

City Hall Highlights

Individual Highlights:

LIBRARY
GRAND OPENING
2

EHS
OBESITY
3

EBS
POLLUTION
REDUCTION
4

HOUSING
HOME REPAIR
PROGRAM
5

OEQ
TOP TEN IN
NATION
6

OEM
EMERGENCY
TRAINING
7

TRINITY RIVER
COMMUNITY
MEETINGS
8

CODE COMPLIANCE SERVICES

The City of Dallas and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have partnered to create the Dallas Animal District, a new animal service community near the city's new animal shelter, currently under construction at 1818 N. Westmoreland Road.

The district will help the city become a model for animal services and strengthen the shelter's relationship with other local animal welfare groups, according to the city's new Animal Services Manager, Willie L. McDaniel.

The centrally-located Dallas Animal Services (DAS) shelter is scheduled to open in July and will provide specialized services, including an Adoption Unit, Lost and Found Unit and Spay/Neuter Clinic. The new facility will hold twice as many animals as the current Dallas shelters and will include a state-of-the-art training and conference room to host pet education programs for schools and interested groups.

McDaniel said the city intends to expand the DAS off-site adoption program, add dog parks to the Animal District and expand its education programs to identify, promote and sustain responsible pet ownership. "I believe all of these things are achievable and our new facility will help us accomplish them," he said.

CONVENTION AND EVENT SERVICES

The Dallas Convention Center is featured in the *2007 Almanac of Architecture & Design* as part of a study of the largest convention centers in the United States.

"This is an honor for the Dallas Convention Center and all who contributed to its innovative design and construction and a solid testament to the uses of our hotel/motel tax dollars," said Frank Poe, director of Convention and Event Services. "It's an affirmation of their contributions to the cutting-edge merging of building functionality, outstanding design and engineering."

The Convention Center is included in the Building Types chapter that contains similar studies on various buildings, including aquariums, art museums, airports, sports stadiums and some of the world's tallest buildings.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

The Dallas Convention Center is one of the largest convention centers in the country, with more than two million square feet of exhibit space and more than a million square feet of convention center space. The Center features include wireless internet, Heliport/Vertiport, 88 meeting rooms and two ballrooms.

According to a 2005 Brookings Institution study, cities have been making significant capital investments in new convention center construction and expansion of existing facilities. The latest edition of the *Almanac of Architecture & Design* provides readers with sweeping views of events, benchmarks and successes of the past year in design.

DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Timberglen, the city's 24th branch library, opened for business on Feb. 24. The 18,000 square-foot library, located at 18505 Midway Road, is also one of the most energy efficient and environmentally friendly buildings in Dallas. As a Silver Rated Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDS) building, the branch uses less electricity, gas and water and promotes ongoing environmental stewardship. Using a GreenTouchScreen, customers can view live energy and water usage data for the building. Some of the library's other features include:

- Wireless internet access
- 90-plus parking spaces
- Children's storytime area
- One-point checkout and reference service
- Curbside book and media drops
- Special computer areas for children and teens
- 25 computers and 10 laptops for public use
- Auditorium with projection screen and kitchen area
- Conference rooms for study and group use
- Large classroom for workshops, seminars and training sessions

"Timberglen is truly a reflection of the vibrant, diverse and thriving neighborhood that surrounds it," said Director of Libraries Laurie Evans. "We're also pleased to have the Timberglen Recreation Center as our neighbor."

COMING SOON TO THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY:

- April 7 - International Day Celebration, noon to 4 p.m., at the Central Library, 1515 Young St. The event will feature food, music and dances from the various ethnic communities in Dallas.
- April 13 - The city's fifth Teen Center will open at 11 a.m. at the Skillman Southwestern Branch Library, 5707 Skillman St.
- April 14 - The city's 25th branch library, Grauwylers Park, will open at 2146 Gilford St.
- April 20-21 - The Central Library will be filled with activities and programs for 25 straight hours to celebrate 25 years of the Central Library. A Jazz concert, puppet shows, book talks and computer classes will be part of the festivities.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

WIC Program

Electronic Benefits Transfer

Conversion to Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), a smart card similar to the Lone Star Card used by the Food Stamp Program, is in the works for the WIC Program. Six of the WIC's newest Community Service representatives traveled to Austin in February for training on the Texas WIN and Foxfire systems. The new systems will allow WIC staff to load monthly benefits on a participant's card instead of issuing paper vouchers. Staff was also trained on appointment scheduling procedures for the EBT, which went into effect in February. The City of Dallas WIC Program is scheduled to convert to the EBT method at the end of 2007.

Nutrition Education Video

WIC employees will be featured in a Texas Department of State Health Services training film on client-centered nutrition education to be used throughout the Texas WIC Program.

Film crews visited the North Dallas WIC clinic and interviewed Cynthia Wachtler, RD/LD, Reu Davila, community service representative and Yolanda Cepak, RD/LD.

Obesity a Health Risk

Obesity continues to be the number one health risk among pregnant and/or postpartum women and 20 percent of children over two years old who are enrolled in the WIC Program. Two WIC registered dietitians attended a national Obesity Conference in New York in February. Three WIC dietitians will attend the American Dietetic Association Childhood and Adolescent Weight Management Certification course conducted in Portland, Oregon this month. This brings the total to five registered dietitians who have completed the certification for treating childhood and adolescent obesity. Eventually, all WIC registered dietitians will complete this certification course.

Additional WIC news....

WIC staff participated in "Beyond ABC: Growing Up In Dallas County 2007" at Children's Medical Center in Dallas. The symposium presented statistics illustrating current success stories and continuing shortfalls in the quality of life of children growing up in Dallas County. The symposium was attended by all major organizations serving and representing the interests of children in Dallas County.

The City of Dallas WIC Program provides food security, nutrition education and health referrals to 70 percent of eligible women, infants and children in Dallas County. Every dollar spent in WIC results in a \$3.07 savings during a baby's first year of life. The City of Dallas WIC Program continues to expand its outreach efforts to address quality of life concerns and to include all eligible families.

EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING SERVICES

The Building Materials and Fleet Parts Inventory Operations in Equipment and Building Services (EBS) are coordinating an environmentally friendly product substitution program. The program is a result of the city's Environmental Management System which seeks to reduce the city's environmental footprint by conserving resources, reducing waste and preventing pollution.

EBS has also partnered with the Office of Environmental Quality and received a grant to pursue the use of environmentally friendly chemical products throughout the city. The following products are currently being substituted:

- Solvents, cleaners and lubricants; replaced with environmentally friendly products.
- Biodiesel, made primarily from soy beans, is now being used to clean certain parts and as a lubricant. In addition to being environmentally friendly, this product is also safer and costs less.
- Fluorescent bulbs are being used in all the EBS maintained buildings instead of incandescent bulbs. Fluorescents use less energy and last longer.
- Absorbent pads instead of absorbent granules (kitty litter) are being used for spills in the Fleet Operations shops where equipment is being serviced. This effort has been quite successful; shops are cleaner, spills are easier to clean up, and pads are easier and more convenient for reuse. Disposal is not a concern because the absorbent pads are picked up and sent to a facility for laundering.
- Aerosol products are being replaced as comparable non-aerosol products are identified. These are purchased in liquid form if possible, and trigger spray containers or containers that can be pressurized with air are used. This has greatly reduced aerosol can use and costs.
- Water-based paint is being used by EBS. Five out of nine types of paint are water based; as the oil based paint is depleted, it is replaced with water based paint. Requests for oil based paint instead of water base now have to be justified.
- All paper products such as toilet paper and paper towels are made from 100 percent recycled fibers and are green seal certified.
- Recycled anti-freeze is being increasingly used by the Fleet Operations Shops with the regular anti-freeze being phased out. It is 89 percent recycled product, 50/50 mix, so mixing with water is not required.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Housing Department offers assistance to persons purchasing homes in the City of Dallas. Under the Dallas Housing Finance Corporation's 2006 Single Family Program, first time buyers can purchase a home at 5.99 percent interest, with down payment assistance of 3.5 percent of the loan amount. Additional information on lenders participating in the program can be found at www.dallascityhall.com and click on **City Departments, Housing Department**, and then **Homebuyer**. Lenders can answer questions regarding mortgage qualifications. This program can be used in combination with the Enterprise Foundation's Mortgage Assistance Program which can provide an additional \$10,000 for down payment and closing assistance for qualified first-time homebuyers, provided the homebuyer uses a lender authorized under both programs. For contact information on the Mortgage Assistance Program visit www.dallasmap.org under List of Lenders.

Home Repair Program

The Housing Department's Home Repair Program received a good response during its city-wide open application process in October 2006. More than 500 applications were mailed to residents. Housing loan service representatives have conducted more than 230 interviews. Of those interviewed, about 53 are pending eligibility and 62 have cleared first tier eligibility requirements and are pending second tier on-site inspection assessments.

The 2006 application process has been well accepted by the community and current trends indicate the potential to meet 2006-2007 objectives will clearly be defined by early spring. The application process is open throughout the year for residents who live within Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) target areas.

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) and the Department of Environmental and Health Services will dedicate the mural project *The Spirit of Hope, Peace and Community* at the West Dallas Multipurpose Center at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15. The project is part of the public art program managed by the OCA.

The Spirit of Hope, Peace and Community by Dallas artist Carlos Canul consists of four murals measuring 7' x 28' and presents a visual narrative of symbolic imagery. The four paintings contribute to the cycle's overall theme of the vital role that family, hope, and spirit play throughout our lives. The sun rises over the landscape depicted in the east wall, and the west mural completes the cycle of day with a moonlit night sky. These paintings emphasize the important relationship between families and communities. The north mural presents a trio of images, including a union of hands, a young girl, and a dove, and symbolizes strength, youth, and hope. The cycle of murals is completed by the south wall, a collage of imagery meant to evoke personal memories of family and friends and the importance of their protection and guidance.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

City Council approved up to \$271,000 in TIF funding for public improvements (including paving, streetscape and pedestrian lighting) for a \$6.8 million town home development in the Farmers Market area. The \$6.8 million project, consisting of 28 town homes, is being developed by 2100 Downtown Condominiums, LLC and is located at 2100 Young Street. Prices will range from \$390,600 to \$589,600. The estimated net appraisal value of the project is \$9.8 million. Construction is expected to be complete by Dec. 31, 2008.

The City Council also approved an economic development package worth an estimated \$683,630 over ten years for a new 441,000 square-foot, \$12.5 million speculative distribution/warehouse facility on 23.2 acres at Interstate 20 and Mountain Creek Parkway. The building is expected to be complete in Jan. 2008.

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

State Energy Conservation Office award

The City of Dallas has received an award from the State Energy Conservation Office and the Texas Energy Partnership for outstanding achievements in energy efficiency and air quality improvement. The city has reduced its overall energy use through a number of initiatives, including use of lighting upgrades and solar panels and installation of new heating and air conditioning systems and automated building controls. Energy savings have also been realized by replacing incandescent traffic lights with Light Emitting Diodes, installing a geothermal heat pump and replacing old roofs with supplemental insulations.

Alternative fuel use programs

Dallas is one of the top ten cities in the nation to have successfully implemented alternative fuel programs for its vehicle fleets, according to a survey by SustainLaneGovernment.

SustainLaneGovernment, which tracks data and offers resources on sustainability programs, policies and practices for state and local governments, surveyed the 50 largest cities to determine the percentage of city fleets using alternative fuels, including biodiesel, hydrogen, ethanol, compressed and natural gas. Dallas was ranked fifth, with 39 percent of its vehicles using alternative fuels, and was the only Texas city to make the top ten.

Dallas currently operates more than 1,200 compressed natural gas and hybrid electric cars, light trucks and vans in its fleet, and received approval from the City Council to buy 33 additional CNG sedans, the cost of which will be partially offset through grant funding. The city is also considering options for reducing emissions of its sanitation fleet possibly through the use of alternative fuels.

"The City of Dallas has been committed to alternative fuels since the early 1990's and continues to push the envelope on evaluation and testing of innovative technologies to reduce our emissions," said Jack Ireland, Director of Building and Equipment Services. "Environmental stewardship is a key component to the selection, operation and maintenance of our city vehicles."

In 2006, SustainLane ranked Dallas as number one and a "Sustainability Leader" based on the city's Environmental Management System and management of its environmental and sustainability functions.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Seventy-five Dallas City officials completed a special training course last month at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) is used to test and validate emergency plans and procedures to respond to large-scale emergencies.

"The City of Dallas proved it is well prepared for any emergency or disaster," said Phillip Moore, training specialist for the Department of Homeland Security. "I was impressed with the level of skills, experience and coordination efforts each person brought to the table."

The Integrated Emergency Management Course addressed preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities associated with disasters or emergencies that may affect the jurisdiction of the City of Dallas. The course utilized the cornerstones of proactive emergency management standards; coordination, cooperation and communication.

FEMA representatives visited Dallas in early November to spend a few days in the city in order to devise a possible scenario which mirrors "real world" infrastructure, resources and vulnerabilities. The IEMC exercise simulated a tornado sweeping through the Downtown Central Business District.

"The City of Dallas has an extensive and well researched Emergency Operations Plan which is the governing instrument for managing any disaster," said Kenny Shaw, director of the Office of Emergency Management. "All of that proactive planning paid off in responding to the mock disaster, especially the creation of the Downtown Emergency Response Team."

Members of the Downtown Emergency Response Team include city agencies, private sector stakeholders, Building Owners and Managers Association, Downtown Security Directors Association, Downtown Improvement District and the media.

"In any emergency the protection of life, physical safety and health of the residents of Dallas, including first responders is our first and immediate priority," said Ryan Evans, first assistant city manager who led the city's response to the mock disaster. "Coordinating the public, private and volunteer response also includes maintaining the operability of existing and essential infrastructure, conserving and protecting public and private property, businesses and services as well as providing for recovery in the aftermath of any emergency and minimizing damage to the environment."

Participating City of Dallas departments included the Office of Emergency Management, Dallas Police, Dallas Fire-Rescue, City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, , Business Development and Procurement, Code Compliance, Communication and Information Services, Convention and Event Services, Environmental and Health Services, Equipment and Building Services, Finance, Building Inspection, GIS, Human Resources, The Dallas Public Library, Park and Recreation, Public Information Office, Public Works and Transportation, Streets Services and Water Utilities.

**PUBLIC
INFORMATION
OFFICE**

The mission of the City of Dallas Public Information Office (PIO) is to serve as the City's liaison with the news media and to facilitate an accurate and consistent flow of public information to the City's various constituencies.

1500 Marilla 4ES
Dallas, TX 75201

PHONE:
214-670-1009

FAX:
214-670-0160

Estela.hernandez@
dallascityhall.com

Publication Number
06/07-27

SANITATION SERVICES**Environmental Education Initiative**

The public is invited to attend the 2nd Annual Community Fair "Conservation in Action" to be held at the Lagoon Pavilion in Fair Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 17.

The event is sponsored by Sanitation Services and Dallas Water Utilities as part of the City of Dallas Environmental Education Initiative. The fair will feature recycling and water conservation activities as well as exhibits.

Water activities include: Butterfly gardening with Xeriscape principles, Water Cycle; Water Jeopardy and hands-on water conservation exhibit module. Recycling activities include: coloring stations, recycled paper demonstration, recycle relay, litter walk, and hands-on recycling exhibit module.

TRINITY RIVER CORRIDOR

The City Plan Commission's Trinity River Ad Hoc Committee and staff conducted community meetings in the La Bajada/Los Altos on February 6 and Oak Cliff Gateway on February 13, study areas this past month. Over 400 residents attended the meetings held to discuss upcoming review and possible rezoning of these areas as the city moves to implement the recommendations contained in the Trinity River Corridor Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It is expected that zoning cases will soon be initiated by the Plan Commission in these areas. That step will authorize City staff to begin the review and rezoning process which will involve several more meetings with the Ad Hoc Committee, the Plan Commission, the Council's Trinity River Committee, and the City Council itself before any changes are put in place. At least one additional community meeting will be held in each area as part of the review process. Resident input is welcome at the meetings, which are open to the public.