



City of Irving *City Manager's Report*

March 31, 2010

Strategic Goal No. 2: Vibrant Neighborhoods

Application Workshop Training – Housing and Human Services hosted a Community Development Block Grant training session on March 17 for nonprofit organizations to learn more about the grant fund application process. The city receives annual federal grant funding to assist programs benefiting Irving's low- to moderate-income residents. Applications for the 2010 funding must be submitted by April 2. For more information, contact Housing and Human Services at (972) 721-4800.

Neighborhood Roundtable – The quarterly Neighborhood Roundtable for neighborhood association officers is set for April 13. The presentation will focus on a waste collections overview by Solid Waste Services. Roundtables allow neighborhood officers to learn about city initiatives and what other residents are doing to enhance their neighborhoods.

Strategic Goal No. 3: Economic Development

KRAFT Cheddar Explosion Contest Winner – KRAFT Cheddar Explosion announced 11-year-old Casey Rogers of Terrell as the winner for the KRAFT Cheddar Explosion contest to “push the button” at the Texas Stadium implosion on April 11. Rogers is the founder of Casey's Heart, a ministry dedicated to helping the homeless of downtown Dallas. Rogers won the contest by submitting an essay about how he has made an explosive impact in his community.

Blue Ribbon Small Business Awards – Irving has claimed four of the prestigious 2010 Blue Ribbon Small Business Awards presented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. For the third consecutive year, no city had more award-winning businesses than Irving. This year's Small Business of the Year winners have demonstrated excellence in a variety of award criteria and have served as leaders in the small business community: Big State Drug Store, Car Concepts/Rick's Independent Car Kare, Cooksey Communications and Teo Tios. In addition, Mart Inc. has been named a Free Enterprise Honoree in recognition of its strong business practices and contributions to the economy.

Best Real Estate Deals of the Year – Irving is a two-time winner in the *Dallas Business Journal's* Best Real Estate Deals of the Year Awards program: Irving Convention Center and Hines Las Colinas Residential (the Lakes of Las Colinas and Riverside Village). The convention center also was a finalist in the Best New Development category. In addition, Irving had three other finalists: Forward Air Inc., Parc 114 and Riverside Commons. Finalists were selected by an independent judging panel consisting of real estate veterans, emerging players and other industry experts.

Irving Development – *Site Selection* magazine has released its rankings for the best markets in 2009 for companies that wanted to build new or expand existing corporate facilities. DFW ranks third with Irving playing a major role in this ranking. Last year, Dallas-Fort Worth was selected by 135 companies as the site of either a corporate expansion or relocation, the publication stated. In Irving, the chamber-managed Irving Economic Development Partnership contributed to 26 job creation and retention projects, responsible for the addition of more than 3,100 new jobs and approximately 780 retained jobs. Some of the many new and/or expanded corporate facilities in Irving submitted in the report to *Site Selection* included Caris Life Sciences, Forward Air, HMS, Hostess Brands, LifeSynch and the Universal Technical Institute.

MSNBC Business Show – The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce coordinated with a producer and production crew from New York to shoot an upcoming episode of the MSNBC program *Your Business* in Irving. The episode will profile the climate that is favorable for businesses—small and large—in Irving, and will focus on the city's Blue Ribbon award-winning small businesses.

Groups in Irving – The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomed the following groups and organizations to Irving: National Cattlemen's Beef Association (March 2-6); Tour-Riffic of Texas (March 5-8); E Source (March 10-11); Mentor Corp. (March 11-14); Broadview Security (March 14-19); Texas Asphalt Pavement Association (March 15-16); Fluor Corp. (March 20-26); and Morgan Stanley (March 22-26).

Strategic Goal No. 4: Safe and Secure City

Irving Animal Care Campus Dedication – More than 3,000 people attended the opening of the new Irving Animal Care Campus on March 27. The facility houses both Irving Animal Services and the DFW Humane Society, and features an animal adoption mall and improved veterinary facilities. Twenty-seven animals were adopted during the grand opening celebration. In addition, a computer kiosk was developed to provide the public with quick access to details about the services available at the shelter. Information includes pet adoption, pet registration, clinical services, fee schedule, volunteer opportunities and special events.

Hispanic Outreach – To enhance outreach efforts, the Irving Police Department hosted a “town hall” style meeting for the Hispanic community. The meeting was hosted in partnership with Ignacio Medrano, vice president of the Irving Chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens. The meeting was well attended by members who had an opportunity to ask questions. Additionally, representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau, Voter's Registration and the Texas Department of Public Safety provided informational booths. The meeting was held as part of a series in conjunction with the Irving Police Department's “Juntos con Irving” program.

Police K-9 Competition – Officer Carmack and his K-9 partner Rocky placed first in overall narcotic search and received “Top Dog” in overall narcotics out of 28 canine teams in the annual United States Police Canine Association Field Trials (USPCA) Region 20. They will represent the city at the 2010 USPCA National Trials May 2-5 in Biwabik, Minn. Additional awards are as follows:

- Officer Carmack and Rocky – second in suspect search, second in vehicle searches and third in room searches
- Officer Fisher and Uzziel – second in tracking

Strategic Goal No. 5: Diversity

Origami Program – Learn the ancient art of Japanese paper folding at 2 p.m. April 10 at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The program is offered on the third Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. and is open to children ages 8 and older.

Strategic Goal No. 6: Effective Communications

Texas Stadium Implosion Coverage – Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) will provide live coverage of the Texas Stadium implosion on ICTN 1 (Time Warner – Channel 16, Verizon – Channel 30) beginning at 6 a.m. April 11. The event also will air live through Web streaming at www.cityofirving.org by clicking on “Watch ICTN Live.” Log on to the city Web site to watch stories on demand about the preparations being made for the implosion event.

Town Hall Meeting – About 80 residents attended the city's Town Hall Meeting on March 30. A newly produced "Resident Report" video featured city results over the past year, and residents were able to ask questions of city staff. The meeting will air on Irving Community Television Network and will be available for viewing on demand at www.cityofirving.org.

Police Banquet Airing – Irving Community Television Network recorded the annual Police Banquet honoring local officers. It is airing on ICTN 1 (Time Warner – Channel 16, Verizon – Channel 30). Check the schedule on www.ictn.tv for dates and show times.

Community Health Web Pages – A Community Health Web page has been created to inform residents about health events and resources through photos, links and an embedded Google calendar. The information is available at www.cityofirving.org. Click the "Community Health" button on the left side of the home page. The project was a collaborative effort between the Irving Board of Health and the Corporate Communications Department.

Strategic Goal No. 7: Cultural, Recreational and Educational Environments

Public Input for Irving Public Library – The Irving Public Library is seeking resident input through the following surveys:

- **Technology Survey** – Residents are asked to complete a survey on the type of technology they would like incorporated into libraries, including the new West Irving Library. The survey is available online at www.cityofirving.org/library. In addition, the Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail, will host a public test run of a Microsoft Surface table as part of the survey.
- **Library Communication Survey** – The library will conduct a survey April 1-30 to obtain input on communication techniques for promoting library services and programs to customers. The results will be used to establish a marketing plan for the library. The survey will be available at all library locations and online at www.cityofirving.org/library.

Irving Chautauqua – Charles Brown, the grandson of one of Irving's founding fathers, Otis Brown, will share memories of growing up in Irving as part of the Washington Irving celebration series at 2 p.m. April 10 at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Irving Archives will present a downtown Irving "Then and Now" slide show. For more information, call (972) 721-2606.

Tax-Aid Volunteer Program – The Heritage Senior Center will offer free tax help through April 15 for residents filing 2009 tax returns. The program, sponsored by the AARP, will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Thursdays. Appointments are required. To schedule a meeting, call (214) 770-5599. An intake sheet must be completed prior to the appointment and is available at the Heritage Senior Center, 200 S. Jefferson St. The program is not restricted to seniors. For more information, call (972) 721-2496.

Collection of African American Art – More than 3,400 people viewed *200 Years of African American Art: The Arthur Primas Collection*, an exhibition celebrating the works of more than 30 well-known African-American artists. The exhibition—presented by the Irving Arts Center and Irving Black Arts Council—ran from January through March, marking the first time the more than 90 works of art have been available for public view.

Award of Excellence – The City of Irving, MESA Design Group and the Irving Veterans Memorial Park Committee were presented with an Award of Excellence at the American Society of Landscape Architects (Texas Chapter) state conference on March 11. The group was honored under the category of design and construction for outdoor public spaces for Irving Veterans Memorial Park. At the discretion of the jury, an Award of Excellence may be given to any entry demonstrating outstanding achievement in landscape architecture. Out of five design categories this year, only four entries received this acknowledgment. This prestigious award honors the exceptional quality and prominent civic status of this community landmark.

Strategic Goal No. 8: Sound Governance

Transparency Award – Superior financial transparency practices have earned the City of Irving the gold award—the highest rating—from the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle. The gold rating recognizes Irving for setting the bar in online financial transparency among public entities. Residents have access to a wealth of financial information online, including the city budget and annual financial statements, at www.cityofirving.org. In line with the city's commitment to transparency, the city offers several public input opportunities prior to the adoption of its annual budget.

On-the-Spot Awards – City of Irving employees continue to provide excellent customer service and perform above and beyond their normal job responsibilities. The following employees have recently received an On-the-Spot Award for their performance: Ernie Filippone (Planning and Inspections) and Chelsey Jones, (Code Enforcement).

Strategic Goal No. 10: Environmentally Sustainable Community

Bicycle Transportation Survey – A bicycle transportation survey has been created to gather input from current and potential bike riders to help design a more comprehensive plan for the city. Once completed, the bicycle transportation plan will set policies, inventory existing bicycling facilities and establish guidelines for future improvements. The survey is available at www.cityofirving.org/begreen. Staff from Intergovernmental Services and the Performance Team worked in partnership with the Air Quality and Transportation Advisory Subcommittee volunteer group to create the survey.

Recycling Diversion – A total of 7,408 tons of materials was accepted into the landfill during the past two weeks, of which 6.53 percent was recycled. The overall recycling diversion rate for February increased from a four-year average of 24 percent to 50 percent. Solid Waste Services collected and recycled 1,250 tons of material including 206 tons curbside, 28 tons at the drop-off center, and 1,016 tons of material diverted at the landfill, including 1,001 tons of brush sent to the chipper.