

Ellis plants seeds for Dallas economy

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer



DALLAS — If you see Greg Ellis pounding the pavement around Dallas, he's on a mission to improve the local economy.

The city of Dallas has its vision for the future in Dallas 2030 and its "Take a Closer Look" marketing strategy.

It's recently approved economic development strategy provided objectives to achieve, such as downtown revitalization, providing a guide to opening businesses, making sure commercial and industrial properties are available, and boosting tourism.

Ellis, hired last year as an economic development consultant, is focusing on finding ways to bring in new businesses and helping existing ones expand.

He's been busy assisting American Gas & Technology find the funding to set up in the former Tyco building and making contacts with other companies in the hopes of selling them on Dallas.

Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin said city staff is struggling to make time for that work.

"The goal that I set with Greg when I hired him was really to help us dedicate some time to economic development that being a small staff that we weren't getting to," Foggin said.

Ellis' long-range objective is to change how people in Dallas — and perhaps in surrounding communities — shop. He said in the retail sector, the goal is reducing what is called "leakage" or residents of Dallas leaving town to buy what they need.

According to a Dallas Economic Development Commission Business Recruitment

Subcommittee, report the top three "leakage leaders" are cars and auto parts, electronics and appliances, and clothing. Ellis said the majority of shoppers leaving town to buy those, and other products, are headed to Salem or Monmouth and Independence.

"The leakage is pretty significant," Ellis said.

The best way to stop the leakage is to recruit businesses that offer those items. One of report's retail business recommendations is recruiting a "destination" business, such as Trader Joes, Coastal Farm & Ranch or a high-end restaurant. He said having a "big box" chain build store in Dallas would help as well.

Foggin said he and Ellis looked at Dallas latest citizen survey to see what residents would like to see in town.

"I've asked Greg to contact existing businesses and industries to see how things are going and talk to them about future plans," Foggin said. "Call those type of businesses and see if they know

where Dallas, Oregon is and if they are looking to expand.

An established business that develops a new product line could also help plug leakage, Ellis said.

"We are also looking at encouraging business to expand," Ellis said.

The same idea applies to the industrial side, where recruiting businesses that can serve those already established in Dallas would prevent those companies from having to use businesses located outside the area.

Foggin noted Ellis experience as the former Mid-Valley Regional Solutions coordinator enables him to point businesses to organizations that can help with economic development funding.

Ellis, who is semi-retired and does his consulting work on a part-time basis, said his time assisting the city will be open-ended.

"With economic development, you plant seeds, you have a crop," he said. "It's not an overnight thing."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Central district seeks budget members

INDEPENDENCE — The Central School District is seeking candidates to serve on the budget committee representing zones 2, 3 and 6.

Candidates should reside in one of these zones, however, if the board does not receive qualified candidates from within the zone, an out-of-zone appointment may be made.

To serve, submit a letter of interest to the school board, Central School District 13J, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence, OR 97351.

The board will review letters of interest and make an appointment at their regular Feb. 1 board meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.

For more information: 503-838-0030, ext. 2251.

'Understanding Islam' topic of series

DALLAS — Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting a three-session class "Understanding Islam" presented by Matt Davies, professor of religion, starting Sunday.

Each session will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m., beginning with Sunday's class "Quran and Muslim Faith." Davies will host session two "Jihad and Terrorism" on Jan. 17 and the class concludes on Jan. 24 with "American Muslims." Lectures will be followed by a questions and answer session.

The sessions are free and open to the community. Childcare will be provided. Trinity Lutheran is located at 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas.

For more information: 503-623-2233.

Indy PD accepting academy apps

INDEPENDENCE — The Independence Police Academy will begin Feb. 3 and include 48 hours of instruction.

The majority of the classes will be held on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. with three Saturday classes.

For more information or to apply: Sgt. Lyle Gilbert, lgilbert@ci.independence.or.us.

POLICE REPORT

Information for the police report comes from law enforcement agencies. Not all calls for service are included. The status of incidents reported may change after further investigation. Individuals arrested or suspected of crimes are considered innocent until proven guilty.

DALLAS

Arrests/Citations

• Joseph A. Orgovan, 63, of Monmouth, in the 400 block of Southeast Court Street on Dec. 30 on a charge of second-degree aggravated assault — striking another on head with a rubber mallet.

• Justin J. Lay, 26, of Dallas, at the Polk County Community Corrections Office, 689 Main St., on Dec. 30 on a failure to appear warrant out of Marion County.

INDEPENDENCE

Arrests/Citations

• On Dec. 25 in the 0-99 block of Deann Drive, David Alejandro Cio, 18, of Independence, for minor in possession of alcohol and unlawful possession of less than one ounce of marijuana; and Breean Kay O'Daniell, 20, of Monmouth, for minor in possession of alcohol.

• Dennis Gene Bishop, 55, of Independence, in the 400 block of F Street on Dec. 27 for physical harassment.

• Robert Lee Logan, 48, of Monmouth, in the 200 block of North 12th Street on Dec. 28 for fourth-degree simple assault.

• Evan Michael Neeley, 20, of Independence, in the 0-99 block of North Log Cabin Street on Dec. 28 for second-degree criminal trespass.

• Lee Tracy Saylor, 82, of Independence, in the 800 block of Stearman Street on Dec. 29 for fourth-degree simple assault.

• Casey Lee Taylor, 23, of Salem, in Riverview Park, 50 C

St., on Dec. 29 for driving while suspended or revoked.

• On Friday in the 100 block of South Second Street, Nicholas Ryan Shoulders, 26, and James David Stedman III, 26, both of Independence, both for second-degree disorderly conduct.

• James David Stedman II, 59, of Independence, in the 100 block of South Second Street on Friday on a bench warrant for failure to appear.

• George Darnell Smith, 19, of Salem, at the intersection of Monmouth and South Fifth streets on Sunday for driving while suspended or revoked.

MONMOUTH

Arrests/Citations

• Kambrel Lakeith Cannefax, 24, of Salem, at Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., on Dec. 24 on a bench warrant for failure to appear.

• John Alexander Clay, 37, of Independence, at the intersection of Marigold Drive and North 16th Street on Dec. 25 for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Jason Beau Slate, 32, of Monmouth, in the 600 block of Clay Street East on Dec. 29 for third-degree theft.

• Kristal Gail Palmer, 37, of Monmouth, in the 100 block of Ecols Street South on Dec. 29 for failure to return a suspended, revoked or canceled license.

• Tara Christine Kadell, 29, of Dallas, at the intersection of Main Street East and Ecols Street South on Dec. 30 for failure to return a suspended, revoked or canceled license.

• Phillip Andrew Kadell, 30, of Rickreall, at the intersection of Clay Street East and Warren Street South on Dec. 30 for failure to return a suspended, revoked or canceled license.

• Alexis Nicole Webb, 25, of Monmouth, in the 300 block of Ecols Street North on Dec. 30 for third-degree robbery.

Church names vicar

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Dallas has named its new vicar.

Rev. Fred W. Heard has been appointed to the position and his first Sunday at the church will Jan. 17.

Father Heard is a 2003 graduate of Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. He was Associate Rector at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, Calif. for three years. In 2009, he was called to Cambria, Calif. as rector of St. Paul's and served there nearly six years. For the last year he has been assisting priest at St. Paul's in Salem.

Early in his life, Heard was a high school teacher in Klamath Falls and an assistant professor at Oregon Institute of Technology. In the late 1990s he taught two years at Falls City High School and was principal of Falls City Elementary School in 2001-02.

Heard was also elected to the Oregon Legislature and served in both the House and the Senate. He was Senate Majority Leader six years and president of the Senate for two years. Gov. Victor Atiyeh appointed Heard to

his cabinet as director of commerce and he served in that position nearly four years.

FINAL DAYS!!!

Reserve for 2016 Who's Who in Polk County

Reserve before January 8th for only \$160!
Call the Itemizer-Observer at 503-623-2373
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Bring this form in to our office: 147 SE Court St., Dallas
Fax it to 503-623-2395, or mail it to: PO Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338

Thank you for participating!

Visit our website to see last year's issue of Who's Who: www.polchio.com

An informative class offered by Matt Davies, Professor of Religion

Understanding Islam

To be held at Trinity Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Rd, Dallas, Oregon • 503-623-2233

Session 1—**Qur'an and Muslim Faith**Sunday, January 10, 6:30-8:00 pm

Session 2—**Jihad and Terrorism**Sunday, January 17, 6:30-8:00 pm

Session 3—**American Muslims**.....Sunday, January 24, 6:30-8:00 pm

Each class will include a lecture followed by a half-hour question and answer session.

Free

Open to the community.

Childcare provided.