

CITY SPECTRUM

An Official Publication of the City of Irving ★ January 2009 ★ Volume 16, Number 1

Key Focus Areas In This Issue:

Economic Development

☑ DART Orange Line Page 1

Capital Improvements

☑ Campi3n Trails Extension Page 1

☑ Northwest Library Page 1

Code Enforcement

☑ New Ordinances Page 2

Year in Review

☑ Key Focus Area Results Pages 3-6

Steel for Orange Line has Arrived in Irving

A truckload of steel for the Orange Line has been delivered to Irving, following the approval of the design and construction contract by the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board. The first two phases of rail, which will connect Dallas to Las Colinas, will be completed by December 2011.

“As Irving continues to work diligently with DART officials, this effective partnership will no doubt pay great benefits as the Orange Line project proceeds into final design and construction,” said Mayor Herbert Gears. “The innovative design-build process—in which one contractor will design and build the rail line—will serve as an example of how future rail projects can be built on time and in a cost-efficient manner.”

The Orange Line ultimately will run from Dallas to

DFW International Airport. Millions of private sector dollars have been designated for new development projects along the Orange Line. More than \$4 billion of new commercial, office and housing developments will be positioned along the rail line.

“Benefits of this project span beyond the boundaries of Irving to the entire North Texas region,” Gears said. “The rail project will greatly improve the quality of life for many North Texans by decreasing growing traffic congestion and air pollution.”



Steel arrives at the construction site for the Orange Line. (Photo courtesy of DART)



Campi3n Trails Completed in Valley Ranch

The city has completed construction on the \$2.7 million Campi3n Trails extension into Sam Houston Trail Park, adjacent to Valley Ranch along the Elm Fork of the Trinity River.

The 12-foot-wide concrete primary trail for the northern section of Campi3n Trails previously stopped in T.W. Richardson Grove, north of Interstate Highway 635 and east of Valley View Lane. Dallas County Open Space Program provided a \$235,000 grant for part of the primary trail construction.

Sam Houston Trail Park and the Campi3n Trails extension is the latest phase of the 22-mile greenbelt trail along the Elm and West Forks of the Trinity River. Phase I improvements include approximately a half-mile of 12-foot-wide concrete primary trail running beneath the Valley View Lane bridge and the President George Bush Turnpike, northward connecting into the 192-acre Sam Houston Trail Park. The concrete trail loops around a 30-acre meadow on the south end of the park and crosses the flood control levee to provide the first pedestrian link into Valley Ranch.



The Campi3n Trails extension is now open to the public.

Additional improvements include a park access road, 200 parking spaces, security lighting, drinking fountains, an open meadow, a low-water crossing for maintenance vehicles and landscaping. A dedication ceremony for the extension is planned for the spring.

Sam Houston Trail Park will include a second phase that will be funded from the park bond funds approved by residents in 2006. Park amenities for Phase II will include group picnic facilities, playground equipment, additional 1½ miles of primary trail, a second levee crossing, secondary trails along the river, practice soccer fields, a basketball and sand volleyball court, drinking fountains, landscaping, benches and security lights.

PUBLIC INPUT: NEW NORTHWEST LIBRARY

The Irving Public Library invites residents to help plan the new Northwest Branch Library by participating in a community input meeting.

7 p.m. Jan. 27
Northwest Recreation Center
2800 Cheyenne St.

Interested residents will have the opportunity to provide input to city staff and the project architects. The new library will replace the existing storefront location and is slated to open in 2010.

For more information, call (972) 721-2691 or (972) 721-2628.



Community input wanted for new Northwest Library facility.

**RESIDENTIAL
CUSTOMER**

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
IRVING, TX
PERMIT NO. 116

Housing and Human Services Offers Heating Repair or Replacement Program

Qualifying Irving residents with broken furnaces, fireplaces or heaters can receive assistance through the Heating Repair or Replacement Program offered by the Housing and Human Services Department. The program is available through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For details on the program and how to apply, call Housing and Human Services at (972) 721-4800.

For Irving residents who are unable to pay to keep their homes and families warm, several human service agencies may be able to assist with utility bill payment.

- Irving Cares – (972) 721-9181
- Urban League – (972) 251-4054
- Salvation Army – (972) 438-6553

Winter Heating Fire Safety Tips

- Never use a range or an oven as a heating device. It is a safety hazard and can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- Do not overload the circuit when using an electric heater. Only use extension cords with the necessary rating, choosing the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.
- Avoid using space heaters in bathrooms or

other areas where they may come in contact with water. Keep them at least three feet away from combustible materials such as beds, drapes and furniture.

- Never leave space heaters on while sleeping.
- Have heating systems, chimneys and fireplaces professionally inspected and serviced annually.
- Ensure an adequate number of working smoke alarms are available on every level of a home. Check and clean alarms monthly.

For more information on safe winter heating, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

Regulation Changes to Increase Irving's Appeal

The following ordinance amendments have been approved by City Council to further strengthen the city's efforts to provide a more visually appealing community.

Commercial Container Standards

Ordinance changes now comprehensively regulate the location and visual impact of commercial containers.

- Moves containers back from streets
- Requires 7-foot masonry screening with gate

Location and screening:

- Containers are prohibited between the building and street.
- Screening is required if in view from:
 - Street
 - Public property
 - Single-family homes
- Containers may remain unscreened if not in view or are recycling containers.
 - Recycling containers are limited to two per lot; located away from streets and



New standards



Current conditions

screened on rear if adjacent to a single-family home (not required if previous screening requirements are met).

Timeline:

- Effective: Jan. 1
- Relocate containers within 60 days: March 1
- Screen within two years: Jan. 1, 2011

Landscape Requirements

New landscaping requirements consolidate several ordinances into one comprehensive standard.

The new guidelines are as follows:

- Includes an updated list of recommended trees and shrubs that are native or drought-tolerant.
- Increases the minimum tree size from 3-inch to 4-inch caliper at the time of planting.
- Requires the same standard for trees in commercial parking lots regardless of where the property is located.
- Increases the number of trees required along the street in large commercial developments.
- Places additional emphasis on preservation of existing trees.
- Provides flexibility in designing landscaping plans to provide an enhanced streetscape throughout the community.

The new ordinance makes it easier for developers to determine the landscaping standards that apply to their particular site, and easier for staff to administer and enforce. For more information, call Planning and Inspections at (972) 721-2424.

EMPLOYEE EYES ON IRVING

The internal Eyes on Irving program—a tip line for city employees to report issues they see while driving around the community—has resulted in 482 inquiries reported in its first year. This customer service initiative was implemented to help enhance the visual appeal of the city.

“Providing exceptional customer service to Irving residents is a priority for staff,” said Susan Rose, community outreach manager. “This program is just one of many ways the city is working to increase the level of customer service provided.”

The Eyes on Irving program allows city staff throughout the organization to be more proactive in identifying and correcting issues, while building employee pride in the city. The program encourages employees to call in issues such as potholes, high grass and weeds, and trash so they can be addressed before noticed by residents.

The most frequently reported issues are:

- Abandoned grocery carts
- Graffiti
- Street maintenance



Go Green!

Home Energy Conservation Basics Class

Learn basic techniques to help reduce energy consumption and electric bill costs during this informative class from 9 to 11 a.m. Jan. 17 at the Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail. Discussion topics will include compact fluorescent light bulbs, phantom energy loss and the Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® program. Energy-efficient prizes will be given away. To register or for more information, call the Corporate Communications Department at (972) 721-2533.

Analog Television Recycling Opportunity

Beginning Feb. 17, federal law will require that all full-power television broadcast stations broadcast only in digital. Many Irving residents have chosen to make the switch to digital televisions due to the upcoming regulation change. The city will offer an analog TV recycling event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 24.



To participate, registration is required by Jan. 15. To register, call Corporate Communications at (972) 721-2324, and have information ready about the type and size of the television to be recycled. Vouchers are limited and will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. This opportunity is made possible by a grant prepared in cooperation with the North Central Texas Council of Governments through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.





City of Irving

YEAR IN REVIEW

2008

Many positive changes continue to take shape and provide enhancements to the Irving community. New initiatives and processes ensure a more focused, productive and results-driven organization.

Emphasis placed on eight key focus areas—designated by City Council and residents—has resulted in several achievements. From public safety to economic development, code enforcement to capital improvements—the City of Irving has experienced results in all of the key focus areas to move the city forward and make it a better community for residents, visitors and businesses.

Here is a look at some of the accomplishments of 2008.

Key Focus Area Results

Economic Development

The city is focusing on **transit-oriented development** along the planned rail corridor, and is working with developers on a number of projects such as Water Street, the Irving Convention Center, Las Colinas Station, Heritage Crossing and the redevelopment of Texas Stadium.

Heritage Crossing

- ✓ Drafted design guidelines
- ✓ Acquired/under contract 73 properties
- ✓ Identified first projects totaling \$35 million

Water Street

- ✓ Approved Master Development Agreement
- ✓ Authorized sale of bonds to begin lake reclamation and lake wall construction

Entertainment Venue

- ✓ Approved Master Development

Agreement

- ✓ Authorized sale of bonds to proceed with architectural design

Texas Stadium

- ✓ Broke ground for Diamond Interchange to reconstruct State Highway 114 and Loop 12
- ✓ Prepared transition plan with Dallas Cowboys on all stadium issues

Las Colinas Station

- ✓ Passed resolution to direct staff to negotiate public finance participation to facilitate construction of the two high-rise residential towers adjacent to the planned DART Orange Line station

Irving Boulevard

- ✓ Completed study and implementation plan to transform Irving Boulevard to a regional amenity



Code Enforcement

Several code enforcement ordinances and processes have been enhanced to **increase standards** and the number of tools available for enforcement. These efforts help maintain the physical appearance of the city and ensure **stable property values**. Code Enforcement was aligned under the Police Department in Fiscal Year 2007-08. This reorganization has yielded several benefits as code officers have established close working relationships with police and have combined code enforcement efforts with police initiatives.

- ✓ Removed 75 **pole signs** along major corridors
- ✓ Resolved more than 14,000 code cases
- ✓ Retrieved more than 10,000 **temporary signs**

- ✓ Increased **tire shop enforcement** – 100 of 107 tire shops now in compliance
- ✓ Reduced **parking enforcement** cycle time from 14 to 2 days
- ✓ Corrected 83 percent of code violations voluntarily
- ✓ Utilized community service workers for more than 900 work hours at approximately 60 locations
- ✓ Enabled code enforcement officers to enter data electronically in the field



Capital Improvements

Placing emphasis on infrastructure, the city has \$130 million in capital improvement projects currently under way, with an additional \$35 million in capital improvement projects proposed for Fiscal Year 2008-09. In 2006, Irving voters approved \$335 million in general obligation bonds to fund **capital improvement projects**. This is in addition to the \$114 million of remaining authorized funds from the 1999 bond election. Funding supports the reconstruction and expansion of major thoroughfares and new parks, libraries, fire stations and other infrastructure.

- ✓ Dedicated the Northgate Pump Station to enhance water service to east and south Irving customers
- ✓ Opened several **new facilities**:
 - Valley Ranch Branch Library
 - Cimarron Family Aquatic Center
 - Lively Pointe Youth Center
- ✓ Completed Railroad Quiet Zones
 - BNSF at Union Bower Road, Britain Road, Pioneer Drive

- TRE at MacArthur Boulevard, Rogers Road, Irby Lane
- ✓ Finished 20 capital improvement street projects, totaling more than \$16 million
- ✓ Broke ground on new, state-of-the-art animal shelter
- ✓ Continued improvements to Grauwylar Road
- ✓ Continued landfill improvements to extend lifespan
- ✓ Continued **park development** in Campión Trails greenbelt
- ✓ Completed study to preserve the integrity of the Lake Chapman pipeline and ensure proper operation
- ✓ Finished park design for ADA Playground and Miracle League Field
- ✓ Completed design and awarded construction contract for second phase of Veterans Memorial Park
- ✓ Completed new master plan for **future library construction**; design in progress for a new Northwest facility



Public Safety

Work continued to enhance public safety efforts through police, fire and animal services. Irving will experience a further decrease in the **crime rate, which reached a new historic low** in 2007. Fire officials implemented new life-saving equipment, while animal services enhanced its processes and customer service efforts.

Police

- ✓ **Reduced overall crime** rate
- ✓ Reduced property crime below the five-year average
- ✓ Increased new officer recruit hiring by 120 percent
- ✓ Reported **criminal offenses down** 70 percent on Tudor Lane; crime down by 45 percent in targeted apartments in Walnut Hill area
- ✓ Prohibited handheld phone use in school zones
- ✓ Expanded Skywatch towers to a total of seven
- ✓ Received grant to help address gang crime and related issues

Fire

- ✓ Enhanced Emergency Medical Services through the following:

- Bike and Tactical Paramedic Program – reduces **response time**
- Electronic Patient Care Reporting System – increases reporting efficiency
- Alignment of Health Board – promotes **effective communication**
- Additional ambulance unit into service at Station No. 7
- ✓ Purchased **fire rescue boat** and increased staffing at Station No. 8
- ✓ Enhanced cardiac survival rate; highest rate in the Metroplex
- ✓ Added **paramedic fire engines** at Station No. 1 and Station No. 11

Animal Services

- ✓ Implemented pet registration to ensure **quick return of pets**
- ✓ Adopted new tethering ordinance
- ✓ Reduced dangerous animal process from 60 days to 21 days
- ✓ Began construction of **new animal shelter and dog park**
- ✓ Retrofitted vehicles to include air conditioning in the animal cages
- ✓ Installed new software system to enhance record keeping, increase productivity and **improve service** to residents



City of Irving

YEAR IN REVIEW

2008

Neighborhood Improvements



Intensified focus is **strengthening Irving neighborhoods**. This effort involves all city services, working in partnership with community stakeholders in a comprehensive manner to affect **positive change** and improve quality of life for neighborhoods.

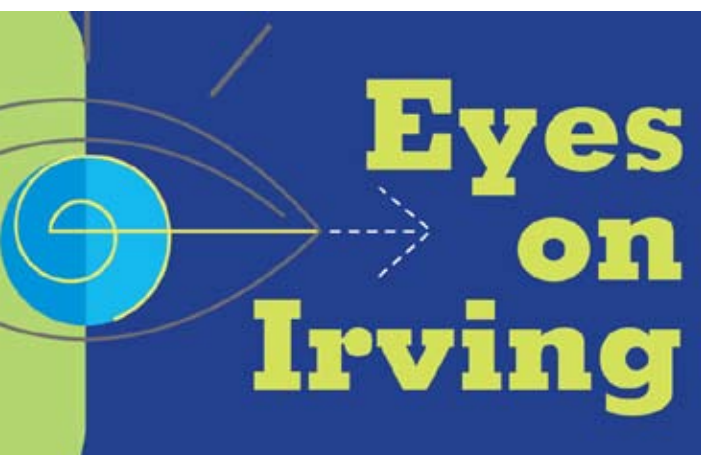
- ✓ Completed first **Neighborhood Enhancement Program** in Austin Heights
 - Formed neighborhood association
 - Hosted trash cleanup day
 - Made drainage/sidewalk improvements
 - Added parking and traffic control signs
 - Completed English Street reconstruction
- ✓ Established Housing and Human Services/Code referral process and cross training program
- ✓ Built 10 new homes
- ✓ Completed 26 **home restoration projects**
- ✓ Provided down payment assistance to 21 first-time homebuyers

- ✓ Assisted more than 70 families displaced from Vista Del Lago apartment complex
- ✓ Helped more than 10 families with foreclosure prevention
- ✓ Aided 136 households in homelessness prevention
- ✓ Served more than 3,000 people through funded nonprofit service agencies
- ✓ Provided funding for 12,961 shelter days for Irving's homeless population
- ✓ Assisted the community in providing more than 3,500 hours of **employment and education services**, as well as more than 7,700 days of childcare services and 4,720 hours of case work assistance
- ✓ Formed four **new Neighborhood Associations**:
 - High Point Estates Neighborhood Association (36 homes)
 - Heritage District Neighborhood Association (251 homes)
 - Nichols Park Neighborhood Association (488 homes)
 - Owen Point Neighborhood Association (282 homes)

Communications and Customer Service



IRVING COMMUNITY TELEVISION NETWORK



Communications and customer service have been a strong focus in the city this past year. Both internal and external **communications efforts** have been increased and several programs were implemented to improve **customer service**.

- ✓ Increased "City Spectrum" to monthly publication
- ✓ Completed a comprehensive Communications Plan
- ✓ Hosted Town Hall meetings, including one in Spanish
- ✓ Addressed and resolved more than 2,200 **resident concerns** through Citizen Inquiry System
- ✓ Expanded the time that Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) is on the air
- ✓ Introduced **new ICTN programming** and produced several special videos, including Strategic Plan updates
- ✓ Added monthly messages on on-hold phone system

- ✓ Implemented e-commerce applications
- ✓ Expanded **video on demand options** on Web site; City Council meeting videos posted by agenda item
- ✓ Surveyed employees and implemented recommendations to **improve communications** throughout the organization
- ✓ Processed more than 450 employee Eyes on Irving calls to improve the appearance of the city
- ✓ Implemented **Mystery Shopper Program** resulting in an overall service rating of 87.6 percent from nine departments
- ✓ Expanded the city's participation at school job fairs and career days
- ✓ Implemented the Big Brothers Big Sisters program with 17 employees participating in its inaugural year
- ✓ Launched electronic audio books to all customers to download books to their desktop, MP3 player or burn to a CD
- ✓ Enhanced city **Web site** to improve graphic design and navigation

A copy of Irving's Strategic Plan and more details about the city's key focus areas are available online at www.cityofirving.org, or by calling (972) 721-7600.

Corridor Enhancements

Corridor improvements are in progress to enhance **Irving's visual image and identity** by creating regional entry gateways into the city along highways and major thoroughfares. The enhancements also will establish a **unifying theme** for the city. Teams of city staff are addressing issues and projects with a comprehensive approach. This includes such items as landscaping, street/median enhancements, signage, building facades, public art opportunities, and signal and light fixtures.

- ✓ Increased the use of monument signs and updated roadways, sidewalks and signalization at several intersections
- ✓ Began construction of **gateways in progress**
 - MacArthur Boulevard and Shady Grove Road
 - MacArthur Boulevard and Weathered Street
- ✓ Completed **MacArthur Boulevard Beautification** – Phase I, landscaping along the west side of MacArthur Boulevard from State Highway 183 to Rochelle Road and the pocket park at Grauwylar Road

- ✓ Construction in progress for median improvements along South Belt Line Road and South MacArthur Boulevard. Improvements include:
 - Welcome to Irving signs
 - Tree plantings
 - Landscaped areas with native plants
- ✓ Completed a study of Irving Boulevard (Designs on the Boulevard), from State Highway 183 to Loop 12, to identify opportunities to visually enhance the area and foster **new retail and commercial development**.
- ✓ Completed the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update, which addresses the following strategic actions:
 - Adoption of design standards for paint colors to improve neighborhood and commercial aesthetic compatibility
 - Development of a plan to transform the signage along State Highway 183

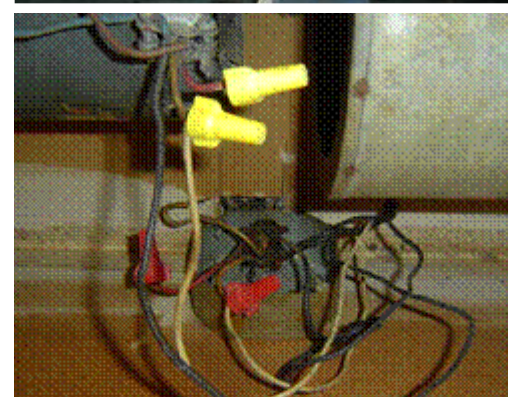


Non-Compliant Apartments

Apartment and property owners are being held accountable for substandard housing and non-compliant building conditions. This effort cleans up these properties to increase resident safety. A four-tier rating system was established for all multifamily complexes and those rated as category four, the lowest rating, were made a priority focus. Code Enforcement also has achieved **significant results** in addressing other non-compliant structures.

- ✓ **Vacated and demolished 10 fourplexes on Tudor Lane**
- ✓ **Reduced timeline of start of case to demolition by 45 days**
- ✓ **Demolitions through Code Enforcement and Building and Standards actions:**
 - 8 commercial structures
 - 23 single-family dwellings

- 4 multifamily structures
- 26 accessory structures
- 4 swimming pools
- ✓ **Demolitions for Heritage Crossing:**
 - 2 multifamily apartments
 - Reduced number of lower-tiered complexes
- ✓ **New Chapter 8 requirements:**
 - Air conditioning is now an essential utility
 - Risk rating assessments completed at time of inspection
 - Level 4 apartments are required to install heat detection systems
 - Raw sewage overflowing onto public right-of-way can cause a building to be deemed as dangerous



City of Irving

YEAR IN REVIEW

2008



Irving Public Library Adds Music to Digital Media Catalog

The Irving Public Library has expanded its free digital media service to allow music to be downloaded through the digital media catalog. The selection of music consists of classical, blues and children's titles. Up to five titles may be downloaded at one time, and users have 10 days to listen to or save the downloaded files to an MP3 player. After 10 days, the titles automatically expire and return to the collection.

In order to download, a valid library card, access to the Internet, and free computer software or device to which the material will be downloaded is necessary. Visit <http://irvinglibrary.lib.overdrive.com> to install the free software and view the digital catalog. The digital media catalog—accessible anytime, anywhere—has been a huge success, with card holders downloading more than 4,200 books. For more information call (972) 721-2606.



Library Briefs

Young Adult Action Council ▪ 4:30 p.m. Jan. 7, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The Irving Public Library offers a chance for teens in grades 9–12 to plan upcoming teen programs, provide input on the teen collections and earn volunteer hours for school. Interested teens can fill out an application available at the Central Library or online at www.cityofirving.org/library/teenscene. Subsequent meetings will be held monthly on the first Wednesday of every month.

Middle Schoolers @ Irving Public Library ▪ noon to 1 p.m. Jan. 3, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. This monthly program invites middle school children to tell the library what programs, books, movies and other materials they would like to see at the library. Registration is encouraged. Call (972) 721-2548.

Irving Chautauqua ▪ 2 p.m. Jan. 10, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Irving Chautauqua continues with Egyptologist and former University of Texas at Arlington professor Rollin Phipps. Learn about the life and times of King Tut and the Tutankhamun exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art. Call (972) 721-2606.

Reel Reads ▪ 6 p.m. Jan. 15, Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail. This new book/movie discussion group will meet the third Thursday of every month to discuss both fiction and non-fiction

titles paired with the film adaptation. In January, the group will discuss and watch "Memoirs of a Geisha," by Arthur Golden. Call (972) 721-4669.

Genealogy Society Program ▪ 7 p.m. Jan. 19, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The Irving Public Library and the Irving Genealogical Society will present the program, Where is Bessie? Shirley Apley, senior librarian for the Genealogy, History and Archives Department of the Fort Worth Public Library, will tell the story of Bessie Williams. From 1914 to 1917, Williams escaped from city and county jails while a local woman's club campaigned for a new county jail. An Irving Genealogical Society meeting will follow the presentation.



Pipe and Drum with the Irving Fire Department ▪ 2 p.m. Jan. 31, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Families are invited to join Fire Chief Mario Molina and the Irving Fire Department for a presentation on the history of the Fire Department

pipe. The program will include a selection of pipe and drum songs. Call (972) 721-2458.

Calendar Items

- **Jan. 7** – noon, Midweek Mysteries, Central Library
- **Jan. 8** – 7 p.m., Tea & Talk, Central Library
- **Jan. 8** – 7 p.m., Valley Ranch Live!, Valley Ranch Library
- **Jan. 13** – 6:30 p.m., Movie Night at the Library, Central Library
- **Jan. 17** – 4 p.m., Got Games?, Valley Ranch Library
- **Jan. 17** – 2:30 p.m., Building is Fun!, Northwest Branch Library
- **Jan. 20** – 4:30 p.m., TeenScene, Central Library
- **Jan. 22** – 1 p.m., Job Fair, Central Library
- **Jan. 22** – 7 p.m., Anime Movie Night, Central Library
- **Jan. 22** – 7 p.m., Valley Ranch Reads, Valley Ranch Library
- **Jan. 24** – 10:30 a.m., African-American Authors Book Circle, Northwest Branch Library
- **Jan. 27-30** – 2 p.m., Job Center Workshops, Central Library
- **Jan. 30** – 10 a.m., A Good Yarn, Central Library
- **Saturdays** – 2 p.m., Movie Matinees, Valley Ranch Library

For a schedule of children's story times and computer classes, call (972) 721-2606.

Irving Arts Center Features New Sculpture

New Sculpture by James Surls

The Irving Arts Center celebrates the arrival of *Star Flower*, a monumental sculpture by American artist James Surls, with two public events. Attend a meet and greet at 5 p.m. Jan. 26 or the official dedication and breakfast reception from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Jan. 27. Surls will be present at both events.

Star Flower, commissioned by the Arts Center, sits permanently in the Sculpture Garden's reflecting pool. The sculpture's arrival completes the Irving Arts Board's original vision for the Sculpture Garden, which included the installation of permanent pieces by Jesus Bautista Moroles, Michael Manjarris and Surls.

Surls is an internationally recognized artist. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Dallas Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

The Sculpture Garden is free to the public and features original sculptures by Texas and national artists.



"Star Flower" by James Surls

Saturday School

Saturday School offers professional art instruction in the creative atmosphere of the Irving Arts Center. Starting Jan. 3, join Jeremy Emmert for a

six-week strumming class that's full of fun! Session 2 of Saturday School will focus on an introduction to guitar. Students ages 6-14 will learn the basics of music reading, practice notes and chords, and explore various musical genres. Emmert, an Irving-based musician, will provide guitar lessons based on the skill level of each student. Instruments will be provided. Registration is available within the first three weeks of class. For more information or to register visit www.irvingartscenter.com or call (972) 252-ARTS. Saturday School meets on Saturdays from 2-4 p.m.

Hours of Operation

Administration: Monday through Friday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (972) 252-7558.

Box Office: Tuesday through Saturday – noon to 5 p.m. and one hour prior to performance. Call (972) 252-ARTS.

Gallery: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday – 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday – 1 to 5 p.m.



Office Closings

City offices will be closed Jan. 1. All offices will reopen at their regular hours Jan. 2.

There will be no trash, brush or curbside recycling pickup Jan. 1. All full-service recycling centers and the Hunter Ferrell Landfill will be closed Jan. 1. Libraries will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 31 for New Year's Eve and will remain closed Jan. 1. Libraries will reopen at their regular hours Jan. 2. Recreation and aquatic centers will be closed Jan. 1. The Irving Arts Center will be open at its regular hours on New Year's Eve, but will be closed Jan 1.

COMMEMORATIVE BLOCKS

As part of the expansion of Irving Veterans Memorial Park, residents can honor a family member, friend or veteran with a personalized granite block. The blocks will become part of the commemorative battlement walls.

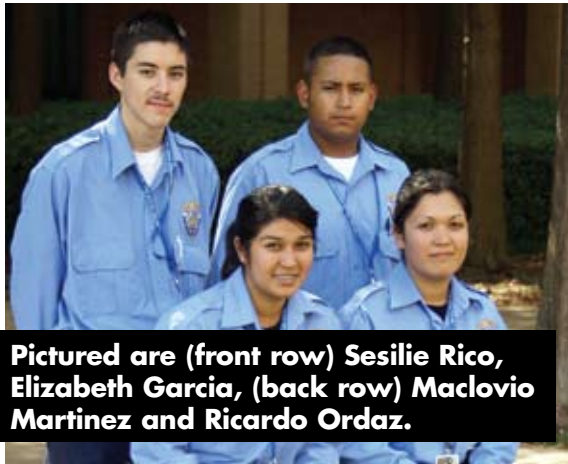
Park features include five large bronze statues of veteran soldiers, a Fountain of Hope, River of Freedom and World Map of Confrontation. Five History Walls will describe and document the major conflicts since the founding of Irving in 1903. The main memorial wall lists the names of residents who lost their lives in service to our country.

For information about the \$125 granite blocks, visit www.cityofirving.org/parks-and-recreation for an online form, or call (972) 721-2501.

Students Learn with Jail Internship

Irving students are learning about a law enforcement career through a unique internship program at the city jail. The Police Department was selected as a pilot site for a national high school internship program, which is the only one of its kind in Texas.

Four seniors from The Academy of Irving ISD will receive 300 hours of jail training. The students, Elizabeth Garcia, Sesilie Rico, Maclovio Martinez and Ricardo Ordaz, work an average of 15 hours per week during school hours. Along with their classwork at the Academy, the students will earn 77 hours toward their Corrections Certification.



Pictured are (front row) Sesilie Rico, Elizabeth Garcia, (back row) Maclovio Martinez and Ricardo Ordaz.

Community Briefs

State of the City ▪ Mayor Herbert Gears will give the State of the City Address on Jan. 15 at the Texas Stadium Club, 2401 E. Airport Freeway. A reception/registration will take place at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce is hosting the event, and the presenting sponsor is TXU Energy. Mayor Gears is expected to highlight the progress that has been made in meeting the goals of the city's Strategic Plan. For more information, call (972) 721-2600.

Teen Court Volunteers ▪ A training session for students interested in volunteering for Teen Court's spring term will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Criminal Justice Center, 305 N. O'Connor Blvd. Teens age 14 and older who are enrolled in high school may participate in the program. Teen Court volunteers are trained to act as lawyers, clerks, bailiffs and jurors to determine sentences for teens with Class C misdemeanor offenses. In return for this service, volunteers receive community service hours and gain valuable experience and information about the legal system. Adults, including attorneys who are interested in working with youth, also are welcome. For more information, call the Teen Court office at (972) 721-3601. Applications are available at all Irving high schools and online at www.cityofirving.org/municipal-courts/teen-court.html.

Texas Stadium Presentation ▪ The Irving Heritage Society will host a program that will tell the inside story of what it took to bring Texas Stadium and the Dallas Cowboys to Irving. The program will be presented by former mayors Robert H. Power Sr. and R. Dan Matkin at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Central Library Auditorium, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Refreshments will be served. The public is encouraged to attend. The Heritage Society general meeting will be held prior to the presentation at 6:15 p.m. For more information visit www.irvingheritage.com or call (972) 252-3838.



Former Irving Mayor Robert Power stands next to a model of Texas Stadium.

MacArthur Pump Station Project ▪ Construction is expected to begin this month to replace and build a new pump station. The MacArthur Pump Station, located at the southeast corner of MacArthur Boulevard and State Highway 183, was originally constructed in the 1950s. A new pumping facility with a firm capacity of 33 million gallons per day will be constructed. The existing pump station and the concrete ground storage tank will be demolished. State-of-the-art equipment, such as variable frequency drive pumps, will be included in the project.

Irving Museum Public Input ▪ The City of Irving will build a museum in the Heritage District within the next few years. To plan for a permanent facility, residents have an opportunity to provide input online regarding preferred types of museums,

location, exhibits and community programming. Visit www.cityofirving.org and click on "Public Input Opportunities" on the left. The survey will be available through the end of January.

City Council Meeting Schedule ▪ The City Council has scheduled its meetings for 2009. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Following are the dates when the council plans to meet:

- Jan. 8 and 22
- Feb. 5 and 19
- March 5 and 26
- April 9 and 23
- May 14 and 28
- June 11 and 25
- July 9 and 23
- Aug. 6
- Sept. 3 and 17
- Oct. 8 and 22
- Nov. 5
- Dec. 3

Residents can attend the meetings at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd., or view them live on Irving Community Television Network (Channel 95 - Time Warner or Channel 31 - Verizon). Webcasts also are available on the Internet at www.cityofirving.org or www.ictn.tv. Web site visitors can view taped recordings of meetings and enjoy special programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week with video on demand. Council meetings are coordinated with paper agendas, which allow viewers to select a specific agenda item of interest without having to watch or fast-forward through the entire video. New videos are added on a weekly basis. Meetings are subject to change. Call the City Secretary's Office at (972) 721-2493 to confirm a meeting date.



Video on demand



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.

Laurie M. Kunke
Corporate Communications Director

Cheryl M. Lowdermilk
Publications Supervisor