



## Candidatos para las Elecciones de la Ciudad

En Irving este año el escaño del alcalde junto a los Lugares 3 y 5 del concejo estarán disponibles para las elecciones. Los votantes registrados seleccionarán su voto durante las votaciones adelantadas del 2 al 10 de mayo y durante el día de las elecciones, el 14 de mayo. El puesto de alcalde es una posición "en general" y cualquier residente que sea un votante registrado puede votar para esta posición. Los Lugares 3 y 5 son de un distrito único, y sólo los votantes registrados que vivan en estos respectivos distritos pueden votar por estos candidatos. Los candidatos para este año están listados abajo en el orden que aparecen en la boleta de votación.

**Alcalde** – Las personas compitiendo por el escaño de la alcaldía durante las elecciones de este año serán Joe Putnam, 69 años, abogado que ha residido en Irving por 42 años; Tom Spink, 72 años, dueño de una compañía de seguro, quien ha residido en la ciudad de Irving por 22 años; el titular, Herbert A. Gears, 48 años, dueño de un pequeño negocio quien ha vivido en Irving por 28 años; y Beth Van Duyne, 40 años, una profesional en comunicaciones quien ha vivido en la ciudad por 14 años.

**Lugar 3** – Los votantes en el Distrito 3 escogerán entre Dennis Webb, 52 años, bombero quien ha residido en Irving por 28 años, Kensley Stewart,

50 años, técnico de sala de emergencia quien ha residido en Irving por 17 años; y David Gutierrez, 59 años, dueño de un negocio de madera quien ha vivido en la ciudad por 24 años.

**Lugar 5** – Los candidatos en busca de elección para el escaño Lugar 5 son la titular Rose Cannaday, 66 años, mediadora quien ha vivido en Irving por 17 años; y Julie D. Grant, 70 años, chofer de transporte de mascotas, quien ha residido en la ciudad por 36 años.

Vea el mapa del distrito y complete las solicitudes de candidato en [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org). ■

### Mayoral Candidates/Candidatos para Alcalde



Joe Putnam



Tom Spink



Herbert A. Gears



Beth Van Duyne



Rose Cannaday



Julie D. Grant

### Place 3 Candidates/Candidatos para Lugar 3



Dennis Webb



Kensley Stewart



David Gutierrez

Tune in to Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) for an Open Line Candidates Special and live election coverage. Programs also are available on demand along with the programming schedule at [www.ictn.tv](http://www.ictn.tv).

To view ICTN:  
Time Warner Channel 16  
Verizon Channel 30

### Place 5 Candidates/ Candidatos para el Lugar 5

## May 14 Polling Places Casillas Electorales para el 14 de Mayo

City Precinct No. Distrito Electoral No.	Polling Place Lugar del Distrito Electoral	Election Precincts Número del Distrito
1	Thomas Haley Elementary 3601 Cheyenne St.	4621, 4622, 4623, 4630, 4634, 4638, 4641
2	A.S. Johnston Elementary 2801 Rutgers Drive	4624, 4625, 4631, 4647
3	MacArthur High School 3700 N. MacArthur Blvd.	4626, 4632, 4633, 4635, 4636, 4646, 4648, 4649
4	L.B. Barton Elementary 2931 Conflans Road	4611, 4618
5	Irving High School 900 O'Connor Road	4612, 4613, 4614, 4615, 4619
6	J.R. Good Elementary 1200 E. Union Bower Road	4608, 4616, 4617, 4620
7	Otis Brown Elementary 2501 W. Tenth St.	4605, 4606
8	Lee Britain Elementary 631 Edmondson Drive	4602, 4603, 4604, 4607

City Precinct No. Distrito Electoral No.	Polling Place Lugar del Distrito Electoral	Election Precincts Número del Distrito
9	Cimarron Park Recreation Center 201 Red River Trail	4642, 4643, 4644, 4651
10	Mustang Park Recreation Center 2223 Kinwest Parkway	4637, 4639, 4640, 4650
11	J.O. Davis Elementary 310 Davis Drive	4609, 4610
12	Sally B. Elliott Elementary 1900 S. Story Road	4600, 4601
13	Fire Station No. 8 650 E. Las Colinas Drive	4627, 4628, 4629
14	Grand Prairie Fire Station No. 8 3017 Roy Orr Blvd. Grand Prairie	4645
15	Coppell Town Center 255 Parkway Blvd. Coppell	4708

### EARLY VOTING TIMES, LOCATIONS

Early voting for the election will begin May 2 and run through May 10.

#### Early Voting Hours

- ◆ May 2-7 – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ May 8 – 1 to 6 p.m.
- ◆ May 9-10 – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### Early Voting Locations in Irving

- ◆ City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd.
- ◆ Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.
- ◆ Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail

#### Election Day

- ◆ May 14 – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Election Day polling locations are listed at left.

### HORARIOS Y LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN ADEJANTA DA

La votación adelanta tomará lugar a las siguientes horas y lugares:

#### Horario de Votación Adelantada

- ◆ Del 2 de mayo al 7 de mayo – de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m.
- ◆ El 8 de mayo – de 1 a 6 p.m.
- ◆ El 9 y 10 de mayo – de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.

#### Lugares de Votación Adelantada

- ◆ Centro Cívico de la Ciudad (City Hall), 825 W. Irving Blvd.
- ◆ Centro de Artes de Irving (Irving Arts Center), 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.
- ◆ Biblioteca de Valley Ranch (Valley Ranch Library), 401 Cimarron Trail

#### La Votación en el Día de las Elecciones

- ◆ El 14 de mayo – de las 7 a.m. hasta las 7 p.m.

La lista de los locales está disponible a la izquierda.



Improvements to city water system

## Bonds Sale Provides \$6.6 Million for Capital Improvement Projects

A double AAA bond rating from the nation's top financial rating companies has enabled the City of Irving to sell nearly \$35 million in general obligation (GO) bonds at the lowest interest rate possible.

Receiving the highest credit rating on its bonds allows the city to obtain financing at a competitive rate, which ensures a lower overall cost to residents.

The sale of the GO bonds at 3.71 percent will bring the city \$6.6 million in new money to fund a number of upcoming capital improvement projects. Pending projects include improvements to the park system, neighborhood streets and sidewalks.

"Receiving such high ratings from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's confirms Irving's sound financial management, which is the direct result of City Council's dedication and the hard work of the city manager's financial team," said Councilman Joe Philipp, chairman of the council's Audit and Finance Committee.

In addition, \$60 million in water/sewer revenue bonds,

which received a AA rating from the nation's top financial rating agencies, were sold at an all-inclusive interest cost of 3.51 percent.

Sale of the water/sewer revenue bonds will bring in more than \$27 million to make pump station improvements and to replace aging water and sewer lines on more than 50 streets in Irving. Approximately \$33 million will be used to refund older bonds.

"The City of Irving's high financial ratings have resulted in a \$3 million cost savings in refinancing the water and sewer bonds," said City Manager Tommy Gonzalez.

Irving has earned the double AAA ratings for its general obligation bonds every year since 1996—a claim that can only be made by a handful of cities nationwide." ■

## Chamber Hosts Civic, Business Leaders with an Economic Development Bus Tour Through Irving

The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce led a bus tour of civic and business leaders to showcase several economic development initiatives, including newly planned projects and construction under development.

"Economic development in Irving is expected to increase dramatically with the addition of nearly \$6 billion in new and planned investments which translates to over 5.9 million square feet of commercial and residential space, 12,000 residential units, 2,000 hotel rooms, 20,000 new residents, 15,000 new jobs, and 7 million annual visitors," said Chris Wallace, president/CEO of the Greater-Irving Las Colinas Chamber.

The tour started at Irving's Las Colinas Urban Center and looped around Lake Carolyn. Business highlights included sports names such as ESPN, the National Football Foundation, and companies such as Flowserve and Research in Motion.

The group saw progress to date on the DART Orange Line that will link downtown Dallas to Las Colinas, and ultimately Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Other features included the newly opened Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, ExxonMobil, Neiman Marcus, AT&T and Fluor Corp.

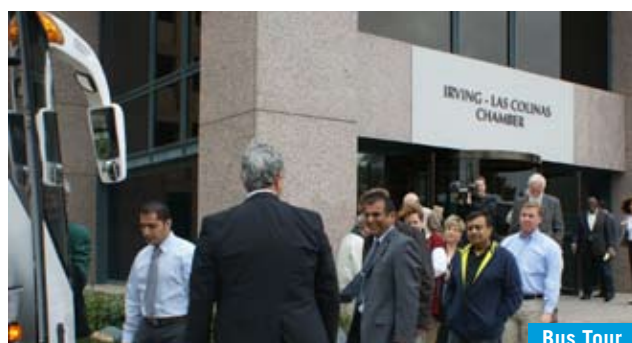
After passing the Studios of Las Colinas, North Hills Preparatory School and Make-A-Wish Foundation

of North Texas, the bus drove past Zale Corp., then headed north on MacArthur Boulevard. The group saw several new restaurants, including Five Guys Burgers and Fries, Smash Burger and the future location of an In-N-Out Burger.

After seeing the city's Valley Ranch Library, the group made its way to I-635 and west to DFW Airport, passing Citi, Epsilon, FedEx, Nissan and Universal Technical Institute. Upon leaving the airport, the group visited the Irving Animal Care Campus.

Wrapping up the tour was a visit south to see Heritage Crossing, a redevelopment initiative where prime downtown properties, ready for development and new construction, sit alongside revitalized businesses such as McDonald's and JPT Graphics.

The City of Irving partners with the chamber on economic development initiatives. For more information, visit [www.irvingchamber.com](http://www.irvingchamber.com). ■



Bus Tour

## ARTS CENTER SUMMER CAMPS

Mongolian masks and traditional hut construction, Chinese brush painting and horse-inspired paintings are just a few of the classes offered during this summer's Khan camps at the Irving Arts Center.

Two weeklong camps will take place July 11–15 and July 25–29. The focus will be Genghis Khan—inspired by the world tour exhibition of the same name that will be on view at the Arts Center, June 1 to Sept. 30.



Campers will use the artifacts in the exhibition to stir their creativity in classes such as stamp making, weaving, battle strategy and costume design. Registration is \$191 per camp, and camps are open to children ages 6–12 years old.

Lyric Stage School of Performing Arts also will offer a three-week musical theater camp at the Arts Center from June 14 to July 1.

For more information about camps, visit [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com) or call (972) 252-2787. ■

## ARTS CENTER EVENTS

- ◆ **Through April 24** | *Russell Lee: Photographs*  
Dupree Lobby  
The traveling exhibition of photographs by renowned documentary photographer Russell Lee documents the human condition, "Texana," political figures and his travels.
- ◆ **Through May 1** | *Young Ballerinas – Step-by-Step: Photographs by Clarence Saunders*  
Carpenter Lobby  
Local photographer Clarence Saunders captures the rhythm, movement and emotion of young ballerinas in this black-and-white pictorial exhibition.
- ◆ **April 16–May 8** | David Morris: MFA Thesis Exhibition  
Focus Gallery  
Stoneware sculpture by David Morris, a master's of fine arts candidate from the University of Dallas.
- ◆ **April 16–May 8** | 26th Annual Texas & Neighbors Regional Exhibition  
Main Gallery  
Artwork from artists in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico.  
Reception from 2 to 5 p.m.  
April 17.



The Irving Arts Center is located at 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Call (972) 252-2787 or go to [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com) for more information. ■



West Irving Library



Employee stocks shelves

## New West Irving Library Celebration Set for April 9

The highly anticipated opening of Texas' first LEED certified net zero energy library takes place this month. The festivities, which are free and open to the public, include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, dedication speeches and library tours from 10 a.m. to noon April 9 at the West Irving Library, 4444 W. Rochelle Road.

The public is invited to see the energy-efficient elements that allow the building to be a net zero energy facility, as well as demonstrations of the cutting-edge educational technology. These include a Microsoft Surface Table and SMART Boards. At the event, there will be refreshments and children's activities.

The public is invited to return at 2 p.m. when the state-of-the-art library will reopen with full services. The festivities will continue inside the library throughout the afternoon with the Carranza Puppets presenting a marionette show at 2:30 p.m.

"We have much to celebrate and we're looking forward to showing off our newest library location,"

said Tracy Bearden, branch manager. "With more than three times the space of the previous storefront location, lovely views of the surrounding landscape and all the amenities of a modern facility, the new West Irving Library is sure to impress everyone who visits."

The 25,000-square-foot West Irving Library sits on a 6.5-acre site at the corner of Rochelle and Esters roads. The new facility is part of the city's master plan for four stand-alone libraries. This plan will ensure that a full-service, technologically advanced library is convenient to every resident.

As a community resource, the library will offer patrons a number of unique features including an outdoor

sitting area; detailed glass etchings throughout the library that complement the building's theme of Our World; new resources and technology; dedicated spaces for children, teens and computer users; quiet spaces for studying or reading; and energy-efficient technologies including geothermal technology and solar panels.

Normal business hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; noon to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, including a complete schedule of events, visit [www.cityofirving.org/library](http://www.cityofirving.org/library) or call (972) 721-2457. ■

## Variety of Family Friendly Programs Available at Irving Public Libraries

- ◆ **Bookmark Design Contest – Through April 30.** The annual Design-a-Bookmark Contest celebrates Irving's history with this year's theme, Irving: Then and Now. The contest is open to all ages. Entries must be original artwork and suitable for public display. Entry forms are available at all Irving libraries and recreation centers. For rules, visit [www.cityofirving.org/library](http://www.cityofirving.org/library) and select "Events and Classes."

- ◆ **Job Fair – 1 to 4 p.m. April 7, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd.** Recruiters from local companies will meet with job seekers to discuss employment openings, collect résumés and schedule interviews. Call (972) 721-2326.

- ◆ **Irving Chautauqua, Music of the Civil War Era – 2 p.m. April 9, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd.** The Heritage Brass Band of Dallas, the largest historical reenactment band in the Southwest, showcases historical marches and period music from the Civil War era, including the surviving music of the band that played at Gettysburg.

- ◆ **Volunteer Appreciation Week – Irving Public Library celebrates National Volunteer Appreciation Week April 10–16 at all library locations.** The weeklong celebration of volunteers and staff will conclude at



Job Fair

3 p.m. April 16 with a "Love Your Library" volunteer reception at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The library urges residents to consider volunteering. Call (972) 721-2530 for more information.

- ◆ **Family Storytimes – 11 a.m. Fridays beginning April 15.** West Irving Library, 4444 W. Rochelle Road. All ages are invited to attend the weekly family storytimes.

- ◆ **Job Center Workshops – 2 p.m. April 12–15, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd.** A series of free workshops will be provided to help residents learn the skills they need to find a job.

- ◆ **Basic Cartooning – 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. April 14, East Branch Library, 440 S. Nursery Road.** Julio Suarez teaches students how to create original cartoon characters by using simple drawing techniques. The program is free and open to ages 8 and older. Call (972) 721-3722 to register.

- ◆ **Incredible Bubble Show – 2:30 p.m. April 23, West Irving Library, 4444 W. Rochelle Road.** Learn about the science of making giant bubbles. The program is free for all ages.

- ◆ **Super Dave and Big Ern – 5 p.m. April 27, East Branch Library, 440 S. Nursery Road.** The singing duo, Super Dave and Big Ern, present clever songs

and zany action in their musical show that is fun for the whole family. This program is free and open to all ages.

- ◆ **Drawing Nature – 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. April 28, East Branch, 440 S. Nursery Road.** Julio Suarez teaches students how to draw realistic and stylized plants, flowers and other natural specimens using a variety of drawing and illustration tools. The program is free and open to ages 6 and older. Registration is required. Call (972) 721-3722 to register.

- ◆ **Celebrate Día del Niño – 2 p.m. May 1, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd.** Irving Public Library and the Alegre Ballet Folklórico present a celebration of the culture and history of Mexico through dance and music.

- ◆ **Friends of the Library Annual Meeting – 7 p.m. May 3, West Irving Library, 4444 W. Rochelle Road.** The Friends of the Library meeting will feature a tour of the new West Irving Library and presentations on the ways the organization has supported the library through programs and services during the past year. Membership is not required to attend. The Friends of the Library supports the Irving Public Library by raising funds for materials and programs.



Super Dave and Big Ern



Incredible Bubble Show

## Parks and Recreation Activities Planned for Residents Throughout Spring

**Summer Camps** – City recreation centers will offer five, two-week summer camp sessions beginning June 6 for children ages 6–12. Registration begins at 9 a.m. April 30. Cost: \$190 for participating centers, except Cimarron Park Recreation Center, which includes lunch for \$220.

### Cimarron Park Recreation Center 201 Red River Trail, (972) 910-0702

- ◆ **Flea Market** – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 16. Rent a booth for \$15, or \$20 with a table and two chairs. No food can be sold.

### Georgia Farrow Recreation Center 530 Davis St., (972) 721-2519

- ◆ **All About Kids** – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 16. Enjoy a day of outdoor activities including a bounce house, face painter, vendors and entertainment for kids of all ages. This event also will feature a spring egg hunt. Admission is free, but there will be a charge for some activities and concessions.
- ◆ **Homerun T-ball League** – 10 to 11:30 a.m. April 30. This Saturday program teaches children the basic skills of baseball while providing a fun and positive recreation experience. All players will receive a jersey, hat and award. Volunteer coaches are welcome. Ages: 3–5 years old. Cost: \$20 per player.



Easter egg game

### Heritage Senior Center 200 S. Jefferson St., (972) 721-2496

- ◆ **Ambucs Fashion Show** – 10 a.m. April 2. Cost: \$15 per person, including lunch and show.
- ◆ **National Scrapbook Day Crop** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 30. Last day to register is 5 p.m. April 28. Everyone will receive a goodie bag and there will be door prizes throughout the day. Lunch, tea and lemonade included. Cost: early bird \$25 per person through April 15; after April 15, cost is \$30 per person.



Photos with Easter bunny

### Lee Park Recreation Center 3000 Pamela Drive, (972) 721-2508

- ◆ **Easter Extravaganza** – 10 to 11:30 a.m. April 21. Join in the fun with a bounce house, egg hunt, a variety of activities and a photo with the Easter bunny. Ages: 0–6 years old. Cost: \$5 per child.

### Lively Pointe Youth Center 909 O'Connor Road, (972) 721-8090

- ◆ **Splash JAM** – 7 to 11 p.m. April 9, Heritage Aquatic Center. Teens will enjoy an evening of swimming and water volleyball, and an Underwater Easter Egg Hunt. There will be “egg”citing prizes such as candy, tickets to Six Flags and Hurricane Harbor. Pizza and sodas will be served while a disc jockey plays great music. Admission is free.
- ◆ **Job Fair** – 3 to 6 p.m. May 5. The Irving Independent School District is sponsoring a job and volunteer opportunities fair. Admission is free.

### Mustang Park Recreation Center 2223 Kinwest Parkway, (972) 556-1334

- ◆ **Easter Celebration** – 10 to 11:30 a.m. April 15. Attendees can enjoy a variety of Easter activities including photos with the Easter bunny, egg hunt and more. Cost: \$5 per child. Registration required.

### Northwest Park Recreation Center 2800 Cheyenne St., (972) 721-2529

- ◆ **Friday Night Pottery Painting** – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. April 8, 15, 22, 29. Make something special. Items make great gifts for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, weddings or baby showers. Great for a girls’ night out or just hang out with the kids. Variety of pottery pieces to choose.
- ◆ **Spring Egg Hunt** – 9:30 to 11 a.m. April 23. Children age 6 and under are invited to enjoy a morning hunt for spring eggs, photos with the Easter bunny and face painting. Registration required. Cost: \$5 per child.

## CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL

Residents are invited to the annual Cinco de Mayo Multicultural Festival from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 30 at Senter Park Recreation Center, 901 S. Senter Road. The event will feature health screenings and will emphasize wellness for the entire family. Participants will enjoy music, food, arts and crafts, games for children, Mexican folklorico and other cultural dances.



In conjunction with the festival, city leaders will host a Town Hall Meeting for Spanish speakers at 10 a.m. At the meeting, residents will learn about ongoing and future city projects and initiatives. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions following the presentation.

For more information about the Cinco de Mayo Festival, call (972) 721-2641. Residents with questions about the Town Hall Meeting need to call (972) 721-2533. ■

### Senter Park Recreation Center 901 S. Senter St., (972) 721-2641

- ◆ **Spring Parking Lot Sale** – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 16. Registration required by April 14.
- ◆ **Preschool Egg Hunt** – 10 to 11 a.m. April 21. Each child must bring a basket. Ages: 2–5 years old. Cost: \$5 per child. Registration required.



Spring Parking Lot Sale



Water aerobics

## Aquatic Classes Offered at Heritage

### Arthur-cize: The Wellness Workout

**8:15 to 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday.** This class offers a well-rounded and fun format. Swimming ability is not necessary. This program is approved by the North Texas Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. Ages 50 and older are welcome. Cost: \$20 per month or \$2 per visit.

### Forever Young

**10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday.** Enjoy a gentle way to improve endurance, strength, balance and flexibility. Ages 50 and older are welcome. Cost: \$20 per month or \$2 per visit.

### Senior Gold

**9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday.** Already familiar in the water and already know how water exercise works? Join other seasoned swimmers for Senior Gold. Ages 50 and older are welcome. Cost: \$20 per month or \$2 per visit.

The Heritage Aquatic Center is located at 200 S. Jefferson St. For more information, call (972) 721-7310.

**URBAN FORESTRY AWARD**

The City of Irving has been honored with the Award for Excellence in Urban Forestry. Micah Pace, Dallas regional urban forester with the Texas Forest Service, presented the award in recognition of Irving's accomplishments.

- Forestry initiatives include:
- ◆ Tree City USA certification
  - ◆ Tree inventory of parks and corridors
  - ◆ Formation of a Tree Board

The award itself is an ink drawing of the National Pecan Tree Champion in Weatherford. In addition, the City of Irving has been certified as a Tree City USA for the second consecutive year. ■



# Irving Earth Day Recognizes Reuse, Water Conservation

IrvingYES (Youth for Environmental Sustainability) students are busy designing and painting rainwater collection barrels to increase environmental awareness.

Participating students are reaching out to the Irving community with messaging related to reusing, recycling and water conservation.

Each school participating in the grant-funded IrvingYES project are using 55-gallon plastic barrels that were originally used for tomato sauce.

Irving Mall will display the 16 rain barrels at seven stations from April 17 through May 20. Information also will be posted at each location, giving visitors environmental tips and suggestions on being better stewards of the planet.

Beginning April 22 (Earth Day), visitors will have an opportunity to vote on their favorite barrel by visiting [www.irvingyes.com](http://www.irvingyes.com).

"This opportunity will give residents a creative look at ideas and messages that students would like to share about the environment," said Fran Witte, senior

community outreach coordinator. "It's fascinating to see rainwater harvesting units being used for this type of creative expression."

Grant funding for IrvingYES initiatives was provided by the North Central Texas Council of Governments via the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. ■



## Small Water Leaks Can Cause Big Problems

April is Earth Month, and a good time to remind residents to conserve water by checking for leaks. Damaged household fixtures and irrigation systems can account for an average of 10,000 gallons of wasted water per home every year. That is enough to fill a backyard swimming pool.

"If you get an occasional drip, that may waste 5,000 gallons of water a year," said Barry Allen, city water conservationist. "If you get a more steady drip, it may approach 35,000 gallons."

Small fixes can save homeowners a lot of money. One of the most common water wasters is the toilet. It can lose up to 200 gallons per day.

"Put some food coloring in the tank and leave the commode alone. If you start seeing colored water in the bowl without flushing, then you know you have a leak," said plumber Brian Vanetti. "In many cases, the flapper, a \$3 part, needs to be replaced."

Outdoors, broken irrigation systems can waste more than 6,000 gallons of water a month. Systems should be checked each spring before use to make sure

they were not damaged by freezing temperatures or shifting soil. Broken sprinkler heads need to be replaced along with any ruptured pipes.

The city also has a Residential Water Audit program to help homeowners check for problems.

"What we provide is an indoor and outdoor water audit," said Allen. "We'll come in and look for the simple things—the drippy faucets, toilets that are wasting water—then we'll give pointers on how to fix the issues to lower water bills and conserve water."

For more information, call Water Utilities at (972) 721-2281 or visit [www.cityofirving.org/water-utilities](http://www.cityofirving.org/water-utilities). ■



## Public Auction Process Streamlined for City Staff

City staff continues to work on Lean Thinking initiatives to streamline processes and improve efficiency. One recent project involves improvement to the public auction process.

Three annual public auctions of furniture, equipment, tools, electronics and other items generate an average \$78,000 in annual revenue. More than 1,500 staff hours were required to put on the auctions, which translated into about \$41,000 in labor costs.

Following a survey to gather input and review of the current process, the following key results have been realized:

- ◆ Simplifying the process from 13 steps to 8 steps
- ◆ Implementing controls through automation
- ◆ Increasing warehouse capacity by reducing the number of items stored for auction
- ◆ Creating standard operating procedures

In addition, by revisiting and revising the auction process, about 750 staff hours have been saved.

"Our Lean Thinking teams have improved processes throughout the organization to improve efficiency," said HR/Chief Performance Officer Lynda Johnson. "These successes inspire staff to continue to identify more efficient ways to manage resources." ■

## Green Classes Set for Earth Month

**How to Have the Best Lawn on the Block**  
Participants will hear Jim McAfee with Texas AgriLife Extension service discuss lawn care basics, from turf selection to maintenance and irrigation techniques.

- ◆ **Thursday, April 14**  
6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Valley Ranch Library  
401 Cimarron Trail

**Water Conservation In and Around the Home**  
Barry Allen, city water conservationist, will show students how to recognize and successfully address wasteful water habits in and around the home. Participants also will learn about drought tolerant plant species for their landscapes.

- ◆ **Saturday, April 23**  
8 a.m. to noon  
Valley View Municipal Complex  
333 Valley View Lane

**Backyard Composting**  
Learn how to compost using the hot and cold methods. Students also will learn about the benefits of compost and applications in gardening, and will discuss types of materials to use in building a compost pile and troubleshooting composting problems.

- ◆ **April 28 or May 3**  
6 to 8 p.m.  
Max G. Greiner Environmental Center  
Southeast corner of Conflans and Gilbert roads

For more details and to register for green classes and events, visit [www.cityofirving.org/begreen](http://www.cityofirving.org/begreen) or call (972) 742-2296.





Code Cadet graduates



Code Cadet inspects property

## Federal Grant Funds New Fire Equipment

U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions presented a \$100,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant to the Fire Department on March 24. Accepting the grant were Mayor Herbert A. Gears, City Manager Tommy Gonzalez and Fire Chief Mario Molina.

“I am honored to present this important grant to the Irving Fire Department, whose members provide an essential and much-appreciated service for the 32nd District of Texas,” said Sessions.

The funding will allow the Fire Department to obtain an ambulance cleaning unit that will cleanse and decontaminate ambulances after each use, which will better protect both firefighters and individuals receiving emergency care.

“Irving’s firefighters put their lives at risk every day, braving dangerous and hazardous conditions in the line of duty. I congratulate the Irving Fire Department on receiving new equipment funding that will aid their continued success and safety,” said Sessions. ■



Grant funding for Fire Department

# Code Cadet Program Expanded

The city’s Code Cadet program, which allows volunteers to help address code violations with their neighbors, has been expanded and made available to all qualified residents.

The pilot program started last year with participation by residents of neighborhood and homeowner associations. Volunteers attend a four-hour training class to become certified as a cadet and then assist Code Enforcement to gain voluntary compliance for code violations in their neighborhood.

“Code Cadets play an important role in developing a clean, attractive and safe community,” said Code Enforcement Manager Darrell Hammond. “By issuing friendly notices to neighbors, Code Cadets can help gain voluntary compliance and teach others about common code violations.”

Code issues cited by cadet volunteers include outside storage, high grass and weeds, trash out too

early and parking on the grass. Residents who are found to be in violation following receipt of a cadet-issued notice and a second inspection are submitted to Code Enforcement as official code complaints.

Since the program’s inception, Code Cadets have notified more than 200 residents of violations with a 75 percent voluntary compliance rate. Neighborhood and homeowner associations taking part in the program: Arts District, Owen Point, Irving Hospital District, Historic Hospital District, Hackberry Creek, High Point Estates and Grauwlyer Heights.

Applicants must be 21 years of age and have email capability. For more information, call the Code Enforcement Department at (972) 721-4829. ■

## PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

### Police to Present on Safer Senior Living

The Irving Police Department will give senior citizens advice on how to live safer during a free presentation at 10:30 a.m. April 13 at Heritage Senior Center, 200 S. Jefferson St. The public is invited to attend.

Officer Carrie Lindemuth’s presentation, Safer Senior Living, will covers topics ranging from identity theft and scams, to property crime and personal safety.

### Fill the Boot for Muscular Dystrophy

With boots in hand, Irving firefighters will adorn three of the city’s busiest intersections in late April as part of the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s (MDA) Fill the Boot Campaign. Motorists and pedestrians are invited to help firefighters fill boots with cash donations to send children to summer camp, and purchase equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers for children with muscular dystrophy.



Money raised through last year’s campaign totaled \$89,526. Look for Irving firefighters from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 27-30 at the following locations:

- ◆ State Highway 183 and Story Road
- ◆ O’Connor Boulevard and State Highway 183
- ◆ MacArthur Boulevard and Interstate 635

For more information, call (972) 721-2514. ■

## Residents Reminded of Common Code Violations

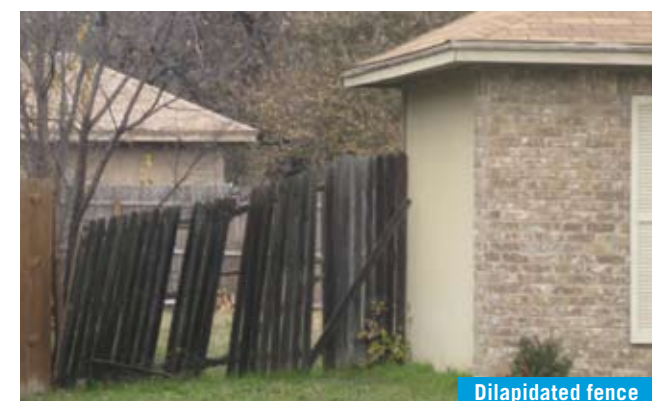
Well-maintained neighborhoods increase property values and make desirable places to live. To help residents preserve the appearance of their neighborhoods, the city enforces standards of housing, safety and sanitation. The following is a list of the most common code violations.

- ◆ **Address Numbers** – Address numbers must be displayed on the front of the home (not just painted on the curb) and in the rear if the house is accessible by an alley.
- ◆ **Dangerous/Substandard Structures** – The owner will repair, paint and waterproof the structure to prevent deterioration.
- ◆ **Dilapidated Fences** – The owner will repair, paint or waterproof deteriorated structures.
- ◆ **Garage Sales** – Only two garage sales may be conducted at the same address from January–December and are not to exceed 72 hours in duration. A free permit is required and can be obtained online at [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org) or in person at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd.
- ◆ **Temporary Signs** – A sign no larger than 4 square feet may be placed in the parkway between the sidewalk and street from noon Friday through noon Monday. Signs not removed by noon on Monday are subject to retrieval and storage fees. Placement prohibited in these areas:
  - center medians or on telephone poles
  - street signs or trees
  - state highways/either side of access roads
- ◆ **Outside Storage** – The homeowner/tenant is responsible for keeping property free of litter, brush and outside storage items such as household furniture/items, trash, building materials, car parts, etc. Small items should be stored within an enclosed building.
- ◆ **High Grass and Weeds** – Weeds and grass more than 10 inches are a violation. Property owners

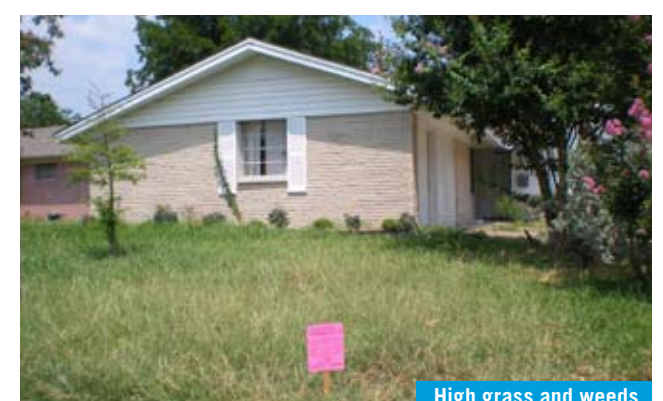
and tenants are responsible for keeping lawns mowed to the edge of the roadway and the alleys behind their homes maintained.

- ◆ **Parking on Grass** – No parking is allowed on the grass or other unimproved surface.
- ◆ **Temporary Lighting** – Temporary or holiday lights must be removed by April 1 of each year.
- ◆ **Trash Out Too Early** – Trash cannot be placed at pick-up point sooner than 6 p.m. the day before collection. It must be properly bagged. Call (972) 721-2232 for bulk pick-up schedule before placing bulk/brush at the curb.

To report a violation, call Code Enforcement at (972) 721-4929. ■



Dilapidated fence



High grass and weeds

**AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER VISIT**

Irving's Feral Hog Management Program has gained the attention of Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples, who is emphasizing the need for cities and counties throughout the state to help control the population of Texas' nearly 2 million feral hogs.

Staples visited the Irving Animal Care Campus on March 17 to meet with representatives from the City of Irving and residents who have been impacted by the damage caused by feral hogs. He also got a firsthand view of how the city is addressing this issue. Since October, more than 200 feral hogs have been caught in Irving, with the largest one weighing 375 pounds.

"Irving is a model," said Staples when commending the city on its leadership in containing feral hogs. "They're being very aggressive in addressing this, and I appreciate their leadership for Texas."

In addition to causing millions of dollars in damages across the state, feral hogs prey on small livestock, compete for food with many native species of wildlife and contribute to diseases in Texas streams and ponds. ■



Councilman Stopfer with Commissioner Staples

# PoochFest to Take Center Stage at Irving Animal Care Campus

The City of Irving's signature animal fun day, PoochFest, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 16 at the Irving Animal Care Campus, 4140 Valley View Lane.

Pet contests, pet and food vendors, rescue groups, pet demonstrations, educational information and door prizes are part of this canine-friendly event. At PoochFest, dogs will enjoy free food samples from vendors while owners review educational information and shop for items to purchase.

On-site pet contest registration will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m., with the event kick-off at 10 a.m. A Birds of Prey show by the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center will begin at 10:15 a.m., followed by the pooch contests at 11 a.m. Tours of the Irving Animal Care Campus will be available during the event and pet photos with the Easter bunny can be taken for \$5.

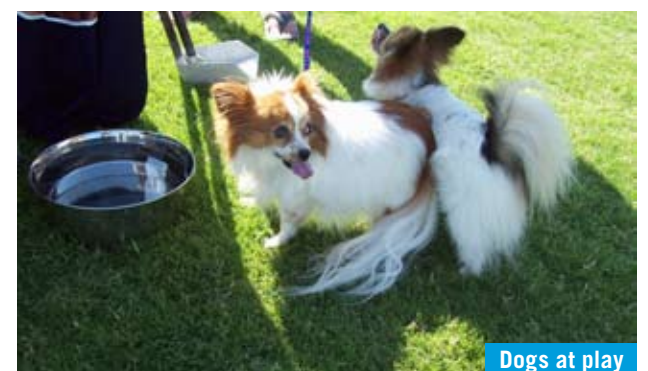
Contests will include Best Costume, Easter Bonnet, Owner-Pooch Look-a-Like and Best Mutt. Participant cost for the contests is \$10 per pet and registration is required. Spectator admission is free.

All breeds of dogs and companions of all ages are welcome. Dogs must be on a leash and current on their vaccinations. Attendees must be able to control accompanying canines. The two front pods at the Dog Park will be closed April 15-16 due to the event. The back two pods will remain open for public use.

Free parking will be available at SanMar Distribution Center, 4701 Northview Drive (off of Northgate



Pet demonstration



Dogs at play

Drive between State Highway 161 and Valley View Lane). Complimentary shuttle service will transport participants and their pets to and from the event site. For more information about the event or registration, call (972) 721-2496 or visit [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org). ■

## First Year of Operation is Successful at Irving Animal Care Campus

Last March, the Irving Animal Care Campus (IACC) opened its doors to a crowd of more than 3,000 people. Now, one year later, the facility that houses both Irving Animal Services and the DFW Humane Society is showing big results.

**Expanded Hours of Operation**

One change from a year ago—Animal Services has expanded its Saturday hours of operation to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. due to a high demand for weekend adoptions. The IACC is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and is closed Sunday and Monday. Prospective pet owners can get to know their pet in get acquainted rooms. Adoptions must be processed 30 minutes prior to closing.

**DFW Humane Society Partnership**

The Irving Animal Services/DFW Humane Society partnership is one of the most successful in the state. Thanks to the combined location, joint marketing and the merging of volunteering opportunities, programs and events, visitor traffic has doubled.

An average of 3,800 people visit the new shelter each month compared to 1,200 to 1,500 people monthly at the former locations combined. The two organizations partner on Adopt-a-Cat Month, Adopt-a-Dog Month and an annual vaccination clinic to help boost event attendance.

**Low-Cost Clinics**

Irving Animal Services sponsors several low-cost spay and neuter clinics in conjunction with various local groups. KittiCo, the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection and the Kaufman County Animal Awareness Project all hold monthly events that allow residents to receive pet sterilization or immunization services at discounted prices.

On-site pet microchipping also is offered to Irving residents for \$10 during normal business hours. "There's a chance that all pets will get out of the house or yard at some point," said Animal Services Manager Fred Sanderson. "Having a microchip almost guarantees the return of a lost dog or cat."

Every November, the city also hosts a low-cost vaccination clinic during Animal Appreciation Week.



Irving Animal Care Campus

All money collected goes to the city's animal assistance fund.

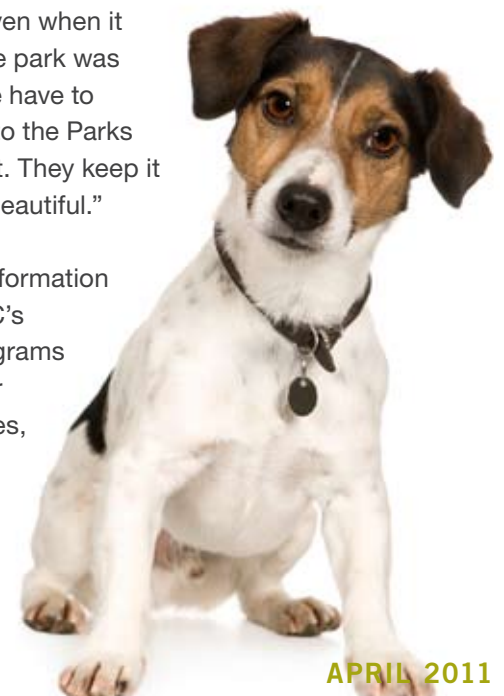
**High Adoption Rate**

Thanks to innovative new programs, like a partnership with PetSmart, the live release rate from the IACC is at 88 percent. Animal Services has 10 kennels with cats at the PetSmart located at 8100 Walton Blvd., and an average of 50 cats have been adopted per month. Volunteers provide the animals to PetSmart, which donates money back to the city for every pet adopted. The program has been so successful that volunteers are now taking dogs to the location the third Saturday of every month.

**Dog Park**

The city's Dog Park has been popular with residents. Sanderson said there are visitors in the park every day. "It is busy from morning to night," he said. "Even when it snowed, the park was packed. We have to give credit to the Parks Department. They keep it clean and beautiful."

For more information on the IACC's clinics, programs or volunteer opportunities, visit [www.cityofirving.org/animal-services](http://www.cityofirving.org/animal-services). ■



City Spectrum is published monthly by the City of Irving Corporate Communications Department to keep residents informed of activities and news that may be of interest to them.

Interact with Irving online:

