

NOVEMBER 2022

ICDC NEWS

“Building Lives, Revitalizing Neighborhoods”



ICDC Goes *Green!*

On August 23, 2022, ICDC's Diane Ragsdale and Billy Lane, Green Mountain Energy Sun Club's Johnny Richardson, and District 7 Councilman Adam Bazaldua gathered to FLIP THE SWITCH! Green Mountain Energy Sun Club awarded ICDC a \$130,000 grant to go green! With this gift, we installed a 50.8kW rooftop, solar array. Solar arrays are a power generation method that converts energy from the sun into electricity. It is a renewable, clean source of electricity that will offset 78% of the building's energy needs. Benefits of solar power include:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Mitigate climate change
- Improve air quality
- Reduce water use from energy production

ICDC is working to advance environmental justice in South Dallas/Fair Park neighborhoods.

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ICDC

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South Dallas Fair Park ICDC



Southdallasfairparkicdc

Important Dates

- Oct 11 Last day to Register to Vote
- Oct 24 First Day of Early Voting
- Nov 4 Last Day of Early Voting in Person
- Nov 8 Last Day to Vote by Mail

Welcome to ICDC



ICDC welcomes our newest staff member! Adejumoke Adewunmi is joining us as our Director of Programs. She is very excited to get involved in the South Dallas/ Fair Park community.

Past Event Photos

Did you get snapped at our last event? Check out the photos below and also our social media to see if you were snapped!



Newest Homeowner in Town

We want to congratulate Mrs. Love on becoming a home owner. It was a long process that took dedication and hard work to get through. She went through classes that taught financial literacy and provided homebuyers education

She even received one-on-one counseling. With the guidance of our very own Housing Manager, Katrina Rhode, she was able to check each step off. As a result of her effort, we are happy to say that Mrs. Love is proud owner of her own home. Thank you for the trust you have given ICDC. Enjoy your *Home Sweet Home!*

Let Your Voice be Heard

It is about that time of the year when we pick our representatives. Why is it important to vote? Jessica Jolly, an ICDC Board Member, says "Voting influences change. It changes policy. It changes the resources that we have. It changes our lives." Joan Smotzer, ICDC Board Treasurer, says that she voted because her mother put emphasis on voting and how each vote matters." She gives an example of a senate race where the senator she was polling for lost by very little votes. She later found out that if just one more person voted from each precinct in Texas, they would have won the race. One vote - your vote - can make a difference. Billy Lane, ICDC's Assistant Executive Director, says that "Voting is not



just about a candidate. What [he] learned is that voting has a lot to do with how resources are used." Our Executive Director, Diane Ragsdale, calls us to think about affordable decent housing, full employment with a living wage, and the ability to receive a quality education. "All of these things are connected to voting, connected to elected officials", She says. All-in-all, voting is important because we, as a community, need to have a hand in picking the people who are representing us and making policies that affect our lives. Let your voice be heard. Go out and vote!





Business Incubator Spotlight

Spotlighted this month for our Business Incubator is Sonia. She is the founder and CEO of Lavendorite Love and has been part of ICDC's Business Assistance Center (BAC) for the past 5 months. Sonia is a Reiki practitioner. She provides services such as chakra readings and alignments. She hopes to give her clients support in their mind, body, and soul. The start of her business was very unexpected. She mentions that she was just trying to help her daughter and ended up having people reach out to her for readings and

stones. At that point, she realized that she had a gift that she could use to help people. ICDC's BAC was recommended to her. She was told that to enter the program, she would be required to have a business plan and details of her services. At the time, she was only about 3 weeks into it and had no idea what she was doing. ICDC staff reached out to her and even though she didn't really have a detailed business plan, she was in her office within two weeks. When she came to the BAC she wasn't sure what she was getting into. She came for office space and found a family. People who wanted to help her at her vulnerable point. Through the program, she was introduced to the Bishop Omar School of Entrepreneurship. There, she learned how to get access to banks, grants, and different ways to market her business. Sonia states that "The [BAC] program made Lavendorite Love and it's going to make me the CEO I need to be to grow this company to where it needs to be. This is the beginning." We look forward to your future accomplishments Sonia. ICDC currently has office space available for South Dallas business owners. Please reach out to us to find out how you too can get your business where it needs to be.



ACA Enrollment

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a federal law that helps people without insurance to get affordable health insurance. Under the ACA, the cost of your health insurance premium is based on your income, not on what the insurance company wants to charge. Enrollment is through the Health Insurance Marketplace during the open enrollment period. The enrollment period is from November 1, 2022 - January 15, 2023.



LiftFund WBC

The LiftFund Dallas/Forth Worth Women's Business Center is dedicated to supporting business owners through business advising and training services. They help small business owners gain access to money and resources that will help grow their business.

Upcoming events:

- Entrepreneur's Roadmap to Capital Series
 - Ready to Apply for a Loan? - 11/3, 5:30 - 6:30pm

ICDC Friends, Supporters, and Community Members,

We're back, and to borrow a well-known hip-hop phrase, "we not new to this, we true to this." The ICDC team is excited to reconnect with you through our monthly newsletter. The pandemic and the shifts that followed prompted our small organization to pivot in various ways. We didn't stop pursuing our mission of serving the South Dallas/Fair Park community. We simply did not have the capacity to communicate with our stakeholders and community partners as much as we would have liked. We still have much to share in the way of our progress and our challenges, stories of Black Excellence and resilience. As our beloved board member Thomas Muhammad (1951-2022) would often say, "The struggle continues."

Like many of our friends and partners, we have adjusted. We are finding our rhythm in the new reality. Thus, we are re-launching this newsletter. We hope that you will find this communication piece helpful as a tool to initiate and advance critical conversations in our community, celebrate our victories, and educate the next generation of community organizers and activists. Additionally, we welcome your feedback. We want to hear your voice because your voice matters.

On behalf of ICDC's board of directors and staff, we thank you for the many ways that you support our efforts. If you have not already done so, please [click here](#) and become a monthly donor. Lastly, do not forget to vote...early voting in-person ends on November 4th and by mail on November 8th.

-Billy Lane, Incoming Executive Director

ICDC Board

Dr. Teresa L. Jackson - President
Wanda Huckaby - Secretary
Joan Smotzer - Treasurer
Lewis Rhone Sr. - Assistant Treasurer

Diane Ragsdale - Founder, Director Emerita
Billy Lane - Executive Director

Dr. Verdell Marsh
Jessica Jolly, MHA, MPH
Katherine Linares

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of



Thomas Muhammad
Jan 12, 1951 - Aug 15, 2022

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Training stipends available



**For more
information**

Phone: 214-915-9907

Email: info@icdc.biz



**Training
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South Dallas Training Center

4915 Brashear Avenue, Dallas, TX 75210

Logistics Technicians earn \$17.58/hr. average*

*according to Payscale.com



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