

Key Focus Areas In This Issue:

Economic Development

- ✓ State Highway 183 Expansion Page 1
- ✓ Entertainment Venue Page 8

Capital Improvements

- ✓ Capital Improvement Program Page 1

Public Safety

- ✓ Police Customer Survey Page 3

Communications

- ✓ Awards for Exceptional Services Page 7
- ✓ Live Meeting Coverage Page 7



Highway 183 Expansion to Create a Vibrant Community Gateway

In preparation of the State Highway 183 expansion, city officials are using the upcoming infrastructure changes as an opportunity to reform a well-traveled corridor to promote a more vibrant community.

Area Guidelines to be Established

An overlay district—an area that includes a set of development regulations—is being created to establish the look and feel of existing and new businesses along the highway where construction will take place.

“The expansion presents a unique opportunity to influence the appearance of a major corridor and transform it into an area that can become an even greater asset to the community,” said Doug Janeway, assistant real estate services director.

Making Way for the Expansion

In addition, officials with the city and the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce are providing support to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to relocate residents and businesses along the highway that will be affected by the construction. Some businesses and residents already have begun to clear the path for the upcoming expansion, including two longtime Irving businesses—Guaranty Bank and Bank of the West—which have relocated south of the highway on Irving Boulevard.

TxDOT will install sound walls in areas most affected by the pending construction. City staff has worked with TxDOT on the sound wall designs.

The highway expansion will include:

- Two- to three-lane frontage roads in each direction
- Four non-toll main lanes in each direction
- Two managed toll lanes in each direction

Project Funding

Funding for the project stems from a compilation of sources including the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Federal Highway Administration, public/private partnerships and anticipated toll revenue. Sound walls will be constructed beginning this December. For ongoing project information, visit TxDOT online at www.keepitmovingdallas.com.

Capital Improvement Program Stays Strong with New Projects Planned

While other cities in the Metroplex are eliminating services and delaying capital improvements, the City of Irving continues to move forward with the construction of new facilities and infrastructure projects.

In all, 48 capital projects are in the design process and 38 are under construction. These will provide additional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities for residents, businesses and visitors. The infrastructure projects will enhance area neighborhoods and provide for a safe and secure environment.

See Page 5 for details on completed and upcoming projects.



Veterans Memorial Park



Cimarron Family Aquatic Center

IRVING MAIN STREET EVENT

Residents are invited to attend the Irving Main Street Event—Music and Magic on Main.

Sept. 26
1 to 8 p.m.
Heritage District

The event will feature:

- Manifolds on Main St. car show
- Children's activities
- Variety acts
- Artisans
- Crafts
- Music
- Magic
- Food

See Page 5 for event details. For more information, call (972) 721-2501.



Be Green!

Shred Opportunity

Protect against identity theft with safe, on-site destruction of personal/proprietary information. Shred Document Destruction will be available from noon to 2 p.m. Sept. 11 at Irving's Drop-Off Recycling Center located at O'Connor Plaza (northwest corner of State Highway 183 and O'Connor Road). Look for the Shred Document Destruction equipment at the drop-off recycling center between the two large buildings. Residents are limited to two file boxes per visit and will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. Only paper materials will be accepted. Participants should not bring CDs or credit cards for shredding. For more information, call (972) 721-2533.

Water Conservation Class

Corporate Communications will sponsor a free class on Water Conservation Techniques from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 10 at the Heritage Senior Center, 200 S. Jefferson St. The class will provide participants with information about ways to conserve water including drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, leak detection and city water conservation initiatives. Speakers will include Dotty Woodson with Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Barry Allen with the City of Irving. To reserve a seat, visit www.cityofirving.org/begreen and click on "Educational Opportunities." For more information, call (972) 721-2533.

Green Building Workshop

Residents have an opportunity to learn how to plan for a more efficient remodel or prepare for the design and construction of a new home at the Build Green Workshop from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 26 at City Hall (Council Chambers), 825 W. Irving Blvd. Hear from professionals about ways to:

- Maximize sun exposure while reducing energy consumption.
- Maximize natural resources by using green products—those made from recycled and organic materials.
- Minimize water consumption by using native landscaping techniques.

Attendees also will have an opportunity to visit with vendors and see samples of their products. This is a free workshop. To register visit



www.cityofirving.org/begreen and click on "Educational Opportunities." For more information, call (972) 721-2533.

Material Exchange Program

Help divert waste from the Hunter Ferrell Landfill by participating in Irving's Material Exchange Program. This free program provides an online listing service that matches residents who have good household items to dispose of with local individuals who can use them. Items are not for sale, and are listed for exchange only. Irving's Material Exchange Program helps to reduce the amount of reusable items headed to the landfill and expands the city's recycling program. To participate, visit www.cityofirving.org, click on "Online Services," and then click on "Irving's Material Exchange." For more information, call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-8059.



Collection Containers

The city offers roll-off container service to Irving residents and businesses. A roll-off container is used to collect waste from building construction such as rocks, brick, broken concrete, lumber and building materials, or for major remodeling or general cleanup of vacant or improved property. Available sizes include 12-, 20- and 30-yard containers. A service agreement is required and fees are applicable. For more information, call Solid Waste Services/Waste Collections at (972) 721-2232.

Mustang Mulch

Residents, businesses and landscape companies may purchase Mustang Mulch at the Hunter Ferrell Landfill. Mustang Mulch is mulched wood debris (brush only) collected from Irving residential customers. The untreated mulch is available in two cubic-foot bags for \$3 per bag or sold by the yard for \$12 per yard (in bulk form). Mustang Mulch benefits:

- Prevents soil compaction and erosion.
- Suppresses weeds.
- Captures and retains soil moisture.
- Protects and stimulates microbial activity in the soil.
- Adds nutrients to the soil as the mulch breaks down.



The Hunter Ferrell Landfill is located at 220 W. Hunter Ferrell Road and is open from 7 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Sunday (weather permitting). It is closed on city recognized holidays. Call (972) 264-3772 to check availability.

For more information about Mustang Mulch, call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-8059 or visit www.cityofirving.org and click on "Solid Waste Services" under "Departments."

ARTS CENTER EVENTS

Through Sept. 13

Students' Transportation Art Contest Dupree Theater Lobby

Original and award-winning artwork from Irving students, created using the theme "Transportation in Texas: the 21st Century and Beyond." The exhibition celebrates the Annual Transportation Summit held in Irving.

Through June 30

Within the Emperor's Garden: The Ten Thousand Springs Pavilion Carpenter Lobby

Explore the Imperial Garden, Forbidden City and the traditional art of Chinese carving. Exhibition features a stunning hand-carved model of the Ten Thousand Springs Pavilion.



The Ten Thousand Springs Pavilion

Smithsonian Weekend Set for September

The Irving Arts Center will celebrate its newest exhibition, *NASA | ART: 50 Years of Exploration*, during Smithsonian Weekend on Sept. 26-27. The exhibit is on loan from the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition Services.

Participants will enjoy space-themed art projects, a gallery talk with a NASA astronaut, screenings of the Smithsonian's "Into the Vault" series, Discovery Channel's "When We Left Earth" and refreshments. Free events will take place daily from 2 to 5 p.m. and are open to the public.

The Arts Center joined the Smithsonian Affiliations program in 2007 and is one of only 160 museums nationwide to earn the distinction.

NASA | ART will open at the Irving Arts Center on Sept. 5 and will be on display in the Main Gallery through Nov. 22. The exhibition features original creations by artists including Annie Leibovitz, Norman Rockwell, Andy Warhol and William Wegman. The works—ranging from the illustrative to the abstract—offer unparalleled insight into the private and personal moments, triumphant victories and tragic accidents that form the storied history of NASA.

For more information, visit www.irvingartscenter.com or call (972) 252-7558.



"Gemini Launch Pad" by Jamie Wyeth

City to Offer Discounted Services for Senior Citizens

The city is working hard to ensure that senior citizens, ages 65 years and older, continue to receive discounted rates while maintaining quality services for all residents. Increased senior discounts have been included in the following fees.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Effective Oct. 1, a monthly fee of \$1.50 will be added to municipal services bills to help fund EMS operations and equipment; however, ambulance transport fees have been reduced by \$100 for senior citizens to \$400—the lowest rate in the Metroplex. The transport fee for residents also has been reduced by \$50 to \$450, which is the second-lowest rate in the area.



The city's senior citizen ambulance transport fee will be the lowest rate in the Metroplex.

Emergency medical services are a highly demanded service by residents. In the 2007-08 fiscal year, Irving's emergency services responded to nearly 14,000 calls for service. The city's 54 paramedics and eight ambulances are supported by an annual budget of \$6.7 million allocated for emergency medical services. The latest figures show cost recovery for services rendered are at an average of 45 percent. To assist with cost recovery, new state legislation allows Texas municipalities with populations between 200,000 and 250,000 to add fees for emergency medical services to monthly municipal services bills.

In the city's 2009 resident survey, responders rated the service of the city's emergency responders with a 98 percent satisfaction rating, and Irving's emergency services have the highest cardiac survival rate in the state and the second highest in the nation.

Sanitation

An enhanced senior citizen and disabled resident discount also has been included in the sanitation fee that would increase it from 20 to 25 percent—the greatest senior rate discount in the Metroplex. The discount would bring the total to \$14.44, a 16 percent per month decrease. The proposed budget includes a \$1 per month sanitation fee increase to \$19.25.

Budget to Remain Balanced

The city manager's 2009-10 proposed budget, which has been developed based on City Council direction and resident input, will be structurally

balanced with no use of reserve funds or increases in the tax rate to finance expenditures. In addition, the city has experienced a \$7 million decrease in revenues and has saved \$12.7 million through process improvements. The budget will be adopted Sept. 17 for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

Residents have the opportunity to provide input on the budget through Sept. 17. A form for public input is available under the "Public Input Opportunities" section of the city Web site at www.cityofirving.org. Comments also may be made in person at a budget hearing set for 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd.



Provide input on the budget online.

Customer Service Survey Shows Increased Satisfaction Rating with Police Services

Results of the city's annual Police Department customer survey results show a greater than 90 percent level of satisfaction with police services. In addition, when compared with the 2008 survey, residents responded with higher satisfaction scores when asked about the empathy and tact performance of officers, which rates topics such as integrity and professionalism.

"I am very pleased with the survey results," said Police Chief Larry Boyd. "I appreciate the level of dedication and commitment that our police department employees exhibit toward the community we serve."

Each year, the department partners with the University of Dallas to survey residents who have called the Police Department for assistance. The telephone survey, based on calls retrieved from the department's computer-aided dispatch system, asked 36 questions to assess courteousness, helpfulness, knowledge and overall satisfaction with service.

Other survey highlights include a 99 percent satisfaction rate with the courteousness of dispatchers as well as a 99 percent satisfaction



rate with the responding officer's professional knowledge. Residents may view the survey results at www.irvingpd.com.

CELL PHONE BAN

It's the Law

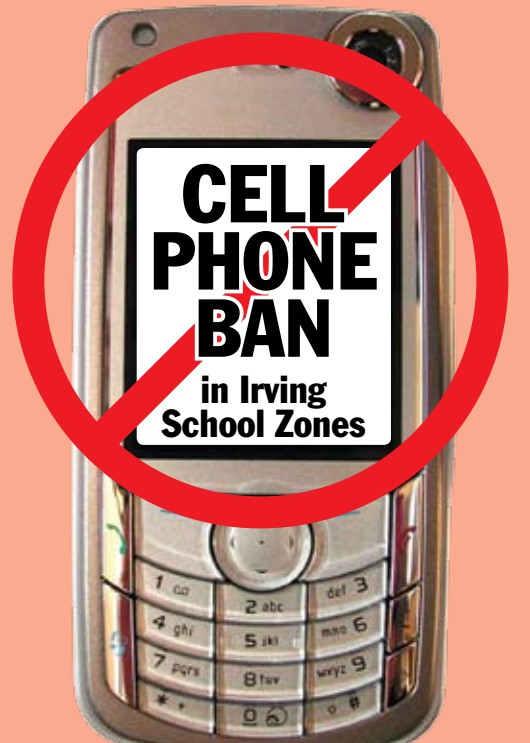
Motorists are prohibited from talking, dialing or listening with hand-held mobile telephones, and entering or reading text messages in active school zones.

This includes:

- Hand-held cell phones
- Personal digital assistants (PDAs)
- Pagers
- Other electronic communications devices

Visit www.cityofirving.org for more information.

This is a Class C violation; motorists could receive a fine of up to \$500.



Seniors for Seniors Pet Adoption Program

The Irving Animal Shelter has launched Seniors for Seniors—a unique pet adoption program that pairs senior pets with Irving seniors free of charge. Interested residents, age 65 and older, can learn more about the program at a special informational session from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 9 at the Heritage Senior Center, 200 S. Jefferson St.

“Thanks to the Seniors for Seniors pet adoption program, both the adoptee and the adopter have hope for a better quality of life,” said Fred Sanderson, animal services manager. “Senior pets, because of their milder temperament and fully

developed personalities, make ideal companions for senior citizens.”

Through the Seniors for Seniors program, pet adoption is a simple and worry-free process for Irving seniors. All adopted animals are provided with a collar, start-up food and supplies. In addition, pets will be current on vaccines, spayed or neutered, registered and microchipped before being released.

For details, call (972) 721-2257. Potential pet owners who want to give a loving pet a good home may visit the Irving Animal Shelter, 100 N. Briery Road weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m.



New program pairs senior pets with Irving seniors.

IRVING TEEN COURT

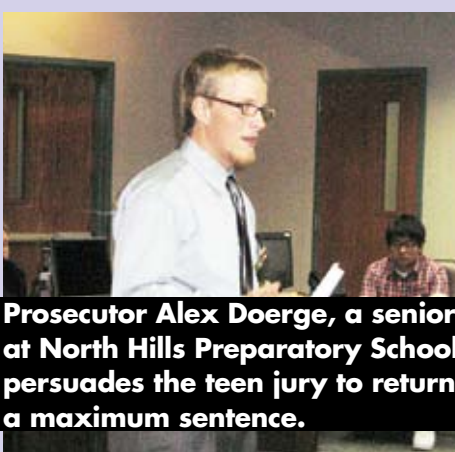
Irving Teen Court is a hands-on opportunity for offenders and volunteers to learn about the legal system, and serves as a vehicle for positive peer pressure. Teenagers brought before Teen Court as offenders learn to accept responsibility for their actions. They pay back the community through community service, Teen Court jury terms, and other sanctions. The process empowers youth to take responsibility for crime and violence in their own schools and communities.

Volunteers Needed

Teen volunteers are needed to serve as members of Teen Court in capacities such as juror, attorney, clerk or bailiff. In addition to being a rewarding experience, volunteering for Teen Court is unique in that participants gain valuable information about the legal system, develop critical thinking skills, develop public speaking skills (for attorneys), meet a diverse group of people, and are empowered with the responsibility of sentencing teens who have committed crimes.

Training

The next training session for teen volunteers will be held Sept. 26. Teens must be ages 14-17; those who are older must be enrolled in high school. Adult volunteers also are needed to supervise the teen juries, check in jurors and assign them to juries, and check out defendants after the cases are heard. Attorneys are invited to observe the program and serve as Teen Court judges. To apply, call the Teen Court office at (972) 721-3601 or visit www.cityofirving.org and click on “Municipal Court” under “Departments,” then select “Teen Court” on the left.



Prosecutor Alex Doerge, a senior at North Hills Preparatory School, persuades the teen jury to return a maximum sentence.

Foreclosure Assistance Available

Foreclosure is a challenge faced by many Americans every year. Losing a job, rising interest rates, emergency situations, and unexpected medical bills are all stressful events that can put residents behind on home mortgages. Those faced with this situation may call the HOPE Hot Line at (888) 995-HOPE™ for assistance.

HOPE hot line representatives will work with residents and their mortgage companies to develop a plan to pay back the loan and prevent foreclosure. The sooner a person calls, the more options will be available.

When calling (888) 995-HOPE, have a list of the major bills that are paid every month, which should include the mortgage payment statement, mortgage loan number, car payment, insurance payment, utilities, student loans, credit cards, etc. This information will help the counselor build an accurate assessment of the caller’s financial situation. Also, callers should have a recent paycheck stub on hand, along with any other source of income.

For more information about foreclosure prevention, contact the mortgage company, (888) 995-HOPE, or the Housing and Human Services Department at (972) 721-4800.



Common foreclosure scams

1. A party buys a home, and lets the former owner rent it back. The former owner loses his/her property, and the landlord can legally kick him/her out of the home with little or no notice.
2. The owner pays an up-front fee for a foreclosure prevention service and is asked to stop making mortgage payments. These services offer counseling, a budget, and will approach the mortgage company to consider a payment plan; however, these services do not always thoroughly deliver on the work that is promised.
3. Some will prey on the stress and anxiety surrounding the foreclosure process by convincing owners to sign papers they do not understand. Do not sign anything without speaking with an attorney, the mortgage company, or a nonprofit foreclosure prevention organization such as the Homeownership Preservation Foundation or the city’s Housing and Human Services Department.

Government Leaders Meet for Annual Transportation Summit

As an innovative leader in transportation and infrastructure projects, the City of Irving hosted the 12th Annual Transportation and Infrastructure Summit on Aug. 11-14. Nearly 1,100 attendees gathered in Irving for the event. Municipal, county and transportation representatives from 30 states and 13 countries attended.

The Transportation Summit is the largest and most comprehensive public policy transportation conference in the nation, dedicated to bringing together leaders from all levels of government and creating a forum to discuss and develop solutions for transportation issues. Industry experts and government leaders addressed issues such as tolling, public-private partnerships, homeland security, fuel crisis, growing congestion, air quality, pollution, mobility, and safety and security challenges.



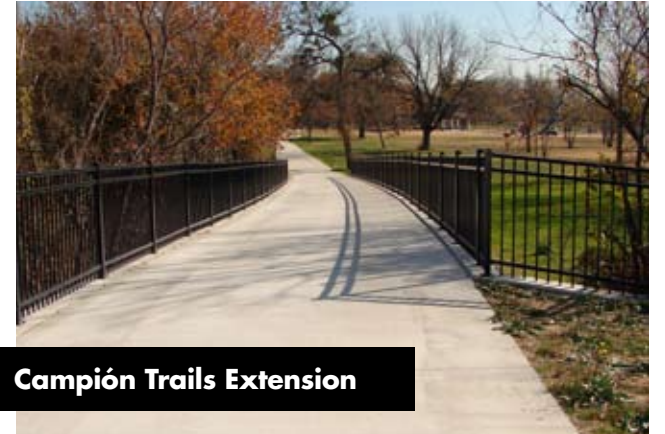
Mayor Herbert Gears speaks at the Transportation Summit.

Capital Improvement Program

Completed Projects

Highlights of projects totaling more than \$118 million since Oct. 1, 2005.

Grauwlyer Heights Alley Improvements Phase I – 8 alleyways within Grauwlyer Heights	\$556,643
Heritage District Alley Improvements	\$208,989
Wyche Park and Towne Lake Park Improvements	\$200,000
Towne Lake Parking Lot Expansion	\$15,000
Mustang Sand Volleyball Court	\$28,000
Hackberry Regent 20-inch Waterline Phase I	\$875,630
Utility Relocations for DART/TRE Grade Separation	\$615,157
MacArthur Boulevard Paving Improvements – State Highway 183 to Metker	\$6,305,524
Campión Trails – Primary Trail Expansion	\$2,735,000
Lively Pointe Skate Park	\$600,000
Hackberry Pump Station	\$12,124,359
Wildwood Drive Paving Improvements	\$2,639,285
O'Connor Boulevard and Riverside Drive Intersection Improvements	\$802,096
Belt Line Road Paving Rehabilitation	\$2,512,077
Chamberlain Street Improvements	\$2,521,111
Lively Pointe Youth Center Renovation and Expansion	2,495,000
Cimarron Park Family Aquatic Center	\$2,700,000
Tim Markwood Park	\$800,000
Veterans Memorial Park	\$2,500,000
Weathered Street and MacArthur Boulevard Gateway Project	\$265,000
Northgate Pump Station	\$8,505,445
Valley Ranch Library	\$6,000,000
Kinwest Parkway Connector	\$414,731
Las Colinas Boulevard Extension Phase I	\$4,626,999
Grauwlyer Road – English to Carl Streets	\$7,470,610
Belt Line Road and MacArthur Boulevard Corridor Improvements	\$850,000



Campión Trails Extension



Valley Ranch Library

In West Irving, construction has begun on the West Irving Aquatic Center, and during Fiscal Year 2009-10, construction will begin on the West Irving Library. In Central Irving, construction continues on the Irving Convention Center and other development along the DART Orange Line. In addition, construction will begin on a new Fire House No. 4. In South Irving, emphasis is being placed on corridor enhancements along Irving and MacArthur boulevards.

Coming Soon

Projects in the amount of \$350 million are planned for the next four years.

Las Colinas Utility Undergrounding	\$2,000,000
Grauwlyer Heights Alleys Phases II-IV – 3 alleyways within Grauwlyer Heights	\$800,000
Campión Trails Expansion	\$1,520,000
Accessible Playground and Miracle League Field	\$2,200,000
West Irving Aquatic Center	\$4,000,000
Lake Carolyn Promenade	\$2,500,000
Animal Shelter	\$8,000,000
Dog Park	\$325,000
Irving Boulevard Redevelopment	\$2,000,000
West Irving Library	\$8,500,000
Convention Center	\$115,000,000
Fire House No. 4	\$3,900,000
Northgate Pump Station	\$750,000
Campión Trails – Texas Stadium Segment and Boardwalk	\$3,000,000



West Irving Aquatic Center

While much has happened during the past three years, more exciting infrastructure improvements are on the horizon. For more information on the city's capital improvement program, call (972) 721-2611.

Irving Main Street Event to Offer Variety Acts

The following is a list of shows that will be featured at the Irving Main Street Event from 1 to 8 p.m. Sept. 26 in the Heritage District.

The World of Magic

Get mesmerized by David Thomas and his World of Magic. Featuring high-energy dancers, cutting-edge illusions and lavish costumes.

Flea-T Barnum's Amazing Flea Circus

The Smallest Show on Earth! Daring trained fleas walk the tightrope, swing from the trapeze and high-dive into a cup of water. See "Evil-Flea-Deevil" get shot out of a miniature cannon.

The Make Believe Circus

Kids from the audience become "world-famous" circus performers! With fun costumes and big



The World of Magic

props, participants might guest star as "The Strong Man," "The Lion Tamer," or the "Human Cannonball."

Two Stages Featuring a Variety of Bands

Enjoy a great selection of bands performing a

perfect blend of jazz, blues, swing music, rock and pop. Go to www.cityofirving.org/parks-and-recreation for a list of bands and performance times.

Manifolds on Main St.— Not Your Average Car Show

The Manifolds on Main St. Car Show will feature up to 200 traditional hot rods, original cars and trucks, muscle cars and street rods. Preregister by Sept. 18 for \$12. Entry fee on the day of the show is \$15. To register, visit www.manifoldsonmain.com.

Tall Texan

Everything is bigger in Texas! Be on the lookout for the 10-foot-tall Cowboy Paul.

For more information, call (972) 721-2501.

Library Briefs

Author Visit ▪ 7 p.m. Sept. 10, Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail. Candace Havens, best-selling author of the paranormal series featuring the Caruthers sisters, will greet fans. Call (972) 721-4669.

Saturday Scholars ▪ 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 12, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The Saturday Scholars Foundation will begin a new semester by recognizing the success of participant Anthony, from Paul Keyes Elementary, who passed all portions of the TAKS test after receiving tutoring in the program. Saturday Scholars provides free instruction and homework help for students in grades 1-8 on Saturdays beginning Sept. 12. Call (972) 721-2458.

Irving Chautauqua ▪ 2 p.m. Sept. 12, Central Library Auditorium at 801 W. Irving Blvd. Robert Clover-Brown will perform as Shakespeare and provide insights into Shakespeare's life. Call (972) 721-2606.

TeenScene ▪ 4:30 p.m. Sept. 15, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Teens, grades 6-12, are invited to screen a blockbuster hit starring Zac Efron.

Literacy Tutor Training ▪ 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 19 and 26, East Branch Library, 440 S. Nursery Road. Adult Literacy Tutor Training will introduce candidates to successful teaching strategies and lesson planning techniques. Those



interested in becoming an instructor with the Irving Public Library Literacy Program must attend both sessions. Call (972) 721-3722.

Little Bit of Science ▪ Noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 1, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Hands-on science activities for children ages 3-5. Parents or caregivers must be present. No registration required. Call (972) 721-2458.

JumpstART: Stories and Art ▪ 10 a.m. Oct. 1, Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Family storytime and art activities are held the first Thursday of the month. A "Charlotte's Web" theme will be presented in October. Call (972) 721-2458 or (972) 252-7558.

Calendar Items

- **Sept. 8** – 6:30 p.m., Movie Night @ the Library, Central Library

- **Sept. 10** – 7 p.m., Tea & Talk: "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency" by Alexander McCall Smith, Central Library
- **Sept. 14** – 4 p.m., Reel Teens: Movie Matinees for Teens, Valley Ranch Library
- **Sept. 17** – 6 p.m., Reel Reads: "Friday Night Lights" by Buzz Bissinger, Valley Ranch Library
- **Sept. 19** – 4 p.m., Got Games, Valley Ranch Library
- **Sept. 21** – 4 p.m., Manga Mania: "Black Cat: Episode 1," Valley Ranch Library
- **Sept. 21** – 7 p.m., Genealogy Program, Central Library
- **Sept. 24** – 7 p.m., Valley Ranch Reads: "The Observations by Jane Harris," Valley Ranch Library



Big Read Celebration to Begin Oct. 1

It is no mystery why Irving residents will enjoy The Big Read. The program, which begins Oct. 1, is designed to encourage reading for pleasure, and will provide residents with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities.

This year, Irving will read the short stories and poetry of Edgar Allan Poe. Considered the father of the mystery novel, Poe is a legendary writer, poet and literary critic who produced great works that continue to capture public imagination. Multiple copies of Poe's stories and poems are available at all library locations, or can be downloaded as audio books at <http://irvinglibrary.lib.overdrive.com>.

"We chose to feature Poe as Irving's Big Read author not only to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his birth, but also because few authors have had such a lasting influence on literature, and almost

every other art form, including plays, movies, musicals, operas, symphonies, comics, cartoons and paintings," said Jan Bodnar, library services supervisor.

The tortured artistry of Poe's work has created many opportunities for the library to host fun, innovative programs. Partnering with Barnes & Noble, Friends of the Library, Irving ISD, North Lake Community College, National Scouting Museum and other organizations, the library will offer a variety of activities throughout October.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and 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.

THE BIG BLEED: BOOKS OR BLOOD



The monthlong celebration of reading and community, Irving's Big Read, will kick off from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 1 with The Big Bleed: Books or Blood donation drive.

Bring a book to donate to the Friends of Irving Public Library or donate blood at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Participants will receive a free lunch and will learn about Irving's Big Read initiative. Local Poe enthusiast Darius Frasure, spoken word artist Will Richey, and the band Faint Image will entertain the audience performing works by Edgar Allan Poe.

For more information, call (972) 721-2606.

Irving Advisory Committee on Disabilities to Sponsor Expo, Poster Contest

October is National Disability Awareness Month and the Irving Advisory Committee is hosting two opportunities to support Irving's disabled community. Event details are as follows.

Poster Contest

This annual poster contest, for students in fifth and sixth grades, will provide 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.

The deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Sept. 18. Awards will be presented at the Oct. 22 City Council meeting. For details on the poster contest rules, visit www.cityofirving.org or call (972) 721-2533.



Disabilities Expo

This free event will bring attendees face-to-face with services of local, county, state and federal agencies. The expo will feature products from companies designed to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. It will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Oct. 10 at the Heritage Senior Center, 200 S. Jefferson St.

For more information, or to become an event sponsor and reserve a booth, call (972) 721-2533.

Irving Awarded for Exceptional Services

From excellence in TV programming to partnerships resulting in improved health care access, professional associations and peer groups are awarding the city for the quality of services delivered to residents.

Partnerships

The City of Irving has been recognized, along with Dallas County, for a partnership that resulted in the opening of the Irving Health Center. City of Irving Mayor Herbert A. Gears and Dallas County Commissioner Kenneth Mayfield accepted the 2009 City-County Cooperation Award at the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) annual conference held Aug. 26 in Austin.

“Receiving this recognition illustrates the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that is alive and well in Irving,” said Gears. “The Irving Health Center is just one of many examples of how Irving is partnering with various entities and organizations to provide residents with easy access to much-needed services, like those provided by the health center.”



Dallas County Commissioner Kenneth Mayfield (center) applauds as Mayor Herbert Gears (at right) accepts the 2009 City-County Cooperation Award from TAC Immediate Past President Marc Hamlin.



ICTN named best in state.

Since its opening, the center has received more than 33,000 visits from 11,000 low- to moderate-income individuals. In addition to providing Irving residents with access to less expensive primary and preventive care, the center provides immunizations, cancer screenings, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, hearing and vision screenings, and helps patients better manage chronic diseases such as diabetes.

The genesis of the Irving Health Center, located at 1800 N. Britain Road, can be traced back to 2004 with an interlocal agreement among several organizations. Participants included Parkland Health and Hospital System, Baylor Medical Center at Irving, Dental Health Programs, Irving Housing and Human Services Board, and the U.S. Department of Housing. A project team from each entity worked on opening the Irving Health Center, Parkland's newest community-based health center, in August 2007.

Best Government TV Programming

Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) has been recognized for having the best overall government programming in the state by the Texas Association of Telecommunications Officers and

Advisors (TATO). In this year's competition, TATO judges compared ICTN programming with that of cities across Texas, including Dallas and Plano. The station received the first-place award in the most coveted category—Overall Excellence in Government Programming. In addition, ICTN received:

- First place in the Community Event Coverage category for “Irving: Game of the Week”
- Second place in the Best Magazine Series category for “City Source”
- Second place in the Special Audience Programming category for “La Ciudad de Irving – Con la Comunidad”
- Third place in the Special Audience Programming category for “Resident Report”

“We are very excited to receive such a great honor,” said ICTN Executive Producer Courtney Mason. “It's nice to be recognized for our hard work. We continually strive for excellence, and this is confirmation that we are moving in the right direction.”

Irving residents can view ICTN programming on:

- **ICTN 1** – Time Warner Channel 16 or Verizon Channel 30
- **ICTN 2** – Time Warner Channel 95 or Verizon Channel 31
- **ICTN 3** – Time Warner Channel 96 or Verizon Channel 32

The ICTN schedule and on-demand programming are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.ictn.tv or www.cityofirving.org.

City Council Meetings, Work Sessions Air Live on ICTN

Residents who want to stay up-to-date with Irving City Council happenings can catch live coverage of Work Sessions and meetings on the award-winning Irving Community Television Network (ICTN). City Council meetings are typically held twice a month on alternating Thursdays beginning at 7 p.m., Work Sessions are held at 11 a.m. the day before scheduled City Council meetings. Both public meetings air live on ICTN 2 (Time Warner Channel 95 and Verizon Channel 31) and online at www.ictn.tv.

Agenda packets are posted online by the City Secretary's Office prior to each meeting and may be downloaded by residents, allowing viewers to closely follow each motion from home or office. To ensure that the maximum number of residents are afforded an opportunity to stay in-the-know with City Council meetings and Work Sessions, meetings are available online 24/7 at www.cityofirving.org. Both meetings can be viewed by item number. Meetings also are recorded and air several times throughout the week.

City Council meetings air:

- Thursday – 7 p.m. (live)
- Sunday – 4 and 7 p.m.
- Monday – 4 p.m.
- Tuesday – 8:30 p.m.

Work Sessions air:

- Wednesday – 11 a.m. (live), 5 p.m.
- Thursday – 4 p.m.



City Council meeting



Work Session meeting

IRVING HERITAGE HOUSE

Irving Heritage House will be open in celebration of Grandparents Day. Built in 1912, this Texas State Historical Landmark is one of the oldest homes in Irving.

Located at 303 S. O'Connor Road, Heritage House is open from 3 to 5 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month March-December. Free docent-led tours will be provided at 3 and 4 p.m. Sept. 6.

Several bridal gowns continue to be on special display, dating from the 1880s to a mid-century informal gown from the 1950s. The 1903 bridal ensemble of Agnes Sueppel Schulze, wife of one of Irving's cofounders J.O. Schulze, includes her formal gown, coat and shoes from Marshall Field's of Chicago.

Many antiques are on display throughout the Heritage House. Some of the furnishings include an 1840 clock, an organ (ca.1880), a square piano (ca.1860), as well as Limoges, Sevres and Bavarian porcelains. For more information, visit www.irvingheritage.com or call (972) 252-3838. Group tours also may be arranged at alternate times.



Heritage House

ICTN, a division of the Corporate Communications Department, keeps residents informed about what is happening in their community. For a complete list of programming or to catch recent public meetings on demand, visit www.ictn.tv.

Office Closings

City offices will be closed Sept. 7 for Labor Day. There will be no residential trash or brush collection on Sept. 7, 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. City libraries will be closed Sept. 6-7. All city recreation centers will be closed. The city's swimming pools will be closed except for Senter and Lee pools, and Cimarron Family Aquatic Center. All offices will reopen at their regular hours on Sept. 8.

Las Colinas Entertainment Center Set to Open in Late 2011

The countdown has begun for the opening of Irving's new Las Colinas Entertainment Center, scheduled to open December 2011. This five-level complex will be a center of activity for residents and visitors in search of an eclectic mix of entertainment, shopping and dining options in the Irving-Las Colinas area.

At the center of the new 600,000-square-foot facility will be the concert hall. Designed specifically for live music performances, the 6,500-capacity hall will offer 5,120 ticketed seats. The hall has been designed for maximum flexibility and reduced distances to the stage to enhance the concert-going experience. In addition, the hall will offer 23 VIP suites, 23 hospitality lounges and 22 suite-villas.



Artist rendering

Additional features of the entertainment venue include:

- Nine music stages
- 12,500 square feet of retail shops
- 1,200 on-site valet/self-parking spaces and 2,700 adjacent parking spaces
- Pedestrian-friendly outdoor gathering places with water features, flowers and colorful décor

The entertainment center and concert hall will be adjacent to the LEED-certified Irving Convention Center and a future-planned hotel.



Community Briefs

Trinity Trash Bash ■ Individuals and groups are invited to sign up for the 18th Annual Trinity Trash Bash sponsored by Keep Irving Beautiful and the City of Irving. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 12 at the west parking

lot of Irving City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Lunch, entertainment and giveaways will follow the citywide cleanup. Download registration forms at www.keepirvingbeautiful.org, or register online at www.rockthegreen.org. For more information, call (972) 721-2175.

Corridor Enhancements ■ The Capital Improvement Projects Team continues to work on corridor enhancements for MacArthur Boulevard including landscaping and street lighting upgrades. New streetlights have been added and new median landscaping is being installed on MacArthur Boulevard, from Shady Grove to Oakdale roads. The next phase of corridor enhancements along MacArthur, from Metker to Northgate drives, includes upgraded streetlights, and median and paver improvements. Work on the landscaping is expected to begin by the end of the year. A second masonry screening wall has been installed on the east side of MacArthur Boulevard, south of Sixth Street, and will be the prototype used for other areas along MacArthur Boulevard.

RESIDENT REMINDERS

Tax Collection Process
The City of Irving has entered into an agreement with Dallas County to simplify the property tax collection process for customers. Effective Oct. 1, property taxes for Irving will be collected by the Dallas County Tax Office.

City and county taxes will be consolidated into one bill so customers can issue one payment to one entity. There will be no changes in tax due dates for customers—payments are due before Feb. 1 and must be postmarked by Jan. 31. To view a complete listing of tax office locations and hours, visit www.dallascounty.org/department/tax/taxoffice_home.html. For details, visit www.cityofirving.org.

Boards and Commissions
Get involved in the community by volunteering for a position on a city board, commission or committee. The application is available online at www.cityofirving.org/city-secretary.

This is the only information considered for appointment by the City Council. Residents can choose from a variety of boards, commissions or committees such as the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, Building and Standards Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, Library Board and Youth Council.

Those interested should mail or hand-deliver a completed application to: City Secretary's Office, 825 W. Irving Blvd., Irving, TX 75060, or fax to (972) 721-2384 by Sept. 25.

For more information, call (972) 721-2493.



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.

Laurie M. Kunke
Corporate Communications Director

Cheryl M. Lowdermilk
Publications Supervisor

Heather Taylor
Graphics Specialist

Derrick Thompson
Publications Specialist

Stay Connected ■ Stay in-the-know when on-the-go by following the City of Irving and its partnering organizations on Twitter. Users may opt to have text messages sent to their cell phones so they can receive updates anytime, anywhere. Residents may be interested in following these community organizations:

- **City of Irving**
www.twitter.com/thecityofirving
- **Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD**
www.twitter.com/CFBISD
- **Coppell ISD**
www.twitter.com/coppellisd
- **Irving Arts Center**
www.twitter.com/irvingarts
- **Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce**
www.twitter.com/irvingchamber
- **Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau**
www.twitter.com/irvingcvb
- **Irving ISD**
www.twitter.com/irvingisd

Sign up for a Twitter account at www.twitter.com.