



City of Irving City Manager's Report

August 23, 2006

Projects/Activities Updates

Northwest Branch Library Renovations – The Northwest Branch Library, 2928 N. Belt Line Road, is closed for renovations through Aug. 26. Staff will rework the facility's 8,040-square-foot floor plan to better accommodate its daily traffic of nearly 500 customers. Plans include consolidating the children's area to make room for a new teen section, grouping the branch's public computers for future classes, widening aisles in both the fiction and nonfiction areas, and creating a quieter space in the back of the library for adult visitors. The library branch is scheduled to reopen at noon Aug. 29.

Grauwlyer Heights Enhancements – Homeowners in the Oak Lea/Grauwlyer area are invited to attend a meeting Aug. 29 to learn if they are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 to make needed repairs to their property. The Housing and Human Services meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at The Salvation Army, 250 E. Grauwlyer Road.

"Firehouse Cooks" Reality TV Show – Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) will premiere "Firehouse Cooks" at 7 p.m. Aug. 31 on Channel 15 (Time Warner) and Channel 30 (Verizon). A joint production of ICTN and the Fire Department, this competition show features 11 aspiring fire chefs, representing each station, as they vie for the title of "Irving's Firehouse Cook." Not only do viewers get to see these designated cooks demonstrate their culinary skills, but also will learn about the firefighters and their day-to-day jobs. Viewers get to vote online for the firefighter they think should win the competition. More information on each firefighter chef can be found at www.ictn.tv/firehousecooks.
(A flier with air dates of each episode is attached.)

Irving Health center groundbreaking – A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Irving Health Center is set for 10 a.m. Sept. 6. This new community-based health center, to be built at 1800 N. Britain Road, will provide low- to moderate-income Irving residents with a wide range of primary and preventive health-care services. It is a joint project of the City of Irving, Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas County and Baylor Medical Center at Irving. When completed late next summer, the Irving Health Center will provide treatment for a variety of acute and chronic health problems; immunizations; dental care; nutrition counseling; hearing/vision screenings; and pharmacy, laboratory and X-ray imaging services.

2006-07 Budget Calendar – Following are significant dates in regard to the budget calendar.

Aug. 31	Publish notice of public hearing
Sept. 6	City Council Work Session
Sept. 7	City Council Meeting - public hearing on 2006-07 budget
Sept. 8	Publish notice on tax rate vote
Sept. 14	Special Called Meeting - public hearing on 2006-07 budget
Sept. 15	Publish notice on tax rate vote
Sept. 20	City Council Work Session
Sept. 21	City Council Meeting - adoption of the 2006-07 budget and tax rate

Public Input on Proposed Budget – Residents can provide input on the city's 2006-07 fiscal budget during City Council meetings in September. Comments can be made on any aspect of the budget, including property tax rates, water and sewer rates, and sanitation fees. Public input will be accepted on Sept. 7 and 14, with adoption of the budget scheduled for Sept. 21. All hearings are at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center Complex, 825 W. Irving Blvd. The city's budget year begins Oct. 1.

City Closed for Labor Day – City offices will be closed Sept. 4 for Labor Day. All offices will reopen at their regular hours on Sept. 5. City libraries will be closed Sept. 3-4. There will be no residential trash or brush collection on Sept. 4, nor will there be any curbside recycling service. The city's drop-off recycling centers and landfill at 220 W. Hunter Ferrell Road also will be closed on Labor Day. All city recreation centers will be closed. The city's swimming pools will be open except for West Park Pool, Heritage Aquatic Center and North Lake Aquatic Center.

Animal Services Enhancements – Following is an update of enhancements completed by Animal Services, as well as upcoming programs planned for the fall.

- Virtually all of the physical upgrades to the animal shelter have been completed. These upgrades have made a substantial difference in the appearance of the shelter, as well as improving the functionality of the operation.
- Elizabeth King, DVM, is serving as the staff veterinarian on a part-time basis. She is working approximately 24 hours a week, and her work has made a major difference in the overall care and welfare of the animals in the shelter.
- There have been several retirements and resignations among staff within the division. This has provided an opportunity to bring in new staff with fresh ideas and a willingness to share our philosophy as to the "new" Irving Animal Services operation.
- We will begin meeting monthly with a small contingent of the Irving Shelter Reform group. In addition, a volunteer training program will begin in late September. We expect this training to delineate how volunteers can best function within the city operation.
- A Pet Adopt-a-Thon will be held Oct. 21. The staff will work with humane and rescue groups, as well as animal service operations from other cities, to find homes for as many animals as possible during this daylong event. A variety of promotional materials will be prepared to publicize the program.
- In all probability, staff will request to City Council that the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee be expanded from four to seven members. This is the desire of several individuals in the community and staff has no major problems with recommending the change.

DART Business Plan Meeting – Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) will brief member cities at 9 a.m. Sept. 14 at the DART headquarters, 1401 Pacific Ave., in Conference Room 1C. The meeting will provide a forum to answer questions regarding DART's proposed FY 2007 Annual Budget and 20-Year Financial Plan. DART will make available the proposed plan beginning Aug. 25 for a 30-day comment period. The FY 2007 Budget and 20-Year Financial Plan are scheduled for DART Board approval on Sept. 26.

Left-Turn Lane Pilot Program – The Public Works and Transportation Department is hoping that a new pilot program in Irving will lead to safer intersections in other cities across the country. The test involves the use of a new type of traffic light for motorists when turning left from Irving Boulevard onto Rogers Road. Two additional flashing yellow left-turn signals will be installed by the first of September: at O'Connor Road and Leland Boulevard, from the eastbound to northbound direction, and at Windsor View Drive and MacArthur Boulevard, from the southbound to the eastbound direction. Instead of a solid green ball, the new signal features a flashing yellow arrow, and is part of a nationwide effort by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to improve driver understanding of left-turn signal displays. Irving is the first city in Texas to participate in the pilot program, which is the culmination of a 10-year FHWA study. The new type of signal will be field tested for three years, after which Irving engineers will report accident data and other information back to the federal government. The flashing yellow arrow has interim approval by FHWA as a new standard in the 2008 Manual of Uniform Traffic Devices.

Upcoming Events/Programs

Town Hall Meetings – Two Town Hall informational meetings have been planned to update residents on city projects and initiatives. Following are the two meetings from which residents can choose to attend:

7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30
Mustang Park Recreation Center
2223 Kinwest Parkway

7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12
Senter Park Recreation Center
901 S. Senter St.

Presentations will address topics such as the city's newly adopted Strategic Plan; 2006-07 proposed budget; new development and redevelopment initiatives; water and transportation projects; and neighborhood improvements. The city plans to hold these meetings on a regular basis at various locations throughout the city.

Police Beat Meetings – The Police Department continues to talk with residents during Beat Meetings to boost communications and form a closer working relationship to help reduce crime. Though each meeting is specific to the area in which the meeting is held, general information is discussed that is helpful to all residents who are able to attend. The beat meeting schedule for the months of September and October are as follows:

- Beat 33 – Sept. 11, 7 p.m., B. Washington Baptist Church, 3901 Frisco Ave.
Area south of State Highway 183, north of Rock Island Road, and west of Belt Line Road to the city limits
- Beat 34 – Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2620 W. Grauwlyer Road
Area south of State Highway 183, north of Rock Island Road, east of Belt Line Road and west of Story Road