

Dallas Delivers

City Hall Highlights



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DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Dallas Public Library has received all necessary funding (by grants and donations) to purchase its second Library on Wheels: Bookmobile. The Bookmobile is open to people of all ages. Services and materials include:

- Free library cards for Dallas residents
- Adult and children's books
- Videos and DVD's
- Books in Spanish
- English as Second Language materials
- Materials not carried on the Bookmobile can be requested and brought on future stops.

People of Dallas: A Confluence of Cultures exhibit at the Dallas Texas History Division of the Central Library Dallas explores the unique experiences and cultures of the many different ethnic groups who call Dallas home. It tells their stories through photographs, newspapers, books, government publications and campaign materials. This exhibit has been very popular and has received lots of media attention.

The library also offers free online homework help and tutoring for grades 4 through 12. The Dallas After School Homework Program (**DASH**) can be accessed from any library location or from home at <http://dallaslibrary.org/>.

DALLAS WATER UTILITIES Lake Fork Pump Station

The Lake Fork Pump Station project was awarded to Bar Constructors, Inc. on August 24, 2005, for \$50,052,400.00. It is currently under construction and on schedule to be completed along with the 108-inch pipeline by December 2008.

When completed, Lake Fork will be the first new water source connected to the DWU raw water system in 40 years. The Lake Fork Pump Station is a 240 MGD raw water pump station located approximately 95 miles east of Dallas on Lake Fork. When completed, raw water will be pumped from Lake Fork into Lake Tawakoni and ultimately delivered to the Eastside Plant for treatment. The Pump Station will be powered by a new 30 MVA substation that is being designed and constructed by the Wood County Electric Cooperative for the City of Dallas.

DALLAS WATER UTILITIES

Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Project

Dallas Water Utilities will install a fixed network Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system in the Central Business District, Deep Ellum, and South Dallas and Fair Park areas.

The AMR system will use a state-of-the-art radio communication network to collect data from water meters. The data will then be transmitted over a cell phone network to a central host processor.

This new technology will improve operational performance and meter reading accuracy. The AMR system will also improve meter reading efficiency and operations, which translates into better customer service. The system has two-way communication ability that provides real-time information, usage data logging and usage forecasting. Automated meter reading eliminates the need to physically enter a customer's property to obtain a meter reading.

The AMR system will include all stationary data collection units, meter transmitter units, electronic registers and water meters. Also included will be the operating software and hardware, Federal Communication Commission licenses, materials and labor associated with a turnkey installation and a five-year maintenance agreement after the initial one-year warranty.

Installation of the AMR system will be accomplished by meter - read routes determined by the billing schedule. Installation will begin in the South Dallas/Fair Park area, move west through Deep Ellum and finish in the Central Business District. The 7,310 automated meters are expected to be fully installed and operational 12 months from contract execution.

DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Dallas Police Department hired 218 new police officers for fiscal year 2006, the most since the early 90s. In October 2006, the department also met for the first time its goal of 50 recruits in an academy class. Other initiatives include:

- The Meadows Foundation presented the Dallas Police Department with an \$840,000 grant to purchase and install surveillance cameras in the Central Business District.
- The new South Central Patrol Division, which will serve neighborhoods encompassed by the Trinity River on the north and east, Dallas City limits on the south and I-35 on the west, is scheduled for completion in September 2007.

The Safer Dallas-Better Dallas campaign, which began Jan. 1, 2007, received a \$100,000 check from the Rotary Club of Dallas Foundation. Borden Dairy also made a financial contribution of \$15,000. The Safer Dallas-Better Dallas organization was formed to find funding for police equipment.

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The POSSE implementation in Building Inspection has won two national awards. One is the Urban Regional Information System Association (URISA) "2006 Exemplary Systems in Government Award" for a single process system. The other is the Center for Digital Government's "2006 Digital Government Achievement Award" for its Building Inspection Online Applications and Inspections Portal.

Since May 15, 2006, more than 5,000 contractors have accessed the Building Inspection Web site to check on the status of their projects, submit online applications and request inspections. As more contractors do business on the Web, wait time is decreasing in the Permit Centers and District Offices, allowing faster review times and better customer service.

Development Services has launched a "Strategic Plan for the Arts District" in close collaboration with major Downtown stakeholders. This effort will focus on creating a plan to turn the Arts District into an integrated and vibrant part of Downtown, capitalizing on public and private investments that are already beginning to transform the area.

The ForwardDallas! Comprehensive Plan received statewide recognition through the "Comprehensive Plan Award" from the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association. The ForwardDallas! Plan, adopted by the Dallas City Council earlier this year, establishes a vision for development within the city through the year 2030 and adopts policies and implementation plans to realize this vision.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Holiday Activities

The West Dallas Multipurpose Center (WDMC) offered several holiday activities for Dallas residents. On December 15, the WDMC hosted a "Community Holiday Party" for about 200 young children with a Santa's Workshop filled with activities such as storytelling, entertainment and a visit from Santa. The children had an opportunity to take a free picture with Santa who also gave each child a goody bag to take home.

The WDMC Holiday Toy Program distributed toys to more than 300 families. Qualifying families also received food donations and participated in the "Shopping Day for Parent and Grandparents" to pick out toys for their children.

Senior citizens were also part of the holiday spirit, with more than 60 receiving holiday gift bags through the Dallas County Older Citizens Program.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WIC PROGRAM

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program serves more than 94,000 participants throughout Dallas County. During the holiday season, the WIC administration office was an official drop-off site for nonperishable food items. The food items collected were delivered to the West Dallas Multipurpose Center and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. WIC representatives staffed information booths at the annual Kwanzaa Fest on December 9 and 10, using the opportunity to identify potential WIC clients.

WIC serves more than 94,000 participants

OZONE REDUCTION PROGRAM

City employees participated in the Ozone Reduction Programs, contributing to the reduction of pollution during the peak period May 1 through October 31. During these months, there was a reduction of more than seven million miles of driving single occupant vehicles to and from the workplace. As a result, more than eight tons of Nitrogen Oxide emissions, four tons of Volatile Organic Compound emissions, more than 88 tons of Carbon Monoxide emissions and more than 3,600 tons of greenhouse gas emissions were prevented from entering the City of Dallas' ambient air.

An average of 1,400 city employees worked a compressed schedule each month to reduce the number of days driving a single occupant vehicle to and from work.

An average of 270 city employees carpooled, 360 rode DART and about 55 employees biked, walked or tele-commuted one or more days each month to reduce vehicles emissions. Commuters saved fuel and money plus wear and tear on vehicles.

In addition, an average of 320 meetings were scheduled each month after 10 a.m. during ozone season, with an average over 180 employees carpooling to those meetings.

An average of 200 gas/diesel vehicles were deferred for use until after 10 a.m. one or more days each month during ozone season.

Approximately 500 employees walked, biked, used DART and carpooled to lunch one or more days each month to avoid driving in single occupant vehicles during lunch time.

Overall the city averaged more than an 11% reduction in vehicle miles and emissions

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OZONE REDUCTION PROGRAM

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More than 2,300 employees ate lunch at their workplace (brown bag or order-in) one or more days each month to avoid driving in a single- occupant vehicle during lunch time.

More than 175 employees worked flexible hours one or more days each month to avoid traveling to and from work during rush hour.

Overall the city averaged more than an 11% reduction in vehicle miles and emissions during the ozone season.

EFFICIENCY TEAM

The Efficiency Team has recently begun work on the following initiatives:

- **Quality Management System.** Major city departments have embarked on a strategic approach for implementing this system based on principles of the International Organization of Standards (ISO). ISO certification is a coveted international recognition, requiring a third party certified auditor to evaluate the City against a standard set of requirements, thus assuring a high level of quality and performance. The Quality Management System ensures repeatable and consistent processes are used with goals being to enhance quality of products and services, improve customer service, productivity and efficiency. In addition to Street Services, Equipment and Building Services is the second department to move towards certification.
- **Explore Warehouse Opportunities.** Investigate methods to achieve operational cost savings from outsourced warehouse and inventory supply management providers.
- **Explore Fleet Opportunities.** Establish a process to identify low use or high maintenance cost equipment, primarily focusing on the heavy fleet and to establish a committee to review needs and reduce fleet size if possible. A review of other fleet-related practices for take home vehicles, reimbursements, vehicle pooling and rentals is also underway.

Univision TV, who will be providing \$258,000 of in-kind advertising

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OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

December was one of the best months of the year for Dallas families to experience the city's cultural resources - with many holiday performances, exhibitions and programs that highlighted our community's diverse heritage. Some examples included the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's holiday concert series, Cara Company's "Nuestra Pastorela" production, Teco Theater's presentation of Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity" and the 37th Annual "Candlelight" at Dallas Heritage Village.

The Latino Cultural Center staff has increased its outreach and partnerships with other Dallas organizations with new partners like Univision TV, which will be providing \$258,000 of in-kind advertising, and the Pan American Art Gallery which will present an important exhibit representing 13 women artists from Brazil, Cuba and Argentina at the Latino Cultural Center.

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

Public Works and Transportation staff will brief the Dallas City Council on a proposed issuance schedule and strategies for the delivery of the 2006 Bond program in February 2007. Dallas residents overwhelmingly passed all 13 propositions in the 2006 Bond program.

Dallas residents may view the 2006 Capital Program map at www.dallascityhall.com. The mapping site has been customized for the public to query by council districts, programs and/or categories. As the bond program moves forward, the site will be customized by proposition and by construction date ranges based on Council approval.

**TRINITY RIVER CORRIDOR PROJECT AND
DALLAS PARK AND RECREATION**

The Trinity River Corridor Project Office and Dallas Park and Recreation department in coordination with Groundwork Dallas, have been working to enhance the trailhead to the Texas Buckeye Trail, located in Rochester Park. Wrought iron fencing has been installed, as well as an information kiosk at the trail's entrance. Groundwork Dallas is a non-profit organization that has done clean-up, enhancement and trail building projects in the communities adjacent to the Trinity River Corridor.