

Beautification Efforts to 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.