



2000 Hwy 78 N, Wylie, Texas 75098
www.wylietexas.gov

City of Wylie
Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Craig Kelly, Public Information Officer
Ph: 972.442.8122
craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov

Pototschnik Painting Donated to Smith Public Library

Wylie, TX, Friday, February 26, 2010 –Wylie Resident Mike Kittelson donated an original John Pototschnik oil painting to the Smith Public Library during a brief ceremony Friday, February 26. The oil, valued at more than \$5,000, is titled *Remembering Murphy Grocery*. The painting will be on display in the new library scheduled for completion December 2010.

Kittelson, Pototschnik, and Raymond Cooper, presented the painting to Mayor Eric Hogue; Councilwoman and Public Arts Board member Kathy Spillyards; Rita Smith; City Secretary and Art Board Liaison Carole Ehrlich; and Library Director Rachel Orozco. The presentation took place at the offices of Raymond Cooper who played a key role in securing the work of art.

"For the city's public library to have an original John Pototschnik painting is such a wonderful addition to our community," said Councilwoman Spillyards. "The fact that we will be able to permanently display artwork by a nationally known artist, who just happens to call Wylie home, is a reminder of what makes Wylie so special."

Nationally known and recognized with many prestigious awards, Pototschnik resides in Wylie, Texas with his wife Marcia. They have two grown sons. In addition to *Remembering Murphy Grocery*, Pototschnik has painted many area landmarks including the Birmingham House and the historic St. Anthony Catholic Church.

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Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall Counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 42,000) is one of the fastest growing communities in the State of Texas with a 170% increase since 2000.