

## Timeless advice

Experts say older adults can stay safe and avoid scams by being aware and using caution.

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# Mayor initiates plan to attract grocery



DEON HAMPTON / Tulsa World

North Tulsa resident Julia Lanning places her groceries into her vehicle. She says she appreciates Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor's plan to search for another grocery store to replace the Albertsons that is closing in north Tulsa.

► City works to fill the void left when Albertsons closes north Tulsa store.

By DEON HAMPTON  
World Staff Writer

While north Tulsa residents express displeasure about a large chain grocery store closing, Mayor Kathy Taylor has taken two steps in hopes of attracting a new one.

Taylor formed a response team to find a replacement retailer for the Albertsons at the intersection of North Pine Street and Peoria Avenue, which is set to close by Aug. 5.

Taylor also created a team to work on implementing strategies for studies previously conducted to promote economic development in downtown and north Tulsa.

"Our primary concern is to work

## TULSA MAYOR

**Kathy Taylor:** Says she asked the EDC to fund an in-depth analysis for north Tulsa.



## COUNCILOR

**Jack Henderson:** Says Albertsons' leaving is a tragedy for north Tulsa residents.



with retail companies that could continue serving the neighborhoods in north Tulsa, as well as nearby downtown residents, with a supermarket at that location," Taylor said in a June 26 press release.

The Tulsa Development Authority announced last week it will delay the sale of property along the North Peoria Avenue tax district until a retailer is found to replace the grocery.

Jack Henderson, city councilor for District 1 where the Albertsons is located, said he is angry about the closing.

"This is a tragedy for the com-

munity to once again be without a grocery store. We worked so hard to secure it," Henderson said.

The response team consists of city staff; members of the Economic Development Commission, Tulsa Economic Development Corporation and the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce; and a business representative from Bank of Oklahoma, said Dwain Midget, assistant to the mayor and lead on the response team.

As of July 12, Midget said the team has conducted three meetings and

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## PARK DIRECTOR

**Summerfield:** Says her department will have a single agreement rather than many.



## PARK OFFICIAL

**Dolman:** Says all nonprofit groups and community centers should be treated equally.



# Officials rework park agreements

By DAVID R. MILLION  
World Staff Writer

Tulsa Park & Recreation Department officials are starting over in operating community centers, including several that have been closed.

"We want to make sure we are handling all centers and all nonprofits using those facilities the same," said Lucy Dolman, leisure resources manager. "Over the years, different agreements have been signed with different groups to provide programming or operate the centers."

That is changing with the drafting of a new agreement that has yet to be completed, said Mary Ann Summerfield, Park Department director.

In April, the department invited groups interested in working with community centers to submit proposals. Two proposals were submitted: Families of Murdered Children to continue its operations at Springdale Park Community Center, 2223 E. Pine St.; and New Beginnings Community Church, to operate Zeigler Park Community Center, 3903 W. Fourth St.

Both programs are continuing, Summerfield said.

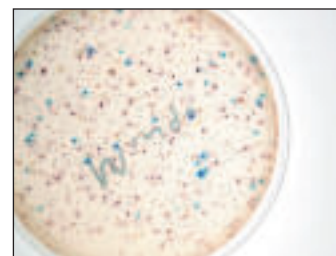
In addition to the April solicitation, park officials contacted several neighborhood associations.

Bob Glidewell, a resident of nearby Brady Heights, wanted to see the Owen Park Community Center, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., benefit area residents.

"They contacted us and asked us to get involved. One of the parks of-

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# Down to Earth volunteers



## BY THE NUMBERS

**1985:** When Earth Team Volunteer program started

**45,000:** Earth Team Volunteers nationwide in 2006

**\$17 million:** Value of volunteer time in 2006

Source: National Resource Conservation Service

**For more:** On Earth Team Volunteers, call 280-1595 or 280-1596.

Photos by MATT BARNARD / Tulsa World

Above, Angela Butler (left) and Wallace Westervelt check pH levels of a water sample. The two volunteer with Blue Thumb, a group that monitors Tulsa County creeks. Above right, a water sample from a Tulsa-area creek shows instances of E. coli, represented by the pink specks.

# National group provides needed 'green' assistance

By SARA PLUMMER  
World Staff Writer

Some trek through creek beds while others sift through files. Some study petri dishes while others answer phones.

They are all Earth Team Volunteers.

The Earth Team Volunteer program is a national program managed by Natural Resources Conservation Services. Volunteers in the Tulsa center also volunteer with the Tulsa County Conservation District, which is in the same office.

"All our volunteers are Earth Team Volunteers," said Michelle Ragge, Tulsa County Conservation District manager.

Some members are also Blue

## Online

To comment on this and other Midtown stories, go to [www.tulsaworld.com/community](http://www.tulsaworld.com/community) and click on the story.

Thumb volunteers, who receive extra training to conduct monthly monitoring tests at some of the county's 21 creeks.

"They have to know how to use the test kits, appropriate procedures — have to know what to look for," Ragge said. "Some of them are only Earth Team Volunteers. They have no desire to traipse around outside."

Debbie Eagle is one of those volunteers. She does secretarial work, such as putting together brochures and mailings, typing minutes, writing articles for the newsletter and answering phones.

"I have washed fish nets. I hate that," she said. "Anything they

want me to do I'll do, as long as it doesn't have to do with bugs."

Blue Thumb volunteer Aaron Isley doesn't mind the outdoors.

"It's enjoyable, going out to the creeks. It's a lot of fun, breaking up the workday," Isley said.

"Feels like you're helping out."

Gary Bishop, NRCS district conservationist, said going out into the field is a small part of what the Earth Team Volunteers do.

They participate in outreach and educational programs, staff exhibits and booths at events, do secretarial duties and assist engineers, he said.

"They really help us out a lot,"

Bishop said.

Eagle has been an Earth Team volunteer for three years.

"I have a friend who used to work here. She asked me," she said. "I started out just doing it as a favor to her, but I really enjoy it."

Eagle said she volunteers in the office at 5401 S. Sheridan Road at least twice a week for three to four hours.

"I think it's the people. Being appreciated for what I do. I'm never taken for granted. I love the people I work with," she said.

Eagle has also become more conservation savvy since volunteering.

"You learn practical, inexpensive ways to replenish natural resources."

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*'It's enjoyable, going out to the creeks. It's a lot of fun, breaking up the workday. Feels like you're helping out.'*

AARON ISLEY  
BLUE THUMB VOLUNTEER

# Kinfolks cooks up down South taste

By DEON HAMPTON  
World Staff Writer

Tulsa restaurant owner Kelvin Murray said his natural cooking ability is directly correlated to his down South upbringing.

"It's something you do down there," he said.

The Texas native put his cooking utensils to work by opening a soul food restaurant last February in north Tulsa.

On a recent Friday afternoon, many diners visited Kinfolks in north Tulsa.

The atmosphere in the 1,400-square-foot building was mellow.

Most customers waiting for food had conversations across adjacent tables. Others listened to Sirius satellite music coming from the flat

screen television on the wall.

Ralph and Kathryn Bennett, a Broken Arrow couple married for 23 years, are always looking for good places to eat. They said they found one in Murray's restaurant.

"It takes us 20 minutes to drive here, but it's worth it," Kathryn Bennett said.

The couple says they will become regular customers.

Tulsa resident and first time visitor Marcus Gilbert said he drives past Kinfolks regularly and wanted to see what it offered.

"I'm impressed," he said.

The restaurant has nine part-time employees and seats 42.

When customers hear about the restaurant, they're surprised a guy

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## RESTAURANT

**What:** Kinfolks specialties include pig feet, neck bones, pork steak, peach cobbler, mustard collard greens and black-eyed peas.

**Hours:** 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; noon to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

**Where:** 2115 N. Cincinnati Ave.

**For more:** Call 295-8855.



DEON HAMPTON / Tulsa World

Ralph Bennett, a Broken Arrow resident, says he will become a regular diner at Kinfolks, a soul food restaurant.