



City of Irving *City Manager's Report*

February 21, 2007

Projects/Activities Updates

Quiet Zone Project – A notice of intent has been sent to stakeholders to “quiet zone” the railroad crossings on the frontage roads of State Highway 114. Implementation is anticipated by June 1.

State Highway 183 Overpass Repairs – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has completed repairs to the State Highway 183 bridge over Loop 12, and all lanes and ramps are open to traffic.

Lake Chapman Water Supply – The water surface elevation of Lake Chapman has tapered off from the last reading on Feb. 5. Water surface elevation decreased two-tenths of a foot to 430.3 feet as of Feb. 14.

Pocket Park at MacArthur and Grauwyler – The leaning pylon monument in the pocket park on the southwest corner of MacArthur and Grauwyler roads is in the process of being moved to the Briery Road facility for storage. The road contractor, Ed Bell Construction, has to excavate and compact the fill soil in the area where the monument was previously located. This will be a fairly large rework of the area around the monument, which requires the artwork to be removed and relocated. Once the soil is reworked and has a chance to solidify, staff will monitor the area for a couple of months to make sure there is no further sinking or subsidence. The contractor and staff are finalizing site repair plans and the monument is not planned to be reset. Public Works and Parks staff will develop new landscaping plans.

Road Improvements – Bids were received for the Las Colinas Boulevard Extension (Phase 1), from Spur 348 to Colwell Boulevard, on Feb. 16. A bid in the amount of \$4,669,107.97 from Ed Bell Construction was the lowest of the seven bids received. Grauwyler Road improvements, from English Street to Carl Road, and a 30-inch Nursery Road Water Line Project are to begin construction this month. Construction on the O'Connor Boulevard and Riverside Drive intersection improvements will begin this month as well. An electronic message sign will be displayed for a week prior to starting construction on these projects.

Public Safety/Radio Interoperability Project – The radio interoperability project, funded by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, gives the Irving police and fire dispatch centers the capability to talk directly to many surrounding public safety agencies, and can even patch these calls to some of the Irving mobile radios in the field. Surrounding agencies include Dallas police and fire, DFW Airport, and Argyle, Arlington, Aubrey, Bedford, Colleyville, Collin County, Coppell, Denton County, Double Oak, Euless, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Justin, Keller, Krum, Little Elm, Mansfield, McKinney, Mesquite, Pilot Point, Ponder, Roanoke, Sanger, Southlake, Trophy Club and Westlake. More cities will be added to this project in the future.

Organizational Development and Training – Human Resources offered Situational Leadership, a two-day leadership program focusing on leader and follower effectiveness. This unique program will be offered to the leadership team, managers and supervisors as one of the city's strategies to continue to enhance performance and overall organizational effectiveness.

Bright Ideas Awards – The Bright Ideas Committee, in conjunction with the City Manager, implemented a new employee recognition process whereby the City Manager will reward those employees who go above and beyond their normal duties in the areas of cost savings, new revenues and customer service. The first recipients of these awards are Gerald Daniels (Assistant Director, Streets Division, Public Works Department); Brad Duff (Finance Investment Analyst); Ike Obi (Human Resources Benefit and Payroll Manager); and Shirley Smith (Engineering Budget Specialist). Each received gift cards in recognition of their great work.

Employee Performance and Compensation – Human Resources facilitated the Pay-for-Performance Committee meeting on Feb. 14, wherein members were briefed on a comprehensive notebook that included information from 21 cities across the country currently using a pay-for-performance system. A number of options were offered for the committee's consideration, and future meetings will be scheduled to review the information and options in more detail.

Business Exchange Days 2007 – On Feb. 8-9, city employees participated in the Irving Independent School District's Business Exchange Days sponsored by the Greater Irving/Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce. Departments represented at Irving and MacArthur High Schools and The Academy of Irving ISD were Corporate Communications/ICTN, Police Department/Family Advocacy Center, Municipal Court, Human Resources, City Attorney's Office, Public Health Services, and Solid Waste Collection and Disposal. Customer Service Director Pat Nicks is working with the Coppell and Carrollton/Farmers Branch ISDs to include city functions and jobs in the career and business days in those districts.

Airing of Council Work Sessions/Committee Meetings – Work is being finalized to install the equipment in the First Floor Council Conference Room to televise the City Council Work Sessions and Committee meetings on Irving Community Television Network (ICTN). Plans are to have the installation completed by the first part of March.

Wireless Cell Phone Provider Selection – An employee evaluation panel (representing City Council and 80 percent of the departmental end-users) has completed a two-week evaluation and trial usage on three major cell providers to see which devices provided the best coverage, signal strength and call quality. Due to necessary features (rugged design, push-to-talk and Bluetooth capabilities), some departments will remain with Nextel/Sprint, while other departments will switch to Verizon Wireless for better cell coverage. A new contract will be forwarded for City Council consideration on March 21.

Electrical Replacement/Generator Project – City Hall is operating on the new generator and electrical system. There are still a few minor things to complete before the system is operating as designed. The new electrical/generator system will provide a level of electrical redundancy not experienced for many years. This project was a collaborative effort between Equipment and Building Services and Emergency Management, and was paid with bond and grant funding.

"Stormy the Storm Drain" PSA – A basic storm water pollution prevention message for use on broadcast, cable and municipal access television was produced by the cities of Irving and Garland, with staff from each city contributing to the creation and production and sharing costs of any outside services. The script was written in both English and Spanish. The 50 airings of the Spanish-language version of the spot began on Time Warner cable on Jan. 31, and will continue through March.

Construction Projects – Remodel of the Customer Service area continues with the installation of the glass at the front counter. Installation should occur in approximately two to three weeks, and all work is being done after business hours. The pneumatic tube for the drive-thru payment station is being repaired as well, with the remainder of the system being replaced in approximately two weeks.

Security System Upgrade – On Feb. 15, representatives with Converjint Technologies performed a walk through to review the key pad access system and the video surveillance system at the Municipal Court. It is anticipated that Converjint will submit a quote for upgrading these security systems.

Continuum Care Funds – The city has been awarded \$415,740 in funds to provide housing and supportive services on a long-term basis for homeless persons with disabilities and their families who are homeless. The Housing and Human Services Department will work in partnership with the Poverty and Homeless Coalition, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, Salvation Army, The Urban League, Dental Health Care, Family Advocacy Center, Irving Cares, IISD Homes Program, Community Bible Church and South MacArthur Church of Christ to provide housing, prescriptions, furniture, utilities assistance, dental and health care, job training, drug counseling/treatment, psychological assessments and other services to ensure that each participant develops the ability to live independently.

Recognitions/Awards

Arts and Humanities Award – The Parks and Recreation Department has been honored with a national award for its Martin Luther King Jr. Observance program. The National Recreation and Parks Association will present the Arts and Humanities Award on Feb. 21 at the Texas conference. Special Activities Coordinator Jacquelyn Madden will accept the award on behalf of the city.

International Association of Electrical Inspectors – Chief Electrical Inspector Robert Chatham has been elected president of the Texas Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors.

Irving Citizens on Patrol (ICOP) – Ten Irving residents joined the ranks of the ICOP program after participating in their graduation ceremony on Feb. 13.

Upcoming Events/Activities

Black History Month – The City Secretary's Office and the Human Resources Department have arranged a beautiful collection of artwork to celebrate Black History Month. Artists from the Irving/Dallas area have loaned their art pieces for viewing on the first floor of City Hall through the first week of March. Along with the creative artwork, staff has included information regarding the celebration of Black History Month.

Book Sale – The Friends of the Irving Public Library will hold a Winter Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 24 at 3000 Rock Island Road. Shoppers can choose from thousands of used books and both audio and video items. Proceeds help to support the Irving Public Library.

Warrant Roundup – The Marshal's office participated in a press conference on Feb. 16 announcing a weeklong warrant roundup to begin on March 3. More than 150 law enforcement agencies from 52 counties across the state, including Irving, are expected to take part in the roundup.

South Asian Month – In March, the Irving Public Library continues its diversity series, Celebrate the Cultures of Irving, with a tribute to the people of South Asia. Programming will include dance performances, henna art, game demonstrations, yoga, sitar music, Indian movies and fashion. Most activities take place on the first Sunday and third Saturday of each month.

Neighborhood Enhancement Program – On March 3, the initial Community Engagement Workshop is scheduled for the South Austin Heights neighborhood. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Austin Middle School on Union Bower Road. During the workshop, neighbors will participate in a discussion regarding opportunities and challenges in their neighborhood, and learn about how they can participate as a full partner in the problem-solving process.

Construction Codes Adoption – The dates have changed for the code adoption process. The City Council is now scheduled to review the codes during its March 7 Work Session and consider them for adoption at its March 22 meeting. Public input at the March 22 meeting is welcome.