



# City of Irving City Manager's Report

September 20, 2006

## Projects/Activities Updates

**East Branch Library Hours** – The East Branch Library will change its operating hours on Oct. 1 to better meet the needs of its customers. The library will continue to offer service 38 hours per week, but will be open four nights during the week, as well as on Saturdays. The branch will be closed on Fridays. Since it opened in 1996, the library has been open two nights each week and closed on Saturdays. East Branch serves as the headquarters for the library's literacy program. Six English as a Second Language (ESL) classes meet twice weekly at the library, which is located at the city's Human Services Building, 440 S. Nursery Road.

**Armored Truck** – The city has purchased a new piece of law enforcement equipment with federal grant funding. The new truck will be used in emergency situations requiring an armored vehicle, and will support regional law enforcement incidents. It can carry 12 fully equipped SWAT officers.

**Villa Martinique Apartments** – Community outreach continues in order to assist residents of the Villa Martinique Apartments in relocating from their rental units. As you are aware, the Building and Standards Commission determined that three apartment buildings be vacated due to sewer leaks and substandard electrical circuits that could cause fires. Warning placards were posted on Aug. 31 advising residents living in buildings 400, 404 and 420 at South MacArthur Boulevard that they need to vacate their rental units. City staff will be visiting the complex on Friday (Sept. 22) to placard the doors of those units that have been vacated. We have been told by the apartment manager that many residents moved out this past weekend. We expect to get an accurate count of the number of residents still to relocate on Friday. The Salvation Army and Poverty and Homeless Coalition have led the outreach efforts. Another meeting with the affected residents will take place Thursday (Sept. 21). Staff from the Inspections Department and Housing and Human Services Department will assist with translation services during the meetings. They will identify residents who need to find a new place to relocate and determine if any of them need additional funding for the move. The city has fenced the common areas where the soil contains high levels of contaminants. If the property owner does not erect the required fence around the apartment buildings by Sept. 29, then the city will take action to do so.

**Spanish Recorders** – The Inspections Department has expanded its communications efforts with Spanish-speaking residents through the use of audio recorded messages and a correlated flip chart. When an inspector knocks on a door and discovers that the person living there does not speak English, that inspector plays a recorded greeting that explains how he or she doesn't speak Spanish, but has photos in a laminated flip chart and recorded messages that explain the code violations at the property. Written statements in English and Spanish on the flip chart correlate with the Spanish recorder. This opens the door for communication in several ways. Because non-Spanish speaking inspectors are continually hearing the recording, they will be learning Spanish that goes with their trade, but also, it enables communications between non-English speaking residents and non-Spanish speaking inspectors without the immediate need for translators. Obviously, there are situations that will require more than just a recorder, but the new concept has worked for the less-complicated cases.

**Fourth Human Case of West Nile Virus** – A fourth human case of West Nile virus (WNV) illness has been confirmed in Irving. The resident is a woman in her 70s who is recovering at home after being treated at a Dallas County area hospital for meningitis. Her residence is in the 75060 zip code, which is located south of State Highway 183, east of MacArthur Boulevard, west of O'Connor Boulevard, and north of Grauwlyer Road. Environmental health officials sprayed this residential subdivision on Sept. 14, and will spray two more times in the next 10 days. There have been more than 50 confirmed human cases of WNV in Dallas County this summer, with two of the cases being fatal. City staff continues to conduct its aggressive mosquito surveillance program, and encourages residents to be cautious when outdoors around sunset or sunrise.

### **Recognitions/Awards**

**Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau (ICVB) recognition** – The ICVB was one of 10 North Texas organizations honored by the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility at an event hosted by the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce. ICVB was given Honorable Mention in the prestigious award that recognizes employers who are successfully using workplace flexibility to meet both business and employee goals. As an honorable mention, ICVB ranks in the top 20 percent of employers nationally in terms of flexible work programs, policies and culture. This is the first year that the ICVB has been nominated for the award.

**Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) honored** – ICTN received the 2006 Community Achievement Award from the Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 16 for its Spanish-language programming, specifically the monthly half-hour show "Vida Hispana." In its fifth year of production, the show has covered information such as health issues, education, governmental services, immigration issues and laws.

### **Upcoming Events/Programs**

**Victoria Park Dedication** – 10:30 a.m. Sept. 28, 3051 W. Northgate Drive, adjacent to Jackie Townsell Elementary School. The new park improvements include a lighted half-mile concrete walking trail, two lighted sand volleyball courts, a second group picnic pavilion, new park entry signage, new playground entry with public art, five new picnic pads, landscaping, turf irrigation and park furnishings.

**Neighborhood Roundtable** – Oct. 3, 7 p.m., Council Conference Room. This meeting with neighborhood association officers will feature a special presentation by City Manager Tommy Gonzalez and a session on setting goals/leadership development by the Arts District Neighborhood Association.

**Employee Cultural Fair Celebration** – Oct. 6, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Central Library Auditorium. This free event for city employees will feature a variety of fun activities, including ethnic foods, educational exhibits, music and entertainment.

**ICTN 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Live Awards Show** – Oct. 11, 7 p.m., Dupree Theater. Awards for video of the best Community Event, Sports, Most Intriguing Personality and more will be announced during this show broadcast live from the Dupree Theater. You can help select the winners by voting for your favorite entries online at [www.ictn.tv/25.asp](http://www.ictn.tv/25.asp).

**ICTN 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception** – Oct. 12, 5 to 7 p.m., ICTN Studio, 233 S. Rogers Road. Come celebrate ICTN's 25 years of award-winning television programming at a special community reception.