



**February 3, 2010**

**Strategic Goal No. 1: Land Use**

**Dumpster Enclosures** – The Capital Improvement Program Team has completed construction on 15 dumpster enclosures on 11 city properties. The enclosures are constructed with masonry block walls and have wooden gates with metal frames, and cost approximately \$223,900 to construct.

**Strategic Goal No. 2: Vibrant Neighborhoods**

**Homeless Council** – Housing and Human Services is working with a newly formed community-initiated Homeless Council, which includes representatives from various faith-based organizations, interested community members, Irving ISD and city staff. The group met with the executive team of the Christian Community Action organization in Lewisville to obtain operational best practices should a similar model be formed in Irving. This nonprofit organization provides several successful services ranging from a food bank, transitional housing, a medical clinic and a thrift store. The Homeless Council met in January to discuss ideas for a coordinated, comprehensive plan of action for Irving.

**2010 Homeless Count and Survey** – Housing and Human Services, along with local nonprofit and social service agencies, participated in the 2010 Homeless Count and Survey on Jan. 28. The project is conducted to gather information about the city's homeless population and to develop a needs assessment for the community. The information also is used by several interested groups, including nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, media outlets and various federal, state and local government departments.

**Jim Drive Assistance** – Housing and Human Services worked with Code Enforcement and Water Utilities to ensure tenants without water at a complex on Jim Drive had alternate housing options. All former residents were able to secure suitable housing. Water service was disconnected at the complex due to the owner's failure to make payments to the utility bill.

**Convenience Store Pole Signs** – Code Enforcement team training was completed to begin the enforcement phase of the required removal of convenience store pole signs. This requirement became effective Jan. 1. Special attention has been given to the project to ensure consistent procedures that focus on obtaining voluntary compliance.

**Community Service Program** – From mid-October through the end of the year, community service workers completed 89 projects, with 225 workers totaling more than 900 hours, to help clean up the city. The Community Service Worker Program concentrated its efforts on cleaning and mowing corridor properties.

**Neighborhood Roundtable** – The quarterly Neighborhood Roundtable was hosted Jan. 26 by the Corporate Communications Department with more than 55 participants. During the meeting, attendees heard a presentation on corridor improvements focusing on achieved results and watched a Texas Stadium video produced by Irving Community Television Network. Roundtables allow neighborhood officers to learn about city initiatives and what other associations are doing to enhance their neighborhoods.

### **Strategic Goal No. 3: Economic Development**

**Construction Valuation** – From October-December, Planning and Inspections issued 3,507 permits with a construction valuation of \$83 million. This total includes 89 new homes, which comprises the most stable sector of the local construction economy. Notable commercial projects that were permitted during the first quarter include the Kinwest Montessori Academy and Raising Cane's restaurant.

**Outstanding Commercial Real Estate Deals** – Five Irving projects have been named as finalists for the "Dallas Business Journal's" annual Best Real Estate Deals Award program: Forward Air Inc., Hines-Las Colinas Riverside Village, Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, Parc 114 and Riverside Commons. Several were nominated by the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce. Irving is well represented in this list and has been for several years. Previous winners include Fluor Corp., Research in Motion, Maxim Integrated Products, Amazon.com and Hines Las Colinas Land Ltd.

**U.S. Chamber Honors** – During the past three years, Irving has claimed nine of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Blue Ribbon winners, more than any other city in the nation. This year, 11 Irving businesses are under consideration for the honor: Big State Drug Store, Car Concepts Inc., Cooksey Communications, eBM Corp., Fastsigns Irving/Las Colinas, Fig Design, George-McKenna Electrical, Mart Inc., Reach Marketing, Teo Tios and Parents for Safe Technology. In 2009, six of the 56 nationally recognized businesses were from Irving. The Blue Ribbon award-winning businesses will be announced in March.

### **Strategic Goal No. 4: Safe and Secure City**

**Staff Productivity** – The Municipal Court, in conjunction with Information Technology, developed an automated performance report that tracks the results of city marshal field activities. The report provides data on warrants cleared and total potential dollars associated with those warrants. The process was performed manually and took approximately 20 hours per month to complete. This new process is being used to implement new legislative requirements without additional staffing.

**Hispanic Community Outreach** – To enhance relationships with the Hispanic community, the Police Department hosted an educational meeting with the Hispanic Chamber on Jan. 23 to discuss police-related topics and other areas of interest. The meeting, which was attended by approximately 150 residents, featured Juan Miguel of Mito Financial. To continue an open dialogue, another meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at Lorenzo de Zavala Middle School, 707 W. Pioneer Drive.

**Tabletop Exercise** – City staff conducted a Table Top Exercise on Jan. 28 at the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located at the Valley View Municipal Complex. The exercise simulated a "Partial EOC Activation" in response to a severe weather event and focused on the communications processes into and out of the EOC. Departments participating in the exercise included Corporate Communications, Engineering/Streets, Parks, Solid Waste Services, Traffic Operations, Police, Fire, and Water Utilities.

**Inspection Log Books** – To ensure vehicle operators are involved with the safety and maintenance of city-owned vehicles, Fleet Services has developed pre/post inspection logs, and has placed them in all public safety vehicles. The program provides the opportunity for each vehicle to be inspected at least twice a day to help ensure that issues are promptly reported.

**Animal Services Vehicles** – Animal Services received GPS telemetric systems for its vehicles that allow staff to monitor location, routing, dispatching, idle time, vehicle speed and mileage, as well as notification of maintenance issues. The system provides numerous reporting features that make it an outstanding management, safety and efficiency tool.

## **Strategic Goal No. 5: Diversity**

**Many Voices** – The Many Voices children's program series will begin at 3 p.m. Feb. 6 with Rhythm Connection at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. This hands-on experience and percussion performance will be led by educator and entertainer Len Barnett. Many Voices is a multicultural performance series for children sponsored by the Friends of the Irving Public Library. For more information, call (972) 721-2458.

**Chinese New Year** – Programs celebrating the Chinese New Year with storytimes and crafts will be presented at the following times and locations:

- Feb. 4, 7 p.m. – Valley Ranch Live! at the Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail
- Feb. 13, 2 p.m. – Family Program at the Southwest Branch Library, 2216 W. Shady Grove Road

For more information on library events, visit [www.cityofirving.org/library](http://www.cityofirving.org/library) and click on "Events and Classes."

## **Strategic Goal No. 6: Effective Communications**

**2010 Census Outreach** – The Irving Counts Committee continues to distribute information about the upcoming census at a variety of community events. Team members appeared on Irving Community Television Network's "Open Line" on Jan. 13 and information was provided in the December and January issues of "City Spectrum." Committee members will identify and pursue additional speaking engagements and opportunities as they become available. In addition, the Irving Counts Poster Competition is well under way. Final entries will be received on Feb. 12 and judging will be completed by Feb. 26.

**All About Irving** – The All About Irving e-newsletter has increased to more than 19,000 recipients able to receive timely information from the city. More than 50 obsolete city e-mail lists were consolidated into the All About Irving list, resulting in increased performance for city communication efforts. To receive the e-mails, visit the city Web site at [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org) and click the All About Irving link to subscribe.

**New Employee Orientation** – Irving Community Television Network has produced a series of videos that will be used as part of the city's New Employee Orientation. The videos were introduced in mid-January and included topics such as the Leadership Model, customer service and the city's vision/mission/values.

**State of the City Videos** – Irving Community Television Network produced several videos featured by Mayor Herbert Gears during the State of the City address. The videos were used to highlight the city's many programs and initiatives, and are available on demand at [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org).

## **Strategic Goal No. 7: Cultural, Recreational and Educational Environments**

**Campión Trails Extension** – Work on the expansion of Twin Wells Park into Trinity View Park will begin this month. The project will extend the trail system 1.5 miles north from Mountain Creek Preserve for a total of 3.5 miles of primary trail in the southern section of Campión Trails. It includes 7,145 linear feet of 12-foot-wide concrete primary trail, one 90-linear-foot pedestrian bridge, five low-flow pedestrian crossings, four paver crosswalks, park benches and trash receptacles. The project will be funded through a grant from the Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program and is expected to be completed by August.

**Irving Chautauqua** – The Irving Chautauqua series continues with author, journalist and veteran world traveler Rolf Potts at 2 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. Potts will share stories of his adventures traveling solo around the world writing essays and columns for publications such as *National Geographic Traveler*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. The program is free and open to all ages. For more information, call (972) 721-2606 or visit [www.cityofirving.org/library](http://www.cityofirving.org/library).

**Basic Internet Class** – The Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail, will conduct Introduction to the Internet at 7 p.m. Feb. 18. Through this introductory course, adults will learn the basics of maneuvering and searching the Internet and how to evaluate Internet sources. Space is limited. Call (972) 721-4669.

**Tax-Aid Volunteer Program** – The Heritage Senior Center will offer free tax help for 2009 tax returns through April 15. The program, sponsored by the AARP, will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Thursdays. Appointments are required. To schedule a meeting, call (214) 770-5599. An intake sheet must be completed prior to the appointment and is available at the Heritage Senior Center, 200 S. Jefferson St. The program is not restricted to seniors. For more information, call (972) 721-2496.

### **Strategic Goal No. 8: Sound Governance**

**Cost Savings and Efficiencies** – City staff continues to streamline processes, achieve efficiencies and enhance effectiveness without losing sight of quality and customer service. Cost savings and efficiency projects implemented from October-December produced \$801,052 in value added to city operations through cost savings, cost avoidance and additional revenue.

**Cooling Units** – HVAC has completed the installation of two packaged cooling units at the Police and Fire Training Academy gymnasium. Staff used a unit that was salvaged from a hotel the city purchased and demolished. The installation was completed in-house with a potential savings of \$14,820.

**On-the-Spot Awards** – City of Irving employees continue to provide excellent customer service and perform above and beyond their normal job responsibilities. The following employees have received On-the-Spot Awards for their performance: Rafael Alba (Public Works and Transportation), Jerry Garcia (Public Works and Transportation), Homer Garza (Information Technology), Tom Gleghorn (Public Works and Transportation), Shane Harris (Public Works and Transportation), Steve Henderson (Public Works and Transportation), Doug Janeway (Real Estate and Development), Steve Nixon (Public Works and Transportation), Robby Ortiz (Public Works and Transportation), Tim Templin (Public Works and Transportation) and Jason West (Public Works and Transportation).

### **Strategic Goal No. 9: Infrastructure**

**Grant Request** – Traffic and Transportation is seeking state grant money for a hike and bike trail that would be constructed along the newly elevated Trinity Railway Express line along Rock Island Road. The project ranked high among those submitted from the North Texas region.

### **Strategic Goal No. 10: Environmentally Sustainable Community**

**Reusable Bags** – Reusable book bags are available for purchase at all Irving Public Library locations for \$2 each. Reusing one bag a day can eliminate the use of approximately six plastic bags every week. For more information, call (972) 721-2606 or visit [www.cityofirving.org/library](http://www.cityofirving.org/library).

**Art Workshop** – Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join local artist VET at 2 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail, to discover the world of visual art using non-toxic recyclables. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call (972) 721-4669.