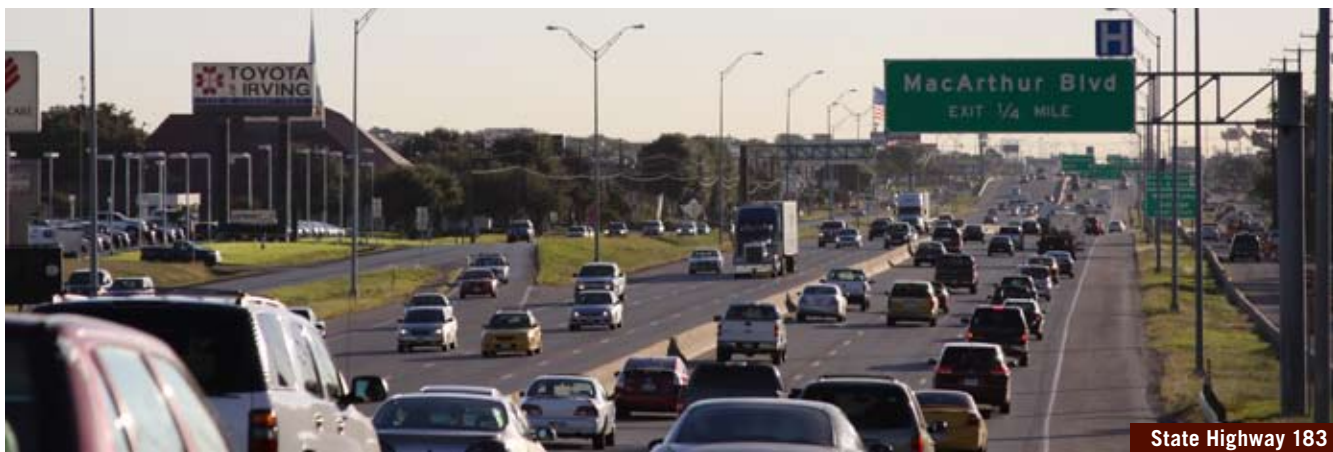


CitySpectrum

WWW.CITYOFIRVING.ORG



City Leaders Help State Highway 183 Expansion to Move Forward

The relocation of businesses, demolition of buildings and pending installation of sound walls are indicators that the expansion of State Highway 183 is moving forward. City leaders are working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to ensure that the best interests of all community members are represented in the process.

Plans

Plans for SH 183, also known as Airport Freeway, call for the 10-lane highway system to be expanded to 18 lanes. The expansion will include eight main lanes, six frontage road lanes and four managed toll lanes.

In addition to easing congestion and traffic, the expansion of SH 183 will attract new businesses to the area and provide an economic boost to the city.

“Irving’s role in the project is to help deliver the best final product possible,” said Real Estate Services Manager Doug Janeway. “By working with TxDOT, Irving is ensuring that the needs and interests of residents and businesses are represented in the expansion process.”

Preparation

Hundreds of businesses, as well as the former Texas Stadium site, edge the highway. It is estimated that more than 340 parcels—residential and commercial—will be affected by the expansion. To date, TxDOT has acquired 65 percent of the parcels necessary to proceed with the freeway expansion. Acquisition of the necessary rights of way will cost TxDOT \$278 million.

“The expansion of SH 183 involves several civic entities,” Janeway said. “For example, the Greater Irving Las-Colinas Chamber of Commerce has been

doing a great job ensuring that affected businesses are aware of relocation options within the city.”

Already, the demolition of 30 buildings has taken place along SH 183, and eight others will be demolished this month. By the time preparations are completed, more than 70 buildings will have been demolished. In addition, a total of 162 relocations will have taken place involving 27 households and 135 commercial tenants. To date, 87 relocations—more than half—have already been completed. Included in that number are the 27 residential locations (two households, 25 multifamily units) as well as 60 businesses. The chamber has successfully assisted more than half of the businesses to relocate within the city.

Protection

The coming installation of the sound walls in the Nichols and Plymouth parks areas is an example of city leaders advocating for residents and businesses. City staff partnered with TxDOT to design the \$7 million sound walls, which are funded by TxDOT to protect residents in adjacent neighborhoods from views of construction crews and the accompanying sounds of progress. The Mustang design reflects the heritage of Irving.

For ongoing information regarding the highway expansion project, visit TxDOT’s website at www.keepitmovingdallas.com. ■

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

To kick off the holiday season, the City of Irving will host its Holiday Extravaganza Parade and Tree Lighting on Dec. 4.

Chili Cook-Off

The Blue Christmas Chili Cook-Off, hosted by the Police and Fire departments, is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Heritage Park, 217 Main St. Contestant entry fee is \$20 and an unwrapped toy. Attendees may purchase a tasting cup for \$5. Proceeds will benefit the Blue Christmas toy drive.

Holiday Parade

The holiday parade kicks off at 4 p.m. with the procession traveling through the Irving Heritage District. Witness a festive collection of floats and holiday music. The parade will travel northbound on Sowers Road, eastbound on Second Street, northbound on Lucille Street, westbound on Irving Boulevard and northbound on O’Connor Road. There is no parade entry fee. Parade applications are available from the Parks and Recreation Department or the city website at www.cityofirving.org.

Tree Lighting

The Tree Lighting Ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Attendees will be entertained with a holiday stage show, children’s activities and fireworks. Activities also will include Santa visits and concessions.

Holiday Lights

Holiday Lights at Centennial Park, a festive arrangement of holiday-themed illuminated exhibits, will run from dusk to 10 p.m. Dec. 4-26. Centennial Park is located at 444 W. Second St.

For more information, call (972) 721-2501 or visit www.cityofirving.org. ■



Community Encouraged to Sign Up for Safety

Residents can receive free messages regarding potential threats to public safety by signing up for iALERT. More on Page 3.

NFL Teams with City of Irving for Arbor Event

The community is invited to join Mayor Herbert A. Gears and officials from the National Football League for the Super Bowl Tree Planting Event at 10 a.m. Nov. 20 at Bird's Fort Trail Park, 5756 Riverside Drive. At the celebration, NFL representatives will join local volunteers and city staff members in the planting of 100 trees.

"In the past year, the Parks and Recreation Department has done much to advance resident awareness of the importance of trees including bringing the national Tree City USA designation to Irving's backyard," said Tree Board Chairwoman Marcy Brown-Marsden. "Several events have been organized this year in celebration of the great work and progress Irving is making for the environment and the community."

Arbor Day Proclamation

Activities leading up to the Super Bowl Tree Planting Event include the presentation of the Arbor Day proclamation to the Tree Board at 7 p.m. Nov. 11 during the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd.



Community Tree Planting

A framed copy of the proclamation will be presented at MacArthur High School, 3700 N. MacArthur Blvd., to Principal Cynthia Bean at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 12. Keep Irving Beautiful also will recognize the recycling efforts of students, which have been spearheaded by the school's Green Team and Student Council.

Community Partnerships

Local Boy Scouts, who teamed with the city for a mass tree-planting event earlier this year, will be honored at 10 a.m. Nov. 13 at Northwest Park, 2800 Cheyenne St. for planting 100 trees in commemoration of the group's 100th anniversary.

Irving is one of a dozen North Texas cities participating in Super Grow XLV. Students at Sally B. Elliott Elementary School received 500 seedlings with planting instructions and information on how to register the trees to track their long-term benefits. Residents interested in free tree care classes and information on tree care and selection can find more information at www.cityofirving.org/begreen. ■

PROPER GREASE, OIL DISPOSAL

The majority of sanitary sewer overflows are due to grease buildup from homes and apartments. Help prevent costly sewer overflows by following a few simple steps.

Do:

- ◆ Put oil and grease in collection containers.
- ◆ Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment, food scrapers, towels and brooms.
- ◆ Keep grease out of wash water.
- ◆ Place food scraps in collection containers.

Do not:

- ◆ Pour oil and grease down drains.
- ◆ Wash fryers, griddles, pots, pans or plates with water until oil and grease are removed.
- ◆ Use hot water to rinse grease on surfaces.
- ◆ Put food scraps down the drain.

For more information, call Water Utilities at (972) 721-2281.

Recycle Used Cooking Oil

With deep-fried turkey quickly becoming a holiday tradition, the proper disposal of fryer oil is essential. Once the oil is cool, be sure to carefully pour or scrape it into a container (preferably the original container) no larger than five gallons and apply a tight-fitting, screw-top lid. Call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-2232 for pick-up.

Used fryer oil is recycled into biodiesel, an American-made fuel that burns cleaner than petroleum diesel. Frying oil accepted in the recycling effort includes regular vegetable oil and peanut, canola, sunflower and cottonseed oils. This does not include cooking grease such as lard or animal fats. ■



Green Seam Project Partnership with Community

Irving's Green Seam Project, which started in February to encourage shopping with reusable bags, has grown to include numerous local seamstresses and the production of more than 1,400 cloth bags being used.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 380 billion plastic bags are used in the United States every year. Of those, approximately 100 billion are plastic shopping bags, which cost retailers about \$4 billion annually.

Irving's Green Seam Project uses fabric remnants and old/unused T-shirts that were destined for the landfill. Seamstresses were sought through the Heritage Senior Center, and the group has steadily grown. Although there is an established bag style that each seamstress follows, each bag generally has its own unique design.



Seamstress Susan Grewing

Project contributors include Cutting Corners, Fabric Factory, Markham Upholstery, Acugraphics Embroidery & More, and students from MacArthur and Nimitz high schools.

Once crafted, the bags are distributed by city staff at local events to support environmental stewardship. The average family accumulates 60 plastic bags in only four trips to the grocery store. Using one cloth reusable bag can save up to six plastic bags a week, which amounts to 24 bags a month, 288 bags a year or 22,176 bags in a lifetime. For more information about the Green Seam Project, call (972) 742-2296. ■

Website Promotes Environmental Awareness

Learn how to become better stewards of the environment at www.cityofirving.org/begreen. The site is a convenient, one-stop shop for environmental information for Irving residents.

A list of environmentally friendly educational opportunities offered by the city and presented by industry experts is available 24/7 at the click of a mouse. In addition, residents can register and learn about upcoming green educational opportunities and events.

"The green web is constantly being updated," said Senior Community Outreach Coordinator Fran Witte. "We are continually adding new topics, classes, news and other opportunities."

Here's a look at what's featured online this month:

- ◆ Nov. 13: Home Chemical Collection Day
- ◆ Nov. 13: Native Garden Tours
- ◆ Nov. 15: DIRT! The Movie Free Screening

www.cityofirving.org/begreen





Safety Alert System Goes Live

The City of Irving has launched iALERT, a free notification system that will provide residents with critical information during emergencies or dangerous situations. It allows city officials to notify specific areas of the city's population about gas leaks, unsafe water, power outages or major threats to public safety.

Residents must sign up at www.cityofirving.org to start receiving notifications. Users can specify what areas of the city they want to receive information by adding addresses for their home, schools or day care centers for children or job locations.

"The service is completely customizable," said Jason Carriere, assistant emergency management coordinator. "Residents can choose what areas they want to be notified about. It's within their power to sign up and receive up-to-the-minute information to keep their families safe during an emergency."

The application sends messages to communication devices added by residents. Options include landlines, mobile phones, e-mails and text messaging.

"During a disaster or emergency situation when information is critical, iALERT arms residents with the details they need to keep their families safe," said Carriere. Standard text messaging or mobile rates may apply. Service subscribers will be able to update contact information as needed. For more information, call Emergency Management at (972) 721-2100. ■

OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM

To help alert residents of inclement weather, the city is equipped with an outdoor warning system, which consists of 24 sirens strategically located throughout the city.

Though they may be heard indoors, the purpose of the sirens is to warn residents who are outside of approaching severe weather. When sounded during an emergency situation, the sirens indicate that high winds, large hail, a tornado or other emergency are imminent for Irving. Once activated, the sirens sound a steady tone and will rotate 360 degrees. The warning tone will fade and then get louder as it rotates. This will occur several times throughout the activation.

The outdoor warning system is tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m., weather permitting. For more information, call the Emergency Management Office at (972) 721-2100. ■



Native Garden Tours

Enjoy a leisurely walk through the native gardens at the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center and see what's blooming this time of year. Staff will be available for guided tours or visitors can just stroll the gardens. Attendees will receive a free copy of the "Texas Native Garden Plant Guide."

**Saturday, Nov. 13
9 a.m. to noon**

Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center, 3925 Jackson St.

Tours are free, but registration is preferred. Register online at www.cityofirving.org/begreen or call (972) 721-2501. ■



WWW.CITYOFIRVING.ORG

Art Contest Winners Recognized by Mayor Gears

The Irving Advisory Committee on Disabilities has recognized 12 students for their artwork as part of National Disability Awareness Month. Mayor Herbert A. Gears presented the awards during the Oct. 21 City Council meeting.

First-Place Winners

- ◆ **Brian Mendez** – John Haley Elementary School
- ◆ **Illy Nelson** – Otis Brown Elementary School
- ◆ **Shella Samonte** – Stipes Elementary School
- ◆ **Febylein Tom** – Stipes Elementary School
- ◆ **Kaija Yule** – W.T. Hanes Elementary School

Honorable Mention

- ◆ **Aaron Barraza** – Bowie Middle School
- ◆ **Elida Cadena** – T.J. Lee Elementary School
- ◆ **Josaline Funes** – T.J. Lee Elementary School
- ◆ **Joey Munoz** – A.S. Johnston Elementary School
- ◆ **Gabrielle Nguyen** – St. Luke's Catholic School
- ◆ **Daisy Rodriguez** – Stipes Elementary School
- ◆ **Jayden Thomas** – Otis Brown Elementary School

The annual poster contest provides fifth- and sixth-grade students with an opportunity to showcase artistic talents as they express how a person with disabilities can use his or her abilities to be part of the community. Entries were judged on originality of concept and the content of how it relates to persons with disabilities.

Posters will be on display at the Irving Independent School District administrative offices, 2621 W. Airport Freeway, from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. Monday through Friday during early November. Call (972) 600-5088 for details. In addition, images are posted online at www.cityofirving.org. ■



Mayor Gears with first-place winners

Water and Sewer System Repairs

Maintaining and preserving the city's water and sewer system has been identified a priority for city leaders. Underground upgrades and replacements are being completed throughout the city to proactively address concerns related to aging infrastructure. The city has allocated \$9 million for projects at the following locations, which are under construction and scheduled to be completed within the next 18 months.

- ◆ Cartwright Street (North Story Road/William Brewster Drive)
- ◆ Customer Way (at Riverside)
- ◆ Delaware Creek (Second Street to MacArthur Boulevard)
- ◆ Grosse Point
- ◆ Milner Road
- ◆ Mullins Street
- ◆ Ross Court
- ◆ State Highway 348 (SH 114/Riverside)
- ◆ SH 183 (east bound frontage road at Jaycee Park)

In addition, eight projects totaling \$6.9 million are being designed, with construction scheduled to begin by March. Design will begin on additional projects totaling \$7.5 million in early 2011. Upgrades and replacements are being managed by the city's Capital Improvement Program Team in coordination with the Water Utilities Department. Call the Capital Improvement Program at (972) 721-2611 for exact locations. ■



Improving water and sewer lines

Leak Detection Program Helps Support Water Conservation

Outside of raising community awareness of water conservation, the Leak Detection Program is one of the greatest contributors to the city's water conservation strategy. Leak detection is a critical part of Water Utilities field operations that requires specialized equipment, keen hearing and eyesight, and exceptional customer service skills.

In addition to saving city dollars, the leak detection function is essential because much of the city's infrastructure is aging. The proactive discovery of leaks helps to ensure that water continues to flow to residents and businesses. Through the leak detection program, the city identifies water pipelines that are in need of immediate repair or attention.

Although leak detection is a relatively new practice in the water utilities industry, it has become more prevalent during the past 10 to 15 years. In the City of Irving, there has been a formal leak detection program since 1999, and it was expanded to include two dedicated leak detection personnel in 2007.

Due to the city's aging infrastructure, there is a greater need to locate and repair leaking pipes, and replace pipes that continually break and cause service disruptions. Leaks have many sources—from a broken main, service line or meter, to malfunctioning valves or fire hydrants. Half of the leaks found in 2010 were private leaks, requiring repair by property owners. The greatest amount of water loss, however, comes from leaks in the water mains.

Using specialized equipment, leak detection personnel discover places in the water distribution system where water is escaping. Sometimes, water utilities staff will receive complaints that water is pooling or flowing across the ground from an unknown source. Since most water loss occurs underground and never surfaces, leaks would go undetected without specialized logging equipment.



City team member detects leak

In the past year, leak detection personnel have:

- ◆ Assessed 612,959 linear feet of line (112 percent of the program's goal)
- ◆ Discovered 209 leaks

"When city workers share private leak information with residents and corporate customers, those leaks can be fixed and result in savings on the customer's water bill," said Programs Manager Donna Starling. "In addition, proactively identifying leaks will keep the potential for larger, more destructive leaks at a minimum and allow the city to handle repairs so that service disruptions are reduced."

Despite being new, the leak detection program is critical for the city because it is one of the best methods to determine what is going on underground and guide critical decision making about city resources. For more information, call (972) 721-7377. ■

Neighborhood, Homeowner Associations Awarded Grants to Fund Various Community Projects

The City of Irving has awarded 21 neighborhood and homeowner associations with annual grants between \$250 and \$1,500 for organizational projects through the Community Partnership Fund.

Grant funds are used to provide money to assist organized neighborhood groups with various projects. The matching grants allow associations to leverage the organization's existing capital and/or the time and talents of their members with grant funds received from the city in an effort to improve their communities. The money can be used for beautification efforts, communication initiatives and neighborhood events.

Associations receiving funding through this year's Community Partnership Fund are the Arts District, Barrington Court, Barton Estates, Cardinal Village, Coventry Village, Grauwylers Heights, Hidden Oaks, High Point Estates, Historic Hospital District, Hospital District South, Irving Hospital District, Irving Lake, MacArthur Commons, Mandalay Place, Nichols Park, North Austin Heights, Northwest Place, Owen Point, Stonehill, University Park and Woodhaven. ■



Nichols Park Neighborhood Association block party



Residents at neighborhood block party

KIB ORNAMENT SALE

With the holidays around the corner, residents can purchase custom-designed ornaments for a gift or decorative purposes—and support Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) at the same time.

KIB is selling official Keep Texas Beautiful ornaments for \$20 each. There are four different designs, with many signed by the artist, Nelda Laney. For more information, or to purchase an ornament, call the KIB office at (972) 721-2175 or e-mail info@rockthegreen.org. ■



CITY RECOGNITION

The city's Lean Six Sigma program, already honored by the Texas Legislature, was recognized by the United States Congress with a resolution supporting the city's management practices and encouraging other local governments to follow the same course. Irving has worked for the past several years to increase efficiency and streamline operations. Mayor Pro Tem Rose Cannaday, chairwoman of the Legislative Committee, accepted the resolution authored by U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions, who commended Irving's innovative approach to government. Pictured are City Manager Tommy Gonzalez (at left), Cannaday and Matt Garcia from the Office of Congressman Sessions. ■



Lamar Middle School Choir



Annual Holiday Exhibition

Irving Arts Center Events

18th Annual Holiday Exhibition and Tree Decorating Competition

Dec. 1-31 in the Main Gallery

The sights and sounds of a storybook Christmas come alive during the Annual Holiday Exhibition and Tree Decorating Competition. The exhibition in the Main Gallery features 20 trees decorated by Irving Parent Teacher Organizations along with holiday artwork from Irving ISD students. The trees are judged by Irving "celebrities" and awards will be announced during the Holiday Open House on Dec. 3. To vote for a favorite tree, visit the Arts Center from Dec. 1-19.

Holiday Open House: A Story Book Christmas

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3

The Irving Arts Center will host its free annual Holiday Open House from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3. Celebrate the time-honored tradition of holiday tales including *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* and *The Little Drummer Boy*. Create

crafty Christmas cards and story book-themed art projects, and take photos with Santa Claus. Snack on cookies while walking through a wonderland of trees decorated by Irving ISD Parent Teacher Organizations. Listen to music from the Lone Star Youth Orchestra, Irving Chorale, Lamar Middle School Choir and University of Dallas Chamber Ensemble. End the evening with a free performance in Carpenter Performance Hall of *The Nutcracker*, featuring the Ballet Ensemble of Texas.

Genghis Khan Exhibition

June 1 to Sept. 30, 2011

Tickets are on sale for the Irving Arts Center's presentation of "Genghis Khan: The Exhibition." Explore Genghis Khan through this multimedia event featuring the largest number of artifacts from his reign ever gathered in a single showing. Tickets can be purchased at www.irvingartscenter.com or through the Arts Center at (972) 252-2787. Prices are \$8 for children and \$12 for adults. ■

Irving Recognizes Veterans, Armed Services

Two events to honor the service of veterans and those in the armed services will take place in Irving this month.

Veterans Day Program – 11 a.m. Nov. 11

The Irving Veterans Memorial Park Committee will host a Veterans Day program at 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at the Central Library Auditorium, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The commemorative event will feature music, moments of reflection by military personnel and special remarks by Mayor Herbert A. Gears. The color guard will be presented by Nimitz, MacArthur and Irving high schools. Following the ceremony, attendees will convene at Veterans Memorial Park, 644 Rock Island Road, to affix a wreath to the Wall of Commemoration.

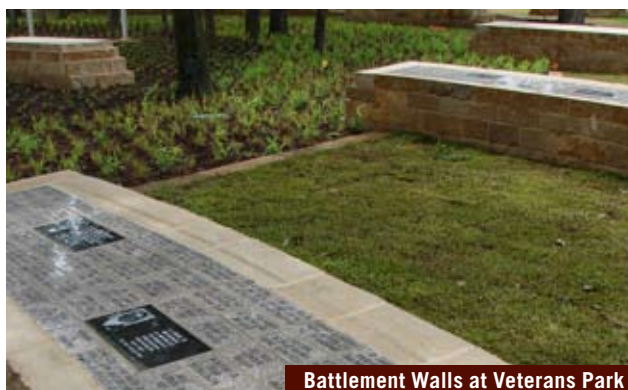
Unite for Troops Drive – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 13

The City of Irving is sponsoring a Unite for Troops event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 13 at Porter's Army Navy Store, 600 E. Irving Blvd. The free event will feature food, games and music.

The dynamic entertainment lineup includes The Silvertones at 3 p.m., The Lively Steppers/Nimitz ROTC Drill Team at 3:30 p.m., and The Joshua Experience Orchestra at 4 p.m. Activities for children include games, face painting, petting zoo, crafts, a snake display and letter-writing booth. Static displays of police, fire, and military vehicles and a 10-foot dinosaur also will be on-site.



Veterans Memorial Park River of Freedom



Battlement Walls at Veterans Park

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez will be speaking at the event. Other invited guests include John Hayes, liaison for veterans affairs from the office of U.S. Congressman Kenny Marchant.

At the event, optional donations of \$10 or \$15 will be accepted to sponsor the delivery of care packages to deployed military personnel. Items needed for care packages are listed at right. For more information, call (972) 579-1155. ■

Care Package Items Needed for Troops

Following are items that will be collected Nov. 13 for the Unite for Troops event. See details at left.

- ◆ Aspirin and cold medicine
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Beef jerky and other snack treats
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Eye drops
- ◆ Flavored bottle water packets
- ◆ Foot powder
- ◆ Lip balm
- ◆ Net sponges
- ◆ New books for children
- ◆ Nonbreakable Christmas ornaments
- ◆ Razor
- ◆ Shampoo and conditioner
- ◆ Shaving cream
- ◆ Travel-size toothpaste/toothbrush



Greeting troops at DFW Airport

LIBRARY BRIEFS

- ◆ **Mango Language Database Expansion** – The popular language-learning tool offered through the Irving Public Library website helps users learn languages through vocabulary building exercises based on real-life situations with believable conversations. The easy-to-use database is available at the library or remotely with a valid library card.
- ◆ **Conversaciones @ Your Library** – The Irving Public Library begins a new weekly conversation exchange program, Conversaciones @ Your Library, for non-English speakers and for students learning Spanish. For more information, visit www.cityofirving.org/library or call (972) 721-2606.
- ◆ **Irving Chautauqua** – 2 p.m. Nov. 13, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The Irving Chautauqua performance series continues with String Variety! a musical marionette show performed by the Dallas Puppet Theater. For more information, call (972) 721-2606.
- ◆ **Colors of the World Puppet Show** – 2:30 p.m. Nov. 13, Northwest Branch, 2928 N. Belt Line Road. Nancy Burks Worcester, ventriloquist and puppeteer, presents a puppet show retelling favorite folktales from around the world. For more information, call (972) 721-2691.
- ◆ **Bugs of the World by Jungle Jim** – 4:30 p.m. Nov. 18, East Branch, 440 S. Nursery Road, Suite 103. Jungle Jim showcases live insects from around the world. For more information, call (972) 721-3722.



Insect display



Conceptual drawing for new South Irving Library

Irving Public Library to Enter Third Phase of New Vision Plan

With expanded library services available to residents in the north and, soon in West Irving, plans are now under way for the new South Irving Library. This moves the City Council's 2008 vision for four state-of-the-art, standalone libraries closer to reality.

The 45,000-square-foot South Irving Library will be located on the corner of Second Street and Sowers Road in Heritage Crossing. The state-of-the-art facility will feature child, teen and adult collection areas, an extended computer lab, meeting and study rooms, and a dedicated quiet reading room.

The new building will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council standards and include the latest green technology such as solar panels and geothermal heating and cooling. The design will incorporate plenty of windows for natural lighting and views of Millennium Fountain and Centennial Park.

"Providing exceptional services means listening to our residents and giving them what they ask for," said Chris Michalski, parks and libraries director. "Library patrons requested enhancements to our libraries and beginning

the design phase for the South Irving Library is another step in that direction. We're excited to see the library, with every new facility, transform from something that's already great into something that's truly extraordinary."

The same architectural firm that designed the West Irving Library, Hidell and Associates, will begin design work on the new South Irving Library this month. Design is expected to be completed fall 2011, with construction beginning later that year.

The new facility is expected to open in late 2012. The South Irving Library will replace the current Central Library facility, which will be transformed into a museum honoring the unique history of Irving.

To follow the progress of the Irving Public Library's new standalone facilities, or for information on community input opportunities, visit www.cityofirving.org/library. ■

ICTN Provides Local Coverage of City Programs, Events for Residents

Residents who want to stay informed about current news and events can watch the many shows and live coverage provided by Irving Community Television Network (ICTN). Watch the following ways:

	Time Warner	Verizon	Internet
ICTN 1	Channel 16	Channel 30	www.ictn.tv
ICTN 2	Channel 95	Channel 31	www.ictn.tv
ICTN 3	Channel 96	Channel 32	

For residents who do not subscribe to cable programming, watch ICTN online via live streaming and on demand at www.ictn.tv. This includes coverage of City Council meetings.

Taped specials also are available at the Irving Public Library for free check out. For details, call (972) 721-2468 or visit www.ictn.tv. Some ICTN shows are as follows:

- ◆ **City Source** – Tune in to this biweekly, half-hour show to find out what is going on in the city.
- ◆ **Open Line** – This live, half-hour talk show gives residents the opportunity to ask city leaders about current issues.
- ◆ **Irving Living** – This action talk show focuses on exciting places and activities in Irving. Visit a new



Thomas Gandy hosts "City Source"

location each month to discover more of what Irving has to offer.

- ◆ **Parkscape** – A quarterly program highlighting the many parks and recreation facilities and activities available in Irving.
- ◆ **Profiles** – A monthly interview program featuring the achievements and contributions of residents to the community.
- ◆ **InVision Irving** – Find out how businesses are operating more effectively and see the growth potential and future of Irving-based business.
- ◆ **About Towne** – This biweekly, half-hour arts

series highlights local artists and craftsmen, entertainment venues and arts organizations.

- ◆ **iRead** – The Irving Public Library is not just for books. Watch iRead and find out what is going on at all Irving library locations.
- ◆ **Think Green ... Be Green** – A quarterly environmental show that provides residents with tips on how they can become better stewards of the environment.
- ◆ **Irving: First Response** – A quarterly program that features various police, fire and code enforcement initiatives.
- ◆ **Building Our City** – Learn about the progress of city-funded capital improvement projects with this quarterly show.

ICTN provides live coverage of all City Council, Work Session, Planning and Zoning, and Building and Standards meetings on ICTN 2 and by videostreaming. In addition, meeting coverage is available to be viewed by agenda item number online on the city's video on demand service.

ICTN programming schedules are available online at www.ictn.tv. Copies of shows also can be requested via the website for \$15 each. For more information, call (972) 721-2468.

Clean, Vibrant Neighborhoods Promoted by Code Enforcement

Residents are encouraged to take pride in their neighborhoods by adhering to established code enforcement guidelines. Failure to comply could result in a fine or other action. Violations may be reported to City of Irving Code Enforcement at (972) 721-4929.

Outside Storage

Homeowners/tenants are responsible for keeping their property free from litter, brush and outside storage items such as household furniture/items, trash, building materials and car parts. Such items should be stored within an enclosed building.

Trash Out Too Early

Trash must be properly bagged and placed at pick-up point no sooner than 6 p.m. the day before collection. Call (972) 721-2332 to schedule bulk pick-up before placing bulk trash/brush on the curb.

Garage Sales

Permits are required to conduct garage sales in Irving. In addition, only two garage sales are allowed at the same address from January through December and each garage sale cannot exceed 72 hours in duration. Garage sale permit applications can now be completed online at www.cityofirving.org.

High Grass and Weeds

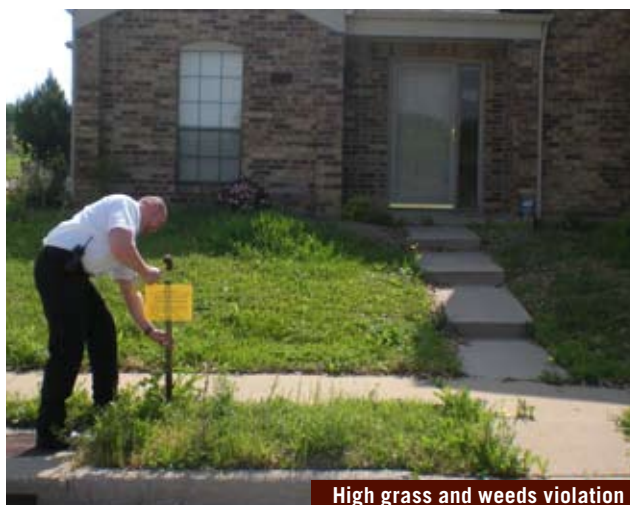
Weeds and grass above 10 inches are a violation of city code guidelines. Property owners and tenants are responsible for keeping lawns mowed to the edge of the roadway.

Parking on Grass

Vehicles are not to be parked on grass or other unimproved surfaces.



Illegal outside storage



High grass and weeds violation

CODE ENFORCEMENT RESULTS

Code Enforcement made significant progress this past year in improving the community. During 2009–10, staff resolved 10,314 of 10,725 new property code cases. Of those resolved, there was a 98 percent voluntary compliance rate. There were 13,800 illegal temporary signs removed to improve residential areas.

In addition, 600 community service workers completed 240 cleanup projects. Forty-one multifamily properties improved their risk ratings. In partnership with the Police Department, the convenience store crime prevention program has an 87 percent compliance rate.

There is full compliance with the newsrack standards, and Keep Texas Beautiful recognized Code Enforcement with the first-place Government Award for its programs and results. ■



Food health inspection

Code Cadet Program Shows Early Results

The city recently piloted the Code Cadet program, which allows resident volunteers to help Irving become one of the cleanest, safest and most attractive places to live. Early results of the program suggest that empowering residents to enforce code issues is an effective way to invigorate communities. In just the first three weeks of the program, Code Cadet volunteers in the Arts District Neighborhood Association accomplished the following:

- ◆ Notified more than 80 property owners of potential code violations.
- ◆ Gained voluntary compliance on 70 percent of the issues.

The program's early success has enabled code enforcement officers to concentrate on more difficult and time-consuming cases. Code enforcement officials also expect that the program will help increase public education of city ordinances.

"The early success achieved by the first group of Code Cadet volunteers is remarkable," said Code Enforcement Manager Darrell Hammond. "If the program's success continues, we'd like to expand to other interested Irving neighborhood and homeowner associations."

Some of the issues cited by Code Cadet volunteers include outside storage, high grass and weeds, and parking on the grass. Violations that are found to be noncompliant following receipt of a cadet-issued notice and a second inspection will become official code complaints submitted to the city. ■

Voice of the Community Leads to Changes in Sign, Dumpster Ordinances for Businesses

Meetings were held at City Hall earlier this year for local business owners to provide input on the city's sign and dumpster ordinances. The feedback gathered at these city-hosted community forums resulted in several recommendations to the ordinances, which have been approved by City Council. Following are highlights of some of the significant ordinance amendments.

Dumpsters

- ◆ Compliance deadline has been extended to Dec. 31, 2011.
- ◆ More material options for dumpster enclosures have been approved including architectural metal panels, cementitious fiberboard, and board-on-board cedar.
- ◆ No enclosure requirements for dumpsters that are located as far as practical from the street in industrial areas.
- ◆ Required height of enclosures to one foot above dumpster (min. 4 feet; max. 9 feet).

Signs

- ◆ Limits of wall signs to a single face of a building have been eliminated.
- ◆ Neon signs are allowed, as long as window coverage does not exceed 25 percent.
- ◆ Plastic glass (e.g., Plexiglas) and similar materials now approved for signage.
- ◆ Pole signs, which were banned earlier this year, can remain indefinitely as nonconforming signs with compliance required when the sign is changed by the business.

The previous requirements were put in place to maintain and improve the visual appearance of the city, however, some business owners cited cost as an obstacle that made it difficult for them to comply.

"This is a great example of why it's so important for residents and businesses to be involved in the process of local government," said Planning and Inspections Director Gary Miller. "By coming together and bringing our concerns to the table, we can achieve compromise that takes into account the best interest of all parties involved."

For more information regarding the sign and dumpster ordinances, visit www.cityofirving.org. ■



Dumpster enclosures

RETAIL BUSINESS CAMPAIGN

Irving retailers are being asked by the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce to participate in a new campaign to boost the local economy by encouraging consumers to shop "In Irving."

Participating businesses will receive a door cling to advertise the campaign to customers. A special emphasis will be made on the first Saturday of each month when retailers are encouraged to offer extra incentives or discounts for shoppers.

The chamber is creating a web page to highlight participating businesses. Residents will be able to review the page prior to shopping.

There is no cost for businesses to participate. To register and for more information, visit www.irvingchamber.com and select "downloads" for an application and FAQs. Those interested also can e-mail Don Williams at dwilliams@irvingchamber.com or call (214) 217-8484. ■



Residents Reminded of Theft Prevention During Holidays

As the holiday shopping season approaches, residents are reminded by the Police Department to not leave valuables in their vehicles—especially in plain sight. Thieves know that valuables are often hidden in the console and under seats. The best way to avoid being a victim is taking all valuables when exiting the car.

A Costly Mistake

Not only is there the expense of replacing stolen items, but thieves often cause damage to the car, such as broken locks or windows. Time is valuable, and cancelling and replacing credit cards, debit cards, checks, driver's licenses and other personal information that can be used to steal a person's identity is a hassle.

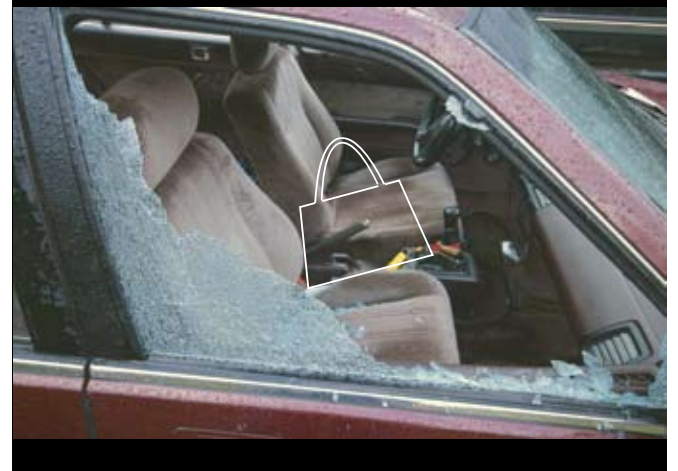
Protecting Valuables

- ◆ Always take items such as a purse, wallet, laptop, MP3 player, cell phone and other valuables when exiting the car.
- ◆ When taking valuables is not an option, lock valuables in the trunk. Move them to the trunk beforehand to avoid being seen by potential burglars.
- ◆ Take notice of the surroundings. Drive around the parking lot before parking the car.
- ◆ Note any suspicious persons or vehicles. If something feels suspicious, it probably is.
- ◆ Once parked, walk promptly with keys or cell phone in hand, while looking around.
- ◆ Report suspicious persons to the police immediately.

Random Inspections

As a courtesy to vehicle owners, the Irving Police Department provides random inspections of vehicles

Leave Your Purse, Lose Your Purse.



to raise awareness of theft and burglary prevention. Patrol officers and Irving Citizens on Patrol members randomly issue report cards, with passing or failing grades, to let motorists know if their vehicle is considered a prime target for crime.

Behaviors that can lead to a failed inspection include an unlocked vehicle, keys left in the vehicle, an open window or property in plain view. For more information, visit www.irvingpd.com. ■

The Irving Fire Department recommends that residents change the battery in their household smoke detectors when the time changes.

For more information on fire safety or smoke detectors information, visit www.cityofirving.org/fire or call (972) 721-2651.



Working smoke detectors save lives.



City Office Closings

City offices will be closed Dec. 23–24 and 31. There will be no residential trash, curbside recycling or brush collection on those days. The Hunter Ferrell Landfill will be closed Dec. 24–25 and Jan. 1. The drop-off recycling centers will close at 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31, and remain closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Libraries and recreation centers will not be open Dec. 23–25 and Jan. 1, and will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 31. Heritage Aquatic Center will close at 2 p.m. Dec. 22, and will remain closed Dec. 23–25, 31 and Jan. 1. North Lake Aquatic Center will be closed Dec. 22–Jan. 2. Irving Arts Center administration offices and box office will be closed Dec. 23–25 and 31. ■



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.

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