

LOCAL NEWS

City Hall becomes car share pickup point

CuseCar vehicles will be available to three groups at four locations in city.

By Meghan Rubado
Staff writer

Members of a new car-sharing program in Syracuse will have a convenient downtown location to pick up their rides.

A city-owned parking space in front of City Hall will serve

as an "origination station" for the CuseCar program. The Common Council unanimously agreed Monday to lease the space to CuseCar at the annual rate of \$1.

The space will become one of four stations at which members can pick up or leave a hybrid or alternative-fuel car from the CuseCar fleet. The other stations are at the State University College of Environ-

mental Science and Forestry, O'Brien & Gere and in the Hawley Green neighborhood.

For now, the program is available only to faculty, students and staff at the ESF school, employees of O'Brien & Gere and residents of the Hawley Green neighborhood. CuseCar, a nonprofit organization, plans to expand the program to include more city neighborhoods soon, said

CuseCar spokeswoman Sarah Roberts.

For details on the program, visit www.cusecar.com or call 315-CUSECAR (315-287-3227).

The Common Council also approved another green initiative Monday. It accepted about \$220,000 in grant money from the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency to purchase a city recycling col-

lection truck that runs on compressed natural gas.

It will be about a year before the city receives the truck, which will make recycling collection easier and reduce carbon emissions, OCRRA executive director Tom Rhoads said. The truck's design makes it simpler for city trash collectors to deposit recyclables into it, and compressed natural gas produces fewer harmful emis-

sions than gasoline or diesel.

Rhoads said the grant allows for two years of data collection to see how the truck and fuel perform in Syracuse. It's unclear how extremely cold weather affects natural gas, he said. The data will be useful to other cities with cold climates, Rhoads said. The agreement requires the city to own the truck at least five years.