



THOMAS C. LEPPERT
MAYOR

March 1, 2009

WELCOME!

On behalf of the city of Dallas and the Dallas City Council, it is my pleasure to welcome *Edible Dallas & Fort Worth* to our great, prosperous city.

As a community-based publication that promotes the abundance of local foods in the greater Dallas and Fort Worth area, *Edible Dallas & Fort Worth* will celebrate the growers, producers, retailers, artisans, chefs, bakers, home cooks and gardeners, vintners, brewers and all who energize our community with authentic, locally-based food choices.

Dallas is an exciting location in which to explore the vibrancy of a thriving culture that is rich in flavor and unique charm. From the Dallas Farmers Market to the Trinity River, our great city has much to offer in terms of local attractions, which is why we take great pride in our city's natural beauty.

While there has been much attention focused recently on the importance of environmental protection and 'going green', Dallas has long been a national leader in this area. In our city, we do not expect to be a part of the 'green crowd' but a leader of it. The City of Dallas purchased its first alternative fueled vehicle over 15 years ago and then was the first city in Texas to use biodiesel.

In January 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency listed Dallas as the nation's top municipal purchaser of renewable energy, and Dallas was also selected as the only city in the nation as a pilot city to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Sustainable Skylines Initiative, which could be used a national model for other cities if the Dallas pilot is successful. Dallas is also the first major city in the nation to have its own stand-alone, comprehensive website, *GreenDallas.net*, which is dedicated solely to environmental issues and stewardship.

In the coming issues of *Edible Dallas & Fort Worth*, I hope you will enjoy all that our city has to offer in terms of fresh produce, a thriving population and vibrant culture. Welcome to Dallas!

Sincerely,

Tom Leppert
Mayor