

## **Code Cadet Program Shows Early Results**

The city recently piloted the Code Cadet program, which allows resident volunteers to help Irving become one of the cleanest, safest and most attractive places to live. Early results of the program suggest that empowering residents to enforce code issues is an effective way to invigorate communities. In just the first three weeks of the program, Code Cadet volunteers in the Arts District Neighborhood Association accomplished the following:

- Notified more than 80 property owners of potential code violations.
- Gained voluntary compliance on 70 percent of the issues.

The program's early success has enabled code enforcement officers to concentrate on more difficult and time-consuming cases. Code enforcement officials also expect that the program will help increase public education of city ordinances.

"The early success achieved by the first group of Code Cadet volunteers is remarkable," said Code Enforcement Manager Darrell Hammond. "If the program's success continues, we'd like to expand to other interested Irving neighborhood and homeowner associations."

Some of the issues cited by Code Cadet volunteers include outside storage, high grass and weeds, and parking on the grass. Violations that are found to be noncompliant following receipt of a cadet-issued notice and a second inspection will become official code complaints submitted to the city.