

Valet Parking Company Holds "Olympics" Competition

Advanced Parking Concepts, LLC (APC) a New Jersey-based valet parking service company, held its inaugural Valet Olympics on March 22 in Verona, N.J. APC is a member of the National Valet Parking Association (NVPA), an organization dedicated to promoting the professionalism and integrity within the valet parking community and to educate clients about the benefits realized by working members of the association.

The purpose of the Olympics is to find the best valets within the member companies of the NVPA by evaluating the skills and experience of each employee. All eligible valets have been employed for at least six months, have had no infractions on their record for the last six months, and uphold and maintain the high standards of their company.

Ninety sharply dressed and motivated employees were greeted by Ellis M. Dumont, chief executive officer of APC. The tone was set as team captains and drivers prepared their strategies for competition. Each team was eager to showcase their talent in the Key Jumble, a relay style event where four team members had to locate, drive and retrieve a vehicle quickly while operating less than 10 mph.

After a close competition, the team of Darrin Smith, Sohail Sharifsuliman, Lofti Bassa, Jonathan Fernandez, and



Jose Torrealba negotiated the course flawlessly, and were in first place after the Key Jumble. Next, the Individual Maneuvering Event was used to determine the most skilled driver within the ranks of APC. Nenil Mathurin, a veteran APC employee, was able to dominate the field on a difficult driving course in just 53 seconds, a company best time. Nenil was recognized with the 2009 "APC's Best Driver Award" for his skill and efficiency during the Individual Maneuvering Competition. Next it was on to the Slalom, an event where each team of drivers navigated a relay through a series strategically placed cones. This event highlighted not only APC employees' skills as drivers, but the company's high safety standards as well.

The top team of employees in the regional final will move on to compete in the national finals in November 2009.

BOMA International to Launch BOMA 360 Performance Program

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International has launched a groundbreaking new program to recognize the industry's best practices in building management and operations. The BOMA 360 Performance Program is an online self-assessment that will evaluate properties on six major components of building management. It also benchmarks against industry standards, providing a tool that property professionals can use to demonstrate to owners, tenants

and the commercial real estate community that their buildings are managed to the highest standards of excellence.

While other industry recognition programs focus on a certain aspect of building operations, such as sustainability or energy efficiency, the BOMA 360 Performance Program takes a holistic approach by evaluating all major areas of property performance. Properties are evaluated in the areas of building operations and management, life safety/security/risk management, training and education, energy, environmental/sustainability, and tenant relations/community involvement. The assessment rates a building and its management on everything from water management to evacuation drills to professional development plans.

For more information, go to www.boma.org.

Where to Park at the New Dallas Cowboys Stadium — And How Far Will You Walk?

Warning: That football stadium on the horizon may be farther than it appears.

The Dallas Cowboys' new home is such a large and imposing landmark that it creates the illusion that no matter where you are in Arlington's entertainment district, you're seemingly right next to it. But in fact, most people attending events at the 80,000-seat venue will park up to a mile away, which amounts to a 10- to 20-minute walk for healthy adults. The walk could be much farther when the stadium is expanded to 100,000 seats for big events such as the 2011 Super Bowl.

Finding enough parking is one of the biggest challenges for designers of sports venues, especially football stadiums, which tend to be built in areas away from central business districts that aren't served by public transportation. And Cowboys fans are no strangers to long walks, having endured 38 years of foot rubs and Epsom salts at Texas Stadium in Irving.