv, who are at different stages in their life, with middle school and elementary school. He has already brought so much joy to their family in just two months. Banks never has a bad day, and his happiness is contagious! He loves everyone - kids, adults, dogs, you name it!





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Do you have a beloved pet with a personality all their own? Or know a furry, feathered, or four-legged friend who deserves a little spotlight? **We'd love to meet them!**

Nominate a pet to be featured in an upcoming issue of *Greet University Park* by emailing **UPContent@n2co.com**.

Maroma - A Fresh Take on Mexican Dining

JESSICA HOFFMANN

Maroma in the Design District is a beautiful new Mexican restaurant owned by the same group that owns Muchacho. The atmosphere and menu are elevated, while still offering traditional Mexican dishes alongside several fish and steak entrees.

I've dined at Maroma twice, once in its climate-controlled atrium over lunch and again with friends at dinner in the dining area. The space is gorgeously appointed and would be great for date nights or girls' night out. There are a few tables in the bar that are suited for eight or so folks to enjoy drinks and appetizers.

Speaking of drinks, they have a wonderful Mexican Martini, and a favorite of the table was also the Fuego Fresh (pictured). We didn't order it but saw the Corona y Cana go by. It is a pineapple rum-based drink topped with piña colada cotton candy. It certainly looked fun!

We snacked on the calamari and fresh oysters before dinner, and then I opted for the ribeye tacos. They were really good, garnished with black beans, avocado, and pickled onions. They come three to an order, which is sufficient for one person or to split if you are up for something a little lighter. Other favorites were the swordfish special, the sea bream, and the ribeye. We passed on dessert, but they had a strawberry cuatro leches as well as a variety of gelatos.

Maroma is easy to pop over to from downtown or uptown for a business lunch or happy hour and would be a great weekend night out.











Jessica Hoffmann is a University Park resident. You can follow her on Facebook and Instagram @ParkCitiesFoodLover.



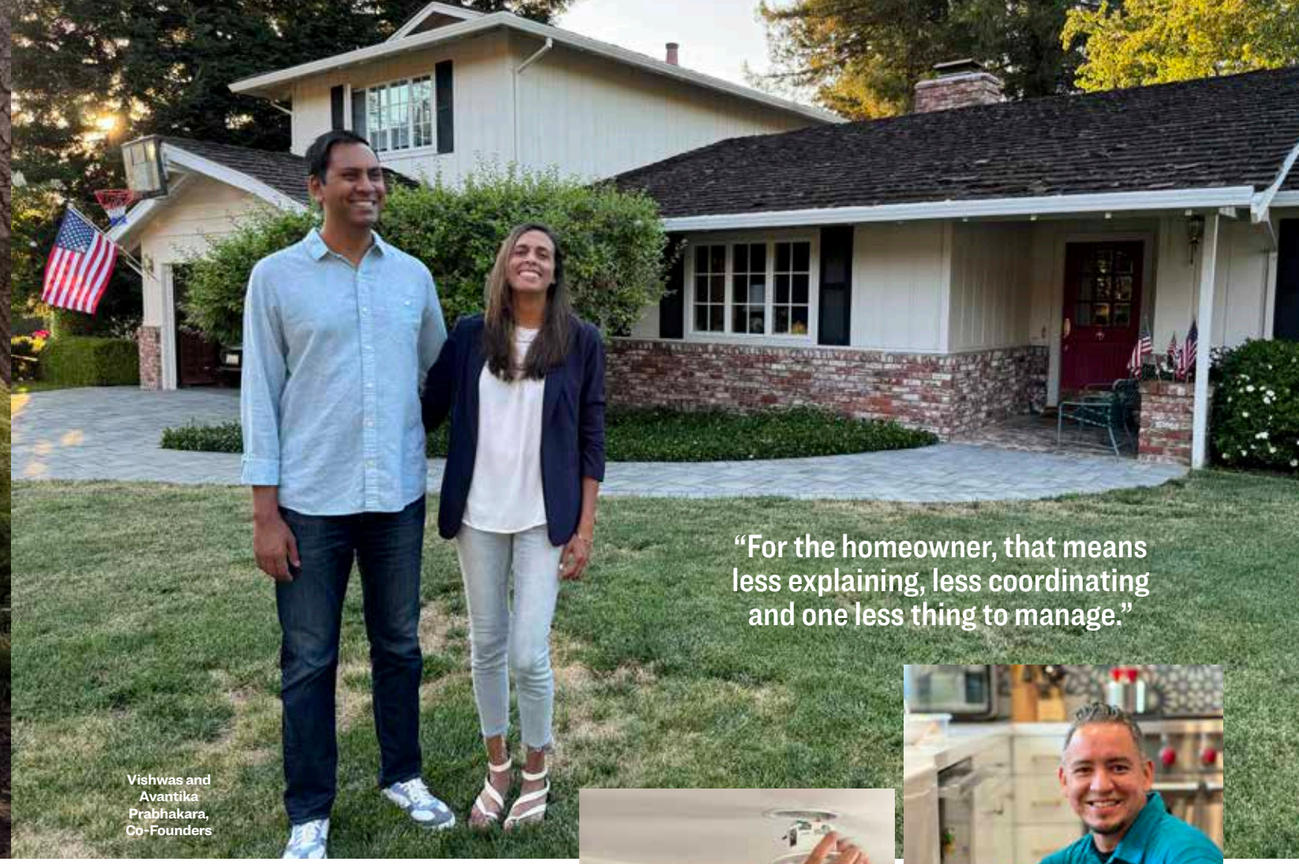




Honey Homes: A Little Help With the Home To-Do List



The Honey Homes Team



Vishwas and Avantika Prabhakara, Co-Founders

For Avantika and Vishwas Prabhakara, Honey Homes grew out of a problem they knew well themselves. As parents of three boys, they were constantly juggling home repairs, maintenance and projects they wanted to get around to someday.

"We always had a list," they said. "Something that needed fixing, something we wanted to improve, and maintenance we weren't quite getting to."

Finding someone they trusted to handle those jobs was often the hardest part. After hiring an irrigation specialist who took a substantial deposit and disappeared, they started hearing similar stories from friends and neighbors. Even with a good experience, finding a contractor, checking references, explaining the project and coordinating schedules could become a project in itself.

"We kept thinking, why does this have to be so hard?"

That question led to Honey Homes, which Avantika and Vishwas cofounded to give homeowners a simpler way to take care of the ongoing work that comes with owning a home. Members have a dedicated handyperson who is fully employed by Honey Homes and gets to know their home over time, supported by a larger team and an app.

The goal is not simply to have someone available when something breaks. It is to have someone who knows the house, remembers previous projects and can help homeowners stay ahead of what needs attention.

"There's so much value in having someone who already knows your home," they said. "For the homeowner, that means less explaining, less coordinating and one less thing to manage."

The list of projects they handle is broad. Honey Homes handypeople can help with doors that will not close, loose hardware, drywall patches, paint touch-ups, bathroom caulking, hanging artwork and mirrors, installing shelves and minor plumbing repairs.

And not every project has to be a repair.

Once the necessary jobs are taken care of, homeowners can turn their attention to what Honey Homes calls "joy projects," such as hanging a gallery wall, putting up shelves for favorite books or making a patio more enjoyable. These are the projects that may have been sitting on the list simply because there was never enough time to get to them.

"We love getting them off someone's plate and giving them more time to enjoy their home and be with their family," Avantika and Vishwas said.

With the holidays approaching, they recommend homeowners look at their list now rather than waiting until guests are on the way. Small projects can make a noticeable difference, from hanging artwork and touching up paint to fixing a sticking guest room door, tightening a loose towel bar or making sure the entry is well lit. Honey Homes can also help with seasonal projects such as hanging and taking down holiday decorations, weatherproofing and getting a home ready for guests.

They also encourage homeowners to pay attention to the small issues they may have stopped noticing. A dripping faucet, running toilet or stain under the sink can be easy to ignore, but water problems can become more involved if left unattended.

For seasonal maintenance, they recommend checking smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, cleaning the dryer vent, clearing gutters and drainage, and checking weatherstripping and exterior caulking. In Texas, homeowners should also prepare for a freeze by disconnecting garden hoses, protecting outdoor faucets and checking insulation around exposed pipes.

Knowing when to ask for help is important, too. Electrical issues, active leaks, significant water damage, structural concerns and projects that require getting up high are better handled by a professional. A good handyperson should also know when a job requires a licensed specialist.

For Avantika and Vishwas, that is part of what homeowners are really getting from Honey Homes. It is not just help with the task at hand, but someone who can help make sense of what needs to happen next.

"Being a homeowner doesn't mean you have to know how to fix everything or spend your weekends trying," they said.

> "For the homeowner, that means less explaining, less coordinating and one less thing to manage."







Their advice is simple: keep one list, make home care part of the routine, and get help where you need it. The goal is to spend less time managing the work of owning a home and more time enjoying it.



Beth Thoele, Brooke Russo, Tracee Ellis Ross, Bianca Davis, Marci Kramer, Kathy Helm

New Friends New Life Luncheon

Tracee Ellis Ross Leaves Stand for Her Sold-Out Audience Inspired to Embrace Strength, Safety and Choice

ELIZABETH LENART, PHOTOS BY TAMYTHA CAMERON AND NATE REHLANDER

More than 1,150 community leaders, advocates and supporters came together for New Friends New Life's 2026 Stand for Her Luncheon on Sept. 24, raising critical support for women and girls who have experienced human trafficking and exploitation.

The luncheon began on an emotional note with "I Stand for Her," an original song written by **Myshel Wilkins** and her team specifically for New Friends New Life. The song, which will become the organization's anthem, tells the story of a survivor moving from darkness toward freedom.

Luncheon Co-chairs **Beth Thoele** and daughter **Brooke Russo**, and **Kathy Helm** and daughter **Marci Kramer**, welcomed guests and emphasized the importance of the organization's trauma-informed services. Honorary Co-chairs **Lottye and Bobby Lyle** were recognized in the audience for their long-time support of the organization.

Thoele reminded the audience that once you understand what women and girls have survived, "you cannot look away. You can only decide what you're going to do about it."

The organization then presented its **2026 ProtectHER Awards,** honoring individuals and organizations making a difference in the fight against human trafficking and gender-based violence. Honorees included **Elizabeth Carlock Phillips**, for her advocacy behind Trey's Law, protecting survivors from being silenced by nondisclosure agreements; **Janet Jensen**, for her transformative investment in organizations that help survivors of gender-based violence; and representatives of **Baker Botts** and the **Toyota Motor North America** Pro Bono Legal Clinic for their advocacy, investment and legal services supporting survivors.

A **powerful video** featuring Karli, a young college graduate and graduate of New Friends New Life's program, showed how manipulation can begin subtly and ultimately lead to exploitation. **CEO Bianca Davis** challenged guests to recognize that trafficking can be hidden in plain sight and shared that the commercial sex industry in North Texas generates an estimated $99 million annually.

Davis urged the audience to be alert to signs that someone may be experiencing exploitation and emphasized the importance of asking a simple question: "Are you OK?" It was a question that ultimately helped Karli recognize that she was not.

Davis also highlighted New Friends New Life's 28 years of providing a comprehensive network of support, including safe housing, counseling, education, legal services and assistance with basic needs. She closed by announcing that the organization was approaching its $1 million fundraising goal, with nearly $900,000 raised.

The luncheon's keynote conversation between NBC 5's **Laura Harris** and **Tracee Ellis Ross** brought humor, candor and deeply personal stories.

Ross was visibly moved by Karli's story and especially by her declaration that "women are so strong." She thanked New Friends New Life for creating a place where women and girls can rediscover that strength and "know it in their bones."

Ross connected the organization's mission to experiences and lessons from her own life and closed by thanking New Friends New Life and the Dallas audience for welcoming her and expressing her support for the organization's mission.

"I stand for her AND with her," she said.



Laura Harris and Tracee Ellis Ross



Co-Chairs Kathy Helm, Marci Kramer, Brooke Russo, Beth Thoele

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More Than a Fishing Team

Highland Park Bass Team Invests in Young Anglers and Local Waters

CONTRIBUTORS: KATHY FIELDER, MCCOY BROWN AND MILLER ROSAMOND FOR THE HIGHLAND PARK BASS TEAM



Reid Johnson, Miller Rosamond, Rhodes Hamilton, Beckett Curtis, Will Gurganus, William Evans, and Henry Lee

On September 19, the Highland Park Bass Team arrived at Eagle Mountain Lake with 19 boats and a record number of enthusiastic young anglers. By the end of the day, the Scots had captured the tournament's School Champions title, bringing 46 fish to the scales for a combined 120.46 pounds.

It was an impressive start to the 2026–2027 tournament season—but for the Highland Park Bass Team, the most exciting part of the program extends far beyond tournament results.

Today, the team is working to create opportunities for younger students to discover fishing, develop leadership skills, and become stewards of the waterways in their own community.

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ANGLERS

Tournament bass fishing provides students with a unique combination of competition, teamwork, problem-solving, and outdoor adventure. Students compete in two-person teams alongside adult volunteer boat captains, learning to read changing weather and water conditions, select equipment, adapt their strategies, and make decisions independently throughout a tournament day.

But the lessons don't stop at the weigh-in.

Experienced Highland Park anglers regularly help newer members learn everything from tying fishing knots and selecting lures to understanding fish habitat and developing tournament strategies. The result is a team culture in which students are encouraged not only to succeed individually, but also to share what they know and help others improve.

That philosophy is now extending beyond the high school team through programs designed specifically to introduce younger students to the sport.

The Bass Team's Cast Master program gives younger anglers an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of fishing in a hands-on, welcoming environment. By giving students the chance to learn from experienced anglers and spend time on the water, the program helps create an early connection to fishing that can grow into a lifelong passion.

The goal is simple: give more young people the opportunity to experience the excitement of fishing and the confidence that comes from learning a new skill.

PROTECTING THE WATERS CLOSE TO HOME

The team's commitment to youth development also goes hand in hand with a growing commitment to conservation.

Through the HP Bass Team Stewardship Club, students in fifth through eighth grades are being introduced to fishing, aquatic ecosystems, environmental stewardship, and the importance of protecting the natural resources in their own community.

Focused on Turtle Creek and its surrounding environment, the Stewardship Club is built around three simple principles:

Protect. Preserve. Improve.

Students will have opportunities to participate in hands-on conservation activities, including efforts to remove trash and debris from local waterways and explore ways to improve fish habitat. One planned initiative involves the creation of gravel spawning beds in appropriate areas of Turtle Creek to provide improved habitat for fish reproduction.

The program is designed to help students understand that conservation isn't something that only happens in distant parks or wilderness areas. It begins in the places they see and enjoy every day.

By working alongside experienced high school anglers, younger students also gain mentors who can show them that being an angler means taking responsibility for the health of the waters that make the sport possible.



Harrison Fielder & Brooks Griffith
Not Pictured: Captain Iain McClelland



James Park, Alexander Diltz, William Crump, Bennett Williams, Hudson Blow, and Carter Talley

COMMUNITY SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

The expansion of these programs has been supported by community partners, including La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas, which provided a grant to help the Highland Park Bass Team increase fishing opportunities and improve fish habitat in the Park Cities.

That support is helping the team reach beyond its competitive roster and create opportunities for a broader group of students to experience fishing, outdoor education, and conservation.

It also creates meaningful leadership opportunities for Highland Park's high school anglers. By teaching younger students how to fish responsibly and participate in conservation projects, team members learn that leadership isn't simply about winning. It is about sharing knowledge, serving others, and leaving a positive impact on the community.

The Eagle Mountain championship demonstrated what Highland Park's anglers can accomplish on the water. But the team's larger vision is measured in something much broader than pounds and ounces.

It is measured in the young student who catches a first fish, the high school angler who becomes a mentor, the volunteer who gives a Saturday to take students fishing, and the group of students who leaves Turtle Creek cleaner and healthier than they found it.

For the Highland Park Bass Team, those are victories worth celebrating.

Go Scots!


Hawkins Schoenvogel, Benton Weathersby



Kathy Fielder (@kathyfielder) is an entrepreneur, designer, and brand strategist with 25+ years of experience turning ideas into successful brands and businesses. Founder of Design | Life | Style and THRIVE™ by Kathy Fielder, and an SMU Impact Lab Advisory Board member, Kathy returns to the consumer space in Spring 2027 with the launch of From Tailgate to Takeoff™.



Get Ready for a Merry Holiday Cookie Decorating Party with Mrs.Claus & Photos with Santa

Kids and Kids-At-Heart—This Festive Afternoon is for You!

Step into a magical, sugar-dusted wonderland at our holiday cookie decorating party featuring the ever-charming Mrs. Claus. Bring your wish list and hand-deliver it to Santa himself, who will be on hand for memorable photos. Whether you are a budding cookie artist or simply love the holiday spirit, join friends and neighbors for a joyful, hands-on experience bursting with creativity and cheer.

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And thanks to Summerhill Pools • Outdoor Living, guests can warm up and indulge at a cozy Hot Chocolate Bar, complete with delicious seasonal toppings, the perfect complement to an afternoon of cookie decorating and holiday fun.

Come ready to craft edible works of art and take home a plateful of treats as sweet as the memories made together.

This event welcomes families, friends, and neighbors to celebrate the season's magic in true community style.

Mark your calendar, invite loved ones, and meet us at Ed Kellum & Son on December 5. Let's make the holidays extra sweet, one Frost-fully decorated cookie and one cup of cocoa at a time!

Please RSVP using the QR code or email robin.lynne@n2co.com, so we will have plenty of cookies, cocoa, and supplies for everyone!

We cannot wait to share the fun and some frosted treats and festive sips with you!

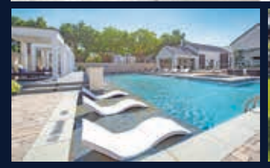
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Ross Martin, Melissa Sherrill, Meg Bittner, Beth Thoele, Kristi Hoyl, Ron Hoyl

SPARK! Hosted SPARKtacular to Raise Funds for Scholarships

JULIETTE COULTER

SPARK! hosted SPARKtacular, a fundraiser at the home of **Carrie and Blake Rowling** to raise funds to inspire creativity in students. Event co-chairs were **Kristi and Ron Hoyl** and **Melissa Sherrill and Ross Martin**. Honorary chairs were **Beth and Chuck Thoele**.

Local Dallasite singer songwriter **Sarah Johnson** sang and played guitar in the backyard while guests visited and enjoyed the delicious food from Roots Hospitality: Pimento Cheese Arancini, Crispy Mini Pork Tacos, Watermelon & Feta Salad, Ahi Tuna 'Poke Style', Grilled Shaved Beef Tenderloin Slider, Whipped Goat Cheese & Focaccia Toast and a Grazing Table.

Meg Bittner, SPARK! president and CEO, welcomed everyone and encouraged them to visit SPARK!, which was designed and built by artists to encourage creativity in children. "Creative learning is rare, and in Title 1 schools, students might receive one hour of art per month, if they're lucky. We raise funds for Title 1 school scholarships, so that they can attend a field trip at SPARK! By the end of the year, we will welcome more than 20,000 people to our place. Creativity is not a must have; it's vital to our youth."

Melissa Sherrill, SPARKtacular co-chair, added, "Thank you to Carrie and Blake for hosting us. Thank you to Beth for all you do. I love SPARK!, especially taking my littles there. Every child should have an opportunity to come experience SPARK!, whether it's open play, a field trip or a birthday party."

Kristi Hoyl SPARKtacular co-chair, said, "SPARK! doesn't happen without philanthropy, and we thank you for supporting us. Please continue to bid on the silent auction items to raise even more funds. The next artist could be one of these students whose future is transformed through your support."

Auction items included a Two Night Stay the Joule Dallas, "Practice in Release", Abstract Painting by MCat Davis, Bottega Veneta Cassette Crossbody donated by Neiman Marcus, Two Suite Tickets to the Thanksgiving Day Game (Cowboys vs. Philadelphia) with Cowboys Legend Timmy Newsome, Chroma Canvas & Custom Abstract Painting by Alyssa Burge, Five Night Stay in a Private Villa in Punta Mita, Mexico, Passed Appetizers & Four-Course Menu curated by Roots Hospitality paired with up to six bottles of wine from Sonoma Time, and 35 Guest Birthday Party at SPARK! Dallas.

To date, SPARK! has hosted 105 schools and organizations serving nearly 7,000 students on field trips during the 2025-2026 school year, with more than 51% of students from Title 1 schools. Nearly 40% of the open play admissions are from Museums for All attendees (reduced admission for families that receive government benefits such as SNAP, WIC and Medicaid).

For additional sponsors and host committee, visit sparkdallas.org/sparktacular

For more information on SPARK!, visit sparkdallas.org



University Park Residents & Co-Chairs, Kristi & Ron Hoyl



Front Row: Ani Nosnik, URBAN Team, Presenting Sponsor; Ann Stuart; Carolina Pace,Honorary Chair; Mari Epperson. Second Row: Molly Massey; Deborah Stanford, Tour of Homes Event Chair; Sharon Ballew,Gala Chair; J.D. Trueblood, President and CEO, Turtle Creek Association; Wayne Smith,Tour of Homes Co-Chair and Board Chair; Sharon Smith, Brigitte Chorey. Third Row: Kyle Crews, URBAN Team, Presenting Sponsor; Karisti Julia, Tour of Homes Co-Chair; Thomas Murphy.

Gala & Tour of Homes Celebrating Turtle Creek

Turtle Creek Association 7th Annual Gala Celebrated the Beauty and Future of Turtle Creek through the Power of Giving

SHARON ADAMS, PHOTOS BY ROB WYTHE/WYTHE PORTRAIT STUDIO

Champagne, a gleaming Bentley and Aston Martin, lush palms and a glittering crowd set the tone as the Turtle Creek Association's 7th Annual Gala welcomed guests in grand style at Virgin Hotels Dallas. Presented by the **URBAN Team, Kyle Crews and Ani Nosnik, an Allie Beth Allman, Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate**, the evening was a celebration of Turtle Creek's enduring beauty and a spirited reminder of the work required to preserve it.

Guests arriving through the VIP Commons Club entrance were greeted with a first-class tableau, where champagne flowed among the newest models of luxury classics from Bentley and Aston Martin, courtesy of Exclusive Luxury Auto Sponsor **Avondale Dealerships.**

The ballroom was transformed into a lush extension of the Turtle Creek theme. Tables were dressed in palm-frond printed cloths, accented by gold chargers and linens, while tropical floral arrangements provided each table's centerpiece. Green uplighting washed the walls, enveloping the room in a sophisticated garden glow.

For more than 40 years, TCA has worked to preserve, protect and enhance this extraordinary urban green space for the people who live, work and visit the area. Trueblood reminded guests that no matter what Mother Nature brings, 100-degree temperatures, drought or other challenges, TCA continues to care for the creek and its surroundings.

The energy in the room rose considerably when **Logan Thomas** of Heritage Auction House took the stage for a spirited live auction. Among the coveted offerings were an Argentina Dove Hunt for Four, a San Miguel Getaway for Four, stunning 14-karat white-gold, 4.30-carat diamond stud earrings and a New York Getaway.

But beneath the evening's glamour was an urgent message about the future of Turtle Creek.

"Our partners at Dallas Parks and Recreation are facing significant budget cuts," Trueblood told the crowd. "They are being asked to do more with less, and as a result, so are we." He explained that keeping the Turtle Creek Corridor clean, safe and beautiful will require TCA to assume an even greater share of the work, from landscaping, tree care and irrigation repairs to trash removal and the countless daily needs of the corridor. With that message delivered, Logan returned to the stage for the evening's call for donations, giving guests the opportunity to directly support the organization's continuing work. Each donation was matched dollar-for-dollar by an anonymous donor with no limit!

The evening also provided a poignant opportunity to honor two couples whose dedication to TCA has helped shape its future. This year's honorees were **Elyce and David Walthall** and **Dr. Stephen and Stacie Worsham.**



Stephen Worsham, Stacie Worsham



David Walthall, Elyse Walthall, Christopher Walthall

And then, as is often the case at a memorable Dallas gala, the formalities gave way to dancing. Emerald City's acclaimed Limelight Band took over the dance floor, keeping guests on their feet and the celebration going well into the evening.

For more information and to join our cause, please visit www.turtlecreekassociation.org.





A Beautiful New Beginning for Johnny Rodriguez The Salon

PHOTOS BY JIN KIM STUDIO AND DFW SELFIE MIRROR

Johnny Rodriguez The Salon celebrated its return in October welcoming clients, friends, and neighbors for a grand opening at its beautiful new flagship at 6114 Sherry Lane in Preston Center. The evening included a ribbon cutting and a sneak peek inside the thoughtfully designed salon, marking a fresh chapter after a devastating fire closed its longtime Dallas location just days after Christmas in 2025.

For Johnny and Kate Rodriguez, the celebration was about more than a new space—it was a tribute to the team, clients, and community who helped make this comeback possible. The new location pairs a warm, sophisticated aesthetic with the salon's personalized approach to hair care, from cuts and color to extensions and special-occasion styling.

Guests enjoyed an exclusively curated wine tasting courtesy of **55 Seventy**, delicious bites from Mesero, a beautiful display of new Lincoln vehicles courtesy of **Planet Lincoln Love Field**, and a special appearance by "Pinky," the eye-catching 1956 pink Lincoln Premiere convertible. A selfie photo booth courtesy of **DFW Selfie Mirror** captured the evening's memorable moments, while a Trina Turk pop-up brought an extra touch of fashion and color to the festivities.

Coordinated by PartyGeenius Boutique and Balloon Bar and Out Loud Agency, the event was supported by Stroll Preston Hollow North, Stroll Highland Park, Stroll M Streets, *Greet University Park*, Greet Lake Highlands, and Greet Lakewood.

Filled with connection, celebration, and community spirit, the evening honored both the salon's resilience and the exciting possibilities ahead.

Be sure to stop by to book an appointment and check out the beautiful new location. You will be glad you did!

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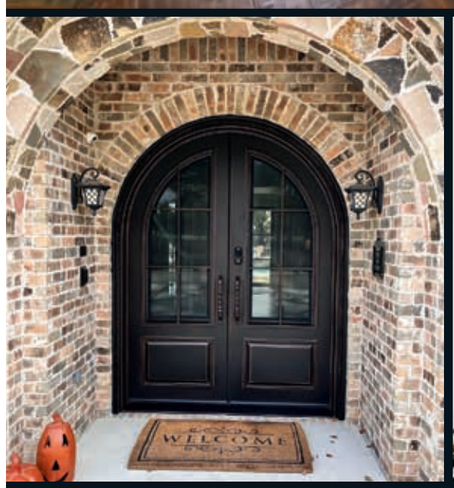
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