

S.n.a.p.-E News

Sustainable News About Plano

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G Highlander Earns Top Biz ESOE Award

Plano's Collin College Conference Center was the venue for the 2009 Environmental Community Awards on September 29. This annual event is sponsored by the City of Plano to honor and highlight businesses, schools, and organizations who have done an outstanding job of being environmental stewards in particular award categories. Plano Council member, Mabrie Jackson was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the event.

The Honorable Mayor Phil Dyer shared a few words and Nancy Nevil, Director of the City's Sustainability and Environmental Services Department provided an overview of the City's green activities and direction. Paul Westbrook,



the Sustainable Development Manager for Texas Instruments International Facilities delivered an upbeat green message.



Gordon Highlander representative(center) accepts top ESOE business award.

Gordon Highlander, a commercial general contractor took the top Environmental Star of Excellence (ESOE) business award, Outstanding Environmental Commitment for the build-out of Industrial Electric Wire and Cable's new office at 1700 Summit Ave, Plano. The project qualified as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver and the company diverted 95 percent of its construction materials from the landfill. Gordon Highlander's win is a sign of the green times...the first time a construction company earned the top prize—not in a green building or Construction & Demolition category.

(Continued on Page 2)

OUR NEXT SEMINAR: B(eco)me a Greener Business

The new fiscal year for the City began October 1, 2009 and your Commercial Recycling team is planning another year of seminars to inform and inspire you and your business to a year of greener action.

Our first Green Business Workshop for this year will do just that! Call today and make reservations for Thursday,

November 18th to hear Ms. Kathy Doyle Thomas, Executive Vice President of Half Price Books.

The FREE seminar includes lunch and begins at noon. It is hosted by Granite Park Properties at 5800 Granite Park Parkway, Plano.



Kathy Doyle Thomas
Half Price Books

**RSVP by November 13 to Rita Keys at
(972)769.4343 or e-mail at ritak@plano.gov**





Councilmember
Mabrie Jackson and
Paul Westbrook

Monitor your
trash and
recycling on a
regular basis to
ensure your
maximizing their
efficiency.

G Highlander Earns Top ESOE Award (Continued from front page)

Other green award winners are:

Green Building - Spiars Engineering, Inc. for its small-scale - 12,000 square foot, LEED certified project located at 725 Custer Road.

Single Stream Recycling - Texas Health Resources Center for Diagnostics & Surgery was able to cut their trash in half by recycling and used their recycling efforts as a springboard for green initiatives.

Outstanding Organic Recycling - CiCi's Pizza modified a single operational process in implementing organic recycling and served up over \$3000 in annual savings!

Multi-Family Communities - Bella Vida at Ridgeway Apartments in addition to recycling,, sought creative ways to reduce their community's environmental impact.

Elliott's Hardware earned the City's **Partnership**

Award for its green community outreach activities and events including hosting green workshops and serving as a collection site for spent light bulbs.

For the complete results of the 2009 Environmental Community Awards, visit our Web site.



Cici's Pizza with ESOE

Maximize Your Recycling

Have you recently implemented a recycling program or have you been recycling for years?

Regardless of the amount of time your business has been recycling you want to ensure that you monitor both your trash and recycling containers on a regular basis. In the City of Plano, if your recycling is serviced by Allied Waste/

Republic Services of Plano, your recycling costs are much less than half the cost *of the same volume of trash. For example: An 8 yard trash container which is serviced once a week costs \$150.52 per month. An 8 yard recycler serviced once a week will cost you \$52.13 a month!

** Prices are quoted before taxes and optional services.*

Monitor both your solid waste receptacles to see if they are filled when serviced. If not, you may need to consider a reduction in service and or container size and SAVE money. Conversely, if either container is overflowing before pick-up you may need to consider adding an extra service day or increasing the size of your container.

Information Recycling

Do you have a favorite environmental website? Heard a funny eco-joke or have general green news one could use?

If you do, please submit your ideas, questions or information to us in the form of an e-mail. Please put **INFORMATION RECYCLING** in the subject line.

One of the ways we wish to use this newsletter is to provide you with information which is useful to Plano businesses.

We understand that some Plano local businesses have in-house experts with an incredible amount of experience in all things green.

If you'd like to share your information with us to reuse and share with the business community, please submit your information to:

andreaa@plano.gov

Movie: *Food, Inc.* is Food for Thought

While your Commercial Recycling team members are not professional movie critics, when we went as a group and viewed the movie **Food, Inc.** we each had different opinions and comments about its content.

We viewed the movie at the Angelica Theatre this past summer and portions of the movie remain quite vivid in our minds. This non-rated film is directed by Robert Kenner and written by Kenner, Elise Pearlstein and Kim Roberts.

The movie is a thought-provoking one. It covers a range of

subjects of how the nation's food manufacturers get the food from the farm to our fork.

Portions of Food, Inc. are tough to swallow!

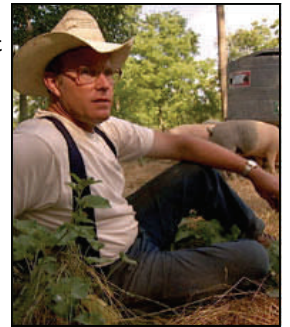
Consider the seasonless marketplace of American supermarkets. Why does a gallon of cola cost less than a gal-

lon of milk?

It offers surprising "facts" about how the nation's food supply is controlled by a few industrial giants who place a higher priority on profit than on the health of the

consumer or the future of our nation's farmers. The film made us aware of Kevin's Law, an effort to raise the standards for reduction of food-borne pathogens in meat and meat products and poultry and poultry products. We were shocked to learn of the Monsanto Company's monopoly of the soybean,

If you consume food, you should make it a point to view this movie and draw your own conclusions.



Joel Salatin is an organic farmer featured in the documentary, *Food, Inc.*

"Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic water bottles every hour!"
According to the Clean Air Council

Plastic Water Bottle Controversy



Do plastic water bottles made from PET plastic leach dangerous compounds?

It is supposedly not safe to drink from plastic water bottles, especially if you're reusing them. Is there a green alternative?

Perhaps you can install a water filter in your office. Encourage your staff to bring a reusable water bottle made from glass or other non-leaching container.

Reportedly, it takes 3 fl. oz of oil to make every bottle of plastic in the United States.

The increase in bottled water consumption in American may mean that more people are reaching for water vs. sugary salt drinks, but many of the bottles are landfilled. In making your work decisions about water, remember that on the environmental hierarchy, reduce and reuse are above recycle.



Allied Waste/Republic Expands Acceptable Recyclables for City



Did you know that it has been almost a year since Allied Waste/Republic Services expanded the types of materials it accepts for

recycling in Plano? Allied Waste's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located on 14th Street in Plano expanded its single-stream recycling operation to accept not only #1 and #2 plastic bottles, but now they accept #5-#7 plastic containers. According to **Earth 911's** Web site, in 2007, more than 325 million pounds of wide-mouth

plastic containers were recovered for recycling. This included deli containers, butter tubs, yogurt cups, etc.

The sheer volume of these plastic containers will make a significant difference in the City's diversion rate if they are properly recycled.



Acceptance of #5-#7 plastic containers increase volume of plastics diverted.



APRIL 17, 2010

Mark your Calendars!
www.livegreenexpo.net



The **Live Green Expo** offers a broad spectrum of information addressing many environmental considerations related to day-to-day living such as: education, energy, food & agriculture, green building & remodeling, indoor air quality, lifestyle & recreation, transportation, waste reduction, water and yard & garden. The *Live Green Expo* is a day of learning, family fun and we're told this year's event will have a business component. Stay tuned.....

Joel Salatin, (see *Food, Inc.*, page 3) an American farmer, lecturer and author whose books include *You Can Farm* and *Salad Bar Beef* will be the keynote speaker for the annual *Live Green Expo*. Join Salatin as he presents ground-breaking, paradigm-shifting information that not only benefits our family's table but the local economy and environments.

Get your company employee resource groups involved. The event drew over 15,000 attendees last year, so volunteers are needed! Contact your recycling coordinator today!

Promote Your Company at Our Seminars

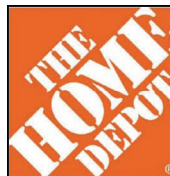
In June 2009, Home Depot East hosted a Lunch & Learn Seminar highlighting the City of Plano's Construction & Demolition Debris Recycling Program. Store manager Bill Leonard was not only able to get additional traffic in his store by hosting the workshop, he was able to showcase several of Home Depot's green products to an audience that was likely to purchase them.

For the 2009-10 year, your commercial recycling team is planning a minimum of four Green Business Seminars. Two will be targeted at general businesses, one will be targeted to multi-family homes and two will highlight the City's Construction & Demolition (C&D) recycling.

Typically, we hold the seminars during lunch time. Last year, we held a successful workshop at 3 pm at the

Olive Garden in East Plano.

If your company would like to host a workshop (providing the venue) and/or assist your Commercial Recycling team by providing a lunch, we will not only be grateful, but we will provide your company recognition on our Green Business Seminar announcements which are sent by email and also posted on our webpage.



The seminars also provide an opportunity to promote your company. We welcome (pre-approved) promotional items for all in attendance or item(s) to be given out for door prizes.

Attendance at our seminars range from 20-50 people. All seminars are

offered at no charge to businesses in the City of Plano and must be held within the City limits.

If you have questions about hosting or providing lunch, kindly contact your Commercial Recycling team member or simply contact Rita Keys at ritak@plano.gov or **(972) 769.4393**. We look forward to hearing from you!



Home Depot East garnered a promotional opportunity by hosting a Green Business seminar In June