

South Central Service Area News

Declaring Ownership in 2009!

A word from your editor-

Good Day South Central family. I hope this newsletter finds you in the best of health and spirits. Instead of doing a simple email with a bunch of information: I decided to do a newsletter with a bunch of information.

In 2009, it is all about South Central and I am challenging all 76 identified crime watch groups, neighborhood associations and homeowner associations to **declare ownership** in their neighborhoods. Take your neighborhood back!

As your service area coordinator, I am here to coordinate City services and ensure that the appropriate City departments are addressing your concerns. As you are aware, I work closely with the new and improved Code Compliance Department, Sanitation Department, the Dallas City Marshal's Office, Streets Department, the City Attorney's Office, Public Works & Transportation, 311 and our very own South Central Police Substation. That is simply to name a

few departmental partnerships. Team Dallas is here for you and ready to make a difference. Please keep this in mind when you are driving down the street and observe things that jeopardize the quality of life in your community. If it's a life-threatening emergency, remember to dial 9-1-1. However, if it is a non emergency, like a street light out, loose dog, pothole, downed traffic light, or a junk motor vehicle or high weeds on your neighbor's lawn, simply call 3-1-1. Be sure to jot down your Service Request Number and call back for follow up information as needed.

The 3-1-1 and 9-1-1 staff are available twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. Making those phone calls and initiating



Dallas City Hall located 1500 Marilla

problem resolution is the preliminary step in declaring ownership and taking back your neighborhoods. Also, attending your crime watch and neighborhood association meetings will create unity and encourage your neighbors to take part in being a watchful neighbor. Please join your respective council person and myself in this effort and let's declare ownership! Who Rah!

Katina Johnson

What Happened with the South Central Civic Academy?


The South Central Civic Academy was held on Saturday, January 24, 2009, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Dallas City Hall. This academy was considered the 'pilot training course' which was implemented to gauge the South Central residents' interest regarding Dallas City Hall and its various service delivery departments. The following depart-

ments: 311, Code Compliance, Animal Services, Dallas Fire & Rescue, Streets, Dallas Police South Central Patrol Substation, Community Prosecution and Oncor Electric presented to 44 out of 50 registered South Central participants. After

the presentations, the attendees completed a survey. The results of the course evaluations were remarkable and will be used to make the second civic academy even better!

(Story continued on pg. 2)

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A special 'Thank you' to the following: The SCCA would not have been successful without their dedication: **Sandra Caro**, SCS; **Maibel Medina**, SCS; **Nicole Gauthier**, EBS; **Bennie Jones**, EBS; Union Pacific; **Oncor**; **Dave Littleton**, EBS; **Cheritta Johnson & Staff**, Sanitation; **Opal White**, Code; **Sherri Steele**, Code; **Sgt. Melissa Gregg**, DPD; **Lt. Weddington**, DPD; **Mitzi Willis**, Community Prosecution; **Derrick Shead**, STS; **Phyllis Goode**, Code; **Antrim Green**, SCS; **D.C Harold Holland**, DFR; **Felicia Hill**, DFR; **Jill Jordan**, My ACM,; **Kenneth Gwyn**, My Director; **Dwaine Caraway**, Council member District 4; **Tenell Atkins**, Council member District 8 and **Vonciel Jones Hill**, Council member District 5

South Central Civic Academy continued



Tyrone McGill, Animal Services



Mr. Phil Foster, Adelaide Crime Watch receiving \$25 gift card, courtesy of Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway.



Katina Johnson and Mrs. Vera Moss



Mr. Lionel Churchill & Mr. Gurson



Joppa residents were front in center: L to R Mrs. Barbara Greer, Mr. Jesse Greer and Livy Dibbles.



Attendees standing to stretch their legs for round hour 3 of the civic academy.



Dallas Fire & Rescue: Inspector Felicia Hill



Mr. Johnny Clark and Senior Corporal Anthony Allen (DPD)



Arden Terrace Neighborhood Association and Opal White (Code Compliance) and Katina Johnson

South Central Civic Academy (continued from pg. 1)

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway, Councilwoman Vonciel Hill and Councilman Tennel Atkins offered some district wide information to their attending residents. Also, a special 'Thank You' to Mr. Caraway and Councilman Atkins for the \$25 dollar gift cards which were won by Mrs. Arbertha Herrod of Arden Terrace and Mr. Phil Foster of the Adelaide Crime Watch Group.

For the next civic academy, one very

special gift will be given to the resident that has the most referrals.

What that means is if you attended the first academy and multiple South Central residents attend the second academy and report that **YOU** referred them than **YOU** will receive that very special gift. So begin your encouraging process **NOW!**

Hey, Can I come to the next civic academy?



The next South Central Civic Academy is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, June 27, 2009.** More details to come.

Sharing my City of Dallas ride along experience...

Congratulations to **Mrs. Barbara Sanders** of the Glen Oaks Homeowner's Association. Mrs. Sanders attended the South Central Civic Academy on Saturday, January 24, 2009, and was the first resident to perform a subsequent ride along with the City of Dallas South Central Patrol Substation. According to Mrs. Sanders,



"On Feb. 8, 2009, I reported for duty at 1400 (2 p.m.) at the beautiful South Central Patrol Substation. My heart was racing as I re-evaluated my decision to be involved in this project. I envisioned myself dressed in a bullet proof vest, helmet, carrying a big gun, working with officers barking out orders, while chasing offenders in fast moving cars with sirens blaring. None of this happened!

After roll call, **Officer Vegas** and I proceed to our squad car to begin our shift. The car was equipped with a camera and computer which is vital for effective policing. During our shift we answered 14

calls, including a burglary in progress! Four squads were on scene and the officers collaboratively ensured my safety by instructing me to stand behind a building while they surrounded the property. Unfortunately the burglar escaped prior to our arrival. This ride along has opened my eyes to the danger that lurks outside our doorways. I am most appreciative of the officers that confront these dangers and put their lives on the lines to ensure my safety. Thank you Officer Vegas and keep up the great work. If you haven't done a ride along, trust me-it is worthwhile."

Also, on Saturday, February 14, 2009, **Mr. Phil Foster**, President of the Adelaide Crime Watch participated in a ride along with Officer Logan of the South Central Patrol substation. Mr. Foster shares, "I reported for duty at 1400. Detail commenced at 1430 in which the beat officers were updated about criminal activity to be on the look-



out. My ride along experience was an 'eye opener'. It was educational and it helped me understand what type of information the 911 dispatch operator would need to effectively assist the responding officer in an emergency call. I identified that the City of Dallas has some of the most alert, knowledgeable and in-tuned officers staffing our service area. Granted, there remains a lot of work to be done but I have witnessed that South Central police are working in our favor. I could not be more proud of our officers."



Congratulations to **Mrs. Ola Allen**, President of the Marsalis Park HOA. As a result of the South Central Civic Academy, Mrs. Allen is scheduled to begin the Dallas Citizens Fire Academy on February 26, 2009, a ride along with Animal Services AND the South Central Patrol Substation. **YOU GO MRS. ALLEN!**



A Word from our CHIEF!



Hello South Central residents. I am **Deputy Chief Sherry Scott** and I oversee the South Central Patrol Substation located at 1999 E.

Camp Wisdom Road which opened in October of 2007. I want to thank you for welcoming all 300+ South Central personnel into your community. You have been especially helpful in giving us data to help us identify those who are terrorizing you by committing

crimes on your streets. As a result, during 2008, the South Central area crime rate decreased by 12%. However, we must not get complacent. We must remain vigilant and call 9-1-1 when you observe criminal activity or suspicious behavior. You can also call 214-671-4499 to give anonymous tips concerning suspected drug houses, names & addresses of persons committing crimes and vehicle descriptions. I am convinced that if we work together we can reduce the crime rate

this year by another 12% or more. If you would like to become more active in taking back your neighborhood, you can contact **Sgt. Melissa Gregg** at 214-671-4532. Sgt. Gregg is the Neighborhood Police Coordinator and she will give you more details about our Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) Program and Crime Watch Program. Please do not hesitate to call the South Central Patrol Substation at 214-671-4500 if you need our assistance.



D.C. Scott Sgt. Melissa Gregg

The South Central Code Compliance 'Worker Bees'

The City of Dallas Code Compliance Department has undergone some major changes since 2007. Rest assured the changes have been for the better. As of this date, the South Central Interim Code Compliance Manager is **Steven Williams**. "I have been the Interim Manager for three months now and in this short period of time, I have learned that the personnel assigned to this service area are truly committed to educating the residents and establishing a healthy working rapport to make the South Central service

area a better place to live, work and play." If you haven't met your field Code Compliance worker bees then say, "Hello" to

Sheri Steele and **Opal White**. Since the reorganization of Code Compliance, they have hit the ground running. Within the last three months, this tag team duo has attended over 89 neighborhood meetings

"We enjoy working with our residents and are committed to improving the quality of life in the South Central service area."



Sheri Steele Opal White

educating the residents and providing the necessary insight as what is expected of the residents of the South Central service area. If you have Code Compliance

concerns or you would like for the duo to address concerns at your next crime watch or neighborhood association meeting, you may contact Opal White at 214-874-3844 or Sheri Steel at 214-693-0888.



**CITY OF DALLAS
STRATEGIC CUSTOMER SERVICES**

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This is the first edition of the **South Central Service Area** Newsletter. Its purpose is to encourage residents to take notice and part in their neighbors' well-being.

Throughout the newsletter, you will find information about your neighbors and South Central happenings. Yes, we are our brothers' keepers and this is the year of service. Hence, keeping you informed.

If you identify something you consider SCSA newsletter worthy or to be a part of the SCSA newsletter please email katina.johnson@dallascityhall.com



Dr. Elba Garcia
Dist. 1

Pauline Medrano
Dist. 2

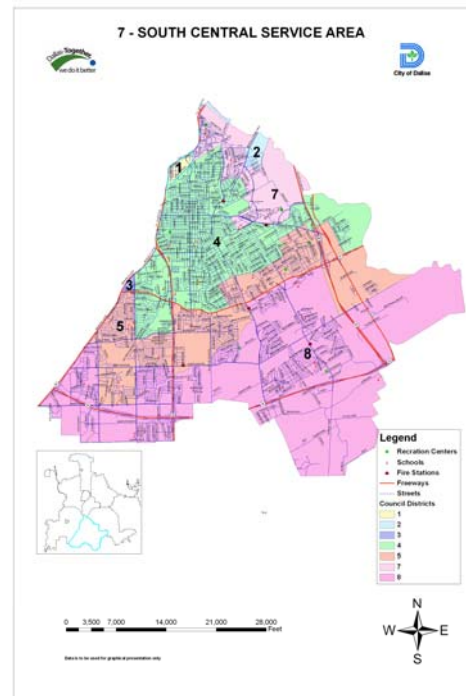
David Neumann
Dist. 3

Dwalne Caraway
Dist. 4

Vonciel Jones Hill, Dist. 5

Carolyn Davis
Dist. 7

Tennell Atkins
Dist. 8



Ask not what this country can do for you but what you can do for this country (John F. Kennedy).

Inquiring Minds want to know...

Will District 8 ever have a school? ~Caroline Pritchett.

"Hello Caroline. My name is **Lew Blackburn** and I am the DISD Board Trustee for District which includes the District 8 Council area. Yes. There will be a new elementary school near the old Wilmer Hutchins (\$22 Million) and the old Wilmer Hutchins H.S will be completely renovated inside and out for a new magnet educational facility (\$20 Million). Finally, the Kennedy Curry Middle School will be renovated and the adjacent buildings will be connected to create one educational facility (\$10 Million)."

How do you get a Job with Dallas City Hall? ~Nolen

"My name is **Brandy Thomas** and I'm the Civil Service Office Assistant. To get a job with the City of Dallas, you simply go online to www.dallascityhall.com and apply for a position that interests you. After applying, a HR Analyst will determine if you meet the qualifications for the position in which you have applied. If you do not meet the qualifications, you will be notified via email. If you meet the qualifications and there is an exam for that position, you will be invited to take the exam. If there is no exam, your application will then be sent to the hiring authority for further consideration. Computers are available at Dallas City Hall for

residents to complete on-line applications."

What does the City Plan Commissioner do? ~Interested Resident

"My name is **Michael Davis** and I am a City Plan Commissioner specifically appointed by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem **Dwalne Caraway** of District 4. Routinely, I collaborate with the neighborhoods to determine proper business usage and zoning plans for the assigned area. For instance, I worked with Mr. Caraway and the community to successfully close down a couple of undesirable motels on Lancaster Avenue."

What is the largest budget that the Chief Financial Officer of Dallas City Hall has ever managed?

"My name is **Dave Cook** and I am responsible for managing the budget for the City of Dallas. The largest budget I have managed for the City of Dallas is \$2.7 billion dollars which is the current year's budget."

How many 311 call takers are answering calls for the City of Dallas?

"My name is **Stephen Walker** and I am a 311 Supervisor. During the day there are 25-30 call takers. In the evening we have approximately 10-12 call takers to answer calls. Overnight, there are fewer calls; therefore we have 5-7 call takers manning the phones. However, if the situation warrants it, we are able to add staff."

The officers that are patrolling the SC service area is not enough. What are we doing to combat the disaster waiting to happen? ~ J. Cancino

"I am **Deputy Chief Scott** and I oversee the South Central Patrol Substation. Each beat/area has an officer (s) that is responsible for the area. If the area experiences a lot of calls and offenses, the officers assigned to the sector will conduct sweeps, warrant checks, safety checks, extra patrol and numerous other operations to address the problem location. The Division Commander also has other divisions to call upon for assistance to include Vice, Narcotics, Traffic, Operation Disruption and the Gang Unit. In addition, the police department will be hiring an additional 200 officers for the next 4 years. The Dallas Police Department will go from 3,200 officers to 4,000 which will allow even more officers on the streets. If you have a specific location you would like for us to address, please call **Lt. Vincent Weddington** at 214-671-4564."

Next Month's Question for Inquiring Minds:

If you had an opportunity to interview one person in city government, who would it be and what would you ask?

Submit your questions to

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