



Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



KIB Helps Make 2020 the "Year of the Tree"

KIB and the Parks Arbor Team had high hopes for making 2020 the "Year of the Tree." KIB had received several grants and donations to be used for the purchase of trees, and volunteers were ready to do the work at scheduled plantings in parks across the city. While rain was the original challenge, the COVID-19 pandemic topped that. KIB and Parks staff had to do some creative thinking, but they got the trees in the ground. Towards the end of the year, volunteer activities were allowed on a smaller scale, and November saw two more planting events to close out 2020 and bring the total number of trees planted to 89.

The "Acosta Cares" employee volunteers returned on Nov. 10 for a rather ambitious project of planting 25 trees on the grounds of the West Irving Library. Working with the Arbor Team, they planted a mix of desert willow, lacebark elm and bur oak trees, funded by a generous donation from Verizon and Northrop Grumman.

November is "Texas Arbor Day" and KIB always celebrates with the Irving ISD and Parks Department. Nimitz High School was chosen to host the event for their long history of environmental stewardship. On Nov. 6, a Texas Forest Service member livestreamed the planting of a Shumard red oak, in conjunction with events taking place all across Texas. The official ceremony was held the following week on Nov. 13, with KIB's Jim Scrivner hosting and presenting a trophy, with Councilman Kyle Taylor delivering the mayoral proclamation.



Nimitz High School students with the Shumard red oak they helped plant on school grounds for Texas Arbor Day

America Recycles Day (ARD), a Keep America Beautiful program, is celebrated each Nov. 15. KIB took its event to social media this year, asking volunteers to "Show us how you recycle" by posting pictures on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #IrvingRecycles. The event ran from Nov. 1-15, with a total of 18 adults and 36 youth participating. They posted a variety of pictures, from daily recycling routines to neighborhood cleanups to showing items they had made from recycled materials. KIB volunteers are very creative!

And speaking of creative, look for KIB's Photo Contest coming up in December. Details will be posted on the Facebook event page, as well as Twitter. There will be some great prizes available, so please participate and show us what makes Irving beautiful through your photographs.

Volunteer Spotlight - Young Men's Service League

KIB is known for its many outstanding volunteers, and we would like to pay tribute to a group that has gone above and beyond in its service to the community—the Irving Hawks Chapter of the Young Men's Service League (YMSL). This group of Cistercian high school students and their mothers is dedicated to helping others, and they have partnered with KIB for many years, starting by participating in the no-sew blanket project, followed by volunteering at cleanups.

This fall, they did both, first by joining the social media-driven Trash Bash by conducting 8 separate cleanups where a total of 64 volunteers gave 128 hours of service. Then, working in small groups, they made 50 no-sew blankets and delivered them to the KIB office. This was the largest project ever for this program, and the blankets were donated to several area organizations. Thank you, Irving Hawks!

Volume 10, Issue 12
December 2020



The Acosta Cares team at the West Irving Library



The ICTN crew covering the West Irving Library tree planting helped promote America Recycles Day



Brothers Ethan and Sabin Mamoon made a bird feeder from a recycled milk carton



One of the 50 blankets made by the Young Men's Service League

