

CitySpectrum

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Irving City Council

Proposed Budget Scheduled for Adoption by Council This Month

At a two-day budget retreat, council reviewed the proposed budget for the upcoming year. The operating budget for FY 2011-12 is \$167.87 million—a \$1.3 million decrease from last year's budget.

The national recession has had a significant impact on municipal revenues. The two main revenues supporting the General Fund—property taxes and sales taxes—have both declined.

City staff has reviewed processes and reduced operating costs ahead of revenue declines while maintaining key city services. Cumulatively, over the past four years, the city has identified more than \$38 million in cost savings, cost avoidance and productivity enhancements.

Allocation

In preparation for FY 2011-12, city operations were categorized and ranked according to three categories: core, needs and wants. Core services were limited to the essential services that must be provided to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the community. These services include police protection, fire suppression, EMS, water and sewer operations, solid waste services, and street maintenance. Other important services, such as code enforcement, were classified as needs.

In a letter to the City Council, City Manager Tommy Gonzalez recommended a rate below the effective tax rate that will allow for a balanced budget that does not impact city facilities, programs or critical services. Gonzalez also recommended that staff pay increases be held for the next 18 months.

With more than two-thirds of the General Fund budget allocated to salaries and benefits, the budget could not have been balanced without the reduction of vacant positions. Over the past four years, 111 vacated positions have been eliminated and an additional 135 positions are being held vacant. This move has resulted in an estimated savings of \$7.3 million for FY 2011-12.

"Many cities are feeling the crunch of the recession because revenue levels are not what they once were," said Budget Administrator Bret Starr. "The good news is that thanks to four years of planning, the City of Irving has not had to call for layoffs, furloughs or reduce city services."

Input Opportunities

Aiming for increased transparency, this year's interactive budget retreat allowed residents to provide input by telephone, email or comment card. Inquiries and responses have been posted to the Ask the Budget Guy webpage at www.cityofirving.org/budgetguy.

Also available online is the proposed budget and letter from the city manager. The final budget hearing will be held prior to adoption at 7 p.m. Sept. 22 at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. The FY 2011-12 budget and tax rate will be voted on at that time. The new budget year begins Oct. 1. ■

PUBLIC INPUT ON REDISTRICTING PLAN

Data from the 2010 census indicates a population shift in Irving that will require a redrawing of voting district boundaries. Attorney Bob Heath has been retained by the city to assist with the process.

Redistricting will ensure that the city's six single-member districts are relatively equal in population and that minority voting power is protected. Council members reviewed a draft of the new plan in preparation for a public hearing where residents can provide input at 7 p.m. Sept. 22 at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Council members are expected to vote on a final plan Oct. 6.

In 2009, federal courts required the City of Irving to overhaul its election system as the result of a lawsuit that challenged the city's previous voting structure. The federal ruling resulted in six single-member districts based on census data from 2000. However, population shifts recorded in the 2010 census require a need for a repeat of the redistricting process. For example, a significant shift can be found in District 1, which decreased in population, and in District 6, which dramatically increased during the same time period.

"The population shift that has taken place over the past decade points to Irving's growth and progress," said Councilman Rick Stopfer. "As we embark on another redistricting process, the primary goal for us is ensuring fair representation of our diverse and growing community."

Upon approval by council, the new plan will be submitted to the U.S. Justice Department for review. To view the guidelines and draft of the redistricting plan, visit www.cityofirving.org. ■

Heritage Crossing Public Input Forum

Residents are encouraged to provide input on the vision for the Heritage Crossing development from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 20 at Irving City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd., in the Council Chambers. Input also can be submitted at www.cityofirving.org/publicinput. Call (972) 721-2320 for details. ■



Centennial Park

Certain Materials Need to be Safely Discarded

Solid Waste Services provides waste collection for some of the most dangerous items in the household waste stream. To help homeowners dispose of dangerous or hazardous materials properly, and protect the employees who handle this refuse, the following is recommended.

Broken glass and sharp metal

Wrap the edges of large pieces of broken glass or sharp metal with duct or masking tape and place next to trash bags so they are easily identifiable. Smaller pieces of glass need to be wrapped in several layers of newspaper with the edges wrapped in tape. Place shattered glass in a cardboard box, or fold the glass in several layers of newspaper and tape closed. Label all items "broken glass" or "sharp metal." Carefully wrap razor blades with tape before placing in the trash.

Light bulbs

Whenever possible, place light bulbs in their original packaging before placing in the trash. If unavailable, place incandescent bulbs, small fluorescent tubes and CFLs in two plastic bags, or a small box taped closed, to prevent bulb breakage. Place long fluorescent tubes next to the trash so they are easily identifiable. Tape multiple tubes together.

Syringes

Place syringes in a metal or plastic container such as a coffee can, soda bottle or milk jug with a screw-on top. Tape the lid closed and call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-2232 to request collection.

Medications

Follow any specific disposal instructions on the drug label or patient information that accompanies the medication. Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet unless specifically instructed to do so. Residents can contact local pharmacies to see if they offer a medication disposal program. If not, the Federal Drug Administration offers the following suggestions:



- ◆ Remove medicine from its original container and mix it with an undesirable substance such as used coffee grounds, cat litter, or even water before placing in the trash to make it less appealing to pets, children or thieves.
- ◆ Place the mixture in a sealed bag, empty can or other container to prevent the medicine from leaking.
- ◆ Before throwing out a medicine container, scratch out all identifying information on the prescription label to make it unreadable.

- ◆ When in doubt about proper disposal, residents can call their pharmacist for advice.

Special waste

Special waste such as paint, used automotive fluids, oil filters, tires and lead-acid batteries is collected on regularly scheduled trash collection days.

- ◆ Paint should be left in its original sealed container, or placed in a sealed plastic container such as a milk jug with a screw-on top or detergent bottle.
- ◆ Used motor oil, antifreeze and transmission fluid should be returned to its original container, or placed in a sealed plastic container such as a milk jug with a screw-on top, plastic soda bottle or detergent bottle. Containers larger than one gallon will not be collected and should be divided into smaller quantities.
- ◆ Used oil filters should be placed in a clear, sealed plastic bag.
- ◆ Tires must have rims removed. No more than five tires will be collected per day and no more than 14 tires will be collected per month. Tires larger than typical passenger vehicle tires will not be collected.
- ◆ Used automobile batteries, lawn tractor batteries and other lead-acid batteries should be placed away from the trash on level ground or in an open cardboard box so they do not tip over.

Residents should place the items away from the regular trash so that they are easily identifiable and call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-8059 to ensure proper collection. ■

Irving Animal Care Campus Provides Residents Low-Cost Services Through Special Partnerships

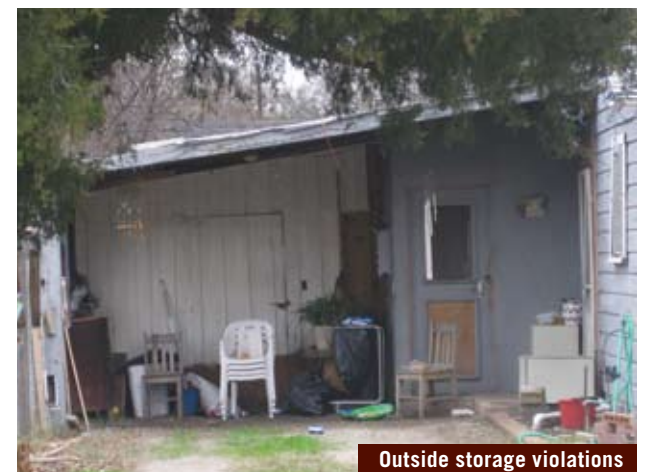
Through partnerships with animal support groups, Irving Animal Services is able to offer residents low-cost pet vaccinations and spay/neuter services. Residents can bring their pets to the Irving Animal Care Campus, 4140 Valley View Lane, and they are picked up by the partner organizations for the services.

The second Tuesday of each month, the Kaufman County Animal Awareness Project (KCAAP) will pick up both cat and canine companions to perform sterilizations and return them the same day. KittiCo will pick up residents' cats the fourth Thursday of each month for their discounted spay/neuter clinic, while the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP) provides low-cost sterilizations and vaccinations for both cats and dogs on the fourth Friday of each month. Clinics will be offered on the following days:

- ◆ **Sept. 13** – KCAAP spay/neuter clinic for cats and dogs
- ◆ **Sept. 22** – KittiCo spay/neuter clinic for cats only
- ◆ **Sept. 23** – TCAP spay/neuter and vaccination clinic for cats and dogs

The city also will be hosting its Fix-A-Bull Clinic in October where residents can attend a class and register their pit bull to receive free sterilization. Fifty pit bulls will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Animal Services encourages residents to have their pets sterilized because it helps reduce animal overpopulation, increases an animal's life span and reduces a pet's urge to roam. For more information on the low-cost clinics, contact Animal Services at (972) 721-2256. ■



Outside storage violations

OUTSIDE STORAGE

Homeowners and tenants are responsible for keeping their property free from litter, brush and outside storage items. Outside storage items include the following:

- ◆ Appliances not designed for outdoor use
- ◆ Building materials
- ◆ Car parts and accessories
- ◆ Household furniture
- ◆ Playground equipment and toys
- ◆ Storage boxes
- ◆ Tools and work equipment
- ◆ Trash

Any outside storage must be kept in an enclosed building or removed from the property. It is a code violation to store items in an open carport, on an exposed porch or patio. For more information, contact Code Enforcement at (972) 721-4829. ■



Irving Convention Center



USA Judo event

New Convention Center Makes Significant Impact

From conception to completion, it was a 12-year journey for the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas to become a reality. It only took six months, however, for the state-of-the-art facility to make an impact in the community.

Increased Awareness

The word is out on the new copper creation in Irving. Since the convention center's opening in late January, more than 120 events have been held, 11,947 Irving hotel rooms have been booked, \$1.03 million in net event income has been generated, 81,000 visitors have walked through the doors, and more than 48,400 web users have visited the convention center's website.

Delivering successful events and creating long-term client relationships gives event organizers a reason to choose Irving. A key strategy in these opening months has been targeting meeting planners, travel managers and event organizers through various trade organizations.

"From our first event, many organizations have made history at the Irving Convention Center—State of the City, ZestFest, Comic-Con and USA Judo all set attendance records," said Maura Allen Gast, Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau (ICVB) executive director. "Civic events such as Texasfest and Breakfast with the Stars have seen their fundraising opportunities increase significantly."

Marketing Irving

The Irving Convention Center is realizing social networking success with its own Facebook and Twitter pages, more than 256,000 Google searches

and 436 Flickr posts, and it is moving full speed ahead in attendee, visitor and client media interaction. While expanding at a rapid pace, these channels have initiated more than 13,000 social media interactions and more than 10 million traditional media impressions since the center's social media birth.

At the annual awards gala in February, the marketing and communications campaign launch for the building received four Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMAI) Adrian awards, including a Gold award for direct mail promotion. The ICVB received these hospitality marketing honors among hundreds of applicants throughout the nation.

Future Impact

Creating awareness and booking events for the Irving Convention Center are only the starting point in maximizing economic development return for the City of Irving.

"In addition to an effective sales and marketing effort, it's also critical to deliver on the promises we make," said Gast. "Based on post-event surveys, more than 85 percent of our customers have rated their overall convention center experience as above average or excellent."

With more than 180 prospects in the pipeline, and 51 booked upcoming events, the convention

center remains on the path to achieving operating projections and customer service commitments.

"By providing both stability and growth for the 12,181 hospitality industry jobs in our community, as well as the \$1.24 billion spent annually by Irving visitors, the Irving Convention Center is delivering on its potential as a new economic engine for Irving," said Gast.

Public Events

So far, the majority of events booked at the Irving Convention Center have been corporate and trade association activities. Public events, representing approximately seven percent of the building's activity, are typically the only events that are listed on the convention center's online calendar.

These include events such as ZestFest, the Country Peddler Show, Visions: The Women's Expo and the North Texas Gun Club Show.

Upcoming open-to-the-public events this fall include Star Wars Fan Days (Oct. 8–9), the Log and Timber Home Show (Oct. 14–16), and the Dallas International Art, Antique and Jewelry Show (Nov. 2–6).

Find the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas online at www.irvingconventioncenter.com, Facebook by searching for Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas and @IrvingTxCC on Twitter. ■

VIAL OF L.I.F.E. KITS

The Irving Fire Department is offering free Vial of L.I.F.E. kits to residents age 60 and older. The Vial of L.I.F.E.—Lifesaving Information For Emergencies—is a place for residents to store important medical information that emergency medical personnel, such as firefighters, paramedics and hospital staff, need during a time of crisis.



The kit should be placed in a prominent spot in participating residents' refrigerators. A magnet, included in the kit, should be placed on the resident's refrigerator to notify medical personnel that the patient is a participant. Kits are available at Irving fire stations. Call (972) 721-2651 for details or visit www.cityofirving.org. ■

Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau Honored

The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau (ICVB) received two of the most prestigious awards in the meetings industry from Successful Meetings and Corporate and Incentive Travel magazines.

The Pinnacle Award from Successful Meetings magazine recognizes leaders in the hospitality industry that "demonstrate to the demanding clientele of meeting, event, convention and incentive planners an unwavering commitment to meetings service that is essential for their success." This is the eighth year the ICVB has earned this award that establishes credibility among planners and hoteliers.

For the 15th consecutive year, the ICVB received the Award of Excellence from "Corporate and Incentive Travel" magazine. The award recognizes convention and visitors bureaus that best served corporate meetings and incentive travel planners during the past year.

"It's gratifying to be recognized by meeting planners and decision makers for the consistent customer service provided by the Irving Convention and

Visitors Bureau," said Maura Allen Gast, ICVB executive director. "It's especially rewarding to earn these designations in a year when we've added a new element to our convention and visitors offerings—the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas. We promise all of our customers a high, 'customer-ized' level of service. These award recognitions are a great indication that we are fulfilling our promises year after year."

The Pinnacle Award and Award of Excellence celebrate hospitality excellence by identifying industry leaders that set the standard for other convention and visitor bureaus, hotels, and conference centers to follow. Recipients of both awards are selected by loyal magazine subscribers, based upon real-life meeting experiences and travel programs. ■

Scan this code with a smartphone to visit the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau website at www.irvingtexas.com.





Bronze Messenger Pass



Siege of Xixia

Free Events Set for Last Month of Khan Exhibit

Join the Irving Arts Center for free events celebrating “Genghis Khan: The Exhibition” before it closes Sept. 30.

All events take place at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Admission to “Genghis Khan: The Exhibition” requires a separate ticket purchase.

Family Khan Day: Khan Coins | Sept. 10

2 to 4 p.m., Carpenter Lobby
Join the Mongol Hordes and make Khan coins using paint and clay supplied by the Arts Center. Chill Bubble Tea will provide free bubble tea samples and offer regular-sized drinks at a discounted price to all visitors from 1 to 5 p.m. Free admission.

Khan Lecture Series Genghis Khan: Then and Today | Sept. 10

2 p.m., Dupree Theater
William Fitzhugh, curatorial consultant for “Genghis Khan: The Exhibition,” will speak on the topic, Genghis Khan: Then and Today. Fitzhugh is director of the Arctic Studies Center and curator in the Anthropology Department at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History. Free.

Khan Lecture Series: Mongol Military Tactics | Sept. 17

2 p.m., Meeting Rooms
Harold Tanner, professor for the Department of History and Military History Center at the University of North Texas, will present a lecture on Genghis Khan and the Mongol Way of War. Free.

Celebrate Smithsonian Museum Day | Sept. 24

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Visit the Irving Arts Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, for Smithsonian Museum Day. In the spirit of Smithsonian Museums, which offer free admission every day, Museum Day is an annual event in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket for free. The Irving Arts Center will offer free admission to “Genghis Khan: The Exhibition” from 9 to 11 a.m. Capacity is limited and a special Museum Day ticket must be presented to enter. To print a ticket, visit the Smithsonian Museum Day website at www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/ticket. In addition to free exhibition admission, there is a full schedule of other free activities that do not require a special ticket.

- ◆ **Free Admission to “Genghis Khan: The Exhibition”** – 9 to 11 a.m. Museum Day free ticket required at the door. Capacity limited. For free ticket, visit www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/ticket.
- ◆ **Khan Film Screenings** – Carpenter Hall. Free popcorn while supplies last.
 - 11 a.m. – “The Conqueror” (1956). This historic epic of Genghis Khan stars John “Duke” Wayne as Khan and Susan Hayward as his red-headed wife, Borte. A kitschy Hollywood classic, the film was produced by Howard Hughes and directed by Dick Powell. “The Conqueror” was a critical

and commercial failure (often ranked as one of the worst films of the 1950s) despite the stature of the cast. Wayne, who was at the height of his career, lobbied for the role after seeing the script, and was widely believed to have been grossly miscast.

- 4 p.m. – “Genghis Khan: To the Ends of the Earth and Sea” (2007). A soul obscured by his own achievements: son, husband, father, conqueror. “Genghis Khan: To the Ends of the Earth and Sea” weaves the saga of one exalted man’s march toward immortality and the battle to unite the tribes of Mongolia under one rule. Directed by Shinichiro Sawai, starring Takashi Sorimachi, Rei Kikukawa, Mayumi Wakamura and Ken’ichi Matsuyama, the film was 27 years in the planning and is said to be a landmark achievement of Japanese cinema.
- ◆ **Family Khan Day** – 2 to 4 p.m. Carpenter Lobby. Create a brush painting using the Chinese techniques passed down through the ages. Supplies and instruction provided. Free.

Visit www.khanirving.com for more information. ■

Scan this code with a smartphone to view a behind-the-scenes video of the exhibit.



Irving Crime Reports Now Viewable Online

The Irving Police Department is partnering with www.crimereports.com to allow residents to view crime data online. The crime-mapping website compiles information on crimes that have occurred in Irving by incident type, time and location, and marks them on a map of the city. It also allows residents to view reporting districts and police beats.

“Implementing this technology is just another way the Irving Police Department is maintaining transparency for residents,” said Officer John Argumaniz. “The website offers real-time, up-to-date information on crimes occurring in the city.”

Residents also can sign up for crime alerts to notify them of incidents in their neighborhood. Access the Irving map by visiting www.cityofirving.org/police and selecting the “CrimeReports” map at the bottom of the page. For more information, call (972) 721-3515. ■



Scan this code with a smartphone to view a video on how to use the new crime report website.

Lean Thinking at City Hall Benefits Park Amenities

With the budget remaining tight, city employees are working together to save money, operate more efficiently and maintain essential services. These include project efficiencies by the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Team.

The CIP Team acted as general contractor to construct two neighborhood spray parks at Northwest and Southwest parks, which offer free interactive aquatic facilities to residents. By not using an outside contractor, the city saved \$185,000 and reduced the amount of time needed to complete the project.

Additional savings of \$35,000 were achieved by using city staff to complete renovations at both parks. At Northwest Park, city employees renovated the restroom and picnic shelter buildings, installed electrical systems and concrete pads, and repaired the pool system. City employees also painted and cleaned up both sites.

The combined savings of \$220,000 were then invested into projects at both parks. A shade canopy, landscaping, screen fencing, a masonry screen wall, site furniture and irrigation were all added

to Northwest Park. At Southwest Park, additional spray features, shade canopies, a drinking fountain, masonry wall, site furniture, landscaping and irrigation were funded with the savings.

“Teamwork is one reason the city continues to progress during a recession,” said Capital Improvement Program Director Casey Tate. “Irving employees are stepping up to the plate and their efforts are positively impacting the city’s bottom line.”

City departments report cost savings and efficiencies on a quarterly basis. All city employees are encouraged to implement efficiencies that will reduce costs while maintaining or improving services. ■



New spray park

Lively Pointe Youth Center Offers Variety of Fun, Fitness for Teens

Irving youth can enjoy a variety of free and low-cost activities ranging from classes to flag football and a skate park at Lively Pointe Youth Center, 909 N. O'Connor Road.

Events such as Friday Nite Live and Battle of the Bands allow participants to show off their musical talents while arts and crafts, exercise, and other educational classes help them master new skills.

Visitors also can enjoy movies on a big screen or play basketball in the gym. Teen Jams offer a disc jockey, pizza, cold drinks and an open gym. A schedule is available online at www.cityofirving.org. All visitors need is a valid recreation ID card.

The center also offers the following amenities:

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

Hours for Lively Pointe Youth Center during the school year are from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Skate Park

A free skate park on the property features approximately 20,000 square feet of street skating



Teen skateboarder

elements such as stairs, railings, pyramids, radial edges, grind edges, manual pads, quarter pipes and hubba ledges. It is constructed out of concrete with steel coping railing to accommodate BMX bikes. The park also includes an in-ground bowl with a pipe and flow bowl.

The skate park is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and has lighting for night usage, shade structures, seating areas and a drinking fountain. For more information, call (972) 721-8090. ■

PARKS AND RECREATION BRIEFS

Heritage Senior Center

200 S. Jefferson St., (972) 721-2496

- ◆ Crop Til U Drop – Noon to midnight Sept. 17. Bring scrapbooking materials and a snack to share with the group. Registration is required by noon Sept. 14. Cost is \$7 for a half-day session or \$10 for all day.

Mustang Park Recreation Center

2223 Kinwest Parkway, (972) 556-1334

- ◆ Fall Flea Market – 8 a.m. to noon Sept. 24. Discover new treasures at this annual fall sale. Free admission.

Lively Pointe Youth Center

909 N. O'Connor Road, (972) 721-8090

- ◆ Teen Jam – 7 to 11 p.m. Sept. 24. Youth and teens are invited to enjoy an evening of music, food and fun. Music will be provided by a disc jockey. Complimentary pizza and soda will be served. This event is open to all middle and high school students. Free admission with a valid parks ID card.



Lively Pointe Teen Jam



DOG PARK MAINTENANCE

Due to the high use of the dog park, the Parks and Recreation Department is continuing the monthly maintenance rotation of the front and rear pods.

For the safety of park visitors, staff will repair holes, improve the turf and make any other needed repairs. Once the repairs are made, the area needs to remain unused for a month for the soil to settle and the turf to re-establish.

The maintenance process will rotate throughout the year, so one group of pods will be open year-round. The Dog Park is located at the Irving Animal Care Campus at 4140 Valley View Lane. Park hours are from sunrise to sunset. For more information, call (972) 721-2501. ■

Campión Trails Extension Now Open to Public

Residents are able to enjoy a section of Campión Trails that opened this summer. The new addition at Sam Houston Trail Park includes a pedestrian bridge and low-water crossings. When starting at the bridge, the addition creates a 12-foot-wide, 2.25-mile loop.

Also part of this project is a trail connection over the levee into Valley Ranch that connects to the sidewalks and pedestrian walkways along Valley Ranch's canal system. The trail allows access to amenities such as new exercise stations that feature equipment specifically engineered for outdoor use. Additional amenities include water fountains, picnic pavilions and play areas for families.

"This is a major accomplishment for the city," said Senior Landscape Architect Gene Moulden. "It has a very unique trail atmosphere and will provide a special experience for users. We are very excited about its opening and the added convenience for residents."

These additions extend the northern section of Campión Trails to more than eight miles. The project was funded through a \$1.3 million trail grant from Dallas County.

When the master plan is completed, it will cover a total of 22 miles. Access to Campión Trails is available from sunrise to sunset daily. Visit www.cityofirving.org for more information on Irving's parks and trails system. ■



Sam Houston Trail Park

Disability Committee Hosts Student Poster Contest

The Irving Advisory Committee on Disabilities is hosting its annual poster contest in recognition of National Disability Awareness Month in October.

The poster contest, for students in the fifth grade, provides participants with an opportunity to showcase artistic talents as they express how a person with disabilities can use his or her abilities to be part of the community. Each entry will be judged on the originality of concept and the content of how it relates to people with disabilities. A previous example of artwork has included children with a disability playing a sport with children

who are not disabled. Irving students in public, private or home school are invited to participate in the contest.

"Through their artwork, young people can illustrate how those with disabilities make a difference in our community," said Mary Tatro, chairman of the Irving Advisory Committee on Disabilities.

Entry deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 16. Awards will be presented at the Oct. 6 City Council meeting. Posters will be on display for the public. For details on the contest, visit www.cityofirving.org or call (972) 721-2501. ■

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Cuentitos Para Bebé – 7 p.m. Thursdays, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Cuentitos Para Bebé, a Spanish Mother Goose storytime with age-appropriate activities, songs and finger plays for babies four to 18 months of age and their caregivers, resumes in September and runs through October. Registration required. For more information, call (972) 721-2458.

Remembering September 11 – 2 p.m. Sept. 11. Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Commemorate the 10th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center by sharing memories of that day, honoring the heroes, and celebrating the way our nation came together in the face of adversity.

Hispanic Heritage Month – Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd., will host the following programs for the whole family to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

- ◆ **Guatemalan Worry Dolls** – 2:30 p.m. Sept. 10. A make-and-take workshop. Registration required. Call (972) 721-2458.
- ◆ **Latino Drumming for Kids** – 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15. Len Barnett will introduce children to Latin rhythms and instruments.
- ◆ **Fiesta @ the Library** – 2:30 p.m. Sept. 17. Daniel de Cordoba will demonstrate forms of Spanish dance and the Richland College Steel Band's Afro-Caribbean rhythms will pay tribute to the Hispanic influence in the Caribbean Islands.
- ◆ **Cool School with Ms. Maria** – 7:30 p.m. Sept. 29. Ms. Maria will share bilingual songs that encourage learning and having fun.

For more information about library events and activities, review the online calendar at www.cityofirving.org/library. ■

Irving Public Library Program to Celebrate the Diversity of Irving

During the month of September, the library will host cultural festivals that celebrate the diversity within Irving. Each library location will showcase a different culture represented in the city with family friendly programs featuring live music, dancing, storytelling, crafts and food.

“The library is excited about this opportunity to celebrate some of the many cultures of Irving, giving attendees a greater understanding and appreciation for our diversity in an engaging and entertaining way,” said Chris Dobson, library services manager. “Festival goers can feast on exotic flavors, see the vivid costumes and hear dynamic rhythms while learning about the unique history and traditions of each of the cultures showcased from Asia, Central America, South America and the Middle East.”

The following festivals are free and open to the public.

Celebrating Central America and South America

The West Irving Library, 4444 W. Rochelle Road, will celebrate Central America and South America from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 10. Sue Young, bilingual singer and storyteller, kicks off the festival with Tales and Tunes of Latin America-Cantos y Cuentos. At 1 p.m., Calliope Puppets will present a marionette puppet show featuring traditional stories and music from the region. The festivities will conclude with a live demonstration and mini-workshop of Capoeira, a Brazilian art form that fuses martial arts with dance.

Celebrating Asia

The Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd., will host a celebration of Asian culture from noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 10. Taiwanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino, Cambodian and Japanese culture will be showcased through native and folk dance demonstrations. Included are a fully costumed lion dance, live traditional music and Taiko drumming, calligraphy demonstrations, Chinese acrobatic performances, crafts and games. The festival will end with



Hispanic Heritage Month

Taiwanese bubble tea from Chill Bubble Tea and food samples from various Asian restaurants.

Celebrating the Middle East

The East Branch, 440 S. Nursery Road, will host a celebration of Middle Eastern culture from 1 to 5 p.m. Sept. 17. The festivities will start with live camels dressed in cultural tapestries and a presentation by Doug Baum of the Texas Camel Corps on the history and culture of camels in the Middle East. The event will feature belly dancing, a puppet show of a traditional Middle Eastern tale, live music and food samples. Participants can stop by the henna tattoo booth to learn about the rich history of this art form and get a temporary tattoo.

For performance schedules at each festival, visit www.cityofirving.org/library. ■

Big Read Celebration to Begin Oct. 1 with ‘The Adventures of Tom Sawyer’

Irving residents are invited to escape back into childhood during the city's sixth annual community reading event. The chosen novel for Irving's Big Read 2011 is “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” by Mark Twain. Twain's first full novel is an American classic with humor, adventure and a slice of Americana that can be enjoyed by readers of all ages. Multiple copies of “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” and age-appropriate companion titles are available at all library locations or may be downloaded at <http://irvinglibrary.lib.overdrive.com>.

The simple themes of boyhood antics, adventure and exploration, combined with the deeper ideas of friendship and freedom, have created many opportunities for the library to host fun, innovative programs. Partnering with the Irving ISD, Irving Heritage Society, National Scouting Museum, Irving recreation centers and other organizations, the library will offer a variety of activities for all ages throughout October. The kick-off week of Irving's Big Read includes the following programs.

- ◆ **The Big Twain Thang** – noon to 5 p.m. Oct. 1, West Irving Library, 4444 W. Rochelle Road. The month-long celebration of reading and community kicks off with an old-fashioned country fair. Activities will include games, a fishing booth, square dancing, quilters, demonstrations, crafts, costumes and live music.

- ◆ **Irving's Big Read Reception** – 7 p.m. Oct. 4, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Cindy Lovell, curator of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, Mo., and a Mark Twain biographer, will speak on Twain's life and the implications of Twain's work. Hosted by the Irving Heritage Society and the Friends of the Irving Public Library.
- ◆ **Mid-Week Mysteries** – noon Oct. 5, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The monthly mystery book club is celebrating Mark Twain by reading novels from Peter J. Heck's Mark Twain mystery series.
- ◆ **Valley Ranch Live! Going Batty** – 7 p.m. Oct. 6, Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail. Discover the world of bats with a live demonstration.
- ◆ **Irving Chautauqua** – 2 p.m. Oct. 8, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. C.J. Critt, an award-winning audiobook narrator, reads selections from “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.”
- ◆ **Modern Tom Cover Art Contest: Who is Tom Today?** – Teens, grades 6-12, can submit their own version of a contemporary Tom Sawyer book cover. Rules and entry forms are available at all library locations and www.cityofirving.org/library.

Other programs throughout the month include geocaching for teens, a dinner mystery theater at the Heritage Senior Center, a Mark Twain movie marathon, the puppet show “Tom Sawyer and the Great Fire: A



Really Hot Show,” a haunted cave, and a performance by Dave Elhert, a Mark Twain impersonator, at the National Scouting Museum.

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. For details, visit www.neabigread.org. For a full listing of activities and discussions during Irving's Big Read, visit www.cityofirving.org/library or call (972) 721-2606. ■



KIB Proud Partners Award recipients



KIB award recipients



Mayor Van Duyne with awardee

Annual Trinity Trash Bash Seeks Volunteers

Irving's 20th Annual Trinity Trash Bash is getting back to its roots Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon with a waterway and land-based cleanup along the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) is partnering with Kayak Power to provide kayaks, paddles, life vests and safety instruction for participants.

Individuals and groups are invited to sign up for the event, which will be held at T.W. Richardson Grove Park, 333 E. Interstate Highway 635. There's limited space available for waterway volunteers. Once those slots have been assigned, volunteers will be registered for land cleanup. No personal watercraft will be allowed, and waterway volunteers must be age 15 years and older. There are no age restrictions for land cleanup.

KIB will supply litter pickers, vests, gloves and trash bags. Register at www.rockthegreen.org. Send an email to info@rockthegreen.org or call (972) 721-2175 for more information. ■



Trash Bash participants

Departments Honored at Mayor and KIB Proud Partners Awards

Several city departments were honored at the 2011 Mayor and Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) Proud Partners Awards ceremony.

The Irving Police Department's Problem Solving Team was presented with the Frank Pate Law Enforcement Award. The lifetime achievement award recognizes law enforcement professionals who have unique approaches to enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) was presented with the Gregg Mays Green Government Award. The Green Government Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the Irving environment by government departments, divisions or agencies.

ICTN Producer/Director Thomas Gandy also was honored with the KIB Hometown Award. According

to KIB, the award helps recognize and show appreciation for a person's contributions to Irving's quality of life.

The Solid Waste Services Department was recognized at the event for a state honor. They received an honorable mention at the 2011 Keep Texas Beautiful Awards. The award recognizes the outstanding environmental programming contributions of government agencies, departments and divisions.

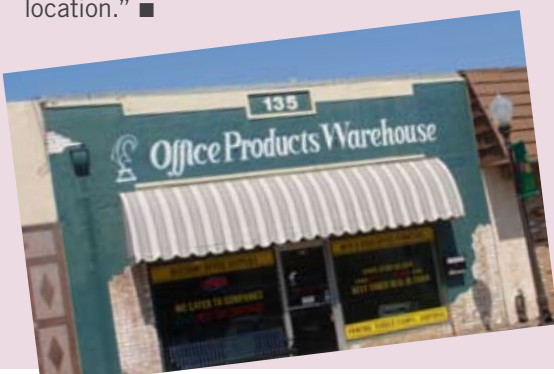
The ceremony was held at the First Baptist Church of Irving. Visit www.keepirvingbeautiful.org and www.rockthegreen.org for more KIB information. ■

POSTAL SERVICES RETURN TO DOWNTOWN IRVING

Office Products Warehouse in downtown Irving will be offering postal services starting this month.

City staff approached owner Vic Aubey about the idea of adding postal services to his business earlier this year. He signed a contract with the USPS in mid-August to provide outbound mail and a variety of other postal services for residents and businesses at 135 S. Main St. Services include the sale of stamps and a variety of mailing options. Designated parking will be available for postal patrons.

"I'm absolutely elated," said Aubey. "It's a great thing for everyone in the area, and definitely something we've needed ever since the postal service closed their other location." ■



Several Be Green Activities Planned for This Fall

Several environmental classes and activities are being offered for residents this fall.

Backyard Composting – Short Class

Learn how to compost using hot and cold methods, and also discuss the types of materials to use in building a compost pile, as well as how to troubleshoot composting problems. The benefits of compost and applications in gardening also will be discussed.

- ◆ **Sept. 13** | 6 to 8 p.m.
Max G. Greiner Environmental Center
Southeast corner of Conflans and Gilbert roads

Irrigation Basics

Participants will learn how to maintain, test and conduct minor repairs on irrigation systems. The class will focus on the importance of a water-wise landscape and the irrigation requirements for such a landscape.

- ◆ **Oct. 15** | 10 a.m. to noon
Valley View Municipal Complex
333 Valley View Lane

Night Hike at Campión Trails

Explore the nighttime world of animals at Campión Trails with native species experts and learn more about the sights, smells and sounds of nature at night. Night hikers are invited to challenge their skills in spotting signs of animal life and sharpening other senses. Learn more about the kinds of animals that call Irving home. This night hike will begin with a special Halloween activity from 7 to 8 p.m.

- ◆ **Oct. 21** | 7 to 10 p.m.
Bird's Fort Trail
5756 Riverside Drive

An Introduction to Urban Farming

This workshop will provide individuals with information about how to live sustainably in an urban setting. Urban farming topics that will be discussed include organic vegetable gardening, canning foods, urban poultry farming, beekeeping, energy and water conservation, and using alternatives to household chemicals. This workshop is a precursor to the Urban Farming Series, which will be presented in 2012.

- ◆ **Oct. 29** | 8 a.m. to noon
Senter East Building
228 Chamberlain St.

Native Plant Tour

Enjoy a leisurely walk through the Native Gardens at Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Park and see what is blooming this time of year. Staff will be available for guided tours or just stroll the gardens. Attendees will receive a free copy of the "Texas Native Garden Plant Guide."

- ◆ **Oct. 29** | 9 a.m. to noon
Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Park
3925 Jackson St.

To register for a free class or activity, visit www.cityofirving.org/begreen and select "Educational Opportunities." For more information, call (972) 742-2296. ■



Watering Restrictions Mandatory for Irving Residents, Businesses

City of Irving officials have enacted mandatory watering restrictions as part of the implementation of Stage 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan.

Until further notice, Irving residents and businesses cannot water more than twice per week, on designated days, according to the street number address and other guidelines.

- ◆ Even-numbered addresses (those ending in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8) may water on Tuesday and Saturday.
- ◆ Odd-numbered addresses (those ending in 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9) may water on Wednesday and Sunday.
- ◆ No watering may occur on Monday, Thursday or Friday.
- ◆ No watering may occur between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day.

During Stage 2 restrictions, building foundations and new plantings may be watered by a hand-held hose, soaker hose, bucket or drip irrigation for up to two hours on any day. Landscape watering is always prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Violators of the Stage 2 restrictions are subject to fines of up to \$2,000 per violation.

Activating the mandatory restrictions is a proactive move intended to preserve the water supply and thereby protect public health, welfare and safety, as well as minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortages. Cooperation with the restrictions will help ensure water is available for domestic use, sanitation and fire protection.

“Our customers have done a good job at adhering to the watering restrictions that have been put in place,” said Water Utilities Director Todd Reck. “The mandatory schedule has helped us reduce water use and maintain safe levels to avoid a water shortage.”

For more information, call (972) 721-2281. ■

Stage 2 Mandatory Watering Schedule

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
ODD numbered addresses can water		EVEN numbered addresses can water	ODD numbered addresses can water			EVEN numbered addresses can water
No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.	NO OUTSIDE WATERING	No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.	No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.	NO OUTSIDE WATERING	NO OUTSIDE WATERING	No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Residents Weigh in on South Irving Library Design

Residents reviewed conceptual design plans for a new South Irving Library and provided feedback during community input hearings in August.

The 45,000-square-foot facility will be located on the corner of Second Street and Sowers Road in Heritage Crossing. The state-of-the-art library will feature children’s activities, a teen area, an adult collection area, computer lab, study rooms, a large group meeting room and a quiet reading room.

The new facility will be built in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council standards and submitted for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification upon completion. It will include the latest green technology such as solar panels, and geothermal heating and cooling. The design will incorporate plenty of windows for natural lighting and views of Millennium Fountain and Centennial Park.

“The input we received from the two community meetings will help the design team finalize the plans for the new library,” said Casey Tate, capital



Draft concept for South Irving Library

improvements program director. “There will be another opportunity to view and comment on the final schematic plans before the project goes forward. Residents also can submit input online through the city website.”

For more information on plans for the new South Irving Library, visit www.cityofirving.org/library. ■

Family Event Set for Sept. 10 on Main Street

Residents are invited to attend the Irving Main Street Event—Music and Magic on Main, set for 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 10 at 217 Main St. The event will feature the Manifolds on Main Street car show, children’s activities, artisans, crafts, music, magic shows and food. A shuttle from the Irving City Hall parking garage, 825 W. Irving Blvd., will take attendees to and from the event site in the Heritage District. Following is a list of shows and events featured throughout the day.



Vocal Trash

Enjoy a performance by the acclaimed percussion group Vocal Trash in the likeness of STOMP. The performers make a unique blend of music as they use atypical instruments such as broomsticks, pots, pans, garbage cans and even household appliances to create exciting, percussion-based music. The main stage finale begins at 6 p.m.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre II

Also part of the finale, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre II, a contemporary modern dance company, will perform an array of vibrant and energetic dances that celebrate culture and diversity. According to The New York Times, “The performers are feisty, fearless and well-trained. The troupe is in good shape—capable of the unexpected.”

The World of Magic

Get mesmerized by David Thomas and his World of Magic. The Genesis Magic Show will feature a mixture of music, magic, illusions and audience participation. Showtimes are noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the Heritage Senior Center, 200 S. Jefferson St.

Multiple Music Stages

Enjoy a variety of music ranging from jazz, pop, rock and the blues. Three music stages will offer continuous musical enjoyment.

Manifolds on Main Street Car Show

Vintage cars and race cars will be showcased in the Pavilion of Speed. Gates open at 9 a.m. Judging starts at 1 p.m., with awards presented at 5:30 p.m. To register, visit www.manifoldsonmain.org.

Video Game Theater

The video game theater features the latest video games for the Nintendo Wii, Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3. Gamers will enjoy 50-inch flat screen televisions in a climate-controlled environment.

For a complete list of artists and performance times, visit www.cityofirving.org or call (972) 721-2501. ■

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.

Interact with Irving online:



Scan this code with a smartphone to view a behind-the-scenes look at the Main Street Event on “Irving Living.”