



City of Irving *City Manager's Report*

January 23, 2008

Strategic Goal No. 2: Vibrant Neighborhoods

Community Fest – The City of Irving will host the third annual Community Fest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 1 at Senter Park Recreation Center, 901 S. Senter Road. The free event will provide Irving residents a day of fun and festivities with food, children's activities and entertainment. Educational booths will be available and will include city departments/services and local businesses. The event is planned by Code Enforcement, Planning and Inspections, and Parks and Recreation.

New Neighborhood Groups – On Jan. 22, the Corporate Communications Department assisted in the formation of a new neighborhood association, Owen Point, consisting of 282 homes. The association boundaries are Grauwlyer Road to Union Bower Road, and Milner Road to Irving Heights Drive. In addition, three homeowner's associations have joined as neighborhood groups: Colby Court Homeowner's Association, Lakeside Landing Phase II Homeowner's Association, and The Villas at Town Lake Homeowner's Association. Also, Nichols Way Neighborhood Association is rejuvenating its community efforts this year.

City Purchase of Commercial Property – Real Estate Services has completed the purchase and demolition of a one-story commercial building located at 1120 Senter Road. The 0.21-acre property, located adjacent to the northeast corner of Shady Grove and Senter roads, was purchased in conjunction with the adjoining park property for open space and to provide room for future gateway improvements. This land purchase was approved by the City Council on Sept. 20.

Strategic Goal No. 3: Economic Development

Groups in Irving – The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomed the following groups to Irving: Kappa Alpha Order (Jan. 9-10); Dallas Cowboys Football Club (Jan. 12-13); State Farm Insurance Companies (Jan. 14-17); The International Association of Foundation Drilling (Jan. 16-19); Dallas Market Center (Jan. 16-22); National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (Jan. 16-18); U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Command (Jan. 18-20); Southwest Conference Rural Letter Carriers Association (Jan. 18-21); American Society of Anesthesiologists (Jan. 19-20); National Collegiate Athletic Association (Jan. 23-28); and TexITE of the Institution of Transportation Engineers (Jan. 23-24).

Irving's Hospitality Industry Recognized – Irving Mayor Herbert Gears recognized hospitality industry employees for their last-minute effort to ensure that hundreds of American troop members and their families received dinner on Christmas day. The Friday before Christmas, the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau (ICVB) received a call from a frantic client from the USO who was in charge of providing Christmas dinner for troops traveling through DFW Airport on Christmas Day. The bureau immediately turned to the hospitality community for assistance. On Jan. 10, Gears presented proclamations to representatives from the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Wyndham DFW Airport North, Embassy Suites DFW Airport South, Capistrano's Restaurant, Subz 'N Such, i Fratelli and the ICVB for providing the necessities to ensure a hearty holiday meal. The USO is one of Irving's largest hotel customers, placing more than 20,000 soldiers annually in area hotels on their first night back in the states or their last night before deployment. Bureau Sales Manager Katherine DiPietro oversees the military market for Irving hotels; she personally baked hams and spent a portion of her Christmas day to serve the troops at the airport.

Job Center Workshops – The Irving Central Library's Job Center is providing a series of free workshops to help residents brush up on the skills they need to find a job in today's marketplace. Classes take place daily at 2 p.m. Jan. 29-Feb. 1. Topics include writing résumés, interviewing, online job searching and company research. No registration is needed. Call (972) 721-2608.

Construction Valuation Report – During the months of October through December, the Planning and Inspections Department issued 3,942 permits of all types with a total valuation of more than \$134.63 million.

Texas Named 2007 State of the Year – *Business Facilities* magazine recently named Texas as the 2007 State of the Year, a new award recognizing the state with the most economically significant relocation and expansion projects of the year. The relocations of Maxim Integrated Products and Fluor Corporation to Irving were prominently highlighted as two of the five project examples that contributed significantly to earning the designation. Other Top 5 recognized states were Alabama, Michigan, Louisiana and Connecticut.

Chamber and City Recognize Small Businesses – More than 40 Irving small businesses were recommended for consideration to be nominated to the U.S. Chambers' Small Business of the Year for 2008. The City of Irving and Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce hosted these businesses to review the nomination process and encourage the businesses to participate. Attendees included Pete Havel, executive director of the U.S. Chamber's southwest/south central office located in Irving, and the 2007 winner for this region, Chris Mammen with Mammen Glass and Mirror.

Ten Bears Comes to Irving – Ten Bears, a distributor of textile products to retailers, will be consolidating three smaller locations throughout the Metroplex into 22,677 square feet of distribution space in the DFW Freeport area of Irving. The company needed a distribution facility in a central location. The new center, located at 8101 Tristar Drive, is expected to become fully operational in February.

Nylo Hotel Coming to Las Colinas – Atlanta-based Nylo Hotels announced plans to build its second hotel in the Dallas/Fort Worth area at the northwest corner of Royal Lane and Sierra Drive. The \$22.8 million Nylo Las Colinas will be a 200-room, five story, upscale boutique hotel. It will feature a unique loft-style ballroom with soaring ceilings and exposed brick walls. The ballroom will connect to a large outdoor courtyard and a signature restaurant and bar. The hotel plans to begin construction soon in order to open February 2009.

Embassy Suites on the Horizon – Q Hotels of Arlington has acquired approximately four acres at the southeast corner of State Highways 114 and 161 with plans to build a 200-room Embassy Suites Hotel.

Keeping Irving's Orange Line on Track – The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board of Directors was hosted in Irving Jan. 15 with a presentation and tour of key development projects by the City of Irving, Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce and Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District. Many of the key developments planned for the area take into account the Orange Line rail project that will run through Irving from DFW Airport to Dallas. Irving officials have strongly encouraged the DART Board to maintain its planned schedule for the Orange Line to be operational December 2011. The chamber facilitated the gathering of more than 10,000 signatures of support from Irving residents and business leaders that Mayor Herbert Gears present at the DART Board meeting on Jan. 22. The chamber also organized buses on three occasions for Irving residents to attend DART Board meetings, which helped demonstrate Irving's goal to keep the rail line project on track.

State of the City – Mayor Herbert Gears will discuss Irving's 2007 accomplishments and plans for the future at the annual State of the City dinner Jan. 29 at the Dallas Marriott at Las Colinas. This year's event also will feature the many development projects currently under construction or planned throughout the city. Sponsorship information and tickets are available through the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce at (214) 217-8484.

Irving Named Finalist for Best Real Estate Deals – The *Dallas Business Journal* has announced that four Irving projects have been named a finalist for the Best Real Estate Deals of 2007. They are: Maxim Integrated Products, Research in Motion (RIM), TXU Energy and Avelo Mortgage. The winners will be announced at an awards banquet on Feb 28.

Pioneer Natural Resources Expands Headquarters Lease – Pioneer Natural Resources, an independent oil and gas exploration and production company, has extended and expanded its headquarters lease at The Towers at Williams Square. The lease is for 293,000 square feet, occupying more than 12 floors, in Williams Square's West Tower through 2020. The transaction is the largest lease in Las Colinas in more than 10 years, and one of the largest leases in a Las Colinas multi-tenant building in the development's 34-year history. A Pioneer representative stated that the facility is central for employees, convenient to the DFW Metroplex and provides a distinguished location for its corporate headquarters. Pioneer has maintained its headquarters at The Towers at Williams Square since 1991.

Strategic Goal No. 4: Safe and Secure City

Murder Arrest – On Jan. 10, Irving narcotics investigators located and arrested Michael Puente in connection with the heroin overdose death of 16-year-old Ana Rojas. The teenager died on Sept. 2, after ingesting a lethal amount of heroin. Puente is currently in the Irving jail charged with murder (\$50,000 bond), for providing the drugs responsible for her death. The investigators in this case quickly identified the person responsible for supplying the heroin and have spent the past several months gathering the evidence necessary to prosecute a murder charge. This arrest demonstrates the Police Department's commitment to relentlessly pursue cases of this nature in order to hold the appropriate suspects accountable.

Burglary of Motor Vehicle Prevention – The Police Department created a flier for Irving hotel guests to encourage them to secure items in their vehicles to prevent vehicle burglaries. This flier was developed in partnership with several hotels and motels along State Highway 114. The establishments are eagerly participating in the program to help protect the property of their guests.

Warrant Roundup – During the month of February, the City Marshal's Office and the Police Department will participate in a statewide warrant roundup, along with more than 160 law enforcement jurisdictions from across Texas. Notices have been mailed to persons with Irving Municipal Court warrants active against them, and beginning Feb. 16 city marshals will attempt to locate these individuals to serve these warrants.

Paramedic Program – Three members of the Fire Department graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center Paramedic Program on Jan. 16. Fire Chief Mario Molina presented their certificates. The members who successfully completed this seven-month program are Hilton Barlow, C.G. "Gabe" Koonsman and Joel Schmitz. Schmitz and Koonsman were in the Top 10 of the class with a grade of 94 or higher. Koonsman, the salutatorian, received an award for the best term paper, while Schmitz received honorable mention.

Extrication Equipment – Extrication equipment will be placed on all Fire Department truck companies. The new equipment will be used to free patients trapped in vehicles as well as to allow firefighters to rescue entrapped people in buildings or industrial accidents. New rams, spreaders, cutters and air bags will be placed on truck companies located strategically around the city. Firefighters are already trained in the use of the new tools.

National Incident Management System – Fire Department personnel recently traveled to Austin to become trainers for the National Incident Management System. Utilization of in-house trainers will allow the department to save money in training for all officers in this federally mandated management program.

Strategic Goal No. 6: Effective Communications

Spanish Town Hall Meeting – Almost 50 people attended the City of Irving's first Spanish Town Hall Meeting on Jan. 15 at Senter Park Recreation Center. The meeting, conducted entirely in Spanish, followed the same format as the previous Town Hall meetings. The presentation updated residents on key initiatives such as public safety, code enforcement, neighborhood improvements and corridor enhancements. Audience members took the opportunity to ask questions related to immigration, code enforcement, and downtown redevelopment. Department directors and city staff were on hand to help answer questions related to their areas. Attendees received packets of information about city services and events, including a "Best of Vida Hispana" DVD produced by ICTN. *Al Dia* newspaper and Noticias Univision 23 covered the program. The meeting will air on ICTN now through the end of February.

Strategic Goal No. 7: Cultural, Recreational and Educational Environments

KidsArts Program – This Irving Arts Center's KidsArts program is in full swing this spring, with the return of JumpstART Stories & ART, a new semester of the High School Art Lab, and new sessions of Saturday School. JumpstART Stories & ART is a joint program with the Irving Public Library. Story times are held at 10 a.m. the first Thursday of each month through April at the Irving Arts Center. February's theme is the Chinese New Year. The High School Art Lab is free and open to Irving ISD students currently enrolled in an art class. The spring semester will run through May 28. The program provides students with an opportunity to continue work on their current art class assignments, as well as participate in additional group and individual art projects. Saturday School began its second session in January, with a focus on sculpture and 3D design. A third session, focusing on choral singing, will begin Feb. 23. Saturday School is for art enthusiasts ages 6-14 and meets from 2 to 4 p.m. each Saturday.

A Good Yarn – In partnership with Googly Eyes & Craft Supplies, the Irving Public Library is combining the two well-loved hobbies of reading and needlecrafts to launch a new program called A Good Yarn. On the last Friday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon, knitters and crocheters of all ages and skill levels are invited to join staff and local experts to share their joy of needlecrafts and reading. For those who are new and want to learn the art of knitting or crochet, patterns and basic supplies will be provided. Bring snacks, a book to share and a work in progress to join in the fun.

Veterans Memorial Park – The City of Irving hosted a meeting Jan. 22 with Paul Tadlock, the sculptor for the five bronze sculptures planned for Irving Veterans Memorial Park. These sculptures are being designed in conjunction with the ROTC Units from all the Irving high schools. The sculptures will depict the five branches of the military and each sculpture will be dressed in the uniform from one of the major conflicts beginning with World War I through the post-Vietnam Era. The meeting also provided for the review of the text and graphics for each of the memorial walls dedicated to the five major conflicts. The construction documents will be ready for bidding in April.

Friday Night Live Teen Talent Show – The Parks and Recreation Department will host the Friday Night Live Teen Talent Show at 7 p.m. Jan. 25 at Carpenter Performance Hall. Approximately 20 teen acts will display their talents in dance and music. Irving teens, parents and friends attend this annual event to cheer on their favorite performers. Awards are given in each category, and the "Spirited Youth Awards" will be presented to teens who have exhibited exceptional volunteer efforts and community service throughout the year. There is no cost to attend; however, teens must show their school or Irving Parks and Recreation ID card for admission.

Sam Houston Trails Park – Construction on the extension of Campión Trails into Valley Ranch has begun. The primary trail is being extended to the west from T. W. Richardson Grove under Valley View Lane, and the George Bush Toll Road into Sam Houston Trails Park. The trail will have a loop in the southern section of the park and will cross over the levee into Valley Ranch in the vicinity of Valley Ranch Parkway East and Ranchview Drive, adjacent to Ranchview High School. The construction includes a parking lot in Sam Houston Trail Park, which will be accessible from the west bound frontage road for

Interstate Highway 635, just west of Valley View Lane. The project is targeted to be completed this fall and ready for use before the end of 2008. The project is funded through a combination of Park Bond Funds and a Dallas County Trail Grant.

Strategic Goal No. 8: Sound Governance

Eyes on Irving – Since the inception of Eyes on Irving in mid-November, city employees have reported more than 90 issues that need to be addressed. The customer service initiative is designed to encourage City of Irving employees with a handy phone number and e-mail address to report problems they may find while out in the community. Problems that have been reported include abandoned shopping carts, code violations (outside storage, parked vehicle violations, etc.), trash/dumpsters, street and alley maintenance and graffiti.

Microfilming Initiatives – In the last fiscal year, the Records Management Division has completed the in-house microfilming of the following documents for the Police Department:

- 2,756 Criminal History Reports
- 7,667 Class "C" Misdemeanor Reports
- 41,508 Offense Reports

Many of these records are confidential and the staff maintains this confidentiality. This represents 194 boxes of records that were legally destroyed, and took 1,434 man hours to complete. Also in 2007, the staff filmed 7,055 permits for Building Inspections, and 16,000 patient forms and 4,281 inspection reports for the Fire Department.

Market Adjustment Study – Strategic Resources and Budget has recently implemented the results of the annual Market Adjustment Study. The results, which were based on 124 benchmark titles from the survey market, are as follows:

- 1,507 positions will receive a market adjustment with an overall average increase of 2.3 percent.
- 100 percent of civil service positions will receive a market adjustment averaging 4.2 percent.
- 58.5 percent of general government positions will receive a market adjustment averaging 1.1 percent.

The market-based adjustments became effective during the pay period beginning Jan. 13. Employees in the identified positions will receive their increases on the Feb. 1 pay date.

Open Meetings Training – The City Secretary's Office has contacted newly appointed board and committee members in regard to open meetings training. Staff will continue to monitor compliance with all board members on this requirement.

Cyber-Infrastructure Mini-Courses – Information Technology staff along with other local/county governments have been participating in five-part Cyber-Infrastructure mini-training courses that will provide assistance in creating a regional environmental monitoring program for the D/FW region. These courses, funded jointly by the National Science Foundation, Department of Homeland Security, and University of North Texas, were created to bring the private sector and local/county governments together to share critical information. A roundtable discussion on the positives and negatives of Cyber-Infrastructure is held after each course. The next course will be held on Feb. 16.

Strategic Goal No. 9: Infrastructure Network

Irving Host of Engineering Conference – The Public Works/Traffic Department is hosting the statewide Traffic Engineering Conference Jan. 24-26 at the Wyndham DFW North. More than 240 traffic engineers from the public and private sector, as well as industry vendors, are scheduled to attend. The TexITE Winter 2008 Meeting will feature technical training sessions and will give engineers an opportunity to share information in their areas of expertise.

City Hall Fourth Floor Renovations – As part of City Hall renovations, some of the restrooms have received updates that include new wallpaper and partitions. Restrooms that have not been updated will soon be scheduled to receive renovations as well. This is part of an ongoing effort to provide residents and employees with a nice place to visit and conduct business.

Capital Improvement Program Activity – For the first quarter of fiscal year 2007-08, Public Works has expended \$6.06 million on water, sanitary sewer, paving and drainage projects as authorized by the City Council.

Strategic Goal No. 10: Environmentally Sustainable Community

Electronics Recycling – As an ongoing part of Irving's recycling program, Irving residents and businesses can recycle their e-waste at two full-service drop-off recycling centers. Irving's Electronic Recycling Program received 5,690 pounds of computers, monitors and related materials during the month of December. Locations for electronic recycling are the drop-off recycling centers located at O'Connor Plaza (northwest corner of State Highway 183 and O'Connor Boulevard) and across from Stein Mart on the northeast corner of MacArthur and Las Colinas boulevards.

Christmas Tree Roundup – This past holiday season was the 15th year that the Solid Waste Services Department collected Christmas trees from curbside and at drop-off locations throughout the city. Solid Waste Services recycled more than 1,200 trees and diverted 23,840 pounds from disposal. These trees will be ground into mulch and available to Irving residents at the Hunter Ferrell landfill.

Neighborhood Meetings – Solid Waste Services has held two neighborhood meetings to discuss future development options for the Hunter Ferrell Landfill. Additional meetings will be conducted over the next several months to inform residents about services provided by the department and future plans for the Hunter Ferrell Landfill.