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West Irving Library artist rendering

Resident Input Shapes Vision for Library System Enhancement

Construction is under way on the new, 25,000-square-foot West Irving Library—the first of two new facilities to replace existing storefront locations and offer expanded services to library customers.

The vision for the city's upgraded library system was developed based on input provided by Irving residents. The requests include features that will equip libraries with tools to engage residents with new ways of learning, such as:

- ◆ Innovative technology
- ◆ Computer software supporting school curriculum
- ◆ Computer labs/business centers
- ◆ Study rooms
- ◆ Large meeting spaces

"Providing exceptional services means listening to our residents and giving them what they ask for," said Chris Michalski, parks and libraries director. "They have requested enhancements to our libraries, and they're going to get just that. We're very excited about the future of our library system and seeing it transform from something that's already great—into something that's truly extraordinary."

Standalone facilities will provide increased square-footage to house additional collections, and offer enhanced library and technology services. One such

enhancement is the incorporation of cutting-edge technology such as Microsoft Surface tables, multi-touch computer tables that respond to hand gestures. The Valley Ranch Library, located at 401 Cimarron Trail, has received its first surface table in the teen area. Applications available to date include chess and checkers. Additional activities, such as a customized puzzle application with Irving photos, will be available in the future. (See details on this innovative tool on Page 8.)

Upon completion of the new facilities—four full-service libraries will be positioned in four quadrants of the city—putting 95 percent of Irving residents within three miles of a library. The cost savings associated with the standalone facilities will eliminate the lease costs from current storefront locations, saving the city \$245,000 annually.

The West Irving Library will be located at Rochelle and Esters roads. The facility is set to open in spring 2011. ■

TEXAS STADIUM IMPLOSION

The much anticipated implosion of Texas Stadium has almost arrived—set to take place at 7 a.m. April 11. Public viewing will be available in the Red Lot at Texas Stadium on a first-come, first-served basis or via Irving Community Television Network (ICTN).

Residents with cable may watch the implosion coverage live on ICTN 1 (Time Warner – Channel 16, Verizon – Channel 30) beginning at 6 a.m. The event also will air live through Web streaming at www.cityofirving.org by clicking on "Watch ICTN Live."

On-site parking cost is \$25 per vehicle. All proceeds will be donated to local charities. Gates will open at 2 a.m. and approximately 5,000 spaces will be available. No RVs or commercial vehicles will be allowed. Open flames and pets are prohibited. For Red Lot access, view the map available at www.cityofirving.org.

After Texas Stadium

Upon completion of the implosion, the remaining debris will be removed from the site, which will continue to be used by the Texas Department of Transportation as a staging area for several years during reconstruction of the adjacent highways.

The Texas Stadium site presents a rare opportunity for future development. The area is in the heart of the Metroplex and is surrounded by key highway infrastructure. It will provide easy access to the DART Orange Line, as well as both airports. Visit www.crossroadsdfw.com for development details. ■

Public Input: Library Communication Survey

Residents have an opportunity to provide input through April 30 on how they like to receive information on library services and programs. Surveys are available at all library locations and at www.cityofirving.org under "Public Input Opportunities" on the left side of the home page.



CITY INFORMATION SOURCES

All About Irving

Receive additional city updates through the All About Irving electronic newsletter. Sign up via the city Web site at www.cityofirving.org. Select "Sign Up" under the headlines section on the home page.

Twitter

Follow the City of Irving on Twitter to receive instant updates on city happenings. Visit www.twitter.com/thecityofirving to see the latest news, events, tips and updates.

Video on Demand

View recordings of City Council meetings and enjoy special programming from Irving Community Television Network 24/7. New videos are added on a weekly basis. Visit www.cityofirving.org and locate the "Video on Demand" button on the left side of the screen. ■



Charter Election Set for May 8

Residents will go to the polls May 8 to vote on four proposed amendments to the city charter. Early voting will begin April 26 and run through May 4. Voting times and locations, as well as polling places, are provided on Page 3.

The city charter sets forth policies and procedures by which the city governs itself in accordance with state and federal laws. A citizens' charter review committee accepted input and recommended certain issues be placed before the voters. The City Council called the May election for voters to decide on the proposed changes.

The proposed amendments would allow for changes concerning signing contracts, repealing the position of treasurer, the issuance of bonds and warrants, and removing the cap on contributions for employee retirement benefits. Following is the ballot language for the four amendments as well as a description of each.

Amendment No. 1

In regard to the duties of the Mayor, shall Section 12 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of Irving be amended to also allow the Chief Executive to execute contracts, conveyances, and bonds as directed by the City Council?

The charter as currently written requires the mayor to sign all contracts, conveyances and bonds issued. This proposed amendment would allow City Council to authorize the chief executive or chief executive's designee to sign the city's contracts, conveyances or bonds in place of the mayor, under such restrictions or guidance as the City Council would deem appropriate.

Amendment No. 2

In regard to the Treasurer, shall Section 25 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of Irving, which created the

position, be repealed and shall Section 3 of Article VIII be amended to remove reference to the Treasurer?

The Charter as currently written creates the position of treasurer but gives few duties. This proposed amendment would eliminate the treasurer position from the charter. The chief financial officer now performs most duties in regard to the city's finances.

Amendment No. 3

In regard to the power to issue bonds and warrants, shall Section 1 of Article VII of the Charter of the City of Irving be amended to allow issuance for any public purpose, so long as not prohibited by the general laws or Constitution of the State of Texas?

This proposed amendment would give the city the authority to benefit from bonds for any public purpose. The amendment would expand public purposes to include economic development in addition to projects such as streets and fire stations. Issuance of bonds will still require approval by Irving voters.

Amendment No. 4

Shall the cap on city employee retirement contributions be removed from the Charter of the City of Irving?

This proposed amendment would remove the cap on the city's contributions to employees' retirement benefits such as pensions. The current cap prevents cost of living increases for retirees. City employees have not been covered by Social Security since 1982. ■

La Elección de la Ley Orgánica de Irving Fijada para el 8 de mayo

Los residentes irán a las urnas el 8 de mayo para votar sobre cuatro enmiendas propuestas para la ley orgánica de la ciudad. La votación adelantada empezará el 26 de abril hasta el 4 de mayo. Horario de votación, así como lugares para votar están siendo proporcionados en la página 3.

La Ley Orgánica de la ciudad establece normas y procedimientos por los cuales la ciudad gobierna de acuerdo a las leyes estatales y federales. Un comité de revisión de ciudadanos de la ley orgánica aceptó sugerencias y recomendó que ciertos asuntos sean decididos por los votantes. El Concejo de la Ciudad llamó a elecciones en mayo para que los votantes decidan en los cambios propuestos.

Las enmiendas propuestas permitirán cambios relacionados a la ejecución de contratos, anulación de la posición del tesorero, la expedición de bonos financieros y garantías, y eliminación del límite en las contribuciones para los beneficios de los empleados jubilados. A continuación se encuentra el lenguaje de la boleta de las cuatro enmiendas, así como la descripción de cada una.

Enmienda No. 1

Con respecto a los deberes del Alcalde, ¿la Sección 12 del Artículo IV de la Ley Orgánica de la Ciudad de Irving también deberá ser modificada para permitir al Director Ejecutivo firmar contratos, instrumentos legales, y bonos financieros según las indicaciones del Concejo de la Ciudad?

La Ley Orgánica, como actualmente está escrita, requiere que el alcalde sea el que firme todos los contratos, concesiones, y emisiones de bonos. La enmienda propone que se dé permiso al consejo municipal para que autorice al director ejecutivo, o a una persona designada por él, a firmar contratos, concesiones o emisiones de bonos en vez del

alcalde; bajo estas restricciones, o la guía del concejo municipal según como ellos lo vean necesario.

Enmienda No. 2

En relación al Tesorero, ¿la Sección 25 del Artículo IV de la Ley Orgánica de la Ciudad de Irving, la cual creó tal posición, deberá ser derogada, y la Sección 3 del Artículo VIII ser enmendada para eliminar la referencia del Tesorero?

La Ley Orgánica, como actualmente está escrita, crea el puesto de tesorero pero con muy pocos deberes. La enmienda propone que se elimine el puesto de tesorero de la ley orgánica. Hoy en día, el director de finanzas desempeña la mayoría de las obligaciones financieras de la ciudad.

Enmienda No. 3

Con respecto a la facultad de emitir bonos financieros y garantías, ¿la Sección 1 del Artículo VII de la Ley Orgánica de la Ciudad de Irving deberá ser modificada para permitir la emisión de bonos para fines públicos, siempre y cuando no esté prohibido por las leyes generales del estado de Texas?

La enmienda propuesta otorgará autorización a la ciudad para disponer de los bonos financieros para cualquier obra pública. La enmienda expandiría los fines públicos incluyendo desarrollo económico, además de proyectos tales como calles y estaciones de bomberos. Como siempre, los votantes de Irving tendrán que dar su aprobación para la expedición de los bonos.

Enmienda No. 4

Con respecto al límite de las contribuciones para la jubilación de los empleados de la Ciudad, ¿la Sección 8 del Artículo IX de la Ley Orgánica de la Ciudad deberá ser derogada?

La enmienda propuesta eliminaría el límite que existe sobre la cantidad que la ciudad puede contribuir hacia los beneficios de los empleados jubilados, tales como las pensiones. El límite actual prohíbe que los jubilados reciban ajustes por costo de vida. Los empleados de la ciudad no han estado bajo la cobertura del Seguro Social desde 1982. ■



Voters to Elect Three Council Members in May

The City of Irving has a new system for conducting City Council elections. The solely at-large voting system has been changed to a six single-member voting system, with two City Council seats and the mayor's seat remaining at-large.

Voting system definitions are as follows:

- ◆ **Single-member** – only registered voters living within a specified district's boundaries may vote for candidates who run for seats in single-member districts
- ◆ **At-large** – any registered resident may vote for candidates who run for a seat that is at-large

Single-member districts include Places 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Places 2 and 8, as well as the mayor's seat, remain at-large.

This year, council seats for Places 1, 2 and 7 are up for election. Places 1 and 7 are single-member districts while Place 2 remains at-large. District maps have been redrawn; therefore, before going to the polls on Election Day, May 8, voters are encouraged to verify whether or not they reside in District 1 or 7 to see if they are eligible to vote for Places 1 or 7. All residents are eligible to vote for the District 2 at-large place.

Here's a look at this year's candidates, presented in ballot order.

Place 1 – Voters in District 1 will choose from Trini C. Gonzalez, 64, a business owner who has resided in Irving for 39 years, and Mike Gallaway, 45, an inventory planner who has lived in the city for one year.

Place 2 – Candidates seeking election for the at-large Place 2 seat are Roy Santoscoy, 44, a business owner who has lived in Irving for 43 years, and incumbent Tom Spink, 71, an insurance agent who has resided in the city for 21 years.

Place 7 – Those vying for the Place 7 seat are Kim Limberg, 46, a professional engineer who has lived in Irving for 13 years; incumbent Sam C. Smith, 72, a retired businessman who is a 45-year Irving resident; and Gerald Farris, 51, a regulatory manager who has resided in the city for 15 years.

All council positions are three-year terms. A district map is available at www.cityofirving.org. Click "City

Council" on the left side of the home page, then select "District Map," and "View New District Map." For questions, call the City Secretary's Office at (972) 721-2493.

Early Voting Times and Locations

Early voting for the General and Charter elections will begin April 26 and run through May 4.

Early Voting Hours

- ◆ April 26-30 – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ May 1 – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ May 2 – 1 to 6 p.m.
- ◆ May 3-4 – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Early Voting Locations in Irving

- ◆ City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd.
- ◆ Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.
- ◆ Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail

Election Day

- ◆ May 8 – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

May 8 Election Day polling locations are listed below (at left).

Horarios y Lugares de Votación Anticipada

La votación adelantada tomará lugar a las siguientes horas y lugares:

Horario de Votación Adelantada

- ◆ Del 26 de abril al 30 de abril, de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m.
- ◆ El 1 de mayo – de 8 a 5 p.m.
- ◆ El 2 de mayo – de 1 a 6 p.m.
- ◆ El 3 y 4 de mayo – de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.

Lugares de Votación Adelantada

- ◆ Centro Cívico de la ciudad (City Hall), 825 W. Irving Blvd.
- ◆ Centro de Artes de Irving (Irving Arts Center), 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.
- ◆ Biblioteca de Valley Ranch (Valley Ranch Library), 401 Cimarron Trail

Place 1



Trini C. Gonzalez



Mike Gallaway

Place 2



Roy Santoscoy



Tom Spink

Place 7



Kim Limberg



Sam C. Smith



Gerald Farris

La votación en el Día de las Elecciones del 8 de mayo está programada desde las 7 a.m. hasta las 7 p.m. Una lista de los locales está disponible en www.cityofirving.org. Para mayor información, llame al (972) 721-2493. ■

Polling places for May 8 Casillas electorales para el 8 de Mayo

City Precinct No. Distrito Electoral No.	Location of City Precinct Lugar del Distrito Electoral	Dallas County Precinct Number Número del Distrito del Condado de Dallas
1	Thomas Haley Elementary 3601 Cheyenne St.	4621, 4622, 4623, 4630, 4634, 4638, 4641
2	A.S. Johnston Elementary 2801 Rutgers Drive	4624, 4625, 4631, 4647
3	MacArthur High School 3700 N. MacArthur Blvd.	4626, 4632, 4633, 4635, 4636, 4646, 4648, 4649
4	L.B. Barton Elementary 2931 Conflans Road	4611, 4618
5	Irving High School 900 N. O'Connor Road	4612, 4613, 4614, 4615, 4619
6	J.R. Good Elementary 1200 E. Union Bower Road	4608, 4616, 4617, 4620
7	Otis Brown Elementary 2501 W. Tenth St.	4605, 4606
8	Lee Britain Elementary 631 Edmondson Drive	4602, 4603, 4604, 4607
9	Cimarron Recreation Center 201 Red River Trail	4642, 4643, 4644, 4651
10	Mustang Recreation Center 2223 Kinwest Parkway	4637, 4639, 4640, 4650
11	J.O. Davis Elementary 310 Davis Drive	4609, 4610
12	Sally B. Elliott Elementary 1900 South Story Road	4600, 4601
13	Fire Station No. 8 650 E. Las Colinas Drive	4627, 4628, 4629
14	Grand Prairie Fire Station No. 8 3017 Roy Orr Blvd. Grand Prairie	4645
15	Coppell Town Center 255 Parkway Blvd. Coppell	4708

Votantes de Irving a Elegir Tres Miembros del Concejo en mayo

La Ciudad de Irving tiene un nuevo sistema para conducir las elecciones del Concejo de la ciudad. El sistema único "En-General" ha sido cambiado a un sistema de seis distritos independientes, con dos escaños en el concejo más el escaño del alcalde manteniéndose "En-General."

Las definiciones del sistema de votación son los siguientes:

- ◆ **Distrito individual** – sólo votantes inscritos dentro de los límites específicos de un distrito podrían votar para los candidatos que se lancen para un escaño en su respectivo distrito.
- ◆ **En-general** – cualquier residente inscrito podría votar por los candidatos que se lancen para un escaño que sea a nivel general

Los distritos-individuales incluyen los Lugares 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 y 7. Los Lugares 2 y 8, así como el escaño del alcalde, se mantienen en-general.

Este año, los escaños del concejo para los Lugares 1, 2 y 7 están listos para ser elegidos. Los lugares 1 y 7 son distritos individuales, mientras el Lugar 2 se mantiene en-general. Los mapas distritales han sido reconfigurados; por lo tanto, antes que vaya a las urnas, se solicita a los residentes verificar si residen en el Distrito 1 o 7 a fin de verificar si están aptos para votar por los Lugares 1 o 7. Todos los residentes están aptos para votar por el Distrito 2, que es una posición en-general.

Lugar 1 – Los votantes en el Distrito 1, podrán elegir entre Trini C. Gonzalez, 64 años de edad, propietario de un negocio, quien ha vivido en Irving desde hace 39 años; y Mike Gallaway, 45 años de edad, planificador de inventario, quien ha vivido en la ciudad desde hace un año.

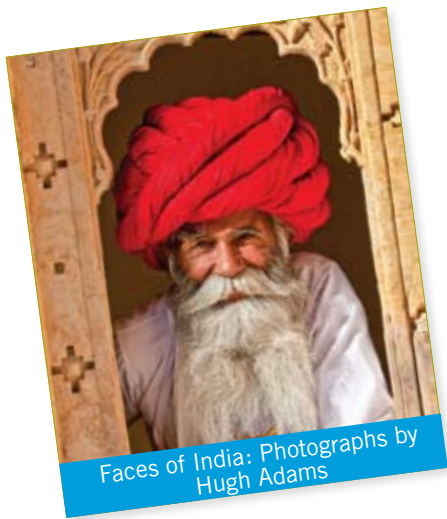
Lugar 2 – Los candidatos que buscan la elección en general para el Lugar 2 son Roy Santoscoy, 44 años de edad, propietario de un negocio, quien ha vivido en Irving desde hace 43 años, y el titular Tom Spink, 71 años de edad, un agente de seguros, quien ha vivido en la ciudad desde hace 21 años.

Lugar 7 – Aquellos compitiendo por el Lugar 7 son Kim Limberg, 46 años de edad, ingeniero profesional, quien ha vivido en Irving desde hace 13 años; el titular Sam C. Smith, 72 años de edad, empresario retirado, quien es un residente de Irving desde hace 45 años; y Gerald Farris, 51 años de edad, administrador de regulaciones, quien ha vivido en la ciudad desde hace 15 años.

Un mapa del distrito se encuentra disponible en www.cityofirving.org. Oprima en "City Council" al lado izquierdo de la página principal, luego seleccione "District Map," y "View New District Map." Los residentes que tengan preguntas o necesiten verificar su distrito, pueden llamar a la Secretaria de la Ciudad al (972) 721-2493. ■

Arts Center Exhibits

- ◆ **Through May 16** – Annual Irving ISD Student Art Exhibition, Main Gallery. A variety of artwork from Irving ISD students will be on display. Works include projects that students have created throughout the year, including an exhibition of senior portfolios. Elementary exhibition dates, through April 18; middle school exhibition dates, April 21–May 2; high school senior portfolios, May 5–9; high school exhibition dates, May 12–16.
- ◆ **Through Aug. 1** – “Faces of India: Photographs by Hugh Adams,” Dupree Theater Lobby. Hugh Adams’ stunning photographs capture the essence of the people and culture of India. Adams spent 17 days traveling throughout northern India with fellow photographers and documented the lives of the Indian people. From colorful markets and customary dress to the sacred traditions that surround the Ganges.



Faces of India: Photographs by Hugh Adams



Summer Camp



Ron McCurdy

Events at the Arts Center

2010 Summer Camps

Register for summer camp at the Irving Arts Center before May 1 and receive retroactive pricing! Other discounts include 10 percent off for Art Connection members and an all-new \$10 off multi-child discount. The Arts Center offers 12 weeklong camps featuring visual, literary, theater, musical and movement arts.

New for 2010, the Arts Center, in partnership with Lyric Stage, is offering a musical theater camp for kids ages 12–18. The Lyric Stage School of Performing Arts camp is a three-week course that ends with a full-scale production of “Bye, Bye, Birdie.”

Arts Center summer camps are available for kids ages 6–18 and run June 7–Aug. 6. For more

information, visit www.irvingartscenter.com and click on “Youth and Family” or call (972) 252-2787.

Jazz Concert

Enjoy a performance of “Langston Hughes’ Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz,” from 8 p.m. April 16 at Carpenter Performance Hall. “Ask Your Mama” is Hughes’ homage in verse and music to the struggle for artistic and social freedom in the 1960s. Be inspired by this unique, multimedia event. A live narrative featuring Hughes’ poignant, witty and soulful prose is woven together by the Ron McCurdy Jazz Quartet, with a visual backdrop of images from Jacob Lawrence, Gordon Parks, Romare Bearden and other artists from the period. Cost: \$20-30. Visit www.irvingartscenter.com or call (972) 252-2787 for tickets. ■

Upcoming Events Hosted by the Irving Public Library

- ◆ **Irving Chautauqua, Irving History** – 2 p.m. April 10, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Charles Brown, the grandson of one of Irving’s founding fathers, will share memories of growing up in Irving. A slide show will be provided by Irving Archives. Presented as part of the Washington Irving celebration. Call (972) 721-2606.
- ◆ **Teen Movie Double Feature** – 5:30 p.m. April 13, Northwest Branch Library, 2928 N. Belt Line Road. Grades 6–12 are invited to view modern films based on Shakespeare’s “Taming of the Shrew” and “Twelfth Night.” Call (972) 721-2691.
- ◆ **Steampunk Workshop** – 5 p.m. April 14, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Workshop will feature a video presentation by the DFW Costumers Guild, hands-on prop sessions, costume accessory demonstrations and photo opportunities. Call (972) 721-2458.
- ◆ **Bookmobile Anniversary Party** – 4 to 7:30 p.m. April 21, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The Bookmobile: Dream Machine celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a variety of activities. Call (972) 721-4868.
- ◆ **Job Fair** – 1 to 4 p.m. April 22, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Recruiters will discuss employment openings, collect résumés and

schedule interviews. For details on upcoming job fairs, job-hunting classes, and other services, call (972) 721-2326.

- ◆ **KidNotes** – 2:30 p.m. April 24, Northwest Branch Library, 2928 N. Belt Line Road. The Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra will entertain children of all ages with an opportunity to hear, see, touch and explore different aspects of classical music and the orchestra. Children younger than age 8 must be accompanied by a caregiver. Call (972) 721-2691.
- ◆ **Job Center Workshops** – 2 p.m. April 27-30, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. A series of free workshops will be provided to help residents with the skills they need to find a job.
- ◆ **Harry Potter’s World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine Exhibit** – May 17–June 25, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Irving Public Library will host a six-panel traveling exhibit exploring how the magic in the Harry Potter books is partially based on the Renaissance traditions that played an important role in the development of Western science. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular library hours. “Harry Potter’s World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine,” a traveling exhibition for libraries, was organized by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. The exhibition tour is coordinated by the American Library Association Public Programs Office, Chicago.
- ◆ **Friends Annual Meeting** – 7:30 p.m. May 24, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. The annual meeting of the Friends of the Irving Public Library will feature presentations by members of the Friends organization and Parks and Libraries Director Chris Michalski. Membership is not required to attend; applications will be available at the meeting. The Friends of the Library supports the Irving Public Library by raising funds for materials and programs. Call (972) 721-2628.



Irving Chautauqua, Irving History

NEW LIBRARY DATABASE

The Irving Public Library offers the LearningExpress Library database to help customers overcome anxiety, raise test scores and improve skills with the click of a mouse. The database is an interactive online learning platform that includes more than 300 practice tests and tutorial courses designed to help library users—students and adults—succeed on academic or licensing tests.

Examples include state-mandated exams for students and advanced placement tests, as well as college prep tests such as the SAT and ACT, specialized test guides like the GED exam in English or Spanish, and the U.S. Citizenship test. Adults will find tests for a variety of professional certifications such as cosmetology, real estate and electrician licensing. The database provides immediate scoring, complete answer explanations, and an individualized result analysis.

LearningExpress joins the list of premium databases in the library’s collection. The database can be accessed at the library or from a home computer. To use at home, visit www.cityofirving.org/library and click on “Databases.” The resource is available 24/7 and is free with a valid library card. For details, call (972) 721-2606. ■



ELECTRONIC CITATIONS

New electronic ticketing equipment and software have been installed in Irving police squad cars to increase efficiency, save time and promote officer safety. Police partnered with the Municipal Court to purchase the new software, along with card swiping equipment and printers for each squad car.

With a quick swipe of a state-issued driver's license, Irving officers now have access to all information necessary to issue citations. The software automatically validates driver's licenses and checks for suspensions as well as outstanding warrants.

The new e-ticketing process will reduce data entry errors by auto-populating citations with the necessary information and will wirelessly transmit citation details to the Municipal Court for processing. Not only will this equipment save time for the officer and citation recipient, it will reduce the amount of time officers spend on the side of dangerous roads during routine traffic stops. ■

City Receives Gold Award for Financial Transparency

Superior financial transparency practices have earned the City of Irving the gold award—the highest rating—from the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle.

The Comptroller of Public Accounts launched the Leadership Circle program in December 2009 to recognize local governments, such as the City of Irving, for displaying a high level of financial transparency online. The gold rating recognizes Irving for setting the bar in online financial transparency among public entities. Criteria for achieving the gold rating (by providing the following information online) includes:

- ◆ Making financial records open to the public.
- ◆ Providing clear, consistent pictures of spending.
- ◆ Sharing information in a user-friendly format.

“Financial responsibility is everybody’s business and Irving residents are due the opportunity to review how tax dollars are being used to deliver services at any given time,” said Councilman Joe Philipp, chairman

of the council’s audit and finance committee. “The city’s commitment to online transparency is to be commended, and this award confirms that our practices are a model for other entities.”



Texas Comptroller
Gold Leadership Circle

Residents have access to a wealth of financial information online, including the city budget and annual financial statements, at www.cityofirving.org. In line with the city’s commitment to transparency, the city offers several public input opportunities prior to the adoption of its annual budget.

“For the City of Irving, financial transparency is more than a practice, it’s a belief,” said Mayor Herbert A. Gears. “After receiving triple AAA ratings from Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s Investors Services for a number of years—and again this year—we pride ourselves on the quality of our financial records and are glad to share them with the public.” ■

Disaster Planning Tips for Irving Residents

Create a Family Disaster Plan

- Meet with family members and discuss the need to prepare for a disaster.
- Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each case.
- Pick two places to meet.
- Develop an emergency communication plan.
- Ask an out-of-town relative or friend to be a “family contact.”
- Discuss what to do if authorities request evacuation.
- Be familiar with escape routes.
- Plan how to take care of pets.

Preparation

A. Disaster Kit

The kit should include enough supplies to meet needs for at least three days. Store supplies in a sturdy, easy to carry, water-resistant container. Keep a smaller kit in the car trunk. The disaster supply kit should include:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) and food that will not spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person.
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit, including prescription medicines.
- Emergency tools, including a battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys.
- Cash.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- An extra pair of glasses.
- Those who take medicine will need enough on hand to make it for at least a week. Keep a copy of prescriptions and dosage information. If a weeklong supply is not possible, keep as much on hand as possible and talk to a doctor about what else should be done to prepare.
- Auto emergency kits should contain at a minimum: blankets and warm clothing, booster cables and tools, bottled water, canned fruits and nuts, first aid kit, flashlight and batteries, traction mats or



chains, a shovel, and emergency prescription medication.

B. Safe Room

When severe weather threatens, individuals and families need protection from the dangerous forces of extreme winds. Specific guidance is available from FEMA by calling the Office of Emergency Management at (972) 721-2100. Ask for information on the construction of a residential safe room.

C. Evacuation Plans

Plan how to escape from the house in the event of an emergency. Identify at least two exits from each room. Clear doors, hallways and stairs of obstructions. Conduct emergency drills.

D. Driving Tips

Disaster driving is one part preparedness, one part common sense, and one part learning from experience. For example:

- Be aware of the changed environment, and stay away from downed power poles.
- Don’t attempt to drive through water.
- If possible, avoid driving in severe winter storms, but if caught in a storm and the car becomes immobilized, stay in the vehicle and wait for rescue.

Learn More

To learn more about how to prepare for severe weather conditions, visit any Irving library and check out the free DVD produced by the Emergency Management Office. For other emergency preparedness materials, call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at (800) 480-2520, or visit www.ready.gov or www.knowwhat2do.com. ■

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

An Emergency Preparedness guide is available at www.cityofirving.org to assist residents in preparing for potential disasters. The guide includes information about the most threatening natural and man-made disasters in North Texas. By being prepared, residents will be able to act with confidence and help fellow neighbors should an emergency arise. For more information, call (972) 721-2100.

Outdoor Warning System Reminder

If the sirens are activated during inclement weather:

- ◆ DO – Take cover inside a building on the first floor, in an interior room, a closet or a bathroom that does not have any windows.
- ◆ DO NOT – Call 911, police or fire dispatch for information. If there is inclement weather in the area and the sirens are activated, assume there is the possibility of a tornado and take cover immediately.

Tornado Warnings – A steady tone means a tornado warning. Sirens will be activated when there is a threat of a tornado in the area.

Siren Testing – The sirens will be tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. unless the sky is overcast or there is inclement weather in the area. ■



Rainwater Harvesting

A Rainwater Harvesting clinic will be available from 10 a.m. to noon May 15 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2901 N. O'Connor Road.

Students will learn about using rainwater harvesting techniques as a viable form of water conservation. Cost is \$20 per person, and includes all materials and a finished rain barrel. Registration is required and seating is limited to the first 20 registrants.

To register, visit www.cityofirving.org/begreen and click on "Educational Opportunities." Mail check payable to the City of Irving to: City of Irving; Attn: Fran Witte; 825 W. Irving Blvd.; Irving, TX 75060. For more information, call (972) 721-2533. ■



Earth Day Event Set for April 10

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 10 at Sam Houston Trail Park, 101 E. Interstate Highway 635. This year's theme, Earth Day ... Naturally, will come to life in the form of family entertainment, hands-on activities, demonstrations and healthy food.

Free parking and shuttle service will be available at the following locations:

- ◆ Ranchview High School (south parking lot) – 8401 Valley Ranch Parkway East
- ◆ T.W. Richardson Trail Park – 333 E. Interstate Highway 635

Entertainment will include:

- ◆ Brave Combo
- ◆ Drums Not Guns
- ◆ Dana's Dance Academy

(Stage powered by solar energy sponsored by Excel Tech and Texas Instruments)

Activities will include:

- ◆ Electronics recycling
- ◆ Clothing drive
- ◆ Housing fair
- ◆ Nature tours
- ◆ Eco-vendors
- ◆ Frisbee demonstrations
- ◆ Fire Safety House tours
- ◆ Segway rides

Learn about TXU's Solar Panel Lease Program as one of five eco-classes offered.



As a green event, attendees are encouraged to:

1. Bring reusable bags.
2. Bring refillable water bottles. Plastic water bottles will not be sold. Refills will be available for free.
3. Use alternative transportation (carpool, rideshare or ride a bike).

Receive an eco-friendly gift while supplies last for being green. Keep Irving Beautiful will provide recycling containers. Visit www.cityofirving.org/begreen and click on "Earth Day ... Naturally" or call (972) 742-2296. ■

Irving Animal Care Campus Dedication



More than 3,000 people attended the opening of the new Irving Animal Care Campus on March 27. The 25,000-square-foot facility houses both Irving Animal Services and the DFW Humane Society, and features an animal adoption mall, training areas for staff and volunteers, special sound acoustics and improved veterinary facilities.



IRRIGATION STANDARDS

An irrigation ordinance that requires business and commercial properties to have fully operational rain and freeze sensors installed on sprinkler systems is now in effect. Fines for violation of this ordinance can range up to \$2,000. Residential property owners will be required to comply by Jan. 1, 2011.

The standards listed below are supported by state law to promote water conservation and safe, efficient irrigation.

It is a violation to:

- ◆ Irrigate during precipitation (rain, snow, etc.)
- ◆ Water areas such as sidewalks or streets
- ◆ Irrigate with a broken or missing sprinkler head
- ◆ Allow a system to waste water because it is not properly maintained

New systems must:

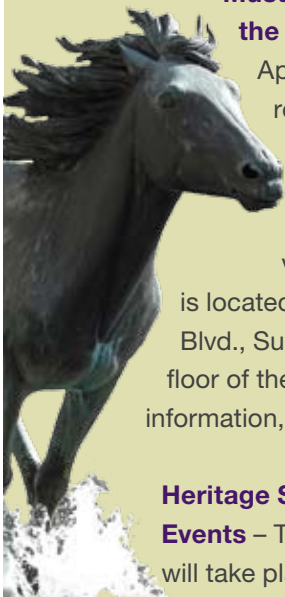
- ◆ Be installed by a licensed irrigator (if self-installed, must comply with state regulations)
- ◆ Not spray on structures such as fences or retaining walls
- ◆ Not have spray heads located within 4 inches of surfaces such as sidewalks or buildings
- ◆ Not spray if landscaping is less than 4 feet in width (use bubblers or drip systems)

Rain and freeze sensors are required:

- ◆ For commercial systems
- ◆ On all new systems (permit fee required)

A city permit is not required to install sensory equipment on existing irrigation systems. To avoid citations or fines, property owners should perform regular system tests to ensure rain/freeze sensors are installed and operating effectively. Call (972) 721-2281 for more information. ■

CITY EVENTS



Mustang Museum: Meet the Artist – 3 to 5 p.m.

April 10. Internationally recognized wildlife sculptor Robert Glen will be at the Mustang Museum to greet visitors. The museum is located at 5205 N. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 155, on the first floor of the west tower. For more information, call (972) 869-9047.

Heritage Senior Center Events

The following events will take place at the Heritage Senior Center, located at 200 S. Jefferson St. Call (972) 721-2496.

- ◆ **Campión Trails Photography Contest** – Information packets will be available at city recreation centers beginning April 6 and may be downloaded at www.cityofirving.org/heritage.
- ◆ **Heritage Gift Shop Spring Sale** – April 8–10. Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday.
- ◆ **Healthy “U” Expo** – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 30. Enjoy a day filled with health talks, screenings and giveaways. The event, for ages 18 and up, is free.

Art of the Arts Spring 2010 Seminar – 2:45 p.m. April 24, Lively Pointe Recreation Center, 909 O'Connor Road. Admission is free. For details, call (469) 544-9022.

Residents Reminded of Common Code Violations

Well-maintained neighborhoods increase property values and make desirable places to live. To help residents preserve the appearance of their neighborhoods, the city enforces standards of housing, safety and sanitation.

The following is a list of the most common code violations.

Address Numbers – Address numbers must be displayed on the front of the home (not just painted on the curb) and in the rear if house is accessible by an alley.

Commercial Vehicles – Commercial vehicles are not allowed to be parked in residential neighborhoods.

Dangerous/Substandard Structures – The owner will paint, waterproof and repair the structure to prevent deterioration.

Dilapidated Fences – Fences must be maintained. If a fence is in disrepair, a permit may be required.

Garage Sales – Only two garage sales may be conducted at the same address from January–December and are not to exceed 72 hours in duration. A permit is required. There is no charge for the permit.

High Grass and Weeds – Weeds and grass more than 10 inches are a violation. Property owners and tenants are responsible for keeping lawns mowed to the edge of the roadway and the alleys behind their homes maintained.

Junked Vehicles – Vehicle prohibited if both exist:

- ◆ Has an expired license plate or inspection sticker
- ◆ Is wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled; or has been inoperable and remained inoperable on private property for 30 days

Outside Storage – The homeowner/tenant is responsible for keeping property free of litter, brush and outside storage items such as household furniture/items, trash, building materials, car parts, etc. Small items should be stored within an enclosed building.

Parking on Grass – No parking on grass or other unimproved surface.

Temporary Lighting – Temporary or holiday lights may remain up for a maximum of 90 days.

Temporary Signs – A sign no larger than 4 square feet may be placed in the parkway between sidewalk and street from noon Friday through noon Monday. Signs not removed by noon on Monday are subject to retrieval and storage fees. Placement prohibited in these areas:

- ◆ In center medians or on telephone poles
- ◆ On street signs or trees
- ◆ On state highways/either side of access roads
 - Airport Freeway (State Highway 183)
 - Walton Walker (Loop 12)
 - Lyndon B. Johnson (State Highway 635)
 - George W. Bush Turnpike (State Highway 161)
 - Carpenter Freeway (State Highway 114)
 - Irving Boulevard (State Highway 356)

Trash Out Too Early – Trash should be placed at pick-up point no sooner than 6 p.m. the day before collection day. It must be properly bagged. Call for bulk pick-up schedule before placing bulk/brush at the curb.

To report a violation, call (972) 721-4929. ■



Aquatics Classes for Residents

Water Aerobics/Wellness Weight Management

Residents can increase flexibility, range of motion, lean body mass and metabolic rate with the city's water aerobics class. Instructor Bev Gammon and staff lead this shallow-water class that can help eliminate extra pounds, as well as knee and back problems. Learn how to energize and maximize health while exercising, minimizing problem areas and having fun. Aquatic strength training and abdominal work also are included in all classes. For details, call Bev Gammon at (972) 262-0621 or the North Lake Aquatic Center at (972) 273-3531. This class has continuous enrollment; students may register prior to class with the instructor at any time during the course.

Class schedule:

- ◆ 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday – \$29 per month at North Lake Aquatic Center
- ◆ 7 to 7:55 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday – \$29 per month at North Lake Aquatic Center

Deep Water Dynamics

The North Lake Aquatic Center offers a program that will help improve flexibility, overall aerobic fitness, coordination, muscle strength and cardiovascular endurance. Flotation noodles are provided. Minimal swimming skills and water comfort level are recommended.

Classes are offered from:

- ◆ 9:20 to 10:15 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Unlimited classes for \$39 a month at North Lake Aquatic Center

For more information, call Bev Gammon at (972) 262-0621, or the North Lake Aquatic Center at (972) 273-3531. Register online at www.differentstrokeswimschool.com. ■

CLASSES

Kayaking Classes, Trips – The city will offer introductory kayaking classes for Irving residents from 7 to 9 p.m. April 27, May 18 and June 22 at North Lake College, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd. Cost is \$25 per hour. Class size is limited. Register at North Lake Aquatic Center or online at www.paddlebound.com.

Kayaking trips on the Trinity River will be offered May 1, May 22 and June 26. Participants will meet at the designated launch site on the Trinity in Irving and kayak through the Elm Fork of the Trinity. Distances vary based on condition of the river. Class attendance is not required to participate in the trip. Cost is \$55. For more information, call (972) 273-3531.

Lifeguarding Classes – Obtain or renew American Red Cross Lifeguarding and CPR certifications at North Lake Aquatic Center, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd. Cost is \$150. Class dates are as follows:

- ◆ April 10, 19, 24
- ◆ May 10 and 15

For more information, contact Lynn Harper at lharp@cityofirving.org or (972) 273-3531. ■



Library Offers Enhanced Educational Opportunities through Innovative Technology

The Irving Public Library combines traditional library services and cutting-edge technology with the debut of the revolutionary multi-touch computer, the Microsoft Surface table.

Available at the Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail, the multi-touch computer leaves the traditional mouse and keyboard in the dust by responding to natural hand gestures and real-world objects. The table allows users to interact with digital content in a straightforward and intuitive way, encouraging collaboration and interaction with data and each other. The result is a unique, social computing experience.

The Microsoft Surface table, a 30-inch tabletop display, allows several people to work at the same time. Users can grab digital information with their hands and manipulate content on-screen by simple touches and gestures. The screen responds to many points of contact simultaneously—not just from one finger, as with typical touch-screen computing, but from the fingers of many users at once.

“Microsoft Surface creates a seamless way of connecting people with information in a unique way,” said Patty Mount, branch manager. “From playing an intense game of chess with friends to creating music with a digital disc jockey program, it’s a state-of-the-art way to interact with others. The library is excited by the possibilities this technology can bring to residents.”



Microsoft Surface table

Visit the Valley Ranch Library to gain hands-on experience with Microsoft Surface. The library also plans to incorporate this new technology into the West Irving Library, opening in early 2011, with additional applications that compliment the fun, educational programs already installed on the Microsoft Surface table. Residents may provide input on this and other technologies they would like to see at the West Irving Library through the Technology Input survey available online at www.cityofirving.org/library. More information on Microsoft Surface can be found at www.surface.com. ■

Convention Center Creates New Opportunities

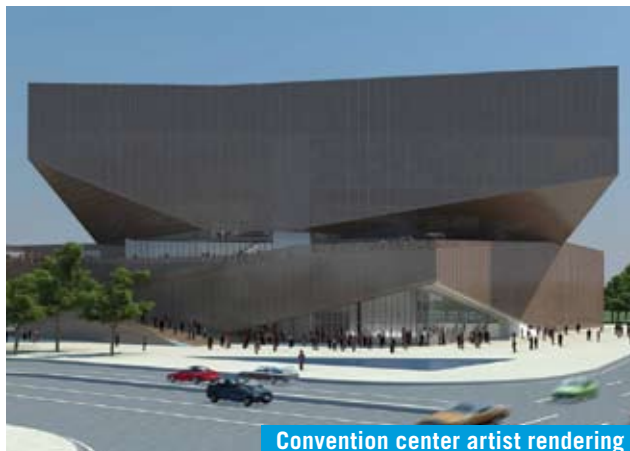
The Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas is creating new opportunities for residents and visitors.

Groups previously too large to be accommodated in Irving will soon have the opportunity to visit—or stay—at the new Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, scheduled to be completed this December.

With 90,000 square feet of flexible meeting and exhibit space, coupled with Irving’s close proximity to DFW International Airport, the facility will offer a practical option for tradeshow to host up to 250 exhibit booths and 2,000 attendees on a regional and national level. At 50,000 square feet, the center’s exhibit hall will be its largest space, and is five times larger than any space available in Irving today.

As construction on the building continues, sales and marketing efforts to book space have been under way as well. During the past nine months, targeted e-mail blasts have reached more than 207,000 prospects, and the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau (ICVB) and Convention Center sales staffs have logged more than 62,000 miles prospecting for new Irving business. To date, 39 businesses are in the pipeline, 35 of which are new to Irving.

The ICVB targets prospects including meeting planners, event coordinators and training managers through initiatives such as phone blitzes, e-blast campaigns, direct sales, search engine marketing, tradeshow and industry conferences. These efforts help make potential visitors aware of Irving and its growing amenities.



Convention center artist rendering

As the team works to bring business to the center, the bureau and convention center sales staffs work side-by-side to provide the best proposal for the client, saving organizations time and money—all while generating revenue for Irving.

“Visitors pay taxes in Irving, just like every resident does, and even additional taxes since they are also using our hotels,” said Maura Gast, ICVB executive director. “But the big benefit is that the city does not have to provide additional services to those visitors.”

That means visitor tax dollars go directly to the city’s bottom line. According to the 2008 study of Irving’s visitor industry conducted by Destination Analysts, without visitor spending, each household in Irving would have to spend an additional \$612 a year in taxes to receive the same level of services.

The ICVB welcomes any opportunity to work with residents to bring their company’s meetings, military reunions, church conferences or trade association conventions home to Irving. For more information, call (972) 252-7476 or visit www.irvingtexas.com. ■

2010 Census Responses Due

Households that did not complete a 2010 Census form can expect a visit from U.S. Census workers. Census workers will have badges to identify themselves and their employment may be confirmed by calling (214) 267-6900.

Irving is a growing city and the 2010 Census will have a big impact on its future. It is important that every Irving household is counted so that Irving receives the proper political representation and fair share of federal funds.

Those who have yet to complete and return a form are asked to fill it out and mail it in as soon as possible. Those who did not receive a form may pick one up at the nearest U.S. Census Question Assistance Center. An interactive map of locations may be accessed through www.cityofirving.org on the 2010 Census page.

Census information is completely confidential and is not shared with law enforcement, immigration officials or landlords. There are no questions regarding legal or immigration status. The process will culminate in December when the results of the 2010 Census are presented to the president. 2010 Census counts will inform nationwide redistricting efforts in March 2011 and will be in continuous use until the next census in 2020. ■

City Spectrum is published monthly by the City of Irving Corporate Communications Department to keep residents informed of activities and news that may be of interest to them.

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