



The

Tower View

The Newsletter for Marathon Oil Tower Tenants

July, August & September 2008

ANOTHER STEP ON THE ROAD TO GREEN

Marathon Oil Tower has made another step towards meeting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification requirements and reducing our impact on the environment. Last month, all restroom paper towels and toilet paper were replaced with new environmentally friendly, EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) compliant products.



Hold on a minute. Is a story about new toilet paper and paper towels really worthy of front-page coverage? We think so, and here's why.

First and foremost, the new products are made from **30% - 40% post-consumer content** (PCC.) According to the U.S. EPA definition, post-consumer content includes paper, paperboard, and fibrous wastes after they have passed through their end-use as a consumer item. This means our new toilet paper and paper towels are made from products that otherwise would have entered the waste stream and taken up space in a landfill. Also, using 30% - 40% PCC toilet paper and paper towels will save one tree per year for every 15 building occupants. With approximately 2,000 tenants, that will **save more than 130 trees in one year.**

The use of recycled content also conserves resources (energy, water, chemicals) and generates less pollution during manufacturing because much of the work of extracting and bleaching the fibers has already been done. Using

recycled content reduces the amount of forest management needed to meet demand for paper and the pressure to convert natural forests and ecologically sensitive areas like wetlands into tree plantations.

Innovations in design and packaging provide even more environmental benefits. "Innovative toilet paper rolls?" you say. Well, yes. The new tissue paper rolls are "coreless" - there is no traditional cardboard center. Changes in packaging such as foregoing wrapping each individual roll with paper and delivering the product sans the large cardboard boxes **eliminates more than seven pounds of waste per case.** Considering that Marathon Oil Tower **occupants use more than 700 cases (about 57,000 rolls)** of toilet paper each year, that equates to the **saving of more than 50 trees** and the **diversion of three tons of waste from landfills each year!** Finally and most importantly, the new products cost the same and provide the same quality product, and we think that is news worthy.

CONGRATS & WELCOME

Please join us in congratulating **Randy Alexander** on his recent promotion. Randy is the new **Security Project Manager** for Marathon Oil Tower. Randy has a bachelor's degree in management and four years experience in the security industry. He has been an employee at Marathon Oil Tower since November of 2006. His knowledge of the property, staff, and tenants, as well as his previous experience, will be a tremendous asset to the Building Security Team.

You may also notice a new face among our engineering day crew. That is **Jim Buck.** Jim previously worked the 2nd and 3rd shifts. He has been at Marathon Oil Tower for the last eight

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EARTH DAY CELEBRATION, GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE, GIFTS FOR MOM & DAD

Marathon Oil Tower was proud to host the **Earth Day Celebration** on April 22nd. Designed to increase awareness of the many ways each of us can help protect the environment, the event featured vendors and community organizations that provide environmentally friendly products and services.

Participants included Green Mountain Energy, American Lung Association, Turtle & Hughes Lighting, TREK, VPSI, and Gulfoast Recycling. Tenants who stopped by received free microfiber towels from GCA Cleaning Services and complimentary Texas native plants from Western Horticulture. Transwestern also gave away 500 compact fluorescent bulbs.



Summer is here, and it's the busiest time for the **Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center**. Marathon Oil Tower tenants helped the Blood Center prepare for the demanding season by **donating 12 units** during the **Blood Drive** on April 14th. As many as 36 lives will be saved as a result of your contributions! Don't miss out on your next opportunity to give the gift of life.

Marathon Oil Tower property management sponsored a **Mother's Day Fair**, May 8th - 10th in the first floor lobby. Tenants took advantage of the convenient shopping for jewelry, crystal and enamel collectibles, and bath and body products sold by Giftwave.

The **Father's Day Sale** on June 11th provided another opportunity for picking out great gifts. Ashworth and Callaway sold golf apparel, accessories and sunglasses - just the right thing for that special dad. **Proceeds of \$350** from the sale were **donated** to the **Harris County Child Protective Services Bear Room**.

WELCOME, KANALY TRUST



Kanally Trust is moving to Marathon Oil Tower. The new location will feature a client conference center located on the second level in Suite 200 and staff offices and additional conference rooms on the seventh floor, Suite 700. The client conference center will include private meeting rooms featuring state-of-the-art multi-media capabilities catering to Kanaly's clientele of corporate executives, business owners, professionals, and retirees.

"We're looking forward to moving to Marathon," Chairman Drew Kanaly said. "We'll be enhancing what we currently have by projecting the image of our clients through the workspace."

Both spaces will be ready for occupancy in mid-July.

Kanally Trust manages approximately \$2 billion in assets and employs over 60 investment and financial planning professionals. For over 30 years, Kanaly has provided wealth management, financial planning, and trust/estate services to families, individuals, and estates throughout the world.

"The most important space is the one between the beginning balance and ending balance on a client's statement," Kanaly said. "The next most important space is the one between Kanaly associates' ears. It is our goal that the new space enhances both."

Congrats & Welcome

Continued from the Cover

years and has more than 11 years in the industry. Jim holds a First Grade Stationary Engineer's license and has acquired extensive knowledge of the building and its systems during his tenure here at the Tower.

Also, please join us in welcoming our **new building engineer, Gary Nemcik**. Gary has more than 10 years of experience and holds a 3rd Grade Stationary Engineer's license and a Universal CFC license. Gary joined the Transwestern team in June and will be working the 2nd and 3rd shifts. His previous experience and self motivation will complement our engineering team and provide a smooth transition for the staff shift changes.

ARE YOU READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON?

Hurricane season is upon us once again. It began June 1st and goes through the end of November. Are you ready? How do you know you're ready? Here is a short list of sources that can help you prepare and know with confidence that you're ready for another hurricane season.

www.ReadyHoustonTX.gov

This regional disaster preparedness website recommends a three-step preparedness strategy. Valuable information for planning each step of your plan is provided, including a list of recommended items for an emergency supply kit and a first aid kit. The website also features links to local, regional, and federal emergency agencies, training resources, and weather bureaus. A free, 15-minute DVD called "Are You Ready" is also available for order through the website.

www.HCOEM.org

Follow the "Natural Disasters" link on this Harris County Homeland Security & Emergency Management website to their "Hurricanes" web page. There you'll find links to the 2008 Hurricane Brochure, current evacuation maps, hurricane tracking information, and more.

2-1-1

The Texas/United Way Helpline is available 24/7 for information about local services. During a disaster, 2-1-1 is activated to disseminate information about shelter availability, evacuation routes, road closures, and other emergency information.

www.WhatsYourRQ.org

Find out just how prepared you are by testing your Readiness Quotient (RQ) and then compare your score to the national results. This website also provides tips and resources to raise your RQ.

THE SAFEST TRANSPORTATION IN THE WORLD

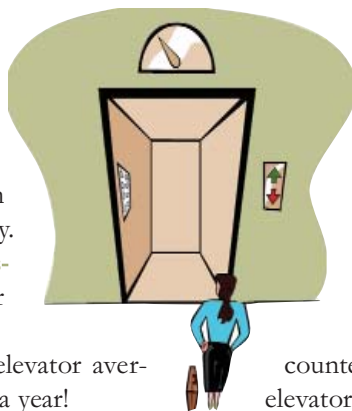
Did you know that **elevators are the safest form of transportation in the world?** Each day

in the United States, elevators move the equivalent of twice our nation's population. Over 200 billion people travel safely on elevators in this country each day. **Marathon Oil Tower passenger elevators answer over 10,000 hall calls on an average day.** Each elevator averages over 200,000 trips in a year!

There are a lot of myths about elevators, and in Hollywood movies, elevator hoist ropes are always breaking, sending the car free-falling down the shaft. In the real world, there is little chance of this happening. The only time in American history that all the ropes broke on an elevator occurred in 1947 after a B-29 bomber struck the Empire State Building.

Today, **several redundant safety systems prevent elevators from falling.** Elevator hoist rope is made of tightly wound steel. **One rope alone** is capable of

holding the entire weight of the elevator car. Each Marathon Oil Tower elevator has **six steel hoist ropes.**



Another safety feature of today's modern elevators, such as the Otis Elevonic cars here at the Tower, is counterweights. Hoist ropes are attached to the car, then travel up around the elevator hoisting machine, and back down, attaching to a counterweight. The counterweight weighs more than the elevator passenger car. Therefore, **elevators can only "free-fall" upward.**

Even if all the ropes were to break, the elevator car would not fall to the bottom of the shaft. Since Elijah Otis invented the first elevator safety brake in 1852, all roped elevators feature built-in brakes called safeties, which grab the rails if the car moves too fast. The Otis elevators here at the Tower have **car and counterweight safeties.** This prevents the elevator from moving too fast either up or down.

Next time you see a Hollywood action film, you'll know better!

COMPUTER POWER MYTHS

Hoorah and congratulations to the first official winner of the Energy Admiral's quarterly drawing! Gail Baxter of Marathon Oil



Company sent her energy saving idea to me at Energy.Admiral@Transwestern.net and won the home energy conservation kit. With utility prices continually increasing, all conservation ideas are welcome. Who knows Mate, you could be the next to win!

Speaking of ways to save energy . . . Here are a few myth busters and the real reasons you should turn off your computers when not in use.

Myth: Turning your PC off uses more energy than leaving it on.

Truth: The small surge of power you use when turning your computer on is still much smaller than the amount you use keeping it on for lengthy periods.

Myth: Turning your PC on and off wears it out.

Truth: Today's PCs are designed to handle 40,000 on/off cycles before a failure, and that's a number you likely won't reach during the computer's five to seven year life span.

Myth: Screen savers save energy.

Truth: Screen savers use, at a minimum, 42 watts. Those with 3D graphics can use as much as 114.5 watts.

Myth: Your computer uses zero energy when off.

Truth: That's true only if it is unplugged. Otherwise, the PC uses "flea power," about 2.3 watts, to maintain LAN connectivity. In "hibernate" mode, your PC uses the same 2.3 watts, and in "sleep" mode, your PC uses 3.1 watts. Monitors do use zero energy when turned off.

*Fair Winds and Following Seas,
The Energy Admiral*

JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER AT THE TOWER

July 4th Building Closure

The building and management office will be closed in observance of Independence Day. Please contact the management office to set up over-time air conditioning and after-hours access.

Friday, July 4

Summer Ice Cream Social

Please join us as we celebrate summer with ice cream sundaes and a steel drum band!

Thursday, July 17
2nd Floor Lobby
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Book Fair

Stop by the Books Are Fun Book Fair to pick up some great books, gifts, and more.

Tuesday, August 5
Wednesday, August 6
1st Floor Lobby
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

School Supply Drive

Help support the students at Browning Elementary by donating school supplies. Look for the gold barrels in the lobby and drop-in your donations. For a complete list of recommended supplies, please contact the management office.

Friday, August 1
through
Friday, August 15

Labor Day Building Closure

The building and management office will be closed in observance of Labor Day. Please contact the management office to set up over-time air conditioning and after-hours access.

Monday, September 1

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Fundraiser

Purchase a personalized pennant to be hung in the Tower lobby. All proceeds will go to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Pennants can be purchased in the management office, Suite 110, during the month of September.

September

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

A new gift shop is now open here at Marathon Oil Tower. **Kim's Gift Shop** held its grand opening in April. The bright and airy new store, located on the first floor in Suite 100, offers a variety of gifts and conveniences such as greeting cards, jewelry, plush toys, figurines, balloons, purses, cigarettes, snack foods, soft drinks, lottery tickets, and more! Kim's Gift Shop is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Stop by and see the latest addition to the Marathon Oil Tower family of convenient amenities.



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TRANSWESTERN

The Tower View is published by the building owners and management for the tenants of Marathon Oil Tower. If you have any questions or comments regarding the publication, you may contact Heather McMillon, 5555 San Felipe, Suite 210, Houston, TX 77056 or call (832) 369-5800.