



City of Irving *City Manager's Report*

September 19, 2007

Goal No. 2: Vibrant Neighborhoods

Apartment Industry Professionals Meeting – An Apartment Industry Professionals meeting was conducted to allow the association team members to present information on the costs to retrofit apartment units for fire sprinklers. There also was discussion regarding Irving's actions on Level 4 apartment properties. The retrofit cost would range from \$10,000-\$12,000 per unit. Association representatives pointed out that average values for Irving apartments run about \$30,000 per unit, or \$60,000 for units in the Las Colinas area. Assuming that the properties are leveraged to 70 percent of their total value, the equity in each unit would be \$10,000 to \$18,000. The association pointed out that the cost of the retrofit is equal to the entire equity in the complex. Furthermore, they contend that the inclusion of such an upgrade would not result in higher rents or occupancies and would not reduce operating costs. City staff will prepare a response to the association information and plans to meet again on this issue in the next couple of weeks.

Trinity Trash Bash – More than 700 volunteers participated in this year's Trinity Trash Bash on Sept. 15. Each volunteer worked an average of four hours. The target area included downtown Irving, from MacArthur Boulevard to Britain Road and Union Bower Road to Sixth Street, and about 100 blocks along West Rock Island Road and Irving Boulevard. Last year, about 10,000 pounds of trash was collected during the event. This included loose trash from streets and drainage ditches coupled with recycling of aluminum and plastics, and shredding of personal documents. The collection weight from this year's event should increase measurably, as household electronics (computers, monitors, printers and TVs) were accepted for recycling.

Recent Demolitions – Three demolitions of properties along heavily traveled corridors have been conducted to help beautify Irving. Two of the demolitions were substandard and deteriorated single-family dwellings that were adjacent to commercial businesses on Irving Boulevard. The third demolition was a commercial site located on MacArthur Boulevard. All three demolitions were the result of city staff initiating meetings and receiving voluntary compliance on the part of the property owners.

Goal No. 3: Economic Development

Newsmaker Reception – As part of its business retention efforts, the Irving Economic Development Partnership hosted a Newsmaker Reception on Sept. 10 to recognize Irving businesses that had been in the news for either opening a new business or that had a significant business accomplishment during the past quarter. More than 70 business leaders participated in the event at the Irving Arts Center. It included a special viewing of the Smithsonian Institution's "At the Controls" exhibit. Representatives from two of Irving's Fortune 500 companies and the CEO from a Fortune 1000 company were among those in attendance. The reception was funded through the private donations of the economic development investors who support various programs and activities of the partnership.

Residential Realtor Forum – The Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce hosted its third quarterly Residential Realtor Forum, a panel discussion on transportation in the city. Representatives from the City of Irving, DART and Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport discussed and provided overviews of current and future planned improvements. The forums were initiated this year to facilitate Realtors' discussions with clients who are considering homes in Irving.

Fall Leadership Forum – The Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Enrichment Council is partnering with the DFW Management Staffing Association, the Mid-Cities Human Resources Association and the University of Dallas Graduate School of Management for the Fall Leadership Forum. A luncheon will be held on Oct. 10. The topic will be "What People Want: A Manager's Guide to Building Relationships That Work" and will feature Terry R. Bacon, CEO of Lore International Institute. The event, which will be held at the Las Colinas Marriott, targets human resource professionals, mid-level managers and supervisors.

Groups in Irving – The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomed the following groups to Irving: Knights of Columbus District 3 (Sept. 7-10); Dallas Cowboys Football Club (Sept. 8-9); New York Giants Football Club (Sept. 8-9); National Credit Union Administration (Sept. 9-21); AstraZeneca LP (Sept. 10-14); Broadband Properties LLC (Sept. 10-13); Inroads Inc. (Sept. 10-13); 780th Field Artillery Battalion Reunion (Sept. 13-14); 906th Refueling Squadron Annual Reunion (Sept. 13-16); and Torchmark (Sept. 13-14).

Convention Center Project Kickoff – Thirty-four years to the day that Ben Carpenter first unveiled his plans and vision for Las Colinas, the City of Irving and Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau kicked off the development of a convention center and entertainment district project on Sept. 14. Slated to open in late 2009, the facility is the first phase of a mixed-use entertainment complex on a 40-acre tract in the Las Colinas area. Preliminary plans call for a multipurpose center featuring 50,000 square feet of column-free exhibit space, with an additional 40,000 square feet in ancillary meeting space. A study by PricewaterhouseCoopers recommends a facility with flexible space to serve high-end exhibitions, conventions, meetings and other events. Components of phase two of the project include a 300,000-square-foot entertainment venue, 215,000 square feet of restaurants, retail and cinema, and a full-service hotel.

ICVB Receives Service Awards – The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau (ICVB) has been recognized with service awards by three of the most respected publications in the meetings industry. *Meetings & Conventions* designated the ICVB a 2007 Gold Service Award recipient, while *Successful Meetings* magazine recognized the bureau with its prestigious Pinnacle Award. The ICVB has received the Gold Service Award for 15 consecutive years and the Pinnacle Award four of the past five years. In addition, the ICVB also received the Award of Excellence from *Corporate & Incentive Travel* magazine for the 12th consecutive year.

Goal No. 4: Safe and Secure City

Police Internal Affairs Software – The Police Department has purchased and installed administrative investigations management software to document and report on administrative investigations. It also provides the documenting and reporting on incidents such as use of force, pursuits, motor vehicle collisions and disciplinary actions.

National 911 Day – The Police Department recognized National 911 Emergency Number Day by honoring Dispatcher Camie Meine, a Silent Hero Award winner, and Dispatcher Michelle Cannon, a nominee for Telecommunicator of the Year.

Police Motorcycle Officer Competition – Four Irving police personnel took home awards at the 2007 National Motorcycle Training & Skills Championship held Aug. 22-25 in Frisco. Seventy officers from throughout the nation competed in the overall competition. Officer Steve Plaster placed first in the Road King Intermediate Division; Sgt. Mark Vincent placed first in the Road King Novice Division; Officer Jeff Parsons placed second in the Road King Novice Division; and Officer Greg Spivey placed 11th in the Road King Expert Division.

Firefighter Entrance Exam – The City of Irving will administer an entrance examination for the position of firefighter on Nov. 10. To take this entrance examination, applicants must register with the City of Irving Human Resources Department by 5 p.m. Sept. 28.

New Emergency Management Inventory – The Office of Emergency Management received a new shower/restroom trailer purchased for \$82,400 by the Metropolitan Medical Response System Homeland Security Grant. This unit provides three showers and six toilets for both men and women, and will be assigned to the Parks and Recreation Department. The trailer is 8 ½ feet wide and 36 feet long, and weighs more than 12,000 pounds. It rides on three axels and has a fully contained water system, including water heaters for showering, and is fully air-conditioned. This vehicle will become part of the regional disaster response inventory.

Fire Department Museum Video – The Fire Department assisted with making a video for a fire department museum in South Carolina. Megavisions Inc. of Irving is producing a video that will be used in a fire engine simulation ride for children. Producer Bill Rogers and his wife, Cheryl, worked with Irving fire crews to videotape a simulated bicycle/car accident.

Driver's Training Programs – Fire Department employees are completing driver's training programs to help keep Irving residents and firefighters safe. This effort is part of an ongoing safety program that focuses on different ways to stay safe.

Fire Safety House Program – With the new school year, the Fire Department is presenting the Fire Safety House program to all Irving third-graders. The purpose of the program is to remind everyone to drive safely, watch out for children, and be aware of all school zones.

Goal No. 5: Diversity

One Book Program: Latino Poetry – The Irving Central Library is holding "Celebrate Latino Music and Poetry" at 2 p.m. Sept. 29 as part of its One Book, One Irving program series. The program will feature spoken word artist Will Richey and friends with musician Gabo Montemayor.

Goal No. 6: Effective Communications

Town Hall Meeting – Residents can hear firsthand about key city projects and initiatives by the City of Irving during a Town Hall meeting set for Sept. 25 at the Irving Arts Center's Carpenter Performance Hall, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Informational displays will be available from 6 to 7 p.m. followed by a presentation at 7 p.m. The presentation will provide an update on key focus areas such as public safety, code enforcement, non-compliant apartments, neighborhood improvements, economic development initiatives and corridor enhancements. Attendee questions will be answered following the presentation.

Goal No. 7: Cultural, Recreational and Educational Environments

KidsArts Programs – The Irving Arts Center is bringing back two of its KidsArts programs: the High School Afterschool Art Lab and Saturday School. The High School Art Lab is free and open to Irving ISD students currently enrolled in an art class. The program provides students with an opportunity to continue working on their current art class assignments, as well as participate in additional group and individual art projects. The fall session began Sept. 10 and will be followed by a spring session starting Jan. 7. Saturday School provides professional art instruction for children ages 6-14. The program offers four sessions throughout the year. Each session focuses on a new artistic medium including mixed media, sculpture, choral singing, drawing and painting. The first session starts Oct. 6 and meets every Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. through Nov. 10.

YAC Fest Battle of the Bands – Youth Services will host its annual YAC Fest from 2 to 7 p.m. Sept. 22 at Trinity View Park Adult Softball Complex. The event, for ages 12-18, will offer games, prizes and food, highlighted by the top up-and-coming teenage bands playing in the battle of the bands competition. Admission is free.

Northwest Park Family Picnic and Concert – On Sept. 22, Northwest Park will host a neighborhood family picnic and concert. The event will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Northwest Park Recreation Center. Bring lawn chairs and blankets, and enjoy music, free refreshments and games for the children.

Cimarron Park's 'Paws for a Cause' – Animal awareness and adoptions will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 22 at Cimarron Park. Activities include Ask a Vet, pet fostering and prizes. The program is presented by the Cimarron Park Recreation Center, with support from the Animal Shelter, Irving Humane Society and PetSmart.

Box Car Drive-In – Senter Park will host the Box Car Drive-In event on Sept. 28. Children will create cardboard cars, and then will view a movie projected on a large screen in the gym in their cars. Prizes will be awarded.

25th Annual Ms. Mature Irving Pageant – The 25th Annual Ms. Mature Irving Pageant is set for 7 p.m. Sept. 28 at Carpenter Performance Hall. Contestants compete in various categories, including talent and formal wear, to determine who will be crowned Ms. Mature Irving for 2007-08. The winner will represent Irving in the Ms. Mature Texas Pageant. The gala event will include entertainment and food. Mayor Herbert Gears and his wife, Christina, will officially crown the winner. Tickets are available at the Irving Arts Center box office and also the night of the event.

One Book Program: Book Discussion – Residents can listen to and join a conversation about "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros. The program, a part of the Irving Public Library's One Book, One Irving series, will be held at 2 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Irving Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd.

Goal No. 8: Sound Governance

Employees Participate in Heart Walk – Sixteen employee teams supported the City of Irving's involvement in this year's "Start! Heart Walk 2007" in downtown Dallas. In addition to the fundraising effort in support of the American Heart Association (AHA), city employees walked as a celebration of the city's participation in the AHA Start! program, an ongoing wellness initiative. More than 65 city employees, friends and family members walked the 3-mile course and raised more than \$6,300 to support heart research and educational efforts.

Six Sigma Project – The Irving Police Department has been selected to participate in a Digital Six Sigma Pilot Project sponsored by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and Motorola. Six Sigma is a data-driven problem-solving model centered on process improvement. The Irving Police Department was selected along with two other out-of-state police departments. Police staff selected to participate in the project will receive extensive training from Motorola personnel who are experts in Six Sigma. Human Resources staff will assist with the project. The two-day training will be held Sept. 20-21 at the Irving Arts Center. As part of the training, the Police Department will study its hiring process and officer training program. Once completed, the results will be presented during PERF's annual conference.

Human Resources Training Event – Human Resources will be offering employees a one-hour class on Sept. 25 to address disaster preparedness. It will give employees the basics needed to prepare themselves and their families in the event of a major emergency. These situations could be caused by weather, accidents, terrorism, etc.

Allstate Walk for Wellness – Managing Director Cliff Miller and Customer Service Director Pat Nicks represented the City of Irving at the Allstate Insurance Company Texas Walk to Wellness. More than 250 Allstate employees walked a 2-mile course to promote daily walking as an accessible and effective form of exercise.

Goal No. 9: Infrastructure Network

School Traffic Control Signs – Public Works/Traffic Operations performed an annual comprehensive inspection and refurbishment of 1,200 school traffic control signs and crosswalks in preparation of the new school year.

Lake Chapman Update – Since Lake Chapman and Lake Lewisville are both above conservation pool level, water from Lake Chapman cannot be pumped into Lake Lewisville. The city is currently purchasing water from Dallas that would otherwise be spilling over the dam. This has allowed the city not to use its full storage at Lake Chapman, or the water that was previously moved to Lake Lewisville. Current storage at Lake Chapman is 100,628 acre-feet, and the storage at Lake Lewisville is 6,123 acre-feet. Pumping will resume when Lake Lewisville drops below flood stage.

Tax Office Remodel Project – The Equipment and Building Services Department began remodel work in the Information Technology Department, and has several other department remodel projects in the works. The staff recently completed the tax office remodel project. Additional office space was created and aesthetics were improved with the installation of a new glass entry door. Security was heightened with glass inserts in the offices so city staff can easily view who is entering the office area.

Goal No. 10: Environmentally Sustainable Community

Shredding Opportunity – Solid Waste Services is offering a free shredding opportunity for the safe destruction of personal documents. Residents may bring up to two file boxes of paper. This event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 21 at the O'Connor Plaza recycling drop-off center (northwest corner of State Highway 183 and O'Connor Road). All shredded materials will be recycled.

One Book Program: Smart Living – The Irving Central Library will host Smart Living at 2 p.m. Sept. 22. The free program is being offered by Fran Witte, solid waste programs and marketing supervisor. It will teach residents how to reduce their eco-footprint and live an earth-friendly lifestyle by using the latest energy-efficient innovations and simple tricks to reduce energy and water costs. Smart-living solutions include recycling, backyard composting, rainwater harvesting and home energy tax credits. It is part of the library's One Book, One Irving series.