



# City of Irving *City Manager's Report*

**August 1, 2007**

## **Goal No. 1: Land Use**

**Restaurant Applications for Site Plan Amendments** – The Planning and Development Department has processed four applications from restaurants requesting amendments to their approved site plans since June 1. This is a result of the city's aggressive efforts to ensure that restaurants selling alcoholic beverages comply with their site plan zoning and 60 percent\40 percent reporting requirements. Restaurants selling alcoholic beverages must derive no more than 40 percent of their food and beverage revenue from alcohol sales. Additional applications are anticipated to be submitted over the next few weeks. Planning and Development will continue to work with restaurant owners to help them comply with the city's R-AB zoning standards.

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

**10th Anniversary Transportation Summit** – The City of Irving and Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau are preparing to welcome transportation leaders and government officials from around the country to The Westin DFW Airport for the 10th Anniversary Transportation Summit. The summit officially begins at 1 p.m. Aug. 7, with a Mayors Roundtable, and ends on Aug. 10 with a closing luncheon featuring a keynote address from U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue, and Federal Transit Administrator James Simpson. Prior to the opening session on Aug. 7, a Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee Hearing will be held, followed by a luncheon for local traffic reporters. Developed by the City of Irving 10 years ago, the Transportation Summit is the largest and most comprehensive public policy transportation conference in the nation.

**Groups Visit Irving** – The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomed the following groups and organizations to Irving: USA Rice Federation (July 14-17); AstraZeneca LP (July 16-20); State Bar of Texas (July 17-20); PONY Baseball Inc. Shetland and Pinto State Tournament (July 18-21); Iron Girl Texas Triathlon (July 20-22); Neiman Marcus Men's Conclave (July 23-27); Texas Association of Licensed Investigators (July 25-29); Division 1A Athletic Director's Association (July 30-Aug. 1); and PONY Baseball Inc. Mustang World Series (July 31-Aug. 5).

**"American Idol" Hotel Packages** – The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau is offering special rates and packages for "American Idol" auditions at Texas Stadium on Aug. 6. Available at 25 Irving hotels, the packages are targeted to future superstars who need overnight and weekend accommodations. Some feature amenities will include complimentary transportation to and from Texas Stadium, free breakfast and snack bags for contestants. The packages are available on the bureau's Web site and have been promoted through targeted media and e-mail outreach. Open tryouts for the seventh season of the popular TV show will be held in just seven cities across the country; the season seven premiere is scheduled for January.

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

**Illegal Alien Gang Member Arrests** – During the past month, the Police Department assisted Immigration and Customs Enforcement in a roundup of suspected gang members at various locations throughout Irving. A total of 10 illegal alien gang members were detained and deported as a result of this operation. Additional intelligence also was obtained for future joint investigations.

**Customer Service Training** – Alan Brunacini, a retired fire chief for the City of Phoenix, Arizona, instructed a customer service class for members of the Irving Fire Department. More than 120 personnel from other city fire departments attended the class as well. Chief Brunacini is a fire service expert on customer service who provides real-life examples that firefighters can use to better serve residents.

**Festival Hispano de La Salud** – The American Heart Association's 15th Annual Festival Hispano de La Salud was celebrated on July 21 at the Automobile Building in Fair Park, with an attendance of more than 15,000 individuals from around the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The Corporate Communications Department assisted the local planning committee with this successful event. Irving's Teen Court program providing parent and teen volunteers for the largest health outreach in Dallas County. Residents who attended this year's event received free medical screenings, plus valuable health information on nutrition, obesity, cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

**Graduation of Paramedics** – The Fire Department has four new paramedics who have graduated from the UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. Jacob Ammon, Gregg Groves, Matthew Hutsell and Roman Islas graduated from the seven-month course as part of the 101<sup>st</sup> Paramedic Class. Roman Islas received special mention for his research paper on the practice of faith in medicine. Matthew Hutsell received recognition as an honors student for his overall grade average. Gregg Groves was recognized as the class salutatorian with an average grade of 96.6 for all tests; he also was recognized for his research paper on selective spinal immobilization.

**Food Handler Certification** – Environmental Health staff has conducted the first of six formal food handler certification training classes. Future classes will include instruction in Spanish in an effort to provide training to Hispanic restaurant employees. The training follows the City Council's ordinance amendment to require that food establishment employees obtain a food handler certification. To communicate the new requirement, training materials were distributed to all food establishments.

**Certified Apartments on Web Site** – A list of the seven fully certified apartment complexes, as part of the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, has been added to the Irving Police Department's Web site. It also includes a link to the apartment complex's Web site, if available. This service allows potential renters to identify and obtain information about the apartments that have chosen to participate in this city program. The Police Department homepage is [www.cityofirving.org/police](http://www.cityofirving.org/police).

**National Night Out** – On Aug. 7, neighborhoods across Irving will turn on their porch lights for National Night Out, an annual, nationwide event designed to promote neighborhood safety. During the past few years, Irving has averaged between 25-35 National Night Out neighborhood events. The Irving Police Department is encouraging residents to organize events on a neighborhood level so they can get to know their immediate neighbors. Irving residents may contact the Irving Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit to register a block party.

**New Animal Services Hardware/Software** – Animal Services has received new computer hardware, and the new software is expected to be installed on Aug. 17. This new equipment will allow Animal Services to progress from a manual system to a more efficient and modern operating system. The state-of-the-art software will increase productivity and allow employees to better serve Irving residents.

**Police Entrance Examination** – The City of Irving will administer an entrance examination on Aug. 10 for applicants interested in becoming police officers. The exam will be held at 7 p.m. at the Irving Police and Fire Training Academy, 2603 Esters Road.

## **Goal No. 5: Diversity**

**Vida Hispana** – Human Resources staff will be guests on an upcoming episode of Irving Community Television Network's "Vida Hispana." The Spanish-language program will feature a segment on the city's employee benefit and training programs.

**Drumming and Rhythm Circle** – Children can participate in rhythm and drumming activities during a four-Saturday series, Aug. 11-Sept. 1, at the Irving Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The free programs introduce children to basic drumming and the sounds of different cultures, including Native America, Middle East, Africa, Caribbean and Brazil. Teamwork-building group activities are designed not only to teach kids how to use real ethnic drums and rhythm instruments, but also as a gateway for learning about other cultures. The classes begin at 2 p.m.

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

**New ICTN Programming** – “Irving Living,” a half-hour program focusing on exciting places and activities in the Irving community, premieres Aug. 6 on ICTN 1. Hosts Robin Filbeck, Kelly Meagher, Diane Siebert and Cathy Whiteman will visit a new location each month and go “behind the scenes” to learn and discover more of what Irving has to offer. Upcoming shows include how to make a pizza, a tae kwon do class, learning the fundamentals of dirt-bike riding, and visiting a ballroom dancing class. ICTN 1 airs on cable Channel 16 (Time Warner) and Channel 30 (Verizon).

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

**KidsArts Summer Camp Program** – More than 500 children have participated in the 2007 KidsArts summer camp program, which will end the week of Aug. 6-10. Campers participated in a variety of activities such as acting, dancing, cooking and painting. The final theater camp is produced by Child’s Play Touring Theatre. Campers will write, direct and act in their very own production, with the theme “More Pirates’ Tales.” In addition, artwork that was made during the summer camps is on display through Aug. 30 in the Irving Arts Center Focus Gallery.

**JumpSTART, Stories and ART** – The Irving Central Library and Irving Arts Center continue to work together on a family storytime and art activities held at 10 a.m. the first Thursday of every month at the Irving Arts Center’s Suite 200. This month, Donita Maligi from the Irving Central Library presents classic fairytales, including “Rumpelstiltskin,” “Jack and the Beanstalk,” “The Frog Prince” and “The Princess and the Pea.” Afterward, the fun continues with fairytale-related art activities led by the Irving Arts Center.

**Valley Ranch Live** – On Aug. 2, the Valley Ranch Library will present “Texas Jack and the Pinto Beanstalk,” performed by storyteller and puppeteer Sandy Shroud. Families can get together at 7 p.m. for a funny, Texas-style revision of a classic fairytale.

**Central Library Renovation** – A community meeting to review renovation plans for the Irving Central Library will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 13 in the Central Library Auditorium, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Architects from PSA-Dewberry will present an update on the renovation plans. The meeting is being held as part of the monthly meeting of the Irving Library Board.

**Irving Veterans Memorial Park** – Planning and design has begun on the second phase of Irving Veterans Memorial Park, which is located on the east side of the Irving Central Library. Plans are being developed by MESA Design in conjunction with the Veteran’s Memorial Park Committee. A plan review and public input meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Central Library Auditorium, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Plans will be based on the master plan previously prepared by MESA Design. The first phase of the project was completed in 2004. This next phase is scheduled to be completed spring 2009.

**Cimarron Aquatic Center** – The area for the swimming pool at the planned Cimarron Aquatic Center has been excavated, and soil preparation for the pool foundation is under way. The contractor also has started to install the various utilities. Features of the main pool will include a zero-depth entry, two water slides, five lap lanes, a children’s playground and water spray jets. There will be a toddler pool and a deck with several shade structures. The pool is scheduled to open next summer.

**Lively Pointe Skate Park Exhibition** – On Aug. 2, the Volcum Skateboard Professional Skate Board Company will include the Lively Pointe Skate Park on their world video tour. Professionals will skate with kids at the park from 8 to 9 p.m., followed by the showing of a new video from 9 to 10 p.m. The event kicked off in Australia before coming to the United States, and showcases the Australian skateboard team's newly completed professional skateboarding video to various communities around the country. The program will include autograph signing by Aussie team riders featured in the video.

**Georgia Farrow Recreation Center** – West Park Recreation Center will be renamed Georgia Farrow Recreation Center at a dedication ceremony set for 6 p.m. Aug. 13. Farrow played an instrumental role in having the recreation center and park built for the community. She was a lifelong Irving resident who served on the Parks and Recreation Board and Parks Advisory Council. The ceremony will take place at the Georgia Farrow Recreation Center, located at 530 Davis Drive.

**Cheerleader Clinic** – The Irving Girls Cheerleader Association will hold a cheerleader clinic from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 4 at Senter Park, 901 S. Senter Road. About 200 girls, ages 6-16, are expected to attend. Participants will be taught new cheer routines, leadership skills and teamwork.

**Tea & Talk** – Every month, book fans gather on the second Thursday at the Irving Central Library, and the following Saturday at the Irving Mall Barnes & Noble to discuss a variety of literature. The August selection is "The Glass Castle" by Jeanette Walls.

**Classical Guitar Performance** – Classical guitarist Stacy Arnold will perform at the Irving Central Library on Aug. 11. His résumé includes a master's degree in music from Southern Methodist University, and feature performances at venues such as the "Arts in the Airport" series in Nashville and the "Crape Myrtle Festival" in Waxahachie.

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

**CASS/PAVE System** – Information Technology Software Services and Water Utilities Customer Service divisions have been working together to purchase a CASS/PAVE system to integrate with the city's current water bill mailing process. CASS™ improves the accuracy of carrier route, five-digit ZIP®, ZIP+4®, and delivery point codes that appear on mail pieces. PAVE presorts large bulk mailings according to United States Postal System standards. These two processes will allow the city to send out large bulk mailings at a reduced postage rate of \$0.31 from the current \$0.37 presort rate. The reduced rate will save the city approximately \$28,800 a year in postage when mailing to the current 40,000-plus water accounts. Implementation of the new system is expected to begin in August and be in production by the end of October.

**Destruction of Records** – The City Secretary's Records Management Division destroyed 590 boxes of records in May, June and July. A majority of the reports came from the Municipal Court, with additional records from Purchasing, Tax and Human Resources. City Council authorized the destruction, and a Certificate of Destruction, which is maintained by Records Management, was issued.

**Civil Service Rule Changes** – The Civil Service Commission has approved two significant local rule changes. The first change allows Police Department staff to participate in a referral bonus program. The second eliminates the requirement for firefighter applicants to have completed fire training school. In the future the city will pay for the certification training of hired firefighters.

**Employee Training** – Two employee training events were offered by Human Resources this past week: Part 2 of "Successful Supervision," which is designed for supervisors who want to add new tools to their skill set; and "How Full Is Your Bucket?," based on the *New York Times* No. 1 bestseller, focused on increasing the positive moments in your work and life while reducing the negative.

**Personal Financial Wellness** – Human Resources has arranged for two financial planning agencies to provide employees with knowledgeable financial information regarding personal financial wellness. Communication regarding this initiative will be disseminated to employees during the month of August.

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

**Infrastructure Development Activity** – During the first three quarters of this fiscal year, the Public Works Department has reviewed and approved private development infrastructure plans, administered the contracts, and provided inspection of \$7.1 million of construction that will become part of the city's infrastructure (paving, drainage, water and sanitary sewer improvements).

**Road Construction Projects** – All lanes of MacArthur Boulevard, from State Highway 183 to Rochelle Road, are complete and functional. Public Works/Traffic Operations has completed the installation of permanent pavement markings and traffic signs. Traffic on Belt Line Road, between Oakdale Road and Rock Island Road, has been moved to the new pavement section, which will eliminate roadway flooding.

**Milling and Overlay Program** – The Public Works/Streets Division and the city's contractor are working to get back on schedule with the milling and overlay program for this fiscal year. The program has been delayed due to ongoing rain received the past couple of months. The milling and overlay of Shady Grove Road from MacArthur Boulevard to Randy Drive is completed; Neece Drive from Perry Road to the end of the street is currently in process. The overlay of Story Road (Rock Island Road to Pioneer Drive); Pickwick Drive (Shady Grove Road to Rusdell Drive); and Hilltop Drive (Sixth Street to Shady Grove Road) has been completed. The overlay of Santa Clara Street from North Britain Road to Northgate Drive will begin soon.

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

**Employee Awards and Recognition Program** – Solid Waste Services/Waste Collection held its third quarter employee awards and recognition breakfast. The division awarded 25 Perfect Safety Awards, one Perfect Attendance Award, 14 Excellent Customer Service Awards, eight Perfect Safety and Attendance Awards, and the Employee of the Quarter award. The program recognizes employees in Solid Waste Services who perform their jobs in an exemplary manner.

**Energy Awareness Committee** – The first Energy Awareness Committee meeting was held on July 31. The committee consists of a representative from each department, with co-chairs Nella McCain, Jerry Sparks, Fran Witte and Bob Horton leading the group. The committee will discuss energy conservation methods, and assist the city in achieving its goal of becoming a successful, environmentally sustainable community for people to live, work and conduct business. Dan Lepinski, with Exceltech, spoke to the committee on various ways to conserve energy on a residential level, and provided ideas for commercial building conservation.