



**December 8, 2010**

### **Strategic Goal No. 2: Vibrant Neighborhoods**

**America Recycles Event** – Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) joined with the Irving YMCA for an America Recycles Event on Nov. 15. Irving YMCA members collected 308 pounds of recyclable materials and KIB provided blue recycle bags and instructions on acceptable items. This is the second year of the YMCA and KIB partnership to raise recycling awareness.

**Food Handler Training** – Code Enforcement staff taught two food handler classes Nov. 17 to employees at Market Latina, Bravo Ranch, El Tren Latino and La Cueva. Seventy food establishment workers completed the training.

### **Strategic Goal No. 3: Economic Development**

**Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas Industry Events** – Several key industry events are lined up for the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas scheduled to open in January. The center will host the 2011 Meeting Professionals International DFW Supplier Showcase in February, Dallas/Fort Worth Business Travel Association's monthly luncheon in March and the Texas Society of Association Executives annual conference in 2012. These events will serve as familiarization opportunities for the center, engaging and educating clients on a new place to hold a variety of events.

**Groups in Irving** – The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau staff assisted the following groups and organizations visiting Irving: The Main Event (Dec. 7-9); American Quarter Horse Association (Dec. 12-14); Broadview Security (Dec. 12-17); and Cotton Bowl Athletic Association (Dec. 30-Jan. 8).

**Job Creation/Retention** – More than 2,000 new jobs and nearly 4,000 retained jobs in Irving are the result of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce's efforts, according to an annual study conducted by Angelou Economics. The study states that the chamber-managed Irving Economic Development Partnership had significant impact in driving economic activity for Irving. For every \$1 invested by the City of Irving and area businesses, the chamber generated \$1,355 in economic activity, \$392 in wages and income, \$20 in retail spending, \$13 in local property tax and \$12 in local sales tax.

**Chamber Annual Meeting** – The Chamber's Annual Meeting on Nov. 29 served as a recap of the 2010 successes and a preview for 2011. Highlights included the symbolic exchanging of the gavel between outgoing chairman Rick Lindsey and current chairman Robert Martinez. Tom Trotter received the Jennings Smith Community Service Award for his service to the Irving community and AT&T presented a check for \$30,000 to the chamber's education foundation. A panel of Irving legislators—Senators Florence Shapiro and Chris Harris, and State Representative Linda Harper-Brown—discussed the upcoming legislative session. The meeting was sponsored by Reliant Energy.

### **Strategic Goal No. 4: Safe and Secure City**

**Teen Court Award** – Irving Teen Court received the 2010 Spotlight Achievement Award from the Teen Court Association of Texas at its annual conference in November. The award is given to the court that has demonstrated success and implemented innovative programming for teens during the past year.

**Jail Security Surveillance System Upgrade** – Information Technology upgraded the video surveillance system at the Irving jail with state-of-the-art technology. The new equipment enhances security by providing sharper images, more realistic motion and highly accurate video details. Other major enhancements include faster data search and the ability to expand coverage to a wider surveillance area.

**Legislative Meetings** – Police Chief Larry Boyd participated in a series of legislative meetings in Washington D.C. the week of Nov. 17-19 with members of the North Texas Crime Commission. Several legislators and federal agency directors were in attendance including the director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the assistant director for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. During the meeting with the ICE director, Boyd was able to share concerns and discuss opportunities for better collaboration at the local level.

**First Offender Program Update** – Three groups of English-speaking and two groups of Spanish-speaking families attended the first year of the new Families4Change juvenile First Offender Program. Seventeen families successfully completed the 10-week group counseling program. State Representative Linda Harper-Brown provided the keynote address at this year's graduation ceremony.

**Irving ISD Parent Academy** – The Office of Emergency Management, along with nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and other city departments, participated in the Irving ISD Parent Academy on Nov. 13 at MacArthur High School. Approximately 450 students and parents attended the event to learn about beneficial Irving services and programs. Information was provided about disaster preparedness and the city's new iALERT program.

**Police Explorer Award** – The Irving Police Explorer Post 252 won first place at the Plano Police Explorers "Plano X" competition. They competed against Law Enforcement Explorers from all over Texas. Each Explorer Post selected three members to complete 10 scenarios. At the end of the competition, Irving Post 252 finished in a tie with Coppell Police Department's Explorer Post 131. Since Irving scored higher in six of the 10 scenarios, they were awarded first place.

**New Generator** – The City of Irving placed into operation a large portable diesel generator that will provide back-up electrical services when needed. This new generator has enough fuel to operate for more than two days and can provide enough electrical power to operate a medium-sized building. It also can be used in areas that have been impacted by a disaster or power outage. This new system is a key resource that significantly improves resiliency of the city along with the safety and well-being of residents.

**Blue Christmas Event** – The Irving Fire Department, along with support from the Irving Citizen's Fire Academy Alumni Association, will host breakfast with Santa and firefighters Dec. 11 to support Blue Christmas. The event will run from 9 to 11 a.m. at Plymouth Park Baptist Church, 1714 N. Story Road. Tickets are \$5 per person and will be available at the door or by calling (972) 721-2651. There will be door prizes and attendees are encouraged to bring their camera. Now in its 30th year, Blue Christmas helps numerous less-fortunate families during the holidays.

### **Strategic Goal No. 6: Effective Communications**

**Digital Cities Survey Award** – Irving has been ranked fourth in the nation for its population category (125,000 – 249,999) in The Center for Digital Government's 2010 Digital Cities Survey. This is the sixth consecutive year that Irving has ranked in the Top 10. The Digital Cities Survey recognizes municipalities that successfully incorporate information technology into operations to better serve constituents and businesses. Recognized cities have continued to realize operational objectives despite financial challenges, strategically investing to maximize dollars and effectively conduct government business.

**Media Award for ICTN** – The Texas Animal Control Association honored Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) with its 2010 Media Award. All Texas TV stations, magazines and newspapers were invited to apply for the award. Judges selected ICTN for its ongoing coverage of responsible pet ownership, spay/neuter programs and other Animal Services' initiatives. ICTN was recognized at the Texas Animal Control Association's statewide conference in Abilene. Watch ICTN's recent stories on Animal Services at [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org) or [www.youtube.com/thecityofirving](http://www.youtube.com/thecityofirving).

**ICTN "Best of" Shows** – As 2010 draws to a close, Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) is putting together some of its best stories of the year. Residents can catch up on stories they may have missed and watch favorites again. "The Best of City Source" begins airing at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 26. The Texas Stadium implosion and the opening of the Animal Care Campus are among the stories featured. For arts and entertainment, watch "The Best of About Towne" at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 29. ICTN is on Time Warner Channel 16 and Verizon Channel 30. For more air times, visit [www.ictn.tv](http://www.ictn.tv).

**City Partnership Program Presentation** – Water Utilities staff member Donna Starling presented an overview of the ongoing partnership program between the Irving ISD and the Water Utilities Department at a Texas Association of Partners in Education (TAPE) conference Nov. 10 in Dallas. The department received a TAPE award this past year for its creativity and innovation in the development and administration of the partnership program. Water Utilities staff has been visiting the Barbara Cardwell Career Preparatory Center for the past three years to provide instruction designed to enable high school graduates in Irving to obtain water licensing from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This program has been featured at several state and national conferences as a model for successful workforce development initiatives.

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

**Big Truck Day at Day Care Center** – Staff from the Dream Machine, the Irving Public Library's bookmobile, delivered a presentation to 605 preschoolers and their families at Pierce Early Childhood Center's Big Truck Day. For more information on bookmobile visits, call (972) 721-4868.

**Holiday in the Valley** – Valley Ranch Library and Friends of the Irving Public Library will host their annual holiday celebration at 7 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail. Activities will include entertainment, crafts, refreshments and photos with Santa Claus. Call (972) 721-4669 for more information.

**Irving Chautauqua** – The monthly cultural program series, Irving Chautauqua, continues with the melodious sounds of the Nikos Jazz Trio at 2 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Irving Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Selections will feature festive swing, ballads, bossa nova and bebop music. Call (972) 721-2606 for more information.

**All That Jazz!** – Families are invited to experience the history of jazz through an interactive program featuring music and drama at 4 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Irving Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. For more information, call (972) 721-2458.

**The Little Gingerbread Boy Puppet Show** – Puppeteer Sandy Shroul presents the classic story of *The Little Gingerbread Boy* at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at Northwest Branch Library, 2928 N. Belt Line Road. The puppet show is free and open to all ages. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Call (972) 721-2691 for more information.

**All Wrapped Up** – The Irving Public Library will sponsor All Wrapped Up, a holiday gift-wrapping service provided by the Young Adult Action Council and student volunteers between noon and 5 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Irving Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Volunteers also will accept canned good donations for Irving Cares. Call (972) 721-2606 for more information.

**Christmas Crafts** – Children of all ages are invited to celebrate the holidays with a free, come-and-go craft and reading program from 3 to 4 p.m. Dec. 21 at the East Branch Library, 440 S. Nursery Road, Suite 103. For more information, call (972) 721-3722.

**Family Fundays** – The Irving Arts Center will present free Family Fundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 11 and 18. Family Fundays feature holiday art projects, a greeting card workshop with the Irving Art Association and photos with Santa Claus. For a full list of arts center holiday events, visit [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com).

**Arbor Day Celebration** – The MacArthur High School Green Team hosted the annual Arbor Day Celebration on Nov. 12 where they were honored for collecting 61,280 pounds of paper during the 2009-10 school year. The Green Team and Student Council assisted in planting a Bur Oak tree near the front entrance of the school. The Irving Parks and Recreation Department partnered with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Tree Board, Keep Irving Beautiful and Irving Independent School District to sponsor the paper-collecting competition.

**Boy Scouts of America Anniversary Project** – Sudhish Srikanth, an Eagle Scout with Troop 606, was recognized Nov. 13 for spearheading a project to raise funds, purchase trees and organize more than 100 volunteers to plant 100 trees in Northwest Park. Mayor Herbert Gears unveiled a monument honoring Sudhish and the Boy Scouts for this accomplishment. The event was hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and Tree Board.

**NFL Super Grow XLV Tree Planting** – The NFL Super Grow XLV Tree Planting Event resulted in more than 300 volunteers and park maintenance staff planting 100 trees at Bird's Fort Trail Park. The Irving Parks and Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Tree Board, Keep Irving Beautiful and the Office of Environmental Stewardship partnered with the Texas Trees Foundation, National Football League's Environmental Program, North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee and Texas Forest Service for this environmentally friendly project designed to offset the environmental impact of the Super Bowl. Participants enjoyed playing football and learning the proper way to plant a tree.

**Local Food Drive** – Irving recreation centers are partnering with Irving Cares in support of its annual canned food drive. Contributions will be collected through Dec. 15 at all recreation centers.

**Thanksgiving Camps** – More than 100 children enjoyed three days of fun at Irving recreation centers during their Thanksgiving Camps on Nov. 22-24. The camps, for children ages 6-12, included gym games, crafts and a field trip.

### **Strategic Goal No. 8: Sound Governance**

**Animal Care Campus Signage** – Information Technology designed and implemented new electronic signage at the Animal Care Campus public surrender area to display the number of animals being handled by the center. This is part of an initiative to continuously provide the public with the latest information on the center's operations.

**Student Tours** – Seventeen business law students from MacArthur High School toured the Criminal Justice Center Nov. 9. Employees from the police department, jail, court and city prosecutor's office provided information regarding careers in criminal justice.

**Cost Savings and Efficiencies** – City departments continue to streamline processes, achieve efficiencies and enhance effectiveness—without losing sight of quality and customer service. Cost savings and efficiency projects implemented during FY 2009-10 produced more than \$3.5 million in total savings and value added to city operations through additional revenue, cost savings, cost avoidances and volunteer services. During the same time period, 7,872 employee hours were saved through citywide process improvements and 15,326 volunteer hours were contributed to the city.

## **Strategic Goal No. 9: Infrastructure**

**Infrastructure Network Upgrade** – To improve communication speed between the Rock Island/Briery city facilities and City Hall, Information Technology installed an additional connection to increase computer network speed by 53 percent. This change enhances operations of several city offices including Emergency Management, Solid Waste Services, Engineering, HVAC, Building Services and Fleet Services.

**Delaware Creek Project** – Sanitary sewer improvements along Delaware Creek, between Second Street and Irving Boulevard, are under way. During December and January, it is anticipated that Sowers Road between Irving Boulevard and Rock Island Road will be partially closed and the intersection of Sowers and Rock Island roads will be closed. Electronic message boards will be posted to notify the public at least seven days in advance of any road closures. The project is being managed by the Capital Improvement Program Team.

## **Strategic Goal No. 10: Environmentally Sustainable Community**

**Community Outreach** – Solid Waste Services supported Sally B. Elliott Elementary School's annual recycling event. The students collected more than 50 bags of recyclables totaling almost 400 pounds.