



# City of Irving City Manager's Report

**November 29, 2006**

## **Projects/Activities Updates**

**Stage 3 Water Restrictions** – Due to water shortages caused by continuing drought conditions, the City of Irving will enact Stage 3 of its Drought Contingency Plan, which requires mandatory water restrictions. The restrictions become effective Dec. 2 and will continue indefinitely. No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. All requirements from Stages 1 and 2 will remain in effect during Stage 3.

**Teen Court Grant** – For the third consecutive year, the Irving Teen Court program has received a grant from the Allstate Insurance Company. The \$15,000 grant will fund anger management classes and life skills classes for teen defendants, as well as volunteer recognition events. In addition to the grant, two Allstate employees, Frank Correa and Mike Zapata, donate their time to conduct classes for Teen Court defendants concerning the importance of obtaining automobile insurance as required by state law.

**New Planning and Zoning Commission Officers** – The Planning and Zoning Commission has elected the following officers for the coming year: Mark Dyer, chair; Jack Spurlock, vice chair; and Eugenia Foust, secretary. Mark Dyer succeeds Roy Santoscoy, who served as chair since August 2005.

**Update of Comprehensive Plan** – Planning and Development staff held its kickoff meeting with plan update consultant Dunkin, Sefko and Associates (DSA) on Nov. 16. Currently, meetings are being scheduled between DSA and DFW International Airport, Public Works/Transportation, and Health and Human Services related to the topics of land use, redevelopment and housing/neighborhoods. Staff is also under way with the planning of a citywide tour for the consultant, tentatively scheduled for Dec. 6 and 13. Preliminary findings from DSA are due in mid-January for staff review.

**Automatic Meter Readers** – Plans are proceeding for every Irving home to receive a new automated water meter through an ongoing initiative to improve customer service delivery. The Automated Meter Reading project will reduce future meter reading costs, improve meter accuracy and alert Water Utilities of unusual water usage. The Valley Ranch area is expected to be completed by early 2007. Upon completion, installation will begin in the areas between Interstate Highway 635 and State Highway 114.

**Blue Christmas** – For the past 28 years, Irving police officers and firefighters have combined efforts with the community to make Christmas a little brighter for needy children and their families. The Blue Christmas outreach program is able to help between 450–600 families that otherwise would have little to nothing during this special time of year. Donations of toys (unwrapped), gift cards or monetary gifts for children ages 1-16 are accepted at any Irving fire station or the Criminal Justice Center. These items will be grouped with others, and prior to Christmas Day police officers and firefighters will personally deliver them to the children and their families.

**New Communities Planned** – The Housing and Human Services Department announces the addition of two new communities in Irving. One will be located on Jackson Street and the other on Oaklea Street. Both neighborhoods will offer 1,700-square-foot, two-story floor plans with four bedrooms, large front porches, oversized master bathrooms with a separate tub and shower, fireplace and plenty of storage space. The Jackson Street neighborhood also will feature a single-story floor plan with a covered back patio, walk-in master closet and a large backyard. The 10-home neighborhood will be in a cul-de-sac located in the 3900 block. Construction on both developments is scheduled to begin this winter.

**Swift Water Rescue Team Training** – The Swift Water Rescue Team, located at Fire Station No. 1, recently attended a Flood and Swiftwater Technician Level I training course to sharpen their skills. The training was conducted in New Braunfels by Rescue Training International. The grueling, 33-hour course was given over a three-day period on the Guadalupe and Comal rivers. The 15 members of the team were split into three groups of five to attend training during the months of October and November. The course included physical and technical risks involved in shallow and deep water, rescue swims, anchor and rope systems, and night search rescues. The training ensures that the Irving Fire Department is fully prepared to serve its residents in the event of a water rescue emergency.

**Recycling Center Changes** – Two of Irving’s five recycling drop-off centers will be changing operational profiles beginning Jan. 1. The recycling drop-off centers located at the Saigon Mall, on the corner of Belt Line Road and Chime Street and the Wal-Mart location, off of Esters Road, will accept paper only. These centers will no longer accept cans, glass, plastics, cell phones and toner cartridges, and will be self-service only as there will be no attendant on duty.

For full-service recycling of paper, aluminum and steel food cans, aerosol cans, plastic food containers No. 1- No. 7 (excluding No. 6 - Styrofoam), cardboard, glass bottles and jars, cell phones and empty toner and laser cartridges, residents may visit the following attended locations:

- O’Connor Plaza (Highway 183 and O’Connor)
- Albertsons in Las Colinas (MacArthur Boulevard, south of Interstate Highway 635)
- Kroger at Sixth Street and MacArthur Boulevard

Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The centers are closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

## **Recognitions/Awards**

**Certificate of Commendation** – Fire Equipment Operator/Paramedic Brian Hindman has been recognized with a Certificate of Commendation from the Fire Department for his lifesaving actions at Trinity View Park when a softball player fell victim to a heart attack. Hindman and Irving High School senior Sarah Rahm heard the call for help and demonstrated the value of CPR training. The patient survived thanks to the quick and skillful actions of these heroes. Engine 1 and Medic 3 responded to the call and continued advanced life support for the patient until reaching the hospital.

**Firefighter Recognition** – Firefighters Jason Darrow and Craig Caudle have been honored by the Irving Elks club as “Firefighters of the Month” for November for their part in reviving a heart attack victim.

**Police Employee Recognition** – Police Investigators Brian Schutt and Steve Junker, members of the IRS Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force in the Western District of Texas, have been recognized with appreciation plaques for their assistance with several complex investigations over the past year resulting in federal seizures of U.S. currency and tangible property. During the recognition ceremony, the Police Department was presented a check for \$615,098.69, which represented the department’s share of the asset forfeiture received from these complex investigations.

## **Upcoming Events/Activities**

**Holiday Extravaganza** – Dec. 2, 3 p.m., Downtown Irving - pre-parade celebration; 4 p.m. Christmas parade; 6 p.m., Civic Center Complex - holiday tree lighting ceremony, fireworks, holiday concert and performances, Santa visits, children’s Christmas carnival, concessions and more!

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Irving Arts Center Holiday Open House** – Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m., Irving Arts Center. “From Russia, With Love” is the theme of this year’s tree decoration competition and holiday open house. Enjoy the sights and sounds of Russian holiday traditions through a variety of holiday entertainment. A performance by the Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival will begin at 7 p.m. at Carpenter Hall. The tree exhibit will be on display through Dec. 31.