

City Hall Highlights

Individual Highlights:

DPD –
CRIME RESULTS
2

LIB. SVCS. -
BLACK HISTORY
3

EHS -
LACTATION
PROGRAM
4

EHS –
FLU VACCINES
5

OEQ -
ENVIRON. MGMT.
SYSTEMS
6

PWT –
SAFELIGHT
7

SAN. SVCS. –
RECYCLING

CODE COMPLIANCE SERVICES

Code Compliance Services has named Greg Franklin its new boarding house inspector.

Franklin will help ensure the health and safety of residents by inspecting the interior and exterior of structures defined by City Ordinance as boarding or lodging houses, group residential facilities, extended stay hotels or motels or residential hotels.

Franklin will initially develop a database to ensure that all properties under these categories are identified and inspected, and that minimum maintenance standards are being followed. Examples of violations include:

Structural standards - Maintenance of steps, porches, stairs, railings, repair of holes, cracks and other defects reasonably capable of causing injury. Protecting the exterior surfaces of structures subject to decay by painting and making sure those surfaces are water and weather tight. Maintenance of floors, walls, ceilings and all supporting members in a sound condition.

Utility standards - Proper operation and maintenance of plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning equipment.

Health standards - Elimination of rodents and vermin, keeping property free of trash and debris, and cleanliness of structure.

Property owners will be notified of violations and given a deadline to bring the property up to standards. Failure to comply may result in a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or further legal action. Citizens may refer complexes fitting these definitions to 311 for review and inspection.

DALLAS FIRE-RESCUE

Dallas Fire-Rescue has developed a new mission statement, purpose, vision statement and core value statement. A cross section of 80 department members participated in workshops to formulate the statements.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to prevent and suppress fires, educate and rescue residents, provide emergency medical services, promote public safety and foster community relations.

--Continued on Page 2

DALLAS FIRE-RESCUE

--Continued from Page 1

PURPOSE:

Dallas Fire-Rescue exists to provide the residents of Dallas the most effective and rapid emergency, fire, rescue and prevention services in an ever-changing environment.

VISION STATEMENT:

To become a world class Fire Department that sets an exemplary standard in fire prevention, rescue, suppression and Emergency Medical Services through progressive leadership and innovative practices.

DEPARTMENTAL CORE VALUES:

Integrity	Diversity	Compassion
Dedication	Respect	Customer Service

CORE VALUE STATEMENT:

To consistently exceed residents' expectations by providing professional quality service with compassion and integrity through a dedicated workforce that represents and respects our diverse community.

These are in addition to honoring the city values of Integrity, Leadership, Commitment, Accountability, Teamwork, Innovation and Sensitivity.

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DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Several Dallas Police Department initiatives have helped bring crime numbers down in 2006. They include:

- New tools and equipment funded by private donors and community foundations
- Integration of a crime control and community policing model
- Specialized units, such as operation disruption, gangs and narcotics
- Target "hotspots" and community liaisons

2006 Crime Results

Murder rate, total crime and violent crime are all down.

Dallas experienced its lowest murder rate in 40 years, with a total of 187 murders or 0.152 per 1000 population.

The total crime rate has been on a downward trend at 82.58 per 1000 population; reaching the lowest total crime rate in 33 years.

In 1984, the violent crime rate was 12.26, a rate that had not been reached in the past 22 years until now at 12.28 per 1000 population; making 2006 the fifth consecutive year of violent crime reduction.

The numbers have also decreased in auto theft and non-violent crimes over the past several years. Criminal offenses also decreased with 13,166 fewer in 2006 than in 2003, an 11.5 percent decrease.

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DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT MOSAIC Fusion Center

The Dallas Police Department unveiled the new Metro Operations Support and Analytical Intelligence Center (MOSAIC) Fusion Center last month at the Jack Evans Police Headquarters building. The MOSAIC Fusion Center will serve as an information and intelligence-hub for the department to begin proactive intelligence- led policing efforts. The MOSAIC Fusion Center was created with the use of a \$1.5 million dollar grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

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DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY A Voice for the Community: African-Americans on the Dallas City Council

Special historical exhibits celebrate Black History Month Feb. 2-28 by recognizing the 18 African-American men and women who have served on the Dallas City Council. The exhibits include inaugural scrapbooks, campaign fliers, photos taken by noted Dallas photographer Marion Butts, a 1965 campaign card by George Allen and excerpts from oral history interviews.

The materials will be on display in the first floor lobby at City Hall, 1500 Marilla St. and on the 7th floor of the Central Library, 1515 Young St.

The idea for the exhibit was developed by the Black Employee Support Team, a group of African-American city employees. The library's Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division, City Secretary's Municipal Archives, Equipment and Building Services and the Park and Recreation Department helped create the historical exhibits.

The idea for the historical exhibits to celebrate Black History Month was developed by the Black Employee Support Team, a group of African-American city employees.

"Children's Edition" Coming to NorthPark

The Dallas Public Library will open a children's library in NorthPark Center, the largest shopping center in North Texas. The Dallas Public Library "children's edition" will have materials geared specifically for children ages birth to 14, plus a parenting collection. The library is set to open in spring 2007 and will be a testing ground for future locations in non-traditional settings.

In a partnership with the Library, NorthPark has agreed to provide the space and build-out, including signs, lighting, electrical, artwork and other financial/in-kind project support. With donated space and equipment, the library should cost the city nothing extra to run.

The library is set to open in spring 2007 and will be a testing ground for future locations in non-traditional settings.

--Continued on Page 4

“Children’s Edition” Coming to NorthPark

--Continued from Page 3

“We couldn’t be happier that NorthPark Center has made this very generous offer to the Dallas Public Library,” said Laurie Evans, Director of Libraries. “It’s perfectly in line with our goal of finding alternative outlets and co-locations to make library programs and services accessible to more of the community.” Evans said the success of the “children’s edition” at NorthPark will be evaluated after a year, and if successful, could result in other non-traditional locations in the future.

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The City of Dallas Development Services has submitted a request for proposals (RFP’s) to consultants to develop and carry out key amendments of the Dallas Development Code aimed at implementing important initiatives of the Forward Dallas! Comprehensive Plan.

These code amendments will be developed and adopted through a public process that will be launched at the beginning of 2007. They will focus on development regulations and standards that strongly encourage mixed-use development, pedestrian and bicycle friendly environments as well as efficient parking around mass transit stations and other appropriate urban areas.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Environmental and Health Services has hired Janet Syrcle, RN, LCCE, an International Board Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) as a lactation consultant for the W.I.C. Program. This will allow the W.I.C. Program to expand lactation services to more participants.

As a lactation consultant, Syrcle will provide clinical lactation care and management to W.I.C. participants and contribute to improving breastfeeding duration. She will provide home visits, breast pump deliveries, training to W.I.C. staff and mentoring to breastfeeding peer counselors. Syrcle has over 40 years experience as a maternal child nurse, including 10 years consulting with working breastfeeding mothers. Currently, the W.I.C. program has about 8,700 breastfeeding moms in the lactation program.

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According to Healthy People 2010, a program of the United States Department of Health Services, breast milk is widely acknowledged as the most complete form of nutrition for infants, with a range of benefits for infants’ health, growth, immunity and development.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Environmental and Health Services is offering flu vaccinations at four clinics throughout the city. Immunizations are \$3 per child.

The Texas Vaccines for Children are available at these Dallas clinics:

Oak Cliff Center

300 N. Ewing Ave.
Dallas 75203
214-670-7482

West Dallas Health Center

2828 Fishtrap Rd.
Dallas 75212
214-670-7152

John West Health Center

3312 N. Buckner Blvd., Ste. 200
Dallas 75228
214-243-1530

North Dallas Health Center

8001 LBJ Fwy., Ste. 200
Dallas 75251
214-670-6555

For adult flu vaccinations, contact Adult Services at 214-670-0521 or Dallas County Health and Human Services at 214-819-2000.

INFLUENZA FACTS

October or November is the best time to be vaccinated, but getting vaccinated later can still be protective. The peak flu season is between January and March, but the illness can occur as late as May.

The best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccination each year. The flu shot can be given to children as young as six months old. It takes about two weeks after the vaccination for antibodies to develop. Good hygiene is also important in preventing the spread of the flu.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. Every year in the United States, about 5 to 20 percent of the population gets the flu, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from complications, and about 36,000 people die. Those at higher risk include young children, the elderly and those with chronic medical conditions.

Symptoms include headache, high fever, dry cough, sore throat, muscle aches, runny or stuffy nose, fatigue, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Complications of the flu can include ear infections, pneumonia, dehydration and worsening of chronic medical conditions.

Reference: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

The City of Dallas and Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) received a financial boost from several philanthropic organizations who contributed \$1 million to address the issue of homelessness in Dallas. The donation from the Baron and Blue Foundation, Harold C. Simmons Foundation, Highland Park United Methodist Church and the Meadows Foundation will support MDHA's focus on careful planning and start up of programs at the Homeless Assistance Center (HAC) over the next two years.

Construction of the HAC, to be located south of the downtown area, will begin soon and the center is expected to open in spring 2008.

In 2004, Dallas became the first city in the southwest region to adopt a 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness. In 2005, a \$23.8 million bond package was passed to develop a HAC and Single Room Occupancy units. On Sept. 27, 2006, the Dallas City Council passed a resolution recognizing that the MDHA is the lead authority on regional homeless issues.

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Ramiro Lopez, Assistant Director of Equipment and Building Services and Grady Coomes, Environmental Project Coordinator for Dallas Water Utilities were recognized by the City Manager's Office at the fourth annual 2006 City Environmental Seminar held in January. Both employees developed and implemented the City's Environmental Management Systems in their respective departments, which enhanced environmental stewardship in areas from reducing electrical usage to chemical substitution.

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

“SafeLight, Dallas Stops on Red!” is the city’s photo traffic safety system now being installed at selected intersections as part of a new initiative to increase public safety and reduce the number of collisions caused by red light runners.

Since the city began issuing citations on Jan. 15, more than 1,700 citations were issued in the 17 days remaining in the month. Intersections with the most citations issued are: Beckley Avenue & Colorado Boulevard, Tyler Street & Jefferson Boulevard, Ferguson Road & Gus Thomasson Road and Commerce Street at Central Expressway.

Citations carry a fine of \$75 for the first and second violation, then \$150 for a third violation within a 12-month period. No points off driving record with Department of Public Safety or insurance implications are tied to red light camera violations.

The following intersections are being monitored:

- Abrams Road & Forest Lane
- Camp Wisdom Road & Westmoreland Road
- Fitzhugh Avenue & Gaston Avenue
- Commerce Street & Central Expressway
- Miller Road & Plano Road
- Tyler Street & Jefferson Boulevard
- Lemmon Avenue & Mockingbird Lane
- Marsh Lane & Frankford Road
- Beckley Avenue & Colorado Boulevard
- Ferguson Road & Gus Thomasson Road
- Mockingbird Lane & Greenville Avenue
- Coit Road & Banner Road
- Greenville Road & Royal Lane
- Gaston Avenue & Peak Street
- Abrams Road at Mockingbird Lane

Forty-five additional monitored intersections will be activated by May 1.

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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.

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SANITATION SERVICES

Since the city's Sanitation Services department began collecting recyclables in the Big Blue roll carts last month, we've seen an 84 percent increase in the tonnage of materials collected over the same time period last year. This is great news for the "Too Good to Throw Away" recycling program which started this year. With "Too Good to Throw Away," Dallas residents are encouraged to recycle up to half of the paper, plastic and glass items they would normally throw away. The new program is convenient and easy to use because there is no sorting; the program allows more items to be recycled than in years past; and the recyclables are collected every other week.

Unfortunately, residents who have not been issued the city's gray garbage roll cart won't be able to use the Big Blue recycling roll carts, but they can still recycle using blue bags. Blue bags are free at any Dallas library or recreation center. Residents whose garbage is collected in the gray garbage carts can order a 96-gallon blue recycling roll cart by calling 311 or logging on to www.dallascityhall.com.

STRATEGIC CUSTOMER SERVICE

On February 23, CSI Dallas will host "Mission Possible: Excellence in Customer Service," the second annual citywide customer service rally. "Mission Possible" will be held at the Dallas Convention Center Arena from 9 to 11 a.m. and will include music, motivational speakers, and a re-commitment to the citywide value of providing quality customer service. **All city employees are invited to attend.** You must be present to win free prizes.

The City of Dallas' customer service initiative, CSI Dallas, was established in 2005, and is comprised of four tactical teams and an oversight body. More than 70 employees from throughout the organization have volunteered to participate in the initiative. The goal of CSI Dallas is to improve city services by instilling quality customer service as a fundamental behavior exhibited by all employees in the delivery of city services.