



City of Dallas

DALLAS DELIVERS

CITY HALL HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 2 · ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2008

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EPA recognizes Dallas for leading green power purchase



For the first time ever, the City of Dallas appears on two Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists of largest green power purchasers: the Top 10 Local Governments List and the National Top 25 List. Green power is electricity generated from environ-

mentally preferable renewable resources, such as wind, solar, and low-impact hydro.

The City is purchasing 40 percent of its power (nearly 334 million kilowatt-hours) in 2008 from renewable sources, primarily wind. This purchase puts Dallas in the No. 1 spot on the EPA's Top 10 Local Government List and No. 9 on the National Top 25 List. The National Top 25 List includes leading U.S. organizations, from Fortune 500 companies to local, state and federal governments, as well as a growing number of colleges and universities.



"By voluntarily shifting to renewable energy, the City of Dallas is proving you don't need to wait for a signal in order to go green," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. The City also qualifies for the EPA's Green Power Leadership Club, a distinction given to organizations that have significantly exceeded EPA's minimum purchase requirements. These Club members must purchase ten times the partnership's minimum requirement.

"This is a huge honor and we are proud to be recognized by the EPA," said City Manager **Mary K. Suhm**. "Purchasing green power helps our organization become more sustainable, while also sending a message across the U.S. that supporting clean sources of electricity is a sound business decision and an important choice in reducing climate risk."

According to the EPA, the City of Dallas' green power purchase is equivalent to avoiding the CO₂ emissions of nearly 48,000 passenger vehicles per year, or the equivalent amount of electricity needed to power nearly 33,000 average American homes annually.

To find out more about how we're building a greener Dallas, visit www.GreenDallas.net

Department revives Police Athletic League

Thanks to the hard work and big heart of Sgt. **Sheldon Smith**, the Dallas Police Department once again has a Police Athletic League.

Smith, Lt. **Malik Aziz** and Officer **Tony Little** have revived the program, which has been dormant for many years. The Police Athletic League offers a structured, safe and friendly environment for kids ages five to 18 to participate in organized, competitive sports and other recreational activities.

The Dallas League's recent affiliation with the National Association of Police Athletic Leagues has provided the organization with insurance programs and fundraising opportunities as well as training and education at the annual conference. Smith also confirmed that the League has received a \$25,000 donation from Nestle/Ozarka Water.

Smith said other sponsors are coming forward as word of the program gets out but there's always a need for more. "I have a dream that this program will get so big that I will have a representative from each substation on the Police Athletic League board."

Future activities will include a "walk and talk," in which 50 officers will be paired with 50 kids to work on physical fitness and leading a healthy lifestyle. All of that will lead up to a 5K foot race at the conclusion of the program.

But what normally takes the effort of 10 to 15 officers is currently being done by just a handful, so the department is asking for any and all help. Anyone wanting to become a sponsor, or officers who want to join the effort to change the lives of these at risk youths are asked to contact Sgt. Sheldon Smith at (214) 202-1969.



The Dallas Police Academy's first activity was a soccer camp sponsored by Major League Soccer.

The Dallas Police Athletic League offers a safe and structured environment for kids ages five to 18.

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Internal survey offers employees chance to make their opinions count

What do Purchasing, Human Resources, and Equipment & Building Services have in common? They all count City employees as their customers; and they want your opinion about their service to you. In February, City employees will have the opportunity to weigh in on the services they receive from these departments: City Secretary; Equipment and Building Services; Financial Services; Civil Service; Human Resources; Communication and Information Services; Intergovernmental Services; Efficiency Team; Strategic Customer Services; Office of Environmental Quality; and the Public Information Office.

Users of these services will be asked to fill out short surveys. Survey feedback will help these departments with continuous improvement - finding ways to serve you better. This year, instead of filling up your email box with multiple surveys, you will receive one email with a link to all of the surveys. You can pick and choose which surveys to complete depending on which departments you interact with the most.



Why should you take the time to fill out one or more surveys? **Because your opinion matters!**

City departments that provide services to external customers; people who live, work and play in Dallas; participate in the annual citywide Citizen Survey. This customer satisfaction feedback helps departments determine the level of service they provide and supports their requests for funding during the budget season.

And what about departments who primarily serve internal customers? Customer satisfaction feedback is just as important for internal services to make good decisions as external services. So, take a few minutes and tell them how they're doing. Strategic Customer Services thanks you in advance for your participation. Questions or concerns? Contact Kenneth Gwyn at (214) 670-4632.

Dallas Emergency Response Team building strong relationships

On March 28, 2000, an F2 tornado roared through Fort Worth, killing five people, injuring another 100, and causing more than \$500 million in damages, primarily in the downtown business district. As the dust settled, it became clear that there needed to be better communication between business organizations and public safety departments before a disaster happens.

To that end, the City of Dallas partnered with business leaders in the Dallas Downtown Business District to create a collaborative relationship: the Dallas Emergency Response Team (DERT). "We have partnered to work on emergency plans and exercises, high rise evacuation drills, security issues, and communications during incidents that may affect the business community," said OEM Director **Kenny Shaw**. A Web site and e-mail list have been established to assist that communication effort.

Last fall, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Dallas Police Department and Dallas Fire-Rescue, and the DERT team began working to broaden this program with the inclusion of businesses, volunteer organizations, and non-profits across the City. DERT was expanded to the North Central business district near the Galleria Mall, and this year to the Stemmons Corridor Business Association. The OEM will also be facilitating the first annual DERT Conference April 1 at the Dallas Convention Center, featuring Mayor Tom Leppert, Texas Homeland Security Director Steve McCraw, Police Chief **David Kunkle**, Fire-Rescue Chief **Eddie Burns, Sr.**, FBI representatives, and DERT members. (Details will be announced in a future issue of City Hall Highlights).

"The City of Dallas is committed to seeing DERT expand and develop through collaboration and communication between the public, private, and non-profit sectors so that we will be better prepared for any disaster," Shaw said.

“We are very grateful to AT&T for their generous support of the Dallas Public Library system,” said Director of Libraries Laurie Evans.

“Mysteries of Texas,” an African-American Authors Showcase and two more Authorspeak programs are a few of the upcoming events at the Dallas Public Library.

Library opens new Teen Center at Park Forest Branch

The City of Dallas opened its sixth Teen Center Jan. 30, at the Park Forest Branch Library, 3421 Forest Lane. The new Center is the third to be funded by a \$15,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation.

“We are very grateful to AT&T for their generous support of the Park Forest Teen Center, and for their ongoing support of the Dallas Public Library system,” said Director of Libraries **Laurie Evans**. The AT&T Foundation also provided a grant to open the Skillman Southwestern Teen Center in 2007 and the Oak Cliff Teen Center in 2006. Teen Centers are also located at the Hampton Illinois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Skyline and North Oak Cliff Branches.



The Teen Center will have laptop computers, books and DVDs specifically targeted to address teen needs and interests, and an online homework help program. A Teen Advisory Council will assist with program scope and make suggestions on the type of materials for the teen collection.

The centers teach teens important life skills and provide them with the opportunity to address concerns in positive ways. “At risk” teens interact with positive role models, including library staff and academic and professional members of the community, who provide guidance and advice. Centers also provide interview training, job fairs, help with college and scholarship applications and assistance with creative writing, public speaking, web design and other activities.

Coming events at the Dallas Public Library

Feb. 16 - Weird Mysteries of Texas
Best-selling author Nicholas Redfern will share his insights into the many paranormal phenomena occurring in Texas. The free presentation will be at 2 p.m. in The Studio, located on the third floor Humanities Division.

Feb. 23 - African-American Authors Showcase
Local and regional African-American authors will discuss their work at a special free event from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young St. The discussion is part of African-American Heritage Month and Love Your Library Month celebrations at the library.

Feb. 28 – Authorspeak, featuring Willie L. Brown, Jr. 6:30 p.m., Central Library, 7th Floor, O’Hara Exhibit Hall. The long-time California State Assemblyman and first African-American Mayor of San Francisco will discuss his experiences and views of the world.

March 6 – Authorspeak, featuring **Ted Fishman**, 6:30 p.m., Central Library, 7th Floor, O’Hara Exhibit Hall. The author of *China, Inc.: How the Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World* paints a vivid picture of the megatrends radiating from China with his best-selling book.

Check out these events at a Dallas cultural center near you

The City of Dallas cultural centers provide a wide range of community-based and culturally diverse artistic programs. Here are a few of the events coming up:



Juanita J. Craft

Juanita J. Craft Civil Rights House

Feb. 9, noon to 3 p.m. - Civil Rights Saturday. Celebrate the birthday of Dallas' own Juanita J. Craft with performances by Akin Babatunde and Melody Bell featuring stories about Craft's life, the civil rights movement, and the African American experience.

Bath House Cultural Center and Echo Theatre

Feb. 14 to March 8 – Daisy in the Dreamtime, by Lynne Kaufmann. The true story of Daisy Bates, an Irish woman who pitched a tent in the Australian outback and lived with the aborigines for 30 years. Schedule, tickets and information at <http://echotheatre.org/>

Feb. 9 to March - 14 Annual El Corazón Art Exhibition. Creations inspired by the human heart (El Corazón), a significant symbol in Latin American art and culture. *Opening Reception with the artists* 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 9.



El Corazón Exhibition.

South Dallas Cultural Center

Feb. 15-16, 8 p.m. - South Dallas Cultural Center Celebrates Black History Month. Films screened by Black Cinematheque Dallas, Jammin'at the Center and performances by Kumaasi African Ensemble, Beckles Dancing Company and Os Malandros de Mestre Touro Capoeira Group. Admission to films \$5, all other events free.

Feb. 26, 7 p.m. - The Listening Room. Fort Worth ASCAP award-winning saxophonist Quamon Fowler will play his original jazz compositions. A Q&A happens between sets!

Feb. 9 to March 8 - Heart of the Matter. A mixed media exhibition by Dallas emerging artist, Florence Criss. Opening reception at 4 p.m. Feb. 9. Meet the Artist talk at 5 p.m.

Latino Cultural Center

Feb. 7 - April 15 - Cardinal Points/Puntos Cardinales: A Survey of Contemporary Latino and Latin American Art from the Sprint Nextel Art Collection. Highlights 55 two-dimensional works, including photographs, prints, paintings, and mixed media by Latin American and Latino artists in the United States. Opening reception 6 p.m. Feb. 7.

March 1, 7:30 p.m. - Elisa Monte Dance. The group bridges cultural barriers through the universal language of dance and is widely recognized for its highly athletic and sensual style, as well as its technical and physical acuity, exploring a multitude of topics and themes.



Elisa Monte Dance group

March 8, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Target Saturdays! Children's theater, clowns, dance and craft workshops and movies are featured on Target Saturday! For more information contact Drema Chavez at (214) 671-0051.

March 15, 6 p.m., Sikkil Gurucharan vocal artist. The Indian Fine Arts Association presents Sikkil Gurucharan accompanied by Nagai R Sriram on the violin and Neyveli Skanda Subramaniam on the Mridangam. For ticket information go to www.ifaadfw.org.

For a list of cultural center locations and other information go to www.dallasculture.org.

“We really don’t want to arrest people or embarrass them in public, we just want to clear up the warrants,” said Court and Detention Services Director Gloria Carter.

The 2008 roundup will again focus on violators with outstanding Class C misdemeanor warrants, most of which are traffic-related.

City will participate in statewide warrant roundup

Defendants who fail to pay their outstanding warrants could be in for a rude awakening on Feb. 16. That’s when the City of Dallas will join law enforcement agencies from across Texas for the 2008 Statewide Warrant Roundup. Beginning Feb. 16, officers will arrest people with outstanding warrants pending before their respective municipal courts.

Persons with outstanding City citations can avoid arrest by appearing in person to make arrangements at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center Lobby, 111 W.

Commerce, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week or by visiting 106 S. Harwood in downtown Dallas (wheelchair access is at 2014 Main Street). City officials emphasize that several options are available to people who have outstanding warrants, including making full payment or a suitable arrangement for full payment; performing community service or work release, posting a cash bond, making a Magistrate Court appearance, obtaining attorney representation or receiving credit for time served by turning yourself in at the Marshal’s Office, 1600 Chestnut.

“The City of Dallas is very pleased to be a part of this effort, which is strongly supported by members of the City Council and the Council’s Public Safety Committee,” said Court and Detention Services Director **Gloria Carter**. “We really don’t want to arrest people or embarrass them in public, we just want to clear up the warrants,” she said. “That’s why we’re giving people plenty of notice that they need to take care of these warrants and act now to avoid arrest before the roundup begins Feb. 16.”

The 2008 roundup will again focus on violators with outstanding Class C misdemeanor warrants; most of which are traffic-related. More than 60,000 notices are being mailed to persons with active warrants against them. To minimize the effect on the City’s jail population, persons arrested in the roundup will be housed at the City’s Detention Center, at 1600 Chestnut, rather than the Lew Sterrett Justice Center.



Fort Worth City Marshal Jesse Hernandez kicked off the 2008 statewide warrant roundup Feb. 1.

Leadership Lecture features candid answers from the City Manager



City Manager **Mary K. Suhm** provided candid answers to employee questions during a 60-minute “talk show” at Dallas City Hall Jan. 28. The event was the kickoff for the 2008 Leadership Lecture Series, and was called “Mary Suhm 360.”

Employee questions were solicited via e-mail prior to the event and were posed by the program’s moderators, with additional questions asked by audience members. Employee

benefits, performance appraisals, and the merit program were some of the topics addressed.

Suhm also answered pointed questions about City stories making headlines in the news and addressed the challenges of recommending a FY 2008-2009 budget which does not include a tax increase. Suhm remained in the auditorium after the conclusion of the program for about 45 minutes to visit with about 15 employees who lined up to speak with her one-on-one to address issues.



If you weren’t there, you missed an engaging and enlightening discussion. But, more events are coming up, so be sure to join Mary Suhm, the executive management team and select speakers for more engaging conversations in this year’s Leadership Lecture Series.

Look for the “Speakerbill” programs posted on City bulletin boards for upcoming events, topics and dates.

City of Dallas is honored as a “star of supplier diversity”

The City of Dallas has been named 2007 Public Sector Agency of the Year by the Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Business Council. **Rozalind R. Dickerson**, a member of the Business Development & Procurement Services department’s ResourceLINK Team, was named Buying Entity Advocate of the Year.

To receive the Agency of the Year Award, public sector agencies had to exhibit senior executive involvement and leadership (internally and externally); company-wide employee involvement with supplier diversity; and multi-tiered minority business enterprise inclusion program initiatives. The criteria for Advocate of the Year included a demonstration of leadership and vision, community involvement, and recipient volunteerism with the Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Business Council.

“It’s always good to know you’re doing something right,” said Director of Business Development and Procurement **Ade Williams**. “To get this kind of recognition among our peer agencies is very gratifying. It tells us we’re doing a top-notch job.”

The Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Business Council was founded in 1973 by local corporations to foster access and opportunity for minority owned businesses. The council comprises 180 private and public sector buying entities and has certified more than 650 minority-owned businesses. It is one of 39 regional affiliates of the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

North Texas Irish Festival is returning to Fair Park

A Dallas tradition since 1983, the North Texas Irish Festival returns to Fair Park Feb. 29 and March 1-2. The event features many of the top Irish musicians and dancers in the world and a number of cultural presentations on eight stages at Fair Park.



The festivities will continue throughout the weekend, including Saturday, March 1 through Sunday, March 2, and feature Irish and other Celtic entertainment including world famous bands, award-winning dancers, enchanting storytellers at the popular Urchin Street area and educational workshops. The festival will also offer a variety of delicious Irish and international food and drink, cultural crafts, and ethnic vendors.

The Festival has always centered on the music, dance and culture of Ireland. The four large stages showcase international musicians from the US, Canada and Europe, plus a great selection of very popular local and regional entertainers. For ticket prices and more information, call (972) 943-4616 or visit www.ntif.org.

Community Associations Mapping Project launched

The City of Dallas has launched the Community Associations Mapping Project, an online service that allows residents to quickly access information on local homeowner, neighborhood and crime watch associations.

The program allows residents to type in their home address and obtain information on their local neighborhood association, homeowners association and/or crime watch zone, including meeting times and locations.

“The more involved and invested people are in their communities and neighborhoods, the better and stronger Dallas becomes,” said Assistant City Manager **Jill Jordan**. “We have found that although many people wanted to get involved in their neighborhoods, they just didn’t know where to start. This tool makes getting involved easier.”

For more information about the Community Associations Mapping Project, contact Strategic Customer Service at (214) 670-5551 or scs@dallascityhall.com.

