



City of Dallas

# DALLAS DELIVERS CITY HALL HIGHLIGHTS

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## How are we doing? Dallas Measures will tell us

The City of Dallas has taken its performance measurement efforts to the next level with implementation of Dallas Measures, a new performance measurement software system.

"Performance measurement is the ongoing collection of data on program activities and accomplishments," said Strategic Customer Services Assistant Director



**Margaret Wright Rogers.** "We capture the results of our daily activities in order to measure progress towards the City's goals and objectives," she said. Examples of measurements include collection rate for parking citations, EMS responses within eight minutes or number of visitors to branch libraries.

Although performance measurement is not the same as employee performance management, a department might use the data reported in performance measures to determine how well employees' performance is contributing to department goals.

Why do we need to measure our performance?

- To help us better manage processes and service delivery
- Provide the basis for continuous improvement
- Give early warning of problems
- Communicate performance expectations – what do we hope to accomplish
- Tell our story to the public

"We want departments to use the data we compile to manage their business," Rogers said. "And we want to use the information to analyze strengths and weaknesses, and identify areas that could benefit from process improvement or further study."

Communications and Information Services and CIS Project Manager **Brenda Hamilton** supported the implementation. With more than 3,000 measures loaded and active in the software, the next step is to publish current performance data on the City's web site for the public, expected to happen by the end of the summer.

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“These are tough times for all of us, and reducing the deficit will mean making some tough decisions that will affect all of us in one way or another.”

“The Dallas Convention Center continues to elevate our facility as the destination of choice for meeting planners,” said Director of Convention and Event Services Frank Poe.

## Let me talk to the City Manager By City Manager Mary K. Suhm



I have been talking to you in this space as often as I can about important issues affecting the City. Right now, our biggest challenge is the budget deficit. City revenues are down drastically and we simply can't afford to offer the levels of service and benefits to residents and staff that have been in place in previous years.

I've praised you for the hard work and dedication to customer service that so many of you have exhibited over the past few years. That effort is being noticed by more and more residents and businesses in this city every day. That's important because we are about to enter a few rough years, and your customer service skills are more important than ever, as we work to reassure residents that the City is doing everything possible to serve them in these precarious economic times.

These are tough times for all of us, and reducing the deficit will mean making some tough decisions that will affect all of us in one way or another. Reductions or cuts in nearly all City services will help get the deficit down, but we also find it necessary to reduce our workforce. I want you to know that I am doing everything in my power to avoid putting employees out of work, but there will be layoffs.

Beginning in August, our Human Resources Department will be offering a series of outplacement training opportunities to help employees who are displaced as a result of the City's budget crisis. You'll be hearing more about specific plans in the coming weeks, but the sessions will include career transition planning, skills development, identifying competencies, goals and objectives, and how to develop and implement a successful transition strategy.

I promise you that I will keep you informed through the month of July as we narrow the budget gap and produce a balanced budget for the Council's consideration on Aug. 10. I also invite your suggestions or ideas about the budget. Feel free to e-mail those to me at [mary.suhm@dallascityhall.com](mailto:mary.suhm@dallascityhall.com).

## Dallas Convention Center receives Prime Site Award

The Dallas Convention Center has received the prestigious 2009 Prime Site Award presented by *Facilities and Destinations Magazine*. Voted by more than 51,000 meeting planners, the process tabulates the opinion of readers based on the best meeting space, customer services and amenities, food and beverages, technical equipment and overall value experience.

“The Dallas Convention Center continues to elevate our facility as the destination of choice for meeting planners,” said Director of Convention and Event Services **Frank Poe**. “We are proud to receive such a prestigious award. It's a true statement to our team of hard working professional who are able to service customers at a high level of quality.”



Other convention centers that have received the Prime Site Award include: Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Las Vegas, Miami Beach, Washington, D.C. and San Diego Convention Centers and the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL.

## Here's some green tips to help you save some green in a tight economy

**Get the most out of your sprinkler.** The sun's heat can evaporate water, so wait until dark to water your lawn. You'll get the most out of your water with more of it going where you want it – in the ground – and less of it evaporating into the air.

### How to keep your energy bills down

Cooling your home accounts for more than 50 percent of most summer energy bills. Here are a few cheap fixes to save money:

- Close window blinds and draperies to block heat and sunlight.
- Replace air filters every 1-3 months. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause your AC unit to run longer, increasing energy use.

**When you're away:** Leave ceiling fans on and set the thermostat to 85 degrees. Avoid turning the AC off when you leave; this requires the unit to work overtime to cool down an extremely hot space once you turn it back on.

**When you're home:** Set the thermostat as high as comfortably possible (try 78 degrees). Use ceiling and room fans -your AC won't turn on as often. You'll save up to three percent per degree the thermostat is set above 72.

Would you like to save some money on your electric and water bills? Would you like to help reduce our regional impact on air quality?

The City of Dallas, through its partnership with the Dallas Sustainable Skylines Initiative, is offering a home energy efficiency and water conservation kit free to eligible residents of Dallas. These kits are available to any homeowner or renter (with homeowner permission) in Dallas and can help you live green and save green.

For more information or to sign up, email your name, address and phone number to [GreenDallas@dallascityhall.com](mailto:GreenDallas@dallascityhall.com).



## Dallas students get lessons on how to Cease the Grease

Dallas Water Utilities *Cease the Grease* Program has been educating Dallas residents on proper disposal fats, oils and grease (FOG) for over 5 years. *Cease the Grease* has been to hundred of community events, conducted two mass media campaigns and given away over 100,000 grease bags. Our efforts have paid off as indicated by a 62 percent decrease in Sanitary Sewer Overflows caused by FOG. A recent telephone survey revealed that more than 80 percent of Dallas residents properly dispose of FOG in the trash and not down the drain. However, residents did not know that used fry/cooking oil can be recycled.



**Teachers and students learn how DWU uses high water pressure water to remove grease from sewer lines.**

Recently, *Cease the Grease* worked with MLK Learning Center and City Park Elementary to educate youth about the used fry oil recycling program. At the MLK Learning Center students learned about water and wastewater treatment prior to the Memorial Day holiday. Students were asked to collect used fry oil and bring it back in one week. A total of 47 students collected 68 pounds of used fry oil. The students were rewarded with a picnic with snacks, a visit from the Wastewater Collections Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) truck that can send a robotic camera into sewer lines to see if there is a grease blockage, and prize raffle for the students who turned in used fry oil.

At City Park Elementary, 215 students learned about the negative impacts of FOG in our sewer system and were also asked to collect used fry oil over a week's time. These students collected 100 pounds of fry oil and were treated to a "Thank You" picnic on the last day of school. DISD School Board President **Adam**

**Medrano** visited the picnic and learned about proper FOG disposal and participated in the festivities. City Park students saw demonstrations from the Wastewater Collections line cleaning and CCTV crews ran a fry oil recycling relay race and won raffle prizes.

Anyone in the City of Dallas can recycle used fry oil by letting it cool then collecting it in a plastic bottle with a screw top lid. Fry oil can be dropped off at any of the Sanitation Services Transfer Stations or the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center. To learn more visit [www.ceasethegrease.org](http://www.ceasethegrease.org).

Award-winning authors, poets will come to Dallas for Tulisoma: the South Dallas Book Fair, Aug. 28-30 at the African-American Museum and Fair Park.

Among the special events highlighting nationally acclaimed authors are a Community Breakfast with author Sonia Sanchez; *Pork Chops & Politics*, a luncheon discussion featuring Dallas District Attorney Craig Watkins; and *Conversation & Roses*, an informal dialogue with author Evelyn Palfrey.

## Nationally known authors coming to Dallas for Tulisoma: The South Dallas Book Fair will be held Aug. 28-30

Award-winning authors, poets and artists will again come to Dallas for Tulisoma 2009, a celebration of literacy and the arts. Book readings, storytelling, writing workshops, panel discussions and performances are all part of the free community-based literary festival to be held Aug. 28-30 at the African-American Museum in Fair Park. Among the authors appearing at this year's event are:

**Carole Boston Weatherford:** Author of more than two dozen children's books, her two latest books are *Dear Mr. Rosenwald* and a Caldecott Honor Book, *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*. Since her first children's book, *Juneteenth Jamboree* was written in 1995, she has received the Carter G. Woodson Award from National Council for the Social Studies and an NAACP Image Award nomination. *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins* (2005) and *Remember the Bridge: Poems of a People* (2002) both won the North Carolina Juvenile Literature Award.



**Evelyn Palfrey:** A native Texan and lawyer, she is the author of four novels, *Three Perfect Men*, *The Price of Passion*, *Dangerous Dilemmas* and *Everything In Its Place*. Her novels deal with issues common to the middle passage of life, and reflect her 25 years practice of criminal and family law and her love of RV travel. She was nominated for a Career Achievement Award by *Romantic Times* and has served on the Board of Directors of the Austin Public Library Foundation, Travis County Lawyer Referral Service, Austin Community Radio, Inc., Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, and the State Bar of Texas. She is currently on the Board of the Writers League of Texas.

**Jas. Mardis:** An award-winning storyteller and poet, he is the author of *Kente Cloth Southwest Voices of the African Diaspora*; a compiled anthology that features mostly unpublished writers. Collecting the work of more than 45 scribes primarily from Louisiana and Texas, Mardis has succeeded in capturing the rhythm-and-blues lives of people in a common-folk vernacular. Simple, earnest and true. "Kente Cloth" is divided into four basic categories: Witnesses, Performers, Tellers and Signifiers, with a range of styles and tales that tantalize the reader into jumping into a pool of griots. Mardis wanted this collection to represent the joy of the oral tradition.



**Sonia Sanchez:** The author of 14 books, including *Shake Loose My Skin: New and Selected Poems*, she received the Harper Lee Award for 2004. *Does Your House Have Lions?* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and she was also honored with the Lucretia Mott Award in 1984, the Outstanding Arts Award from the Pennsylvania Coalition of 100 Black Women, the 1985 American Book Award for *Homegirls and Handgrenades* and the 1999 Langston Hughes Poetry Award. A nationally recognized and respected public speaker, she has lectured at more than 500 universities and colleges in the US and in Africa, Cuba, England, Australia, China and Norway.

# After 38 years, Dallas Fire Rescue's Jerry Minter calls it a day

"Whenever we needed a question answered about one of our stations, **Jerry Minter** was our 'go-to' guy," said Dallas Fire

Chief **Eddie Burns**. "With Lt. Minter we had absolute confidence that our building projects would be completed exactly as we envisioned them." After nearly 40 years on the job, Minter has officially retired.



Minter joined Dallas Fire Rescue (DFR) in 1971, moving here from the family farm in Stamps, Arkansas, population 2,500. A year later he settled into the job he would have for half his career. The department was entering a new phase; building a corps of Emergency Medical Technicians. A supervisor approached him and said, "Minter, I heard you wanted to go to paramedic school." He didn't, but he went anyway. "I was drafted." It turned into a 19 year love affair.

His next assignment was overseeing construction of DFR's new firehouses, a perfect fit because in his free time Minter was busy growing a home building and remodeling business. "I built customs homes for seven retired firefighters," he said, "but firefighting was always my real job."

But building homes, including everything from framing to cabinets helped him see when a DFR project was going well or headed off the tracks. "I was able to get a real handle on keeping the City and the department safe on costs," he said. "They weren't going to slip anything by me." Two of his final

projects, stations 33 and 42 are among the greenest and most sophisticated fire stations in the country and neither cost a cent more than the contract that landed the bid.

With more time on his hands, Minter has a number of trips planned with his wife Susan. After that he plans to return to his roots – truck farming. He plans to build an internet clientele and sell his own organic produce. With 25 acres of land to grow the vegetables that will carry the Minter name, he's optimistic that there's a market for chemical-free produce.

Minter leaves the department with tons of memories, more friends than he can count and a reputation that mirrors what those around him have said hundreds of times. "Jerry Minter? Oh, you're gonna' like him."

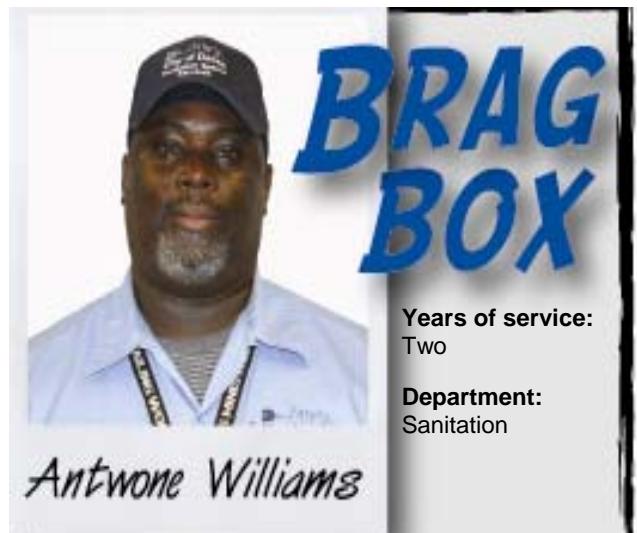
## SCA launches Summer of Service

Volunteers with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and Central Dallas Ministries launched their Summer of Service program at the Texas Buckeye Trail Privet Removal Event. The volunteers worked to remove the privet and other invasive species from along the new hard surface portion of the trail.

Like athletes preparing for a championship game, the volunteers began with stretching, team building, and pep talking. With their muscles warm and minds ready, and shovels in hand, these dedicated men and women put their game faces and hard hats on and tackled the privet.

It was hard work in the infamous Texas heat, but the volunteers proved too great a match for the privet. The privet was removed from the Buckeye Trail and placed in the forest where it will wither and dry up. Hikers are now safe from the danger of tripping over these twisted plants, and native species will now, unobtrusively, thrive in their proper homes.

The Summer of Service program enlists AmeriCorp volunteers through the Central Dallas Ministries in this area, to aid various programs throughout Dallas that engage young people in positive summer activities such as tutoring, service learning, and recreation.



**Years of service:**  
Two

**Department:**  
Sanitation

**Incident:** A private company was hired by Timberlake area homeowners to treat their lake for algae problems. In treating the algae, the company killed over 800 fish and refused to clean up the mess. Residents collected the fish the following weekend and called a number of companies to come and remove the bags. No one would help, until the residents called 3-1-1 late one Sunday afternoon.

The residents wrote, "...they assured us a Monday pickup, but most of us were ready to sell our homes to get away from the stench. But to our rescue came **Antwone Williams**. We told him what we had and he said he'd take care of it. I think he was surprised when we started hauling 12 trash bags containing our dead fish. All of us want to thank Mr. Williams who came out at closing time on a hot Sunday afternoon to cart off a dozen bags of dead fish. It meant the world to us."

## Activities galore at City of Dallas Cultural Centers

City of Dallas Cultural Centers provide a wide range of community-based and culturally diverse artistic programs. Attend an event at a cultural center near you.

### Bath House Cultural Center

**July 11 to Aug. 8 – *Art Beyond the Stage*.** Discover an exhibition that explores the world of theater stagecraft, featuring set designs, props, costumes and other scenic art created by local and regional theater designers. Opening reception: Saturday, July 11, 7-9 p.m.



**July 17 to Aug. 8 – 11th Annual Festival of Independent Theatres (FIT).** A critically acclaimed festival of seldom seen, new, and Avant Garde works by Dallas' edgier independent theater companies. Tickets range from \$12 for individual performances to \$69 for a full festival pass. For a full schedule of plays, performance times and ticket prices visit [www.bathhousecultural.com/FIT2009.html](http://www.bathhousecultural.com/FIT2009.html).

### Ice House Cultural Center

**July 6 to 31 – *Thriving Minds Summer Camp*.** As part of the Thriving Minds art education partnership, The Ice House Cultural Center is hosting an art-based summer camp for kids in July. *The enrollment deadline has passed; no more students are being accepted.* All regular Ice House dance programs, guitar classes and art exhibitions will resume after August 8. Please call 214-670-7524 for more information.

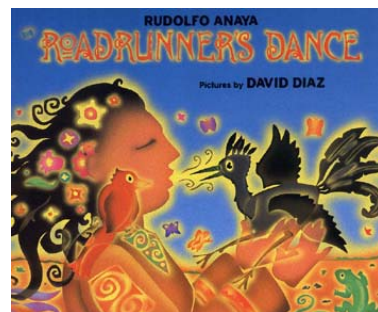


### Latino Cultural Center

**Through August 23 - *Art and Ability Exhibition*.** Presented by the Latino Cultural Center in collaboration with The Arc of Dallas, this exhibition showcases the artistic expressions of people with disabilities. Featuring 19 artists, *Art and Ability* will be on display at the LCC through Aug. 23. Free.

**Saturday, July 11, noon – *Target Second Saturdays: Celebrity Book Reading*.** Spanish radio personality Claudia Torrescano and *Dallas Morning News* columnist Mercedes Olivera will make a special appearance at noon.

They will participate in a bilingual book reading of Rudolfo Anaya's *Roadrunner's Dance*, illustrated by the talented David Diaz. After the book reading, join in Latin American family games with the Ollimpaxqui Dance Company! For more information call 214-671-0045 or visit [www.dallasculture.org/latinocc](http://www.dallasculture.org/latinocc).



### South Dallas Cultural Center

**July 24-25 – *Soul Children's Theater production of Escape to Freedom*.** The story of Frederick Douglass's childhood and his escape from slavery. Despite unimaginable hardships, Douglass became one of the great American orators and abolitionist leaders of the 19th century. *Escape to Freedom* also includes New Arts Six, a performing arts ensemble devoted to the preservation of African-American music, poetry and literature. *Most enjoyed by ages 8 and above. Contains mature subject matter and strong language.* Tickets are \$7-10. Call 214-939-2787 for more information.

For a list of cultural center locations and other useful information visit [www.dallasculture.org](http://www.dallasculture.org) and click on "cultural centers."

**Make sure your pet has a collar, ID tag and is micro chipped. The City of Dallas Animal Services conducts a low-cost micro chip clinic the fourth Saturday of every month.**

**Did you know that the City of Dallas offers free spay/neuter services to qualifying residents? To find out more, call (214) 670-8246.**

## **Make the summer a safe one for your pets; Here's some tips for a happy, healthy season**

A little common sense and sensitivity to the needs of your pets can make summertime an enjoyable and healthy season for your faithful friends. Here are some tips to keep your pets safe and happy during the hot Texas summer:

- Dogs and cats can't perspire and only dispel heat by panting and through the pads of their feet. If you see an animal in a parked care during the summer, alert the management of the venue you are visiting and if the owner does not return promptly call 3-1-1. Provide plenty of fresh water and shade for your pets while they are outside.
- In the City of Dallas it is illegal to drive with an unsecured dog in the back of a pickup truck. Flying debris can cause serious injury and a dog may be thrown into traffic if the driver suddenly stops, swerves, or is hit by another car. Dogs must ride either in the cab or in a secured crate in the bed of the truck.
- Beware of plant food, fertilizers and insecticides that can be fatal if your pet ingests them. Also, more than 700 plants can produce physiologically active or toxic substances in sufficient amounts to cause harmful effects in animals. Contact Animal Services for a list of dangerous plants.
- Dallas Animal Services investigates about 2,000 animal bites every year. Spaying or neutering your dog reduces the likelihood that he will bite and provides other health benefits. A person bitten or scratched by an animal should report the incident by calling 3-1-1.
- Make sure your pet has a collar, identification tag and microchip. If you are separated, an ID tag or microchip may be your pet's ticket home. Dallas Animal Services conducts a low cost micro chip clinic the fourth Saturday of every month.
- Check with your veterinarian for heartworm prevention medication. Heartworm disease is transmitted by mosquitoes and can be fatal in both dogs and cats. Use only flea and tick treatments recommended by your veterinarian. Some over-the-counter flea and tick products can be toxic. Bathing will help keep away odor, parasites, and skin irritations. Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap, which can cause itching and hair loss. Many airlines have summer pet embargoes, and most trains and ships do not allow pets other than service animals. If you do take your pet with you, make sure he is properly trained to sit, stay and come when commanded to do so. Make sure your pet is wearing a collar and proper identification at all times. Consider a microchip. Take your pets shot records, a written description and several photos in case he gets lost.
- On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Asphalt can burn your pet's paws. Pets can get sunburned and may require sunscreen on nose and ear tips. Pets with light-colored noses or fur on their ears are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer. Don't take your pets to concerts, fairs or holiday events like the Fourth of July. The loud noises and crowds, combined with the heat are stressful and dangerous for pets.

If you are interested in a new animal friend, please call the adoption line at (214) 671-0249, go to [www.dallasanimalservices.org](http://www.dallasanimalservices.org) or stop by the City's beautiful new shelter at 1818 N. Westmoreland.

## City of Dallas Observes National Park and Recreation Month

Get outside, pack a picnic, play on a playground, compete in a sport or just enjoy the sunshine! Dallas Park and Recreation joins with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to celebrate National Park and Recreation Month. America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month since 1985.

Dallas Park and Recreation Department's celebration kick off for this year's observance is 10 a.m. July 14 at Flaggpole Hill. More than 600 children and youth who attend City of Dallas summer camps will show that fitness can be fun. The daylong event will feature basketball, trash obstacle course, tug-of-war, rock climbing and a variety of outdoor fun.



"Having almost 400 parks and 47 recreation centers in Dallas, we are excited to offer a wide range of activities that can be fun for the whole family," said Dallas Park and Recreation Director **Paul D. Dyer**. "With chronic diseases and obesity more prevalent in children, we promote the concept of no child left inside. We want youth to explore the outdoors."

For more information call (214) 670-4100 or visit [www.dallasparcs.org](http://www.dallasparcs.org).

## Local Girl Scout's project benefits Summer Youth Camp program

University Park resident **Rachel Huber** gets joy from helping others, including young campers who participate in the City of Dallas' free summer camp program.



For her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, Rachel sent 1,500 flyers and personal letters to University Park residents and friends asking them to help her collect items for Dallas' Send A Kid To Camp program. Thanks to her efforts and the generosity of others, Rachel collected 800 new items that included swim goggles, swimsuits, water games, soccer balls, baseballs, softballs, footballs, lacrosse and golf equipment, tennis rackets and various toys. Last month, Rachel visited young campers at the Carolina Chase Send A Kid To Camp site to distribute some of the items, with the remaining equipment going to other camp sites.

"In difficult times like these the action of one person can touch so many lives. We thank Rachel for her dedication and hard work," said Park Manager **Susan Musgrove**, who oversees the Send A Kid To Camp program. Rachel is a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Ursuline Academy in Dallas.

## Dallas unveils newest aquatic playground

Dallas Park and Recreation has unveiled its newest aquatic playground at Ferguson Park, 1900 Gross Road. The third generation state-of-the-art sprayground boasts an array of systems designed to make the unit safe and easy to maintain including a UV system, automatic backwash, and 100 percent filtration for the treatment of cryptosporidium.



### Wildlife adventures in 4-D at Dallas Zoo

"Planet Earth: Pole-to-Pole" takes viewers on a voyage around the world - from mountain ranges and bottomless oceans to frozen lands and jungles. "Wild Earth: Africa" brings viewers along on a chase to catch poachers at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy on the slopes of Mount Kenya. The intimate 4-D theater features full-motion seating and special glasses for an amazing experience.

Show tickets are \$6 per person per show at the Dallas Zoo 4-D Adventure Theater.

The park also features a 1,460-square foot pavilion, custom structure designed by park assistant director **Willis Winters**. In addition to the pavilion, guests can enjoy picnic tables and cooking grills. Ferguson Park Sprayground is the city's eighth zero-depth recreational facility.

For other locations and hours of operations, visit [www.dallasparcs.org](http://www.dallasparcs.org).

## City employees *In the News*

Park and Recreation department employee **Adam Medrano** is the youngest person ever elected to the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) Board and was recently elected to serve as the Board's President.



The Interim Supervisor IV at Samuell Grand and I. Zaragoza Recreation Centers feels he has brought a fresh perspective to the Board, establishing a special bond with the students, parents, and neighborhoods he represents. "My job with the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department has given me the opportunity to play a significant role in the organization and planning of educational and sports activity programs for the city's children and youth," Medrano said.

A lifelong resident of District 8, Medrano was elected to the School Board in May 2006 and attended DISD schools, graduating from Hillcrest High School and the University of North Texas. He has been a City employee since 1997, starting as a part-time recreation assistant. His service to the community includes working with at-risk students, serving as a member of the Board of Friends at Ignacio Zaragoza

Elementary School and I. Zaragoza Recreation Center Advisory Council. Medrano has also been a coach for the Eagles Youth Soccer and the Dallas Medrano Youth Basketball teams.

West Dallas Multipurpose Center Interim Cashier Supervisor **Silvia Ulloa** recently won another term on the Cockrell Hill City Council. She has held a council seat since 1989.



"My interest in running for office was to make a difference for our small city to progress in its economic development," Ulloa said. "I will continue to be a part of our community's progress and work to provide the safety and protection to our community by our police department. We have a lot of work ahead of us, now and in the future."

Ulloa has been a City of Dallas employee since 1993 and has lived in Cockrell Hill since 1979. "We have six sons and many grandchildren, and I have always participated in my children's PTA's, booster clubs, and other community events."

## Parents and guardians urged to get their children immunized

New vaccine requirements for Texas school children are now in effect and the City of Dallas is strongly encouraging parents and guardians to get their children immunized. All students must be current on their vaccines and meet new state requirements before enrolling for the next school year.

"The current swine flu situation reinforces the importance of vaccines in providing protection against diseases where a vaccine already exists," said City of Dallas Public Health Manager **Mary Boyd**. "Not following the immunization schedule puts the child at risk for a preventable disease."

The City's Public Health Department is encouraging parents not to wait until the last minute to have their children immunized. Immunization clinics across the City provide shots on a walk-in basis, at a cost of just \$3 per person. They emphasize that no one will be denied service based on their ability to pay. The low-cost clinics are located at Janie C. Turner Recreation Center, John West Health Center, North Dallas Health Center, Oak Cliff Health Center and the West Dallas Health Center.

The Executive Commissioner on Health and Human Services approved revisions to the *Immunization Requirements for Children and Students in Texas Public and Private Schools* on March 5. The changes update Texas elementary and secondary school immunization requirements to match the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The new vaccine school requirement for the specific school year and grades can be found at [www.immunizetexas.com](http://www.immunizetexas.com).

For more information about Dallas locations providing immunization services call 3-1-1 or visit [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com).

### Correction:

In last month's issue, the first sentence in the second paragraph of the page 4 article: **Public Works van a big hit at school career day** read:

"Participation in events like these are investments in our future," said Public Works and Transportation Assistant Director, Erick Thompson.

### However, the sentence should have read:

"Participation in events like this is an investment in our future," said Public Works and Transportation Assistant Director Erick Thompson

We regret the error.

## Residents give high marks to sidewalk repair programs

Dallas residents have written a barrage of letters commending the City's two sidewalk repair programs. The City's Fast Fix and Cost Share program team, headed by Project Manager **James Dowdy** includes staffers **Pauline Kelly**, **Charise Davis-Logan** and **Emmitt Tassi**.

Here are a few of the comments received:

- "We can never convey how much we appreciated your understanding and compassion in getting us the help we needed to get our sidewalks repaired. Please know that your efforts meant so much to a lot of people."
- "We are very pleased with the results of this job. It was done in a timely manner and very professional".
- "I appreciate the creative way you made the grade difference work. This was also done without damage to our huge trees".
- "Your crew conducted themselves very professionally. They kept us informed at all times. We also appreciate the little extras that were done."



**Sidewalk Team members James Dowdy, Pauline Kelly, Charise Davis-Logan and Emmitt Tassi.**

"These comments are indicators of our value to the citizens we serve", said Public Works and Transportation Assistant Director **Alan Hendrix**. "We are pleased to be able to offer these programs to the taxpayers and are indeed encouraged by the fact that they value and appreciate the coordinated work effort from our sidewalk repair team," he said.

The Cost Share Program allows residents to share a 50/50 cost for sidewalk removal and replacement. Funding for the City's share of the cost comes from Capital Bond Programs and the work is performed by a city contractor. The Fast Fix Program allows residents to get sidewalk repairs done more quickly. Residents pay the total cost of the work over a two-month period at a reduced rate. Both programs offer warranted work done without residents incurring the effort and expense of securing a building permit by insured, bonded contractors. For more information on the programs call (214) 948-4287.

## Dallas Executive Airport hosts Steve Harvey Foundation event

Approximately 300 young men came to Dallas Executive Airport to receive mentoring and motivational presentations regarding aviation as a life changing opportunity and as a career path. The event was sponsored by the Steve Harvey Foundation. The actor and comedian started the foundation to improve public schools in urban areas by upgrading facilities; purchasing books, technology and other essential resources and to provide educational and mentoring opportunities for middle and high school students.



"We are always pleased when young aviation enthusiasts visit the airport for these types of events," said Dallas Executive Airport Manager **Lana Furra**. "Dallas Executive has always been an airport for the community." **Steve Harvey** (at left) talked to the assembled young men on the benefits of a good education. One of the surviving Tuskegee Airmen was present and was introduced to the participants and recruiters from the Navy and Marine Corps set up tables to provided information. The event was covered by Good Morning America and CNN.

## Big hearted volunteers plant Wetland Cell G

Volunteers from Bank of America, Groundwork Dallas and interested citizens spent a beautiful sunny morning planting aquatic vegetation at the site of the former Sleepy Hollow Golf Course, now named Wetland Cell G. The area is located off I-45 South and Loop 12 East. The volunteers joined experts from the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center which operates the Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility and leadership from Groundwork Dallas to plant more than 400 individual plants such as Arrowhead, Arrow Arum, Softstem Bulrush, and American Bulrush.

These starter plants were placed in the shallow water at the edge of the 25-acre wetland paradise. Further up the stepped banks, Winter Rye sowed during the winter but now golden brown with impressive seed heads, provided a soft rustle of sound while Great White Egrets and other aquatic birds circled over the water.

At this cell location, the Trinity River is 150 feet away and sluice gates provide controls to keep the water in the cell at a steady level conducive to summer plant growth. At other times, the water level can be dropped so that plant seeds have an opportunity to drop into the muddy banks and germinate.