

North Dallas Gazette



Your Paper, Your Opportunity...

Visit Us Online at www.NorthDallasGazette.com

Obama Administration Announces Additional \$208,759,900 for Local Energy Efficiency Improvements in Texas

Block Grants to Support Jobs, Cut Energy Bills, and Increase Energy Independence

Vice President Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced plans to invest \$3.2 billion in energy efficiency and conservation projects in U.S. cities, counties, states, territo-

ries, and Native American tribes. This amount includes \$208,759,900 for state, county and city efforts in Texas.

Locally, Garland will receive \$1.9 million, Plano \$2.5 million,

Richardson \$1 million with Dallas scheduled to receive nearly \$12.8 million.

The announcement builds on an investment of \$545,757,732 in Texas weatherization and energy

funding announced by the Administration on March 12th and detailed at energy.gov/recovery.

"These investments will save taxpayer dollars

See ENERGY, Page 12

COVER STORY

George Washington Carver



See CARVER Page 9

Police Dash-Cams Can Clear Cops, Catch Wrongdoing

Editor's Note Officer Robert Powell resigned from the Dallas Police Department on April 1, 2009.

(AP) When NFL player Ryan Moats was pulled over by a Dallas police officer earlier this month, the incident could have turned into a "he-said-he-said" situation.

But because Officer Robert Powell had a dash-board mounted camera in his car, the 13-minute harangue of Moats, who pleaded with the rookie officer to let him get to his dying mother-in-law's bedside, was recorded from start to finish.

The video, which police released last week,

has hit the Internet and sparked nationwide outrage. Police Chief David Kunkle has been bombarded with calls to fire Powell, who is on leave.

In a statement released by his lawyer, Powell said the incident was "unfortunate."

But while Powell's taped diatribe may prove

to be a career ender, experts say the in-car video can just as often save a career threatened by bogus misconduct claims.

In-car cameras and video from bystanders have "had a huge impact in being able to provide independent visual documenta-

See DASH-CAMS, Page 12



Fast & Furious Movie Review

*For more information see pg. 10
www.northdallasgazette.com*

COMMENTARY

Black Women and the Green Economy

BY FELICIA M. DAVIS

NNPA - The term "grassroots" connotes organizing at the local level to improve the spaces and places where ordinary folk live their lives. Throughout time Black women have provided leadership at this level; we now have an opportunity to provide global leadership by resurrecting the traditional Black family values to usher in a new era of conservation. Waste, excess,

and conspicuous consumption must be replaced with a return to responsible stewardship. We helped to plant physical, intellectual, and spiritual seeds that are now sprouting in an international movement for environmental justice and equity...what is now referred to as sustainability. We create change from the bottom up.

While scientists meas-

See GREEN, Page 12

Senior Alert: Attorney General Abbott Warns of Grandparent Scam

Con artists claiming to be relatives using bogus stories to target seniors

The Office of the Attorney General is warning retirees and senior citizens to be wary of a grandparent scam. Recent reports indicate that seniors have been receiving telephone calls from a purported grandchild in need of money.

Usually, the ruse includes a caller who says something like "Hi, grandma," or "Hey, it's your favorite grandson." The caller's goal is to learn the name of a recipient's actual grandchild. Sometimes the caller may even have learned the

name of the grandchildren in advance - and claim to be a grandchild on the call.

The caller typically tells the victim that he or she has been in an accident, was arrested, is stranded or in similar trouble and needs money

immediately. Most often, the caller claims to be traveling in Canada. The "grandchild" also insists that the victim not tell anyone else - which increases the odds that the fraud will be successful.

See GRANDPARENT, Page 11

INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op-Ed	3
Health	4
Community News	5
Education	6
Community Spotlight/Washington Headlines ..	7
Cover Story	9
Arts & Entertainment	10
Business Service Directory	11
Career Opportunity	13
Church Happenings	14
Church Directory	14, 15 & 16

People In The News...



Tamika Felder



Dr. Tricia B. Bent-Goodley



Dr. Robert L. Wright

See Page 2

Tamika Felder

The day before Tamika Felder's 17th birthday, her beloved father died following a battle with colon cancer. Tamika was devastated. Her father had been her best friend and confidant. She was to become a High School senior that next semester, something they both had looked forward to for so long. It was an extremely difficult time, but picking up and rebuilding the shattered pieces of her life was the only option.

After graduating from

college, Tamika made the hard decision to leave home, pack up her dreams and her bags and move to Washington, DC to begin work as a television producer.

That decision soon paid off. Tamika's engaging personality, talent and determination landed her in a number of successful positions within the television industry. She was back to her old self and happier than ever.

That is until May, 2001, when at the age of twenty-

five, Tamika was diagnosed with advanced cervical cancer.

Devastated by this grim prognosis, her world began to fall apart -- for the second time. She had long dreamed, as most young women do, of one day marrying and having children of her own. But now she was told by her doctor that she would have to undergo a radical hysterectomy for advanced

cervical cancer -- immediately. Emotionally drained by the realization that she



would never be able to bear children, Tamika gathered

her strength to face another painful decision -- to have her womb surgically removed in order to save her life.

Tamika had to learn more about the facts of her condition, and to coax herself to get it "together". That period would produce one of the hardest, yet triumphant moments in her life.

This early defeat soon gave way to Tamika's present triumph: she has been declared cancer-free at the moment. A very thankful Tamika feels it is her purpose in life to educate as many women--especially

young women who feel immune to the problem--about the devastating threat of cervical and other gynecological cancers as possible. She has pushed writers, producers, and celebrities to help her educate women: "I don't want this to happen to another person who is able to prevent it," she says.

Tamika is currently producing an Awareness campaign that includes a documentary film titled *"Beautiful Women: The Young Faces of Cancer"*. Her story was also featured in the June, 2003 issue of *Essence* Magazine.

Dr. Tricia B. Bent-Goodley

Tricia B. Bent-Goodley is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Macro Sequence at Howard University School of Social Work. Her publications and research have largely focused on how domestic violence intersects with cultural competence, child welfare, prisoner reentry, adolescent violence, health and mental health, and faith- and community-based intervention development. She is the author/co-author of three books in the

area of social policy and people of color.

Dr. Goodley is a Consulting Editor for several prominent journals. She has served distinctly in a number of local, state, and national elected and appointed leadership positions and is regularly called upon to consult on a wide range of issues, such as strengthening the mental health system in New Orleans -- Post Hurricane Katrina, addressing adolescent girl's gang violence, building

solutions to improve the safety of women and children, and creating culturally competent interventions that serve children and families.

Dr. Goodley is an HIV Intervention Science Training Fellow, Chair of the Intersection Task Force Family Violence Coordinating Council of the DC Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, a member of the Prince Georges County Domestic Violence Fatality

Council and the Safe Schools Initiative, and a Scientific Reviewer for the National Registry of Effective and Evidence-Based Programs.

She is a former Hartman Child & Family Scholar, former Chair and Chief Instructor of the NABSW National Academy for African-centered Social Work and the National Public Policy Institute. Prior to coming to Howard University, she served as an administrator and practitioner in Harlem and Queens County, New York.

Dr. Goodley's specialties include: social policy, domes-

tic violence, juvenile justice, and African American social welfare history. She has led classes on a wide range of topics including Social Welfare Policy and Services I and II, Direct Services Practice, Contemporary Issues in Domestic Violence, Social Work Supervision, Criminal Justice I and II, and Family and Child Welfare I and II.

Dr. Goodley received her Ph.D. in Social Policy, Planning and Analysis from Columbia University and her Masters in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Goodley finds greatest joy in being a wife and mother of two boys.



Dr. Robert L. Wright

Dr. Robert L. Wright, chairman of FE Holdings, Inc., has been named a recipient of the 2009 Horatio Alger Award by the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.

Wright has over 40 years of experience in government, business, financial, and project mgmt. Also, as chairman of Virginia-based FE Holdings, Inc., his business interests also include motor sports, gaming, entertainment, lighting and real estate.

A former member of the boards of directors of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Virginia Technology Council, he has received several awards

highlighting his skills and successes. These include the 2001 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the Dept. of Commerce Minority Small Business of the Year Award, and the Outstanding Leadership & Achievement Award. He was inducted into the U.S. Small Business Administration Hall of Fame in 2004 and was named one of the 50 Most Influential Minorities in Business.

"It is a great honor to receive this award from the association," said Wright, "And it is also very exciting to be among this distinguished roster of recipients. They truly are role models whom America's next generation of leaders in business, the

arts, politics and all other fields would do well to emulate. I am very grateful for this accolade."

Wright was born in Columbus, Georgia in 1937 and grew up during



the Depression in the segregated South. He attended Ohio State University in 1955 and became a doctor of optometry upon graduation. Dr. Wright, a victim of racial discrimi-

nation while looking for jobs in the South, Wright felt his only option was to practice in the North. His supportive parents mortgaged their home to help him open a practice in Ohio. One year later, Wright returned to Georgia to get involved in the rising Civil Rights Movement.

In 1970, Wright was elected to the Columbus, Georgia City Council where he served three consecutive terms and developed and supported legislation related to housing, recreation, employment, industrial development, and street and highway improvements. He

established a consulting firm that focused on race

relations, research, minority affairs and policy.

\$69* DIVORCE

Criminal Defense

- DWI / Suspended License
- WARRANTS Removed*
- 24 Hour Jail Release*
- Occupational license, felonies
- Protective Order
- Misdemeanor/Felonies*

Family Cases

- Divorce / Annulment
- Child Support / Paternity
- Custody Modification
- Restraining Order
- Protective Order
- Name Change / Adoption
- Domestic Violence

Open On Weekends Easy Payment Plans

Law Offices Of Vincent Ndukwe

214-638-5930

817-277-0196 (Metro)

2730 N. Stemmons Frwy, Suite 409 • Dallas, TX 75207

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

* If you qualify. *Fees quoted above are minimum down payment needed to begin processing your case.



Where Do You Want To Go Today?

Publisher's Office:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 509-9058

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

Phone: (972) 606-7498

Fax: (972) 509-9058

opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: 1 (261) 569-4191

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Website: www.NorthDallasGazette.com



3401 Custer Rd, Suite 169 • Plano, Texas 75023

STAFF

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Office Manager

Rosie Roberts

Production

Randon Knighten

Special Projects Manager

Edward Dewayne

"Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Pietro Elina

Account Executive

Nell McClung

Religious/

Marketing Editor

Shirley Demus Tarpley

Assignment Editor

972-606-3890

Editor

Ruth Ferguson

Publisher

Cheryl Jackson

Contributing Writers

Jacqueline Murphy

Tessa Howington

Theater Critic

Rick Elina

Photography

Laquisha Buchanan

Edna Dorman

National Marketing

Director

Michael T. Caesar

Advisory Board:

John Dudley

Myrtle Hightower

Fred Moses

Annie Dickson

Cecil Starks

Willie Wattley

Coty Rodriguez-Anderson

B. J. Williams

Denise Upchurch

Barbara Simpkins,
ADVISORY BOARD SECRETARY

Distribution

Keith Rock

Rojelio Martinez

Advisory Board

Committees:

Public Relations Planning
and Implementation

Cecil Starks, CHAIRPERSON

Business Growth Referral

John Dudley, CHAIRPERSON

Program Policy Development

Annie Dickson, CHAIRPERSON

Quality Assurance

Myrtle Hightower, CHAIRPERSON

Coty Rodriguez

MON-The Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

THE TRUTH CLINIC

The Crisis of Black Males Struggling to Graduate

Two recent studies appear to provide contradictory conclusions on the effectiveness of education at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HCBUs).

"The State of Blacks in Higher Education" report released by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) credited historically Black colleges and universities with a disproportionately large share of Black educational gains over the past two decades. HBCUs awarded nearly 50 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded to Blacks in the natural and physical sciences, a little more than 25 percent of all bachelor's degrees in engineering, and nearly 25 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded to Blacks.

An Associated Press analysis of government data on the 83 federally designated four-year HBCUs indicated that the graduation rate for blacks lags behind their counterparts at predominantly white institutions. Just 37 percent of black students at the HBCUs finish a degree within six years. The biggest factor causing this achievement gap is the subpar 29 percent completion rate for black men.

The Education Trust, an independent nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., concluded in a recent report that African American students are still not receiving the education they deserve and the underperformance disparity should be considered a crisis.

Education is one area

where African Americans have continued to struggle since the Brown v Board of Education decision early in the Civil Rights Movement.

Even after a decade of small increases in the numbers of black students who go to college, the number of black males who enroll remains minuscule. Most of the increase in black enrollment in institutions of higher education is almost entirely due to women whose numbers average almost two times the number of their black male counterparts in enrollment and in graduation rates.

The African American education under-achievement is a crisis, but raising African American achievement is not an insurmountable task. It has been done, as pockets of educational excellence have proven, in such institutions as Spelman College in Atlanta with a 77 percent graduation rate and the 64 percent rate at Morehouse and Fisk.

Hampton University and Howard University are on the short list of HCBUs that graduate at least half of their black students within six years.

Students drop out for many reasons, but money is the one at the top of most lists. More than six in 10 students at the HBCUs the AP analyzed get Pell Grants, which go mainly to students from families earning less than \$30,000. The faltering economy is hitting HBCU students hard.

The black reaction of dismay and disgust at the notion of their educational institutions being shut down

is not an acceptable substitute for taking proactive steps to ensure that these citadels of learning not only stay open but thrive with progressive programs and reformed missions instead of existing with constrictive agendas dictated primarily by bureaucratic funders.

Each year, because of the crisis of black males not graduating, thousands of jobless, skill-less, and anti-socialized undereducated black males flounder in communities where intact male-headed families are the exception rather than the rule, and where upward social, political, and economic mobility remains an unfulfilled promise.

The black community in America has thousands of civic, social, fraternal, professional and religious organizations that collectively are spending millions of dollars each year on scholarships and other educational related assistance. So why do HBCUs continue struggling to stay relevant and black students, especially men, struggle to graduate?

One opinion is that blacks have never fully accepted the responsibility of financially supporting its foundational institutions.

In the case of HBCUs most of the operational funding comes from the federal government. However, the government's rhetoric of education priority has not been matched by the generosity of its pocketbook. Black colleges generally have inadequate endowments or other resources necessary to generate student financial aid funds that

enable students to stay in school.

Salvaging HBCUs is a large task and large financial numbers are involved. The problem will not be remedied by a few enlightened souls volunteering to sporadically donate a few hundred dollars whenever one of the HBCUs becomes insolvent. It will require hands on leadership with a vision for change.

Saving HBCUs is definitely a long term commitment. Education is central in the quest for black self determination and blacks should not remain impotent and let this opportunity to control our future destiny pass. So, the question remains, who will lead the way?

Saving HBCUs should be the prioritized mission of Black America's myriad and diverse organizations to lead the effort that guides our HBCUs to a new level of excellence, quality and pride supported by a solid financial base that is not dependent on the whimsical benevolence of indifferent politicians.

For those who would be the leaders of Black America stop the rhetoric—now is the time to step forward, address the crisis of black males struggling to graduate, and fulfill America's promise that a quality education is not reserved just for the privileged.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.truthclinic.com

Five Things you Should Know When Selling Your Home

People who sell their home may be able to exclude the gain from their income. Here are five things every homeowner should know if they sold, or plan to sell their house.

1. Amount of exclusion. When you have gain from the sale of your home, you

may be able to exclude up to \$250,000 of the gain from your income. For most taxpayers filing a joint return, the exclusion amount is \$500,000.

2. Ownership test. To claim the exclusion you must have owned the home for at least two years during

the five year period ending on the date of the sale.

3. Use test. You also must have lived in the house and used it as your main home for at least two years during the five year period ending on the date of the sale.

4. When not to report. If you are able to exclude all of

the gain from the sale of your home, you do not need to report the sale on your federal income tax return.

5. Reporting taxable gain. If you have gain which cannot be excluded, it is taxable and must be reported on your tax return using Schedule D.

Unemployment, Health Care Spending Affect Mortality

At the Health Industries Council meeting on March 11, in Irving, Harvey Brenner, Ph.D. and professor of public health and behavioral sciences at the University of North Texas Health Science Center's School of Public Health, announced new findings that indicate that mortality is directly related to the economy. Specifically,

unemployment and reduced spending on health care have a direct effect on the country's mortality rate.

"We have seen this correlation in cardiovascular disease," Brenner related. "But these are the first findings that show a direct correlation between reduced health care expenditures and reduced labor force participation

on increases in mortality."

Since World War II, research literature has shown that economic development is good for health in developing countries. However, it isn't clear if this same economic development in already developed countries has the same benefits. In fact, Brenner's research shows that unemployment is a much more important fac-

tor in health and well-being than economic development.

"Interestingly, this economic downturn is showing how quickly the effects of unemployment and, thus, reduction of health care expenditures is resulting in mortality," Brenner said. "In the past, we saw people die within 10 years after their job loss. Now, we are seeing

them die as early as the same year."

When a worker becomes unemployed, he or she often loses health insurance, suffers stress and adopts unhealthy behavior as a result. They may delay preventive health care because of the cost or loss of health insurance coverage. The stress of being unemployed causes both physi-

cal and psychological issues that may eventually erupt into major medical conditions that easily could have been treated earlier.

The bottom line is, preventing and controlling health issues is more important in a down economy as more and more people struggle to balance the need for food, shelter and health care.

Taking Your Medicine Safely

BY LARRY LUCAS

NNPA - We are fortunate to live in an age when prescription medicines are readily available to cure or treat everything from hypertension and ulcers to cancer and Alzheimer's. Every day, millions of Americans rely on these medicines to live longer, healthier, more productive lives.

Every medicine – prescription or otherwise – carries with it potential benefits and risks. If your doctor prescribes a medication, it is because he or she believes the benefits to your health outweigh the risks or side effects. Still, it is essential for you, the patient, to understand your health condition and treatment options, and to ask questions about your prescription medicines. An informed patient is better able to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks associated with their prescription drugs.

To get the most from your medicines, the first place to start is with your doctor and pharmacists. Follow their instructions about taking medicines, and if those instructions aren't clear, ask questions! It's easy to feel rushed when you're meeting with a health care provider, but take time to get all the information.

For example, did you know that taking certain medicines with grapefruit juice can turn normal doses of a drug into a toxic overdose? When in doubt, ask your doctor or pharmacist and read the information that comes with your prescription; most medicines are best taken with plain old water.

How you fill your prescription is also important. Globally, the sale of counterfeit medicines is on the rise. Law enforcement agencies are working overtime to help ensure the U.S. drug supply system is not compromised. The best way to protect yourself is to get your medicines from a safe source—a licensed U.S. pharmacist. A licensed pharmacist will be able to answer your questions, warn you of potential side effects, and help you identify potential problems from drug interactions.

Sometimes following instructions is easier said than done. Medicines may cause side effects, or you may feel better and want to stop before finishing your medicines. Many people think they are allergic to a medicine when they are really experiencing a side effect. However, some side effects may be too severe to tolerate. Tell your doctor immediately if you are having symptoms that you

think may be caused by your medicine.

If you have expired prescriptions in your medicine cabinet, it's important that you dispose of them properly to ensure they don't accidentally harm someone or our environment.

With a few exceptions, you should not flush unused medications or pour them down a sink or drain. Instead, dispose of expired or unused medicines in the household trash after taking these few steps to ensure you protect children and pets from potentially negative effects:

- Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid (pill, liquid capsule, etc.), crush it or add water to dissolve it.

- Add kitty litter, sawdust, coffee grounds (or any material that mixes with the medication and makes it less appealing for pets and children to eat) to the plastic bag.

- Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.

- Remove and destroy ALL identifying personal information (prescription label) from all medication containers before recycling them or throwing them away.

America's pharmaceutical research companies are committed to working with providers, pharma-

cists and patients to help ensure that our medicines are being used appropriately. We recognize that medicines help no one if a patient can't afford them.

That is why we sponsor the Partnership for Pres-

cription Assistance (PPA). Since its launch in April 2005, PPA has helped connect more than 5.5 million patients in need to programs that provide either free or nearly free medicines. For more informa-

tion, patients can call 1-888-4PPA-NOW or visit www.pparx.org.

Larry Lucas is a vice president for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

LEGAL NOTICE

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 6, 2009. You have until October 3, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1070 2008 State Fair of Texas® (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.66

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on April 18, 2009. You have until October 15, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1089 Texas Ranger Limited Edition Silver Series (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.70

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on May 1, 2009. You have until October 28, 2009, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #1058 20 Times The Money (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.22

Game #1105 Giant Jumbo Bucks II (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.88

This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on May 7, 2009. You have until November 3, 2009, to redeem any tickets for this game:

Game #1027 Weekly Grand (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.91

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on June 3, 2009. You have until November 30, 2009, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #1077 Boot Scootin' Bucks (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.18

Game #1126 Fantastic 5's (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82

Game #1129 Lucky Duck (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29

Game #1135 Hearts on Fire (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.83

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on June 10, 2009. You have until December 7, 2009, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #1040 \$1 Million Double Action (\$20) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.88

Game #1094 \$130,000,000 Platinum Payout (\$50) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.77

The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery prizes are calculated by reducing prizes of up to \$100,000 by 50%. Prizes of \$500 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, currently prizes or prizes over \$500,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-375-7770 or visit the Lottery Web site at www.texaslottery.com for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, instructions, playslips, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Team Education. © 2009 Texas Lottery Commission. All Rights Reserved.



140 DAYS OF OPPORTUNITY

House to Consider Harsher Punishment for Graffiti and Car Theft

BY: TESSA HOWINGTON

Last week the House of Representatives Criminal Jurisprudence Committee received both House Bill (HB) 3342 and HB 3344 by Dwayne Bohac. Bohac's bills were paired together because they are aimed at preventing crime and creating harsher punishments for car thefts and gang related graffiti.

HB 3342 is an extension of the Graffiti Accountability Act of 2007, also created by Bohac. The Graffiti Accountability Act requires those found guilty of graffiti, or "taggers," to pay full restitution to any property they deface.

It also increased fines associated with tagging and created a preventative education program to decrease the number of repeat offenders.

Bohac's new bill would increase penalties for repeat offenders and require tagger's driver licenses to be suspended.

Also, if the suspect is

caught painting gang signs, or any gang related material, then the court could consider the graffiti an act of organized crime, possibly making the painting a felony offense.

"This approach addresses gang violence by linking it to organized crime as well as the graffiti problem in general," Bohac said.

He added, "Eliminating graffiti in our community is important to our quality of life and safety. Those who commit this act do not care about the property owners they affect or the damage done to the community."

His other bill, HB 3344, also strengthens penalties for people who are convicted of car theft or the contents of a vehicle. If passed, HB 3344 would guarantee jail time, even if it is the person's first offense.

Bohac said, "Stealing a vehicle or its contents is one of the most personal crimes a person can commit. As a victim of this crime myself, I

know the heartache that goes along with seeing a pile of broken glass where your vehicle was once parked. And if we want to crack down on this crime, we must enhance the penalty."

Both bills have been read by the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, but instead of holding immediate public hearings, the committee decided to form the Subcommittee on Property Crime to review these bills. Members are to be named this week, with hearings and testimony about the bills expected soon after.

Also last week in the House, Representative Bill Callegari presented his bill, HB 2939, to the House Committee for Higher Education.

HB 2939 would form the Texas Hurricane Center for Innovative Technology in the College of Engineering at the University of Houston.

The program would create a research center to

study hurricanes and develop more effective plans for clean up, recovery, and evacuation for the Gulf Coast. The Center's goals would include creating a state-of-the-art technology to strengthen buildings and infrastructure.

Also the Center would assist in implementation of technology along the Gulf Coast to minimize damage, save lives, provide faster relief services, stronger shelter, and ultimately cut costs from damages caused by the storms.

Callegari said, "Every hurricane event provides more lessons learned with regard to how we can better protect ourselves from the associated dangers. In light of this, I think the Houston area needs a research center where scientists and engineers can develop structures and technologies to protect our homes, our communities, and our coastline from hurricanes' furies."

The Texas Hurricane Center

for Innovative Technology would be the first state university research program for hurricanes.

As of Friday, March 27, HB 2939 remained pending in the Higher Education Committee and was not currently scheduled for any further action.

In the Senate last Wednesday, Senate Bill (SB) 175 was approved and sent to the House for review. SB 175, by Sen. Florence Shapiro of Plano, changes the Top Ten Percent Rule for college admissions.

Currently the Top Ten Percent Rule mandates state universities accept any applicant who graduated within the top ten percent of their high school class. Doing so is creating a capacity issue in some state schools. Universities are having to admit larger freshman classes and are still forced to deny applications of other students – eventually limiting diversity and taking away from

students overall college experience and education.

SB 175 would only allow 60% of the incoming class to be admitted under the Top Ten Percent Rule. The other 40% of the freshman class would be admitted based on traditional application standards.

Before being passed, SB 175 was amended by Senators Steve Ogden and Eddie Lucio. They added two amendments: One would automatically make the new law, if passed, come up for review by the Senate again in eight years to ensure its effectiveness. The second would create a scholarship program for poorer students who are in the top ten percent of their high school class, allowing equal chance to all students.

SB 175 has not been scheduled to be heard by the House as of Friday, March 27.

This week, both the House and the Senate have more committee meetings scheduled.

Alonzo Tutson Running for City Council to Restore Common Sense Politics in McKinney

Alonzo James Tutson is running for District 1 on the McKinney City Council. Tutson is running on a platform of Common Sense Politics in 2009. He is a native of McKinney and an educator in McKinney. After receiving his college education in the US Army, he worked as a supervisor at EDS in the technical products division for four years. However, he was seeking a more rewarding career and following in family footsteps Tutson changed careers and became an educator.

An active member of the community the organizations Tutson has volunteered with such organizations as The Boys & Girls of Collin County summer track team, Make-A-Difference Day, organizer of the Martin Luther King Celebration in McKinney, coordinator of the

Juneteenth Festival at Finch Park, NAACP Youth Advisor, CMVP (Christian Men Of Vision and Principle), Holy Family School Board Of Trustees, Teacher-Parent Engagement Through Partnerships Seminar Sponsored by National Association of Partners In Education and MetLife 2002, a facilitator of the on-site Sunday school program at the McKinney Housing Authority, Fun-With-The-Son Back To School Drive, and the Adopt-A-Grandparent Program.

According to Tutson's news release his platform for District 1 includes:

Potential- District 1 has the most available space for growth. There are resources within the sector that have yet to be tapped into. We have rebuilt roads that lead to nowhere. The far east sec-

tor of town is cut off from one of the greatest assets this city has to offer, Collin County Regional Airport at McKinney. The City of McKinney has access to funds through the Community Re-investment Act. A partnership between McKinney and the corporations locating to the city could offer homeowner incentives to their employees.

Quality Of Life- District 1 has ONE school east of Hwy 5 (J. W. Webb), yet new houses are being built. Our children are bussed, literally, from one side of town to the other. The constituents of District 1 don't have immediate access to basic services; i.e. grocery store, pharmacy, financial institution (bank), or cleaners.

Economic Development- District 1 is home to some of the areas principal

employers: McKinney Job Corps, Encore Wire, and the previously mentioned, airport. Before businesses establish themselves in the vicinity, there should be training and job placement available for those persons who reside in the adjacent communities. The Downtown Historical District has a lot of wonderful shops and eateries but the patrons don't know about them due to lack of exposure. No maps or signs are posted to let consumers know what services the downtown merchants offer. Every major mall in America has a diagram with an 'X', a dot or an arrow saying, "You are here". Let's implement this same idea in the Downtown Historical District.

Tutson believes the three most important issues the new Council will face

are:

1. Staying on top of the city's growth. This includes suitable services for all residences.

2. Transportation issues

3. Attracting more businesses to increase the city's tax base.

JCG Insurance Services, Inc.

ADDRESSING THE INSURANCE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SECURE FUTURE.

- Term Life Insurance
- Permanent Life Insurance
- Final Expense Insurance
- Funeral Trusts
- Annuities
- Long Term Care
- Individual Health Insurance
- Group Health Insurance
- Disability Insurance



Chris Gafney
Agent

Please call for a free insurance consultation.

3608 Lauren Dr. | McKinney, TX 75070
972-880-4861 | chris@cherraintl.com

Your Partner for Success

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour

By Mary Whitt

During this time of uncertainty about the futures of children who may not plan to or have the resources to attend college,

The Garland Area Alliance of Black School Educators (GAABSE) has stepped up to the plate to make a difference. GAABSE has organized a "Trip of a Lifetime – HBCU Tour."

GAABSE members recognize the direct correlation between college attendance and the success of those who attend college and complete a degree.

This program is designed to assist students' understanding of the need for a post high school/college education in today's society.

Participants will tour seven universities in the Washington D.C. area, and visit ten historical sites. The bus will leave Garland, Texas on July 11th and return July 18, 2009. High school students, families and mentor groups are invited to participate.

Participants will have the opportunity to visit

well known colleges outside of Texas and meet with college counselors and recruiters to discuss college entry requirements. Students will also tour the campuses visited, so everyone is encouraged to wear walking shoes!

Rate schedules are available and the trip must be completely paid for by the day of departure July 11th. All funds collected go toward the trip.

We are seeking sponsors to assist with the cost of the trip for students. Those interested may

sponsor a specific student or contribute towards the costs of the trip to reduce the amount paid by all students. This is not a fundraising event and GAABSE will not retain any portion of the funds collected.

The deposits for the trip are due by April 20, 2009. Space is limited. Contact Edwin Hood for details call 972.414.7480 or visit on the web at ehood@garlandisd.net. Go on-line to the GAABSE website at www.gaabse.net for details and forms.

Destination College Workshop Prepares Students for Collin College

You can never be too prepared for college.

For students planning to attend Collin College this summer or in fall 2009, you are encouraged to participate in Getting Started at Collin College, a free seminar from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7 at the Spring Creek Campus Conference Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, in Plano.

This workshop will walk you through each step of the

process to get started, from admissions and testing to advising.

Representatives from various Collin College student services' departments also will be available to answer questions.

To register for the workshop, e-mail destinationcollege@ccccd.edu. For more information about the workshop or Destination College, call 972.377.1772

Application Deadline Nearing For Incoming Freshmen Interested In Becoming Emerald Eagle Scholars

Taxes aren't the only thing due by April 15; students interested in becoming Emerald Eagle Scholars at the University of North Texas (UNT) must submit their application for admission and their Free Application for Federal Student Aid by April 15 in order to be considered for the program.

UNT's Emerald Eagle Scholars Program, which provides tuition, fees and mentoring to academically talented students with high financial need, began in 2007.

There is not a separate application for the Emerald Eagle Scholars Program. Interested students need to apply to UNT via the Texas common application, which can be found at

www.applytexas.org.

Students also must submit their FAFSA no later than April 15. The Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office will identify all eligible students and confirm that the admission deadline was met. Eligible students will then be extended an invitation to join the program. Students will be notified starting May 1 thru June 31.

To be eligible, students must meet the following requirements prior to the Fall 2009 semester:

- complete all documents required by the Admissions Office before April 15, 2009 (except for final transcripts)
- complete the 2009-2010 FAFSA before April 15, 2009

- be a new entering freshman (transfer students are not eligible)
- be a Texas resident
- be a member of a family whose adjusted gross income does not exceed \$40,000
- be eligible to receive a federal Pell grant through UNT
- sign a statement of commitment to this program

If accepted into the program, participants must:

- attend a UNT freshman orientation
- enroll in at least 15 hours in each long semester (fall and spring)
- complete at least 30 hours in each academic year
- commit to active engagement on campus

through completion of one of three paths

- make academic progress each semester with at least a 2.5 cumulative UNT grade point average
- set a goal of bachelor degree completion in four years or less
- work in a campus job 10 hours a week, or complete the Career Center Alternate Plan

Since its inception the Emerald Eagle Scholars program has helped fulfill the dream of going to college for more than 700 students. For more information about the program visit www.unt.edu/emeraldeagle scholars, or contact the Emerald Eagle Suite at 940-369-5251.

Funding Available for Cleaner Bus Technology

The North Central Texas Clean School Bus Program is accepting applications for the 2009 call for projects through 5 p.m. April 17. Funding is available to public and private schools, school districts, and school bus operators in the 16-county NCTCOG region. School bus retrofit, repower, and replacement projects that result in a 25 percent or greater reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions

are eligible for funding.

To qualify, public entities must adopt the Regional Transportation Council's Clean Fleet Vehicle Policy. Private entities are encouraged to adopt similar policies.

For more information, visit online at www.nctcog.org/CleanSchoolBus or contact Amanda Brimmer at 817-608-2354 or abrimmer@nctcog.org.

COLLEGE CORNER National Black Nurses Scholarship

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) is committed to excellence in education and conducts continuing education programs for nurses and allied health professionals throughout the year. The association provides annual scholarships for students.

Scholarships provide funding for continuing education. This funding enables nurses to grow and better contribute their talents to the health and healthcare of our communities.

NBNA's mission is to provide a forum for collective action by African American nurses to "investigate, define and determine what the health care needs of African Americans are and to implement change to make available to African Americans and other minorities health care commensurate with that of the larger society."

Award Amount:

\$500 - \$2,000

Deadline:

April 15, 2009

Website/Contact Info:

www.nbna.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=74&Itemid=133



**LAW FIRM OF
BARRETT W. STETSON**

"I found the Law Firm of Barrett W. Stetson to be fair and just; a truly honest Law Firm that got the job done quickly."

—Sis. Annie Pearl Williams

"After eight months of difficulties trying to get my case settled and getting very little cooperation from the attorneys that represented the business, I called the Law Firm of Barrett W. Stetson; and after two weeks, the case was settled and was professionally completed."

—Sis. Judy Williams

BARRETT W. STETSON
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

2929 Carlisle Street Suite 360
Dallas, TX 75204-1081
214-220-9090 (phone)
214-220-9112 (fax)
stetslaw@aol.com (e-mail)

April is McKinney Community Services Month!

The Community Services Department will present the open house event, "Get Connected McKinney!" on Thursday, April 16 at 3:30 pm – 7:00 pm. We're asking

our neighborhood, non-profit, housing, business, and other community partners to join us. McKinney residents are especially looking for program support in all

areas of health, family and youth services, so we need you. Families and individuals will also learn more about city services, including Affordable Housing, Environmental

Stewardship, Neighborhood Services and Community Development.

Can you have a staff/volunteer member to attend and provide infor-

mation? Can't participate? Just stop by at 314 S. Chestnut Street to say hello...meet the staff and learn about upcoming resources to help you. Whatever level of sup-

port, join us in engaging our community.

If you have questions, please contact Micki Jobson at 972-547-2678 or Christine Lawton at 972-547-2663.

Rowlett Annual 'Egg'straordinary Egg Hunt Moves to Main Street

Grab your Easter baskets and hippity-hop on over to Main Street in Rowlett to hunt for more than 20,000 filled Easter

eggs at the Annual Eggs'traordinary Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4 beginning at 10 a.m. in downtown Rowlett.

The City has moved this exciting free event to downtown Rowlett along with exciting activities like face painting, music,

visits with the Easter Bunny and much more. Participants will also have the opportunity to have a keepsake photo taken

with the Easter Bunny (\$5 fee).

Free parking will be available at Coyle Middle School at 4500 Skyline

Drive, just east of City Hall. Main Street will be closed to through traffic.

British Queen Gets Personalized iPod from Obama

LONDON (AP) — It is not every day the American president's driver is told to move his bulletproof car.

But Queen Elizabeth II's handlers made the request Wednesday after President Barack Obama's reinforced Cadillac limousine was found to be blocking the garden entrance driveway at Buckingham Palace.

After it was moved, Jaguars carrying Prince Charles and other members of the royal family pulled up for the queen's reception for leaders attending Thursday's G-20 summit.

Obama and his wife, Michelle — wearing a black and white dress, pearls and a black coat — were two of the first dignitaries to meet the queen, who wore a salmon-colored dress and her trademark pearls.

During their private meeting, President Obama and first lady gave the queen a personalized iPod with video footage of her 2007 visit to Washington and Virginia. She was also given a rare songbook signed by composer Richard Rodgers.

In return the queen and her husband, Prince Philip, gave the Obamas a signed portrait of themselves.

Queen Elizabeth has met with eleven of the last twelve U.S. presidents, including a meeting that

took place with Harry Truman when she was a princess, according to Buckingham Palace spokesman David Pogson.

The only president she did not meet was Lyndon Johnson. His widow later met the queen.

The queen and her husband entertained the Obamas in her private audience room, which overlooks the palace gardens where thousands of daffodils and other flowers were in bloom.

The room, which is part of the queen's private quarters, is frequently used for private meetings with visiting leaders. Recent visitors included the prime ministers of Canada and Australia.

After her meeting with the Obamas, the queen held a reception for all the world leaders attending the summit.

They gathered in the palace's picture gallery and were served champagne, wine and canapés of chicken with zucchini on skewers, mini Cornish pasties, smoked quail eggs, foie gras and tiny rolls of duck filled with melon.

The queen chatted with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi while French President Nicolas Sarkozy held an animated discussion through an interpreter with US Secretary of State Hillary

Rodham Clinton.

Prince Charles shared a joke with the President of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva while his wife, Camilla, held a long talk with Mrs. Obama.

"It was a wonderful visit," Obama shouted to reporters as he left the palace. "Her majesty is delightful."

Several hundred people gathered outside Buckingham Palace and cheered as soon as they saw President Obama.

Earlier in the day, Obama used a press conference with Prime Minister Gordon Brown to say how much he and the first lady were looking forward to meeting the queen, praising her as a model of "decency and civility."

Brown and his wife, Sarah, were holding a dinner at Downing Street for all of the leaders attending the summit.

Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver was cooking dinner for the G-20 leaders. The main course was slow-roasted Welsh lamb accompanied by wild mushrooms, asparagus and potatoes from Jersey in the English Channel.

Vegetarian leaders were being offered potato dumplings and asparagus.

Appetizers include baked Scottish salmon with vegetables and goat's cheese from Hertfordshire

with roasted shallots. Bakewell tarts and custard is on the menu for dessert.

France's Sarkozy, who had hinted he would walk out of the G-20 if leaders didn't agree to concrete plans on tighter financial regulations, was the last to arrive for the dinner.

Obama sat next to German Chancellor Angela Merkel — who has joined in Sarkozy's calls — while Chinese President Hu Jintao sat between Brown and Sarkozy.

At the spouse's dinner hosted by Sarah Brown, Mrs. Obama sat next to children's author J.K. Rowling.



U.S. President Barack Obama (L) and his wife Michelle (2nd R) pose for a photograph with Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, at Buckingham Palace in London April 1, 2009. (Reuters)

Other spouses also attended the dinner with Olympic gold medalist Kelly Holmes and model Naomi Campbell.

COASTAL VACATIONS

We're Taking The Nation On Vacation

Invest \$1,295 in a Level 1 vacation package and reap the benefits. You will receive:

- 5 cruises and 30 bonus vacations
- Unlimited access to literally hundreds of mini-vacations
- 30 membership cards and growing
- Unbelievable travel & financial perks that will astound you
- Lifetime membership and
- **EXCEEDINGLY & ABUNDANTLY MORE!!**

www.coastalincome.com/sample Overview.....732.463.6436 or 800.628.8015

24 Hr. Recorded Q & A Call 212.461.2750

Details on our live calls 712.338.8000 Pin 1103 Mon-Wed 10am
(Mon-Thur) 8pm & 9pm for First Time Callers & Saturdays 11am

ALL CALLS CST

Contact Mike @ Home Office 214.884.6681 or Cell 504.261.6712
mgldavis@sbglobal.net

Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm (Doors will open at 6:30 pm) Collin County Republican Party Headquarters 8416 Stacy Road, McKinney Call Fred Moses at 972 618 7027 or fred@tes.com for more information.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce: Monthly Lunch & Learn every 3rd Thursday \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm. At Reel Thing Catfish Cafe, 600 East Main Street - Suite A, Allen, TX 75002. For general information and reservations call 469-424-0120.

DFW Financially Empowered Women meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For info: 469-942-0809 or meeetup.com/378.

Marriage Prep Class 1st Saturdays monthly 423 West Wheatland Road Suite 101, Duncanville 75116 \$10 fee for materials. For more info call Karen Duval at 972-709-1180.

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st and 3rd Thursday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series: Monthly workshop and networking event giving members and guests the opportunity to network, build relationships, present information on their business and services, and most importantly, learn different ways to improve upon and

grow their business. 4th Saturdays, 11AM-1PM, ReMarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Freeway, Suite 140, Dallas, \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members; \$5 off for early bird registration. Visit <http://nbwenorg.ning.com> for more information. **THIS IS A PREPAID EVENT** so register early!

Wit Women Conference Call join this weekly conference call if you need encouragement, prayer, or inspiration. Dial in Tuesdays 7 pm - 7:15pm to 218-486-1616, Code 10984 (may change each week).

March 18 - April 18

Through Her Lens: Emerging Female Exhibit at Bath House Cultural Center, 521 East Lawther Drive, Dallas (214) 670-8749

March 18 - April 18

Plano Children's Theatre presents Disney's High School Musical 2 each weekend (no performances Easter weekend). Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2:15 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$9 at the door. Reservations strongly recommended. Theatre is located at 1301 Custer Road, Suite 706 in Plano. For tickets call (972) 422-2575.

March 27 - April 18

Closer performances are Thursday - Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and Seniors at www.EnterStageLeft.org. All performances will take place at Teatro Dallas, 1331 Record Crossing Rd. Dallas, TX 75235.

March 28 - October 25

George Washington Carver: An Extraordinary Man With A Mighty Vision at The African American Museum, 3536 Grand Avenue, Historic Fair Park, Dallas, TX, 214 565-9026, \$5-Adults/\$2-Children www.aamdallas.org

April 3

Underwater Easter Egg Hunt in the Community Activity Center for kids 3 to 10 years old Hunt for eggs in the indoor pool, eat candy, and enjoy splashing around the pool. The Hunt begins at 5 p.m. with staggered times for different age groups. Cost is \$5 per participant for CAC members and \$6 for non-members. Register at the CAC front desk. Details at: www.flower-mound.com

April 4

Junior League of Plano's 20th Annual Trinkets to Treasures 8AM - 11:30 PM Collin County's largest Rummage Sale! Admission is \$5 from 8am to 10am and \$3 from 10am to 2pm, Children 11 years of age and under are admitted free. Contact the Junior League of Plano Hotline at 972.769.1142 or visit www.jlplano.org.

Life Is Incredible One Day Retreat - 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Learn to relax, refuel and recharge! Then, you'll develop specific goals and plans for reaching them. Led by Pam Garcy, PhD, Author The Power of Inner Guidance, \$47 per person; Info: 972-248-3861, info@myinnerguide.com, or <http://www.lifeisincredible.com>

8th Annual Collin College Talent Show 7 p.m., at the John Anthony Theatre, located at the Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano. Tickets will be sold at the door. General admission is \$8, \$5 for senior citizens or students and \$3 for Collin College students. Contact Kathy Morgan at kmorgan@ccccd.edu or Tiffanee Arnold at tarnold@ccccd.edu.

"Business To Business Magazine" launch at 4PM at the new Harwood 609 located at 609 N. Harwood Dallas.

G3: Greater Games Gathering -A non-profit

event designed to bring table top gamers together in a thrice-annual gaming convention. Come join the fun whether you're a veteran gamer, brave newcomer, or just curious about this unique and engaging hobby. Admission: \$12.99 for Internet Pre-registration; \$15 at the door. Call 214-683-8153 or email info@greatergamesgathering.org or visit online at www.greatergamesgathering.org.

April 8

Richland College Financial Aid Fair 10:00-2:00 in El Paso hallway.

April 9

Brookhaven College Career Fair 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Student Services Center, more than 50 employers expected. Call 972-860-4894

April 14

Newsmakers Breakfast 7:30 - 9 a.m. Personal Finance Hosted by UT Dallas School of Management, visit www.insidetxbiz.com

April 16

Stars of Texas ... Racing Against the Odds 5:00 p.m., Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. Call 1-888-DIABETES or email Roxann Pishnick at rpishnick@diabetes.org. Fundraiser for American Diabetes Association.

Community Services Department hosting open house event, "Get Connected McKinney!" 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Neighborhood, nonprofit, housing, business, and other community partners are invited at 314 S. Chestnut Street. Contact Micki Jobson at 972-547-2678 or Christine Lawton at 972-547-2663 for info.

April 16-May 9

Garland Civic Theater season finale "Sweeney Todd" at the Granville Arts Center. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. on April 16, 23, 30 & May 7

at 8:00 p.m. on April 17, 18, 24, 25, May 1, 2, 8, and 9. Matinees run April 19, 26, May 3 and May 9 beginning at 2:30 p.m. www.garlandcivictheatre.org

April 18-19

African Cultural Festival 6 pm on Sat, 4 pm on Sun - \$10 UNT College of Music Concert Hall, 415 Avenue C in Denton 12th annual music festival featuring UNT ensembles and guest performers from Ghana.

April 18

EarthKind Plant Sale from 8AM - 3PM at 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX, contact Gregory Church 972-548-4232, or online at gtchurch@ag.tamu.edu or ccmgatx.org.

YMCA's Healthy Kids Day 9 a.m. to Noon at Plano Family YMCA - Legacy Park Visit www.planoyymca.org

3rd Annual Fiesta Latinoamericana! at the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway (across from Collin County Community College). \$1 per person. Food available for purchase, and coolers, lawn chairs and picnics are welcome. 972-661-2764 or visit the website at <http://www.dfwinternational.org/FiestaLatinoamericana>.

April 10

The International Museum of Cultures, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom, Dallas, will host a Good Friday Observance at the Museum on Friday, April 10th at 2 p.m. A special music presentation will be followed by the presentation of the "Crucifixion" monologue by David Bates. The event is open and free to the public, call 972 708 7537.

April 17

Health Yes! Preventive Screening for Stroke & Heart Disease 9AM-4PM Easy, affordable, non-invasive screenings for Stroke,

Abdominal Aneurysm, Peripheral Artery Disease, Osteoporosis and Heart Disease. All screening results are reviewed by Austin-area, Board-Certified Radiologists and returned to patients within 4 business days. Screening Packages start at \$139.95. Pre-registration is required as appointments are limited. Reserve your spot by calling 1-886-718-0412 or visiting the website at www.HealthYes.com.

April 18

Live Green Expo 9AM-5PM Enjoy a free, family event encouraging environmentally friendly lifestyles. Drop off electronics, books and plastic bags for recycling! "Food Alley" with cooking demonstrations, local producers, organics and more. Call 972-816-9489 or visit www.livegreenexpo.net

April 25

African Film Festival is part of the African Unity Festiva at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. Four films will be shown that represent multiple African nations and social issues, and will be presented in their original language, with English subtitles. Admission is FREE.

April 29

Collin County Christian Prayer Breakfast 6:30AM - 8:15 AM Keynote speaker will be Dr. Frank Lazarus, President, University of Dallas. Admission \$20 per person or \$200 for a table of 10. Price includes buffet breakfast. Call 214 757-7259, or visit online at www.collinchristianprayerbreakfast.com

May 2

Africa Day 12 Noon to 6 pm - FREE at J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street in Dallas Interactive workshops for children, African arts and crafts, cultural booths.

Sponsored By:



at&t

Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

George Washington Carver:

An Extraordinary Man with a Mighty Vision

Submitted by Dr. Emma Dawson

*We are the architects of our own fortune
and the hewers out of our own destiny.*

— George Washington Carver

Many people today know George Washington Carver largely from the myths that have grown around him, none of them true. The fact is, he didn't invent peanut butter; it had existed in many cultures for centuries. Neither did he create 300 new products from peanuts – though he created some, and collected many others.

The truth about Carver is much more interesting than the myths. He was a man with a fascinating life story and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, who overcame tremendous odds to become one of America's most versatile scientists. He was a trail-blazing proponent of sustainability, who believed that "nature produces no waste" and neither should man. He was a humanitarian whose primary goal was, as he put it, "to help the farmer and fill the poor man's empty dinner pail."

This complex and intimate portrait of one of America's best known names – and least-studied men – emerges from The Field Museum's new exhibition: George Washington Carver. It follows Carver's entire life

and career, revealing both his struggles and his remarkable achievements as scientist, conservationist, educator, and humanitarian.

It brings together more than one hundred artifacts from Carver's personal life and work, along with animated and live videos, interactive displays, a diorama of Carver's childhood farm, and a re-creation of the Jesup wagon, his mobile classroom.

The exhibition is organized by The Field Museum in collaboration with Tuskegee University and the National Park Service.

A Thirst for Knowledge

Carver's childhood was both dramatic and protected. A frail child born into slavery, George and his mother were kidnapped by slave raiders when he was still an infant. George was abandoned by the kidnappers and rescued by his owners, Moses and Susan Carver, who adopted both George and his brother. George's real mother was never found.

Moses was a farmer in a Missouri frontier town, a frugal man who abhorred waste of any kind. Since George

was a sickly child, unable to help much on the farm, Susan taught him handiwork such as embroidery, knitting, and crocheting. George also spent a lot of his time outside, collecting rocks, observing nature, and creating a "secret garden." His sensitivity and curiosity were apparent, and even as a child he was known throughout the area for his remarkable skill with plants.

"I wanted to know the name of every stone and flower and insect and bird and beast. I wanted to know where it got its color, where it got its life – but there was no one to tell me,"

Carver later wrote. His foster parents had no formal education, and there were no schools close to their home – only a Blue-back speller in which George found few answers to his endless questions. So at the age of thirteen he left home, with the Carvers' blessings, to seek an education.

With a rich collection of artifacts, the exhibition traces Carver's path and passions as he worked his way through elementary and high school, through rejection and welcome, to Simpson College in Iowa, then to Iowa State University, and finally to a research and teaching position at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University).

A Driving Vision

Given his drive and education, Carver could have become a theoretical chemist, an academic botanist, or an inventor. But that wasn't his bent. He had decided early on that his calling was to help "the man farthest down." On his way to Tuskegee Carver saw fields of scraggly cotton

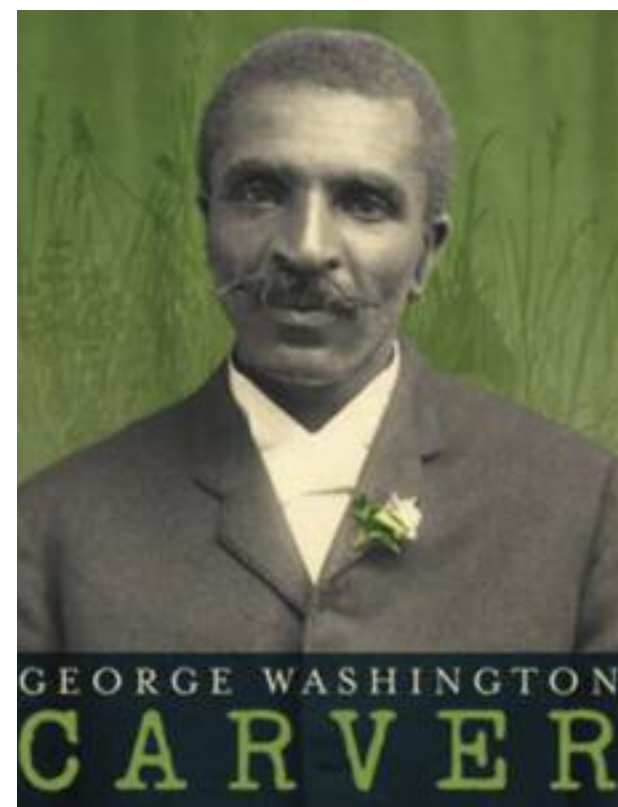
in exhausted soil and poor black farmers struggling to survive. He had what he called a "mighty vision" – of barren fields turning green with crops, whitewashed farmhouses gleaming in the sun, gardens sprouting with vegetables and flowers.

"Carver was driven by the needs he saw around him," says Michael Dillon, chair of the Botany Department at The Field and one of the curators for the Carver exhibition. "His research was very goal oriented."

One of the ideas that Carver seized upon, Dillon says, was crop rotation – a practice long known to other cultures but not used in the South, where cotton truly was king. Carver understood that cotton had depleted the soil of the nitrogen that plants need in order to grow. And he knew that legumes, such as peanuts and peas, had a symbiotic relationship with bacteria that could take inert nitrogen molecules from the atmosphere and convert them into a form plants can use.

It was the desire to make these alternative crops more useful to farmers and others that led to Carver's famous work with peanuts, cow peas or black-eyed peas, and sweet potatoes. (Sweet potatoes, though not a legume, grow easily with little or no fertilizer.) He sought many other practical solutions as well, experimenting with seeds, soil enrichment, natural fertilizers, and more.

In every aspect of his research, Carver sought to make his findings accessible to the communities around him. He put plain-language information and instructions into bulletins that were dis-



tributed widely. And he took the Jesup wagon to farms and public spaces, demonstrating farming and composting techniques, cooking, cannig, even home makeovers with paints, furniture, and decorative items made from plants and minerals.

Carver's ideas on conservation were ahead of their time. "I believe the Great Creator has put oil and ores on this earth to give us a breathing spell," he said. "As we exhaust them, we must be prepared to fall back on our farms.... For we can learn to synthesize materials for every human need from the things that grow."

Carver blazed a trail for the development of products from plants, a field known as chemurgy. He found hundreds of new uses for peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soy beans, including milk and cheese, laundry soap and linoleum, wallboard and rubber, and much, much more. Carver worked on biofuels with Henry Ford, and made a massage oil for polio victims – though it turned out to be the masseur, Carver himself, as much as the oil, that was effective.

After Carver, interest in plant products went out of fashion for decades – only to be rediscovered at the end of the twentieth century. Today's accelerating research on plant based fuels, medi-

cines, and other products is rooted in Carver's work – though not always with his altruism.

"The most important gift Carver gave to people wasn't any particular product," Michael Dillon says. "It was the gift of self-worth." Carver crossed racial and class boundaries. He gave of himself so that others could become educated, self-sufficient, and proud. He followed his own vision to improve the lives of others.

Admission to the George Washington Carver exhibit is \$5 for adults, \$2-children. Visit www.aamdallas.org or call (214) 565-9026 for details.

Special rates are available for tour operators and groups of 10 or more. Call our Art-Reach Dallas at (214) 219-2049

The African American Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. On Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visit www.aamdallas.org or call (214) 565-9026 for more information

The African American Museum is located at 3536 Grand Avenue in Dallas' Historic Fair Park. It's on Dart Bus lines 409 and 50, and close to other routes. Call DART information at (214) 979-1111



Fast & Furious Movie Review

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

“When the GPS system calls, you follow.”

Universal pictures started the profitable franchise *The Fast & The Furious* back in 2001. This speed-paced car-driven movie centered around two diametrically opposed characters: Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel), a multiracial driver who is part of an L.A. street racer gang involved in hijacking, and Brian O'Connor (Paul Walker), a white undercover cop who befriends him.

Umpteen adrenalin-pumping car chases, illegal races and crime spree later Toretto is on the lam in Mexico, separated from his hard-driving girlfriend Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) and O'Connor has romanced Toretto's sister Mia (Jordana Brewster). This initial movie earned \$144 million at the box office.

The sequel, *2 Fast 2 Furious*, starred Walker and Tyrese was directed by John Singleton and earned \$127 million. *Chapter 3, The Fast And The Furious: Tokyo Drift* featured Lucas Black and was directed by Taiwanese born filmmaker Justin Lin who had a kinetic style; it made \$62 million. Considering the lineage and the decreasing box office, pumping new life into the series before it crashed seemed paramount. But how? Simple, bring the best elements back together.

These days Dominic Toretto and his girlfriend Letty hijack oil tankers from hapless truck drivers in the Dominican Republic. The law still hunts him, and seemingly nothing will drag him back to the states. Until one day, something bad happens to Letty. Toretto returns to the City of Angles to track down the devil who messed with his girl.

Of course he encounters O'Connor, who pursues the

same villain; the cop's investigation takes him back to Mia, begging her to forgive his deception.

This time the crime spree involves smuggling heroin through secret tunnels from Mexico into the U.S. Toretto and O'Connor insinuate themselves into a deadly gang that uses fast car drivers to traffic the drugs. Can they trust each other? Can they find the crime lord, Letty's nemesis? They've got 107 minutes to do just that. Buckle your seat belts...

The film starts with a dare devil caper on a windy, mountainous rode involving muscle cars and a truck hauling four tanks filled with oil. The way Toretto and Letty steal the gas is inventive but not impressive. Surprisingly the first chase scene that gets blood pumping is a foot pursuit where O'Connor runs after a crook who has a vital piece of information.

Down streets, over chain-linked fences, across rooftops the camerawork of Amir M Mokri (*Bad Boys II*) pulls you into the sequence like you were a pedestrian giving chase. With the momentum building, *Fast & Furious* hints that it will make your heart race sooner than later.

Writer Chris Morgan (*Tokyo Drift*) puts all the important characters, first assembled by writer Gary Scoot Thompson in 2001, back into play. It's almost like second and third sequels never existed. Diesel wears his Toretto character like a pair of old shoes: laconic, deadly serious, unflappable.

Walker's O'Connor manages spin control adeptly, smoothing over Mia's emotional wounds, be-friending illegal, crime-on-the-mind drivers, playing the folks down at the agency like a fiddle. The one character that deserved more screen time is Michelle Rodriguez as the brash Letty.

That said, the characters

make the audience feel at home.

And the ensemble of twentysomething Asian, Latino, Black and White supporting characters reminds us how the 2001 version was a unique film that embraced America's burgeoning, multiethnic melting pot.

The plotline unravels in a comprehensive manner; it's easy to follow, unpredictable enough to be intriguing and it never gets in the way of the action scenes that evolve with increasing alarm and build to an explosive finale. You can't ask much more of a script for an action crime thriller: set up the characters, define the situation, be logical, and then get out the way.

The previous chapters relied on the technology of the day: muscle cars, high-octane fuel and good brakes. This story is big on GPS systems. Drivers race, but don't know where they are going until a computer chip voice gives them last second directions. Credit the film with this cool factor: we're becoming a driving nation of GPS zombies and this movie takes full advantage.

Bringing back Justin Lin to direct the proceedings was a smart move. Rob Cohen, the 2001 director, is too Hollywood, evidenced by his latest work *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*. John Singleton's strength is drama, not action.

Lin's got the feel for a good chase scene, his finger is on the pulse of today's adolescents and he never lets the exposition, drama or romance take priority over movement. He, along with the editors Fred Raskin and Christian Wagner, create a rhythm that keeps on trucking.

Credit production designer Ida Random, art director David Lazan and Mokri's cinematography for giving the visuals a hip



modern look reminiscent of *CSI: Miami*. Location shots from L.A. to deserts look sumptuous. Set decoration by Douglas A. Mowat and costume design by Sanja Milkovic Hays give the film a hip, urban 21st century look.

Parts of the film resemble an MTV music video, which should please the target audience of teens and young adults.

After the first *F & F*, Vin Diesel starred in *The Chronicles of Riddick* series, *Babylon A.D.* and the family film *The*

Pacifier. Those performances seemed forced—like his agent made him do it. Dominic Toretto, the anti-hero who walks softly and carries a big stick, fits Diesel.

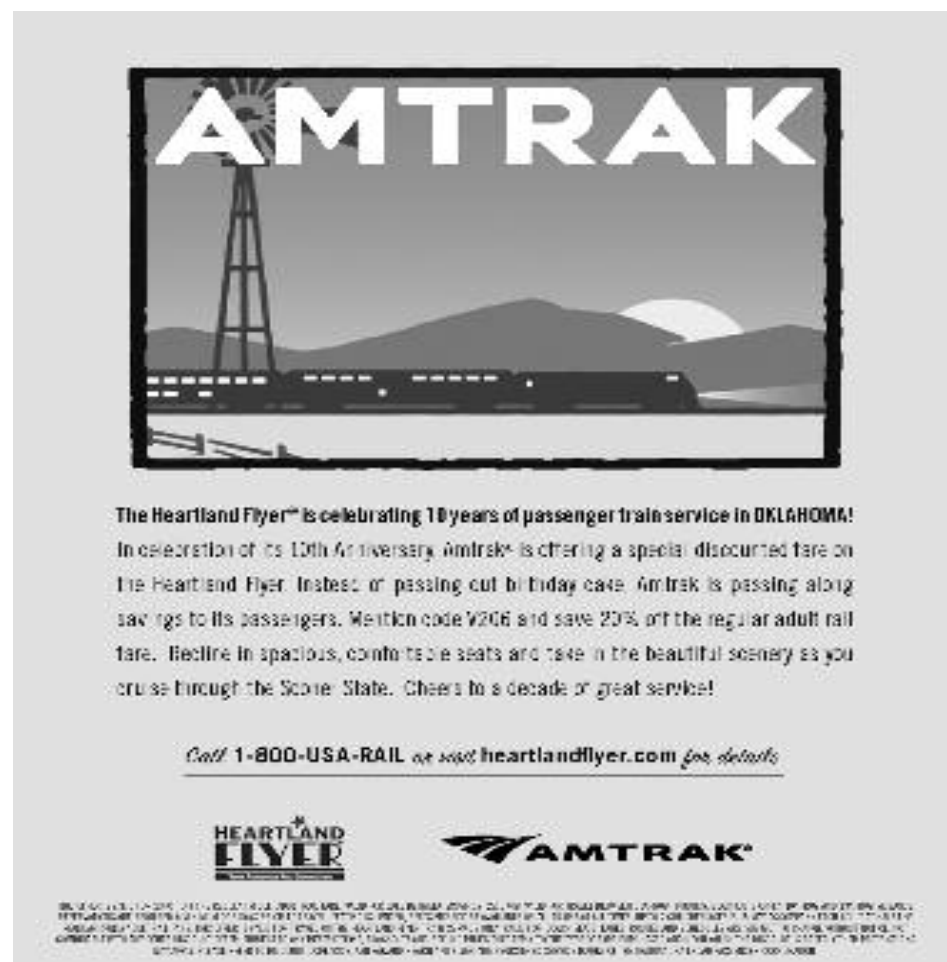
He's got a cheating streak (bumps O'Connor's car in the last leg of a race), a tender side (sexy posing with Michelle Rodriguez) and that good-guy-underneath-it-all feel that has mass appeal.

Walker as the second banana has the right mix of good looks and deceit. Brewster is suitably sweet.

Rodriguez is tough enough. John Ortiz, as the duplicitous crime lieutenant Campos, heads a supporting cast that makes perfect archetypes and eye-candy.

Fast & Furious is not Shakespeare. Nor has it reinvented the car-chasing action movie genre. But, it certainly has breathed new life into a series that, creatively, was beginning to run on empty. A nice, high-octane surprise.

Visit NNPA Film Critic
Dwight Brown at
www.DwightBrownInk.com.



Rent-A-Center Donates \$14,000 for Technical Support and Loan Funds to PLAN Fund a, Non-profit Micro-finance Organization

The PLAN Fund announced two donations from Plano-based rent-to-own operator Rent-A-Center. The first is a \$5,000 donation earmarked for training, business-development

services and micro-loans. The second, a donation of telephonic and computer equipment valued at \$9,000, to aid the PLAN Fund's operational efficiency.

"The equipment couldn't have come at a better time," said PLAN Fund Executive Director Anthony Pace.

"It was especially helpful to have Rent-A-Center's

employees design and implement the IT network since we lack the ability to do so in-house."

Brent Turner, VP of Financial Services for Rent-A-Center, recently

joined the board of directors of the PLAN Fund, underscoring Rent-A-Center's commitment to advancing entrepreneurship.

"This country was built

on small business owners," said Turner. "Now more than ever, our nation's entrepreneurs will need help to start and maintain their businesses and fulfill their dreams."

The DFW Minority Business Council Brings Suppliers & Corporations Together for the Business Event of the Year **ACCESS EXPO 2009 trade event for minority business**

The Minority Business Council of Dallas- Ft. Worth announced the Minority business event of the year: ACCESS 2009 Business Expo that will be held at the Arlington Convention Center May 11-12, 2009. More than 200 companies and public agencies are expected at the Expo to make business with minority suppliers from all over Texas.

"In the past 10 years I have not missed one of the ACCESS business events," said Dennis English, Prime Pest Management President. "I have developed relationships that have turned into contracts at every single one,

from \$10,000 up to \$170,000, keeping my company profitable and in constant growth"

With more than \$286,000 in "spot bids" awarded in 2008 and more this year, the ACCESS 2009: Your Business, Your Vision, Your Future, Your Success will provide minority business the tools, the contacts and the "know how" to establish business with top companies from the DFW area.

Also, the ACCESS 2009 event will provide workshops that will focus on the five critical success factors and the tools to help businesses cultivate success during

these tough economic times.

"Given the current economic environment, ACCESS 2009 provides a bright spot for MBEs," said ACCESS Co-chair and Director of Business Development, Procurement and Services for the City of Dallas, Ade Williams. "You will learn what opportunities the public and private buying entities have to offer as well as what other MBEs are doing to refresh and grow in 2009."

For more information on the DFW/MBC ACCESS 2009 log onto www.dfwmdbc.com or call 214-630-0747.

GREEN, continued from Page 3

ure the concentration of carbon in the atmosphere seeking to devise technological solutions to avoid forecasted catastrophic climate upheaval, Black women of faith, healers, and organizers point to the breakdown of the family, erosion of values, unhealthy neighborhoods and global human rights abuses as signs that things are out of balance.

Women possess a deep appreciation for the connection between how we regard our neighbor and our care for the planet. We know the importance of changing hearts and minds to bring about desired outcomes.

We are natural change agents and the global environmental crisis cannot be solved without the involvement of women at the decision-making levels, especially Black women.

Politically speaking, Black women live at the intersection of race, class, and gender experiencing impacts of these three factors simultaneously. Since our first days on these shores we have worked in fields, cultivated family gardens, and chronicled the

effects of medicinal herbs and natural healing techniques as matrons, midwives, and mothers.

We must embrace the wisdom of our foremothers to provide needed leadership in the 21st century green revolution.

On the surface it would appear that policies to green the economy by advancing renewable energy, reducing waste and deploying massive resources to create greener buildings and infrastructure will provide needed solutions. The truth is that the American economy is driven by consumption.

Little distinction is made between needs and artificially created wants. If the perspectives of women who head households, care for children, nurse the sick, work for consistently lower wages, and negotiate inefficient public transportation are not well integrated in the development of emerging policies, outcomes will certainly fall far short of the required reductions.

Our grandmothers had a term that trumped "efficient" it was "sufficient."

In other words, enough

is enough. Women must step forward to declare that excessive consumption is an abomination. We must make the case for sharing, caring, and service as cornerstones for the emerging new economy.

We must help to change the way that we all think about economics and environment. We must redefine work in relationship to family with hours, pay, benefits, and priorities consistent with the world as women experience it.

Green job proposals focus almost exclusively on job creation in the male dominated building and infrastructure trades.

Despite efforts to recruit women, the fields of construction, engineering and architecture remain male dominated. While attention should be devoted to increasing the participation of women in non-traditional fields, we also have important contributions to make as "social engineers" when it comes to building design, community and economic development.

We offer indispensable insights into the creation of

safe neighborhoods where care for the most vulnerable, children and elderly, is central.

If designed by women, schools, childcare, senior centers and affordable housing would be in close proximity to jobs, safe parks, include healthy food options, and public transportation.

We must lend our support for aggressive national and international emissions reductions; however, we cannot be fooled into believing that a global climate agreement in Copenhagen will result in ecological balance and sustainable economies.

Quality must replace quantity as the measure of development. Our ancestors elevated arts, culture, education, family, community, creativity, and craftsmanship. We must link arms in the global movement for equity, gender sensitivity, and protection of Mother Earth.

Felicia M. Davis is the president of Just Environment. The Whispering Out Loud Series is sponsored by the Black Women's Round Table.

Advertising Account Manager

Must be

- Able to telemarket effectively
- Willing to coldcall efficiently
- Skilled in Microsoft Word and Outlook
- Able to demonstrate good people skills
- Able to accept Draw against Commissions
- Willing to work in Plano and surrounding areas

Interested candidates please email your resume to trj1909@tx.rr.com

AIR CONDITIONER PARTS

ATTENTION A/C TECHNICIANS

Ignition Control (Two Stage Spark)
For Sale

Part #CNT04717x13651111-010
Paid \$200 – Will Take \$100

972-606-3891

OFFICE FURNITURE

CONFERENCE TABLE 84" LONG

Mahogany Wood 6 chairs
(Maroon)

Good Condition \$250.00 Firm

972-606-3891

ENERGY, continued from Page 1

and create jobs in communities around the country," said Vice President Biden. "Local leaders will have the flexibility in how they put these resources to work – but we will hold them accountable for making the investments quickly and wisely to spur the local economy and cut energy use."

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block

Grant program, funded by Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will provide formula grants for projects that reduce total energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.

The funding will support energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the develop-

ment and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. Other activities eligible for use of grant funds include transportation programs that conserve energy, projects to reduce and capture methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, renewable energy

installations on government buildings, installing energy efficient traffic signals and street lights, deployment of Combined Heat and Power and district heating and cooling systems, and others.

To ensure accountability, the Dept. of Energy will provide guidance to and require grant recipients to report on the number of jobs created or retained,

energy saved, renewable energy capacity installed, greenhouse gas emissions reduced, and funds leveraged. Funding is based on a formula that accounts for population and energy use.

"The Block Grants are a major investment in energy solutions that will strengthen America's economy and create jobs at the local level," said Secretary Chu.

"The funding will be used for the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies we have – energy efficiency and conservation – which can be deployed immediately.

The grants also empower local communities to make strategic investments to meet the nation's long term clean energy and climate goals."

DASH CAMS, continued from Page 1

tion of the incident," said Sam Walker, a national police accountability expert, in Sunday's editions of *The Dallas Morning News*.

"If the officer did the right thing, then it's good for us to know that and have some independent documentation," he said. "If the officer was in the wrong, then it's good for us to know that. This is what's been lacking in most police use-of-force incidents. Traditionally, you would have had a he said-he said situation. As the cliché has always been, the tie goes to

the officer."

The infamous Rodney King beating by Los Angeles police officers 18 years ago solidified the power of video, for the officers and suspects.

In Moats' case a Plano officer also witnessed part of the traffic stop and reported it to his supervisors. But without the video, an internal affairs probe may have stalled.

"It would have been their word against (Powell), and it probably would have ended up being inconclusive," said Assistant Chief Floyd Simpson, who oversees the

city's seven patrol stations. "The in-car camera systems bring a different view."

In Dallas, about 67 percent of the department's 906 squad cars have one of the \$4,400 cameras, said Lt. Dale Barnard, the department's fleet coordinator.

The camera begins recording automatically when an officer flips on lights and sirens, or if the patrol car is in a crash. Officers are required to wear microphones to record conversations. It is against DPD rules for an officer to turn off the camera, and officers cannot

erase the videos.

Videos that need to be kept as evidence or for longer than 90 days are reviewed by a sergeant.

According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, as of 2003, 54 percent of police departments in cities with more than 250,000 people use in-car cameras.

In Dallas, the cameras have proved to be a mixed bag for local officers.

In August, two Dallas police officers arrested a drunken man at a club near a southwest patrol substation. The man later com-

plained that the officers had roughed him up, but the officers were cleared when investigators heard an audio recording showing that the man was yelling, screaming and kicking the cage in the squad car.

Cameras also led to several reprimands after a Sept. 6 chase.

A Dallas police video also showed the Oct. 17 death of 10-year-old Cole Berardi, who was struck by an officer driving at least 29 mph over the speed limit on a dark road without sirens or emergency

lights.

That video helped persuade Kunkle to issue new driving guidelines, requiring that officers not drive above the speed limit unless lights and sirens are activated.

In Oakland, Calif., New Year's Day cell phone videos showed a 27-year-old transit police officer shooting Oscar Grant, 22, who was being detained along with several other young black men while police investigated a fight on a train.

The officer is facing murder charges.

GRANDPARENT, continued from Page 1

If all goes according to the con artist's plan, the victim will wire money to the "grandchild."

By the time the elderly call recipient realizes what happened, the money is long gone and most likely not recoverable.

This type of fraud is particularly troubling, as it plays upon a grandparent's natural desire to protect a grandchild.

Although variations of this scam have been around for a long time, it has become more sophisticated with the proliferation of information on the Internet. Con artists are more often using personal information gleaned from family blogs, genealogy Web sites, social networking Web sites and online newspapers to add credibility to their calls.

Reports from law enforcement agencies around the country suggest that the scam works too often.

Watch out for these red flags:

- Callers requesting money.
- Callers claiming to be in Canada or other foreign location.
- Callers insisting on secrecy.
- Urgent callers pres-

suring quick action.

- Callers with unfamiliar voices.
- Callers requesting that money to be sent by wire transfer (because those funds are hard to track and almost impossible to recover).
- Vague or elusive callers who get personal details wrong.

Texans should always exercise some skepticism

when they receive telephone calls urgently requesting money. If a relative calls and asks for money, they should verify the identity of the caller with personal questions a stranger would not be able to answer. Seniors should not "fill in the blanks" for callers but should ask them to give their names. Texans may also consider calling back using a tele-

phone number they know to be genuine. Another option is to ignore the caller's wishes and verify the story with another family member.

Texans who believe they have been the target of a scam should contact the Office of the Attorney General at (800) 252-8011 or www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.

McKinney Community Services Holds Grant Workshop

CDBG staff will educate groups on access to federal funds through city offices

The City of McKinney's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) office will begin accepting grant applications for next fiscal year's CDBG Public Service Program. The CDBG Office will host a grant application workshop on Wednesday, April 8 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 222 N. Tennessee Street. Any interested citizens, agencies and organizations are encouraged to attend and learn about the grant process.

"In addition to the new stimulus funding, the

Community Development Block Grant is still an important source for many organizations and people in need of funding to leverage their resources, and we want to help them with the process obtaining funds that are available to them," said McKinney CDBG Administrator Shirletta Best.

Under the Public Services Program, interested agencies and organizations may apply for grant funding. Eligible activities may include child care, transportation, youth programs, homeless prevention, senior

services, mental health counseling, education, services to handicapped persons and substance abuse counseling.

A minimum proposal request of \$5,000 is required for review consideration. Applications are due to the CDBG Office on Thursday, April 30, at 4:00 p.m. The application and instructions may be downloaded from the city Web site, www.mckinneytexas.org, under the Community Services/CDBG heading starting April 1 or by contacting the CDBG Office at 972-547-2663.

Sen. Cornyn Meets With Nominee To Serve As DOJ's Chief Antitrust Enforcer

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn issued the following statement regarding his meeting with Christine Varney, President Obama's nominee to be the Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust:

"Ms. Varney and I had an extremely productive meeting today. There is no question that she is an experienced and intelligent antitrust lawyer, and I was particularly encouraged by her pledge to work in a timely manner to resolve

Continental Airlines' application to join the Star

Alliance. This application is extremely important to

travelers and Continental employees throughout the

state of Texas and I am pleased to have had the

opportunity to express that to her."

CITY OF
PLANO, TEXAS



CAREER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION
www.plano.gov
AA/EOE/ADA

ROUTE PERSONS

Oak Cliff/
Downtown Dallas/
Irving/
Carrollton/
North Dallas

**\$100 per day
plus \$25 for gas**

**Call(972) 606-3132
or Fax Resume to
972-509-9058**

Please leave a message!

GARLAND
CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS

Suppliers of Goods, Services and Construction

Review Competitive Opportunities at
www.bidsync.com
www.garlandpurchasing.com



IRVING

DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING
AND REWARDING CAREER?

PURSUE A CAREER AS A POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER!

- Competitive wages
- Array of benefits
- Education incentive pay
- . . . and more

SIGN UP TO TAKE
THE CITY OF IRVING'S NEXT
CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM.
CALL (972) 721-2532 TO REGISTER.

*The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion,
age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.
www.cityofirving.org*

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Dallas

Contract 0353-04-090 for PLANE SURFACE AND ACP OVERLAY in DALLAS County will be opened on April 23, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Contract 1047-02-044 for INTERSEC IMPRVMENTS AT STRAUS ROAD in DALLAS County will be opened on April 22, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 29392

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
Dallas District
District Engineer
4777 E. Hwy 80
Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643
Phone: 214-320-6100

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.



**Richardson Independent
School District**
Richardson, Texas

"A Recognized School District"

Teacher Job Fair

Saturday, April 18

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

J.J. Pearce High School

1600 N. Coit Road

Richardson, Texas 75080

For faster entry, apply online at
www.risd.org by April 13

Certified by August 2009 – All Grades/Subjects
Current ACP – All Areas/Subjects of Elem. 4-8 &
All Secondary Areas/Subjects
www.RISD.org



CARROLLTON
TEXAS
Where Connections Happen

CITY OF CARROLLTON

Activity Leader

Alternate School Crossing Guard

Aquatics Coordinator

Deck Attendant

Lifeguard

Maintenance Worker I - Grounds

Police Officer

Pool Manager

Pump Station Operator

Seasonal Maintenance Worker

Site Coordinator

Swim Instructor

Swimming Pool Attendant

Telecommunications Dispatcher

Temporary Maintenance Worker

Therapeutic Site Coordinator

Therapeutic Site Leader

Workforce Services 1945 E. Jackson Road

Carrollton, TX 75011-0535

Direct Line: (972) 466-3090

Website: <http://www.cityofcarrollton.com>

•Your must apply online via our website
Equal Opportunity Employer

Church Happenings

CHRIST COMMUNITY CONNECTION (CCC) A NON-PROFIT 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION

April, 25, 7:30 am
Tee-up for a great cause, Tee-up for fun at our 10th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic Tournament, at the Indian Creek Lake in Carrollton, TX. The #7 best public golf course in Texas. Sponsorships are available. Platinum for \$2,000; Gold for \$750; Silver for \$300; Hole for \$100; and Cart for \$40. Call 972-242-0933 for details.

Rev. Willie Rainwater
CEO and Director
2006 Southern Oak
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-242-0933

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

This Saturday,
April 4, 1:30 – 3 pm
Visit Helen's House to receive, to give, and to fellowship. Give-away of food and household items is open to all those who could use a little touch.

DayStar Deliverance Ministries

Apostle Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing, Senior Pastor
635 W. Campbell Rd, #210
Richardson, TX 75080
972-480-0200

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY'S NORTH DALLAS ALUMNAE

CHAPTER

April 4 & 11, 9:30 am – 2 pm
In conjunction with the Delta Sorority, the IRS, United Way and the City of Dallas, there will be FREE tax preparation for taxpayers with \$40,000 or less income in 2008, or for any senior citizen @ the Willie B. Johnson Recreation Center, 12225 Willowdell Drive in the Hamilton Park Community. You must bring a photo I.D.; a W-2 Form for 2008; Form 1099; a copy of your Social Security card; and any other information concerning your income and expenses for the year 2008.

Carolyn Matthews,
Chapter President
P. O. Box 8306004
Richardson, TX 75083
214-452-7835
(Voice Mail and Fax)

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN "THE SHIP"

ON GOING, 9 am-4 pm
Monday-Friday
Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567.

April 2009
Wednesdays, 7 pm
Get your praise on, Wednesday Night Live (WNL) @ our main campus, 200 Belmont Drive in Allen. Call the church for details.

Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.
M. Div., Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss

(Service Location)
200 Belmont Drive
(Church Address)
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, THE COLONY

On Going Tutoring--
On-going
Math & English, 7 pm
Monday a night for Math and English and
Wednesday nights tutoring is only for Math.

Dr. C. Paul McBride
Senior Pastor
4396 Main Street
The Colony, TX 75056
972-625-8186

SAINT MARK MIS- SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 6 – 10, 7:30 pm
Nightly
Join us for our 52nd Annual Passion Week Services, hosted by Churches of McKinney. Services will be held @ the McKinney First Baptist Church, 401 Erwin Street,

McKinney, TX 75069.
April 12, 6 am
Sunrise Worship Services will be held @ St. James CME Church, 316 Watt Street, McKinney, TX 75069. For information about Sunrise or Passion Week Services call 972-562-1877.

Rev. Charles S. Wattle,
Senior Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney, TX 75069
972-542-6178

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

May 23, 10 am – 4 pm
Come to a Health Fair with nutritional information, blood donations, blood pressure checks, vision screenings and physical fitness. We are addressing the health needs of individuals and planting the seeds for a healthier future. This event is sponsored by the Men of Valor, a Department of the Voice of Jesus Parish.

Voice of Jesus Parish

514 North Elm Street
Denton, TX 76201
940-387-3355

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

April 5, 2009
Put on your "shouting shoes" and celebrate with us our 1st Church

Anniversary in Carrollton with the dynamic Bishop J. E. Lee from Terrell, TX ministering the Word of God.

Elder Gregory Voss,
Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mill Road
Suite 200
Carrollton, TX 75006
214-514-9147

Sister Tarpley Thinks You Should Share Your Milestone Events With The Community....

Take advantage of our special 1-time advertising rate to advertise your:



Church Anniversary
Pastor's Anniversary
Women's Day
Men's Day
Special Events (Personal or Community)

Special Promotional Advertising Rate Of:

\$117⁰⁰ Ad Size - 2 Column X 6"

Call Our Marketing Department Today!

(972) 606 - 7498

PRIME BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE

One, two or three lots for sale at Restland in North Dallas; located in the beautiful and peaceful Serenity Gardens Section (Southeast corner of Greenville Avenue & Restland Road.) Market value \$3450 each, but selling price negotiable. View plots by appointment only. Call 972-606-3878, 972-416-6109, or 469-235-5808.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

For Kingdom Building
200 BELMONT DRIVE - ALLEN, TX 75013
(972) 359-9956 - www.fbcofallien.org



Sunday Morning Services
8:15AM: Story Elementary
10:45AM: Story Elementary
1:50 Edelweiss - Allen, Tx

Wednesday Night Live
Wed Prayer Service / Bible Study
7:00 PM
200 Belmont Dr - Allen, Tx



Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr.
Lady Teasha Stafford

The New Light Church

ENCOURAGING, EMPOWERING, EVANGELIZING

"Taste and see that the LORD is Good."

Sunday School 9:30AM

Sunday Worship Service 11:00AM

Thursday Night Live At The Light 7:00PM

**Come, Experience
The Light!**

www.newlightchurchdallas.org

9314 Elam Rd. | Dallas, TX 75217
214.391.3430

Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor



MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

300 Chisholm Place Plano, TX 75075 872-833-6511

Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy

His NIGHT

Last Sunday, Every Month

7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 am

Wednesday Nights

7:15 pm

Call Pastor Sam on:

"Vision & Truth Live" Radio Program

Broadcasted on KWRD 100.7 FM THE WORD

(Sundays 9 pm - 10 pm)

Hear Pastor Sam on: "Truth Made Simple"

KGGR 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm



Hill Chapel

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090

Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School:

9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service:

11:00 A.M.

Wednesday Night:

7:30 P.M.

Community Bible Class:





Things to Ponder

You should always leave an individual with kind and loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

We don't have to change family and friends; if we understand that family and friends sometimes change. No matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that. True friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. The same goes for true love.

You can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life. Generally, it takes a person a long time to become the person that they should be. You can keep going long after you can't. We are responsible for what we say and do, no matter how we feel.

Either you control your attitude or it control you; because ATTITUDE is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failure, than success,

and what other people think, say or do.

ATTITUDE is more important than appearance, gifts, or skills. It will make or break a company, church or a home.

Regardless of how hot

angry, but that doesn't give you the right to be cruel. The Word of God says to be angry and sin not.

Just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to it doesn't mean that they don't love

many birthdays you've celebrated. It isn't always enough to be forgiven by others; sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.

It doesn't matter how bad your heart is broken, the world doesn't stop for your grief. Our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become. Just because two people argue, it doesn't mean that they don't love each other, and just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean that they do care about each other. You shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret; it could change your life forever.

With the death of two precious cousins within two weeks apart, Milton Demus and Clara Jackson Watson Gillispie, my mind went to things I have heard and some things that I have printed in my column.

and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion fades and there had better be something else to take its place. Heroes are the people who do what has to be done, when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences. You and your best friend should be able to do anything or nothing and still have the best time.

Sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will sometimes be the ones to help you get back up. At times when you are angry, you have the right to be

you with all that they have. Maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them; and less to do with how



L to R: Sisters Linda Ragland, Donna Murray, and Sheletha Byrd, Praise Team members for Word of Life COGIC in Carrollton, Elder Gregory Voss, Senior Pastor.

Two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different. People who don't even know you can change your life in a matter of minutes or hours. The credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

You only lose when you quit trying; so don't be so quick to throw in the towel. Why start the race if you don't plan to finish it? When you think that you have no more to give, when

a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help. People you care about most in life are taken from you too soon.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8.

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
The Rock
 Still standing.... Est. June 1864
 A Kingdom Building Church offering **DELIVERANCE, RESTORATION, FELLOWSHIP and PROSPERITY**



Robert Townsend, Pastor

Worship Services
 Sunday Worship 7:45 am & 11:00 am
 Sunday School 9:45 am - 10:45 am
 Wednesday Bible Study ... 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Office Hours
 Monday & Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
 Saturday & Sunday Closed

Contact Info: Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
 11611 Wash Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229
 Office: 972-241-6751
 Email: info@dallasmtpisgah.org
 Website: www.dallasmtpisgah.org

BEN WASHINGTON Baptist Church, Inc.
"The Church with an Open Bible"



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
 8 am & 11 am | 9:45 am Sunday School
 6 pm Baptist Training Union (BTU)

WEDNESDAYS
 12 pm Bible Study | 7 pm Prayer
 7:30 pm Bible Study



Dr. Joseph B. Sheppard, Senior Pastor

3901 Frisco Ave. | Irving, TX 75067
 Church 972-790-8421 | Fax 972-986-6590
 Email: church@bwbcirving.org | www.bwbcirving.org

Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church



Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor

"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"

Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am
 Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254
 972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
 templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

Casual Contemporary Fresh

THE Eirene! EXPERIENCE

Come see for yourself!


701 E. Centennial Blvd
 Richardson, TX 75081
 972.991.0200
 www.followpeace.org



Two Sunday Worship Times
 8:00am & 10:30am
 Wednesday Night Bible 7:30pm

Friendship Baptist Church
 4396 Main Street The Colony, Texas 75056
 (972) 625-8186
 website: www.fbc-online.net

Schedule of Services:
Sunday
 Early Morning Worship-8:00 a.m.
 Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.



Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

Tuesday
 Early Bird Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
 Morning Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
 Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

"The Church with a Vision"

Bike Basics: Cycling Your Way to Work, Fun, Fitness

Sales are booming for the bicycle, fueled by the growth of fitness riding, amateur racing and bicycle commuting.

All bikes, from fat-tired boardwalk cruisers to the featherweight \$200,000 racers ridden by Lance Armstrong, descend from the pedal-less "walking horse" invented in 1818 by Baron Karl Drais of Germany. Today, they're the main form of transportation for much of the world. Even in car-loving America they're busting out of their historical user base of children, students and racers.

Turning Drive Time into Riding Time

Biking to work may deprive you of the comedy stylings of your favorite morning talk-radio DJs, but the benefits are substantial. You'll save big on gas, pollute less and arrive on the job site with a clear mind and a pleasant endorphin buzz. Although some potential bike commuters hesitate due to concerns about weather, convenience and safety, all of these issues are manageable with a little preparation:

Make yourself conspicuous with front and rear bike reflectors (or, better

still, battery-powered lights), a reflective mesh safety vest and generous use of peel-and-stick reflective vinyl film.

Play dodge-car whenever possible by using available bike lanes, less busy side roads and shortcuts through parks or

greenbelts.

Change with the seasons by wearing a lightweight, brightly colored thermal cycling pants and hooded jackets in cold or rainy weather and snug, perspiration-shedding shorts and tops in the summer.

Work clean by checking to see if showers are available where you work or in nearby health clubs or gyms that offer shower-only memberships. If these aren't available, many people find that baby wipes and a wash cloth tucked into a zip-lock bag work well for

an office sponge bath.

Pack light by purchasing a backpack, touring panniers (saddlebag-style storage pouches) or covered basket just large enough to carry basic items such as a bag lunch, extra clothes, folders and notebook computer.

COMING SOON TO ALLEN | ON APRIL 12, 2009

ROCKBRIDGE BIBLE CHURCH

200 W. Belmont | Allen, TX 75013
FBCA Campus
214.263.8590 | www.RockBridgeBC.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.
"Bridging the gap between God and man through Jesus Christ"



Senior Pastor, Timothy Jones
& First Lady, LaTonya Jones



Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thriving World" Isaiah 55:1

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

972-437-3493

1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School

Monday Service
Men's Ministry 7:00 pm
Women's Ministry 7:00 pm
Young Adult Ministry 7:00 pm

Wednesday Service
Intercessory Prayer 6:15 pm
Bible Study 7:00 pm



Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr.
Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243

www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Avenue F Church of Christ

1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Early Sunday Morning.....8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class.....9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:45 am
Evening Worship.....3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on
KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church



Pastor Rickie G. Reed

7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm.
Monday School 7pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm

Website: www.ibccjoy.org

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

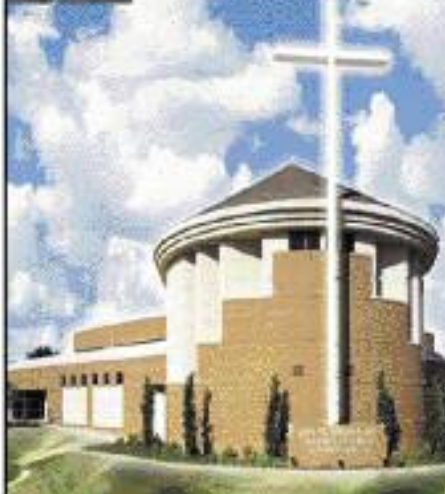
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.



Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH



FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

Sunday	9:45AM Sunday School
Monday	7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday	7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday	7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday	7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

Worship Services
7:30am & 10:30am
Sunday School
9:30 am



Wednesday
Night Service
8:00 pm



Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor



Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

Our Mission

To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4235 • www.fbcjp.org

Promiseland Television Network Broadcast - KTAQ-TV

"WALKING IN THE WORD"

Weekly 30 minute broadcasts, each Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 4pm



Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley



Sunday

Education Ministries - 9:30 a.m. • Worship Celebration - 11:00 am.
- Nursery Facilities Available -

Wednesday Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call 972.542.6178

www.saintmarkbo.com • themark27@yahoo.com