



City of Irving *City Manager's Report*

August 15, 2007

Goal No. 1: Land Use

Transit-Oriented Development – City staff has met with potential developers interested in a portion of the property owned by Verizon along Hidden Ridge Drive. The vacant tracts along Hidden Ridge have been identified by the city as a critical link in the DART light rail line, and a prime location for transit-oriented development.

Grade Separation/Quiet Zone Project – The contract award for the TRE grade separation/quiet zone project begins a long-awaited effort to improve safety and quality of life along the corridor. Work should begin in 60-90 days with a total construction time of 36 months. City staff will be meeting with Dallas Area Rapid Transit officials to finalize specific milestones.

Goal No. 2: Vibrant Neighborhoods

Disaster Assessment – Robert Chatham, chief electrical inspector, and Paul Pomroy, senior building inspector, participated in a City-to-City Good Stewards Mission in Wichita Falls to assist in a disaster assessment of approximately 100 homes affected by recent flooding.

Goal No. 3: Economic Development

CEO Luncheon – In conjunction with the 10th Anniversary Transportation Summit, the City of Irving, Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce hosted a CEO Appreciation Luncheon for leaders from Irving-based transportation businesses. After a welcome from City Manager Tommy Gonzalez, Mayor Herbert Gears provided an Irving development update, and State Senator Florence Shapiro discussed the past legislative session. CEO luncheons are held quarterly as a component of the city's corporate retention initiatives.

Economic Development Initiatives – On Aug. 7, the Irving Economic Development Partnership hosted a 21-member delegation from Pearland, Texas, to showcase Irving's initiatives and to tour the Las Colinas submarket. In business news, Googly Eyes & Craft Supplies will be opening a store at 1111 W. Airport Freeway (next to Carnival Food Store). This new retailer will help fill the void of a local arts/crafts store that many residents have been requesting. California-based Equastone has acquired four more Class A office buildings (totaling 800,000 square feet) in Las Colinas. Several renovations are planned. The company now has about four million square feet of space throughout the DFW Metroplex, with six of the buildings in Irving.

Groups Visit Irving – The following organizations and companies have visited Irving: Texas Chefs Association (Aug 2-4); Flavors of Texas (Aug. 3); American Orthodontic Society (Aug. 3-4); AstraZeneca LP (Aug. 5-10); Oakland Athletics (Aug. 5-8); Transportation Summit (Aug. 7-10); U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Aug. 7-10); Dallas Cowboys Football Club (Aug. 8-9); Epsilon Sigma Alpha (Aug. 10-12); Kansas City Royals (Aug. 13-16); Denver Broncos (Aug. 14-18); and Society of Cable Telecommunication Engineers (Aug. 15-17).

10th Anniversary Transportation Summit – The City of Irving and Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomed transportation leaders and government officials from around the country to the Westin Dallas/Fort Worth Airport for the 10th Anniversary Transportation Summit. Keynote speakers included John Horsely, executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, U.S. Congressman John Mica (Florida), U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions (Texas), U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (Texas) and Tom Donohue, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Developed by the City of Irving 10 years ago, the Transportation Summit is the largest and most comprehensive public policy transportation conference in the nation, dedicated to bringing together leaders from all levels of government, and creating a forum to discuss and develop solutions for transportation issues.

Traffic Reporters Luncheon – In conjunction with the 10th Anniversary Transportation Summit, the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau hosted an appreciation luncheon for Texas traffic reporters. The annual luncheon, themed “Life is a Highway,” serves as Irving’s opportunity to thank the media who help navigate the public during periods of high traffic. More than 50 print, radio and television traffic reporters were in attendance.

Goal No. 4: Safe and Secure City

West Nile Virus in Mosquito Pool – The City of Irving has received notification of West Nile virus in a sample of mosquitoes collected at Mustang Park, located at 2201 Kinwest Parkway. City staff began spraying the residential areas near where the mosquito pool was collected in the early morning hours of Aug. 15 to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus to people. Residents are encouraged to take sensible precautions to avoid mosquito bites. As per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocol, the City of Irving conducts mosquito spraying operations when one or more of the following public health conditions becomes known:

1. When mosquito trap counts exceed a preset number.
2. When a trap sample is positive for West Nile virus.
3. When a suspected human case of West Nile virus is reported.
4. When a confirmed human case of West Nile virus is reported.

Residents experiencing significant mosquito activity should report this information to Irving’s mosquito hot line at (972) 721-3755.

Irving Health Center Ribbon Cutting – A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Irving Health Center is set for 10 a.m. Aug. 29. The 36,600-square-foot health center is located at 1800 N. Britain Road, just south of State Highway 183. The center, which will be open for patient care in September, will provide low- to moderate-income Irving residents with a wide range of health-care services including primary care, women’s health, immunizations, screenings, dental care, nutrition counseling, and treatment for acute and chronic health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart problems. This community-based health center is a joint project of the City of Irving, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas County, and Baylor Medical Center at Irving. The new facility will be operated by Parkland Health & Hospital System.

Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Graduation – A graduation ceremony for the residents who attended the Hispanic Citizens Police Academy will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 15 at Spring Creek Barbeque. Twenty-six residents participated in this year’s program.

Blood Drive – The Police Department is hosting a blood drive for Carter Blood Care from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 17. The blood drive will be held in the Patrol Briefing Room of the Criminal Justice Center. The public is invited to attend.

National Night Out – Neighborhoods across Irving turned on their porch lights Aug. 7 for National Night Out, an annual nationwide event designed to promote neighborhood safety. This year, 35 neighborhoods participated in this event.

Back to School Health Fair – A Back to School Health Fair was held Aug. 4 at Cost Saver's Plus. Fifteen organizations participated in the fair and more than 600 people attended. School supplies were provided to 200 children. Parkland Mammography provided mammograms to more than 40 women who attended the fair. The event was organized by Public Health Educator Juan Carlos Reynoso.

New Animal Shelter – Wiginton Hooker Jeffry Architects has been awarded the architectural and engineering contracts for the design of the new animal shelter. Programming and initial design meetings will begin in late August. The new facility will be located on Valley View Lane, and will be a joint project housing the city's Animal Services operation and the DFW Humane Society. The design will be completed in May 2008, with construction scheduled to be completed summer 2009.

Goal No. 5: Diversity

Leyendo Juntos – Thanks to an ongoing relationship with Telemundo 39, the East Branch Library will host a Leyendo Juntos (Reading Together) program on Aug. 25. Families are invited to listen to Spanish-language stories read by Telemundo 39 news anchor Ariel Rodriguez. This free program is open to the public.

Employee TGIF Program – A special TGIF program, hosted by ICTN Producer/Director Cathy Whiteman, on Aug. 10 allowed employees to hear firsthand from a panel of individuals about their personal accounts regarding their move to the United States, and their experiences as part of the Irving culture. The program was titled "Strictly Taboo: Openly Discussing Our Differences." Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the speakers' cultures, practices and interactions.

Goal No. 6: Effective Communications

ICTN Awards – Irving Community Television Network (ICTN) was presented the following awards from the Texas Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors:

- First place – Community Event Coverage, "Momentum Dance Company"
- First place – Profile of City/County or City/County Department, "Local Address/Global Access" video
- Second place – Profile of City/County or City/County Department, "Firehouse Cooks"
- Third place – Community Event Coverage, "High School Football: MacArthur vs. Irving"
- Third place – Magazine Format Series, "About Towne"
- Third place – Overall Excellence in Government Programming

Goal No. 7: Cultural, Recreational and Educational Environments

Central Library Renovation – A community meeting to review Central Library renovation plans was held Aug. 13, as part of the monthly meeting of the Irving Library Board. Architects from PSA-Dewberry reviewed the renovation plans and received comments from those in attendance.

Library Customer Satisfaction Survey – All library locations will distribute a survey to its customers through Aug. 30 to measure customer satisfaction with library hours, programs, materials and computer services. The survey also will be posted on the city's Web site.

Lively Pointe Youth Center Renovation – JC Commercial Construction will begin work the week of Aug. 20 to renovate Lively Pointe Youth Center. The \$1.9 million renovation will include the addition of a gymnasium. The project is scheduled to be completed summer 2008.

Mustang World Series – The Irving Boys Baseball Association and the City of Irving hosted the 2007 PONY Baseball Inc. Mustang World Series Aug. 1-4 at Trinity View Park. This World Series has been held in Irving since 1995 and features eight teams. The Mustang age group consists of boys 9-10 years of age. This year's series featured teams from Illinois, Florida, Massachusetts, California, Texas, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the host team from Irving. All teams played at least three games while trying to advance to the championship game. Santa Clarita, Calif. defeated the team from Mexico in the final game.

Smithsonian Institution – The Irving Arts Center has become an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, and the official announcement was made Aug. 9 during the 10th Anniversary Transportation Summit. Harold Closter and Aaron Glavas of Smithsonian Affiliations presented the official Smithsonian Flag to Mayor Pro Tem Allan Meagher, Arts Board Chairman Gus Tramp and Arts Center Executive Director Richard Huff. In addition, the Arts Center hosted a dessert and coffee reception for summit participants, complete with a tour of the exhibit "At the Controls: The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Looks at Cockpits." Special guest and featured Smithsonian photographer Eric F. Long also was present during the reception.

Keeler Park Improvements – Keeler Park will undergo a redesign in an effort to improve public safety after the park was vandalized numerous times this past year. Park changes include an upgraded picnic shelter, new playground unit, additional security lighting and a new fence to restrict access. The project also will remove the tennis and basketball courts to provide additional green space. Park construction is scheduled to be completed this fall. The Parks and Recreation Department worked with the surrounding neighbors and the Police Department on the redesign plans.

Goal No. 8: Sound Governance

Employee Health Fair – The theme for this year's annual Employee Health and Wellness Fair will be "Healthy Paradise." The event will be held Sept. 21 in the Central Library Auditorium. Human Resources partnered with Hartford Life to sponsor the cost of the bags provided at the health fair. The cost-savings, estimated at \$1,400, will be used to increase health screening services for employees.

Deferred Compensation Plan – To increase employee participation in the 457 deferred compensation plan, Human Resources developed a one-on-one campaign called "Make-it-Happen." Letters will be sent to employees who do not participate in the plan, and will include a postcard that can be returned to Human Resources to request assistance.

Certified Compensation Professional – Senior Human Resources Specialist Bill Sawyer has completed the requirements for recertification as a Certified Compensation Professional through WorldatWork. This nationally recognized certification represents an ongoing commitment to education, training and development in the areas of compensation, benefits and total rewards.

IT Strategic and Technology Growth Plan – The Information Technology/Planning Division has been working to create a new five-year strategic and technology growth plan. The plan will provide the department and the city with a guide to future technology growth and development that works in conjunction with the city's Strategic Plan. The final phase of this update will be to hire a consulting firm to perform an independent review of the plan and the department.

Goal No. 9: Infrastructure Network

Public Meeting on Construction Projects – Public Works/Engineering staff hosted its quarterly project meeting on July 31 for residents interested in major construction projects currently under way in Irving. These meetings provide residents with an opportunity to meet one-on-one with designers and construction inspectors to discuss issues or concerns.

Human Services Building – Equipment and Building Services installed bollards at the entrance to the Human Services Building to provide additional security for staff and residents. The installation comes after the building sustained damage from a car that ran through the entrance. In addition, city facilities maintenance personnel also built stucco columns to enclose exposed electrical and fuel conduit related to the generators on all levels of the City Hall parking garage, with the exception of the basement. The columns improve aesthetics, security and keep the parking garage in compliance with building codes.

Goal No. 10: Environmentally Sustainable Community

Solid Waste Services Site Review – Solid Waste Services will schedule a site audit and evaluation focused on regulatory compliance. The project will be completed by the SMART (Safety, Management & Resource Team) Committee of the Texas Lone Star Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (TxSWANA). This committee consists of solid waste professionals from all over the state whose purpose is to serve as a resource for the solid waste industry in Texas. The SMART Committee performs site audits throughout the state reviewing safety, operations and regulatory compliance. Additionally, Solid Waste Services will contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and request a review and summary of the Hunter Ferrell Landfill's compliance history. Solid Waste Services will complete the site review within the next 30 days.

Community Shredding Event – Solid Waste Services sponsored the first in a series of shredding activities on July 20 at the city's recycling center, located at O'Connor Plaza. Approximately 8,000 pounds (4 tons) of paper was shredded and recycled. Solid Waste Services' goal is to offer these activities every three months at this recycling center location.