

CITYSPECTRUM

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Olde Towne Developer to Revitalize South Irving

Delbert McDougal revealed details of his Olde Towne plan to City Council members during a meeting in early February. McDougal Companies has an agreement with the city to undertake a major redevelopment project in downtown Irving in an effort to revitalize the area to make it more economically vibrant.

Plans under consideration include a mixed-use urban village complete with retail, residential, restaurants, offices and parks, centered on the Trinity Railway Express. The development area will be bounded by the north of Rock Island Road, east to Britain Road, south to Sixth Street and west to MacArthur Boulevard.

The plans will promote a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood with buildings placed closer together, and roads constructed for slower speeds.

Construction will be planned in five phases in various areas between O'Connor Boulevard, Rock Island Road and West Fourth Street. Phases 1 and 5, which are close to the transit area, will include

four- and five-story condos/apartments along with retail and corporate space. Phase 2 will include upscale housing; Phase 3 will consist of apartments or a possible hotel; and Phase 4 will offer townhomes and retail space.

Design guideline parameters will ensure the master plan is compatible with existing neighborhood design, and that appropriate architectural design strategies for restoration and new construction are implemented.

“Our goal is to entice people and new businesses to relocate to South Irving,” McDougal said. “The only way to get new businesses to come to an older area is to rebuild and revitalize the area so that it is more economically vibrant. We want to make Olde Towne a strategic investment that will attract people to downtown Irving.”

Owners have the option to sell their property to McDougal or to retain ownership themselves. In

addition, the city will not use eminent domain for the Olde Towne development. Under the terms of an agreement, property outside of the target area will not be purchased without City Council approval, unless it is funded entirely by McDougal Companies.

The first phase of construction is scheduled to begin in 2009. The City of Irving plans to make available \$15 million from the 2006 bond election to use on the approved public improvements, such as infrastructure and landscaping.

McDougal presented his plan at an informational meeting in February to update the public on the redevelopment. A video of that meeting and the presentation given by McDougal to the City Council are available at www.cityofirving.org

For more information, call Don Williams, Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, at (214) 507-5091, or Brenda McDonald, City of Irving, at (972) 721-2541.

Beautification Efforts Help Make Irving a Better Place to Live

The city continues its efforts to enhance Irving's visual appeal and to provide residents with a nicer community to live in through enhanced code enforcement, corridor enhancements and various beautification efforts. Many projects have effectively addressed a myriad of issues. A few of these projects are as follows:

Auto Shop Enforcement

One initiative currently under way is the increased enforcement of auto shops that have illegal storage and perform automobile repairs outside of an enclosed building.

Property owners were provided with notices that required them to come into compliance by Feb. 28. Those who have yet to cooperate will receive weekly citations until standards are met. The city also is no longer issuing certifications of occupancy for tire shops unless they have work bays.

“We are working to improve Irving's image by enforcing existing ordinances to give our residents the clean, neat neighborhoods they want,” said Teresa Adrian, code enforcement director.

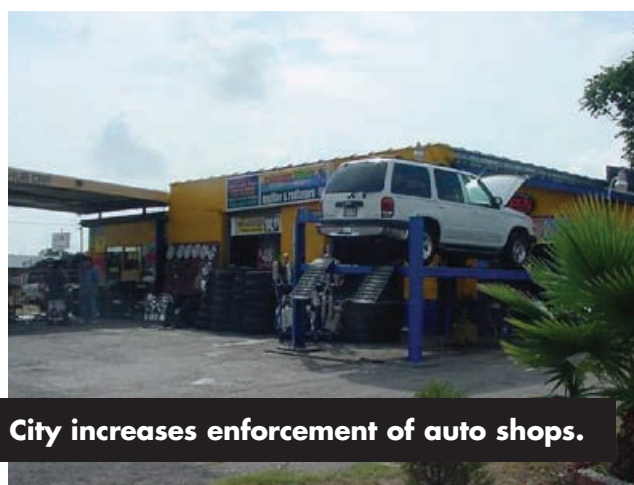
Abandoned Sign Removal

Another beautification effort implemented by the

city is the removal of abandoned signs. Notices have been sent to businesses that give owners 30 days to remove unused signs. As of press time, 13 of 22 notices sent to property owners have come into compliance. Citations are issued weekly to those who do not comply.

Community Service Clean Ups

A new program created by the city assigns community service volunteers to various clean-up projects under the direction of codes staff. This program provides much needed labor for vital clean-up projects without additional costs to the city.



Corridor Enhancements

Franchise utility work is under way for the beautification project at the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and Shady Grove Road, in conjunction with the North Lake College campus construction. Staff has coordinated the relocation of all overhead utilities to be installed underground at this intersection, which includes Verizon, Time Warner and Oncor Electric. This is the first phase of the work to be finished before paving and aesthetic improvements are made. The project will be completed in conjunction with the opening of the North Lake campus next January.

City staff also is looking into several other beautification projects that will have a positive impact on the community. Such projects would include possible guidelines to encourage the use of monument signs and providing kiosk signs in lieu of the many temporary signs scattered throughout the city.

For more information, call Code Enforcement at (972) 721-2371 or visit www.cityofirving.org.

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Archives Exhibit to Display City's History at the Old Red Museum

The Irving Archives, a part of the Irving Public Library System, will present an exhibit on the history of Irving at the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History and Culture from March 5-April 12. The exhibit will be the first in a series of exhibits that will focus on cities in Dallas County.

"We are delighted to be able to share Irving's history through this exhibit at the Old Red Museum," said Jan Hart, archives coordinator. "When the museum was first developed, Irving Archives employees worked closely with the museum staff. Their director was impressed with the archives' collection and invited us to be the first city to present an exhibit at Old Red."

The exhibit covers the pre-Irving farming communities and the founding of the city in 1903. It also depicts town life from 1910 to the 1940s through displays on 1920s fashion, sports activities, and the early history of the school system.

The exhibit examines Irving's rapid growth from the 1950s through the 1970s, with displays on the history of the Irving Police and Fire departments and the development of Texas Stadium, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, and Las Colinas, one of the first master-planned developments in the United States.

The newly renovated Old Red Court House, which houses the museum, is one of the city's most prominent and visible landmarks. It is located

at 100 S. Houston St. in the heart of downtown Dallas. Museum hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information on the Old Red Museum, call (214) 745-1100 or visit www.oldred.org.

IRVING CENTRAL LIBRARY TO UNDERGO REMODELING

The Irving Central Library will soon undergo major remodeling to make the facility more visually appealing and convenient for customers. No major changes have been made since it opened in 1986.

Community input was provided during two public meetings held last year where customers provided city staff with improvement suggestions. A survey also was distributed to gather additional information. Improved lighting, new carpeting, and a quiet area were among the most frequently requested items to be addressed in the remodel project.

"Our customers and the library staff are looking forward to an improved and updated Central Library. We think everyone will be pleased with the new look," said Library Director Patty Landers.

Additional improvements will include a carpeted lobby area and an updated entrance into the library with new carpeting and furniture designed to accommodate laptop computers. Self-checkout machines will be added for customers who do not want to wait in line. The children's programming room will be expanded and the teen area will be updated with modern furniture and décor.

The library's computer lab will be expanded with enough space to nearly double the number of workstations currently available, and the genealogy section will be moved to the second floor to make it more accessible.

The \$1.7 million project is being funded by the 1999 bond program and construction is scheduled to begin in May. The library will remain open throughout most of the renovations.

For more information, call the Irving Central Library at (972) 721-2628.

Free Digital Audio Book Downloads Available from the Irving Library

The Irving Public Library now offers digital audio books online for an easy, convenient way for customers to check out books. Users can download the audio books to a computer, transfer them to an MP3 player or burn them to a CD. The service is free and easy to use, and can be accessed anytime, anywhere.

"Our library is always interested in embracing new technologies and we are excited about offering this service," said Jan Bodnar, community relations supervisor. "We want to keep up with the needs of our tech-savvy customers and entice others to experience something new."



The growing collection currently consists of classic titles such as "The Great Gatsby" and "Fahrenheit 451." Library customers can find books by authors ranging from Jane Austen and Ayn Rand to Mark Twain and George Orwell. New releases like "Playing for Pizza" by John Grisham, "Stone Cold" by David Baldacci, and Alan Greenspan's "The Age of Turbulence" are available. The library's digital media catalog also offers the classic "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and the new Will Smith blockbuster, "I Am Legend."

Up to five titles may be checked out online at one time and users will have 10 days to listen or save the downloaded files to a MP3 player. After 10 days the titles will expire.

Those interested will need a valid library card, access to the Internet, and free software called OverDrive Media Console for the computer or device to which the material will be downloaded. Visit www.cityofirving.org/library to install the free software and view a digital catalog.

City Wins for Innovative Education, Marketing Ideas in Cans for Cash Recycling Challenge

The City of Irving won first place and a \$5,000 prize for its innovative education and marketing ideas in the fourth annual Cans for Cash: City Recycling Challenge. As a partner in the endeavor, Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) also received \$2,500.

The national contest, which was sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Novelis Inc., and Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Inc., challenged like-sized cities to compete in the collection of aluminum cans. During the month of October, more than 50 cities collected 19 million used beverage cans.

Through the efforts of the Irving Independent School District, Irving's drop-off recycling centers,

and the Dallas Cowboy Football Club, the city collected and recycled 126,840 cans. The grand prize winner, W.T. Hanes Elementary School, collected 19,080 cans and its students were treated to a special performance courtesy of the city and KIB.



"Winning this award illustrates one of the many ways in which the City of Irving works to involve the community in programs that benefit the environment," said City Manager Tommy Gonzalez. "The city will continue to expand its green initiative with programs that encourage recycling, energy conservation and the construction of environmentally sustainable buildings. We will do our part to help cultivate a safer, healthier environment for all."

For more information on Irving's recycling programs, call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-8059.

Fire Equipment to Provide Increased Safety to Irving Residents

Irving residents will soon be safer thanks to the addition of new rescue equipment that will help the Fire Department provide an even quicker emergency response time. The life-saving tools were purchased through a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

The new hydraulic equipment purchased with the grant will provide all 11 of the city's engine companies with rescue equipment. Engine companies will carry a combination tool, which will give them multiple rescue capabilities in one piece of equipment—cutting, spreading and pulling. The maximum forces it can exert are 67,600 pounds for cutting, 16,166 pounds for spreading and 14,358 pounds for pulling.

The new, portable gasoline-powered unit that drives the rescue tools weighs less, which makes it easy for one person to handle. The newer equipment also uses core technology, a twin-hose design with one hose inside the other to make the 30-foot hose tangle resistant. Special couplers on hoses and power units also make connecting the tools quick and easy.

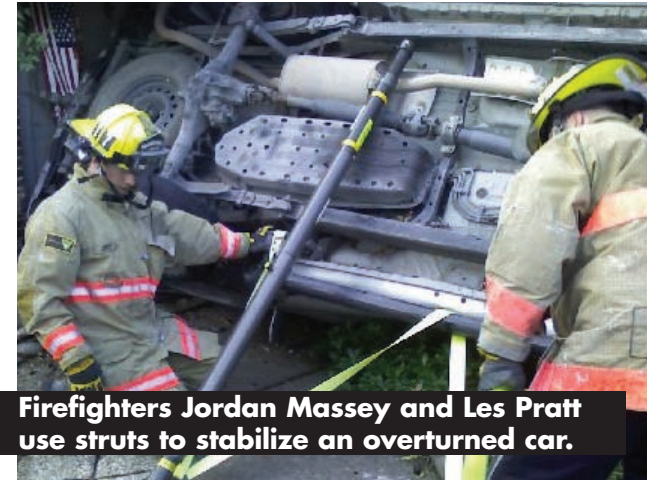
Also available are air bags that can be inflated to free a victim from beneath a car or lift heavy materials in a building collapse. Struts are a



valuable tool used to stabilize a vehicle or other object while the rescue or recovery is in progress. "The addition of this state-of-the-art equipment soon to be included with our engine companies will enable the Fire Department to achieve a higher level of rescue capability," said Rusty Wilson, assistant fire chief.

These tools will be in use later this year once fire staff has been fully trained on proper equipment operation.

The city currently has four truck companies located strategically throughout the city that provide accident rescue response for automobiles and



Firefighters Jordan Massey and Les Pratt use struts to stabilize an overturned car.

semi-tractor trailers. The trucks are equipped with larger, more powerful spreaders and cutters carried on board for extrications and other emergencies. These implements have a maximum spreading force of 19,595 pounds and a maximum cutting force of 208,000 pounds, and are used to free trapped victims in major accidents.

Residents interested in getting first-hand experience with the tools can sign up for the next Citizens' Fire Academy. Applications are available online at www.cityofirving.org/fire.

For more information, call the Fire Department at (972) 721-2514 or visit www.cityofirving.org.

New Technology Offers More Effective Care for Patients



A new electronic patient care reporting system is being used by Irving paramedics to help save lives.

The new technology has replaced paper forms, and data is now recorded once, with fewer errors, allowing the city to make more staff available for ambulance calls.

The system has many functions that are beneficial to both patients and health care workers. If a patient has been transported within the last calendar year, the system can retrieve his/her medical history, medications and allergies. EMS personnel also can use the system to isolate injuries and illnesses through visual touch screen displays, and retrieve vital information such as blood pressure, pulse rate and trauma scores.

Paramedics enter patient information and transmit it electronically via the Internet. When the patient reaches the hospital, medical personnel will know the type and quantity of medication that has been administered, and other pertinent details, as the electronic reporting system documents the date and time for each event.

Speed of billing has also increased to a single day as a result of the electronic reporting. The system also helps eliminate errors by checking for required medical and billing codes, misspelled words and names and improper times.

"This system is going to help expedite billing and that will mean fewer headaches for residents in dealing with Medicare and their insurance companies," said EMS Division Capt. Tony Harvey.

ICTN Keeps Residents Informed About Irving News, Events

Residents who want to stay informed about current news, events and issues that affect Irving can watch the many shows and live coverage provided by Irving Community Television Network (ICTN).

ICTN provides a variety of information on the following channels through Time Warner or Verizon.

- **ICTN 1** (Time Warner – Channel 16 and Verizon – Channel 30) – provides information through magazine shows, entertainment, sports, specials, educational information and news.

- **ICTN 2** (Time Warner – Channel 95 and Verizon – Channel 31) – features city government information such as City Council Work Session and City Council meetings.

- **ICTN 3** (Time Warner – Channel 96 and Verizon – Channel 32) – provides a community calendar of events in Irving.

Many shows are available for viewing online at www.ictn.tv. Taped specials also are available at the Irving Public Library for check out.

Two newly created shows available on ICTN are "City Source," a magazine show that features the



IRVING COMMUNITY TELEVISION NETWORK

programs and services provided by the city, and "Irving Living," a monthly talk show that takes viewers behind the scenes at a variety of attractions available in Irving

For more information about ICTN, call (927) 721-2468.



City to Offer Shredding Opportunity in March

Residents will have an opportunity to protect themselves against identity theft by having their personal documents and proprietary information shredded. Shred Document Destruction will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 7 at the drop-off recycling center located at O'Connor

Plaza (northwest corner of State Highway 183 and O'Connor Road). The center and shredding equipment is located between the two large buildings.

Residents are limited to two file boxes per visit and will be serviced on a first-come, first-served basis. Only paper materials will be shredded; CDs

Document Destruction

or credit cards will not be accepted. For more information, contact Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-8059.

HUNTER FERRELL MUNICIPAL LANDFILL AVAILABLE FOR IRVING RESIDENTS

Solid Waste Services operates the Hunter Ferrell Municipal Landfill, 220 W. Hunter Ferrell Road, every day from 7 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Vehicles arriving after 5:15 p.m. are admitted at the landfill's discretion.

Fees/charges: Fees are determined by the vehicle that is used to transport waste to the landfill. There is a charge of \$10 per quarter-ton for pickup trucks that are one ton and larger, and trailers that are 9 feet or longer in length.

Residents will not be charged for household waste transported in passenger cars, station wagons, pickups with less than a one-ton rating, or in trailers less than 9 feet in length. All commercial entities must pay the fee listed above regardless of vehicle size.

An anti-litter fee will be charged if waste loads are not secured to prevent spillage. If the weighing scales at the landfill are inoperable, patrons will be charged based on vehicle size and category.

General rules:

- Only waste generated within the city of Irving is allowed.
- Proof of residency, driver's license and a current water bill (the names must match) are required upon entry.
- Salvaging is not allowed.
- Chemicals or flammable materials (i.e. gasoline, household cleaners, pool chemicals, etc.) or waste that is considered hazardous, unidentifiable or questionable cannot be disposed of at the landfill. Dallas County residents should call the Home Chemical Collection Center at (214) 553-1765 for information on how to properly dispose of household hazardous materials.
- Roofing materials are accepted from residents in vehicles as described under the fees/charges section. Residents with roofing materials must have a roofing permit with their name and address matching their driver's license.
- Individuals are responsible for unloading their waste materials at the designated area. Individuals not unloading waste should remain in their car.
- Vehicles immobilized or left unattended will be towed at the owner's expense.

Items recycled at the landfill:

- Used motor oil must be put in a container less than 1 gallon in size with a secure lid or cap. No more than 5 gallons at any one time are accepted.
- Automotive tires should be from a passenger car or light truck only. No more than five tires should be delivered at any one time; no more than 16 in a calendar month. Six or more tires at a time will be charged \$1 per tire, plus the tipping fee for the weight of the load (\$40 per ton).
- Lead acid automotive batteries should be from a passenger car or light truck only. No more than three batteries accepted at any one time.
- Appliances and metal materials recycled at the landfill are separated from other waste; the vehicle fees above apply.
- Fresh-cut Christmas trees are accepted for recycling as mulch. Mulched trees and yard brush are available year-round to residents.

New Materials to be Added for Recycling at Drop-Off Centers

New materials are now being accepted at Irving's full-service drop-off recycling centers. Residents may now recycle VHS tapes, CDs, DVDs and their cases. These items are being added to the list of regularly accepted materials such as paper (including newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, paperboard boxes, mixed office paper and school paper, and old phone books), cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, plastic containers No. 1–No. 7 (excluding No. 6 Polystyrene/Styrofoam), glass bottles and jars, aerosol cans, cell phones, empty toner and ink jet cartridges, plastic grocery bags and clothing (for donation).

The drop-off recycling centers are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. All centers are closed Tuesday and Wednesday and on holidays observed by the city.



Drop-off recycling center locations:

- Northeast corner of MacArthur and Las Colinas boulevards across from Stein Mart – computers are accepted at this location.
- O'Connor Plaza at the northwest corner of State Highway 183 and O'Connor Road – computers are accepted at this location.
- 101 N. Rogers Road on the northside of the parking area of Lindero Ranch in front of Bill Baley Enterprises.

For more information, visit www.cityofirving.org/solid-waste-services or call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-8059.

Residents Encouraged to Take a Pledge to Help the Environment

Irving residents can learn ways to take care of the environment by celebrating Earth Day during the month of April.

To encourage residents to take an active role in improving the environment, the City of Irving will offer the Think Green ... Be Green Pledge, an online promise available at the end of March that will reward participants for their initiative.

Those who take the pledge will receive a complimentary gift that corresponds to the pledge selected. Pledge options include:

- Reduce energy use and receive a compact florescent light bulb.
- Begin curbside recycling and receive blue curbside recycling bags.
- Reduce the number of petroleum-based grocery bags from the supermarket and receive a reusable one.

"Green is a beautiful color, especially today as we hear the word being used in terms of creating a better environment," said Fran Witte, solid waste programs and marketing supervisor. "Our goal is to get residents involved in this growing movement to create a more sustainable environment that we can all benefit from."

The online pledge will be available at www.cityofirving.org. Click on the "Think Green ... Be Green" logo to learn more about making



a pledge, or call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-8059 for more information. Pledges will be accepted throughout April while gift supplies last. One gift per household is allowed. Residents should allow 4-6 weeks for the delivery of materials.

On April 12, the city will provide free shuttle bus service for Irving residents who would like to attend the Live Green Expo 2008 in Plano. By using the complimentary shuttle service that runs every two hours, Irving residents can reduce carbon emissions and save money on the 50-mile round trip.

This free event will inform North Texans on how to make environmentally responsible decisions through a variety of activities and informational booths. For more information and to receive a free ticket, call Solid Waste Services at (972) 721-2345.



Emergency



Preparedness



Irving residents should be prepared for an emergency. Disasters may or may not affect us directly, but each individual should be aware of what to do and where to get information. This guide has been prepared to assist residents in preparing for disasters; however, it is not a substitute for common sense, personal responsibility and preparedness.

The following pages contain information about the most threatening natural and man-made disasters in our area. By being prepared, you will be able to act with confidence and help your fellow neighbors should an emergency arise.

OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM

If the sirens are activated during inclement weather:

- DO – Take cover inside a building on the first floor, in an interior room, a closet or a bathroom that does not have any windows.
- DO NOT – Call 911, police or fire dispatch for information. If there is inclement weather in the area

and the sirens are activated, assume there is the possibility of a tornado and take cover immediately.

Tornado Warnings – A steady tone means a tornado warning. Sirens will be activated when there is a threat of a tornado in the area.

Siren Testing – The sirens will be tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. unless the sky is overcast or there is inclement weather in the area.



CALL THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.
972.721.2100

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

If hazardous chemical substances are released or misused, they can pose a threat to the environment and your health. Hazardous materials come in the form of explosives, flammables, poisons, and radioactive materials. These substances are most often released as a result of transportation accidents or because of chemical accidents in plants.

What to Do During a Home Chemical Emergency

- If your child should eat or drink a non-food substance, find the container(s) immediately.
- Call the poison control center, emergency medical services, 911 or the operator.
- Follow the emergency operator's or dispatcher's instructions carefully.
- Take immediate action if a hazardous substance comes into contact with an eye.
- If there is danger of a fire or explosion, get out of the house immediately.
- If there is a fire or explosion, call the fire department from outside.
- Stay away from the house to avoid the possibility of breathing toxic fumes.
- Wash hands, arms or other parts of the body that may have been exposed to the chemical.
- Discard any clothing that may have been contaminated.



HEAT

A heat wave can be a very dangerous event. The effects of a prolonged heat wave can be severe, especially when stagnant atmospheric conditions trap the heat. Also, asphalt and concrete absorb heat, which produces significantly higher temperatures.

What to Do to Avoid Extreme Heat

- Slow down and avoid strenuous activities.
- Postpone outdoor games and sports.
- Stay indoors. If air conditioning is available, use it.
- Vacuum or replace air conditioning filters.
- Go to a public building with air conditioning.
- Dress appropriately. Wear loose, light-colored clothing and as much skin as possible. Protect face and neck with hats and sunscreen.
- Take frequent breaks if you must go outside.
- Use a buddy system when working outdoors.
- Drink plenty of water regularly.
- Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine.
- Never leave children or pets in a car.

FIRE

Be aware of special fire hazards near wooded areas, and remember that geographic location may create longer response times for fire and rescue services.

Protect Your Home

- Use fire resistant, protective roofing and materials like stone, brick and metal to protect your home. Avoid using wood materials.
- Cover all exterior vents, attics and eaves with metal mesh screens no larger than 6 millimeters.
- Install multi-pane windows, tempered safety glass or fireproof shutters to protect large windows from radiant heat.
- Use fire-resistant draperies for added window protection.
- Have chimneys, wood stoves and all home heating systems inspected and cleaned annually by a certified specialist.

Prepare Your Family

- Know how to contact fire emergency services in your area.
- Plan ahead.
- Develop and practice escape and evacuation plans.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them every month.



Things to Check for Fire Prevention

A. Electrical Hazards

- Replace frayed or cracked extension and appliance cords, loose prongs and plugs.
- Make sure there is only one plug per outlet.
- Remove electrical cords that run under rugs or over nails, heaters or pipes.
- Cover exposed outlets and wiring.
- Repair or replace appliances that overheat, short out, smoke or spark.

B. Chemical Hazards

- Store flammable liquids such as gasoline, acetone, benzene and lacquer thinner in approved safety cans, away from the home.
- If flammable materials must be stored, use a storage can with an Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM) approved label. Keep away from heat sources.
- Keep combustible liquids away from heat sources.
- Store oily waste and polishing rags in covered metal cans.
- Instruct family members not to use gasoline, benzene or other flammable fluids for starting fires or cleaning indoors.

C. Fire Hazards

- Clear out old combustible materials.
- Move clothes, curtains, rags and paper goods away from heat sources.
- Remove dried grass cuttings, tree trimmings and weeds.
- Clean and repair chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors.
- Keep heaters and candles away from curtains and furniture.
- Place portable heaters on level surfaces, away from high traffic areas. Use automatic shut-off switches and avoid the use of extension cords.

D. Items That Can Shift or Fall

- Anchor water heater, large appliances, and tall or heavy objects.
- Fit water heater with a flexible gas supply line.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.

Create a Family Disaster Plan

- Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster.
- Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each case.
- Pick two places to meet.
- Develop an emergency communication plan.
- Ask an out-of-town relative or friend to be your "family contact."
- Discuss what to do if authorities ask you to evacuate.
- Be familiar with escape routes.
- Plan how to take care of your pets.

Preparation

A. Disaster Kit

Your kit should include enough supplies to meet your needs for at least three days. Store supplies in a sturdy, easy to carry, water-resistant container. Keep a smaller kit in the trunk of your car. Your disaster supply kit should include:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) and food that will not spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person.
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit, including prescription medicines.
- Emergency tools, including a battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys.
- Cash.

- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- An extra pair of glasses.
- If you take medicine, you will need enough on hand to make it on your own for at least a week. Keep a copy of your prescriptions and dosage information. If a weeklong supply is not possible, keep as much as you can on hand and talk to your doctor about what else you should do to prepare.
- Auto emergency kits should contain at a minimum: blankets and warm clothing, booster cables and tools, bottled water, canned fruits



ble and combustible substances,



erous situation. People living in urban areas may be at greater risk from
ave than those in rural regions. An increased health problem can occur
tions trap pollutants in urban areas, adding unhealthy air to excessively
and concrete store heat longer and gradually release the heat at night,
er nighttime temperatures known as the “urban heat island effect.”

Extreme Heat

ous activity.
l activities.
ng is not available, stay on the lowest floor, out of the sun.
ner filters regularly during periods of high use.
air conditioning if your home does not have air conditioning.
ose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing that will cover as much
and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
must work outdoors.
orking in extreme heat.
ly and often.
caffeine in them.
alone in closed vehicles.

Watch for Signals:

- Heat exhaustion – Cool, moist, pale or flushed skin; heavy sweating; headache; nausea or vomiting; dizziness and exhaustion.
- Heat stroke – Hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing.

How to Treat a Heat Emergency

- Heat stroke: This is a life-threatening situation. Call 911 or your local emergency number. Move the person to a cooler place. Immerse victim in a cool bath, or wrap wet sheets around the body and fan. Watch for signals of breathing problems. Keep the person lying down and continue to cool the body. If the victim refuses water, is vomiting, or there are changes in the level of consciousness, do not give them anything to eat or drink.
- Heat cramps: Get the person to a cooler place. Lightly stretch the affected muscle and replenish fluids. Give a half glass of cool water every 15 minutes.
- Heat exhaustion: Get the person out of the heat and into a cooler place. Apply cool, wet cloths, such as towels or sheets. If the person is conscious, give him or her a half glass of cool water every 15 minutes. Let the victim rest and watch carefully for changes in his or her condition.



om electrical equipment, gas appliances or flammable

from the property.
and gas vents.

gh traffic areas. Purchase portable heaters equipped with
ion cords.

y furniture and pictures to wall studs.

- Install clips, latches or other locking devices on cabinet doors.
- Provide strong support and flexible connections on gas appliances.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds and places where people sit.
- Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations.

E. Utilities

- Locate the main electric fuse or circuit breaker box, water services shut-off and natural gas main shut-off.
- Contact local utility companies for instructions on how to turn off the utilities.
- Clear area around shut-off switches for easy access.
- Attach shut-off wrench or specialty tool to a pipe or other location close by the gas and water shut-off valves.
- Paint shut-off valves with white or fluorescent paint to increase visibility.

and nuts, first aid kit, flashlight and batteries, traction
mats or chains, a shovel, and emergency prescription
medication.

B. Safe Room

When severe weather threatens, individuals and families
need protection from the dangerous forces of extreme
winds. Specific guidance is available from FEMA by calling
the Office of Emergency Management at (972) 721-2100.
Ask for information on the construction of a residential safe
room.

C. Evacuation Plans

Plan how to escape from your home in the event of an

emergency. Identify at least two exits from each room.
Clear doors, hallways and stairs of obstructions. Conduct
emergency drills.

D. Driving Tips

Disaster driving is one part preparedness, one part common
sense, and one part learning from experience—our own
and other’s. For example:

- Be aware of your changed environment, and stay away from downed power poles.
- Don’t attempt to drive through water.
- If possible, avoid driving in severe winter storms, but if you are caught in a storm and your car becomes immobilized, stay in the vehicle and wait for rescue.

Learn More

To learn more about how to prepare for severe weather
conditions, visit any Irving library and check out the free
DVD produced by the Emergency Management Office.
The English and Spanish subtitled DVD has information on
tornadoes, lightning, floods, severe thunderstorms, winter
storms and terrorism, plus valuable tips on disaster driving,
first aid, family disaster planning, and pets and disasters.

For other emergency preparedness materials, call the Federal
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at (800) 480-2520,
or visit www.ready.gov or www.knowwhat2do.com.

TORNADOES

Although tornadoes can strike anywhere, at any time, they are most frequent between March and September, with more than half reported during April, May and June. Tornadoes are more likely to occur in late afternoon, usually after a storm.

- **Tornado Watch** – A tornado, severe thunderstorm, and/or flooding is possible. There is no immediate danger. Remain alert.
- **Tornado Warning** – A tornado or severe thunderstorm has been sighted or indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately or in the case of floods, seek higher ground.

What to do:

- **Take Cover** – Most tornado deaths are caused by head injuries from flying debris.

- **In Homes or a Small Building** – Take cover in the center of the house, on the lowest floor, in a small room such as a closet or bathroom, or under sturdy furniture. Stay away from windows.
- **In Schools, Shopping Centers or Public Buildings** – Stay away from windows and large unsupported areas such as auditoriums and gymnasiums. Move to a designated shelter area.
- **In a Car, Mobile Home or Outside** – Seek cover in a substantial shelter or get into the nearest ditch or depression until the tornado passes. Cover your head with your hands. Never try to outrun a tornado.



FLOODS

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural hazards—except fire. Most communities experience flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms or spring thaws. Floods can be slow or fast rising, but generally develop over a period of days. Flash flooding is a rapid rise in water levels associated with heavy rainfall.

Flood Insurance – Individuals and business owners can protect themselves from flood losses by purchasing flood insurance from an independent insurance agent or through the National Flood Insurance Program. Homeowners' policies do not cover flood damage.

Surviving a Flood – Do not attempt to walk through shallow or deep flood waters. Instead, go directly to higher ground. Keep children and pets away from flood waters, storm drains and sewers—including water along the curb. If you are in a car, drive away from flooded areas—never try to take a shortcut through them. If your car stalls, immediately abandon it and climb to higher ground. Swift water of only six inches deep can wash cars off the road!



LIGHTNING

Although lightning kills or injures hundreds of people every year, most deaths from lightning can be prevented. On the average, six people die each year in Texas from lightning strikes.

Always seek shelter indoors during a lightning storm. If you must stay outside, keep away from metal objects, find a ditch or shelter, and stay away from hilltops and open fields. Most importantly, stay away from open water and tall trees—both are great lightning conductors.

Lightning always accompanies thunderstorms, so keep an eye and ear to the sky. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. Even if you can't hear thunder, you may still be at risk.



Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected are the same for any emergency. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives.

Make a backup emergency plan in case you cannot care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

1. Prepare a Pet Emergency Supply Kit

Create two kits. One that has everything your pets will need, and a smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to leave your home. Review your kits regularly to ensure their contents are fresh.

- Three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- Three days of water for your pets.
- Medicines and medical records in a waterproof container.
- First aid kit.
- Collar with ID tag, harness or leash.
- Crate or other pet carrier.

- Sanitation products such as pet litter, newspapers, paper towels and plastic trash bags.
- A picture of you and your pet together in case you become separated.
- Familiar items such as toys, treats or bedding.

2. Plan What You Will Do in an Emergency

Be prepared to assess the situation. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you shelter in place or leave your home. You should have a plan for both possibilities.

- Create a plan to leave your home. Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. Consider family or friends willing to take you and your pets during an emergency. Other options may include a hotel or motel that takes pets or a boarding facility near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place.
- Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Talk with your pet care buddy about your evacuation plans and show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Also designate specific locations where you will meet in an emergency.
- Talk to your pet's veterinarian about emergency planning. Discuss the types of things that you should include in your pet's

emergency first aid kit. You also should consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping. Be sure to keep your contact information up-to-date and listed with a reliable recovery database.

- Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or ASPCA, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pet's emergency supply kit. Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers.

3. Stay Informed of the Types of Emergencies

It's important to stay informed about what might happen and what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region. For more information about how to prepare, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY.

This information was developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in consultation with: American Kennel Club, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Humane Society of the U.S.

City of Irving

Town Hall Meeting



Join the City of Irving for a Town Hall Meeting to discuss city projects and initiatives.

The next meeting is scheduled for

Tuesday, April 8

Irving Arts Center
Carpenter Performance Hall
3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

6 p.m.
Informational Displays

7 p.m.
Presentation

The presentation will provide an update on key initiatives such as public safety, code enforcement, neighborhood improvements, capital improvement projects and corridor enhancements. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions following the presentation.

For more information, call (972) 721-7600.

Kunstadt Receives High Spirited Citizen Designation from City

The City of Irving recently honored 32-year Irving resident Gerry Kunstadt as a High Spirited Citizen. Kunstadt has been an active participant in a variety of organizations throughout the city.



Gerry Kunstadt

An educator by trade, Kunstadt taught math for 22 years at Crockett Middle School and Irving High School. Very active with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in Irving, she was the PTA president at Lively Elementary for eight years, served as a

board member with the Crockett PTA for six years and Irving High PTA for seven years, and also was a member of the City Council PTA for six years.

Since her retirement from the classroom, Kunstadt has served with the State of Texas Retired Teacher Association and voluntarily tutors children in math at various schools in Irving.

In addition to being a trustee and benefactor of the Irving Symphony Orchestra, Kunstadt has also been involved with the Symphony League, serving as chair of the Junior and Senior Symphony Belles. A past chair for the Irving Schools Foundation's Breakfast with the Stars, Kunstadt currently serves as the foundation's vice president of grants and scholarships, a position she's held for several years.

Kunstadt is a member of the Las Colinas Women's Association, Irving Healthcare Foundation Guild, DFW Humane Society, and serves as a board member for Irving's Junior Book Club and Women of Rotary, an organization she once led as president.

"Gerri is a thoughtful, involved leader of leaders," said Irving City Councilman Joe Philipp, who nominated her for the award. "She is recognized for her compassion, commitment and her creativity in organizations, giving much to others yet expecting little in return for her volunteer work."

To nominate an Irving resident for the award, contact Jane Kilburn at (972) 252-7476 or download an application form at www.irvingtexas.com/Media/HighSpiritCitiz.

Exhibits and Activities at the Irving Arts Center

Robert Sabuda: Travels in Time and Space ▪ *Through July 27, Irving Arts Center, Dupree Theater Lobby.* Exhibit showcases the rich designs and detailed production techniques used by Robert Sabuda, the nation's premier designer/illustrator of children's pop-up books. The exhibit is organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in Abilene, TX.

Eric Neilsen: Alternative Views to Yesterday and Today ▪ *March 1-May 25, Irving Arts Center, Focus Gallery.* Eric Neilsen shares his impressions from travels both near and far. These impressionistic views are in color and black and white, and are presented in traditional, as well as modern photographic methods.

JumpstART Stories & ART ▪ *10 a.m. March 6, Irving Arts Center, Suite 200.* The theme for March's story time and its hands-on art activity is Hop into Spring. This free program, presented by the Irving Arts Center and the Irving Public Library, is open to children of all ages on

the first Thursday of each month. Registration is required for groups of 15 or more. Call (972) 252-7558, ext. 1226 to register.

Spring Fling Arts Festival ▪ *10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 5, Irving Arts Center.* Go wild with art at the Irving Arts Center's annual Spring Fling arts festival. Participants will enjoy safari-themed art projects, Snake Talk presentations, a bounce house, face painting, an instrument petting zoo and more. Spring Fling also will feature demonstrations from special guest artists and live performances by local bands and community groups. Visit www.irvingartscenter.com or call (972) 252-7558.

Sculpture Garden ▪ The Irving Arts Center's Sculpture Garden features two installations from the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C. The sculptures, by American artist Reuben Nakian, are on long-term loan from the museum as part of the Irving Arts Center's affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution.

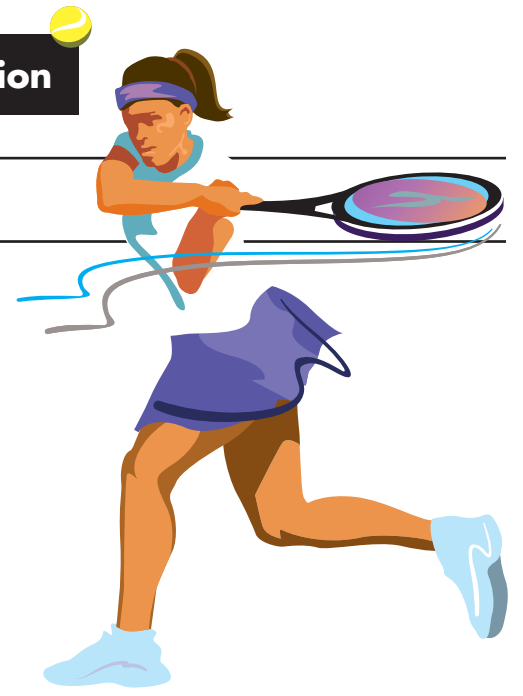


Hours of Operation

Administration: Monday through Friday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (972) 252-7558.

Box Office: Tuesday through Saturday – noon to 5 p.m. and one hour prior to performance. Call (972) 252-ARTS.

Gallery: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday – 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday – 1 to 5 p.m.



Irving All Sports Association

The Irving All Sports Association (IASA) is a non-profit organization that coordinates the various local athletic organizations of Irving. The member groups are listed below.

Adult Basketball Association of Irving ▪ Provides basketball competitions each winter for both men and women. Call (972) 721-2501.

Adult Softball Association of Irving ▪ Holds spring, summer and fall leagues. Call Eddie Sosa at (972) 790-0020 or visit www.irvingsoftball.com.

Irving Basketball Association ▪ Responsible for running both girls and boys leagues for participants ages 7–12. For information on the

girls league registration, call Tracy Payne at (214) 529-5620; for boys league registration, call Arthan Gilder at (972) 256-1292. Girls register in August, boys in October.

Irving Boys Baseball Association ▪ Provides baseball recreation for boys ages 5–14. Call Lisa Raney at (214) 783-1412 or visit www.irvingboysbaseball.com.

Irving Boys Football Association ▪ Open to boys ages 6–12. Call Bart Shoulders at (972) 641-6301 or visit www.irvingboysfootball.com.

Irving Disc Sports Association ▪ Organizes disc golf tournaments. Call (817) 952-2885.

Irving Flag Football Association ▪ Provides adult flag football leagues in the fall and winter. Call (972) 721-2501.

Irving Girls Cheerleader Association ▪ Promotes the interest of children ages 5–12 with cheerleading. Call Sabrina Ragland at (972) 313-3506 or visit www.leaguelineup.com/igca.

Irving Girls Softball League ▪ Allows girls ages 5–18 to play organized softball. Call Brian Hindman at (972) 790-2073 or www.eteamz.com/igsl.

Irving Gymnastics Association ▪ Offers classes to participants ages 3–18. Call the Gymnastics Center at (972) 721-2344 after 6 p.m.

Irving Miss Softball Association ▪ Open to girls between 5–18 years of age. Call Melody Grabeel at (214) 450-6127.

Irving Soccer Association ▪ Open to participants ages 4 to adult. Call the soccer office at (972) 273-2280 or visit www.irvingsoccer.com.

Irving Swimmers ▪ A U.S. swim team for participants ages 6 or older. Call Mark Smith at (972) 989-4571 or visit www.irvingswimmers.com.

Irving Synchronized Swimmers ▪ A competitive swim team for girls ages 8 and older. Call Megan Deatherage at (214) 454-7039 or visit www.ptxsynchro.org.

Irving Tennis Association ▪ Provides adult leagues and tournaments for tennis enthusiasts. Call Pete Azcuna at (972) 252-5971.

Senior softball and volleyball ▪ Men must be at least 55 years old and women at least 40 years old. Call (972) 790-2739 for more information.

Call (972) 721-2501 for more information about any of these organizations.

Step Up to Health

It Starts in Parks

FITNESS ROOM MEMBERSHIPS OFFERED

Want to weight train? If so, consider a membership at one of the weight rooms at Cimarron, Heritage, Lee, Mustang, Northwest, Senter and West recreation centers. Weight training offers many benefits. When combined with aerobic exercises it can reverse declines in strength, bone density and muscle mass. The following weight rooms have free weights, Universal Weight Machines and stationary bicycles. To join the weight room programs, residents must be at least 18 years old without a parent in attendance, or 16 with a parent. Costs for the weight programs are as follows:

Cimarron, Lee, Mustang, Northwest & Senter

Individual Rates	Family Rates <small>(up to 4 people)</small>
\$25, 1 mo.	\$35, 1 mo.
\$65, 3 mos.	\$95, 3 mos.
\$110, 6 mos.	\$170, 6 mos.
\$200, year	\$300, year

West

Individual Rates	Family Rates <small>(up to 4 people)</small>
\$15, 1 mo.	\$30, 1 mo.
\$35, 3 mos.	\$70, 3 mos.
\$60, 6 mos.	\$120, 6 mos.
\$100, year	\$200, year

Heritage (50-up)

Individual Rates

\$7.50, 1 mo.	\$27.50, 6 mos.
\$17.50, 3 mos.	\$50, year

City Facilities, Fields Available for Rent



Facility rentals

Groups requesting to rent or reserve buildings have several options available through the city. Private functions, such as family reunions and wedding receptions, may be held at the Senter East Building, 228 Chamberlain St.; Heritage Park Building, 217 S. Main St.; and Garden and Arts Center, 906 S. Senter Road. The Jaycee Park Center for the Arts, 2000 W. Airport Freeway, may be used for cultural or club events, but is not available for private functions. All buildings may be used for nonprofit group meetings. For building rental information, call (972) 721-2501.

Recreation centers

City recreation centers can be reserved during nonoperational hours; a deposit and rental fee are required. School-leased recreation centers are not available for rental. For more details, call the appropriate recreation center.

Racquetball courts

Racquetball court reservations may be made

by calling Lee Park Recreation Center at (972) 721-2508, or Senter Park Recreation Center at (972) 721-2641 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The fees are as follows:

- Annual individual pass \$25
- Annual family pass \$50
- Quarterly individual pass \$10
- Quarterly family pass \$15

There is a walk-in rate of \$4 for the prime-time period of 6 to 9 p.m. and a \$2 walk-in rate for all other times. For youths 4-17 years old, there is a \$1 walk-in fee for nonprime-time slots.

Softball fields

Adult softball practice fields may be reserved by calling (972) 721-2656 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. Fields are available free of charge to registered Irving adult softball teams. Nonregistered teams, companies or individuals may reserve the fields for a fee of \$10 per hour during the day and \$15 per hour in the evening. Reservations must be made during the same week as the desired practice.

Tennis courts

Reservations for Nimitz, Irving and MacArthur high school tennis courts may be made for Irving residents by calling (972) 721-2656 weekdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Each reservation is for 90 minutes. Reservations must be made within the same one-week period. Tennis courts located at Cimarron, Nichols, Northwest, Mustang, Senter, Sunrise and Victoria parks are available on a first-come, first-served basis unless the recreation centers have tennis classes in session. Tennis classes are offered at Cimarron, Mustang, Senter and Northwest park recreation centers.

Recreation Center Locations and Telephone Numbers

1 Cimarron Park Recreation Center ▪ 201 Red River Trail, (972) 910-0702

2 Mustang Park Recreation Center ▪ 2223 Kinwest Parkway, (972) 556-1334

3 North Lake College Aquatic Center ▪ 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd., (972) 273-3531

4 Houston Recreation Center ▪ 3033 Country Club Drive, (972) 721-2670

5 Lee Park Recreation Center ▪ 3000 Pamela Drive, (972) 721-2508

6 Northwest Park Recreation Center ▪ 2800 Cheyenne St., (972) 721-2529

7 Georgia Farrow Recreation Center ▪ 530 Davis Drive, (972) 721-2519

8 Lively Pointe ▪ 909 N. O'Connor Road, (972) 721-8090

9 Austin Recreation Center ▪ 825 E. Union Bower Road, (972) 721-2659

10 Lamar Recreation Center ▪ 219 Crandall Road, (972) 721-2478

11 Heritage Senior Center ▪ 200 S. Jefferson St., (972) 721-2496

12 Senter Park Recreation Center ▪ 901 S. Senter St., (972) 721-2641

13 Southwest Park Pool ▪ 2800 Shady Grove Road, (972) 721-2408

6 Lee Park Pool ▪ (972) 721-2585

7 West Park Pool ▪ (972) 721-2325

8 Lively Park Pool ▪ (972) 721-2597

9 Heritage Aquatic Center ▪ (972) 721-7310

10 Senter Park Pool ▪ (972) 721-2638

Recreation Centers and Pools

Pool School Provides Residents with Invaluable Information

The Parks and Recreation Department now offers a new class designed to help educate residents on techniques and skills for their pool and spa operations.

An important feature of the program addresses safety concerns by educating owners on a variety of ways they can provide a safe and secure environment for patrons of all ages.

The half-day sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and are held at the Senter East Building, 228 Chamberlain St. Classes will be available April 8, Sept. 18, Oct. 23 and Dec. 16. Based on demand, the October class will be presented in Spanish.

Pool owners will learn about safety barriers, entrapment concerns and pool alarms that can protect patrons at any pool or spa regardless of age. Students will learn to identify and minimize safety, physical, chemical and biological hazards.

The class also teaches basic concepts of water quality management, system maintenance, pool and spa design, and special needs of hot water spa environments. Local regulations and industry standards also will be discussed.

Participants will be taught the importance of testing, and how to perform pool calculations based on pool and equipment measurements and chemical usage. The class will provide participants with an opportunity to develop a network of resource materials and personal contacts.

Registrants are asked to provide the following information about their pool on the registration form:

- When was the pool built?
- When was the last known renovation of the pool?
- What type of filtration system does the pool have?
- What type of sanitizer is used?
- What are the estimated pool dimensions?

Enrollment in Pool School is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. To enroll, each attendee must complete a registration form and pay a \$30 enrollment fee at the Parks and Recreation Department, located on the first floor of City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Payments can be made using cash, check, or Visa, MasterCard and Discover. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at (972) 721-2501.



SPRING ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR RECREATION CENTERS

Northwest Recreation Center
Spring Garden Show ▪ Let local vendors answer questions about lawn, garden and patio needs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 8. Come and learn the latest tricks of the trade for spring gardening and how to get yards ready for the summer. Free event and Kids Zone.

Friday Spring Social Dance ▪ Children in grades 3-5 are invited to attend this party from 6:30 to 9 p.m. March 14. Come join the fun—music, dancing, games and refreshments. Cost: \$2 per person.

Spring Break Camp ▪ Kids, ages 6-12, can take a break and enjoy games, crafts, field trips and more from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 17-21. Deadline for registration: March 14. Cost: \$90.

Spring Egg Hunt ▪ Children 6 and younger, grab a basket and hop on over to hunt eggs. Join the fun from 10 to 11 a.m. March 20. Free event. Parents should not forget to bring a camera.

Northwest Recreation Center is located at 2800 Cheyenne St. Call (972) 721-2529 for information.

North Lake Aquatic Center
Underwater Easter Egg Hunt ▪ Kids ages 1-11 can dive in and hunt for toy-filled eggs from 6 to 8 p.m. March 14. (Check-in at 5:30 p.m.) Photo buttons with the Easter Bunny, magic shows, balloons and more. Register in advance at any Irving recreation center through March 10; no walk-up registrations allowed. Admission: One non-perishable food item to benefit Irving Cares.

North Lake Aquatic Center is located at 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd. Call (972) 721-2501 for more information.

Irving Briefs

Irving Citizens' Police Academy ▪ The Police Department will begin its next Citizens' Police Academy on March 11. Irving Citizens' Police Academy is an educational program designed to provide the public with a working knowledge of the Police Department's personnel and policies. Program details are available at www.irvingpd.com. The class has limited seating and those interested are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible.

Building Demolition ▪ The demolition at 1711 W. Irving Blvd. is completed, with the exception of the removal of rubble and debris. This particular building demolition was initiated by the property owner, who has plans to redevelop the property in the near future. In addition, demolition crews are razing the building at 1745 W. Irving Blvd., which was ordered by the Building and Standards Commission. No future plans have been determined for this site.



Building demolition at 1711 W. Irving Blvd.

O'Connor Road Reconstruction Project ▪ The purchase and removal of 10 houses for the expansion of O'Connor Road, from State Highway 183 to Rochelle Boulevard, have been completed. The cost to purchase the houses totaled \$989,491, which included relocation expenses for the previous owners. The cost was less than the initial \$1.25 million estimate as houses were sold and moved to other locations outside of Irving at a cost savings of \$200,000 rather than being demolished. This part of the project was completed under budget and on time. Construction is set to begin in early 2009.

Green Initiatives ▪ Solid Waste Services has been "green" for many years and has created and sustained many environmental programs. One of these programs includes the collection and reuse of used motor oil as a heating source in the maintenance building at the Hunter Ferrell Landfill. The city received a grant from the North Central Texas Council of Governments in 1997 for the acquisition of equipment, which converts recovered motor oil into heat. The system has been operational since 1997, saving the city energy costs in heating the maintenance building at the landfill during the winter months, as well as efficiently diverting gallons of spent motor oil.

MacArthur Beautification ▪ Beautification of the west side of MacArthur Boulevard, from State Highway 183 to Rochelle Road, has begun. The project includes two small corner plazas and the installation of 75 specimen trees and 57 large ornamental trees and grasses. The entire length

is being irrigated and the turf will be improved. The project will be completed in May. The second phase of the gateway marker will begin this summer, with completion by the end of the year.

Zoning Ordinance Review and Update ▪ Staff will be issuing a request for proposal for the updating of all city land use regulations (planning, zoning, landscaping, signage, etc.). This initiative will address development regulations, which are outdated and no longer responsive to current development trends (mixed use, transit-oriented development, transit villages, urban forms, etc.). When completed, an integrated set of development ordinances and guidelines will effectively meet the city's desire to achieve a quality sustainable urban environment, coupled with the developer's need for flexibility and a streamlined development review process.

Electronic Publications ▪ Residents can stay informed about news and activities by signing up to receive *All About Irving* and the *City Manager's Report* via e-mail. *All About Irving* details current news and activities, and the *City Manager's Report* outlines activities and events as they relate to the city's Strategic Plan. Those interested can sign up online at www.cityofirving.org. Go to "Online Services" and select "E-mail Lists." Then select "Join a List" and choose *All About Irving* under the newsletter section. Both publications are distributed through this e-mail list. In addition, past issues of the *City Manager's Report* are on the city Web site.

City Works to Ensure Timely, Quality Delivery of Orange Rail Line

The following guest column from Mayor Herbert Gears and City Council ran in the "Dallas Morning News."

We want to deliver a message today on behalf of the 200,000 people who call Irving home. The DART Board and executive staff have made significant efforts to ensure that the Orange Line light rail project comes through Irving by December 2011, but we must maintain a concerted effort and strong partnership to make sure this project becomes a reality.

The benefits of this project span beyond the boundaries of Irving to the entire North Texas region. It must be completed on time and as promised with quality design standards. Any failure by DART to live up to its obligation would severely curtail the success of mass transit in the entire North Texas region.

It was a disappointment to learn in late November at a DART Board meeting that Orange Line funding was in jeopardy due to construction costs almost doubling. We have already experienced one construction delay with the Irving light rail

project, and we cannot afford to have this happen again.

We are proud of Irving's quick response to help resolve the funding crisis, working hand in hand with DART officials to find an effective solution to this issue. Our residents have shown strong support for keeping the project on a strict time schedule with more than 11,000 petition signatures presented to the DART Board in January. Business leaders have also dedicated their time to support the project with letters to DART officials and participation in several DART meetings to emphasize the value of this rail line project.

Irving has invested more than \$750 million in sales tax dollars for DART, while millions of private sector dollars have been invested in new projects along the planned rail corridor. An additional \$4.4 billion of new retail, commercial, office and housing developments will be positioned along the Orange Line, which will travel through areas such as the Texas Stadium redevelopment, Las Colinas Urban Center and ultimately to D/FW International Airport.

The Orange Line will be at the center of the largest economic engine for our entire area. DART Board members saw these development plans firsthand when they toured the Irving-Las Colinas area last month. This rail project will greatly improve the quality of life for many North Texans by helping to alleviate growing traffic congestion and decreasing air pollution.

To delay this extension through Irving and to D/FW International Airport would be devastating. DART and city officials must continue to work together for the success of the project. During a City Council work session on Dec. 12, DART Executive Director Gary Thomas committed to have all sections of the Orange Line completed on time and consisting of the same high-quality



infrastructure as originally promised. In addition, the DART Board unanimously passed a resolution at its Jan. 22 meeting reaffirming the promise to build the Orange Line to Irving and the line to Rowlett and complete them by the original dates and with the quality standards as planned.

We're encouraged by the commitment of newly appointed DART Board Chairman Randall Chrisman. He supports holding monthly meetings between city of Irving and DART officials and staff to ensure DART meets its long-standing commitments. The city of Irving has dedicated the necessary city staff toward the project and is fully engaged to augment DART efforts. With this dedication, we expect improved communications between the two organizations.

Irving has been a longtime leader in regional transportation issues and will remain a strong partner with DART and other agencies to better serve area residents. The future of both light rail transit and commuter rail transportation in North Texas depends on all of us working effectively. Failure or delay is not an option. It's time to roll up our sleeves and continue to work together and complete the line. Many people are counting on it.



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.

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