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WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS

While the danger from winter weather varies across the country, nearly all Americans, regardless of where they live, are likely to face some type of severe winter weather at some point in their lives. Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet, and freezing rain.

One of the primary concerns is the winter weather's ability to knock out heat, power, and communications services to your home or office, sometimes for days at a time. Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region.

Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live or work, but especially if you are in low-lying areas, near water or downstream from a dam. Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds or low-lying ground that appear harmless in dry weather can flood during winter storms.

To prepare for a winter storm you should do the following:

- Before winter approaches, add the following supplies to your emergency kit:
 - Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. Visit the Environmental Protection Agency for a complete list of recommended products.
 - Sand to improve traction.
 - Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
 - Sufficient heating fuel. You may become isolated in your home and regular fuel sources may be cut off. Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
 - Adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm.
- Make a Family Communications Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.
- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or other local news channels for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS). Be alert to changing weather conditions.
- Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, keep a disaster supplies kit in your vehicle.
- Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.



MAYOR'S SPACE

Followers of this admirable publication likely know that we have been engaged in a community-wide, visioning process for the past several months - Our Dallas 2030. This is not an idle exercise destined for the dusty shelf where Government Plans go to die. Our visioning process helps shape our goals and priorities, assuring us the kind of living experience we all aspire to here in Dallas, long into the future. Without a clear notion of who we are right now and where we want to be in the next couple of decades - without a plan or a vision - we would be just counting on blind faith that our future will be happy and prosperous. We can do a lot better than rely on blind faith to dictate our future well-being.

This is not a top driven exercise. Our visions and aspirations are emerging out of vigorous engagement with our citizens. More than 125 folks have participated in free-ranging workshops, hours each, covering our identity, economy, growth, education, and our health and safety. We also have conducted surveying both in person and over the internet on wide ranging topics, so far with over 150 responses. You can take the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/Dallas2030. Out of this really substantial level of observations we are capturing the rich flavor of our Dallas culture and a full embrace of our opportunities.

So, as our visioning process winds to its conclusions in the next few weeks, hopefully with your continued participation, look for some very interesting insights and challenges for us going forward. These are electrifying times as changes are afoot in our world of work, education models, social interactions (who could have foreseen Twitter?), growth and development, and a shrinking world. How can we here in Dallas preserve the best features of our much-appreciated lifestyle while moving forward into a prosperous future? There lies our vision and our test.



NATIVE PLANTING PROJECT

As you are all aware the newest section of the Rickreall Creek Trail System (RCTS) is nearing completion. The concrete has been poured, backfill is in place, bridge decking installed, and a contractor has hydroseeded areas along the path for erosion control. The City is very appreciative of all the countless hours of community support in preconstruction site preparation and to the dedicated staff who have seen the project through.

Liz Habley from Polk Soil and Water District (PSWD) applied for and was awarded a \$9,000.00 grant from OWEB to fund the reintroduction of native trees and plants to the section of trail stretching from the LaCreole bridge to the end of the trail at Hawthorne Avenue. This generous grant is beneficial to the project in providing additional means to improve the natural environment we are striving to maintain.

On December 7, 2013, there will be a work day for volunteers and adopt-a-park applicants to assist in the planting process of specimens provided through the OWEB grant. Work will begin at 8 a.m. with a short demonstration of planting techniques from Liz and will continue until noon. Our goal is to create an interest in the trail and its surroundings through participation.

Please help the trail in promoting this work day. Through your help and suggestions the City is confident this section of trail will be completed.

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

Every year the Salvation Army raises funds through its Red Kettle Campaign to support local social service efforts. Money raised locally stays local to provide vital services to those in need in Polk County. Volunteer "bell ringers" are important to the success of this campaign. Consider donating a 2 hour shift at Safeway or Wal-Mart in Dallas starting November 25th - December 24th. Recruit family, friends, service groups or businesses to get involved.

Sign up at www.ringbells.org



LIBRARY NEWS

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Story Time: Every Tuesday &
Thursday 11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Infant/Toddler

Tuesdays

Preschool

Thursdays

November

7th - Book Discussion

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival,
Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand

Next Month: Major Pettigrew's Last Stand: A Novel
By Helen Simonson

9th - LEGO Saturday

come build & design - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

9th - Hobby Day at the Library - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Deb Darr, Troll Collecting

Each month the library will host a new hobby
for you to enjoy. If you would like to exhibit
your collection or hobby, please come in or call
the library at 503.623.2633.

11th - **Veteran's Day - CLOSED**

28th & 29th - **Thanksgiving - CLOSED**

Free Computer Classes: 3rd Friday of the Month

Friday, November 15 at 10:00 a.m. get tips on how to
download books to your tablets or computers. Space is
limited so please call the library at 503.623.2633 to
reserve a space in one of the classes.

Local Artists in the Library

Watercolors by Susan Riggs will be on display for the
month of November. Jan Story will display Art Quilts and
Fiber Arts in December.

Library Reads Award

Thanks to the hard work of Jessica Grimes, the Dallas
Public Library has been chosen to receive free books as a
winner of the Random House Library Reads Contest.
Our library was one in five libraries, nationwide, to
receive this award! Jessica will be featured in an
upcoming newspaper article as well.

Read To The Dogs

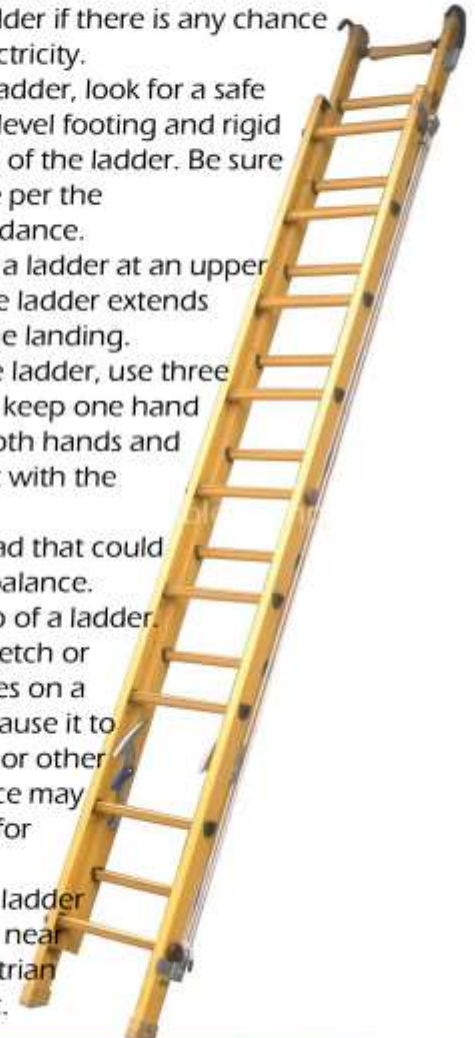
These lovable dogs are a hit with our patrons young and
old. Call 503.623.2633 to make an appointment for your
child to read to one of these wonderful dogs.

LADDER SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Each year, a number of injuries are reported from
falls related to ladders. The risk grows during the
holidays when many people hang lights and other
seasonal decorations, or take them down in January.
The combination of people doing tasks they
normally do not do, along with an all too often
careless approach to ladder safety, can lead to the
worst holiday ever. Falls from ladders can result in
permanent disability and even death.

Here are 10 tips for ladder safety when hanging
decorations:

1. Carefully inspect the ladder for defects, checking
for cracks, corrosion and that bolts and rivets are
secure. Tag and remove unsafe ladders from
service.
2. Make sure the ladder's feet work properly and
have slip-resistant pads.
3. Use a fiberglass ladder if there is any chance
of contact with electricity.
4. When setting the ladder, look for a safe
location with firm, level footing and rigid
support for the top of the ladder. Be sure
to set it at an angle per the
manufacturer's guidance.
5. When climbing off a ladder at an upper
level, make sure the ladder extends
three feet above the landing.
6. When climbing the ladder, use three
points of contact – keep one hand
and both feet or both hands and
one foot in contact with the
ladder at all times.
7. Never carry any load that could
cause you to lose balance.
8. Never stand on top of a ladder.
9. Don't pull, lean, stretch or
make sudden moves on a
ladder that could cause it to
tip over. A scaffold or other
safe working surface may
be a better choice for
your task.
10. Avoid setting the ladder
near exit doors or near
the path of pedestrian
or vehicular traffic.



WINTERFEST



**Friday
Dec 6th**
On the
Courthouse Lawn

**Like to
Be a Vendor?
Looking to Sponsor?**
Contact Chelsea at the Chamber office

Shopping Businesses & Vendors  Hot Cocoa 

Santa Claus  Christmas Tree Lighting 

Caroling  And More Shopping! 

Hosted by:
DALLAS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
503-623-2564
www.dallasoregon.org/winterfest

The Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to host Winterfest 2013 on Friday, December 6th with events starting at 5 p.m. Join us on the Polk County Courthouse Lawn in the Downtown Square as we celebrate the holiday season!

Sip some cocoa or apple cider and nibble on some cookies while we eagerly await Santa's arrival. Enjoy musical performances and caroling while getting some Christmas shopping done. Several vendors will be on the lawn and downtown businesses will have specials too. Once Santa arrives and lights the tree {about 6:30 p.m.} he'll stay to visit with each and every child and give them a candy cane.

We welcome your support of this event through sponsorship and the opportunity to be a vendor. Volunteers are also needed with everything from setup starting at 10am to cleanup that begins at 8 p.m. The more the merrier and the lighter the workload for everyone.

For more information or to participate, please contact Chelsea at the Chamber office at chelsea@dallasoregon.org or 503.623.2564.



COUGAR SAFETY

During the first week of October, Dallas residents living in the area of SE Fir Villa Road have reported what was believed to be a cougar in the area.

On Wednesday, October 2, a resident who lives in the 200 block of SE Fir Villa Road reported a sheep had been killed in a small field adjoining her property sometime during the previous night. After she reported and discussed her findings with personnel at the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), she believed the sheep was most likely attacked by a cougar.

During the early evening hours of Saturday, October 5, a resident of SE Rhododendron Avenue reported seeing what she believed was a cougar in the field near her residence. Rhododendron Avenue runs east off of SE Fir Villa Road and the area of the sighting is within just a few blocks of the reported sheep kill three days prior.

Cougars (or Mountain Lions) are fairly common in Oregon and there have been reported signs and sightings around the outlying areas of Dallas regularly over the past several years. Based on the circumstances surrounding the various reports, ODFW will sometimes solicit the aid of federal trappers to capture and relocate the animals away from populated areas.

According to information provided by wildlife officials, Cougars will usually sense people and leave an area inhabited by humans. However, keep in mind they can be dangerous, especially to domestic pets and children, if they feel they don't have a means of escape. Basic precautions can help keep pets and humans safe.

Guidelines suggested by ODFW include:

- Keep pets indoors at dawn and dusk; cougars are most active during these times.
- Be aware of deer and elk trails which might attract cougars.
- Feed your pets indoors.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lit. Consider installing motion-activated lighting along walkways and drives.
- Remove heavy brush from near the house and any play areas.
- Do not feed any wildlife.
- Fence and shelter livestock. Move them indoors at night if possible.

Wildlife officials remind us that cougars will often retreat if given the opportunity, and to always leave them a way to escape. In addition, they recommend adults familiarize themselves, and educate children, with the following guidelines should a cougar be encountered:

- Stay calm and stand your ground.
- Maintain direct eye contact.
- Pick up any children, but do so without bending down or turning your back on the cougar.
- Back away slowly.
- Do not run. Running triggers a response in cougars which can lead to an attack.
- Raise your voice and speak firmly.
- If the cougar seems aggressive, raise your arms to make yourself look larger and clap your hands.
- If, in the very unusual event a cougar attacks you, fight back with rocks, sticks, garden tools or any other items available.

For additional information, the ODFW has more information entitled "Living with Wildlife" available on their web site. Their site can be found at:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/cougars.asp

Dallas residents who don't have ready access to the Internet, can stop by the Dallas Police Department or the Dallas Public Library to obtain a copy of this informational handout.

As a reminder, all Dallas city parks, including the Rickreall Creek Trail System, are closed from dusk to dawn.

ODFW also asks that citizens report any cougar sighting or encounter to the local ODFW office 503.947.6000 or the Oregon State Police 800.452.7888.



UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

- Infant/Toddler Storytime at Dallas Public Library Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m.
- Preschool Storytime at Dallas Public Library Thursdays at 11:15 a.m.
- Dallas City Council Meeting Nov 4, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.
- Urban Renewal District Advisory Committee meeting Nov. 5, 2013, at 5:30 p.m.
- **Veteran's Day - City Hall Closed** Nov. 11, 2013
- Planning Commission Meeting Nov 12, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.
- Citizen Charter Revision Committee Meeting Nov 13, 2013, at 4:30 p.m.
- Dallas City Council Meeting Nov 18, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.
- Park & Recreation Board Meeting Nov 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.
- Economic Development Committee Nov 21, 2013, at 12:00 p.m.
- Admin / Building & Grounds Committee Meetings Nov 25, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.
- **Thanksgiving - City Hall Closed** Nov. 28 & 29, 2013
- Dallas City Council Workshop Dec 2, 2013, at 5:30 p.m.
- Dallas City Council Meeting Dec 2, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.
- Urban Renewal District Advisory Committee meeting Dec 3, 2013, at 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting Dec 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.
- Citizen Charter Revision Meeting Dec 11, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.
- Dallas City Council Meeting Dec 16, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.
- Public Works/Public Safety Committee Meetings Dec 23, 2013, at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

Please check our website at www.dallasor.gov for updates, cancellations, and additional events.

DALLAS 2030 VISION PROJECT

The Dallas 2030 Project has completed most of the stakeholder interviews and draft vision statements are available here:

<http://www.dallasor.gov/2030>

There is also a link to a survey as well. We encourage everyone to view visit the webpage and participate in the survey.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like to subscribe to the e-newsletter, please call the City Manager's office at 503.831.3502 or email jeremy.teal@dallasor.gov. You can also visit our website at <http://www.dallasor.gov/notify> and sign up to receive notifications about various events in the City.

For up to the minute information on City events, please visit our web page at <http://www.dallasor.gov> and scroll down to the "News and Announcements" section. We also post all meetings and special Library and Aquatic Center activities on the Calendar section of the web page.

If you have questions about anything in this e-newsletter, please contact the City Manager's office at 503.831.3502. We welcome your ideas and comments.

VOLUNTEERS

The City welcomes volunteers of all ages and skill levels. There are many different tasks available within several departments with the City and it's a great way to give back to your community. For more information and to download a volunteer application form, visit our website at <http://www.dallasor.gov/volunteer>.

