



[www.cityofterrell.org](http://www.cityofterrell.org)

May 2009

**Calendar of Events**

**May 16, 2009**

Lake Country Jubilee @ the Terrell Performing Arts Center  
Dove Brothers, Greenes, Three Ridges

**June 8, 2009**

Terrell residents may reserve the pool for private parties  
Pool Phone # 972-551-6669

**June 9, 2009**

Pool Season Starts

**June 11, 2009**

Terrell ISD Graduation @ 8:00pm  
Garland Special Events Center

**October 3, 2009**

Fly-In

**Employee Recognition**



City of Terrell employees are known for their dedication to their jobs and their willingness to assist citizens even if that assistance occurs outside of their own departments or includes duties not usually assigned.

This was certainly the case with the city's Municipal Development Secretary, Omaira Renteria, when the police department requested that she provide translation for a Spanish speaking eight-year-old child who had allegedly been sexually abused.

Interim Terrell Police Chief Jim Donaldson sent a memo to Assistant City Manager, Mike Sims commending Ms. Renteria for her service in acting as a Spanish interpreter for the child during interviews with Detective Ken Moore. Detective Moore and Chief Donaldson said she exhibited an extreme level of professionalism and participated to a degree that was greater than expected. They reported that her contribution to the investigation helped the child's family as well as the investigation unit.

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**City News**

**New Terrell Police Chief**

The City has named a new Police Chief. Please welcome Mr. Jody L. Lay.

Mr. Lay has a 29-year career with the Garland Police Department during which he has served as Police Captain since October, 1999. During his tenure as Captain, he has had the supervisory responsibility of the criminal investigations division, gang unit, narcotics, vice, intelligence, and has also served as a key supervisory leader over SWAT. Mr. Lay has tremendous experience in first line supervision of police resources and management of field operations. Other programs that Mr. Lay has been involved with are uniform crime reporting and various school programs.

Mr. Lay has a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University and graduated from South Garland High.

As the Police Department moves to continue its efforts of insuring a safe community and enforcement of strong policing activities, citizens are encouraged to welcome and support the new Police Chief.

**City Council Actions**

**Apartment Inspection Ordinance**

The City has passed a Multi-family Inspection Ordinance that affects apartments, which would ensure that the conditions of multi-family housing meets minimum safety standards as established by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the International Building Codes. It includes asking owners of apartments to follow basic safety guidelines and provide necessary utilities and sanitation for their tenants.

**Impact Fees**

Impact fees are a means of fairly sharing the costs of new roadway, water, and sewer improvements required by new development between the developer/builder and the taxpayers of a community. It is a difficult balancing act between the various stakeholders because if the fees are too high then developers will choose not to build or to delay building which means a loss of new jobs, new sales and property tax revenues and other benefits to the community which needs a certain amount of growth to support the services they provide such as police and fire protection, safe roadways, safe, clean and cost effective utilities, good schools, parks, etc. If the fees are too low then the taxpayers will have to bear the burden of building infrastructure needed for new development which may take decades to raise the money to make the improvements. We are required by state law to update our impact fees every five years and the recent adoption of the new impact fee ordinance is in compliance with the state mandate. After months of study and many meetings with citizens, developers, builders and consultants the city has adopted new impact fees based on our current economic environment as well as the needs of the community. By slowly increasing the impact fees over the next few years it is anticipated that this will make Terrell attractive to developers and give us a competitive advantage in this slow economy to attract new businesses and home builders which will boost our local economy and create new jobs.

**Education**

The Terrell ISD Excellence Foundation was created to support and enhance the education of all students in the Terrell Independent School District. They are an independent, non-profit corporation that seeks and distributes funds to support effective programs and initiatives to further enhance learning for public school students in the Terrell community. Currently, the Foundation is inviting businesses and individuals in the community to join in their Founding Donor Campaign, where a \$100 or more pledge will earn you prominent and permanent recognition as a Founding Donor.

Thursday April 30 beginning at 6:30pm in the Furlough Middle School cafeteria, a special kickoff dinner will be held to honor the successful start of the Foundation. Steve Blow of the *Dallas Morning News* will be the guest speaker that evening, and Terrell Alumnus Cynthia Rhodes Patterson, also a former U.S. Olympian, will be the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Reservations for the event are available for \$25.00 each by calling Tori Lucas at 214-863-6068.

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Omaira has worked for the City of Terrell for a total of nearly 4 years. She started out as a part time employee in the City Secretary's office, and then moved to Municipal Development as a full time employee in March of 2005. She assists code enforcement officers with sending letters to code violators, and providing assistance to citizens needing permits and information on what services the Municipal Development Department can provide. Ms. Renteria grew up in Terrell and still lives here with her two children, Melina and Giovanni.

*"Texas is a state of mind.  
Texas is an obsession.  
Above all, Texas is a  
nation in every sense of  
the word."*

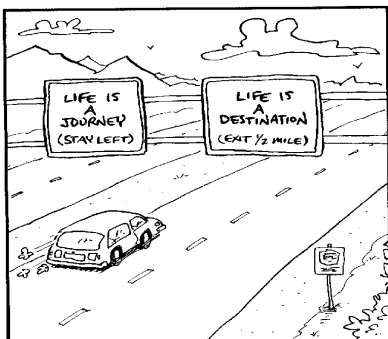
**Author John Steinbeck**

Please check out the new City website @ [www.cityofterrell.org](http://www.cityofterrell.org)

If you would like to add an upcoming event contact Lynnette Nadeau at 972-524-4322 or [lnadeau@cityofterrell.org](mailto:lnadeau@cityofterrell.org)

**Texas Fun Facts**

1. Texas is popularly known as The Lone Star State.
2. The lightning whelk is the official state shell.
3. The King Ranch in Texas is bigger than the state of Rhode Island.
4. More wool comes from the state of Texas than any other state in the United States.
5. Texas is the only state to enter the US by treaty instead of territorial annexation.
6. Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.
7. The armadillo is the official state mammal.
8. Texas includes 267,339 square miles, or 7.4% of the nation's total area.



**New Post Office**

The target opening date for the new post office is September 2009 located at Highway 34 & Baker Street. It will be over 10,000 sq ft. and have more parking availability. There will be some of the blue drop boxes left at the old facility.

**Cease the Grease**

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG), the residue left over from cooking meats such as bacon that hardens after it cools, can cause problems when poured down the drain and clog pipes in your home. Did you know FOG can also clog the sewer pipes under the streets that take the wastewater from your house to the treatment plant? If that happens, the wastewater can back up and come to the surface and require expensive repairs. You can avoid unnecessary expense and damage to the sewer system by following a few simple rules.

How to Clean Dishes To Protect Your Pipes

1. Before washing, scrape or wipe cooled grease and sauces from all dishware including utensils, cookware and plates into the trash or compost.
2. Prewash dishware in cold water. Avoid using the garbage disposal and hot water. The garbage disposal does not destroy grease, it only makes it smaller. If you have accumulated grease in your pipes, putting food scrapes down the drain can clog your pipes faster.
3. Don't pour oil or grease down the drain. If grease does go down the drain, follow it with cold water.

How to Dispose of Grease and Cooking Oil

Dispose of large quantities of cooking oil by contacting your community environmental coordinator or your nearest household hazardous waste collection station to find out if used cooking oil is accepted. See the list below for information about recycling used cooking oil in your community.

- Small amounts of grease, such as meat drippings, can be soaked up with a paper towel and thrown into the trash. Or, reuse fry oil by filtering it and freezing it after it has cooled.
- After it has cooled, pour or scrape grease into a sturdy closed-lid container, like a coffee can, and dispose of it in the trash.
- Visit [www.fryoiltofuel.com](http://www.fryoiltofuel.com) for information on recycling used cooking oil to biodiesel, or check the phone book for "recyclers" or "rendering companies."

**Xeriscaping**

Xeriscaping refers to the conservation of water through creative landscaping.

Benefits of Xeriscaping

1. Saves Water - For most of North America, over 50% of residential water used is applied to landscape and lawns. Xeriscape can reduce landscape water use by 50-70%.
2. Less Maintenance - Aside from occasional pruning and weeding, maintenance is minimal. Watering requirements are low, and can be met with simple irrigation systems.
3. No Fertilizers or Pesticides - Using plants native to your area will eliminate the need for chemical supplements. Sufficient nutrients are provided by healthy organic soil.
4. Improves Property Value - A good Xeriscape can raise property values which more than offset the cost of installation. Protect your landscaping investment by drought-proofing it.
5. Pollution Free - Fossil fuel consumption from gas mowers is minimized or eliminated with minimal turf areas. Small turf areas can be maintained with a reel mower.
6. Provides Wildlife Habitat - Use of native plants, shrubs and trees offer a familiar and varied habitat for local wildlife.

**Water Conservation**

5 Ways to Conserve Water

1. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
2. Only water between the hours of 6pm and 10am. Make sure to water deeply and less frequently.
3. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
4. Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
5. Choose shrubs and groundcovers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.