

# CITYSPECTRUM

An Official Publication of the City of Irving ★ January 2008 ★ Volume 15, Number 1

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## City Officials Address Shortfall, Scheduling Issues with DART

City officials and DART representatives are working together to ensure the Orange Line rail extension planned to run through Irving will be built on time and within budget.

A \$900 million shortfall in funding for the project was revealed at a DART board meeting in late November. DART representatives also have indicated possible project delays that range from one to four years after the original scheduled completion date in 2011. The DART president addressed the City Council on Dec. 13.

“It is our intention to communicate to DART board members that we have a serious interest in them meeting the commitments they have made to our community for many years,” said Mayor

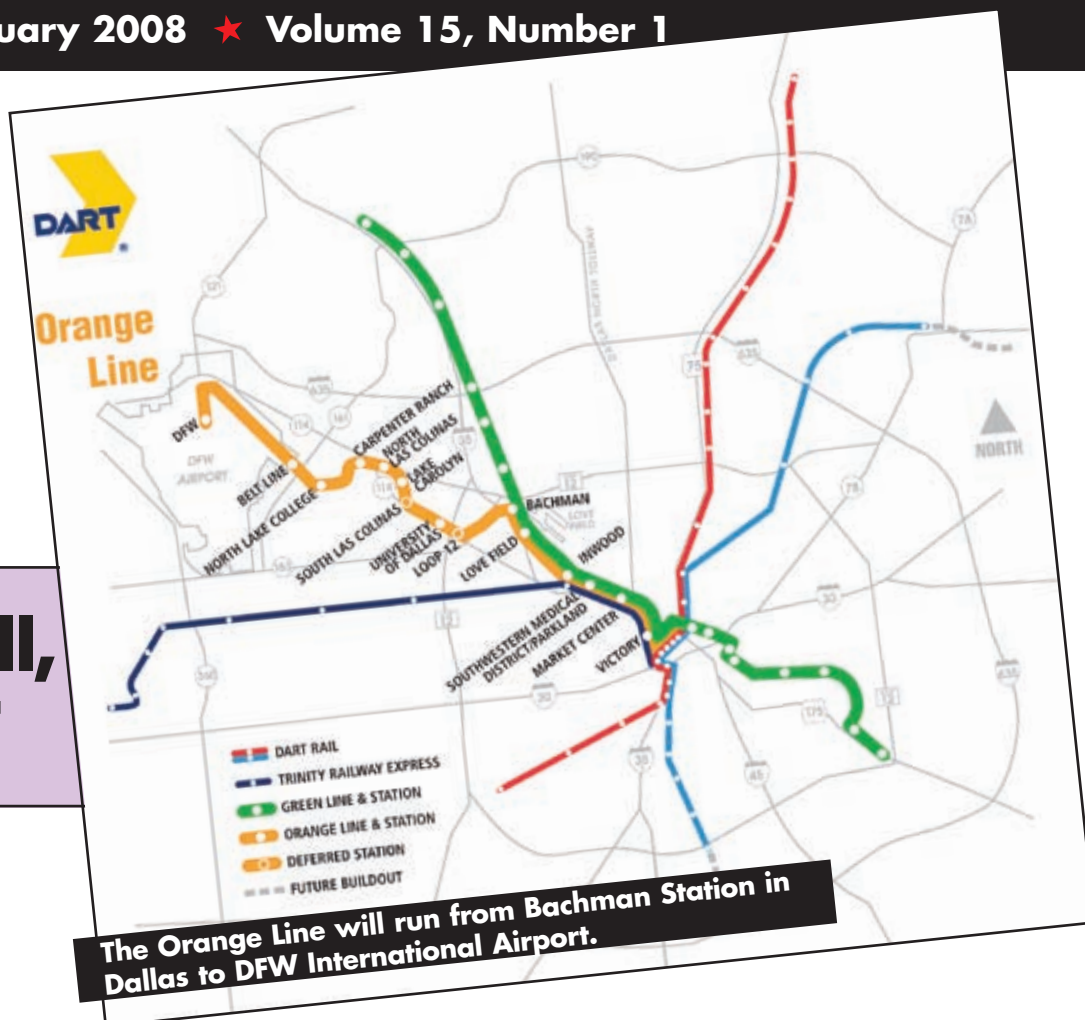
Herbert Gears. “And that commitment is getting the rail line to Irving by 2011.”

Several developments are being planned and built around the designated rail stations, thus the Orange Line needs to be completed on time to ensure the success of these projects. The developments include a mixed use of retail, office and living space.

Several cost-cutting measures have been proposed; however, DART is still in the process of researching

other options. These options will be presented at a Jan. 8 DART board meeting.

Residents are encouraged to provide input to DART officials in support of keeping the rail project on time. A personal letter can be sent, or residents can choose to use the public input form printed on Page 2 of this issue. Call (972) 721-2646 for more information.



## City Continues to Target Substandard Buildings

The City of Irving is holding property owners responsible for improving standards in multifamily housing to help provide residents with safe, sanitary living conditions. Demolitions of three substandard properties along heavily traveled corridors have been conducted. The properties on Irving Boulevard are being reviewed for proposed redevelopment, while the property on MacArthur Boulevard is currently listed for sale.

Owners of dilapidated apartment complexes have had the opportunity to adhere to the city's minimum housing standards prior to the City of Irving taking action. The multifamily properties being addressed are as follows:

- A fourplex, 2901 Tudor Lane – Vacated and secured.
- Airport Inn, 126-128 W. Airport Freeway – Conditional penalties in the amount of \$6,000 have been assessed.
- Chivas Square Apartment Homes, 1900 Carl Road – Vacated and secured. Scope and schedule accepted for repairs to be made.
- Kings Manor Apartments, 801 E. Grauwyler Road – Vacated and secured. This case is in litigation.
- Knights Inn, 120 W. Airport Freeway – City ordered that electrical repairs be completed.



- Rayo De Sol I, 2300-2316 W. Rochelle Road – Scope and schedule submitted for repairs to be made.
- Rayo De Sol II, 2200-2220 W. Rochelle Road – Scope and schedule submitted for repairs to be made.
- Spanish Trace Apartments, 1919-1939 E. Grauwyler Road – A temporary injunction has been granted. The owner may apply for a certificate of occupancy and begin repairs.
- St. Charles Place Apartments, 1408-1412 W. Sixth St. – The Buildings and Standards Commission ordered this case closed due to compliance.
- Villa France, 1831-1839 W. Pioneer Drive – Commission considering rescinding conditional civil penalties in the amount of \$17,000 if property is brought into compliance.

For more information, call Code Enforcement at (972) 721-2371.

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS WITH MAYOR GEARS SET FOR JAN. 29

Mayor Herbert Gears will give the State of the City Address on Jan. 29 at the Dallas Marriott-Las Colinas, 223 W. Las Colinas Blvd.

A reception/registration will take place at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce is hosting the event, and the presenting sponsor is TXU Energy.

Mayor Gears is expected to highlight the progress that has been made in meeting the goals of the city's Strategic Plan. Key initiatives of the plan include public safety, capital improvements, non-compliant apartments, economic development, neighborhood improvements and corridor enhancements.

Over the past year, the City Council and staff have focused efforts on new development and redevelopment opportunities, and enhanced housing standards and police services to increase the quality of life for residents and businesses.

Individual tickets purchased by Jan. 23 will cost \$100. Tickets also will be available at the door for \$125.

For more information or for a reservation to attend the dinner, contact Dee Flowers at (214) 217-8477.

RESIDENTIAL  
CUSTOMER

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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IRVING, TX  
PERMIT NO. 116

### Poster Contest Brings Awareness about People with Disabilities

Three Britain Elementary School fifth-grade students received recognition for their participation in a poster contest on disabilities awareness.

The poster contest allows students to use their artistic talents to express how a person with disabilities can use their abilities to be a part of their community.

The contest winners are Irene Arreola, Brian Morin and Roberto Saenz.

The Irving Advisory Committee on Disabilities has sponsored the annual poster contest since 2001. Examples of the posters include a blind person crossing a street or catching a DART bus, and children with a disability playing a sport with non-disabled children.

All private and public schools in Irving were eligible to participate in the contest. Participants must be in the fifth or sixth grade, and may be home-schooled or attend a school in Irving.



Mayor Herbert Gears recognizes students for their artwork.

## Special Grant Funds Pave the Way for Neighborhood Improvements

Community leaders are working to recruit neighbors and volunteers to improve their neighborhoods courtesy of the Community Partnership Fund.

The special grant funding, provided by the City of Irving, supports neighborhood leaders in implementing projects that will foster a spirit of community and renew the concept of what it means to be a good neighbor.

“As Irving’s newest neighborhood association, Northwest Place is very appreciative of the Community Partnership Grant, which will help fund our list of initiatives,” said Board Member Van English.

Northwest Place board members met in December to develop their list of neighborhood projects, which will be included in the grant application.

English said, “Without the city’s help, we would have to rely on private fundraising and our own funding to make improvements to our neighborhood.”

Jim Dunkley, president of Northgate Heights Neighborhood Association, agreed. He said the funds have given his association an opportunity to create new projects, publish quarterly newsletters and establish a neighborhood Web site (northgateheights.com). He also is very proud of the group’s neighborhood identification project, which added signage behind 15 stop signs. Dunkley said, “The unique signage helps identify our neighborhood’s history, past and present.”



Grants between \$250 and \$1,500 are awarded to neighborhood groups within the city limits. These funds are to be matched equally (dollar to dollar) by a private source of funds, labor or in-kind contributions. Last year, nearly \$19,000 was awarded to 14 neighborhood associations for physical improvements, neighborhood beautification, street sign toppers, special events, newsletters and Web site development.

“Not only is this a great opportunity for neighborhood groups, but it’s also a way for us to show appreciation to our neighborhood leaders who work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for everyone,” said Neighborhood Coordinator Talia Dancer. “The spirit of the grant is about getting your neighbors involved and creating a plan that will help your community thrive.”

The grant application deadline is Jan. 31. Those interested in receiving an application or forming a neighborhood group can contact the Corporate Communications Department at (972) 721-7600.

### CITY FOCUSES ON ENHANCING CUSTOMER-SERVICE INITIATIVES

Providing exceptional customer service to Irving residents is of utmost importance, and the city has several projects under way that are designed to help enhance these efforts.

“As civil servants, we are dedicated to serving the residents of our community,” said Pat Nicks, customer service director. “And we will continue to develop and refine existing and future customer service initiatives to ensure we provide the highest level of service possible.”

One way in which the city is implementing change is by increasing the number of customer service training and educational classes it offers to employees. This allows staff to continue to discover new ways to provide quality customer service to residents.

Staff also is working on incorporating a “mystery shopper” program to ensure that the city continues to improve customer service.

A pilot program to “shop” several customer service-oriented departments is in the works. Specific questions have been identified for the departments to create an effective, customized program.

In addition, the city implemented an employee tip line, called Eyes on Irving, to help city staff become more proactive in responding to a variety of services. Employees report non-emergency issues they encounter while driving around the city such as potholes, high grass and weeds, and trash, to a designated tip line that is routinely checked by staff each day.

These are just a few of the many ways in which the city is working to increase the level of customer service provided to residents.

### Public Input Form for DART Board

I strongly encourage the DART Board to keep its long-standing commitment to deliver rail service to Irving according to the promised December 2011 timeline. This project should be of equal or better quality to those received by other DART communities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

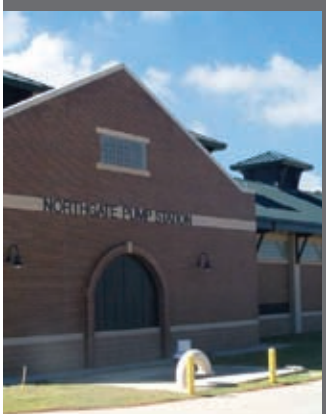
Please use my e-mail address to send me “All About Irving” e-mail notices about City of Irving projects and activities.

Complete the form on the left to encourage the DART Board to have the rail project come to Irving on time. The form should be received by Jan. 18 so it can be forwarded to the DART Board at its Jan. 22 meeting.

Clip and mail to:  
 City of Irving  
 Attn: Public Works Department  
 825 W. Irving Blvd.  
 Irving, TX 75060

Or deliver in person to City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd., or to an Irving library or recreation center. Residents who want to write a personal letter can mail it to:

Dallas Area Rapid Transit  
 Attn: Lynn Flint Shaw, Chair  
 P.O. Box 660163  
 Dallas, TX 75266



The City of Irving experienced a successful year in 2007 as City Council and staff continued to strengthen public safety and code enforcement, improve neighborhoods and corridors into the city, expanded communications and customer service, and initiated economic development and capital improvement projects. A comprehensive Strategic Plan consisting of 10 goals and 72 strategies guides the city's initiatives. The City of Irving continues to strive to provide the highest level of service possible to its residents. Here is a look at some of the accomplishments of 2007.

## City of Irving

# Year In Review 2007

- Issued 15,511 construction permits with a total valuation of more than \$532 million.
- Demolished Villa Martinique Apartments, purchased by McDougal Companies, to make way for new development.
- Worked plans for several new development projects including Water Street, Olde Towne, Las Colinas Station, and Texas Stadium area.
- Conducted CEO roundtable lunches to support Irving businesses.
- Began a comprehensive marketing plan on development opportunities along the DART rail line.
- Approved an agreement with McDougal Companies to redevelop much of downtown Irving.
- Moved forward with convention center planning; residents approved hotel and ticket taxes for users of the proposed entertainment venue in conjunction with the convention center.
- Offered a variety of Job Center workshops to residents through the Irving Public Library.

## Economic Development



- Worked on reviewing and updating stronger building standards to ensure resident safety.
- Entered into exclusive negotiations with Cleveland-based Forest City Enterprises to create a detailed development agreement for the Texas Stadium site.
- Developed a Gateway and Corridor Study to enhance the image and identity of the city through sculpture and landscaping; four of seven planned entryways to the city are currently in progress.
- Began planning and designated initial funding to enhance the Irving Boulevard corridor.
- Passed a new ordinance that encourages office developments along the rail line to increase the city tax base, and reduce pollution and dependence on automobiles.
- Adopted new International Construction Codes that serve to keep the city current with the latest technology and best practices.

## Land Use & Development



A copy of Irving's Strategic Plan is available online at [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org), or by calling (972) 721-7600.

**More information**

- Held two Strategic Planning Sessions to identify key focus areas, which include public safety, code enforcement, non-compliant apartments, corridor enhancements, capital improvement projects, communications/customer service, neighborhood improvements and economic development initiatives.
- Developed an outcome-oriented budget approach.
- Reduced the ad valorem tax rate.
- Designated \$32.7 million for capital improvement projects.
- Secured low water and sewer rates; addressed aging infrastructure that has to be replaced on an ongoing basis.
- Created an employee committee to develop guidelines for a pay-for-performance plan.

- Placed fourth in the 2007 Digital Cities Survey in the population category of 125,000-249,999 for being one of the most technologically advanced cities in the nation.
- Developed centralized procedures for processing open records requests.
- Formed Information Technology-Steering Committee to help prioritize IT-related projects to improve technology services.
- Implemented fleet management program software to maintain vehicle service records.
- Implemented check remittance software that electronically scans utility bill checks and remittance slips.
- Implemented organizational restructuring to maximize city operations, staffing strengths and operational efficiencies.



## Sound Governance & Fiscal Management

# Year In Review 2007

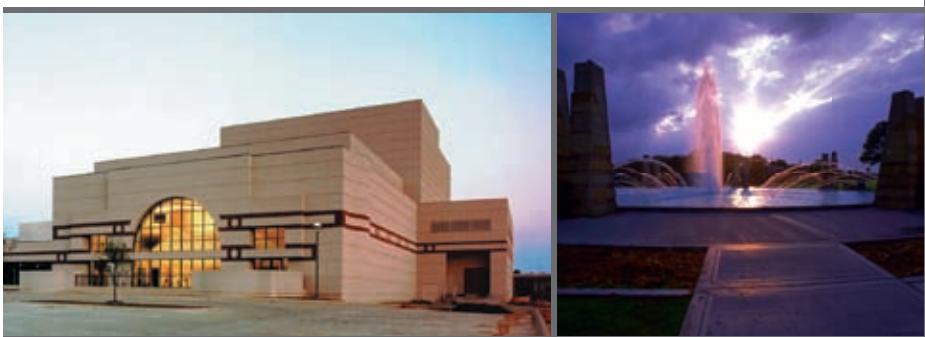
- Opened the Northgate Pump Station to provide better water service and needed water for future development, primarily in North and East Irving.
- Received positive feedback on audit conducted on the Hunter Ferrell Landfill for its overall appearance and record-keeping practices.
- Opened Irving Health Center to provide affordable health-care services to low- and moderate-income residents.
- Started design work on second phase of Veterans Memorial Park.
- Began construction on eight houses to give low- to moderate-income residents an opportunity to purchase a home through the city's first-time homebuyer's program.
- Upgraded the City of Irving's electronic document management system to provide a more user-friendly interface.
- Completed five miles of milling and overlay to enhance Irving streets.
- Awarded Kinwest Parkway connector paving project to provide needed traffic circulation from Kinwest Parkway to Interstate 635 frontage roads.
- Completed the Wildwood Drive paving project from Shady Grove Road to Sixth Street.
- Began construction on the Briery Road Municipal Center to add 5,000 square feet of work space to the Building Maintenance Facility.



- Increased efforts to boost the number of employees who speak a second language, especially Spanish, through paid incentives, tuition reimbursements and Spanish-language workshops.
- Conducted a six-month multicultural series, Celebrate the Cultures of Irving, through the Irving Public Library to educate residents on a variety of cultures and customs.
- Offered the second annual One Book, One Irving project through the Irving Public Library that coincided with Hispanic Heritage Month to promote a better understanding of multiculturalism.
- Began a certification process to increase participation in the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise program.

## Infrastructure

- Implemented policy of using industry energy savings and use of "green" building practices when possible.
- Promoted and implemented storm water quality initiatives to assure that rivers, lakes and streams are of the highest quality.
- Increased waste recycling and reuse by 23 percent.
- Implemented the Material Exchange Program that matches residents who have good reusable but unwanted household items to dispose of with other local individuals who can use them.
- Participated in the national Cans for Cash program and collected 126,840 aluminum cans totaling approximately 4,228 pounds.



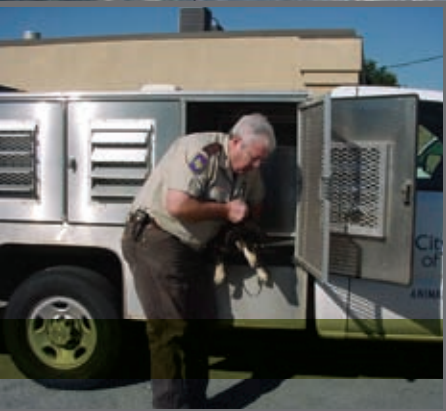
## Environmentally Sustainable Community

- Launched new programming on Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) to highlight activities in Irving and provide information about city projects and initiatives.
- Began airing ICTN programming during the day.
- Participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas School-Based Mentoring program in which 17 city staff volunteers work with students from area schools.
- Implemented Eyes on Irving employee tip line program to enhance customer service initiatives by providing a proactive response to a variety of city services.
- Expanded the number of residents receiving city news on the "All About Irving" e-mail list server.
- Completed two marketing videos to promote Irving.
- Launched a new Web site at [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org) that is easier to remember and navigate.
- Hosted three Town Hall Meetings to discuss a variety of topics.
- Produced a Strategic Plan video to further inform residents of city endeavors.
- Conducted a resident survey to identify targeted needs.
- Completed a new marketing center at the chamber office to encourage businesses to come to Irving.

## Communications



# Year In Review 2007



## Safe & Secure City

- Passed an ordinance to prevent unattended dogs from being tethered.
- Designated three vehicles for members of Irving Citizens on Patrol to conduct high visibility patrols in areas that experience increased crime.
- Hosted a vaccination and microchip clinic where more than 125 animals received microchips and 318 received free vaccinations.
- Received the Texas Animal Control Association's Outstanding Shelter Award.
- Increased enforcement against illegal activities at apartment complexes.
- Conducted community health assessment to identify health concerns of residents and develop public health outreach plan.
- Replaced dispatch audio and radio recording systems for police and fire.
- Purchased a new fire truck for rescue and evacuation operations, and a new aerial truck ladder.
- Implemented Vial of Life campaign as a public service to senior residents.
- Transitioned police vehicles to a digital video system for a more effective recording of incidents.
- Increased the enforcement of alcohol sales at restaurants to reduce DWIs and other alcohol-related disturbances.
- Implemented the use of CrimeWeb to increase communication with residents regarding crime and safety.
- Installed red light enforcement cameras at intersections to help increase resident safety.
- Purchased thermal imaging cameras to enhance firefighters' response.
- Enhanced 24/7 Criminal Alien Program that works with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to identify illegal immigrants after they have been arrested.
- Installed two-way radios, computers, dual cameras and a wireless mesh network in two new SkyWatch towers for added security in parking lots.
- Installed an additional outdoor warning siren at Bird's Fort Trail Park and Riverside Drive.

- Secured state funding for the Irving Arts Center.
- Received designation for the Irving Arts Center to be an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute.
- Received \$12,000 in grants for the Irving Public Library to use for literacy, technology and books.
- Initiated planning for the Irving Central Library renovation; construction to begin early 2008.
- Opened a new 26,000-square-foot Valley Ranch Library.
- Designed a handicapped-accessible playground and Miracle League Field.
- Hosted a spelling bee to promote health initiatives and support the library's literacy program.
- Began renovations on Lively Pointe Youth Center.
- Moved forward with the construction of Cimarron Park Aquatic Center.
- Opened Lively Pointe Skate Park and completed North Lake Ranch Park improvements.



## Cultural, Recreational & Educational Opportunities



- Initiated stricter code ordinances and enforcement to enhance residents' quality of life.
- Placed Code Enforcement under the Police Department so the two departments can work more closely together.
- Assigned two inspectors to focus on multifamily violations.
- Established a Code Enforcement Review Team to review all code enforcement operations, procedures and ordinances.
- Decreased the amount of time allowed for voluntary compliance of code violations.
- Placed emphasis on high-risk properties to hold apartment owners accountable for substandard housing.
- Began to enforce tougher standards for multifamily complexes with revoked certificates of occupancy.
- Strengthened initiatives to collect water payments from delinquent apartment owners.
- Hosted a successful Neighborhood Leadership Seminar with more than 100 neighborhood leaders in attendance.
- Developed formal educational programs to help improve neighborhoods.
- Initiated the Neighborhood Enhancement Program and began working with the South Austin Heights neighborhood.
- Assisted with the formation of the Meadow Lark, South Austin Heights and Northwest Place neighborhood associations.
- Strengthened neighborhood initiatives with two existing staff positions now focused on neighborhoods.
- Awarded 13 Community Partnership Grants totaling \$18,737 to neighborhood and homeowner associations.
- Hosted the second Community Fest event to educate residents on city programs and services.

## Neighborhoods



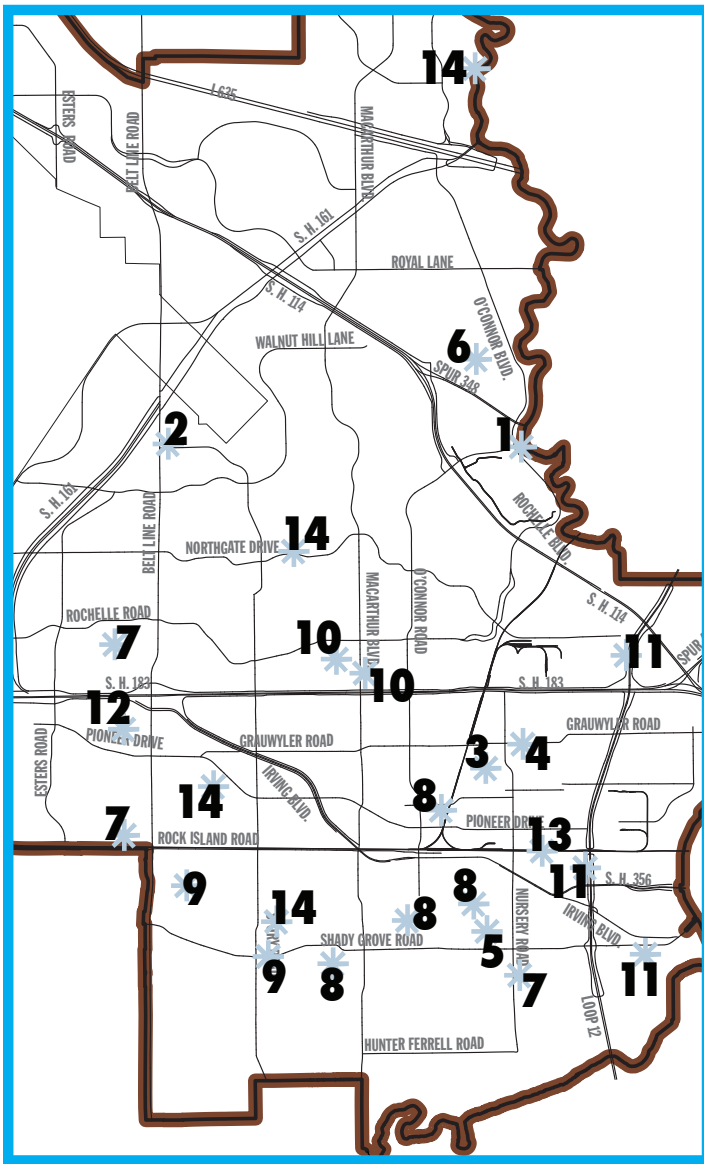
## Year In Review 2007

A copy of Irving's Strategic Plan is available online at [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org), or by calling (972) 721-7600.



**More information**

**Public Works Projects Under Way**



Point	Project	Contractor	Cost	Estimated Completion Date
1	O'Connor Boulevard and Riverside Drive Intersection Improvements	JLB Contracting L.P.	\$845,121	Winter 2008
2	Belt Line Road Paving Rehabilitation – Channel North of Walnut Hill to SH 161	McMahon Contracting L.P.	\$2.46 million	Spring 2008
3	French Street/Grauwyler Road Sanitary Sewer Basin I/I	SYB Construction Co. Inc.	\$1.68 million	Fall 2008
4	Grauwyler Road – English to Carl	Texas Sterling Construction Inc.	\$7.5 million	Spring 2009
5	Chamberlain Street Improvements	SYB Construction Co. Inc.	\$2.03 million	Spring 2008
6	Las Colinas Boulevard Extension, Phase I	Ed Bell Construction Inc.	\$4.67 million	Spring 2008
7	2006 Sanitary Sewer Main Replacement Section III	Patco Utilities Inc.	\$683,495	Spring 2008
8	2007 Sanitary Sewer Main Replacement Section II	Municipal Utilities Inc.	\$489,946	Spring 2008
9	2007 Sanitary Sewer Main Replacement Section III	J. T. Dersner Inc.	\$498,585	Spring 2008
10	2007 Water Main Replacement Section I	RKM Utility Services	\$875,891	Winter 2008
11	2007 Water Main Replacement Section II	Saber Development Corporation	\$554,283	Spring 2008
12	Dry Branch Creek Interceptor Sanitary Sewer Improvements Stage IV	Patco Utilities Inc.	\$1.04 million	Winter 2008
13	Nursery/RR Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Phase I	Texas Sterling Construction Inc.	\$1.47 million	Winter 2008
14	2007 Water Main Replacement Section III	Texas United Excavators LLC	\$558,773	Spring 2008

For more information about any of these projects, call (972) 721-2611.

**Community Briefs**

**Heritage Senior Center Classes**

Seniors who struggle with excess weight, making healthy food choices, reading food labels, staying motivated to eat right and exercising regularly can participate in the Weightly Matters Club. This informative class will meet every Monday from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. beginning Jan. 7 at 200 S. Jefferson St. Participants will monitor their weight (confidential), discuss health issues and topics, and lend support to others to stay healthy and active. Cost: \$5 monthly; includes materials. Registration will begin Jan. 2. Call (972) 721-2496.

Start the New Year by getting organized. Join professional organizer Nancy Peham of Helping Hands Personal Services for an informative workshop on how to get organized from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 30. Peham will provide materials and information on how to organize paper clutter and photos, and will provide ways to simplify the pantry. Cost: \$5. Class is open to the public. Sign up at the Heritage Senior Center office beginning Jan. 2. Call (972) 721-2496.

**Irving Arts Center Sculpture Additions**

Residents can enjoy two new installations in the Irving Arts Center's Sculpture Garden by American artist Reuben Nakian. The monumental sculptures are on long-term loan from the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden as part of the Arts Center's Smithsonian Affiliation. A reception and Family Funday activity will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 13. Refreshments and tours of the Sculpture Garden will be provided, and kids will be inspired to flex their creative muscle by creating a sculpture to take home during Family Funday. All supplies provided. Admission is free. Call (972) 252-ARTS.



**MLK Observance**

The City of Irving will hold its annual MLK observance at 7 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. The event will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and will feature a gospel music concert by Jubilee Theatre with music director Joe Rogers, and renowned vocalist Brenda Ellis. Pre-show entertainment will begin at 6:45 p.m. and a reception following the event will be sponsored by the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce. Admission is free. Call (972) 721-2716.



**RESIDENTS TO BE SURVEYED ABOUT CITY SERVICES IN JANUARY**

The City of Irving places customer satisfaction at the very heart of its daily operations.

To measure the success of its efforts, a resident survey soliciting input regarding city services will be mailed to nearly 15,000 randomly selected Irving households in January.

The purpose of the resident survey is to provide the city's administration with the necessary tools to improve the accountability of city government, assist the City Council and management in setting budgetary priorities, and improve the delivery of services.

The findings also will be used to evaluate current and proposed programs. The goal is to involve the community in shaping the city's future.

The survey will ask questions about functional areas such as police, fire/ambulance, parks and recreation, library services, the Irving Arts Center, streets and transportation, code enforcement, employee customer service, and resident communications.

Residents who do not receive the survey, but wish to provide input, can complete the survey online at [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org) or call (972) 721-4965 to request a paper copy.

Results of the survey will be presented to the City Council and provided in a future issue of "City Spectrum."



**Office Closings**

**All City of Irving offices will be closed Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day.** There will be no garbage or recycling pick-up on Jan. 1. All recycling drop-off centers will be closed Dec. 31-Jan. 2. The Hunter Ferrell Landfill will be closed Jan. 1. The landfill will be open all other days, weather permitting. Call (972) 264-3772 to confirm. Irving libraries will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 31 for New Year's Eve and will remain closed New Year's Day. The Irving Arts Center will be open at its regular hours on New Year's Eve, but will be closed on Jan. 1.

**2008 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

The City Council has announced its meeting schedule for 2008. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Following are the dates when the council plans to meet:

- Jan. 10 and 24
- Feb. 7 and 21
- March 13
- April 3 and 17
- May 1 and 22
- June 12 and 26
- July 10 and 24
- Aug. 14
- Sept. 4, 11 and 18
- Oct. 2 and 16
- Nov. 6 and 20
- Dec. 11

Residents can attend the meetings at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd., or view them live on Irving Community Television Network on Channel 95 (Time Warner) or Channel 31 (Verizon). Webcasts also are available on the Internet at [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org) or [www.ictn.tv](http://www.ictn.tv). Meetings are subject to change. Call the City Secretary's Office at (972) 721-2493 to confirm a meeting date.



**Irving Housing Finance Corporation Breaks Ground on Inaugural Development**

Irving residents will have an opportunity to purchase new homes thanks to a housing development called Jackson Court. A groundbreaking ceremony was held Nov. 28 to begin construction on the homes.



The neighborhood will consist of homes available for purchase through the city's first-time homebuyers' program. The neighborhood will include four 1,400-square-foot, one-story homes with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and two-car garages, as well as four 1,700-square-foot homes with five bedrooms, two bathrooms and two-car garages.

"We're proud to be here today and be a part of creating a great place for great people to live, and a new addition to our community," said Mayor Herbert Gears.

The Jackson Court neighborhood is located at Jackson and Gilbert streets, across from the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center.

Several city departments participated in the Jackson Court development, including Housing and Human Services, Planning and Inspections, and Preservation and Redevelopment. Construction was funded in partnership with the HUD Home Investment Partnership Grant (HOME). Properties will be constructed and sold by the Irving Housing Finance Corporation.

Mayor Gears said, "Seventy percent of the people living here cannot afford the median price of a home in Irving, and I hope to change that by using programs available to us to create more affordable housing."

**Irving Briefs**

**Burglary Arrests** ▪ Patrol officers used information and statistics obtained in COMPSTAT meetings to focus their efforts on a designated area of southwest Irving during the week of Nov. 19-24. The result was the arrest of five burglary suspects and the recovery of property from four burglaries committed in Irving. Investigators have subsequently cleared more than 20 Metroplex burglaries.

**Code Enforcement Activity Report** ▪ The following code enforcement activities have been reported by a new part-time code assistant from mid-November to mid-December. A total of 649 illegally placed temporary signs were removed from the right-of-way (wooden stakes from illegal signs are recycled and used by inspectors to post high grass and weed signs), 21 graffiti locations were identified and addressed, and 46 abandoned grocery carts collected. All of these efforts are to help maintain the physical appearance of the city.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This is the 24th consecutive year the city has received the award.

**Electronic Patient Care Reporting** ▪ The Fire Department has received new hardware that allows for the transition from paper forms to electronic patient care reporting. The new system will speed patient processing and increase efficiency during emergency calls. It is expected to be in service in January.

**Landfill Compliance** ▪ The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) conducted its annual Air Compliance Certification Investigation of the Hunter Ferrell Landfill. The investigation evaluated compliance with TCEQ rules and regulations and found no violations.

**Material Exchange Program** ▪ A free online program matches residents who wish to dispose of their useable household items with local individuals who want them. Items are not for sale, but are listed for exchange only. Visit [www.cityofirving.org/solid-waste-services](http://www.cityofirving.org/solid-waste-services), and click on Irving's Material Exchange Program listed at the left.

**Lane/Riverview Joint Operation** ▪ The city's new Problem Solving Team, which includes staff from Code Enforcement, Animal Services, and the Fire and Police departments, participated in a collaborative effort to address substandard housing and crime issues in Irving's Riverview and Tudor Lane areas. This operation identified 475 violations and produced 122 citations and 16 arrests.

**Government Finance Officer Association Award** ▪ The City of Irving has received the Government Finance Officer Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year 2006



City Spectrum is published bimonthly 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**  
Corporate Communications Specialist

**Sandra Trostel**  
Corporate Communications Specialist

**Scott Price**  
Corporate Communications Intern