

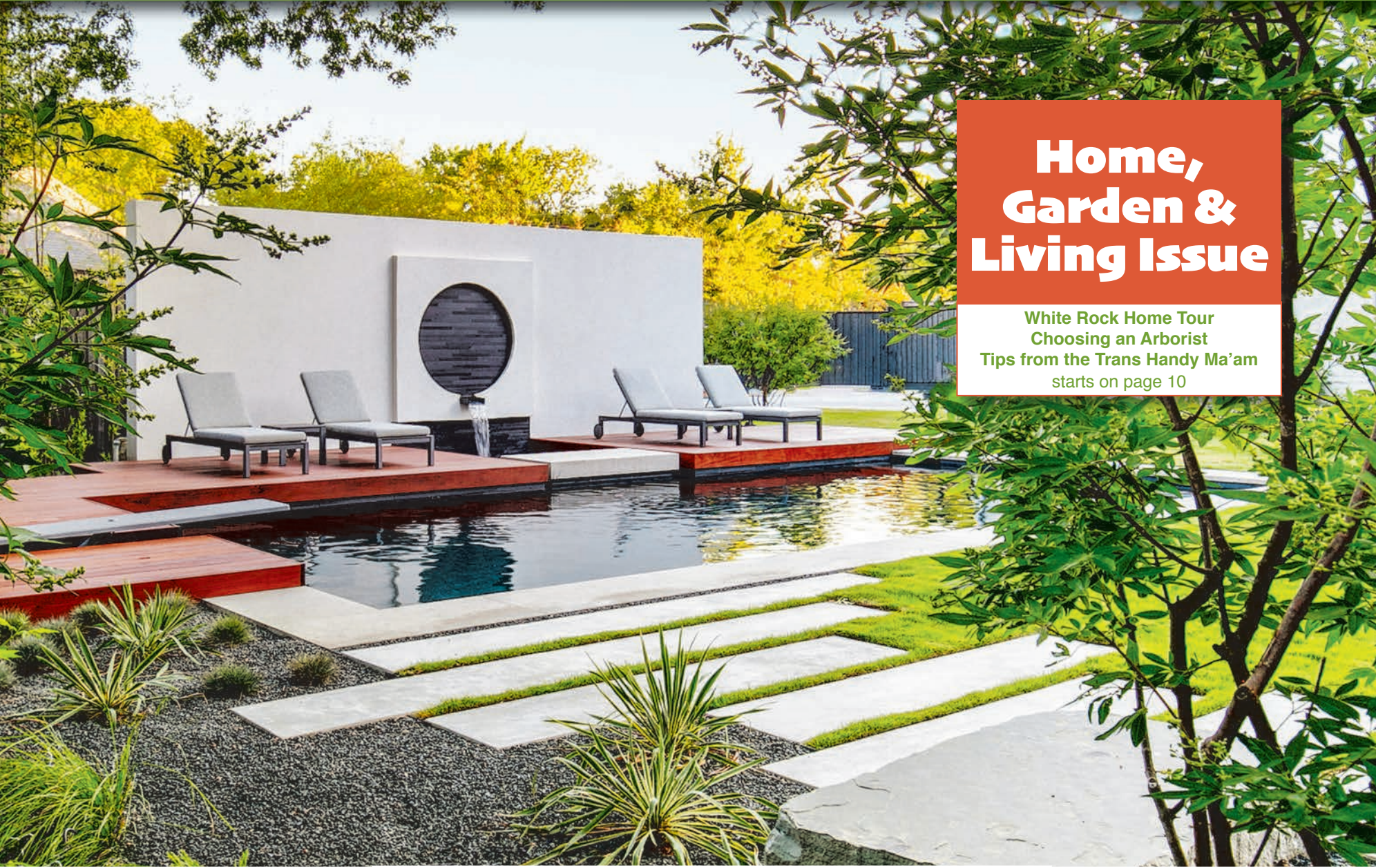
# dallasvoice

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Established 1984 | DallasVoice.com | Volume 40 | Issue 50 | FREE | Friday, April 19, 2024

## Home, Garden & Living Issue

White Rock Home Tour  
Choosing an Arborist  
Tips from the Trans Handy Ma'am  
starts on page 10



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# Kiss the Boys

a murderous comedy by Mark-Brian Sonna

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# Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com)

## Dallas animal shelter offers adoption special

Have you been considering adding a furry four-legged member to your family? If so, now is the time: Dallas Animal Services is over capacity for dogs and nearly over capacity for cats and, Friday-Sunday, April 19-21, is offering the added bonus of a \$50 gift card to those who adopt bigger dogs and older cats to help clear some space. But get there quick; only the first 100 adopters are eligible.

Like many shelters across the country, Dallas Animal Services is facing high intake numbers for dogs, according to a press release from the city of Dallas. Currently, the shelter is at 133 percent capacity for dogs and 73 percent capacity for cats, with large-breed dogs and adult cats making up the majority of the population. So, to encourage the public to adopt, Friends of Dallas Animal Services is offering a \$50 Petco gift card to the first 100 adopters who adopt a dog over 30 pounds or a cat six months or older from the shelter between Friday and Sunday.

Anyone interested in adopting from Dallas Animal Services should come to 1818 North Westmoreland Road from 11 a.m.- 7 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

To see all of the adoptable pets at the shelter and learn more about how to help DAS, visit [BeDallas90.org](http://BeDallas90.org).

— Tammye Nash

## Troye Sivan announces tour with Charli XCX with Dallas date



Charli XCX

LiveNation officially announced Wednesday morning, April 17, that Troye Sivan and Charli XCX are co-headlining the *Sweat Tour* with special guests Shygirl. The pop music team-up will kick off in September in Detroit with an October show in Dallas.

This is a good year so far for XCX as her *Brat 2024* arena tour in the U.K. was a sellout and now this tour—all before her sixth album release *Brat*. Grammy-nominee and gay-famous pop



Troye Sivan

star Sivan is riding the wave of his strong third release *Something to Give Each Other* which landed on several end-of-year lists in 2023. His single "Rush" garnered him two Grammy noms, and his drag turn in the video for "One of Your Girls" was one of pop music's more exciting moments last year.

The two have worked together on the singles "1999" and "2099."

The tour has one Texas date so far, and that's gonna be Dallas. The two will perform at American Airlines Center on Oct. 9. Presale tickets will be available on April 25 beginning at 10 a.m. General tickets go on sale April 26 at 10 a.m. on [LiveNation.com](http://LiveNation.com).

— Rich Lopez

## Second anti-trans law blocked in one week



Judge Michael Holbrook

For the second time in one week, a judge on Wednesday, April 17, blocked anti-transgender legislation from taking effect. In Ohio on Wednesday, a Republican judge, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Judge Michael Holbrook, issued a temporary restraining order

against HB 68, which makes it illegal to treat transgender minors with puberty blockers, hormone therapy or surgery. Those already receiving treatment would be exempt from the law.

In West Virginia on Tuesday, April 16, a federal appeals court ruled that a law banning trans students from playing on school sports teams aligning with their gender identity was discrimination. This overturned a lower court ruling.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine vetoed HB 64 in December. But the legislature voted to override the veto, and the law was set to take effect on April 24. The ACLU sued on behalf of two transgender teens, arguing the law violates the state constitution's equal protection clause and a rule that prevents a law from covering more than one subject.

In West Virginia, the ACLU, arguing the case there on behalf of Becky Pepper-Jackson, an eighth grader who competed in track, said because she had not undergone male puberty due to use of puberty blockers, she had no physical advantage over other girls. Fourth Circuit Judge Toby Heytens agreed and ruled the law violated Title IX and was sex-based discrimination.

Heytens, a Biden appointee, was joined in

the decision by an Obama appointee. The third judge on the panel, a George W. Bush appointee, agreed with the ruling but disagreed with the Title IX portion.

— David Taffet

## Dallas Wings single game tickets on sale now

Dallas Wings 2024 season single-game tickets are on sale now at DallasWings.com. Those interested in learning more about season ticket memberships can email tickets@dallaswings.com.

In addition to the team's 20 regular-season games, the Wings' May 3 preseason game against the Indiana Fever will be available as part of the on-sale. Season ticket members receive the game free as a benefit.

The Wings announced last week that all courtside seating and season ticket suite inventory is sold out for the 2024 season. A premium seat waitlist was launched following the sellout, should inventory become available. Those interested in joining the priority waitlist can visit Wings.WNBA.com for more information.

— Tammye Nash

## Adoptable / TOOT



Meet **Toot**, a gentle soul with a heart as big as his paws. At 72 pounds and 2 years old, Toot is a mixed breed who is shy at first but, with patience and kindness, will soon become your loyal companion. Toot is currently undergoing treatment for

heartworms, but that doesn't dampen his spirit. In fact, it's a testament to his resilience and strength. As he continues his journey to full health, Toot is seeking a calm and loving home where he can thrive. One of Toot's endearing qualities is his treat motivation. Whether it's a tasty snack or a gentle word of

encouragement, Toot responds eagerly, making training sessions a breeze. His willingness to learn and please makes him an ideal candidate for foster-to-adopt arrangements where he can settle into his forever home at his own pace. He gets along well with other dogs and people, making him a great addition to any family, but it's always best to bring any two- and/or four-legged siblings to a meet and greet prior to adoptions.

Like all pets at the SPCA of Texas, Toot has been neutered and microchipped and has had all his age-appropriate vaccines. He is waiting for his new family at the SPCA of Texas Russell E. Dealey Animal Rescue Center, so you'll need an appointment to meet him. Simply find his profile at SPCA.org/Dogs and click on the "Make an Appointment" button. Throughout the month of April, all puppy adoptions are ½ price and adult dog and adult cat adoptions are only \$25. This special is valid at both the Dallas and Ellis County Animal Care Centers. Animals are available for adoption at both the SPCA Dallas Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive in Dallas, and the Ellis County Animal Care Center, 2570 FM Road 878 in Waxahachie.

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## An investment in our city's future

Vote for the 2024 Dallas bond program to improve quality of life

On Saturday, May 4, Dallas voters will decide on the city's 2024 Bond Program. These 10 propositions, totaling \$1.25B, will address the city's critical infrastructure — investing in the basics without increasing the property tax rate.

These infrastructure projects range from the streets we drive on to the parks and trails we enjoy. They address severe flooding and help fix venues where you experience art. It's the first bond program in seven years, and it will improve the quality of life in our city, keeping Dallas competitive for decades to come.

The 2024 Bond Program propositions are:

- A. Streets and Transportation — \$521.2M
- B. Parks and Recreation — \$345.3M
- C. Storm Drainage — \$52.1M
- D. Library Facilities — \$43.5M
- E. Cultural Facilities — \$75.2M
- F. Public Safety — \$90M
- G. Economic Development — \$72.3M
- H. Housing — \$26.4M
- I. Homeless Solutions — \$19M
- J. Information Technology — \$5M

This was crafted over the course of a year and vetted by the Community Bond Task Force, whose 15 members were appointed by the mayor and city council. Their work over last summer and fall was informed by a group of subcommittees delving into granular details about needs. They took input from city staff and key stakeholders, toured facilities for a first-hand look and heard from hundreds of citizens who came to City Hall to share their priorities and concerns.

It was then fine-tuned by the city council. No one got everything they wanted, but with a \$17B city-wide needs inventory, that wasn't possible. The process was robust, well-informed and transparent.

Some of this helps fulfill and complete master plans. For instance, Prop C continues funding the badly-needed widening of the Mill Creek Drainage Relief



**Chris Heinbaugh**  
Contributing Columnist



**Veletta Forsythe-Lill**  
Contributing Columnist

Tunnel which helps protect Old East Dallas homes and businesses from costly flood damage. The additional libraries in Prop D will complete the long-term strategic plan for the Dallas Library System. Prop B will continue connecting our city's visionary trail system and get us closer to the goal of every Dallas resident being within a 10-minute walk of a park.

This bond program also leverages additional funding resources from county, state and federal sources, as well as private philanthropy. For example, Prop F includes \$50 million to replace our dilapidated police academy with a new \$140 million facility at UNT Dallas. That will tap \$20 million in state funding and another \$70 million in private funding for

a 50/50 public-private match. Prop B includes \$30 million in funding for the Dallas Zoo which will tap \$80 million in private gifts.

Many of these long-term bond propositions address challenges in the short term. A new Police Academy will aid in recruiting the best candidates to be Dallas police officers. Prop G

helps fund critical infrastructure needs to win competitive industrial and commercial projects, especially in areas that have been historically ignored.

For example, economic development bond funds from 2017 funded public infrastructure improvements around Wynnewood Village in Oak Cliff, which then helped secure a badly needed Target store. These funds are intended to win more jobs, attract new residents and expand the tax base, taking the pressure off the rest of us.

Three propositions — G, H and I — contain critical investments to help incentivize and fund programs to address the serious challenges of affordable housing, as well as permanent supportive and

short-term housing for the homeless.

And as passionate arts advocates, we both deeply care about Prop E, which will provide \$75.2 million for repairs, updates and major maintenance — some deferred for decades — at 15 city-owned cultural facilities. All are heavily used by numerous arts organizations and artists and help generate an annual economic impact of \$853 million a year, support 14,000 jobs, attract corporate relocations and boost cultural tourism.

In 2022, arts and culture programs in Dallas attracted 6.8 million visitors, 2.6 million of them coming from outside Dallas and spending their money here. To continue getting this return on investment, we must care for these treasures: neighborhood cultural centers, historic century-old venues, and iconic structures in the Dallas Arts District, which USA Today readers just voted Best Arts District in the nation. It's all the basics — HVAC, roofs, elevators, fire suppression, water infiltration, electrical panels and more — nothing shiny and new, just taking care of what we've got.

For a detailed spreadsheet of everything in the bond program, go to the Propositions page at TogetherForDallas.com and use the link to City Hall. Election day is Saturday, May 4. Early voting is April 22-30.

Successful bond programs signal the optimism Dallas feels about its future. We are making long-term investments in critical infrastructure that can't normally be funded through the General Fund. And we can achieve all this with no new taxes. Please join us in voting FOR all ten of the 2024 bond propositions. ■

*Chris Heinbaugh is the chief advocacy officer with the AT&T Performing Arts Center. A longtime journalist who moved to Dallas in 2000 to cover politics for WFAA-TV, he left journalism to serve as chief of staff to former Mayor Tom Leppert. Veletta Lill served on the Dallas City Council from 1997-2005. She is the former executive director of the Dallas Arts District and has served in numerous capacities for numerous community organizations.*



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# CfA holds seminar, resource fair

## PLANNING AHEAD

Speakers, businesses, organizations will speak to seniors on legal and financial strategies

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

A panel of speakers will address issues including estate planning and more at Senior Source on Saturday, April 20. Businesses and organizations will also be available in a program put together by Coalition for Aging LGBT. Speakers include attorneys Derek Mergele-Rust, Jaime Duggan and Morgan Darling, and M. Angel Irvin of Irvin Insurance and Financial Services.

Shelly Skeen, Lambda Legal's South Central regional director, was scheduled to speak but has been called out of town on business. She encouraged older LGBTQ individuals to attend, noting how important it is for older LGBTQ adults to take the time to execute an estate plan and write advance directives to protect themselves and their families.

While we heard lots of stories during the AIDS crisis about families coming in and taking homes from a partner, Skeen said, that sort of thing still happens. "I received a call during COVID," she said. "Two women had been together 30 years," and when one of the women was in the hospital, her sister came in and tried to exclude her partner and kids.

"They had bank accounts together, lived together but had not legally married," Skeen said; however, their relationship qualified as a common-law marriage. So Skeen contacted the hospital and got her wife and children in to see her just days before she died.

Had the proper paperwork already been in place, whether the women were legally married or not, the hospital would have granted the family access to their loved one.

Rust said he's brushing up on legal

cases in advance of the summit, looking at "the challenges and pitfalls of some of the legislation that passed and how LGBT people can protect themselves from those."

He plans to address what documents are needed and why those documents are especially important to seniors in the LGBTQ community.

"Documents will override state law," he said.



coalition  
for aging **lgbt**

marriage status in Texas affects eligibility.

Event organizer Rob-



Angel Irvin



Derek Mergele-Rust



Jaime Duggan



Morgan Darling

Once you've designated a guardian and your decision has been witnessed by people testifying to your competence to choose, a court can't easily question your choice. If a judge is hostile to your being transgender, he doesn't have the power to overturn your choices, Rust

explained.

"The court will look to documents" as a first choice and then for back up as well as a list of "these are the people you may not appoint."

Rust said he's also planning to address social security issues, such as whether LGBTQ couples are eligible for benefits and how common-law or informal mar-

riages status in Texas affects eligibility.

riage status in Texas affects eligibility.

Event organizer Robert Emery added to Rust's comments, saying, "Legal documents are our best protection that will survive any challenge to marriage equality."

Emery was particularly enthusiastic about having participants engage with the representatives of a variety of organizations that will be on hand. The VA Hospital, for example, is the only hospital in Dallas that has received a score of 100 percent in every Human Right Campaign Hospital Index.

Despite "all the nonsense around don't ask, don't tell," Emery said, the VA does quality transition care. "The Alzheimers Association will be there with lots to share about their caregiving programs," Emery continued. And Steven Graves with Medicare4USA.com will be available to answer Medicare questions or at least point you in the right direction.

Coalition for Aging LGBT has been working with senior living facilities to assist in making those facilities as safe and welcoming to LGBTQ seniors as possible. Representatives of The Landon of Lake Highlands and C.C. Young will attend. While Emery said a number of facilities in North Texas are very welcoming, the two attending are outstanding in their welcome and offering of activities.

The city of Dallas Office of Community Care will be present to discuss the city's "social, human and supportive services" for seniors to "improve their quality and standard of living."

Realtor Scott Carnes will be available to offer his services to anyone interested in upsizing or downsizing their living arrangements, and a representative from Edward Jones will offer financial management advice. Texas Instruments, which Emery described as a big supporter of CfA since the beginning, will have a table. Your Nurse Advocates will also be there with information on their health-care options.

And The Dallas Way will explain how you can become involved in its mission to collect and preserve the history of the LGBTQ community in North Texas.

And the venue: Senior Source wants you to think of them as a resource for the LGBTQ community, Emery said.

"Senior Source wants to be available for us," he said. "They've been our partner for nine years."

April 20 from 9 a.m.-noon. The event is free but you may register at [tinyurl.com/3tzkfxd9](http://tinyurl.com/3tzkfxd9). Senior Source is located at 3910 Harry Hines Blvd.



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HOME AND GARDEN



16th annual White Rock Home Tour, April 20-21, includes gay couple's home

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**K**evin and John share a home in the Lake Highlands section of Dallas that has been in Kevin's family since his grandparents built it in 1955. His mother lived in the house for a number of years and, for the last six years, he has shared the sprawling ranch-style home with his husband John.

For much of the time Kevin and John have occupied the house, it's been under construction. And it's still not finished. Yet the home, with its beautiful renovations and expansion, has been chosen to be part of this year's White Rock Tour of



Homes to be held this weekend.

The 16th annual home tour will be held on April 20 and 21 from noon to 5 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 during the weekend and

are available at WRHomeTour.com. All money collected goes to DISD's Hexter Elementary.

John and Kevin expanded their house to include a new master suite and office.

In an area that used to include a kitchen and the old master bedroom, walls were removed to create an open kitchen area and a great room.

"We expanded our living space where we spend time," they said.

Sitting on more than an acre of land, the newly expanded house doesn't overpower the property like so many East Dallas McMansions do. Instead, it gracefully compliments the contours of the land.

As they planned the expansion, the men "respected the architecture and history of the house," John said.

He explained that the mid-century home was built during an era of larger windows, minimal trim and generous interior use of brick. Those features were carried through into the expanded master suite. Although smaller closets were a feature of that era's houses, the new master closet they describe as "really large."

The kitchen appliances are new but respect the design of the era.



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Derek Mergele-Rust  
Founding Partner  
DebnamRust, P.C.



Jaime Duggan  
Attorney of  
Duggan & Associates, PLLC



M. Angel Irvin  
Irvin Insurance &  
Financial Services



Morgan Darling  
Attorney of  
Burch Law

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- Edwards Jones ■ Medicare4USA.com ■ City of Dallas Office of Community Care

# Mercury **rising**

## HOME AND GARDEN

Have you met the trans handyerson Mercury Stardust making a splash on socials?

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer  
rich@dallasvoice.com

**W**hen you need a handyerson, who you gonna call? Well, she may not be close by, but Mercury Stardust is willing to help by way of her socials. Stardust is the Trans Handy Ma'am of TikTok, Instagram and Patreon fame, as well as an author, speaker, educator and advocate.

Via her socials and website, Stardust offers lessons to her followers about home maintenance, DIY projects and even tool recommendations, all knowledge gleaned from her 17 years of doing the work. Among her topics have been drywall repair, replacing an outlet and fixing garbage disposals. Alongside her expertise, Stardust also drops knowledge on her life story and her trans advocacy.

Stardust grew up in rural Wisconsin where she embraced her authentic self by way of burlesque. As she found her own truth, she hopes her story connects with queer youth.

Along with her own story resonating with the community across social media, Stardust also hosts her annual TikTok-a-Thon for Trans Healthcare for Point of Pride. Earlier this month, Stardust posted that her efforts were able to raise \$2 million for the organization and vowed to do the 'thon every March 31 on Trans Day of Visibility.

She also wrote the book *Safe and Sound: A Renter-Friendly Guide to Home Repair*. In it, she empowers her readers to tackle projects that won't piss off the landlord, offering up more than 50 simple tips on various projects. The book covers basic knowledge on plumbing, electrical work and carpentry



Mercury Stardust, The Trans Handy Ma'am (Photo via MercuryStardust.com)

that could be of use for any type of homeowner. As a bonus, the book also gives illustrations and QR codes for video instruction.

On YouTube, Stardust answers questions on the podcast *Maintenance is a Drag* which also features a guest queen in every episode.

In short, Stardust is a force to be reckoned with. But for this Home and Garden Issue, we grabbed some of her tips from Instagram that now we just can't live without.

Her entire feed does not rest on home repair. She talks a lot about her advocacy, transphobia, remixes of other home repair videos and more. But we're here

for tips, and her instructions are easy-to-follow with a friendly and funny demeanor. And she knows we can do it, and if we can't, she offers her words of encouragement.

"And remember, you are worth the time it takes to learn a new skill," she says. Mercury! Thanks!

### • **How to hang a mirror on a wall, Nov. 2022**

This always seems like it should be an easy task. But Stardust has tips on how to get it right every time.

"This will work on plaster and lathe and drywall. This also works on pictures, but for shelves and TVs, I recom-

mend always finding at least one stud."

### • **Cabinet repair, March 2024**

Stardust talks about those pesky cabinet doors that are hanging on for dear life. Instead of installing a whole new door, she shows you how to fix the existing door with a repair plate.

### • **Preparing for a road trip, June 2022**

You may just fill up the tank and check the tires, but Stardust gives a quick checklist of what to look for under the hood before hitting the road. No worries about lifting it up only to stand there looking confused. Stardust does it all in a fabulous red dress as well.

### • **Loose doorknobs, Oct. 2023**

With just two items, Stardust shows how easy it is to fix those wobbly door knobs. More importantly,

she stresses that if something doesn't work right, we don't have to just put up with it.

### • **Low water pressure, Aug. 2022**

What's more annoying than the sink not pushing out enough water? DIY plumbing is scary. But Stardust tells us what makes that happen and the simple solution to getting a healthy stream in no time.

### • **Other questions?**

She'll even offer help with your questions via her site. Just call or text her Handy Ma'am Hotline at 608-205-8768 with your maintenance questions. ■

Learn all about the Trans Handy Ma'am at [Linktr.ee/MercuryStardust](https://linktr.ee/MercuryStardust).

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# Parkland

# Tree knowledge

## HOME AND GARDEN

Need to hire an arborist? Just be sure — about everything

TARA MCCAIN | Urban Forestry Coordinator

**W**ith spring now upon us, property owners can find themselves in need of tree maintenance.

But many are unsure how to accomplish this. Sometimes trees may be dying, or maybe they look a little different from before. Texas Trees Foundation recommends several steps for property owners before selecting an arborist and has released a set of commonly asked questions to help with this process.

**First, what is the Texas Trees Foundation?** This organization has served as a catalyst in creating a reimagined green legacy for North Texas and this year is celebrating 40 years of addressing urban forestry issues in Dallas.

Scientific research has led to Texas Trees Foundation's vision of transforming outdoor spaces into greener, cleaner, cooler and healthier communities while also educating the public on the social, economic, environmental and health benefits that trees provide.

**What does an arborist do?** Also known as "tree surgeons," arborists are dedicated to the practice of arboriculture — the cultivation, management and study of individual trees, shrubs, vines and other perennial woody plants.

**What services does an arborist provide?** Arborists focus on proper tree pruning to improve or maintain the health of a tree and improve structure and on removal of dead limbs within the canopy to improve safety. They also determine whether or not a tree needs to be removed and do emergency work and assessments, such as assessing and addressing tree damage after a storm.

Arborists also advise on when/where/how to plant a tree, or what kind of tree to plant. Some arborists work for companies that will acquire trees and plant for you.

**Overall plant health care services.** After an arborist assesses your trees, they can recommend many kinds of services such as fertilization, soil decompaction, spraying/injecting for insects and diseases, etc.

**When should I contact an arborist?** Contact an arborist if you see the tips of branches throughout the canopy of your tree dying back; if you see the leaves of your tree changing color when they should not or if they look patchy; if an event happens that damages your tree, whether it be weather or mechanical.

Other times you should contact an arborist are if you are having any kind of construction happening on your property near your tree or trees; if you are concerned about watering your tree too much or too little (watering needs vary throughout the year); if you have any questions about properly mulching your tree; if you see strange insects or caterpillars on your tree (Beetles like to drill holes into the trunk of the tree and cause damage within, and caterpillars like to eat the leaves in the canopy and can defoliate a tree quickly); if you see any kind of fungus growing on your tree; if there is any obvious decay within a tree and/or you are worried about it falling; if you are concerned about limbs hanging over your house, or growing into power lines that cross your property.

**How do I hire an arborist?** Look for membership in a professional organization such as the International Society of Arboriculture, the Tree Care Industry Association or the American Society of Consulting Arborists. You can begin by visiting ISATexas.com to find a certified arborist near you.

To verify if the arborist has an ISA Certified Arborist credential, check TreesAreGood.org and use its arborist search tool.

From then on, it's time for due diligence. Ask for proof of insurance (liability and workman's compensation) and the phone number of the insurance company if you are not satisfied. Ask for references to find out where the company has done work similar to the work you are requesting.



Unless you know and are comfortable with the arborist, get more than one estimate. Be wary of individuals who go door-to-door and offer bargains for performing tree work. Good arborists will only perform accepted practices. For example, practices such as topping a tree or using climbing spikes on live trees are not necessary.

Don't just accept the low bid. Compare all the above to the bids.

**What are the different types of arborists?** Board certified master arborists are recognized by their peers and the public as having reached the highest level of certification offered by ISA. Hiring a BCMA provides tree owners and government decision makers the opportunity to become better informed about proper tree care and their selection of services based on the expertise represented by the credential.

Municipal arborists manage publicly-owned trees in cities and towns and are usually employed by cities, counties, or another public agency.

Commercial arborists either own or work for businesses that provide tree care on a fee basis. They can be hired to do work for individuals or public agencies.

Utility arborists manage trees along utility rights-of-way. They can be employed by the utility or contracted to do tree clearance.

Arboricultural consultants are technical experts who diagnose tree problems, do tree appraisals, and provide management programs for individuals, businesses, or public agencies. ■

For more information, visit [TexasTrees.org](http://TexasTrees.org).



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 **DALLAS**



# RENOVATED , From Page 10

## The homes of the 16th Annual White Rock Home Tour

### BISCAYNE

Photography by Hunter Photographic  
Sponsored by Reside Builders

We are excited to share this vibrant and generous contemporary, architect-designed home in Old Lake Highlands near Hexter Elementary. Architect Robert Croysdale sensitively sited this new home to maximize the use of beneficial natural light to minimize energy usage (daylighting) and to engage the outdoor spaces created by the home's C-shaped floor plan. Inspired by the principles of the sustainable building industry, the architect utilized additional ceiling and wall insulation, efficient HVAC design, and low water and energy use fixtures, appliances, and landscape design to reduce the home's operating cost and environmental impact.

### CAROLYN CREST

Photography by Stephen Karlisch  
Sponsored by Bonick Landscaping

When you learn this new Lakewood home was designed around the love for an existing

mature live oak tree by a vibrant family with architect Bentley Tibbs, now with Abeyta Tibbs Architecture, and interior designer Alice Cottrell, you may instantly imagine a place like a retreat that is soulful and sensual, modern but textural — and you would be right. Tibbs, who perceives natural light as a building material, consciously weaves connections to the site through the continuity of building materials from the exterior to the interior and framed views into the surrounding gardens by Bonick Landscaping. We cannot wait for you to experience this harmonious collaboration of creativity and vision.

### HAMBRICK

Photography by Hunter Photographic  
Sponsored by Jennifer Rice, Compass,  
Heather Guild Group

Dedicated WRHT patrons and former Hexter parents, this passionate, artistic family dreamed up a renovation and addition that would keep the character of their beloved original 1951 cottage while adding a series of well-designed modern elements that embrace natural light and contemporary craft and detailing. Combined with the vision of the designer and builder, the product is alluring and unique, human in scale, sensitive to place and considered in every way.



Hambrick



Rolling Rock House

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Carolyn Crest



Biscayne



Wyatt Circle House

#### LANETT CIRCLE

Photography by Hunter Photographic  
Sponsored by David Collier Realty Group

It should come as no surprise that the Mediterranean Gardens Women's Club has hosted their annual July 4th potluck and parade on the picturesque front lawn of this wonderful storybook ranch for several generations. Built in 1955, this charming home was recently renovated and imaginatively expanded by the third generation of the original homeowners. The new addition was carefully woven into the existing home, repeating the unique characteristics of the original dramatic roof and hand-carved eave braces while transitioning into expansive glass walls which deepen the experience of the spacious site. Rich in history, story and mystery, this home is not to be missed.

#### ROLLING ROCK

Photography by Hunter Photographic  
Sponsored by Lemmons Remodeling

A pure example of everything we admire in MCMs, you will fall in love with this thoughtfully restored, exuberant modern home built 1957. As part of the Lakeland Hills section of Highland Meadows, these homes were originally advertised as "expressions of for-

ward thinking" equipped with "revolutionary Frigidaire" appliances and air conditioning systems.

This home lives up to this sense of optimism for the future through the celebration of technology and design, through the articulation of structure and space, through Architecture — the house seems to say, "Look what I can do!" Notice the clarity and consistency of the structural system, in its massing and detail, continuous from the exterior through the interior of the home. And lucky for us, these wonderful homeowners have continued the celebration through creative projects that further deepen a special sense of place.

#### WYATT CIRCLE

Photography by Hunter Photographic  
Sponsored by Ed Murchison, Realtor

We are excited to share this impressive home with you on the tour this year. Not only is it designed by a WRHT favorite, architect Cliff Welch, it is masterfully placed on a spectacular site to maximize breathtaking views only visible from the home's interior. Characteristic of Welch's work, the home is expertly detailed and flawlessly executed. Be prepared to be inspired.

RENOVATED, Page 25

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# In the shadow of SB 14

## LGBTQ HEALTH

Texas law banning gender-affirming care for trans youth harms children, families and trans adults

**CAROLINE SAVOIE** | Contributing Writer  
CaroSavoWrites@gmail.com

**T**ina Biffle started P.L.A.C., the Parker County LGBTQ+ Awareness Community, in Weatherford in 2019. In 2023, Republican lawmakers passed Senate Bill 14 restricting doctors in Texas from giving minors puberty blockers and hormone therapy to treat gender dysphoria, the dissonance some people feel between their sex assigned at birth and their gender identity.

Under the law, doctors who provide puberty blockers or hormone therapy to minors to treat gender dysphoria can have their medical licenses revoked. The law also prohibits health insurance plans from covering these treatments for gender dysphoria.

Biffle said she's worked with many young people who experience gender dysphoria. She said that, with SB 14 now on the books as law, she fears for their lives.

"We've seen a rise in suicide attempts and self-harm [since the bill passed] because these kids are not being allowed to continue the health care they once had," Biffle said. "Especially those in poverty who are on Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program. Where they were once able to afford therapy, they don't have access to that anymore."

She's also talked with parents of transgender children, noting that, "In our community, parents of trans teens are very scared their kids won't make it to adulthood, just based on these bills and the fear-mongering against the trans community."

So, Biffle said, parents are taking matters into their own hands when it comes to receiving care for their children.



"We're seeing an uptick of parents reaching out to find other avenues to support their children because medical avenues aren't able to progress in Texas," she explained, adding that she knows parents who are finding support groups, homeschooling their children and even moving out of state to seek gender dysphoria health care.

Bri Flowers, a transgender psychiatric nurse practitioner at Flowers Family Psychiatry, said she provides therapy and prescribes medication treatments for other transgender people. But, she added, "I have many clients who have not been able to access treatment. I also have many clients who were previously receiving treatment who are not able to anymore."

She said some of her patients are making "escape plans" to properly care for themselves or their children.

"I was working with a family who had a trans child, and they made the decision to leave the country," Flowers said. "The problem isn't just in Texas; It's all over the [United] States."

Thanks to SB 14, Texas is now one of 23 states that restrict some form of gender-affirming care for transgender people under 18. Other states, like California and New York, have passed laws protecting access to care.

Flowers said that in West Virginia, the legislature is targeting therapists, psychiatrists and psychologists who treat transgender people. In South Carolina, a bill proposed in January would ban

mental healthcare for transgender youth under 18 years old.

"The only thing that's really gonna do anything about it is sweeping federal legislation," Flowers said. "This is not isolated; it is widespread. A lot of my patients are correct in their fears that if things don't go their way in November, this is all going to get a lot worse."

P.L.A.C. offers a service called Transformation Station, a shop that helps people who are transitioning find clothing that fits their gender expression. It was "born out of a growing need for LGBTQ-inclusionary clothing," Biffle explained. "We don't cater to children, and we only offer adult clothing. But we do see teenagers come in on occasion."

Biffle said she's watched her daugh-

ter's transgender friends struggle to feel safe in their own bodies. She said she researched puberty blockers, among the medical treatments banned by SB 14, and has found them to be a safe alternative to struggling with gender dysphoria.

"They don't hurt you; they just delay puberty," Biffle said. "Puberty starts when you get off of them. After therapy, it's the safest option for trans children. And years of therapy have to happen before you work up to puberty blockers."

But, Flowers said, while hormone replacement therapy and puberty blockers are both incredibly important, the first place patients receive gender-affirming care is in a therapist's office. "No one in Texas has written legislation targeting that, but I don't think it's far-fetched to think that may happen," she warned.

In January, the Texas Supreme Court heard a case, *Loe v. Texas*, in which a group of parents argued the new law violates their parental rights by stopping them from providing medical care for their children. They also argue it discriminates against transgender children on the basis of sex.

"I absolutely think a parent has every right to choose what their child needs," Biffle said. "Just as parents are arguing that they have the right to choose what school their child goes to, they also get to choose their child's healthcare."

She said that she believes that children who are emancipated from their parents have the right to choose what happens to their body as well: "If they have the rights of an adult, they have the right to choose to care for themselves as well."

In court, lawmakers argued that this ban would protect children from undue medical procedures.

But, Biffle said, "Parents are constantly trying to protect their children. And treatments like puberty blockers, talk therapy and, later on, hormone treatments, help those children stay alive.

"Hell would freeze over before a parent lets their child suffer through a life-threatening condition without seeking help."

She also noted that transgender humans make up 0.6 percent of the population. According to a 2022 study by



Bri Flowers

SB 14, Next Page



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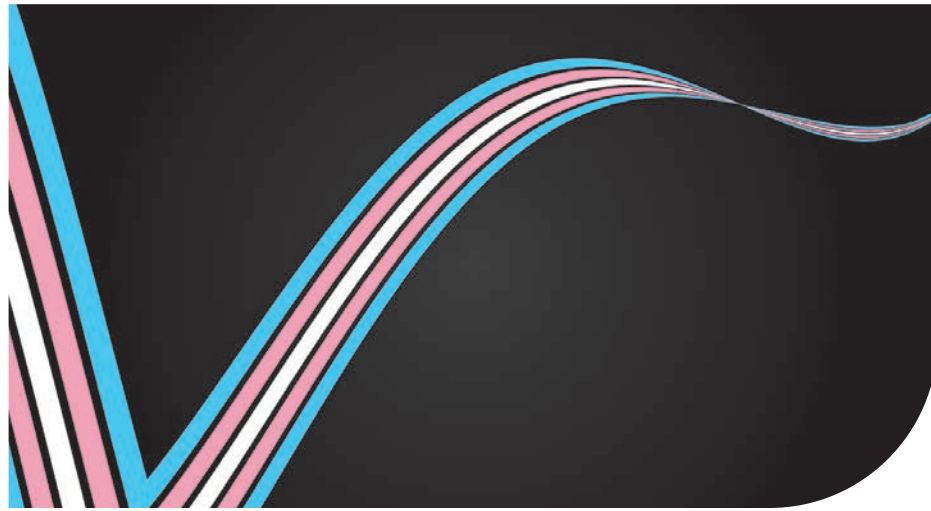
the Williams Institute, 1.4 percent of the transgender population were between 13 and 17 years old. That means that there are roughly 300,000 children suffering from gender dysphoria in the United States.

"It's not like throngs of people are making these decisions for their children," Biffle said.

Flowers argued that the parental rights argument is a red herring rooted in hypocrisy. "The legislature will defend those parents as long as the parents align with their point of view," she said. "They say, 'You can do whatever you want with your kids' healthcare — unless we don't agree with it.'"

"It doesn't really matter what parents want, it's what the people in power want. What they don't like, they'll criminalize."

Flowers said rhetoric around SB 14 is deterring trans adults from medically transitioning, as well. She said it's affecting adults who thought gender-affirming care was no longer legal in Texas for



them, either.

"I have people who are deciding if they want to medically transition who are waiting until after the 2024 election, people who are thinking it will get worse before it gets better," Flowers said. "Legislation has been targeting the youth, but the rhetoric has been bleeding into the entire trans community overall."

While Prism Health North Texas never offered transitioning services to minors,

the organization does offer assistance to adults living with gender dysphoria in Texas. PHNTX's website says that the organization is dedicated to providing a safe space for transgender health care needs, as long as the patients are at least 18 years old.

The organization offers hormone therapy, PrEP, routine wellness exams, behavioral health counseling, medical support letters for name and gender change,

HIV/STI testing and treatment, cervical and anal pap smears and approvals, and referrals for gender-affirming surgery.

"If you are 18-years-old or older, planning on transitioning, or have already begun your transition journey, we have the right health care services for you," the site reads.

The organization is also catering to those who don't have the proper insurance coverage: "Insurance is accepted, and some services can be provided at little to no cost. Whether you are under-insured, have low income or simply cannot pay, you will not be turned away. Our access to financial aid programs will help you afford the care you need."

As the 2024 elections loom ever closer, both Flowers and Biffle said they're anxious about laws that will be drawn up and passed to further oppress the LGBTQ community. "With how the legislature's rhetoric is trending, this year is going to be even worse than last year," Flowers said. "I'm not looking forward to it."

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# Auto-matic

## BEYOND THE PAGE

Author and social media influencer Mechanic Shop Femme is coming to Dallas

MELISSA WHITLER | Dallas Voice Fellow  
melissa@dallasvoice.com

**C**haya Milchtein, known online as Mechanic Shop Femme, is going on tour across the country to promote her new guide on car ownership — except, instead of hitting the bookstores, Milchtein will be visiting LGBTQ-, PoC-, and women-owned mechanic shops. She'll be here in North Dallas at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 25,

at Kwik Kar Marsh, 1049 Marsh Lane in Carrollton.

With the automotive industry historically exclusionary to women and queer folks, Chaya Milchtein is working to make it more open and approachable. Her work as a journalist made it natural for her to transfer her knowledge and experience to a book written, as she says, for everyone.

"This book was written with every car owner in mind," Milchtein said. "Even people who have been driving for a long time can learn something."

The guide covers everything from the process of buying a car to maintenance and repairs, accompanied by data and real-life stories. The book tour was arranged by Milchtein herself with the goal of introducing local followers to a queer-affirming repair shop. And as it



McKenna Patterson Photography

happens, April is National Car Month, the perfect time to offer this kind of education and resources.

Finding a mechanic shop can be intimidating, especially for LGBTQ folks. With this event, people can be introduced to a place where they will be respected and where they can support a locally-owned business.

Kwik Kar Marsh is independently owned and operated by Corrine Hudson who immigrated from Madagascar when she was only 14 years old and went on to pursue a career in mechanical engineering. After tiring of working for a thankless corporation, Hudson invested her entire retirement savings into opening this shop. Designed with inclusivity and integrity in mind, Kwik Kar Marsh is a great option for LGBTQ folks looking for a mechanic shop.

Milchtein knows firsthand the struggle of being a queer, plus-sized woman

**AUTO-MATIC**, Page 25



**Ismail Boodhwani**  
MSN, APRN, FNP-C

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# NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dallas, Texas has called a bond election to be held within the City of Dallas, Texas on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION A

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$521,200,000 general obligation bonds for street and transportation improvements and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$726,415,188.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION B

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$345,270,000 general obligation bonds for parks and recreation facilities and improvements and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$481,211,813.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION C

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$52,100,000 general obligation bonds for flood protection and storm drainage improvements and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$72,606,125.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION D

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$43,530,000 general obligation bonds for library facilities and improvements and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$60,664,313.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION E

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$75,200,000 general obligation bonds for cultural and performing arts facilities and improvements and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$104,801,750.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION F

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$90,000,000 general obligation bonds for public safety facilities and improvements and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$125,429,625.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION G

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$72,300,000 general obligation bonds for funding the city's economic development programs and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$115,948,538.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION H

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$26,400,000 general obligation bonds for housing and neighborhood infrastructure and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$42,334,113.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION I

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$19,000,000 general obligation bonds for permanent, supportive and short-term housing facilities for the homeless and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$26,481,250.

## CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION J

- **FOR**
- **AGAINST**

The issuance of \$5,000,000 general obligation bonds for improvements to the information technology facilities and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$6,960,875.

## EARLY VOTING DATES AND TIMES FOR THE JOINT ELECTION\*

**April 22-26, 2024**

Monday – Friday: 8 am to 5 pm

**April 27, 2024**

Saturday: 7 am to 7 pm

**April 28, 2024**

Sunday: 12 pm to 6 pm

**April 29-30, 2024**

Monday – Tuesday: 7 am to 7 pm

**Dallas County Early voting and Election Day locations:**

<https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/early-voting/>

<https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/election-day/>

**Collin County Early voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:**

Elections: Polling Locations ([collincountytx.gov](http://collincountytx.gov))

Elections: Polling Locations ([collincountytx.gov](http://collincountytx.gov))

**Denton County Early voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:**

0524\_EV\_Locations.pdf ([votedenton.gov](http://votedenton.gov))

0524-Election-Day-Locations.pdf ([votedenton.gov](http://votedenton.gov))

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE:**

**Biliera Johnson (214) 670-5654 or Miroslava Martinez (214) 670-3809**





## AUTO-MATIC, From Page 23

working in the automotive industry. She has been openly queer from the first shop she walked into and acknowledges that it made her journey more complicated.

"From the very beginning it felt worth it to me to bring my full self, even though it is a very conservative industry," Milchtein said. She emphasized that mechanics don't just deal with their colleagues but the general public as well.

After dealing with rude customers and inappropriate bosses, Milchtein decided to work for herself full time. "I'm okay if I'm not for everybody, if who I am and how I bring myself puts off certain people," Milchtein said. "Now I'm able to choose the work I do, and the people who are prejudiced against me are just going to miss out."

Despite this hardship, Milchtein has forged her own path as Mechanic Shop Femme. In addition to her educational content on social media, she also offers online classes and public workshops. Her focus is empowerment through education so that people are met with dig-

nity and respect.

And after a decade doing this work, Milchtein has seen changes. "What keeps me going is the positive stories I hear from people I've helped, and the support I receive online," she said.

Don't miss out on your chance to meet Chaya Milchtein at her book tour stop in Dallas. Tickets are \$5, and proceeds will go toward the Jill Trotta Scholarship, a fund established by Milchtein in honor of her mentor, a queer woman and master mechanic. The scholarship will provide funds to women and queer people wanting to enter the automotive industry.

Milchtein described her goal as "making life easier for the next generation." As someone who knows what it's like to be in need, Chaya Milchtein is doing the work to make the automotive industry more inclusive and accessible for those historically left out. ■

For more information about the tour or her book, visit [MechanicShopFemme.com/etn/Kwik-Kar-Lube-and-Auto-Repair-Carroll-ton-tx/](http://MechanicShopFemme.com/etn/Kwik-Kar-Lube-and-Auto-Repair-Carroll-ton-tx/).



## RENOVATED, From Page 17



"When we incorporated the old master suite into the kitchen, we took down a wall, added counter space and seating in the great room," John said.

And, he said, they used and reclaimed as much of the old materials as possible.

What was a three bedroom, 2½ bathroom house has become a three bedroom, 3½ bathroom house. While larger, the space doesn't overwhelm.

Along with indoor expansion, outside they added what they call a cocktail pool. The 50-by-30-foot pool is only 4½ feet deep. In the lovely space around the pool, they recently hosted a party for 75 people.

For the home tour, docents will be located around the house, pointing out

design features and giving directions. Does that make the home feel more like a museum?

"We want it to feel like it's a space that's lived in, not a museum," Kevin said.

John jokingly said he expects the experience of opening their home to be more like, "300 queens coming through your house, judging."

The White Rock Home Tour includes six homes. Participants can start at any of the houses. Addresses are included with purchase of tickets. You may visit each home only once, and tickets will be collected at the door to each house. ■

White Rock Home Tour. April 20-21 from noon-5 p.m. \$25/\$30. [WRHomeTour.com](http://WRHomeTour.com).

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# LGBTQ history, in verse

## ON THE PAGE

### 9 LGBTQ-inclusive kids' books for National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month, and these recent books in verse for young readers prove that LGBTQ-inclusive titles can be as beautiful and powerful as any today. The first three are picture books; the rest are middle grade and up.

*Queer and Fearless: Poems Celebrating the Lives of LGBTQ+ Heroes*, by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Harry Woodgate (Penguin), offers biographical portraits of 17 historical and contemporary LGBTQ political and social activists. Sanders carefully matches various poetic forms with



**Dana Rudolph**  
Contributing Columnist

his subjects, for example, deploying the march-like beat of rhyming couplets for the poem about Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1963 March on Washington. A few paragraphs of prose on each figure add informational substance to the emotional connections that the poems create.

*Jimmy's Rhythm & Blues: The Extraor-*

*dinary Life of James Baldwin*, by Michelle Meadows, illustrated by Jamiel Law (HarperCollins), is a lyrical biography of Baldwin, capturing something of the rhythm of his work in its blank verse and honoring both his Black and gay identities. Law's warm, evocative illustrations are the perfect complement to Meadows' words.

*Can We Please Give the Police Department to the Grandmothers?* by Junauda Petrus, illustrated by Kristen Uroda (Dutton), began as a viral poem that Petrus performed after the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. In it, she envisions a world remade, with police salaries given to grandmothers who cruise the streets in "badass" vintage automobiles, blaring "old-school jams" and offering help and hope. Two

of the "grandmas" are depicted with beards, though their exact identities are unstated. This is a joyous and empowering imagining of a future that could be.

*The Song of Us*, by Kate Fussner (Katherine Tegen Books), is a loose retelling of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, made modern and queer in this novel in verse. Seventh-grader Olivia is a poet, and when new girl and musician Eden shows up to the Poetry Club one day, it's love at first sight. Through alternating poems in each girl's voice, across a variety of poetic forms, we move from love to its broken aftermath, and then to Olivia's plan to win Eden back through the power of poetry. Fussner delves into first love, social pressures, family relationships and coming of age, giving us poetry as passion, action and emotion.

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*Dear Mothman*, by Robin Gow (Amulet Books), is an elegantly crafted novel in verse about an autistic, transgender boy moving through grief to find belonging. Sixth-grader Noah's friend Lewis, the only other trans boy in school, has died in a car accident. Noah begins writing letters to Mothman, Lewis's favorite cryptid, sharing his feelings of grief with a creature who is as misunderstood as Noah himself. Gradually, Noah makes friends with a small group of fellow outsiders and even develops a first crush. But will this help him as he is pulled towards following where Mothman may lead? Gow plumbs Noah's thoughts with perception, sensitivity, and sometimes brilliant turns of phrase.

*Blood Brothers*, by Rob Sanders (Reycraft), is a powerful novel in verse set during the AIDS crisis of the 1980s. Protagonist Calvin and his two brothers have hemophilia and contract AIDS from transfusions meant to help them. When others in their small Florida community find out, the boys are banned from school, scouts and their church, while their single mom fights to protect them.



None of them appear queer, but there are hints that their teacher is — and the topic is clearly intertwined with the homophobia of the era. Inspired by the real stories of Ryan White and the Ray brothers, but fictionalized to dramatic effect, this is a tale of bias and narrow-mindedness but also of love, resilience and the power of allies.

*The Lonely Book*, by Meg Grehan (Little Island Books), is the story of a two-mom family, their magical bookshop and one of their children who comes out as nonbinary, told through the eyes of the child's sibling. The story conveys gentle messages about learning to be comfortable in ourselves and helping others do the same; navigating change; the power of families and the importance of books where people can both see themselves and learn about others.


*Always Matt*, by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Brian Britigan (Abrams Comicarts), is a moving exploration of the life and legacy of Matthew Shepard, the young man murdered in 1998 because he was gay.

Newman, author of *Heather Has Two Mommies* and more than 80 other books, reflected on Shepard's death in her 2012 October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard, which won a Stonewall Honor. Here, she focuses on his life, painting a poignant portrait in free verse. Despite being fully (and beautifully) illustrated, the subject matter and length (nearly 60 pages,


plus an epilogue) gear this towards older children. The publisher's target is ages 14 and up, though I think older middle schoolers may also find value in it. Adults as always should assess based on the specific young people in their lives.

*Becoming Billie Holiday*, by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Floyd Cooper (Wordsong), is a series of first-person poems with lightly fictionalized vignettes from the life of Eleanor Fagan, whom the world knew as Billie Holiday. The verses take us from her birth through her performance of "Strange Fruit" at age 25. One poem clearly acknowledges her bisexuality; others show the hardships of her early life, including her rape by a neighbor. While these topics place it at the upper end of the middle-grade range, it is powerful and insightful and won a Coretta Scott King Author Honor. ■

*Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, plus a searchable database of 1,500+ LGBTQ family books.*



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# PLAN YOUR WEEK - The Gay Agenda... Our LGBTQ community calendar!



HRC DFW and Dr. Jon Vogel host the April HRC Social Friday, April 19 at The Pool Club at the Virgin Hotel — Dallas. Everyone attending gets a raffle ticket for a chance to win two tickets to the Virgin Hotel's Drag Brunch. See listings for details.

- Red for community events
- Blue for arts and entertainment
- Purple for sports
- Green for nightlife
- Orange for civic events and holidays

## ■ Weekly: Frontrunners

Running club for the LGBTQ community and allies of DFW. Meet at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays at the corner of Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard in Turtle Creek Park for a one-hour walk/run on the Katy Trail.

## APRIL

### ■ April 19: HRC DFW Social

HRC DFW and Dr. Jon Vogel host the April HRC Social at The Pool Club @ The Virgin Hotel — Dallas, 1445 Turtle Creek Blvd. Event is 6-8 p.m., and each guest receives one raffle ticket for a chance to win two tickets to Virgin Hotel's Drag Brunch on the first and third Sundays at The Manor. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/hrcdfwaprilsocial](http://tinyurl.com/hrcdfwaprilsocial).

### ■ April 19-21: 'Something Wicked'

Arts Mission Oak Cliff, 410 S. Windomere Ave., presents *Something Wicked* (a reimagined *Macbeth*), an in-process performance by resident artist Sasha Maya Ada Davis of the Shakespeare classic. At 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

### ■ April 20: Family-Friendly Scavenger Hunt

Join Fern Connections and explore Grapevine's Downtown as you race against the clock to solve puzzles, riddles and more. The scavenger hunt will begin at 1:30 p.m. at S. Main St. in Grapevine. Tickets and information are available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

### ■ April 20: Legal & Financial Strategies for LGBT Seniors

Experts will share their extensive knowledge and answer questions at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd., at 9 a.m. Register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

### ■ April 20: Name Change & Gender Marker Change Clinic

The Dallas LGBT Bar Association and Pride Frisco will host their Spring Name & Gender Marker Clinic from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For registration and information visit [Eventy.com](https://www.eventy.com).

### ■ April 20: Gaybingo

The Resource Center hosts this event each month from 6-9 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets for the next Gaybingo go on sale at [MyResourceCenter.org](https://www.MyResourceCenter.org) at 3 p.m. the Wednesday following each Gaybingo event.

### ■ April 20: Beyond Vanilla Does Fire

Beyond Vanilla hosts this event for anyone interested in learning about fire play from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at DFW Dungeon, 11528 Harry Hines Blvd. Visit [BeyondVanilla.org](https://www.BeyondVanilla.org) for information and to register.

### ■ April 20: TEASE PPW24 Pre-Party

Purple Foundation and Dallas Eagle present TEASE, the official pre-party for Purple Party Weekend 2024, featuring DJ Larry Davis with an opening set by Qwest. There will also be a limited offer of weekend passes for PPW at Tier 1 prices. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Dallas Eagle, 525 S. Riverfront Blvd. Visit the Facebook event page for more information.

### ■ April 21: Oak Cliff Earth Day

Oak Cliff Earth Day takes place at Lake Cliff Park, 300 E. Colorado Blvd. From noon-5 p.m.

### ■ April 23: The Family Building Event

Medical City Las Colinas, 6800 N. MacArthur Blvd. in Irving, hosts this in-person and virtual event for anyone interested in growing their families through IVF, egg, sperm or embryo donation and/or surrogacy. Tickets and information available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.Eventbrite.com).

### ■ April 23-28: 11th Annual Black Trans Advocacy Conference

This distinct educational and empowerment program event takes place beginning at 10:30 a.m. on April 23 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 800 N. Main St. in Duncanville. Visit [BlackTrans.org](https://www.BlackTrans.org) for information and to register.

### ■ April 23: Women+ Social Group

Tyler Area Gays hosts their monthly social group for those who identify as feminine at Kizer's Grill, 15902 County Road 165 in Tyler, from 6-8 p.m. Visit [TylerAreaGays.com](https://www.TylerAreaGays.com) for more information.

### ■ April 23: 'The Variety Show'

*The Lost Boy Presents The Variety Show*, a space for artists to experiment and play, at Arts Mission Oak Cliff, 410 S. Windomere. 7-9:30 p.m.; open to those 18 and older.

### ■ April 24: Same-Sex Partner Grief Group

Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month on Zoon and in person. Contact Richard DeKnock for details at [tastefullyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:tastefullyrichard@gmail.com).

### ■ April 24: Reality Check with Lambda Legal

This is a clinic informing individuals about what to expect with the next Texas legislature session from 7-9 p.m. at Finn's Place, 5860 I-20 in Fort Worth. In-person registration can be completed at [Events.Humanitx.com](https://www.Events.Humanitx.com) and virtual registration at [Streamyard.com](https://www.Streamyard.com).

### ■ April 24: Men+ Support Group

Tyler Area Gays hosts their monthly social group for those who identify as masculine at Oliveto's Italian Bistro, 3709 Troup Hwy in Tyler, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Visit [TylerAreaGays.com](https://www.TylerAreaGays.com) for more information.

### ■ Through April 24: 'Meditating On Materiality' In The Meadows Collections

*Meditating on Materiality* brings together works from the Meadows Museum's collection of Spanish art along with works from SMU's Master of Fine Arts Collection and University Art Collection. For more information visit [MeadowsMuseumDallas.org](https://www.MeadowsMuseumDallas.org).

### ■ April 25-May 2: Dallas International Film Festival

The 18th annual Dallas International Film Festival takes place at the Violet Crown Cinema,

3699 McKinney Ave. Visit [DallasFilm.org](https://www.DallasFilm.org) for the complete festival lineup.

### ■ April 27: 2024 Scholarship Soirée 2024

North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce holds its annual scholarship soirée from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Craighead Green Gallery, 1101 Dragon St. Visit [LGBTChamber.com](https://www.LGBTChamber.com) for tickets and sponsorship opportunities.

### ■ May 11: Dallas Voice 40th Anniversary Party

Join Dallas Voice, our staff and our friends as we celebrate our 40th anniversary as "The Voice of the North Texas LGBTQ Community." The party takes place at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, from 6-9 p.m., with Cassie Nova as host. There will be entertainment, food and drink and a silent auction. Free to attend; find more information and register at the Facebook event page.

*Have an event coming up? Email your information to Mathew Dominguez at [Mathew@DallasVoice.com](mailto:Mathew@DallasVoice.com) by Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.*

*Look for extended listings online at [DallasVoice.com](https://www.DallasVoice.com)*



Dallas trans man Carter Brown founded the Black Trans Advocacy Coalition, which will hold its 11th annual Black Trans Advocacy Conference April 23-28 at The Hilton Garden Inn in Duncanville. See listings for details.

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# Ask Howard

## HOW TO DO THE WRONG THING RIGHT

### Virginity: Found & Lost

“Over-fed, over-sexed and over here.” Such was Churchill’s poignant assessment of all the young American grunts gathering in Britain during the spring of 1944, prior to the D-Day invasion. My, but how springtime and wartimes never change.

Flash forward 80 years to a time with multiple wars running amuck, and the current of horniness in April’s air is palpably electric, as every species on Earth — battlefields be damned — suddenly becomes obsessed with the same laser-beam-focused commonality: finding their perfect mate.

Violence in the springtime is pretty much a given. Unfortunately, however, this spring we also find ourselves flailing helplessly in a quagmire of the most contentious election year ever; homelessness has exploded volcanically; Putin’s threatening outer-space nuclear war, and, here in America, our border patrols are overwhelmed by immigrants arriving by the multi-thousands daily to surrender for an amnesty that ain’t happenin’— underfed, unemployable and unstoppable, with no solution in sight.

Oh, well. At least we’ve still got mating season to enjoy ... or not. Let’s just get fairytale-flatlined right to it, shall we?

**Dear Howard:** This past Easter holiday, following a whirlwind romance, I married my Prince Charming. More than 150 guests attended our reception; both our families accepted us with open arms, and even the weather approvingly glittered. Literally, I stood breathless, tears in my eyes, as Roger dropped down on one knee in the glorious sunshine and slipped his ring onto my finger. Every man should be so lucky!

And to think we’d initially met in circumstances stupider than any plotline out of a vintage porn flick: I was at Home Depot, deceiving myself into believing I’d build a birdhouse for the sycamore limb overhanging my patio, when out of nowhere materialized every gay man’s archetypal sexual fantasy of a construction worker: big and rugged, tatted-up arms, bulging biceps, lantern-jawed and a swagger like John Wayne. He even had the filthy tool belt strapped about his waist.

He was getting lumber or something and grinned at my ridiculous little bluebird house kit, then winked that he, too, was building a home. Perhaps I’d even care to see it sometime? Well, twist went my arm! I wanted to see all of it!

During our brief courtship, all I could do was fantasize about what he’d be like behind the closed doors of our finally sanctified-by-marriage bedroom: See, Roger wanted to wait to have sex — he’s a super-staunch Catholic — to which I frustratingly acquiesced, realizing all the while my fantasies would eventually be fulfilled.

At last, the big day arrived! The bedroom was appropriately staged: myrrh-scented candles, American Beauty roses, and me in my crimson Andrew Christian jockstrap, prepped to be ravished. The lights dimmed from the bathroom, a hairy leg garbed in flamingo-pink, fishnet hosiery (WTF?) extended coyly from behind its door, accompanied by the demure voice, not of my burly new husband, but of a kittenish Gypsy Rose Lee!

“Some men accuse me of being an ec-dysiast.” Roger’s mammoth pink ankle did a dainty little twitch. “Do you know what that means? Do you?” Slowly, the flamingoed foot unfurled, teasingly, from around the door. “Don’t be embarrassed; I like a man without hair.” (Howard, just for the record here, I possess a voluptuously full head of hair.) “An ec-dysiast is one who, or that which, sheds its skin. In vulgar parlance: a stripper!”

Boom-chicka, boom-chicka, boom, boom boom! And out waltzed a creature in lavender bunny ears, flickering a lilac cottontail!

Like, who the hell kidnapped my husky new husband, whose ring I’d accepted just a few hours previous? Apparently, though, the show was only warming up.

“Let me entertain you, let me make you smile.” (The bunny ears began flapping) “Let me do a few tricks, some old and then some new tricks; I’m very versatile.” (Oh, fuck me! Another bottom!)



(He sidwinded a feather boa across the carpet toward me, drawling out his big finale.) “And if you’re real good, I’ll make you feel good, I want your spirits to climb!” (But the opposite was happening; the bulge inside my Andrew Christian honeymoon jock had long since deflated.) “So, let me entertain you, and we’ll have a real good time! Yes, sir!” Boom-chicka, boom-chicka, boom, boom, boom! “We’ll have a real good time!”

**Whatcha got, Howard? I’m begging here, man.** — *Where Did All the Tops Go?*

**Dear Topless:** Well, on the bright side, at least you found out why he didn’t believe in premarital sex. And it had nothing to do with religion, thank God! For as we all know only too well, monogamy and honeymoon-virgin brides are the two worst sadisms Christianity ever invented. That you even referred to your dating period as a “courtship” dishonors practically everybody who survived, say, the Eisenhower administration.

Don’t fret too much, Topless. I’m sure you’ll be able to get your unexpected marriage to a Broadway diva easily-enough annulled, if based upon nothing else but false advertising and psychological trauma — forced, there in your alluring honeymoon jockstrap, to witness emerge from your nuptials’ chamber a cross-dressing Ethel Merman erection-annihilator, bellowing showtunes in bewitching pink lace fishnets, Bugs Bunny ears and a Peter Cottontail butt plug twitching seductively from a walrus’s gyrating ass. Yeah, I’d sufficiently call that bill of annulment a given.

**NOTE:** Dear Readers, this next question — I’m not at all ashamed to admit — was lifted verbatim from Philip Galanes’s “Social Q’s” column in “The New York Times”: Gotta love a columnist who knows he’s being trolled, yet prints a fake question anyway just to permit his barely-contained, volatile inner snark a relieved and rare opportunity to finally go all mushroom-cloud with dismissive contemptuousness. He might even vaguely remind you of another col-

umnist you’re already familiar with.

So, directly from the pen of Philip Galanes and his “Social Q’s” column, I hilariously present, “Not Every Wedding Needs a Dress.”

“My gay son and his partner are getting married. They plan to wear themed outfits. I support their union and their choices. They wear traditional male garb. But secretly, I’ve dreamed that one of them, preferably my son, would wear the traditional white wedding gown that I wore. Its elegance contrasts sharply with their outfits. Should I share my desires? — **MOTHER**

You may be trolling me here [well, duh!], but your question would strike me as homophobic even if you weren’t: Why mention your son’s sexuality at all? Do you think it makes him more likely to wear a dress than a straight son? I would let all your children dress in peace for their weddings. Donate your gown to a clothing charity if you want it to be worn again.

—Howard Lewis Russell

*And for you cherished readers of mine, I’ll see y’all here again during next month’s merry, merry May! Simply forward your any, many questions of the abominable to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com; or, as Galanes wittily prefers rather to sugarcoat it, “for help with your awkward situation.”*

## this week’s solution

J	A	I	L	U	S	A	G	E	S	A	L	K			
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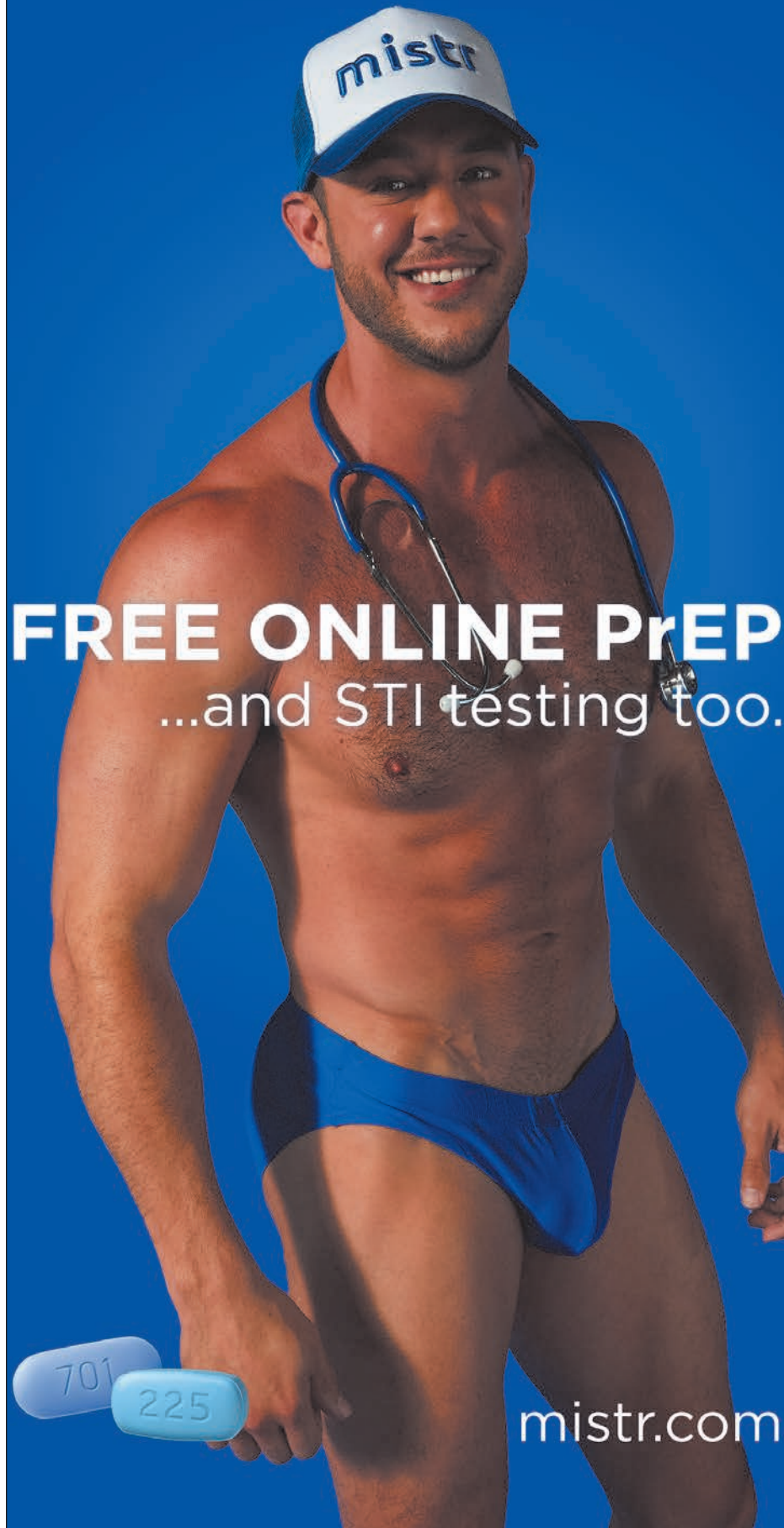
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The crowd at the Peacock Theater



Moon and her uncle Leo feeling royal at the Dallas Voice RVA party



Cassie is over the Moon at the Dallas Voice RVA party in The Rose Room



Raving with Pippi

# PUZZLE | RuPaul Doesn't Rue the Day

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65					66						67			

Solution on Page 31

## Across

- 1 Housing with same-sex roommates
- 5 The way we word
- 10 Simon LeVay's institute
- 14 Cube designer Rubik
- 15 Pink fruit
- 16 Nurse Jackie protraiter
- 17 Start of a RuPaul quote
- 18 More of the quote
- 20 Where to find a top?
- 22 Toughen up
- 23 They move your dinghy
- 24 Split to unite
- 25 Hound's trail
- 28 "...our gay apparel, \_\_\_..."
- 30 More of the quote
- 36 Tin Man's request
- 37 George Moscone, and others
- 38 Former queen of Jordan
- 40 One with a sharp butt
- 42 Tammy Baldwin, briefly
- 43 One fit for paddling
- 44 In addition
- 46 Houston's WNBA team
- 47 More of the quote
- 50 Hoi \_\_\_
- 53 He gave Jackie her O
- 54 End of the quote

59 Stipe to REM

- 61 Place for Young men?
- 62 Area of 160 rods
- 63 Lincoln Center's Walter \_\_\_ Theater
- 64 Maupin story of the city
- 65 Prick
- 66 German Surrealist Max
- 67 Jazz singer James

## Down

- 1 Knight job for Alec Guinness
- 2 Middle name of Viva, Las Vegas singer
- 3 Chelsea Pines and others
- 4 Rub someone the right way, with these
- 5 Dark reddish brown
- 6 Comes across as
- 7 Sports car, briefly
- 8 Nick Adams in *Rebel Without a Cause*
- 9 Bowie collaborator
- 10 "... \_\_\_ evil"
- 11 Come out correctly
- 12 Free, to Rimbaud
- 13 Scratched, as the paint on a car
- 19 Almost the color purple
- 21 Bit spit out by a computer

24 David Hyde Pierce and peers

- 25 Unload loads
- 26 Pet plant
- 27 Phallic swimmers that need no lube?
- 28 *The Boys* \_\_\_ Brazil
- 29 Frizzy hair style
- 31 Chicago Bears wear them on their knees
- 32 Morning coffee, for one
- 33 How to do premature ejaculation
- 34 Top drawer
- 35 Hot stuff
- 39 Hi-\_\_\_ graphics
- 41 Gentle touch
- 43 Unresponsive to a come-on
- 45 Where they yell "Cut!"
- 46 Red Bordeaux
- 47 Human Rights Campaign fundraisers
- 48 Ready for action, in the men's room
- 49 Queen topper
- 51 Keys of the Phantom of the Opera
- 52 Yorkshire city
- 55 Put on the staff
- 56 Colorado, to Cocteau
- 57 Highsmith's *The Price of \_\_\_*
- 58 Old Queens location
- 60 Young lady coming out

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