

Focus groups inconclusive

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Focus groups evaluating plans to build an all-in-one public safety building in Dallas didn't provide much insight into how voters would respond if the Dallas City Council put the proposal on the ballot.

Campbell DeLong Resources Inc. conducted two focus groups on Nov. 4 with 23 people participating. The firm used surveys to recruit candidates for participation to ensure a random sample of residents.

DeLong said the participants varied in age, how long they've lived in town and in what part of the city. They had to be registered voters who have voted in presidential elections.

"What we wanted to do is get those people who are really like the vast majority of the voters in any town who don't spend a lot of time working on city politics, but their support will be key if you want to pass a bond measure," she said.

The city has considered remodeling and adding onto the fire station on Shelton

Avenue to accommodate police and fire and EMS in one building. The cost estimate on that is about \$14 million.

DeLong said initial support for the proposal was "soft," with about a quarter of the people in the two groups responding with a "definitely yes." A little more than a quarter "leaned" toward yes. Another quarter "leaned no" or gave "definitely no" responses, and 18 percent gave "don't know" as an answer.

"What this tells me is that in order to pass something like what we had just described, you would need to get information out there," DeLong said.

She said after the initial explanation of the proposal, the groups were given more information about the police, fire and EMS stations and why the upgrade is needed to gauge what resonated with participants. Even after more detailed overviews of conditions in the three buildings were provided, support for putting a \$14 million bond on the ballot was mixed.

DeLong said the majority of one focus group said no while

the most of the second said yes.

"I would not even have a projection based on this. It could pass, it could not" she said. "It depends on the information you get out to people, whether you are able to reach them, whether they hear what it is you are going to do."

DeLong said the groups had strong opinions on a few of the issues the departments deal with in their current facilities.

She said people in the groups were concerned when they learned the fire department didn't have sleeping facilities or 24-hour coverage from the station.

Another of top concerns was that the fire, police and ambulance stations don't have adequate locker rooms for women, who make up a growing part of all three departments. Also of concern was that the police department didn't have enough private interview rooms.

Participants weren't convinced of the benefit of having all departments housed in one building or of providing space for training. Cramped conditions for police — which is spread out in different floors and sections

of City Hall — didn't register high as a concern, either.

DeLong said the cost of the measure matter most to those who said they would vote no on the proposal; however, people did say they wanted reassurance that the city had considered other solutions and worried about cost overruns.

The second step in the research process is to conduct a phone survey with 200 residents to provide a better sample size and offer insight into which pitches work with voters. The cost of the survey is \$18,000. Not all councilors were convinced of the usefulness of phone interviews given the focus group results.

"What I got from the presentation was we're wanting a state-of-the-art facility with everything combined, and that wasn't relevant at all to the focus groups," said Councilor Jennie Rummell. "To me, it says we need to really rethink what we are doing for facilities. People are really concerned about updating them and making sure that everyone has what they need, but they didn't think we needed one big facility."

POLICE REPORT

Information for the police report comes from law enforcement agencies. Not all calls for service are included. The status of incidents reported may change after further investigation. Individuals arrested or suspected of crimes are considered innocent until proven guilty.

DALLAS
Arrests/Citations

- Jonathen M. Rebensdorf, 26, of Dallas, on SE Ash St. on Dec. 5 on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.
- Darius E. Martin, 20, of Dallas, in the 400 block of E. Ellendale Ave. on Dec. 6 on charges of fourth-degree assault and physical harassment.

INDEPENDENCE
Arrests/Citations

- Fabian Gonzalo Andrade, 18, of Independence, in the 400 block of N. 13th St. on Dec. 2 for unlawful attempt to purchase or possess marijuana — younger than 21.

- Ramiro Nunez Chavez, 49, of Independence, at N. Polk St. and N. Walnut on Dec. 5 for driving while suspended or revoked.
- Robert Jake Calvin, 45, of Independence, in the 900 block of S. Main St. on Dec. 5 for fourth-degree assault, strangulation and menacing — use or display of weapons.
- Andrew Thomas Gordon, 28, of Independence, in the Shell parking lot in Monmouth, on Dec. 7 for driving while suspended or revoked.
- Dionicio Ramos-Ortiz, 24, of Independence, in the 1000 block of D St. on Dec. 7 for driving under the influence of intoxicants.
- Jordan Quinn Pearson, 20, of Independence, in the 1200 block of Wildfang Dr. on Dec. 8 for first-degree rape.
- Seth Jordan Hoy, 22, of Independence, in the 1600 block of Monmouth St. on Dec. 8 for possession of methamphetamine and DUII.

MONMOUTH
Arrests/Citations

None available

CASA toy drive ongoing

DALLAS — CASA of Polk County is holding a toy drive at the tree lot located at the corner of Main and Washington streets in Dallas.

The drive will go through Dec. 20 and items will be donated to the Department of Human Services. and benefit children in foster care.

Nevaeh Honey Applegate

Nov. 18, 2008 – Nov. 14, 2017
Nevaeh passed away Nov. 14, 2017, along with her Mother, Honey.

She went to school in Dallas for three years starting in preschool, also first grade and second grade.

She is survived by her father Bruce Applegate and Mama Boni; also four siblings, Alexis, Isis, Ayla, and Domonic; her great-grandma Gigi Applegate; and grandparents Patricia and papa Ron; her papa Jim Tucker and Granny Shirley; also survived by many Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins. We will miss her dearly and long for the day to see her in Heaven again.

Michael Edward Braun
March 18, 1963 – Dec. 8, 2017
Michael Edward Braun

passed away on Dec. 8, 2017, in Salem, after a brief illness from cancer at age 54. Mike was born at Salem General hospital on March 18, 1963.

He was a lifetime resident of Dallas. Graduated from Dallas high school. Michael spent his career in the woodworking industry. His great love was NASCAR.

He is survived by his parents Orval and Velma Stepper; sister, Shelly Carlton; three nieces plus their children; and several aunts and uncles.

A graveside service will be held at the Dallas Cemetery on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society. The Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center is caring for the family. To leave an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Ted Ralph South
Sept. 15, 1939 – Dec. 2, 2017
Ted Ralph South, 78, of Salem and formerly of Pedee/Dallas, died Dec. 2 in the Salem Hospital.

He is survived by his sons

Steve (Tina) South, of Salem, and Jeremy (Shelly) South, of Bend; along with four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and brother Tim South, of Salem.

He was preceded in death by sister Carla Burbank.

Viewing will be from 2 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 15 and from 9 a.m. to noon, with funeral services beginning at 1 p.m. on Dec. 16, all in the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center. Interment will follow in the Dallas Cemetery.

To leave an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Virginia Lee Boehler
Dec. 6, 2017
Virginia Lee Boehler, 89,

longtime resident of Missouri Valley, Iowa, and recent Monmouth resident, died on Dec. 6.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold J. Boehler, and son-in-law Steven L. Gore.

She is survived by daughters, Terry (Don) Rowe, of Pennsylvania, Scherrie Gore, of Monmouth, and Vickie (Bob) Iverson, of Sioux City, Iowa; seven grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren; and longtime friend Betty Hammer, of Missouri Valley, whom she always felt of as a sister.

A private celebration of life is being planned. Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements. To

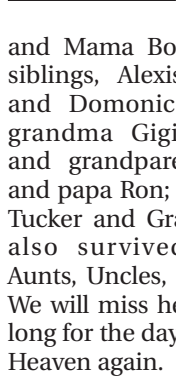
leave an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Sharon Kay Martin
Sept. 19, 1949 – Nov. 21, 2017
Sharon Kay Martin, 68, died on Nov. 21 in Sublimity. Sharon was born in Atchison, Kan.

Private services will be held. Farnstrom Mortuary is handling arrangements. Memories and condolences at FarnstromMortuary.com.

Jerry Kelton Givens
March 28, 1941 – Nov. 26, 2017
Jerry Kelton Givens, 76, of Dallas, died on Nov. 26 in Salem Hospital. He was born in Lebanon, Tenn.

A memorial jam session was held at Guthrie Park on Dec. 1. Farnstrom Mortuary is handling arrangements. Memories and condolences at FarnstromMortuary.com.



OBITUARIES

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Obituary Information

Obituaries cost \$8 per column inch (25 words) and include photos and flags for veterans.

Obituary information must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the Monday before publication to be included in the newspaper.

Most funeral homes handle obituary information and provide it to the newspaper. However, information can also be submitted directly from family members.

Color and black-and-white photos can be submitted, but photos will only be published in black and white. The *Itemizer-Observer* uses a flag logo in the obituaries of people who served in the armed forces.

Death and service notices — like all information submitted to the news department — are subject to editing for style, content and length.

Information can be brought or mailed to the *Itemizer-Observer*, 147 SE Court St., Dallas, OR 97338, or emailed to ionews@polkio.com.

For more information: Emily Mentzer, 503-623-2373.

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THE HOLIDAY TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

The holiday season can be an especially hard time for families dealing with the loss of a loved one. During the month of December we invite you to remember someone special by placing a *Memorial Ornament* on our "Tree of Remembrance" located at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center.

During the holidays we would also like to remember those less fortunate. We encourage you to make a donation to the *Dallas Food Bank* when you come in. We will match your donations so a few more local families may have a joyous holiday season.

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