



City of Irving City Manager's Report

March 21, 2007

Goal No. 2: Vibrant Neighborhoods

Code Enforcement Activity Snapshot – During the months of January and February, the Code Enforcement Division of the Inspections Department successfully closed 1,857 violations. Of this number, 63 percent of the violations were corrected voluntarily after the code officer's first visit; 22 percent were corrected after the second visit; 13 percent were invalid complaints or were corrected before the officer's first visit; and 2 percent have been referred for legal action – either a code compliance conference or a citation.

Community Partnership Grants – Thirteen Community Partnership Grants totaling \$17,237 have been awarded to neighborhood and homeowner associations. The grants will fund projects such as neighborhood sign toppers, beautification efforts, and communications assistance via newsletter production/mailings and neighborhood directories. Those receiving grants are as follows: Arts District, Barrington Court, Barton Estates, Cardinal Village, Grauwlyer Heights, Hackberry Creek, Irving Hospital District, MacArthur Commons, Mandalay Place, Meadow Lark, Sherwood Forest, Stone Hill and University Hills. The project is administered by the Corporate Communications Department.

Neighborhood Enhancement Program – South Austin Heights residents met March 19 for their second meeting with city staff. More than 40 people attended the meeting to focus on formalizing their neighborhood association, and to learn about a neighborhood analysis planned for April. Several residents signed up to participate in the assessment. In addition, the residents learned about the "next steps" for their neighborhood enhancement project.

Goal No. 3: Economic Development

Hotel Groundbreaking – Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. broke ground March 20 on its much-anticipated, new lifestyle brand aloft hotel in Irving. The hotel will be the first aloft hotel to open in Texas. As a division of W Hotels, aloft is a smaller property with urban-influenced design, accessible technology, style and a social atmosphere. Development partners for the 136-room aloft Las Colinas, located on Highway 114 behind the Las Colinas Flower Clock, include Hillwood as the primary equity contributor, Champ Development as the primary developer and JF Capital to manage the debt placement. In addition to having an investment interest, Aimbridge Hospitality will manage the aloft property once completed.

Irving CEO Appreciation Luncheons – The City of Irving, Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau and Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce held an Irving CEO Appreciation Luncheon March 9 to thank business leaders for choosing Irving as their corporate home. Mayor Pro Tem Sam Smith presented an Irving development overview, while City Manager Tommy Gonzalez provided a report of the achievements fulfilled by the City of Irving during the past year. Three similar events will be held later this year.

Goal No. 4: Safe and Secure City

Outdoor Warning Siren – The Emergency Management Office is coordinating the installation of an outdoor warning siren at Bird's Fort Trail Park on Riverside Drive. The siren is scheduled to be operational by the end of March. This will be the 23rd warning siren in the city.

New Police Vehicle – The Police Department has placed a new vehicle in operation for responses to weapons of mass destruction incidents. The vehicle was purchased with approximately \$85,000 provided through a Metropolitan Medical Response System grant.

Citizens Police Academy – On March 13, 20 Irving residents attended the initial spring class of the Citizens Police Academy. During the 11-week program, class members will learn about all aspects of police work and how they can partner with the Police Department to make a better Irving.

Police Awards Banquet – The Irving Police Department will hold its Annual Police Awards Banquet on March 29 at The Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport hotel. A silent auction will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by the banquet at 7 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Irving Family Advocacy Center. Tickets are \$75 per person and are available by calling (972) 721-2598.

Goal No. 5: Diversity

Leyendo Juntos – East Branch, in partnership with Telemundo 39, kicks off its 2007 "Leyendo Juntos" (Reading Together) program at 2 p.m. March 24. Parents are invited to bring their children to listen to Spanish-language stories read by Telemundo 39 sportscaster Lois Fernando Perez.

Goal No. 6: Effective Communications

Election Coverage on ICTN – Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) will begin its "Open Line" election coverage on March 28 with a discussion with Irving School Board Place 7 candidates. On April 11, the show will feature School Board Place 5 candidates. City Council Place 1 candidates will be guests on the April 25 show. If there is a contested race for City Council Place 5, those candidates will be featured on May 2. The show airs live at 7 p.m. on ICTN 1 (Time Warner Channel 16 and Verizon Channel 30) and on the Internet via www.ictn.tv. Viewer questions can be called in at (972) 721-2300.

Daylight Saving Time – The Daylight Saving Time (DST) system patches were successfully completed by the Information Technology Department in time for the time change on March 11. This year's DST was changed to the second Sunday of March to comply with the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This change affected many of the city's computer systems, timekeeping systems, and other operational systems such as 181 servers, 1,997 workstations, 98 Blackberries, and 1,745 Outlook mailboxes. Other systems that required manual changes included fuel pumps, thermostats, clocks and other monitoring equipment for Public Works. Also, there were 8,295 individual events in calendars adjusted for DST.

Video Conferencing Equipment – The Information Technology Department, in conjunction with the Emergency Management Office, has purchased video conferencing equipment through a grant received from the State of Texas for emergency operations. This equipment, located within the basement of City Hall, utilizes the Internet and not phone lines. This will allow the city to communicate with state and local agencies in emergency situations.

Goal No. 7: Cultural, Recreational and Educational Environments

Parks Employee Earns Arborist Certification – Parks Operations Supervisor Mike Griffith successfully passed the examination administered through the International Society of Arboriculture to become a certified arborist. He attended three training sessions during January to prepare for the examination, and successfully completed all 12 sections of the examination.

Synchronized Swimming Championships – The Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Irving Synchronized Swim Team, hosted the 2007 Senior South Zone Synchronized Swimming Championships at the North Lake Aquatic Center on March 8-11. The event attracted 20 teams from Florida, Virginia, Alabama and Texas. The Pirouettes of Texas, co-sponsored by the Irving Parks and Recreation Department, claimed the overall team championship award.

Book Fair – Both Irving Barnes & Noble stores are holding a book fair the weekend of March 23-25 to raise funds for the Irving Public Library. A portion of the sales goes toward the library. Shoppers who want to contribute must present a voucher that can be printed from www.irvinglibrary.org/cultures or picked up at any Irving Public Library location. Barnes & Noble will make the voucher available upon request at the stores' check-out counters.

Goal No. 8: Sound Governance

Arts Legislation – City Manager Tommy Gonzalez, Irving Arts Center Executive Director Richard Huff and Acting City Attorney Charles R. Anderson traveled to Austin on March 14 to appear before the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee to support the senate bill to secure Irving arts funding. The committee favorably reported the bill.

Warrant Roundup Results – Law enforcement officials from 153 agencies in 52 counties throughout Texas completed the first statewide warrant roundup focusing on Class C offenses. The roundup was conducted in an effort to increase accountability for and compliance with court orders. Between Feb. 16 and March 10, individuals with warrants paid more than \$10.5 million to clear approximately 91,388 warrants. In Irving, a total of \$245,855 was collected and 2,339 warrants were cleared.

Staff Development Series Graduates Honored – The third class of the Administrative Support Staff Development Series program, offered by Human Resources, was honored at a special ceremony on March 1. The program, designed specifically for administrative support staff, consisted of six monthly half-day modules, and was developed and presented by external consultants Lisa Carver and Tina Hibbett. Each graduate was presented with a certificate of achievement and City Manager Tommy Gonzalez congratulated the participants on their involvement in this intensive training program.

Brake Systems Seminar – The Fleet Maintenance Division hosted a training seminar for brake systems at the Briery Maintenance Center. The training was performed by an outside agency. Because the city hosted the event, four mechanics took the training at no cost. Savings for the training is estimated at \$1,200, including registration and travel. Additional training seminars will be hosted in the future as they become available and fill a training need.

Goal No. 9: Infrastructure Network

S.H. 183/S.H. 161 Interchange – Construction on the interchange at State Highways 183 and 161 is on schedule, with completion planned for September. It is anticipated that the ramps to Conflans Road will be completed by early August.

Directional Signs – “Mustangs of Las Colinas Sculpture and Museum” guide signs have been designed, fabricated and installed by Public Works/Traffic at the request of the Irving Arts Board.

Fritz and Centennial Parks Update – Contractors have substantially completed the dredging work in Fritz Park along the Delaware Channel. Spoils from the project are now being removed from the site. Additionally, contractors are scheduled to move on-site March 26 to work on Centennial Park. They will pour a concrete erosion retention wall along a portion of the eastern pond shoreline.

Milling and Overlay Program – The contractor for Dallas County District No. 4 is scheduled to begin milling and overlay operations by the end of April. Concrete repairs are already under way.

Facility Upgrade – The upgrade of fresh paint, carpet and tile for the 3000 Rock Island Road facility is near completion. Public Health and Emergency Management staff will relocate from their existing offices to occupy the building. The building currently houses the Warehouse, Keep Irving Beautiful and Friends of the Irving Public Library.

Safer Loading Area – The loading dock for the Irving Central Library has been modified to create a safer loading area. In the past, delivery trucks were backing into the building at the loading dock. Equipment and Building Services built an extension for the dock that will prevent future damage.