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Dayton Crossroads

MAGAZINE

Fall 2020

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Dayton Crossroads Magazine

Fall 2020

Issue 5



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We would like to say thank you to all the citizens and businesses who have contributed to this issue.

Contributors

Constance Onemany, DMD

Rick Doran

Dr. Jessica Johnson

Meadow Noyer

Wendell Null

Dayton Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director Jessica Sims

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Dayton Community Development Corporation

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Submit a photo that represents what you love best about
Dayton to Info@DaytonTX.com.

The top three photos will be awarded \$50 gift cards to Dayton businesses.

Photos must be received by 11/13/2020. By submitting a photo you agree that it may be used in upcoming promotions and marketing materials of the Dayton Community Development Corporation and the Dayton Chamber of Commerce.

Individuals may submit more than one entry.



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Baret Stephenson, Agency Manager

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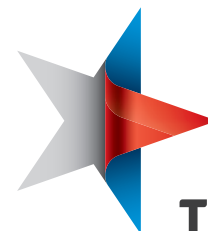
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SILENCE THE VOICES

As we all experience the pandemic of 2020, seemingly everyday we receive new information, from the endless news stories with their data and commentary to the daily opinions of our friends on Facebook, and not to mention the various conspiracies; it truly can make your head spin and our lives feel unstable.

As a pastor I also know that the enemy of our souls has a voice in all this, he likes nothing better than increasing anger,

division, and fear in our lives; truly there are so many voices out there!

Yet in the middle of all this we should remember the words of Jesus in John 14:1: "Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in me".

But we have to ask ourselves...are we listening more to all the news and opinions of the pandemic, or are we letting God's Word fill our minds with

the peace He has promised us?

Remember this wonderful promise found in Isaiah 26:3: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you!"

Folks, during this difficult time, it's so important that we remember that our Heavenly Father loves us! And please remember, He says "He would never leave us or forsake us! Hebrews 13:5.

SO...WHAT CAN WE DO?

I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER 3 POINTS TO REMEMBER:

#1 "DRAW CLOSE TO GOD"

Folks now is the time like never before that we all seek the presence of God in our lives. James 4:8 says "draw near to God and he will draw near to you." So how do we do that?

By prayer and by reading God's Word. Get yourself a good Bible reading plan (there are many online) and start reading. Reading God's word brings peace and comfort and assurance into our lives. And pray! Please don't make prayer difficult.

When you pray, start off by being thankful for all He has blessed you with. Remind yourself of all His blessings and be thankful He brings peace. And also, just pour out your heart to God. Remember He is our heavenly father who wants us to come to him with our anxieties and troubles.

#2 ATTEND CHURCH

This really is helpful. We need the encouragement and strength of other believers. We need church family! Whether your church is open, online, or maybe on TV, make it a priority to stay connected! If you don't have a church home, please pray about it! You are truly missing out.

#3 GUARD YOUR HEARTS!

Proverbs 4:23 says "Guard your hearts above all else for it determines the course of your life." I know we can't turn off all the news and voices of this world, but speaking for myself I've had to put a limit on how much news I listen to..

GOD BLESS YOU ALL! JESUS LOVES YOU!

-Pastor Rick Doran
Eastgate Church



Business Spotlight

Meadow Noyer Insurance Agency

Whether one walks into or calls the office of Allstate Agent Meadow Noyer, the welcoming and warm atmosphere is felt immediately.

"I am in this business because I like helping take care of others and be the hand they hold as they encounter changes in their lives," said Noyer. "There is a difference in *thinking* you have coverage... and *having* it. - That old saying of 'You get what you pay for' is true, especially if a 'cheap' policy is purchased.

She states, "Understanding what insurance includes (*and doesn't*) is important." An example often misunderstood is *flood vs windstorm* coverage.

-Homeowner's insurance does not cover flood damage, which is from rising water.

-Windstorm coverage is for damages with 'named storm' hurricane losses.

Another area often overlooked is auto insurance, according to Noyer. "In my opinion, our state minimums are not enough to cover most losses, even if you are *not* a homeowner and have few assets."

Meadow is a proud 25-year resident of the Dayton community. She serves on the Dayton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the City of Dayton's Charter Review Committee. Among other activities, she is involved with events at

Dayton High School where her daughter Jaclynn is a junior.

For more information on Meadow Noyer Allstate, go online to <https://MeadowsAllstate.com> or her Facebook <https://facebook.comMeadowNoyerAgency>. New customers, please call 936-262-1600. Existing customers should call 936-641-9381.



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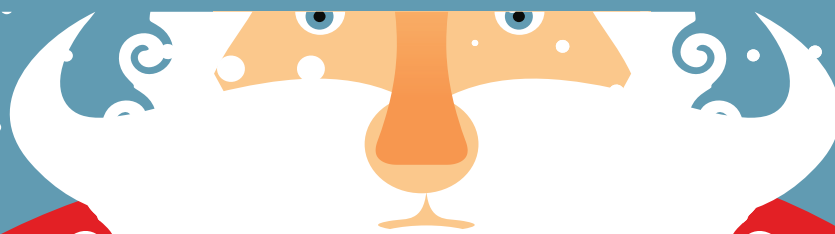
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CITY OF DAYTON PRESENTS

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Christmas Activities
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DAYTON TEXAS

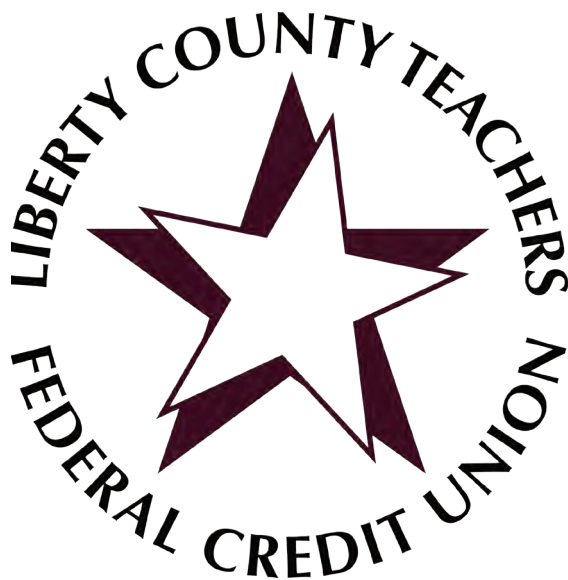


Chamber Members in the Community

Thank you to all the Dayton Chamber members who volunteered at the City of Dayton's Summer Food Drives. Thank you Journey Fellowship, Eastgate Church, City of Dayton, and Pct. 4 Commissioner's Office who were present every week. The city would not have been able to serve the Dayton community without your help!



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TOP TEETH TIPS

During Halloween

Halloween is often the start of the holiday season for many families that focuses on food and sweets. Enjoying candy, treats and sugary beverages can cause tooth decay, also known as cavities, if you're not careful.

Here's why: The bacteria in your mouth like to eat sugar and other food in your mouth and then they produce an acid. That acid can lead to cavities. To avoid having cavities, follow these easy tips to keep your mouth and the rest of your body healthy!

1. Timing is everything. Try to eat candy (and other sugary or acidic foods or drinks) with meals since your saliva production increases during eating which will help rinse away the acids produced by the bacteria.

2. Reduce frequent snacking, especially on sweet snacks.

3. Choose candy wisely.

- Hard candy can cause teeth to break and increase your risk for cavities.
- Sticky candy sticks onto the teeth and gives the cavity producing bacteria more time to work. In some instances, you can also loosen an old crown or filling.
- Sour candy tends to be very acidic and can make it easier to damage your teeth.
- Chocolate is a great choice to eat since it's rinsed off of your teeth easier with saliva or water and dark chocolate has less sugar than milk chocolate.

4. Have everyone in your family choose their favorite candy and then toss or donate the rest.

5. Drink unflavored water throughout the day.

6. Chew sugar free gum for 20 minutes after meals and snacks.

7. Brush twice a day and floss daily.

8. Even if your snacking or consumption of candy temporarily increases during Halloween or the holidays, you can help maintain your healthy teeth and gums by having your teeth cleaned at least twice a year.

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STERLING FUNERAL HOMES

"The Difference is in Our Service"

When Kim Mulkey of Sterling Funeral Homes in Dayton was a young woman, she worked as a veterinary technician, attended cosmetology school and was just shy of finishing her degree in business. Working in the funeral service industry had never been a consideration until her family suffered its own loss.

"When my dad died, I was approached by the funeral home where his funeral was being held. They convinced me to go to funeral school. It started after I talked to the funeral home staff for several hours the night of my dad's visitation," Mulkey said. "I helped with the planning of his funeral, so I think that is partly why they reached out to me. I was in school at the time, working on a bachelor's degree in business and was working a full-time job elsewhere."

Feeling inspired, Mulkey paid a visit to the mortuary school in Houston the following day and signed up for classes.

"I came home and told my husband, Chuck, that I had enrolled in classes. I said I am going to mortuary school. He thought I was going through a midlife crisis even though I was very young at the time," she said with a laugh.

Twenty years later, she now serves as the managing partner for Sterling Funeral Home in Dayton and Anahuac, a position she has held for five years in October. Mulkey has no intentions on leaving Dayton either, having fallen in love with the community and its residents. Her community involvement has led to membership with the Dayton Rotary Club, former board president of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce

and incoming board member of the Anahuac Area Chamber of Commerce. She has also supported both Dayton and Anahuac community's students and their agriculture projects.

"I have watched this business grow over the last five years. Our new motto is 'The Difference is in our Service,' which we strive to live up to every day," she said. Her husband and daughter both work for Sterling Funeral Home. Mulkey says her family and the other employees, even though they are not related by blood, have formed their own close-knit family.

"We all want to uphold the Sterling name in this community. We also try to make

arranging funerals as painless as possible for our families. Just recently, we went to a family's home to make arrangements because they wanted to be comfortable in the midst of this pandemic, and we were happy to oblige them," she said.

Working with a small-town funeral home comes with some advantages, Mulkey believes. In addition to affordable funerals, hometown funeral homes can offer customized funerals to suit the personality and unique aspects of the deceased person. For example, an avid tractor collector's recent memorial service included some of his beloved tractors.



"We offer a lot of customization of services. We try to put more value in the services for our families," Mulkey said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it tougher for grieving families because of restrictions requiring attendees to wear masks, but Mulkey said it is something they are working through with little trouble.

"I will never forget the first COVID-19 case I picked up. I was really nervous because it was in the early months of the pandemic and we couldn't get all the personal protection equipment we needed," she said.

The pandemic underscored the role that funeral homes serve in the community, working on the front lines with law enforcement, firefighters and medical

services. Mulkey wishes more people understood that like those other professions, funeral home employees encounter potentially dangerous diseases and infections when handling the bodies.

"We are always going to be an essential service," she said.

When asked if there is one aspect of her profession that she wished people understood, Mulkey said it is that Sterling's staff knows how difficult it can be to grieve a loss.

"We have all lost someone, so we treat their tragedy as if it was ours. We are here to help them and make this process as easy as possible without them being overwhelmed. People do not realize what goes into planning a funeral until they have done it. We try to streamline that

as much as possible and we need them to trust in us that we are going to take care of their loved ones like they are our own family," she said.

When Mulkey explains to families that she and Chuck live in an upstairs apartment at the funeral home and their loved ones will be in their constant care, they have the peace of mind they need to get through the grieving process.

"We want them to know their loved ones will be treated with all the compassionate care and dignity that they deserve," Mulkey said. "It's how we would want our family members to be treated. That's the Sterling Funeral Home way."

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Kim Mulkey
20 Years of Service



Linda Tate
8 Years of Service



Dawn Holland
5 Years of Service



"The Tradition Continues"

This funeral home was established in 1962 by Jim and Betty Sterling and their sons Jim and Ben in the former residence of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Sterling, Sr. which was built in 1914. On October 25, 1964 the building was razed by fire. Construction began immediately and on March 6, 1965 the new building was dedicated to the memory of those who in eternal sleep repose therein and is for the use and comfort of relatives and friends.



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Introducing Your New Executive Director Jessica Sims

I am immensely excited about my new journey as the new Executive Director of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce. Prior to working at the chamber, I was a Customer Service Processor for First Liberty National Bank. I joined the Dayton Chamber in the spring of 2017 as the Administrative Assistant. I stepped into the role, not even knowing what a chamber of commerce was about and how involved it is with the community. Being a Dayton native for the past 32 years, I knew in a short time that this was right up my alley. Man, I was ecstatic to be able to work and reside in my hometown again. I quickly grew to love what it all entails and the community and business relationships you build and before I knew it, I was promoted to the Events Coordinator within a year. Now I am humbled to be able to serve the

members and businesses as the Executive Director.

I have always been that type of person who loves a good challenge. Working for the chamber always presents new challenges for me, in good ways, because it just gives me that push for me to be the best I can possibly be. When I was presented this opportunity, I personally challenged myself on what kind of positive impact I can make with our members and community. Whether it be through our events, training courses, or just be that connection to help build business relationships. The chamber is the front door to the community. We are here to serve our community through our businesses. The definition of a chamber of commerce is a local association to promote and protect the interest of the

business community in a particular place. While I believe that is an exceptionally good definition, I also believe our Dayton Chamber is more personable! Our mission statement states, "Working together to build a stronger community through networking, advocacy, and education." I whole heartedly feel that is the definition our chamber in a nutshell and I will strive to keep that going! 2020 has been a year full of ups and downs that so many of us, at times, feel defeated. I like to look at the glass half full. I feel this is my time to take a step back and reflect on what our members want and what, we at the chamber, can do to hit the year 2021 out of the ballpark!

Executive Director

Jessica Sims



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2020 Bronco Football Schedule

Date	Oopponent	Location	Time
Sep 18	Galveston	Bronco Stadium	6:00
Sep 24	Lake Creek	MISD Stadium	7:00
Oct 2	Montgomery	Bronco Stadium	7:30
Oct 9	Pasadena Memorial	Bronco Stadium	7:30
Oct 23	Crosby	Bronco Stadium	7:30
Oct 30	Port Neches Groves	Indian Stadium	7:30
Nov 6	Santa Fe	Bronco Stadium	7:30
Nov 13	Nederland	Bulldog Stadium	7:30
Nov 20	Texas City	Bronco Stadium	7:30
Nov 27	Barbers Hill	Bronco Stadium	7:30
Dec 4	Kingwood Park	Turner Stadium	7:00



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Student Sarahi Plascencia

Sarahi Plascencia Avila came to Dayton at four years old along with her parents and two older siblings from a small town in Mexico. Sarahi has now been in Dayton for 13 years and will forever thank her parents for allowing her to be able to access the opportunities that cannot be found as easily in Mexico.

Sarahi is currently a senior in Dayton High School with great involvement. Sarahi is happy to say she is ranked 6th in her class and is continuing to work harder. She is currently in the Dual Credit program offered by DHS.

Sarahi has been a member of Student Council, Science National Honor Society, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and Health Occupational Students of America.

Sarahi is currently vice president for SNHS and NHS and hopes to run as President of HOSA for the 2020-2021 school year. Sarahi is currently working on many projects for these organizations, one of them includes the renovation of DHS's courtyard to make it a nice and open living space for the students of Dayton. She has also been given the opportunity to volunteer at the Houston Food Bank with her AP Spanish class. Sarahi has also been a manager for the cross-country team who has made it to regionals two years in a row and the boys' soccer team manager who claimed the District Championship title for this past season.

Sarahi is a part of her church's youth group, St. Joseph's the Worker Catholic

Church, where she puts her faith in God and participates in some of their many events. Sarahi has big dreams for her future.

She hopes to one day open her own dental clinic and provide patients the ultimate confidence in their smile. Sarahi believes that a smile has a much deeper significance than we imagine. She says that a simple smile can make a person fall in love with you, it can provide comfort when times are rough, it allows for a person to cling on to the last strand of hope in their life, and most importantly it signifies the meaning of being happy, something humans tirelessly long for. Sarahi has taken time to shadow All Star Kids Dental, owned by Dr. Talosig, a wonderful dental clinic serving the citizens of Dayton.

As Sarahi works to achieve her ultimate goal she has decided to open a small business of handmade clay earrings, Junia Jewelry, to allow her business management and communication skills.

Sarahi is also currently an intern for the City of Dayton, which she says have provided her with many opportunities to learn and grow. Sarahi is a young lady that hopes to make herself and her parents proud. She hopes to take good advantage of the opportunities that were made available to her by her parents. Sarahi hopes to prove to herself that she has the potential and the ability to earn the first PhD in her family and become a person who provides love and happiness to everyone she meets in her life.



"...a simple smile can make a person fall in love with you, it can provide comfort when times are rough, it allows for a person to cling on to the last strand of hope in their life, and most importantly it signifies the meaning of being happy, something humans tirelessly long for."





Presented By

THE DAYTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE DAYTON NOON LIONS CLUB



Larry Harris with the Lions Club and Tammy Alexander, President of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, want to encourage Dayton residents to enroll in the Flags Over Dayton Program.

For the past twenty years, the Dayton Chamber of Commerce and the Dayton Noon Lions Club have teamed up to place over 200 flags in the Dayton area on seven national holidays--Martin Luther King Jr. day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, September 11th, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day.

In 2021 the Dayton Chamber and the Dayton Noon Lions Club would like to cover Dayton with American Flags to show we are patriots who love our country. Above all it is a way for us to show honor, appreciation, and respect for the men and women who have fought for our freedom.

This subscription program is an easy and effective way for residents and businesses to make an impression on other residents and visitors. If you or your business is interested in joining the program the cost is \$35 per flag for the year. There is a discount for multiple flags. Remember the flag program would also make a great gift for a friend or family member. Please call the Dayton Chamber at (936) 257-2393 to be added to the program.

DAYTON

FamilyLife



Wendell and Deborah Null are both Liberty County natives. Wendell graduated Liberty High (the Panthers) in 1972 and Deborah finished Dayton in 1970, it was the Bronchos back then. Both of their parents were local businessmen. Deborah's father Cotton payton was a barber and partner in the first shopping center in Dayton where he cut many heads of hair for boys in Dayton, Dayton Broncho players were free. Wendell's father owned a Texaco service station on north main in Liberty for many years.

Though they lived only six miles from each other their whole lives they didn't meet until they were in College. Deborah was a senior and Wendell a freshman in January of 1973 when Lyndon Johnson died and classes were cancelled the next day and a significant number of the ladies side (Brooks Hall) were headed to Manning's Texas on Wheels to roller skate. Wendell

and his friends were close behind.

The drawback was none of the guys could skate. Wendell managed less than a single trip around the oval before crashing into the benches lining the wall. Could have been bloody but his fall was broken by a Dayton Band jacket draped across the wooden bench. Deborah, an excellent skater, rolled up in seconds and declared that was her band jacket and that she, in fact, had "Ten Dollars".

"Let's go spend it," was the immediate reply.

Later Deb invited him to a party on Callahan street near the dorm but did not mention she had a date. It wasn't Wendell.....And the girl she brought to go with him was not his type, so to speak. He walked home on Callahan Street in the rain at about 4am.

The next morning youthful optimism dictated at least a call to invite Deb to a ride home but she bluntly declared she was washing her hair. He hung up and headed for the dorm foyer...where he found Deborah waiting with wet hair. She met the family that day and eighteen months later they married.

Deborah graduated Lamar with an accounting degree and became a CPA. She spent 40 years with

Gulf States and Entergy before retiring in 2013. Wendell majored in Mass Communications and worked in the newspaper business before going to work





MEET THE NULL FAMILY



for Mobil Oil in 1980. He retired from ExxonMobil in 2011.

They lived for years in the Golden Triangle area where they raised a Daughter Sarah who graduated high school in 2003. That same year Deborah was transferred to The Woodlands and Dayton was the natural choice for a new home. Though the commute was over 50 miles a day for both they were happy to be home and built a home in Linney Creek to be near family. Wendell found the highest piece of property he could and built there. After flooding many times over the years it was good to live on high ground with drainage...Dayton is on a hill.

Their daughter Sarah Gill went to Texas A&M where she met her husband Tim. Sarah has degrees in biology and petroleum engineering as well as a law degree. Tim is a chemical engineer and has his MBA as well, from UT....we are a house divided. Sarah and Tim are both engineers for BASF Corporation and recently moved from Mexico City to Lima Ohio and a new job assignment. They have three children Aidan who is three, Addie, 21months and Emma one month. It's busy around their house.

The greatest thing about living in Dayton for the couple is the people here. Not one day passes that they do not see the face of a friend or relative. Nothing

can replace the sense of belonging and security they get in knowing their lifelong friends and their new friends surround them and all have a smile or handshake ready. They enjoy being close to the big city with the airport, shopping and availability of everything but understand and value the small town character of Dayton. The Big city places are fine to visit but nothing beats the fajitas at Los Compadres or breakfast at Kountry Kitchen.

Currently Wendell serves on City Council position One, Dayton Community Development Corp. board president, Houston Galveston Area Counsel representative for Dayton, Gulf Coast Economic Development District board, Liberty County Child Welfare Board, TCEQ Galveston-San Jac. River Basin and Bays stakeholder committee and is a board member of the Coastal Conservation Association Trinity Valley Chapter. He is former chairman of the Dayton Planning Commission.

Wendell and Deborah like to spend weekends and spare time at their lake house on Toledo Bend with family and friends. For vacations Marathon and Key West are their preferred destination where they fish.... so much that Wendell has very few pictures of himself without a fish.Fish or grandchildren anyway.

They also love to travel when they can get away and after 46 years of marriage, raising a family and retiring the Nulls are very grateful to live in a place like Dayton and to have the friends, family and a wonderful town they love to come home to after each adventure.



New Teachers' Luncheon 2020

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(936) 258-2678 ~ (409) 267-3456
"THE TRADITION CONTINUES"



From the Desk of the DISD Superintendent:

Dr. Jessica Johnson



Dayton ISD Community,

The history of Dayton as a city and school district dates back to the year 1756, when Liberty, Texas was founded near a Spanish settlement. In 1831, 36 land titles were granted forming a new city eventually named Liberty and at that time, Dayton was known as West Liberty. Land was donated to West Liberty (Dayton) for a school in 1847. Around the early 1850s, West Liberty's name changed to Day's Town after a wealthy landowner named Isaiah C. Day. Day's Town was a hub for transportation with many roads leading into Day's Town. In 1860, the Texas and New Orleans Railroads completed their building in Day's Town and the town's name was shortened to Dayton. Dayton had both road and railroad traffic which brought a few folks to the town. In fact, Dayton boasted to having a population of sixty citizens in 1885. As the years passed, the population of Dayton grew slowly but steadily. At one time, Dayton was considered a hub of transportation in southeast Texas because the highways that intersect, three railroads that served the community, and of course, the Trinity River served as a port. At an elevation of 84.5 feet, Dayton was (and still is today) the highest point between Houston and New Orleans. In 1890, Dayton had a school, post office, two churches, and served 239 residents. At the turn-of-the-century, Dayton had grown to having three cotton gins, a large lumber company, as well as many farms and ranches.

The first school was located on the northwest side of town. Drainage problems caused students to lose many days of school, and residents decided to move the school to the east part of

town where there was better drainage. A building was secured and located on land purchased from the Lowery Estate for \$90. The two-room schoolhouse had 2 teachers and served 35 students in grades 1-7. Then in 1907, an election was held to determine if Dayton should form an independent school district. The election was held on July 20, 1907 and the decision to become our own school district was decided by 25 total votes 17 for and 8 against! The men and women who established the City of Dayton and Dayton ISD became our Hometown Heroes as they built friendships and partnerships that have lasted throughout the years. Our founding fathers genuinely cared for each other and wanted what was best for our children.

These community partnerships still exist today. As a school district with 262 square miles, DISD has a little over 5,400 students and is classified as a 5-A school district. We have seven campuses- one Pre-K, three elementary campuses, one middle school, one high school and one alternative education center. Our Pre-K campus serves both 3 and 4 years olds in a full day program. All of our 5th graders go through Etiquette Lessons that teaches our children manners, social skills, and table etiquette. We are a "NO Place For Hate" district along with all campuses utilizing the program "No Excuses University". We not only emphasize improving academics, but we focus on social emotional learning while building character education throughout the district.

DISD established a JROTC in 2014 and has become an award-winning program. The High School allows students to choose from over 40 different organizations

and clubs. The Fine Arts Department has award-winning programs including Bronco and Pony Bands, our DHS/WWJH Choirs and our drama departments. Our FFA Chapter membership is in the top 10 chapters in the state. Student athletes choose from a wide variety of sports with many moving to the collegiate level in: Soccer, Golf, Tennis, Track, Cross-Country, Softball, Baseball, Basketball, Volleyball, and Football. This past graduating class had 349 and over \$1.5 M in scholarships. Every year the district sends numerous students to compete at the district, regional, state, and national levels in FFA, FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), UIL, BPA (Business Professionals of America), Skills USA, JROTC, Cheerleading and Drill Teams at both WWJH/DHS, along with Athletic, Band, Choir, and One-Act Play competitions. Dayton ISD collaborates with Lee College and College Board to offer over 40 hours of dual credit and/or AP courses for our students. This allows students to attain college hours while still in high school both in the academic and vocational paths.

The Dayton ISD Trustees proudly serves and supports our students and staff. In fact, the tradition of strong partnerships continues today, just as it did so many years ago. We encourage our staff to become involved in our community and invest in our children. By adding value to our students' future, no matter how big or how small, then we are investing in future leaders. Together, we will strive to continue the tradition of having a small hometown atmosphere, but with big hearts to form great partnerships.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jessica Johnson

KEEP YOU MOVING

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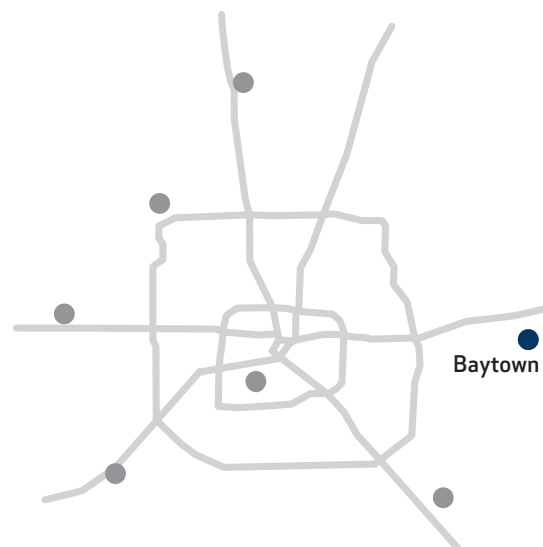


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