

CITY SPECTRUM

An Official Publication of the City of Irving ★ September 2008 ★ Volume 15, Number 9

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Non-Compliant Apartments

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Communications/Customer Service

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Code Enforcement

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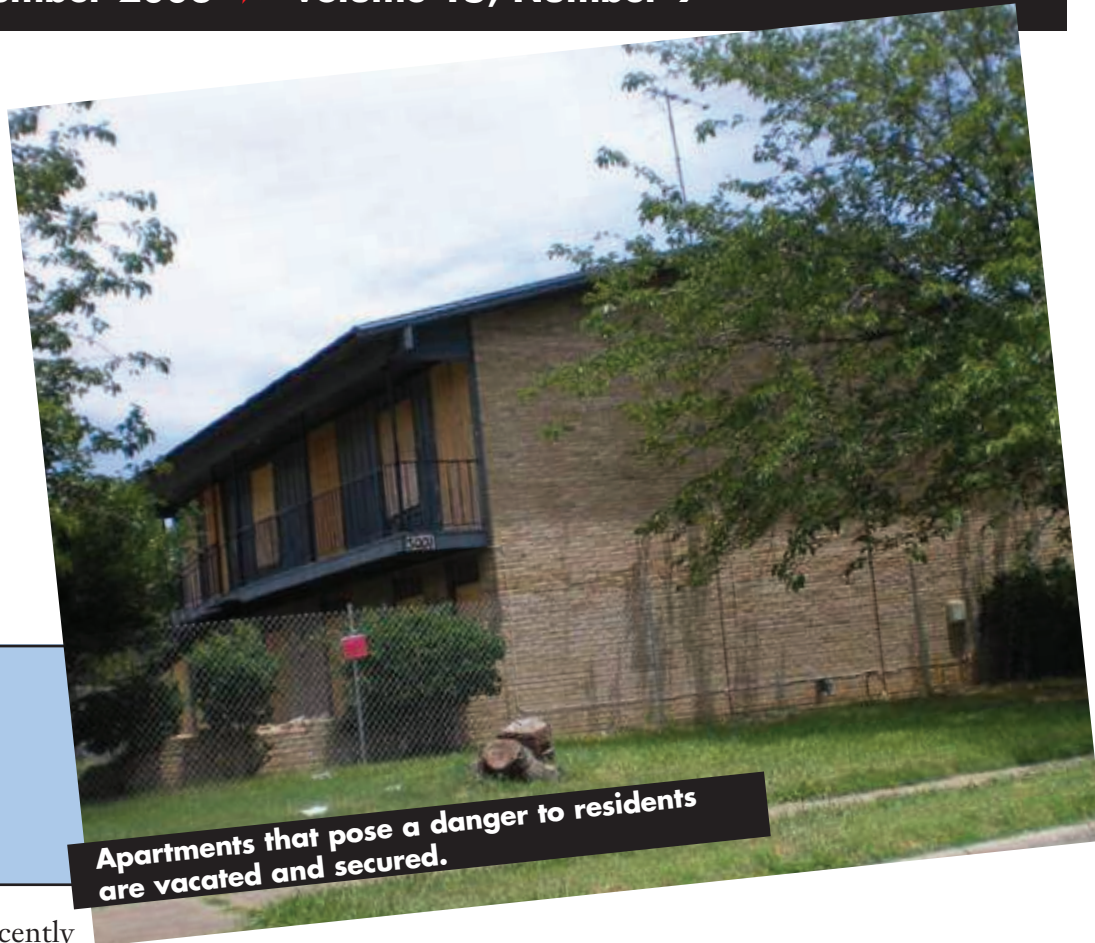
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Owners Held Accountable for Housing Conditions

The City of Irving is working to ensure that residents who live in multifamily housing are provided with safe, sanitary living conditions through increased code enforcement efforts.

Apartment owners who fail to properly maintain their buildings will be held accountable; their properties can be vacated and secured if not brought into compliance within the allowable timeframe. Owners of dilapidated apartments are given the opportunity to adhere to the city's minimum housing standards prior to the city taking action.

Apartments may be ordered to vacate by the Building and Standards Commission, or the fire or building official. Each evacuation results in the best possible communication to owners and tenants including written notices (mailed and posted on tenants' doors; posted on property in common areas) and verbal meetings with tenants (hosted by city staff and nonprofit agencies).

Relocation Assistance

The timeframe to vacate a structure is based on the severity of the hazards. Non life-threatening conditions allow city officials to post notices that inform residents of the situation 30 to 60 days prior to the evacuation date. If extreme, hazardous conditions exist, however, tenants will be evacuated immediately with the city's assistance to ensure the safety of those involved.

One complex that recently underwent an emergency evacuation is Vista del Lago. The fire official made the decision to immediately vacate the property due to extreme, hazardous conditions created by the owner's failure to maintain the property. Violations such as breaches in firewalls and structural roof damage posed a great risk to residents and to firefighters in the event of a fire rescue. More than 1,000 code violations also were present and included violations such as raw sewage beneath the building and electrical hazards.

City staff was on hand and coordinated with local social service agencies to provide relocation assistance to the residents. Funding for the relocation came from fines and civil penalties collected from delinquent property owners.

Enforcement Results

The city has taken the appropriate action to vacate and secure or demolish apartments that do not meet minimum standards. (See related story on Page 3.)

"It's our goal to see that every Irving resident has a clean, safe place to call home," said Code Enforcement Director Teresa Adrian. "The apartments that have been vacated are not suitable for people to reside in and it's not fair for anyone

to have to live in substandard conditions. It is our desire to ensure that every building is brought into compliance. Appropriate code enforcement action will be taken with those who refuse to make the necessary repairs."

Bottom Line

The city will continue to take an aggressive stance to eliminate substandard apartments from Irving to ensure a safe, high quality of life for every resident. For details, visit www.cityofirving.org or call (972) 721-4929.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Join the City of Irving for a Town Hall Meeting on Sept. 30 at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., to discuss city projects and initiatives.

6 p.m.
Informational Displays

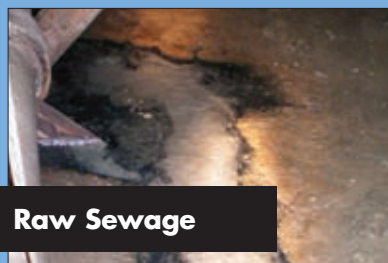
7 p.m.
Presentation

The presentation will provide an update on key initiatives such as:

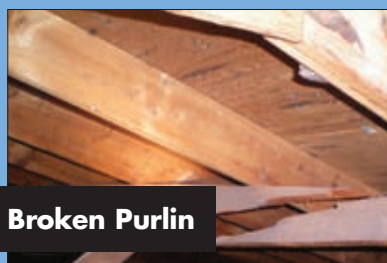
- Public Safety
- Code Enforcement
- Neighborhood Improvements
- Corridor Enhancements

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions following the presentation. Several initiatives requested by attendees at prior Town Hall Meetings are now focus areas for the City Council and staff. For more information, call (972) 721-7600.

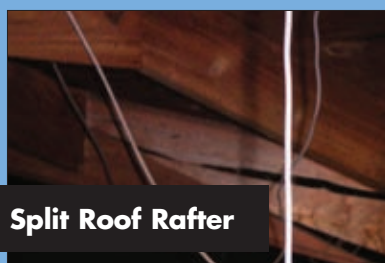
CODE VIOLATION EXAMPLES AT MULTIFAMILY APARTMENTS



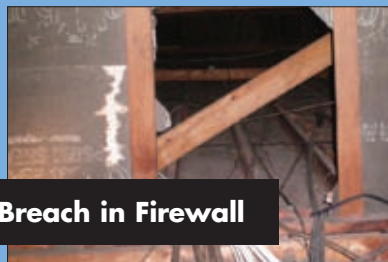
Raw Sewage



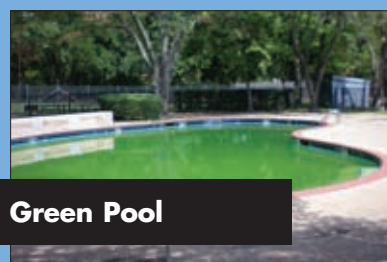
Broken Purlin



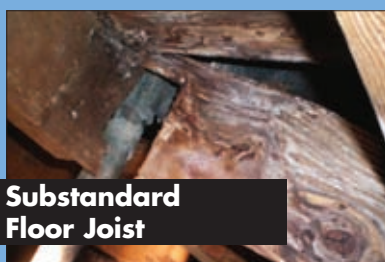
Split Roof Rafter



Breach in Firewall



Green Pool



Substandard Floor Joist

RESIDENTIAL
CUSTOMER

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

Gallery Events

Sept. 13–Dec. 28 • Denise Fleming: *Painting with Paper*

This exhibit will feature original book illustrations by children's author and artist Denise Fleming. Using handmade paper and a variety of cut paper techniques, Fleming's illustrations come to life through vibrant textures and colors. The exhibit showcases Fleming's work from start to finish, with emphasis on the various techniques used to create her children's books. The exhibit is organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature.

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.



"In the Small, Small Pond" by Denise Fleming

Irving Arts Center

Bright Lights. Cool Sights.

Quilt Mania at the Irving Arts Center

The Irving Arts Center presents Quilt Mania II, a collaborative exhibition of quilts with 17 Dallas-area institutions. Several exhibitions and special events will take place beginning in September at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

Sept. 13–Nov. 9 • *Blending the Old and the New: Quilts by Paul D. Pilgrim*

Features 29 quilts from the Paul D. Pilgrim Collection at the Museum of the American Quilter's Society in Paducah, Ky. The late Paul Pilgrim collected antique "orphan quilt blocks" and pieced quilts from them that display a true blend of contemporary sensibility and antique charm. *Blending the Old and the New: Quilts by Paul D. Pilgrim*, published by the American Quilter's Society, is available for purchase.

Sept. 13–Nov. 30 • *Quilts by Irving Quilt Guild Members*

A selection of quilts by Irving Quilt Guild Members.

Sept. 26–April 1 • *New Beginnings: Quilts by Texas Quilt Artists*

A selection of contemporary quilts by Texas quilt artists. Curated by Marcie Inman and guest curator Barbara Oliver Hartman.

Oct. 2 • *Lecture by Gerald E. Roy*

Guest speaker Gerald E. Roy, fabric designer, author, teacher and quiltermaker, will speak at 7:30 p.m. on *Blending the Old and the New: Quilts by Paul D. Pilgrim* from the Museum of the American Quilter's Society. Presented by the Quilter's Guild of Dallas and the Irving Arts Center.

Call for Two Review Panel Volunteers

The Irving Arts Center is looking for two volunteers to serve on the Advisory Grant Review Panel starting in September. To nominate a colleague or apply personally, complete the nomination form and Conflict of Interest statement available at www.irvingartscenter.com under the "Services-Grants" section. Deadline for submission is Sept. 10.

Panelists are appointed by the Irving Arts Board and serve staggered, two-year terms. They provide advice and guidance to the Arts Board regarding funding for area nonprofit arts organizations. Panelists also are expected to attend performances throughout the year (tickets provided by Arts Center). Applicants must be Irving residents and have expertise, experience and/or knowledge of theater, music, dance and the visual arts.

For details, call Kass Prince at (972) 252-7558, ext. 1242, or visit www.irvingartscenter.com.

Go Green!

Compost Now for a Beautiful Garden Later

Fall composting can help ensure a bountiful garden next year. Two compost classes will be available during the month of October, at the Max G. Greiner Environmental Center, at the southeast corner of Conflans and Gilbert roads.

- Oct. 9 – 6 to 8 p.m.
- Oct. 19 – 2 to 4 p.m.

Those interested will only need to attend one of the two sessions.

Students will learn basics about backyard composting, including hot and cold compost pile building, composting using worms, compost applications, and organics and integrated pest



control. Students also will receive the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's "Guide to Yard Care."

To register, call (972) 721-2345. Dress comfortably. For more information, contact Fran Witte at (972) 742-2296.

Irving to Host Home Chemical Collection Day

Home Chemical Collection Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 8 at Irving Mall (northwest corner behind Dillard's). Directional signs will be provided. The free event is for Irving residents who provide proof of residency with a current driver's license and utility bill. For more information, call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-8059.

Government Leaders Meet for Annual Transportation Summit

Nearly 900 attendees gathered in Irving for the 11th Annual Transportation Summit Aug. 12–15. Municipal, county and transportation representatives from 40 states and six countries attended; 25 state and federal officials also were present.

The Transportation Summit is the largest and most comprehensive public policy transportation

conference in the nation, dedicated to bringing together leaders from all levels of government and creating a forum to discuss and develop solutions for transportation issues.

Industry experts and government leaders addressed issues such as tolling, public-private partnerships, homeland security, fuel crisis, growing congestion, air quality, pollution, mobility, and safety and security challenges.



The City of Irving and the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau host the annual Transportation Summit.

NEW RESCUE EQUIPMENT

The Irving Fire Department has purchased new equipment that provides additional safety benefits to residents. Medic bikes, ambulances and a fire/rescue boat are all upgrades that will supply residents with on-the-scene attention in emergency situations.

Bike Medics

Fire Department medics are able to quickly respond to medical needs of patrons during outdoor events thanks to a new bike medic program. Three medic bikes were purchased, and paramedics participated in a training class on riding bicycles for emergency responders. The units are equipped with packs of paramedic equipment and feature emergency lights that allow medics to be on-site immediately at venues with large crowds.



New Ambulances

Two new ambulances with brighter lighting and extra reflective decals have replaced the oldest ambulances currently on the fleet.



Fire/Rescue Boat

A fire/rescue boat for Lake Carolyn will be delivered this fall. Equipped with emergency lights, a radio and other safety features, the 24-foot boat will offer emergency attention when on the water.

Strong Codes Lead to Vibrant Neighborhoods

City staff continues to make improvements to Irving's aesthetic appeal through the enforcement of stricter code guidelines for businesses and residential properties.

Improvements Continue

Over the past year, several code guidelines have been revised and new programs have been created to help address areas in Irving to foster a visually enhanced city. These efforts maintain the city's physical appearance and ensure stable property values.

Issues Resolved

More than 11,000 code violations have been resolved since October when the Code Enforcement Department began reporting to the Irving Police Department, resulting in a quicker response to issues that require intervention.

Results Achieved

Strong ordinances and increased enforcement are producing results in one of the key goals of the city's Strategic Plan—Nurture and Promote Vital, Vibrant Neighborhoods. The Code Enforcement Department has reported results in target areas, including:

- **Overflowing Dumpsters** – Commercial properties and apartment complexes failing to maintain their trash dumpsters from overflowing garbage will be cited.
- **Dangerous Buildings** – Eight commercial buildings, 26 accessory structures, three

Code Enforcement by the Numbers

- 62 abandoned ground/pole signs removed since February
- 42 demolitions since October
 - 2 apartment complexes demolished, 2 demolitions in progress
 - 1 Tudor Lane fourplex demolished
- 10 of 18 Tudor Lane fourplexes vacated/secured since November and targeted for demolition
- 3 motels scheduled to be demolished
- 87 of 97 tire shops in compliance
- 760 citations issued on street parking violations, 7 vehicles towed, 277 tagged since December

fourplexes and two apartment complexes have been removed. Two additional apartment complex demolitions are in progress.

- **Tudor Lane** – Ten of 18 fourplexes are vacant. A fourplex located at 3001 Tudor Lane has been demolished. This demolition was ordered by the Building and Standards Commission, and is one of several Tudor Lane properties targeted as a result of the collaborative efforts between Police and Code Enforcement.
- **Multifamily Housing** – Owners are held accountable to comply with codes to provide safe housing for residents. (See related story on Page 1.)

Play a Part in National Preparedness Month

Residents are encouraged to play a part in National Preparedness Month in September. There is no better time to join the Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign during National Preparedness Month, which takes place each September and encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in homes, businesses and communities.

Visit the city's Emergency Management booth at one of these upcoming events:

2008 Housing Fair

Sept. 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Housing and Human Services Department
2520 W. Irving Blvd.

Town Hall Meeting

Sept. 30, 6 to 7 p.m.
Irving Arts Center
3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

For more information, call (972) 721-2100, or visit www.ready.gov/america/npm08/intro.html.

Irving Advisory Committee on Disabilities to Sponsor Poster Contest

The Irving Advisory Committee on Disabilities sponsors an annual poster contest, which is open to students in fifth and sixth grades, to showcase artistic talents as they express how a person with disabilities can use his or her abilities to be a part of the community. For example, a person who is blind crossing the street or catching a bus, or children with a disability playing a sport alongside students without disabilities.

Eligibility

- All private, public and home-schooled students in Irving who are in fifth or sixth grade are eligible to participate.

Contest Rules

- Each student may submit only one entry.
- Artwork must be on construction paper or one half-sheet of poster board and may be

in watercolor, pencil, pastels or crayon. The artwork should be no smaller than 8 x 10 inches, but no larger than 11 x 14 inches.

- Artwork must be prepared during the current school year.
- Each entry will be judged on the originality of the concept, and the content of how it relates to disabilities.
- Artwork must include the student's name, age and name of the student's school on the back of the poster.
- If requested, the poster will be returned to the student upon completion of awards.

Submission Deadline

- Art teachers will submit their top five posters from participating schools.
- Submit entries to:
Corporate Communications Department
City of Irving – 825 W. Irving Blvd., Fourth Floor
- Deadline: 5 p.m. Sept. 26



Awards

- Awards will be presented for first, second and third place.
- Posters will be displayed in various locations throughout the city, including City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd.

CELL PHONE BAN

It's the Law

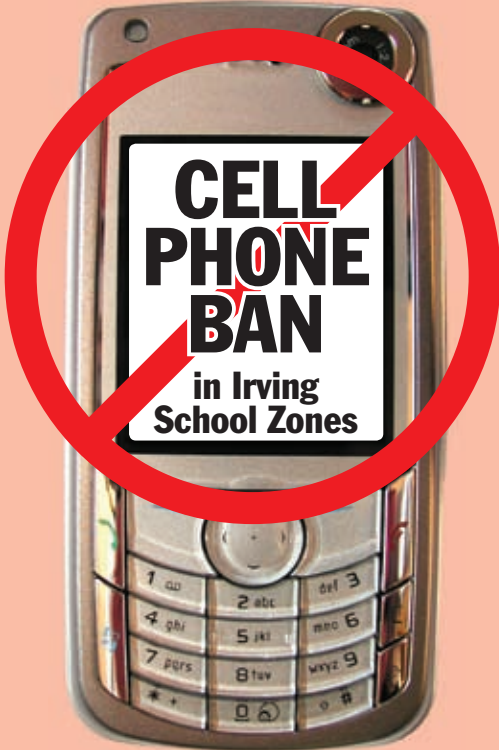
Motorists are prohibited from talking, dialing or listening with hand-held mobile telephones, and entering or reading text messages during active school zone hours.

This includes:

- Hand-held cell phones
- Personal digital assistants (PDAs)
- Pagers
- Other electronic communications devices

Visit www.cityofirving.org for more information.

This is a Class C violation; motorists could receive a fine of up to \$500.



High Spirited Citizens Honored

The city recognized George and Regina Story with the High Spirited Citizen award. This award is presented to individuals who have exhibited longtime dedication and service to the community.

Mr. Story is a lifelong resident of Irving. He was employed at Lone Star Gas for more than 32 years, and can now be found doing yard work at First Christian Church every Wednesday.

Mrs. Story, who has lived in Irving for more than half a century, was a teacher for many years in Irving ISD before becoming the district's first female administrator. A former vice principal at MacArthur High School, Mrs. Story is the founder of the school's drill team, the Cardettes. She also serves as a deacon and volunteer organist at First Christian Church.

Both are charter members of the newly formed Friends of the Irving Museum, members of Lyric Stage and active in the Irving Heritage Society. In addition, they have represented the Entertainment Series of Irving at several national conferences. Mrs. Story serves on the Entertainment Series of Irving board of directors, and is a past board member of the Irving Museum Advisory Board.

"George and Regina are always the first to offer kind words of appreciation and encouragement to others for what they have done to help make Irving better," said resident Mary Higbie, who nominated the couple for this award. "It's nice to see them honored for all they have done for Irving."

To nominate an Irving resident for the award, contact Jane Kilburn at (972) 252-7476, or download an application form at www.irvingtexas.com/Media/HighSpiritCitiz.



George and Regina Story receive High Spirited Citizen award.

Trinity Trash Bash to Offer Fun for All Ages

The 17th Annual Trinity Trash Bash, a cleanup of the Trinity River watershed in Irving, will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 13. Volunteers will meet in the west parking lot of City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd.

Whether participating in the cleanup of more than two dozen areas in downtown Irving or conducting cleanups in individual neighborhoods, volunteers at the bash make an impact.



Volunteers pick up trash.

The Trinity Trash Bash will feature music, games and prizes, as well as a hot dog lunch for participants. Free personal shredding and electronics recycling also will be available.

Register by Sept. 10 at www.rockthegreen.org. The event is hosted by the City of Irving, Keep Irving Beautiful, North Lake College, Best Buy, Canon USA, Trinity River Authority and Waste Management. For details, call (972) 721-2175.

Resident Survey Shows Improvements in City Services

According to a resident survey conducted by the city, most residents have seen an improvement in the quality and level of city services during the past 18 months.

Residents rated most services higher this year compared to 2006. The results, which are based on 1,821 responses from surveys randomly mailed to all areas of Irving, will help the city improve accountability and service delivery, and assist the City Council and management in setting budget priorities.

Improved City Services

According to the responses, residents overall are pleased with the quality of services offered by the city. Services that received top ratings of excellent/good are:

- Fire – 87 percent
- Ambulance – 86 percent
- Solid Waste Services – 80 percent
- Library – 78 percent
- Irving Arts Center – 78 percent
- Recreation Centers – 75 percent
- Parks – 72 percent

- Landfill – 69 percent
- Police – 68 percent
- Drinking Water – 57 percent

Service Ratings Increase

Many services saw significant increases in the excellent and good ratings between 2006 and 2008. Code Enforcement ratings increased 16 percent, from 34 percent in 2006 to 50 percent. Animal Services is up 6 percent to 56 percent for 2008. Also receiving increases were the categories of:

- Traffic enforcement
- Feeling of safety in neighborhoods during the day and at night
- The condition of traffic signs and roadway striping
- The placement and number of streetlights

The areas of parks, recreation centers, library and arts center retained high customer service rankings and improved upon quality of facilities, programming and staff assistance.

Aligned Priorities

Looking ahead, residents were asked to identify



the services that should receive the most emphasis from city leaders during the next two years. Top ranking services included: economic development, code enforcement, neighborhood improvements, police/fire and streets.

These target areas identified by residents align with the proposed FY 2008–09 budget, as do the capital improvement projects residents noted should receive the highest priority:

- Major streets
- Neighborhood streets
- Fire station replacement/renovation
- Animal shelter
- Sidewalks and alleys

Residents can view the complete survey report at www.cityofirving.org.

Proposed City of Irving Budget Maintains Property Tax Rate; Designates Funding for Key Focus Areas

The City of Irving's proposed FY 2008–09 budget is strong due to economic development initiatives, increased operational efficiencies and progressive management of resources. City staff presented details of the proposed budget to the City Council during its budget retreat on Aug. 22–23. The budget is aligned with the city's Strategic Plan to ensure that funding is designated toward key focus areas identified by the City Council. These include public safety, code enforcement, corridor enhancements, non-compliant apartments and capital improvement projects.

Results-Oriented Organization

Irving's progressive approach to its daily operational functions has yielded a more efficient, productive and results-driven organization. Since 2006–07, more than \$3 million in savings has been realized due to personnel reductions and ongoing savings from restructuring. The cost savings have been identified without impacting services. Most of the staff positions reduced in the past two years have been reallocated to police, fire, code enforcement and animal services initiatives. An additional \$1.89 million has been recognized due to cost savings and efficiencies.

Enhanced Services and Facilities

Emphasis on the eight key focus areas has exhibited significant results over the past year, such as a 7.1 percent decrease in the crime rate, the lowest level on record for the city. Other projects include improvements to animal services, strengthening of code enforcement and new capital projects. Irving also has expanded its library and parks services. These results demonstrate how the designated money spent in these areas during the past year has been effective.

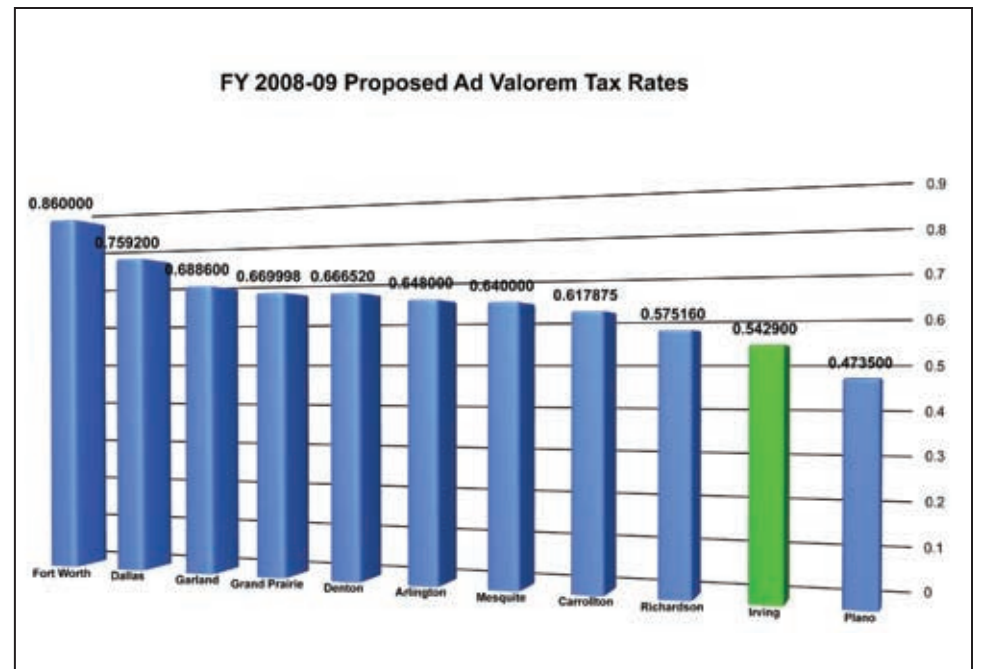
Cost-Efficient Services

In preparing next year's budget, city management has proposed no new personnel and has placed a hold on operational expenditures. City staff has worked to identify additional revenue sources and to ensure best management practices that focus on results.

The proposed 2008–09 budget includes \$35 million for additional capital improvement projects that will address economic development initiatives, streets, parks, fire services, libraries and the landfill. Sales tax revenues are stable at \$49 million.

Irving still maintains a double AAA bond rating, the second lowest property tax rate among its 19 Metroplex benchmark cities, and the second lowest residential water rates out of 30 Dallas Water Utility District members.

The proposed property tax rate remains the same at 54.06 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. A 98 cent energy charge for sanitation service has been proposed to be added to the utility bill, and a 4 percent water and sewer rate increase will help address the city's aging infrastructure. The city continues to pursue alternate water sources to ensure a diversified supply for the future. A 50 cent increase in the Municipal Drainage Utility is proposed to provide funding for municipal



capital projects, such as Lakeside Landing, and neighborhood drainage and alleyways.

Resident Input Encouraged

Next year's budget has been developed based on City Council direction, as well as resident input received from Town Hall meetings, resident surveys, public hearings and online input submitted from the city Web site. The proposed budget will be adopted at the Sept. 18 City Council meeting. Additional resident input will be accepted at the following public hearings:

- Sept. 11
- Sept. 18

Hearings begin at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 825 W. Irving Blvd. More details about the budget are available online at www.cityofirving.org.

In Brief

Make 'n' Keep Sock Puppet ▪ Decorate a funny sock puppet at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Northwest Branch Library, 2928 N. Belt Line Road. The program is open to all ages. No registration is required. For more information, call (972) 721-2691.

What's in Your Backpack? ▪ The Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail, begins a new teen book club open to grades 6–12, at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 12. The program meets monthly on the second Friday. Call (972) 721-4669 for more information.

Irving Idol ▪ Teens ages 12–19 can show off their musical talent as contestants of Irving Idol. The competition, hosted by the Southwest Branch Library and the Georgia Farrow Recreation Center, will be held at 7 p.m. Sept. 18 at 530 Davis St. Register prior to Sept. 15 at the Southwest Branch Library, 2216 W. Shady Grove Road, or at Georgia Farrow Recreation Center, 530 Davis St. Call (972) 721-2546 for more information.

Irving Chautauqua ▪ Irving Chautauqua presents Shakespeare Man, Robert Clover-Brown, as he brings the bard to life in an entertaining program

at 2 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd.



Calendar:

- **Sept. 8** – 9:30 a.m., Monday Morning Movies, Central Library
- **Sept. 9** – 6 p.m., Movie Night at the Library, Central Library
- **Sept. 11** – 7:30 p.m., Tea & Talk, Central Library
- **Sept. 13** – 2 p.m., Irving Chautauqua, Central Library
- **Sept. 14** – 2 p.m., Anime Club, Central Library
- **Sept. 16** – 4:30 p.m., Teen Scene, Central Library

- **Sept. 19** – 4:30 p.m., Got Games? Gaming Club, Valley Ranch Library
- **Sept. 20** – 10:30 a.m., African-American Authors Book Circle, Northwest Branch Library
- **Sept. 25** – 7 p.m., Anime Movie Night, Central Library
- **Sept. 25** – 7 p.m., Valley Ranch Reads, Valley Ranch Library
- **Sept. 26** – 10 a.m., A Good Yarn, Central Library
- **Saturdays** – 2 p.m., Movies at Valley Ranch, Valley Ranch Library

Children's Story Times:

For a schedule of children's story times, call (972) 721-2606 or visit www.cityofirving.org/library/kidspace/storytime.

Computer Class Schedule:

Access the free computer class schedule at www.cityofirving.org/library/computer-classes or call (972) 721-2606.

AUTHOR BRAD MELTZER

Irving's Big Read begins at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 with "From the Maltese to Meltzer," a talk by best-selling author Brad Meltzer. The talk, which is free and open to the public, will be held at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Meltzer is available to greet the public and sign books after the presentation. The appearance is made possible through the library's partnership with the Irving Arts Center, with assistance from the Friends of the Irving Public Library.

About Brad Meltzer

Brad Meltzer is the author of *The New York Times* best-sellers *The Tenth Justice*, *Dead Even*, *The First Counsel*, *The Millionaires* and *The Zero Game*.

Nearly six million copies of Meltzer's books are in print. They have spent more than nine months on the best-sellers list and have been translated into more than 25 languages.

Meltzer is the number one best-selling author of the critically acclaimed comic book *Identity Crisis*, a murder mystery featuring Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman.

He also was one of the co-creators of the TV show *Jack & Bobby*, which told the story of two young brothers, one of whom was to grow up to become president.



Brad Meltzer

Irving Participates in The Big Read

It is no mystery why Irving residents will enjoy The Big Read. The program, which begins Oct. 1, is designed to encourage reading for pleasure among Americans, and will provide residents with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities.

This year's selected title, *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett, is considered the first American detective novel, setting the standard by which all subsequent detective fiction is judged. Multiple copies of the book are available at all library locations, or residents can download the audio book at <http://irvinglibrary.lib.overdrive.com>.

"Hammett's comedic tone and sharp dialogue makes for an exceedingly enjoyable read with enough twists to keep the reader turning the pages in search of clues," said Jan Bodnar, community service supervisor. "The detective/crime thriller theme of the novel has created fantastic opportunities for fun, innovative programs that complement the book."

The library is partnering with Barnes & Noble, Heritage Senior Center, Irving Arts Center, Irving ISD high schools, North Lake Community College, and University of Dallas, as well as museums and other city organizations, to increase interest in the program and encourage residents to participate. The Big Read program is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information on the initiative, visit www.neabigread.org.

The Irving Public Library's Big Read will host activities and discussions throughout the month. For more information, visit www.cityofirving.org/library/bigread or call (972) 721-2606.



Residents Invited to Attend Irving Main Street Event on Sept. 27

Residents are invited to attend the city's first Irving Main Street Event from 3 to 8 p.m. Sept. 27 in the Irving Heritage District.

The theme for this new event will be Music and Magic on Main, and the event will feature a car show, artists, music, magic, food and children's activities.

Vendor booth spaces are still available for artisans, crafters and food vendors. Booth spaces are \$25, or \$50 with electricity. For more information, call (972) 721-2501 or visit www.cityofirving.org.

The schedule of events includes:

- Manifolds on Main Car Show, with on-site registration beginning at 1 p.m. Visit the car show Web site at www.manifoldsonmain.com.
- Jazz performance by Fingerprints from 3 to 4 p.m.
- High School Caesar Band from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Dave Thomas World of Magic Show from 6 to 7 p.m.
- Cavalcade of Stars presented by Tapley Entertainment from 7 to 8 p.m.



Lively Pointe Youth Center to Celebrate Grand Opening

A dedication and grand opening ceremony will take place Sept. 9 to celebrate the newly renovated and expanded Lively Pointe Youth Center, 909 O'Connor Road. Tours will be held at 6:30 p.m., followed with a program at 7 p.m.

The renovation and expansion plans for the Lively Pointe Youth Center create a 26,000-square-foot building dedicated to the recreational needs of teenagers.

Some of the new, teen-oriented spaces include a:

- Gymnasium
- Large multipurpose activity room
- Television room
- Billiards room
- Arts and crafts classroom
- Two multipurpose classrooms
- Computer lab
- Video game area
- Fitness room
- Snack cantina

A staff control center, new lobby area, offices and storage space will benefit staff and visitors, as will the building's new security camera system, designed to help staff monitor the building during use.

The existing swimming pool and baseball field in Lively Park will create a well-rounded indoor



Lively Pointe Youth Center

and outdoor activity hub for teens. Staff will host activities at the Skate Park, which opened in 2007.

The \$1.95 million youth center renovation and expansion was funded by the 1999 Park Bond Program.

Hours of operation are 4 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information about the center, call (972) 721-8090 or visit www.cityofirving.org/livelypointe.

Walk Down Memory Lane at Irving Heritage House

Irving Heritage House will be open Sept. 7 on National Grandparents Day—an ideal time for a walk down memory lane.

In addition to the many beautiful antiques throughout the Heritage House, residents will



Irving Heritage House

see a historic wedding gown display that includes the 1903 wedding gown ensemble of Agnes Sueppel Schulze, the wife of Irving cofounder J.O. Schulze.

Additional bridal pieces available for viewing include a 1870s-1880s two-piece faille wedding dress with a bustle, Catherine Schulze's 1936 wedding dress, as well as her two bridesmaid dresses, Jean Werry's 1948 formal gown and Barbara Terrill's 1950s mid-century gown.

Built in 1912 by C.P. Schulze, brother of J.O. Schulze, the Heritage House is a restored pioneer home. This Texas State Historical Landmark is located at 303 S. O'Connor Road.

The Heritage House is open from 3 to 5 p.m. Docent-led tours are provided at 3 and 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (972) 252-3838 or visit www.irvingheritage.com.

HERITAGE SWIM CLASSES

A variety of classes are offered at the Heritage Aquatic Center, 200 S. Jefferson St.

Senior Swim Hours (ages 50 and older)
 Mon-Fri 8 to 11:30 a.m.
 Mon 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Public Swim Hours (any age)
 Mon-Fri 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Tue, Wed, Thu 6:30 to 9 p.m.
 Fri 5 to 9 p.m.
 Sat and Sun 1 to 7 p.m.

Learn to Swim
 Tue, Wed, Thu 4-5 years
 5:15 to 5:45 p.m.
 6 years and older
 5:50 to 6:20 p.m.

Senior Water Exercise (ages 50 and older)
 Mon, Wed, Fri

Arthur-cize 8:15 a.m.
 Joint mobility class for people with arthritis.

Super Seniors 9:15 a.m.
 For seniors who want to stay in shape.

Forever Young 10:15 a.m.
 For beginners

Water Exercise (under 50 years)
 Nightsteppers
 Tue, Wed, Thu 5:30 p.m.

Guard Start
 For those 11-14 years of age who would like to build a foundation of knowledge, attitude and skills to become a lifeguard. Learn about prevention, fitness, response, leadership and professionalism.

For more information, call the Heritage Aquatic Center at (972) 721-7310.



Residents to Provide Input on Proposed Carport Zoning Regulations

Residents are invited to join the Irving Planning and Zoning Commission for a public hearing at 7 p.m. Sept. 15 in the City Council Chambers, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Residents have the opportunity to offer input regarding proposed amendments to residential carport guidelines. Input also may be provided online at www.cityofirving.org under the "Public Input" section of the home page.

Proposed Changes

- Prohibit the construction of carports that are visible from a street, regardless of the setback, without a zoning case.
- Establish a formal policy on where residential carports might be appropriate and where they should not be constructed, including guidelines such as the age of the house, whether the house is adjacent to a major thoroughfare and whether there are private deed restrictions prohibiting carports.
- Repeal the current zoning ordinance provisions for carport zoning cases that establish minimum standards and a reduced zoning application fee.

- Require all carport zoning requests to provide detailed design information showing how the proposed carport will complement the design of the existing house.
- Repeal the 16 existing "carport blocks" approved in the early 1990s that allow carports along certain streets with only a building permit.
- Require any carport constructed without a building permit to be removed prior to applying for a zoning change to authorize the carport.
- Require the construction of a two-car garage for any new house 1,400 square feet or larger.

These requirements would only apply to new carports. Those previously approved by the city would not be affected by these changes.

Residents also can present related issues for consideration. After receiving public comments, the commission will make a recommendation to the City Council.



The City Council will hold a public hearing at a later date, once the commission has made its final recommendation. For more information, call the Urban Development Division of the Planning and Inspections Department at (972) 721-2424.

Irving Briefs

Irving Museum Proposal ■ A proposal for an Irving Museum will be presented at the Irving Heritage Society's fall program Sept. 16 at the Central Library Auditorium, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The program will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a presentation at 7:30 p.m. provided by Paul Gooch, managing director of community services, and a question and answer session. For more information, visit www.irvingheritage.com or call (972) 252-3838.

Safety Improvements ■ Information Technology has implemented dual Sprint data circuits for 150 police vehicles and 30 fire engines, increasing connectivity throughout the city and providing faster upload and download speeds. This helps to maintain high network availability, improve emergency responses, lower telecommunication costs and strengthen data security.

Auto Pound Fee Increase ■ Effective Oct. 1, the city's auto pound fees will increase. The new fees are as follows:

- \$20 daily for regular vehicle storage
- \$35 daily for oversized vehicle storage
- \$50 notification fee

The city's auto pound is located at 410 N. Valley View Lane.

Disability Expo ■ Vendors are needed to participate in the first Disability Expo from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 11 at the Heritage Senior Center, 200 S. Jefferson St. The goal of the event is to improve the health and well-being of the entire community by highlighting services from local, county, state and federal agencies that serve people with disabilities from Irving and Dallas County. For details, call (972) 721-7600 or visit www.cityofirving.org.

ICTN Programming ■ Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) received nine awards, the most in the state, at the annual Texas Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors conference in Fort Worth.

This included first place for the "Resident Report" video highlighting the city's Strategic Plan successes. Second place awards went to the ICTN demo tape, "Sports Scene," "Irving Living" and "Slappy Time Circus," while third place awards went to "About Towne," "InVision Irving," "Irving: Game of the Week" and an Irving Symphony Orchestra concert. Visit www.cityofirving.org to watch these videos through Irving's expanded video on demand feature.

2008 HOUSING FAIR

The Housing and Human Services Department invites residents to the Raising the Roof: 2008 Housing Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 13. The event will be held at the Housing and Human Services Department, 2520 W. Irving Blvd. Participants will enjoy vendors, entertainment, how-to workshops and housing-related displays. For more information, call the Housing and Human Services Department at (972) 721-4800.



Public Input Sought on New Aquatic Center Features

Residents are invited to provide input regarding features they want included in the new West Irving Aquatic Center.

Input can be provided in one of the following ways:

- **Public Input Meetings** – Meetings will be held at 7 p.m. Sept. 16 and 25 at the Georgia Farrow Recreation Center, 530 Davis St.
- **Online** – Submit information at www.cityofirving.org under the "Public Input" section of the home page.

The aquatic center will be located on the north side of Conflans Road, across from West Park, east of Davis Street. Project planning is expected to be completed by next spring, with the aquatic center set to open in summer 2010.



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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