CITY OF DALLAS OREGON

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The Dallas Digest

The Mayor's Space

Mayor Brian Dalton



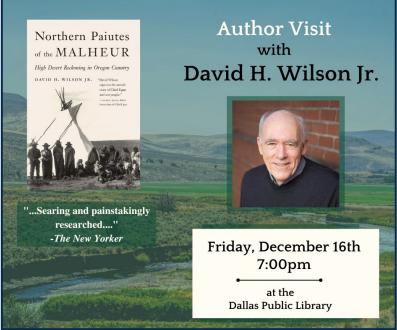
Your columnist has a long association with our historic downtown – our town's living room - and herein hopes to share the wealth.

People say they move or stay here in Dallas for the small-town life and what better exemplifies that good feeling than our historic downtown? Kinda like downtown Bedford Falls in "It's a Wonderful Life" minus Lionel Barrymore as our banker or Hill Valley in Back to the Future save for Marty McFly and a time machine. But the home-town nostalgia feels the same.

So, here's the deal. How about breaking with the alluring COVID-induced habit of socializing via Zoom calls from your bedroom and shopping for a toothbrush on Amazon Prime (delivered in a large cardboard box in the next 24 hours for free)?. Instead, why not walk on a real street in a real downtown and actually participate in real life here in lovely Dallas, a downtown that is a warm and welcoming environment that revives and nourishes the soul?

If you need an excuse to break the ice and wander down, how about showing up for the big Christmas event downtown on Saturday evening December 3rd for the grand tree lighting ceremony featuring Santa down from the North Pole, elves, choirs and bands playing, delighted children and loads of memorable fun – the stuff of memories.

In the end, we ought not take our delightful downtown for granted. Folks passed it on to us and, if we want to pay it forward to new generations (who will thank us), we really must actively participate in its wonders. Escape your house and walk its friendly, safe streets, dive into the shops, buy something, dine, dance and bask in the atmosphere. Good therapy for all concerned.



What's New with Parks and Recreation?





Think you're seeing double?

That's because the newest Dallas City Park is actually two! **Twin Parks** straddles Jonathan Avenue on the east side of town. These "pocket-sized" greenspaces are great places to toss a ball, walk Fido, set up a soccer net or take a quick stroll when the sun is out.

What's the Deal with the District?

The City is exploring the possibility of forming a **Parks and Recreation District.** A P&R District would be an independent entity with its own taxing authority and elected board. The formation of a P&R District would provide dedicated revenue for expanded parks and recreation opportunities. It would also allow more funds in the City budget to be directed toward public safety – police, fire and EMS. A P&R District in Dallas would support our community's parks, trails, and aquatic center, as well as provide a variety of programs for our children, youth and seniors. The Dallas Parks and Recreation District Formation Committee is a group of citizen volunteers working with City staff on this initiative. Find out more here: https://www.dallasor.gov/bc-prdf.

