



## THIS WEEK

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# Praises & concerns voiced on Code Enforcement realignment

By Jess Paniszczyn

The City Council recently voted to place the Code Enforcement Department under the auspices of the Irving Police Department.

"Code Enforcement is the name of a department, which involves several processes," Police Chief Larry Boyd said. "Under Code Enforcement, you have health inspectors, who do restaurant inspections; people who are responsible for code enforcement in single-family areas and neighborhoods; then you have multifamily inspectors, who do apartment, duplex and fourplex inspections; and people assigned to building and standards.

"Building and standards takes cases from all the others. They take the cases that have reached an aggravated level and are being referred to the Building and Standards Commission, so there is a handoff. Multifamily may have been inspecting an apartment complex, but the conditions are so bad that they reached a level of deterioration causing health and safety concerns. Once it gets to that point, they give that case to our building

and standards inspectors, who do their inspection and present that case to the Building and Standards Commission for either civil penalties or potential vacate orders. Whatever it takes to bring that building back up to standard where there are no longer the health and safety issues. That is all under the overall umbrella of Code Enforcement.

Aligning the Police Department and Code Enforcement Department will result in more efficient services to the citizens.

"If you look at many of the areas where the Police Department is having calls for service, crime and disorder issues, they are the same areas where Code Enforcement is having problems with dilapidated structures and code violations. The two are interrelated. If the area looks bad, there are substandard structures, and it appears that no one is in control and no one cares, it tends to attract crime and gives the impression there is crime, so it creates a fear of crime," Chief Boyd said.

"This is something that as a Police Department we are concerned about. But the answer may

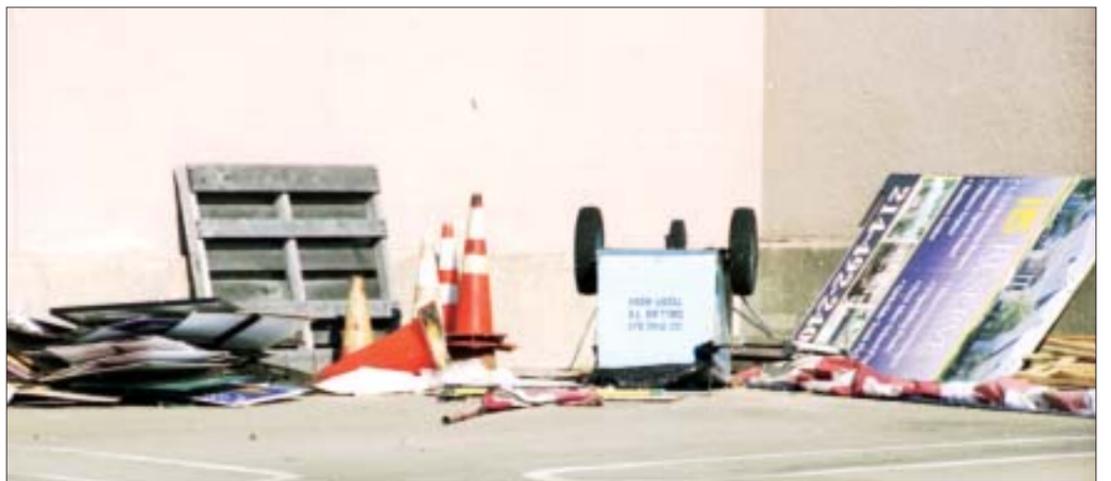
be a collaboration with Code Enforcement. We can't stop the fear of crime, even though we may stop the crime, until the area has been brought back up to the point where it doesn't look like crime is going on in the area. There is a great deal

of overlap in what our objectives and our mission are between Code Enforcement and the Police Department. It makes a lot of sense to combine those efforts and have us focus together.

"Working together we won't

have a situation where the Police Department may go after this issue because it is our priority today, and Code Enforcement is going after an issue somewhere else in

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Harmless clutter or health hazard? Poor housekeeping or criminal offence? It may take a Code Enforcement officer to figure out the nuances. Luckily Code Enforcement officers are parked nearby in this open, fully accessible, City of Irving parking area.

# ICE's policy against deporting Class C misdemeanors melts

By Jess Paniszczyn

Earlier this week, Immigration Custom Enforcement Agency (ICE) reinstated its original regulations regarding which inmates in the Irving Jail are screened for the Criminal Alien Program (CAP). All persons arrested and taken to the Irving Jail, including those arrested on Class C misdemeanors will be subject to deportation if they are found to not be in the United States legally.

"Late on Monday a week ago, we received the email from ICE informing us that ICE would not accept referrals if the only charge was a Class C misdemeanor," Police Chief Larry Boyd said. "We started trying to clarify that information with them. We also requested the information be sent in some level of official notice, because we just received an informal email, which was sent to the jail supervisor.

"As we were trying to clarify the change with ICE, there was a lot of attention given to the change in the media. By Tuesday evening they seemed to be backing off. ICE representatives met with us this week and informed us that they will not reject any referrals,

whether they be for Class C misdemeanors or other crimes. Essentially, we are back to the program as it was.

"Our position has been all along that we are willing to share information with the Federal agency responsible for enforcing immigration laws. If they choose not to use the information, that is their decision, not mine. We never

stopped referring anyone. We are still sharing information with them, and that is all we have ever done.

"So the change didn't affect the police department at all, it affected them. The change didn't reflect well on ICE's position as

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# MMI and HSBC expand Home Preservation Program

Provided by Jordan Gibennus

Money Management International (MMI), a national HUD-approved housing counseling agency and nonprofit credit and debt counseling firm, recently announced the expansion of its Preserving Homeownership and Savings Education Strategy (PHASES) program to ten additional states: Texas, Arizona, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia. This program will provide qualified homeowners with grants to pay outstanding debts and one-on-one financial counseling sessions to help keep families in their homes.

The MMI PHASES program is made possible with a \$1 million grant from the Prospect Heights, IL - based HSBC-North America, one of the top 10 financial services companies in the United States. PHASES initially launched as a pilot program in Illinois, California, Florida, Ohio and New York

in July 2007 and now serves 15 states including Texas.

According to a recent report released by the Mortgage Bankers Association, the percentage of mortgages entering foreclosure in the first quarter of 2007 was the highest in more than five decades. The MMI PHASES program aims to tackle this trend by uniting business and nonprofit leaders to rebuild financial lives.

"Owning a home is the American Dream, and the last thing we want is for families to see their dream disappear," HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson said. "FHA lending relief measures continue to help families around the nation work through difficult times and "HSBC is delighted to partner with MMI in this important home preservation program," Tom Detelich, president, Consumer and Mortgage Lending Division, HSBC-North America said. "We are com-

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The Irving Rambler  
P.O. Box 177731  
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# POLICE & FIRE



**Aggravated Robbery:** 11-23-07 at 8:23 p.m. A male suspect entered the Super Save Mart in the 1800 block of E. Shady Grove, displayed a revolver, and ordered the clerk to remove all of the cash from the register and give it to him. The suspect then fled the scene on foot in an unknown direction.

**Individual Robbery:** 11-24-07 at 12:14 a.m. The three victims were having a party at the Residence Inn in the 900 block of Walnut Hill when about 15 males showed up

who wanted into the party. The victims didn't really know any of them and told them no so the suspects walked away. The suspects came back and said that one of their cell phones was in the room so the victims let them in the room. Once they were in the room they started fighting with some of the victims. They also stole the cell phones to several of the victims while inside. They fled the location before police arrived.

**Individual Robbery:** 11-24-07 at 3:00 a.m. The Victim was banging on apartment doors in the 3500

block of North Story asking for help. When the police arrived he was found to have been assaulted, appeared to be intoxicated and had urinated on himself. He gave several conflicting names and finally gave his correct name and DOB when IFD asked for it. He then stated he was afraid so he lied about his name.

**Apartment Fire:** 11-26-07 at 6:57 p.m. One of the residents in the Parkwood Apts. in the 300 block of Irby turned the stove on in an attempt to heat the apartment. There was a pan of grease on the stove that caught fire and quickly spread to the rest of the apartment. Four units were damaged by the fire, and another four units received water damage. The management responded to the scene and was able to relocate the eight families that were affected.

**Aggravated Assault:** 11-26-07 at 9:00 p.m. Officers were sent to a fight call at CVS Pharmacy in the 900 block of E. Irving Blvd involving three subjects. One of the subjects was said to have a knife. Officers arrived and spoke to two victims and a witness. The victims and witness said that the suspect seemed drunk and started a fight. During the fight he went and got a knife from his

vehicle. No one was injured with the knife.

**Aggravated Assault:** 11-28-07 at 11:07 p.m. The victim and three friends of her's were in the 2000 block of Carl Rd. The friends left the victim in their car while they went to visit a friend. While they were gone two unknown suspects walked out into the street and be-

gan looking around. The victim got scared and called for her friends to come back. The friends were confronted by the suspects and fled, the victim attempted to drive off in the car and one shot from a shotgun was fired by one of the suspects at the victim. She received injuries to her legs and after picking up her friends was driven to Baylor for treatment.

## Irving Fire Department

Activity summary Nov. 16 - 21, 2007

Irving Fire Department responded to 289 incidents.

### The Fire incidents

- 109 Miscellaneous Fire and Rescue Calls
- 6 Structure Fires
- 0 Special Operations
- 1 Vehicle Fires

### Medical calls

- 37 Major Accidents
- 76 Major Medical
- 17 Heart Attacks
- 31 Difficulty Breathing
- 37 Trauma Related
- 17 CPR Situations

### Comments:

- 11-22:** Both structure fire calls were mitigated by first arriving companies. Ambulances went into overload three times.
- 11-23:** Ambulances went into overload once.
- 11-25:** Ambulances went into overload four times.
- 11-26:** At 6:57 p.m. the Irving Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at 400 Irby Ln. The first emergency personnel were on-scene at 7:01 p.m. with a total of two alarms being called. Total number of pieces of major equipment was 13. 38 Fire Fighters and three Chief Officers were utilized in bringing the emergency under control. There were no injuries at this emergency. Ambulances went into overload five times.
- 11-28:** Ambulances went into overload twice.

## Conoco robbery



**Aggravated Robbery:** 11-27-07 at 5:05 p.m. The suspect approached the sales counter at Conoco in the 9400 block N. MacArthur Blvd. and requested a carton of Marlboro light cigarettes. He then lifted his shirt to display a handgun in his waistband and demanded money from the register. The suspect removed the cash drawer, stole

the cash, and fled on foot with approximately \$200.

The suspect, a white male, appears to be in his 30's. The suspect looks to be around 6' to 6'04" weighing approximately 180 pounds. He was wearing dark colored BDU style pants and a blue long sleeve t-shirt. He had on white tennis shoes and a red ball cap. The handgun appeared to be a black semi-automatic. Investigators are asking for the public's help in identifying this robbery suspect. Do not attempt to confront or apprehend this individual due to his being armed and dangerous. Anyone with information on this suspect is asked to contact the Irving Police Department at 972-721-2518.

## Policy flip-flops within days

Continued from page 1

they try to enforce immigration laws," he said.

While City officials were anticipating verification of ICE's policy change, ICE's policy changes back.

"For two days, ICE was not screening Class C misdemeanors," Mayor Gears said. "I had a conversation with Congressman Sessions and discussed this change with him. I asked him to let me know who in the Federal Government approved the change, and how high does this kind of decision go, because it was a significant departure from following the law.

"We asked ICE for further verification of the change in writing. They said they would be sending it out in writing to every agency ICE serves. We never received that information.

"We began to receive reports from our jail indicating that ICE was accepting people arrested for Class C misdemeanors. We are now being told by ICE that their policy will now be to screen Class C misdemeanors.

"I think pressure was put on ICE to back track. And that is what you are seeing," he said.

## Irving deportation figures by country

Based on the Irving Police Department Immigration Enforcement Report  
Report Period: 10/1/2007 to 11/25/2007

	10/2007	11/2007
Argentina	1	0
El Salvador	24	10
Ethiopia	1	0
Guatemala	0	2
Honduras	4	3
Mexico	113	109
Nepal	1	0
South Africa	0	1
South Korea	1	0
Unknown	6	2
USA	8	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>127</b>

Total number held on Immigration holds year-to-date: 1697  
Total number held on Immigration holds since 9/1/2006: 1925

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## The Irving Rambler (214) 675-6493 irving@irvingrambler.com

**Stacey Starkey -Director**  
**John Starkey - Publisher**

**INTERNET www.irvingrambler.com**  
**E-mail irving@irvingrambler.com**

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# Oak View Baptist Church spends Thanksgiving holiday serving others

By Leann Callaway

For more than a decade, members of Oak View Baptist Church in Irving have spent Thanksgiving "Serving Irving."

Willow Bend Baptist Church in Plano also helped with this year's effort, which donated more than 2,000 traditional Thanksgiving meals to apartment complexes throughout the city.

Meals consisted of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, green beans, fruit salad and a slice of pie.

Six teams of volunteers helped with the project. Sergio Matassa, Oak View's minister of missions, coordinated the outreach.

The promotion team delivered door-knocker flyers in the area around each serving site to let people know of the event.

The pie-baking team baked more than 200 pies of assorted flavors.

The packaging team gathered the supplies that were used at each serving location.

The cooking team began food preparation on Wednesday evening and finished Thursday morning. After Angelo's Restaurant in Irving closed on Wednesday night, they allowed the cooking team to use their facility to prepare the meals.

The serving team consisted of 150 volunteers who served the food.

The set-up team loaded tables and chairs and distributed them to the various sites.

All ages volunteer to help with Serving Irving, and many make it

a tradition. For many young families, this project has taught their children valuable lessons about helping others.

"We try to set an example for our children and teach them to appreciate what we have and to see what the rest of the world is like," John Woodard, who volunteered with his wife Randi and two sons Corey (age 8) and Caleb (age 5), said.

"I'm excited because we got to help people who needed food for Thanksgiving, and they got to hear about God," 6-year-old Kamryn Bingham said.

Along with providing Thanksgiving meals, the ministry also provides food for the soul. Volunteers told people about Jesus Christ, while passing out Bibles and gospel tracts.

"We just feel incredibly blessed in our life, and we feel like it's our responsibility as Christians to share Christ's love with the world," Joy Hale, who volunteered with her husband Charlie and two daughters Bailee (age 8) and Ellie (age 6), said.

"I help with Serving Irving so people will know that God loves them," 8-year-old Bailee Hale said.

## Stipes Family Turkey Projects



Rebecca Lockhart's kindergartners at Stipes Elementary School completed Family Turkey Projects in observance of Thanksgiving. Children and their parents worked together to "dress" their turkeys with various materials.



Volunteers served more than 2,000 traditional Thanksgiving meals to apartment complexes throughout the city. Photo by Leann Callaway

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City of Irving

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New Holiday Season Attraction  
Holiday Lights at Centennial Park  
444 W. Second St.



# City hopes to give better service by aligning departments

Continued from page 1

the city. Maybe a month later Code Enforcement decides that is an issue for them, but the police have already finished over there. Working as two separate entities, we create a checkerboard effect around the city. Now we can focus together. In a couple of places, not only do we send police officers and have a focused enforcement, but we also have Code Enforcement go in

there with them at the same time. We actually plan it out in advance as to how we will work a situation together. So you will see a lot more synergistic effect where you get a bigger bang for the buck, because everyone is working on the same problem at the same time.

"Having Code Enforcement under the Police Department gives me the ability to direct resources

where they are most needed. When you don't have that under one structure, there is naturally going to be a difficulty getting those resources going in the same direction," he said.

Distinct differences remain between Police officers and Code Enforcement officers.

"Code Enforcement officers are not sworn police officers, and we do not intend for them to be," Chief Boyd said. "Their specialty will continue to be the ability to investigate and enforce municipal codes related to facilities, structures, grass and things of that nature.

"The fact that a Code Enforcement officer is taking some level of enforcement action needs to be backed by the authority of the City. That is why we have them out there looking official. When they ask someone to correct a situation or violation, we want that corrected. People need to know that there is some authority behind what Code Enforcement is asking them to do; and there will be enforcement to follow if they don't get that corrected. Code Enforcement needs to present themselves as someone who is an official of the City. That is why we want them looking official.

"I understand there could be people who may get that confused. Code Enforcement inspectors wear

white shirts and blue pants. We have no Police officers in white shirts and blue pants. Every Police officer wears the traditional, municipal uniform with blue shirt and blue pants. There are distinct differences that most people are going to understand. It is important when a Code Enforcement inspector informs someone of a violation, that the person recognizes there is authority behind the advice they are being given.

"We do not try to intimidate citizens into compliance. Intimidation is not a tool the Police Department or Code Enforcement tries to use."

Citizen complaints against either Police officers or Code Enforcement officers are going to be taken very seriously by the Irving Police Department.

"We take every complaint seriously. You are going to see the kind of philosophy the Police Department has become part of the philosophy of Code Enforcement. Not to say that it wasn't in the past by the way," Chief Boyd said.

"The credibility of the department and our officers is paramount for us in maintaining our ability to have a relationship with the community. That is why we have a structure in place called Internal Affairs. We investigate the validity of every complaint, and we will continue to do so. It has been my

experience that complaints were taken seriously in the past by Code Enforcement. If someone has a complaint about a behavior or an action taken by an officer, we will look into it.

Citizen education will remain a primary function for Code Enforcement officers.

"I believe that education needs to continue to be a priority, because we don't necessarily want to take an enforcement stance for people who have violated a code and didn't know that they violated a code. We will continue to provide that first level of warning and education. What we want to be able to do is continue looking at the processes Code Enforcement has in place now and reduce the cycle time between notice of a violation and enforcement of the violation. If we currently have a long period between the first notice and several notices before enforcement, under many circumstances we want that reduced dramatically. So we do have notice and education, and once that is done, we get to enforcement rather quickly.

"We will also be looking at repeat offenders. You have people who know they are violating and will do it again, and in those circumstances, we don't have an education problem, we have a compliance problem. Getting to enforce-

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## Are you a lawn criminal?

Weeds shall mean vegetation, including grass, that because of its height is objectionable, unsightly or unsanitary, but excluding:

- (1) Shrubs, bushes, and trees,
- (2) Cultivated flowers, and
- (3) Cultivated crops.

A person responsible for any premises within the city commits an offense if said person permits weeds to grow on the premises to a greater height than 10 inches.

### Civil Penalty

Failure to do so may result in a citation and/or a charge for mowing services and an additional \$350 administration fee if the City of Irving mows the property. The city may bring suit to collect the charges, institute foreclosure proceedings, or both.

### Criminal Penalty

Any person who intentionally, knowingly or unlawfully violates or permits the violation of any provision of this chapter shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Each day in which a violation of this chapter exists shall constitute a separate offense.

Source City of Irving website

## Mungles on Movies

By Matt Mungle  
Title: *The Savages*  
Rated: R

*The Savages* enters theaters in a season of family films and holiday blockbusters. Tough crowd for a film that is a comedy with a dark cloud constantly surrounding it.

Can solid writing and superb acting bring box-office results? You would like to think so but the truth is we want to walk out of the theater feeling jolly this time of year. While you are out hustling your bustle you want entertainment that is light and cheery. That fact alone may cause many to pass over this film. But those who want a

## *The Savages* has superb acting but a dark cloud

movie that is at the core fantastic filmmaking, may want to head to the nearest art house and check it out.

*The Savages* is written and directed by Tamara Jenkins who has been relatively quiet since her 1998 hit *Slums of Beverly Hills*. This time she brings a script that is based loosely on events in her own life while shining light on a real life situation that impacts many people's lives. The story revolves around two adult siblings (Laura Linney and Philip Seymour Hoffman) who are brought together in order to care for their ailing father (Philip Bosco) who is battling dementia. Though a series subject, Tamara manages to mix in

humor and light moments that cause you to laugh along with the characters as well as stress with them over the decisions they have to make.

The acting is incredible. Hoffman and Linney prove why talent is more than a name and high profile. They work together to bring a fictitious family to life and make the sibling element believable. The side plots that deal with their own personal relationships and careers add a dimension to the film and break the level of tension. They bicker nicely and have a comfortable rapport. Besides the father, there are no other characters to carry the plot and story. This puts the weight com-

pletely on the shoulders of the two main leads. And they carry it to the end.

*The Savages* is rated R for some sexuality and language. It is a dramatic comedy and the theme alone makes it not for younger audiences. Otherwise, the language is relevant to the characters without being gratuitous. The same applies to the sexuality. It is there as an emotional element and gives an insight into the mental state of the character. Tamara delivers a solid script and the cast brings it

to life nicely. I give it 3.5 out of 5 private rooms.

Matt is a member of the North Texas Film Critics Association (NTFCA) and hosts the weekly syndicated Indie Rock Radio Show Spin 180. Plus with his wife Cindy they do a weekly radio feature, *The Mungles on Movies*. For additional reviews and interview clips visit [www.mungleshows.com](http://www.mungleshows.com).

Opinions expressed in any commentary are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of *The Irving Rambler*, the publisher, editor, or any staff member.

## Margaret's Corner



Hi Irving!  
I hope everyone had a fun, filling and blessed Thanksgiving with loved ones. We definitely have much to be thankful for.

My family enjoyed the holiday. We also enjoyed our family tradition of putting up the Christmas tree at my house. Thanksgiving also marks (for many people) the beginning of Christmas shopping. Did you go shopping on the Friday after Thanksgiving? Although there are some good bargains, you surely have to be determined to get them.

This season also brings more car burglaries. Be sure to conceal all your purchases as much as possible and of course don't ever leave a purse, wallet, money, etc. visible in your car. I'm sure that parking

in a well lit and populated area is also a good idea. Most of the malls and other shopping centers have hidden cameras and other security, but we have to do our part, too.

The other day I received an email from a good friend about some helpful things a cell phone could do. One claim was that in an emergency, if you dial the number 112 from any cell phone in any area worldwide, it would connect you to emergency services. While this sounds like a great idea, I learned that the 112 number works mostly in Europe and that here in the US we should continue to dial 911 in an emergency. When you are out shopping (especially at night) keeping your cell phone handy (and charged) is important. Some mobile phone service providers offer different options for prolonging battery life but you must contact your service provider to find out.

Christmas is a beautiful season full of love, family, food and presents, but remember that the real 'reason for the season' is the birth of Jesus Christ. And as He taught us to give to the less fortunate and love one another, don't forget to donate some of your time and/or money to help ensure everyone has a Merry Christmas. We can all do something and when we do, we'll see that it really is better to give than to receive.

Attend Church Sunday.  
God Bless You!

Margaret Lopez is an independent writer for the Irving Rambler. An Irving resident for more than 12 years, she and her husband have been married for more than 40 years and have four daughters and four grandsons.

Opinions expressed in any commentary are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of *The Irving Rambler*, the publisher, editor, or any staff member.

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

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<p><b>#ENCHANTED PG</b> 12:55 1:50 4:05 4:25 6:55 7:35 9:30 10:10</p> <p><b>AWAKE R</b> 1:20 5:00 7:40 10:05</p> <p><b>#HITMAN R</b> 1:30 3:55 7:30 9:50</p> <p><b>THE MIST PG13</b> 1:10 4:10 7:15 10:00</p> <p><b>*AUGUST RUSH PG13</b> 1:40 4:35 7:10 9:55</p> <p><b>*THIS CHRISTMAS PG</b> 1:15 4:20 7:25 10:05</p> <p># NO PASSES</p>	<p><b>BEOWULF PG13</b> 1:10 1:40 4:20 5:20 7:00 7:55 9:40</p> <p><b>MR. MAGORIAM'S WONDER EMPORIUM G</b> 1:35 4:45 7:20 9:50</p> <p><b>BEE MOVIE PG</b> 1:25 3:40 6:40 8:50</p> <p><b>AMERICAN GANGSTER R</b> 1:55 6:35 9:50</p> <p><b>DAN IN REAL LIFE R</b> 1:45 4:30 6:45 9:05</p> <p><b>FRED CLAUSE PG</b> 1:00 4:00 7:05 9:20</p> <p>* FULLY RESTRICTED</p>
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# Former Code Enforcement co-workers warn of things to come

Continued from page 4

ment the first time out on repeat offenders, who have been dealt with in the past and know they are violating ordinances, we will take enforcement action quicker. Those are the processes we are looking at currently.

"We are reviewing all of these processes to determine how they will best fit the need. At this point we have made no changes. Any changes that we do plan to make, we will take before the City Manager. My assumption is he will want to take those before the City Council," Chief Boyd said.

Citizens should see very few changes in the way the Code Enforcement Department operates, according to Mayor Gears.

"Placing the Code Enforcement Department under the Police Department was recommended by the City Manager. He felt like he could improve some of the efficiencies in the delivery of service and get better results. It seems like a natural fit to have them working together and coordinating in the ways that are needed," Mayor Gears said.

"From efficiently perspective, it seems that we could have a smoother operation. There are some occasions where there is coordination between the Police Department and Code Enforcement. So it made a lot of sense to put them together and streamline staffing. There shouldn't be any significant change to the citizens. We have been very aggressive with code enforcement for two years now.

"We don't intimidate citizens in any way for anything. City codes are what they are, and they come with the punishments allowed by state law through our city ordinances. That is the system.

"The owners of slumlord apartments are finding themselves no longer owners of those complexes. And more often, find themselves owners of blank pieces of property if they don't comply with city codes," he said.

Ms. Pink, a former member of the Code Enforcement Department, agreed to offer her views on Code Enforcement provided her real name not be used.

"The first reason Code Enforcement officers wanted to be under the Police Department was protection. Code Enforcement officers do get threatened verbally and even with guns sometimes. So they feel that if they are with the Police Department, they are protected," Ms. Pink said.

"Code Enforcement is fueled by the public. If the citizens want certain things, they will do it. No one has challenged them. The reason no one has challenged Code Enforcement is fear of retaliation.

"This has nothing to do with Hispanics. You get a little bit of everything: Hispanics, Blacks, Whites, Indian, Asian. It is old Irving residents and new residents. But it is almost always low-income in the south. It goes back to trying to force a certain kind of people out of Irving.

"A lot of the officers bully the people. They tell them, if you challenge me, I will put more pressure on you and retaliate. And that is what they do. They will pick on homeowners. There is no control. Code Enforcement goes wild, es-

pecially in the older neighborhoods."

Citizens often ask what limits Code Enforcement officers have.

"People complain that code officers are looking over their fence or want to go into their backyard. The reason homeowners put up a privacy fence was so they could use their property the way they want to. Most people don't have junk in their yard, but what ever they have is their stuff and they want privacy.

"Any violation in public view can be enforced by a Code Enforcement officer. If your neighbor allows an officer in their backyard or if there is an easement, and they can see a violation, they can enforce it. They have to be able to see the violation from grade level, in other words simply by standing and looking, per state law. They cannot use a ladder or stand on the back of a pickup to see the violation. They can't take pictures over or through the cracks in a privacy fence.

"Every Code Enforcement officer is taught this in order to receive their certification. But they do these types of things, because no one challenges them. These things will not hold up in court. Unfortunately, most people don't challenge them or don't know they can challenge them. Once a homeowner challenges them, they back off.

"The one exception is: if you have a pool in your back yard, you lose all rights to expect any privacy from Code Enforcement," she said.

"If you don't want Code Enforcement at your house, the first thing you should do is put up a 'No Trespassing' sign. Remember public view. The front yard, side yard, easement or alleyway, if a code officer can see a violation, he can write a citation. If your neighbor has a two story house and allows a Code Enforcement officer in their home to take pictures of your property from their windows, that is allowed. Whatever violation the Code Enforcement officer can see from that vantage point, given permission of the home's owner, he can cite you for.

"Code Enforcement can't even use aerial shots anymore. Years ago, they attempted to find violations by taking photos from planes.

"It doesn't matter how hard they push you. If they want in your house or backyard, say no. Their responsibility is the front yard."

The attitudes of Code Enforcement officers and the community towards individual homeowners has changed over time.

"Code Enforcement officers used to spend their Fridays helping people come into compliance. We would help elderly folks, single parents, handicapped people clean up or cut grass. We helped them, because it was a better solution than taking homeowners to court. But that was when the Code Enforcement Department used to care. Now they don't care. Code Enforcement reflects the attitude of the community and the City Council," Ms. Pink said.

Mr. Blue, a former city employee whose past position at times required him to work with the Code Enforcement Department also offered to express his views provided his real name not be used.

Mr. Blue believes that moving the Code Enforcement Department under the direction of the Irving Police Department will allow homeowners to be abused by Code Enforcement officers.

"Code Enforcement officers have official looking uniforms, badges that look like Police officers, even the signage on their vehicles has been changed from 'Code Inspections' to 'Code Enforcement.' That is their way of telling the community they are no longer here for inspections, they are here for enforcement. And they are selective in what they enforce and with whom they enforce it," Mr. Blue said.

"Code Enforcement is now with the Police Department, but they are not police officers.

"As a homeowner, I am upset that Code Enforcement is under the Police Department. I am in a defensive mode now. Now a Code Enforcement officer has the authority of a Police officer. Already Code Enforcement is moving toward presenting citations on a case rather than giving notice first. Before there was a first notice and then a second notice. Now Code Enforcement officers feel they can just hand you a ticket. If they knock on your door and ask for your driver's license and you say no, they will threaten to have the police come and get the information for them.

"Code Enforcement now has more power to bully homeowners, because they are backed by the Police Department. And homeowners will be even less likely to challenge the authority of a Code Enforcement officer, because now they are a branch of the law. Everyone respects the law," he said.

Through the City's ordinances and its management of the Code Enforcement Department, every-

day citizens are made criminals for the most minor of offences, according to Mr. Blue.

"It doesn't matter to Code Enforcement if you are a single mom, or you're sick, or you're elderly living on a fixed income, they do not care. I have seen people crying out their eyes at the front counter. If someone is in violation of a code and cannot fix something, why doesn't Code Enforcement work with them to find a solution? There are so many resources out there you can't tell me the only solution is to ticket someone.

"If a homeowner has no money to buy paint to paint his house and bring it back into compliance, giving him a ticket for \$160 does not help him buy paint.

Code Enforcement is interested in issuing tickets and collecting fines, not bringing properties into compliance.

"If Code Enforcement gives a homeowner, a ticket for a violation and he doesn't pay the ticket, a warrant will be issued for his arrest. And he is now a criminal. If an apartment complex is issued a citation and the owner does not pay the citation, a lean is placed against the property. That lean must be paid when the property is sold, but the owner is not a criminal. I question why the City of Irving approaches code enforcement for things like high grass and unpainted eaves so aggressively that the City turns its own citizens into criminals," Mr. Blue said.

## Clutter got you down?

A person owning, occupying, or having control of any real property within the city limits of the City of Irving commits an offense if said person permits any unwholesome water, sinks, filth, carrion, weeds, rubbish, brush, refuse, junk or garbage, or impure or unwholesome matter of any kind, or objectionable, unsightly matter of whatever nature to accumulate or remain on such real property or within any easement area or upon any adjacent right-of-way for streets and alleys between the property line and where the paved surface of the street or alley begins. Such conditions are hereby defined as public nuisances.

### Civil Penalty

If such person fails or refuses to comply with the demand for compliance within seven days the city may do such work to bring the real property into compliance.

The costs, charges, and expenses incurred in doing such work including the sum \$250 per lot is hereby found to be the cost to the city of administering the terms of this section, shall be a charge to and personal liability of such person.

### Criminal Penalty

Any person who intentionally, knowingly or unlawfully violates or permits the violation of any provision of this chapter shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Each day in which a violation of this chapter exists shall constitute a separate offense.

Source City of Irving website

## Don't let spending fears ruin your holiday cheer

By Jason Alderman

At this time of year, most people fall into two types: Those who look forward to the holiday season, and those who dread it. Many people end up in the latter camp because of money worries. You know how easy it is to overspend on holiday gifts, travel and entertainment and how long it can take your wallet to recover.

These tips might help move you from apprehension to anticipation:

**Know your budget.** First calculate what you can afford to spend overall and then decide how you'll spend the money - not the other way around. If you haven't been saving for a family getaway or a big-screen TV, those purchases could put you in debt for months to come. It's far better to arrive at a figure you can comfortably pay off, and tailor your purchases accordingly.

**Don't forget the other 11 months.** If property tax is due in February or you'll owe income tax in April, you should be setting aside money right now, not racking up holiday debt. It's challenging, but if you budget all year for recurring expenses, you won't be caught off guard when your car insurance comes due.

**Banish Santa guilt.** Somehow many of us have bought into the myths that our kids will be disappointed if they don't get a mountain of toys and that neighbors and coworkers expect pricey gift certificates as a measure of friendship. Think of all the unnecessary presents you receive each year. Would you like someone any less without these gifts? Would they?

Along the same lines, ask your family (and your friends) about holding a gift lottery, where you draw names from a hat and concentrate your time, effort and money on getting just the right gift for that special person.

**Be creative.** You don't have to break the bank to bring happiness - the gift of your time is far more valuable than mere objects:

If grandma's closets are overflowing, she probably doesn't need more sweaters but she might appreciate a "gift certificate" for you to clean the house or drive her to the dentist.

Friends with a toddler will cherish free babysitting far more than a blender.

Your teenager might love a new iPod, but you may get a bigger hug if you book a month of driving lessons on your calendars.

**Be charitable.** If you're agonizing over what to give someone who already has everything she needs, turn that \$25 gift certificate into a \$25 donation to her favorite charity in her honor. It could change someone's life.

Make a list and check it twice. Before hitting the mall, list all the gifts you need to buy and how much you intend to spend on each. Clutch that list as you breeze through the impulse spending aisles. To stick to your budget, if you go over on one purchase you'll need to make up for it somewhere else.

**Comparison shop online.** Even if you decide to buy your gifts in person, websites like [www.shopping.com](http://www.shopping.com) and [www.shopping.yahoo.com](http://www.shopping.yahoo.com) can supply creative gift ideas and help you find great deals.

**A little planning** - and a disciplined approach to holiday spending - can help ensure holiday cheer, not holiday fear.

Practical Money Skills for Life, a free personal financial management site sponsored by Visa, features a Holiday Budgeting Center ([www.practicalmoneyskills.com/holiday](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/holiday)) with easy-to-follow budgeting, holiday entertaining and travel planning tips.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**December 1 4pm**  
**Holiday Extravaganza** - Celebrate the holiday season with the City of Irving's Holiday Extravaganza. The free event will kick off

at 4 p.m. with a Christmas parade in the Heritage District, followed by a tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. at Irving City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Additional entertainment includes holiday music by the

Irving Symphonic Band, a fireworks show, Nimitz High Madrigal Choir, Santa Claus visits, outdoor games, a petting zoo, pony rides and food. An added feature to this year's holiday festivities is the holiday lights at Centennial Park, which will be on display during the Holiday Extravaganza and will continue through the month of December. Centennial Park is located at 444 W. Second St. For more information, call 972-721-2501.

**December 2**  
**Nimitz Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament** - The Nimitz Viking Baseball Program is hosting its 2nd Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament on Sunday. We would appreciate your support. Tax deductible donations are being accepted - sponsor a hole for \$100.00 - or join us for a great day of golf. For more details, contact Brad Burkhalter at 214-801-8737 or Coach Steve Voth at 214-316-3473.

\$7-14, 972-252- 2787 for tickets. [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com).

**December 6 10am**  
**JumpstART Story time – Holiday Stories** - Presented by Irving Arts Center and Irving Public Library at 10 a.m. in the Irving Arts Center. FREE story time with a hands-on art activity to follow. December's theme is "Holiday Stories." Open to children of all ages on the first Thursday of each month. Groups welcome, pre-registration required for groups of 15 or more. 972-252-7558. [www.IrvingArtsCenter.com](http://www.IrvingArtsCenter.com)

**December 7 5pm**  
**Let the Good Times Roll! A Cajun Christmas Celebration** - Presented by Irving Arts Center: KidsArts from 5-7 p.m. in the Irving Arts Center. The sights and sounds of Cajun culture and holiday traditions fill the Arts Center for the 15th Annual Holiday Open House featuring entertainment, decorated trees, visits with Papa Noel, free family art activities, refreshments and a free preview performance by BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet at 7 p.m. in Carpenter Performance Hall. Student artwork and holiday trees from Irving ISD complete the themed décor throughout the Center. Holiday Open House is followed by a concert by BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet at 8:30 p.m. Concert tickets can be purchased by calling 972-252-2787. [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com)

**December 7 8:30pm**  
**BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet in concert** - Don't miss a rousing concert and dance at 8:30 p.m. with Grammy-winning artists, BeauSoleil, at the Irving Arts Center. Noted as one of the most esteemed Cajun music groups, BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet blends the rich Cajun traditions of Louisiana with elements of Zydeco, New Orleans jazz, Tex-Mex, country, blues and more. BeauSoleil got its start in 1975 and has released 28 albums focusing on Cajun and Creole culture. The concert will take place following the Holiday Open House. \$20-25. 972-252-2787 for tickets. [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com).

## Come Worship with Us

### Advent Worship Schedule

**December 2nd - 10:30a.m.**  
 First Sunday of Advent and Celebration of Communion

**December 9th - 10:30a.m.**  
 Second Sunday of Advent and Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

**December 9th - 7:00p.m.**  
 Blue Christmas Worship: This year we are offering our first-ever "Blue Christmas" service. We realize that the holidays can be difficult days for some of us. Many people find they have trouble feeling "in the spirit" of things. Perhaps a loved one with whom they usually shared Christmas is no longer there. Maybe a marriage has ended or a job has ended. For many people, the Christmas season is a strange and difficult mixture of both grief and joy. This service will provide a holy time in which we can present all of that to our God.

**December 16th - 10:30a.m.**  
 Third Sunday of Advent and Celebration of the Baptismal Sacrament

**December 23rd - 10:30a.m.**  
 A Proclamation of the Christmas Gospel Through the Arts:

**December 24th - 5:40p.m.**  
 Harp Recital

**December 24th - 6:00p.m.**  
 Christmas Eve Worship with Communion and Candlelight

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner.

**Woodhaven Presbyterian Church**  
 3650 North O'Connor Road  
 Irving, TX 75062  
 972.541.0747

Woodhaven News Line :: Extension 211



**December 1 2pm**  
**Holiday Tea** - The Dallas Branch of the Women's Global Network will host a traditional Holiday Tea from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Gardens of Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd, Dallas. WGN Dallas, its members and their guests, will enjoy English tea sandwiches, freshly baked scones, clotted cream, strawberry jam and pastries in the lovely ambiance of this recently restored gem overlooking the sloping banks of Turtle Creek. Businesswomen, professionals and entrepreneurs network with each other. The event fee is \$54 and parking is free. For further information, contact Tonya Johannsen, WGN Dallas Branch Leader, at [TJohannsen@wgn-global.com](mailto:TJohannsen@wgn-global.com) or 972-897-4400.

**December 1 2pm**  
**Family Funday, Card Workshops and Visits with Papa Noel** - Presented by Irving Arts Center: KidsArts from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Irving Arts Center. Inspired by the holiday season, create a festive art project or holiday card to take home and enjoy. Papa Noel will be on hand the first three Saturdays of December for FREE holiday photo opportunities in the gallery. 972-252-7558. [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com)

**December 1 – January 27**  
**Photographs of Louisiana Cajun and Zydeco Culture** - Irving Arts Center Dupree Theater Lobby, presented by Irving Arts Center. Thirty black and white photographs documenting the Cajun culture and Zydeco music scene in southwestern Louisiana during 1984-1985. Several of these photographs were originally published in Ann Savoy's book, *Cajun Music – A Reflection of a People*. FREE. [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com).

**December 2 3pm**  
**Irving Heritage House** - Learn more about one of the early homes in Irving by visiting the Irving Heritage House for a docent led tour. The Heritage House is located at 303 South O'Connor, and will be open for tours between the hours of 3:00 and 5:00 PM. Admission is free. Built in 1912, the Heritage House is a restored pioneer home. For information, call 972-252-3838 or the web site [www.irvingheritage.com](http://www.irvingheritage.com).

**December 4 7:30pm**  
**A Season for Singing** - The North Lake College Choral Music Department will present "A Season for Singing" at 7:30 p.m., in the college's Performance Hall. The holiday concert will feature the North Lake College Singers, under the direction of Allan Andrews, and special guest choir, the Irving High School A Cappella Choir, Sharon Gross Director. Gustavo Tolosa, North Lake piano instructor, will accompany the North Lake College Singers. The concert is free and open to the public. North Lake College is located at 5001 N. MacArthur Drive. Call 972-273-3560 for more information.

**December 4 8:00pm**  
**Inspiring Excellence (Irving ISD Orchestras)** - Presented by New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving in the Carpenter Performance Hall at 8:00 p.m. Young talent comes alive during this musical performance featuring the Irving ISD orchestras. As a special treat, guest soloist Dr. Jean-Christophe Dobrzelewski, Lecturer in Trumpet at West Chester University near Philadelphia, will perform Franz Joseph Haydn's Concerto for Trumpet in E-flat Major.

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**The Nutcracker** ▶  
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 Carpenter Performance Hall  
 2:30 & 7:30 PM


- Saturday, December 1, 8 & 15  
**Family Funday and Papa Noël Visit** ▶  
 Irving Arts Center  
 Main Gallery • 2 - 4 PM • FREE


- Tuesday, December 4  
**Inspiring Excellence - Irving ISD Orchestras**  
 New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving  
 Carpenter Performance Hall • 8 PM


- Thursday, December 6  
**JumpstART Stories & Art** ▶  
**Papa Noël & Cajun Folktales**  
 Irving Arts Center and Irving Public Library  
 Suite 200 • 10 AM • FREE
- Saturday, December 8  
**Home for the Holidays**  
 Irving Symphony Orchestra  
 Carpenter Performance Hall • 8 PM

*Let the Good Times Roll!*  
 Irving Arts Center  
**FREE 15th Annual Holiday Open House**  
 Friday, Dec. 7 from 5-7 PM
- CAJUN CHRISTMAS**  
 and  
 Bayou Bash Concert & Dance  
 BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet  
 Irving Arts Center  
 Carpenter Performance Hall  
 8:30 PM



**IRVING ARTS CENTER**

[www.IrvingArtsCenter.com](http://www.IrvingArtsCenter.com)  
**Box Office, 972.252.ARTS**  
 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Irving, TX 75062

**Free Admission**

## Academy Craft Fair

**DECEMBER 8, 2007 -- 9AM - 4PM**  
*The Academy of Irving ISD*  
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Students, Teachers, and North Texas residents will be selling jewelry, cosmetics, candles, soaps, Holiday decorations, gifts, and more!

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Pictures with Santa!  
 Kids Craft Area

[www.academycraftfair.com](http://www.academycraftfair.com)

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# "Holiday Fanfare" highlights the prominent Irving arts community

"Holiday Fanfare" will feature the 80-voice Irving Chorale in concert with the Plymouth Park United Methodist Church Chancel Choir, and the Metropolitan Winds. Special guest narrator is to be Steven Jones, who will narrate "The Night Before Christmas."

"This concert will showcase the variety of musical talent in our community," artistic director Harry Wooten said. Featuring the music of Texas-born composer Randol Alan Bass, the concert will open with Mr. Bass conducting his composition, "Gloria." The evening will jingle with medleys, including "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas" from the movie Home Alone, as well as holiday medleys of "A Symphony of Carols" and "Seasonal Sounds."

The Irving Chorale continues its 21st season. A community chorus featuring members from the surrounding metroplex, the Irving Chorale performs a variety of traditional and contemporary choral music ranging from anthems and festival compositions to Broadway classics, spirituals, and folk mu-

sic. Join the Irving Chorale on Dec. 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth

Park United Methodist Church, located at 1615 Hwy. 183 between MacArthur Blvd. and Story Road.

Tickets are available at the door. For more information, visit [www.irvingchorale.org](http://www.irvingchorale.org).



Practice makes perfect for Lilly Ramphal-Naley, Billene Andrews, Sue Goad, Jene Gravley (front), Owen Duke, Bill Buchanan, Jean Buchanan and Rolf Naley (back) as they prepare for the Irving Chorale's "Holiday Fanfare" concert.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**December 7 11am**  
**Shredding Opportunity** - Irving residents will get another opportunity to have their personal documents shredded. Destruction

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The Irving Rambler  
Call 214-675-6493

will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the O'Connor Plaza Recycling Drop-Off Center located on the northwest corner of State Highway 183 and O'Connor Road. This opportunity provides for the safe destruction of personal documents. All shredded materials will be recycled. For more information, call Solid Waste Service at 972-721-8059.

**December 7 7pm**  
**Art Opening Reception**  
Art Opening Reception at 7:00 p.m. in Las Colinas. Join artist Ricardo Paniagua Garcia III and the Highlands Education Foundation as they inaugurate a series of shows benefiting The Highlands School. This show will include two of the artist's latest bodies of works of 2007 including his Meditation Paintings and Revelation Paintings. The show will be held at The Highlands School at 1451 East Northgate Drive Irving next to the University of Dallas. Contributions to the foundation are tax deductible.

**Material Exchange Program**  
A free online program that matches residents who have good household items to dispose of with local individuals who can use them is now available. Items are not for sale, but are listed for exchange only. Irving's Material Exchange works to help reduce the number of reusable items placed in the landfill and to expand the city's recycling program. Visit [www.cityofirving.org/solid-waste-services](http://www.cityofirving.org/solid-waste-services) and click on "Irving's Material Exchange Program" listed at the left.

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# Social Security's Quick Disability Determination process begins

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, recently announced that the Social Security Administration implemented its new quick disability determination (QDD) process in the Texas Disability Determination Services effective Nov. 19. Under QDD, a predictive model analyzes specific elements of data within the electronic claims file to identify claims where there is a high potential that the claimant is disabled and where evidence of the person's allegations can be quickly and easily obtained.

"The quick disability determination process has been very suc-

cessful and efficient. I am happy to say it will now help people filing for disability benefits in Texas," Commissioner Astrue said. "This is a very important step we are taking at Social Security to improve our disability programs."

The Social Security Administration currently receives more than 191,600 new disability cases each year in Texas. In New England, where the QDD process was tested, about three percent of all new cases were identified as QDD cases. These cases were processed in an average of 11 days. Since the model does not yet incorporate as many diseases as it can, Commis-

sioner Astrue committed to expanding the number of cases that can be identified as a QDD case while maintaining the same level of accuracy.

"The length of time many people wait for a disability decision is unacceptable," Commissioner Astrue said. "I am committed to a process that is as fair and speedy as possible. While there is no single magic bullet, with better systems, better business processes and better ways of fast-tracking targeted cases, we can greatly improve the service we provide to the citizens of Texas."

For more information about

Social Security's disability programs, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

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# Lone Star Youth Orchestra presents Unsilent Night

Provided by Deborah Hawkins

The Lone Star Youth Orchestra represents the most talented student musicians from 21 Metroplex school districts. This concert titled "Unsilent Night" will be an opportunity for young audience members to experience an orchestral performance.

Bring the family to hear holi-

day classics including A Charlie Brown Christmas, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Sleigh Ride, Silent Night, Procession of the Nobles and Carol of the Bells performed by up and coming instrumentalists.

The Lone Star Youth Orchestra provides young, advanced level instrumentalists in the Metroplex

area the opportunity to supplement and enhance their music education. Membership, by audition, in the Lone Star Youth Orchestra is open to all middle school and high school string, woodwind, brass, and percussion players

Unsilent Night begins at 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the Irving Arts Center-Carpenter Hall., 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. For more information on the Lone Star Youth Orchestra visit [www.lascolinassymphony.org](http://www.lascolinassymphony.org).

# Help for homeowners

Continued from page 1

mitted to working with leading national and local community organizations such as MMI, and providing funding, counseling and other practical tools to help families manage through unforeseeable circumstances."

Unfortunately, many consumers find themselves in financial difficulty because of circumstances beyond their control.

"In many cases, a temporary

financial setback such as unexpected medical expenses or a reduction in income leaves families unable to financially recover in time to save their homes," Ivan Hand, president and CEO of Money Management International, said. "We are privileged to expand this unique opportunity to help more families get back on track."

To learn more about the MMI PHASES program, call 800-762-2271 or visit [www.mmiphases.com](http://www.mmiphases.com).

## HELP WANTED SECURITY OFFICER

Full time position in Las Colinas. Must have one year security experience, no arrest record & available to work weekends and evenings. \$ 10.00 per hour. Call 972-691-7599 M-F, 9-5

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**House for Rent:**  
3 bedroom house, fenced yard, MacArthur/Rochelle area 1105 Fairfield St. Call 972-293-9768

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Direct personal assistance w/daily activities in client's home (grooming, hygiene, & community).  
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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

		6	1			4		9
		2	7	8				5
8	1					5		6
		8		7		9	3	
3	9			5				8
2			3		8		4	
		5		6		7		4
6	8					7	1	
	2		5		9		6	

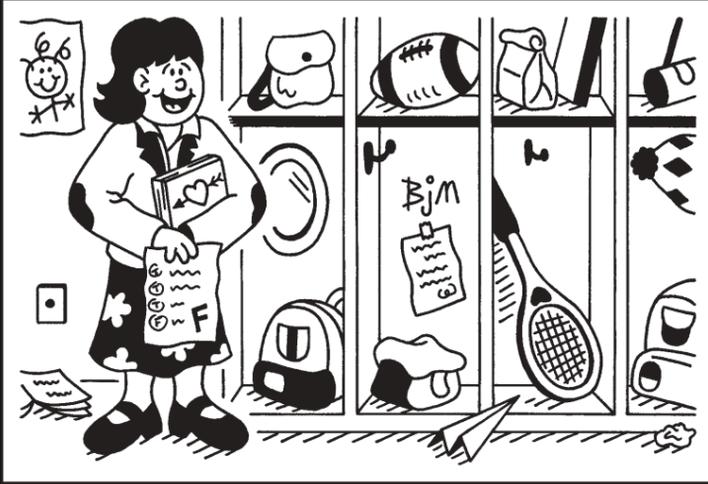
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★**  
★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

# Games and Puzzles

## ComParrot by Bonnie J. Malcolm

Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?



www.comparrotpuzzles.com

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1. Hair curler on drawing is missing. 2. Writing on note in locker is different. 3. Strap appears on backpack. 4. Flap on handbag is missing. 5. Heart on book is colored in. 6. Wall plate has moved. 7. Hook has moved. 8. Stitching on football has moved. 9. Bottom of coat is different. 10. Stripe on backpack pocket is different. 11. Grade on paper is different. 12. Crest on bag is different.

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EVSPNKIFCAXVSQO  
 LFEUREKATOSARAS  
 JHAESCAXVTGREPN  
 LJET **LOVELAND** DIRH  
 TFD CNMAHGNI LLEB  
 BRYXNACTVRRTE DR  
 APOOMESHUKPIPLG  
 SELPANRLIESDTUB  
 PZXWWULWTCRNOQ  
 ELLIVEHSAOONOB L  
 NJIGTFNDCLHAM YX

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Asheville	Chico	Loveland	Sarasota
Aspen	Eureka	Montpelier	Taos
Bellingham	Hot Springs	Naples	Telluride
Boulder	Lawrence	Newport	

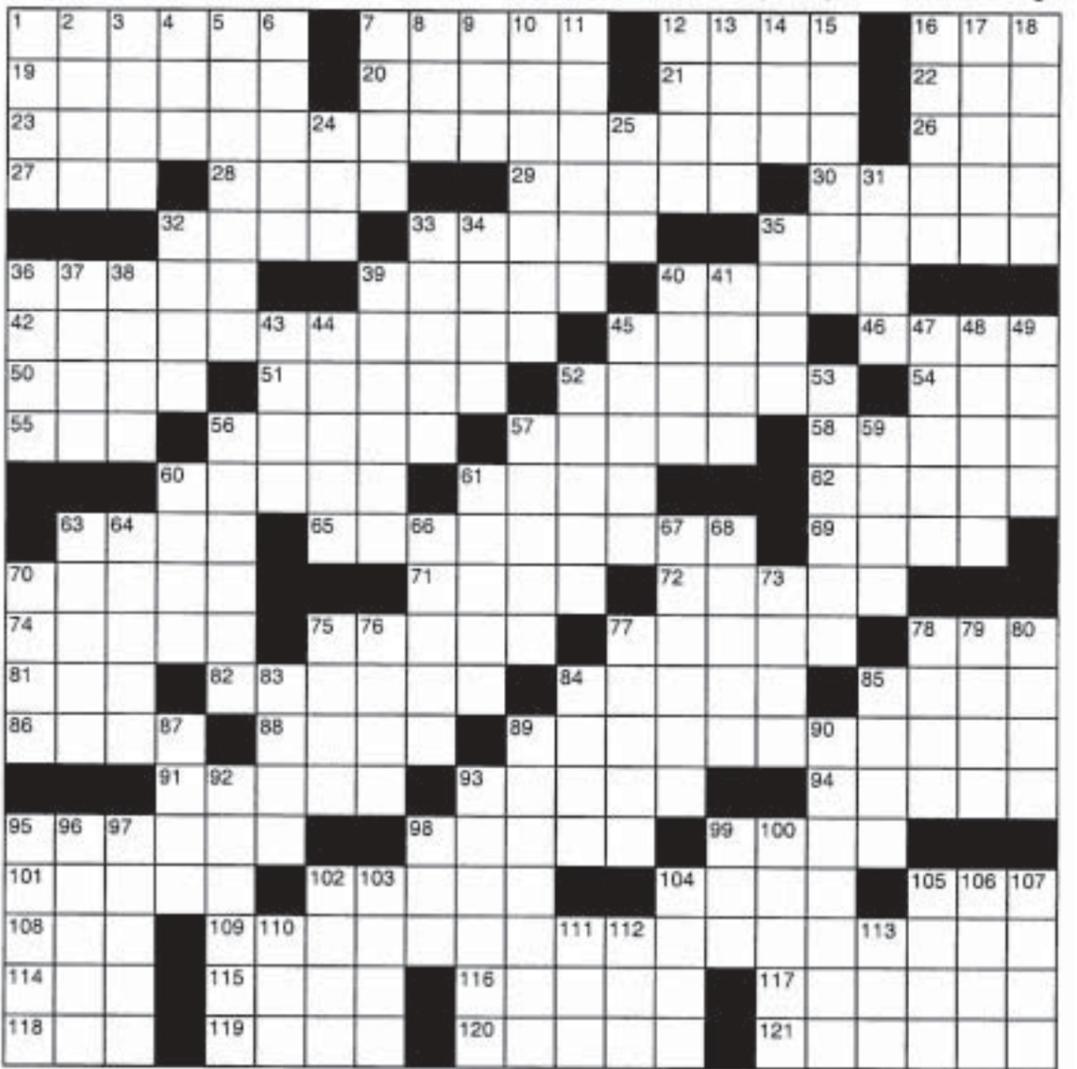
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## Super Crossword HELLISH-TOSIS

- |                               |                                 |                                   |                           |                              |                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                 | 54 Nationality suffix           | 88 Sheldon's "— of Angels"        | 4 Beyond balmy            | 41 Lifesaver flavor          | 79 Actress Sommer          |
| 1 Toady                       | 55 "Baloney!"                   | 89 Clutches, e.g.                 | 5 Aberration              | 43 Type of machete           | 80 Singer Dottie           |
| 7 Pants                       | 56 Eye opener?                  | 91 — acid                         | 6 When Adam was a boy     | 44 Render defenseless        | 83 Baby's bed              |
| 12 "— Strawberries" (57 film) | 57 Respond to                   | 93 Stubborn                       | 7 Go fish, e.g.           | 45 Ekberg or Bryant          | 84 Gangster's gal          |
| 16 Diner order                | 58 Berry of "Monster's Ball"    | 94 Small bay                      | 8 Lofty peak              | 47 Hagar the Horrible's wife | 85 Liqueur glass           |
| 19 Anti-knock stuff           | 59 Fern feature                 | 95 Amulet motif                   | 9 — whale                 | 48 Cairo creed               | 87 Galley features         |
| 20 Kayak commander            | 60 Primer                       | 98 Perk up                        | 10 Cromwell, for one      | 49 Ibsen's "— Gyn"           | 89 Idle talk               |
| 21 Racer Luyendyk             | 61 Pooch                        | 99 Unclear                        | 11 Bauer or Bocho         | 52 Snarl                     | 90 Odd                     |
| 22 Ipanema's locale           | 62 "Enigma Variations" composer | 101 Butcher-shop buy              | 12 Ebb                    | 53 Trekkers' guide           | 92 Tangled                 |
| 23 Riddle: Part 1             | 63 Barrett or Jaffe             | 102 Serengeti sahib               | 13 Incensed               | 56 Certain helicopter        | 93 Bite for Bonzo          |
| 26 "A mouse!"                 | 64 Riddle: Part 2               | 104 "David Copperfield" character | 14 Fool with the facts    | 57 Plant pest                | 95 Tidied the terrace      |
| 27 Deli delicacy              | 65 Wander                       | 105 Fleur-de-—                    | 15 Remove Lutenist Julian | 59 "Thanks —!"               | 96 French physicist        |
| 28 Insignificant              | 66 Like Yale's walls            | 108 Prior to, to Prior            | 16 Feudal figure          | 60 Tizzy                     | 97 Stadium shout           |
| 29 Like Yale's walls          | 67 Songlike                     | 109 Answer to riddle              | 17 Neighbor of Miss.      | 61 Take the reins            | 99 Torrid                  |
| 30 Practice                   | 71 — Patrick Harris             | 114 Corsage fastener              | 24 Salutation word        | 63 Winona of "Mr. Deeds"     | 100 Shady spot             |
| 32 Swimmer Spitz              | 72 Offer an apple?              | 115 Israeli diplomat              | 25 Takes to court         | 64 Heavenly hunter           | 102 Grumpy guy             |
| 33 Spud                       | 74 Writer Wharton               | 116 Novelist Shute                | 31 Temperate              | 66 Remove a ribbon           | 103 "The Perfect Fool"     |
| 35 Keen insight               | 75 Quoted an expert             | 117 Prophet                       | 32 Ryan's daughter        | 67 Thickset                  | 104 "What's My Line?" host |
| 36 Fall behind                | 77 Winter warmer-upper          | 118 Soho snack                    | 33 Perched on             | 68 Anne of "John Q."         | 105 Lingerie trim          |
| 39 "Paradise Lost" figure     | 78 Not many                     | 119 Wort's portrayer              | 34 Camp                   | 70 Be a banker               | 106 "— never happen!"      |
| 40 Top-drawer                 | 81 Classic beginning            | 120 Literary land                 | 35 It'll give you a lift  | 73 Ditch under a draw-bridge | 107 Cartoonist Silverstein |
| 42 Ring site?                 | 82 Napoleon's cousin            | 121 Update a story                | 37 San —, Italy           | 75 Family inducer            | 110 Cable channel          |
| 45 Parched                    | 84 Icing flavor                 | <b>DOWN</b>                       | 38 Got off                | 76 Othello's equipment       | 111 Actress Le Gallienne   |
| 46 Freighter or ferry         | 85 Gdansk denizen               | 1 Cry of distress                 | 39 Audiophile's equipment | 77 Arrogant                  | 112 Overalls feature       |
| 50 In the thick of            | 86 Bond foe                     | 2 Return address?                 | 40 Desire delisted        | 78 "— #1" ('61 hit)          | 113 Chomp on a chimichanga |
| 51 Get the better of          |                                 | 3 Very low river?                 |                           |                              |                            |

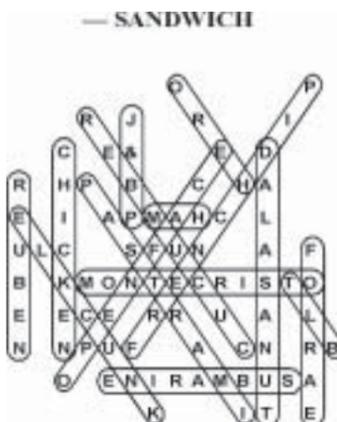


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— Magic maze —  
Answers for 11-22-2007

— Sudoku —  
Answers for 11-22-2007

— Super Crossword —  
Answers for 11-22-2007



7	5	3	2	6	8	9	1	4
4	2	9	5	7	1	3	6	8
1	8	6	4	9	3	2	7	5
9	3	7	8	1	2	4	5	6
8	1	5	6	3	4	7	9	2
6	4	2	7	5	9	1	8	3
2	7	8	1	4	6	5	3	9
3	6	1	9	2	5	8	4	7
5	9	4	3	8	7	6	2	1



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# Middle School One-Act Festival

The IISD Middle School One-Act Festival was staged in the Nimitz High School auditorium Nov. 10. Six middle schools participated in the event. Three judges critiqued each play and offered constructive teaching to the students.

Bowie Middle School and Lamar Middle School received top ratings and many students were honored with individual awards.

Chris Garcia, Houston Middle School, was named Best Actor and Daisy Soria, Bowie, was named Best Actress. All-Star Cast members selected are: Mariah Barksdale, Lamar; Brett Bereuter,

Travis Middle School; Ernest Garcia, Houston; David Mares, de Zavala Middle School; Daniel Park, Crockett Middle School; and Sijifredo Robledo, Bowie.

Directors of the plays pre-

sented include: Kristina Sparks, Bowie, Louder I Can't Hear You; Courtney Reed, Crockett, A Case for Two Detectives; Juan Frausto Jr., de Zavala, My Favorite Class; Julia Wiggington, Houston, The First Date; Mary Kralicke, Lamar, The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet; and Stephanie Ball, Travis, Check Please.

This is the fifth year for the festival.



Six IISD middle school theatre arts teachers who directed middle school act plays are Juan Frausto Jr., de Zavala; Courtney Reed, Crockett; Julia Wiggington, Houston; Stephanie Ball, Travis; Kristina Sparks, Bowie; and Mary Kralicke, Lamar (lft to rt).

## Choir students perform at region contest

IISD middle school choir directors hosted the Region XX Middle School Choir Solo & Ensemble contest at Lamar Middle School Nov. 10. Of the IISD students who performed, 117 received First Division ratings and 16 received Second Division ratings. Four choirs from Travis also performed and received First Division ratings. IISD middle school choir directors include: Charles Salter, Austin; Jennifer Miller, Bowie; Antoinette Gingras, Crockett; Vivian Rodriguez, de Zavala; Shalisha Johnson, Houston; Frederica Braidfoot, Lamar; and Rebecca Wright, Travis.

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# OBITUARIES

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"The Newspaper Irving Reads"

November 29, 2007

**OLA FAYE McLEMORE**



Ola Faye McLemore, of Irving, passed away November 22, 2007. She was born July 20, 1925 in

St. Charles, KY.

Preceded in death by her parents John and Mervia Eli, brothers Winfield Eli and Lorne Eli, and sisters Bonnie Coyle Crick, Helen Franklin, Dot Camplin, and

Lucille Riley; survivors include sons Jerry McLemore and wife Linda of Pace, FL, and Owen McLemore of Josephine, TX; daughters Violet Bennett and husband Gerald of Irving; and Ferry Weber of Josephine; 9 grandchildren; and 15 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Nov. 26 at Brown's Memorial Chapel. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

**LOUISE CHRISTINE JOHNSON**



Louise Christine Johnson, of Irving, passed away November 26, 2007. She was born April 26, 1918 in Wichita

Falls.

Survivors include his sons Richard Johnson and wife Darline of Naperville, IL, and Howard Johnson and wife Carol of Castle Rock, CO; daughters Evelyn Hays and husband Robert of Irving, and

Helen Teeple and husband Dwight of South Plains; brothers Marvin Koch of Denison, and Wilbert Koch of Lake Havasu, AZ; sister Bertha Arnholt of Columbus, IN; 8 grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM Dec. 8 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2620 W. Grauwylar in Irving. Interment will follow at Laurel Land Memorial Park in Dallas. Visitation: 6-8 PM Dec. 7. Arrangements were made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

**DEWEY KERMIT "DEWMAN" KAYLOR, JR**

Dewey Kermit "Dewman" Kaylor, Jr, of Irving, passed away November 27, 2007. He was born Dec. 30, 1941 in Newton, NC.

Preceded in death by his parents Dewey and Maude Kaylor, wife Linda Kaylor, children Jim West and Tonya West, sister Patricia Dunlap, and brothers Noel Kaylor and Gilbert Richards; survivors include daughters Sandra

Lindan; Jamie; and many "Brothers in the Wind".

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM Dec. 1 at Brown's Memorial Chapel with Benny Onza officiating. Visitation: 9 AM-1 PM Saturday before the service.



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# Tom Landry Elementary fourth graders travel to Austin with “Proud to be Texan” program

Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD fourth grade teachers at Tom Landry Elementary took their classrooms on the road to Austin with Education in Action’s “Proud to be Texan” experiential learning day program, Nov. 16. Students visited the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and the Texas State Capitol and experienced what they are learning in fourth grade Texas History.

On the way to Austin, students discussed why Texans are so proud of their unique heritage and participated in activities and games in preparation for their visit. In Austin, the students visited the State Capitol where their legislators, The Honorable Florence Shapiro, State Senator, District 8 and The Honorable Linda Harper-Brown, State Representative, District 105, office. Students saw first-hand where Texas laws are made as they toured the State Capitol including the Senate and House of Representatives chambers.

At the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, students explored exhibits about Texas’s earliest inhabitants, the Texas Revolution and events that created our Lone Star identity. The students’ visit to the museum concluded at the multi-sensory Texas Spirit Theater with the Star of Destiny where they saw and experienced the history of our state including Spindletop and the 1900 Galveston hurricane.

“Education in Action’s programs are based on the understanding that the most effective way for students to learn is through experience,” Jennifer Pasteur, Education in Action’s Executive Director, said. “Student activities during Education in Action’s “Proud to be Texan” programs reinforce and supplement fourth grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills learning objectives with a focus on why Texans are so proud of their unique heritage.”



Learning about Texas’ history, Tom Landry Elementary’s fourth graders hangout at the Texas State Capitol in Austin to experience what they are learn in school.

## Seek immediate help when suffering breathing problems

Provided by John Ruane

The tightness in your chest may not be indigestion. It may be a sign of asthma, and if not treated, it could be fatal. That constant cough may be due to smoking tobacco over the years, but it also could be a symptom of COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), which should be diagnosed and treated or it could be fatal.

Don’t take breathing for granted. That is the message an army of 132,000 respiratory therapists across the United States, promoted by the American Association for Respiratory Care.

There are 32 million Americans diagnosed with a lung disease, 20 million with asthma plus 12 million with COPD. However, there are millions of Americans with these respiratory diseases who have not been diagnosed. That’s the danger.

“Any time an adult or child struggles to breathe for any length of time, they should be examined by a doctor immediately,” Tom Kallstrom, associate executive director of the American Association for Respiratory Care, said. “Americans have come a long way in the past few decades to understand asthma, but people still die because they don’t seek help when they suffer breathing difficulties. Many of those suffering with undiagnosed COPD are even worse off, because they won’t seek help due to guilt or denial.”

Asthma, referred to as the “suffocating disease,” is on the rise. In the 10-year period between 1979 and 1989, asthma cases increased by 60%. No one has been

able to definitively explain this upward trend, but several factors have been suggested, such as increasing exposure to infections, air pollutants and the quality of the air. Of the 20 million Americans diagnosed with asthma, nine million are children. Asthma is closely linked to allergies. Most, but not all, people with asthma have allergies. Children with a family history of allergy and asthma are more likely to develop the respiratory illness.

According to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States. The disease kills more than 120,000 Americans each year (one death every four minutes), and causes serious, long-term disability. The number of people with COPD is increasing. There are currently more than 12 million Americans diagnosed with COPD, but there are an estimated 12 million more undiagnosed COPD sufferers.

A patient suffering breathing problems, who uses an inhaler incorrectly, can still be in jeopardy.

“We strongly recommend that any patient using an inhaler make certain that they are trained on the proper technique required for using that inhaler by a physician, respiratory therapist or nurse,” Kallstrom, a registered respiratory therapist for more than 30 years, said. “We can’t emphasize this enough to patients. If they don’t use their inhaler correctly, they won’t get the needed medication into their lungs. Some patients will keep attempting to take more doses of the inhaler, which leads to other problems.”

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# HMS opens national operations center in Texas expansion

Provided by Heather Plochman

With a commitment to employ more than 400 people at a new 64,000 square-foot facility in Irving, HMS is expanding its roots in the Lone Star State.

"The City of Irving is proud to be the home of the new National Operations Center for HMS," Mayor Gears said, "and we know that the company and its new employees will experience quality ser-

vices and an ideal environment in which to live and work."

"We are excited to add such a fine company as HMS to the Irving-Las Colinas roster of corporations," Chris E. Wallace, President and CEO of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, said, "and we look forward to a great partnership."

HMS is expanding its presence in Texas with a new, state-of-the-art National Operations Center in Irving that will house departments critical to the company's

business. The company will reside on three floors at 5615 Highpoint Drive, where it will operate a 3,000 square-foot printing and mailing facility. The building recently underwent \$3 million in renovations.

Since the late 1990's, HMS has provided services to both the Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the Texas Medicaid and Health Partnership (TMHP). The company has assisted the OAG in generating nearly \$80 million in child support collections, and has gen-

erated over \$200 million in third party recoveries for TMHP.

"We are excited about the opportunity to expand work in Texas and employ some of the nation's most talented, hardworking people," HMS President Bill Lucia said. "The Irving Operations Center is a vital part of our strategy to grow and offer enhanced services for our clients nationwide. We are proud to have a new Texas location from which to help our government clients manage their data and save money."

## Chamber of Commerce announces two vice president promotions

The Greater-Irving Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce recently announced that John Bonnot, Director of Economic Development, has been promoted to Vice President, Economic Development, and Beth Bowman, Director of Membership Services & The Technology Leadership Council, has been promoted to Vice President, Investor/Business Relations.

"The Chamber, through the Irving Economic Development Partnership, serves as the economic development marketing arm for the City of Irving. It is essential that we have high-caliber executives at the Chamber who are committed to the growth and development of Irving," Chris Wallace, President/CEO of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, said. "Beth and John exemplify the leadership and talent necessary to support Irving's continued successful course. We are pleased to recognize their contributions with these well-deserved promotions."

In his new post, Bonnot is responsible for managing the daily operations of the Economic Development Department; maintain and nurture strong working relationships with the real estate and development community; serve as the response mechanism on development inquiries; and prepare various reports on economic development activities for presentation to the mayor and city council, city management team, economic development advisory council and private investors who support the Chamber's economic development program.

As Vice President, Investor/Business Relations, Bowman assists in overseeing Chamber operations, membership (including affinity programs) and marketing, with a focus on building stronger partnerships with the Chamber's top investors including Irving's highest tax payers. Bowman will also spearhead the retention program for the economic development partnership.

## University of Dallas names provost



Dr. J. William Berry

The University of Dallas (UD) announced today the appointment of Dr. J. William Berry as the University's provost. Dr. Berry, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Butler University, a liberal arts university in Indianapolis, will begin his new role as the chief academic officer of UD in June 2008.

"Dr. Berry joins the University at an exciting time and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to support its growth and the advancement of its mission," Dr. Lazarus, president of UD, said. "Dr. Berry will be instrumental in helping UD fulfill its mission to recover the Western heritage of liberal education, to provide professional programs that prepare students for principled and moral leadership, and to expand and illuminate the Catholic intellectual tradition."

Since joining the administrative staff at Butler University in 2001, Dr. Berry led many success-

ful initiatives, including an effort that raised freshman retention from 81% to 88% and increased overall retention from 87% to 91%. He also coauthored several grant proposals that secured more than \$48 million of support for the university.

Additionally, Dr. Berry was successful in working with the president of Butler to bring the university from serious deficits to annual balanced budgets. He has substantial accrediting experience with both regional and specialized accrediting agencies, and has won praise from colleagues for his integrity, courage, and values in the context of collegial leadership.

"I'm delighted to be joining the University of Dallas, a unique place with a proud tradition, and look forward to working with President Lazarus, the faculty, staff, and students as the University builds the increasingly national following it richly deserves," Dr. Berry said.

Prior to his work at Butler University, Dr. Berry held the positions of provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga from 1998-2001 and provost and dean of faculty at the University of Central Arkansas from 1989-1998. In addition to his 19 years of experience as provost, he has also been a professor of history for more than 30 years.

Dr. Berry earned a doctorate in history at Princeton University and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

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# WEEKLY BIZ BRIEF

A business activity report by the Irving Economic Development Partnership.

**OPUS WEST BEGINS SECOND BUILDING.** Developer Opus West has broken ground on a second building in its Opus Corporate Center at Las Colinas located just west of SH-161 on SH-114. This new 110,000 sq ft office building will be adjacent to a similar size office building Opus has under construction. The first building is projected to be completed in December with the second building slated to open in the summer of 2008. Each building will be three stories.

**FLOWSERVE ENTERS MOU TO EXPLORE JOINT VENTURE IN CHINA.** Irving-based Flowserve Corporation entered into a memorandum of understanding with the China National Nuclear Corp and SUFA Technology Industry Company to explore a joint venture partnership in Suzhou, China to make valve products for China's domestic nuclear power market. Flowserve makes fluid motion and control products such as industrial pumps, seals and valves.

**COMERICA OPENS LAS COLINAS BRANCH.** Comerica Bank opened its Las Colinas branch at 1050 W. John Carpenter Freeway at MacArthur Boulevard. Naomi Smith has been named branch manager. The bank will be celebrating its grand opening December 7th with free lunch from 11:00am - 1:30pm, and invites Irving's business leaders to come visit the new bank.

**TEXAS MONTHLY RECOGNIZES IRVING SCHOOLS.** In its December issue, Texas Monthly magazine published its listing of the best public schools in the State of Texas, and several Irving schools were recognized including: Hanes Elementary, Austin, Crockett and Lamar Middle Schools from the Irving ISD and Barbara Bush Elementary and Ranchview High School from the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD.

**IRVING HOSPITALITY LEADERS RECEIVE AWARDS.** Gail Jackson, general manager of the Hilton Garden Inn DFW received the Hotel Association of Greater Dallas' Manager of the Year Award in the select service category and Maura Gast, executive director of the Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau was presented the Association's Friend of the Industry Award.

**ICVB'S FIRST "GOLDEN GIRL" RETIRES.** The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau's first customer services staff member, LaDelle Blackburn, retired from the Bureau after 20 years of service. Mrs. Blackburn was one of 14 part-time customer services representatives, who are affectionately called the "Golden Girls" since most are older and all are women. They serve as on-site concierges; their job is to meet, greet and assist groups that hold their meetings or events in Irving. Mrs. Blackburn became a "Golden Girl" after she retired in 1987 from a successful real estate career in Irving.

**DEVRY UNIVERSITY CAREER FAIR.** DeVry University will hold its Network Connection Career Fair on Wednesday, December 12th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at its Irving Campus. To participate in the Career Fair, please contact Terrence Hood at 972-929-9358. The focus of the Fair will be DeVry's February 2008 graduates, alumni and Keller Graduate School.

**COFFEE BREAK.** Irving businesses are encouraged to take a Coffee Break, Thursday, December 13th, 8:30 a.m. at the Receptions on the Main, 109 S. Main Street in Downtown Irving. This is a FREE networking opportunity for the business community. Participants are asked to bring canned goods for Irving Cares. Coffee and refreshments are served. These events are held the second Thursday of each month.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS

The Irving Economic Development Partnership would like to thank the following entities for their continued support and investment in our program:

<p><b>DIAMOND INVESTORS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Irving</li> <li>Las Colinas Marketing Alliance</li> </ul>	<p><b>GOLD INVESTORS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aviall, Inc.</li> <li>Carrington Laboratories</li> <li>Coldwell Banker</li> <li>RIM</li> </ul>	<p><b>ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY</b></p>
<p><b>PLATINUM INVESTORS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flowserve Corporation</li> <li>Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP</li> <li>Irving Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</li> <li>TIAA Realty, Inc./Cousins Properties Services</li> </ul>	<p><b>SILVER INVESTORS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allstate Insurance</li> <li>Atmos Energy</li> <li>Classic Fare Catering</li> <li>Comerica Bank</li> <li>Friedel Photographic</li> <li>Granite Properties</li> <li>Medco Health Solutions</li> <li>Quantum Custom Homes</li> <li>The Staubach Company</li> </ul>	<p><b>BRONZE INVESTORS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archon Group</li> <li>AT&amp;T</li> <li>Crow Holdings/Apollo R. E.</li> <li>EF Johnson, Inc.</li> <li>ExxonMobil</li> <li>Frymire Services</li> <li>Imlach &amp; Collins Brothers</li> <li>James Hardie Building Products</li> <li>Knight Security Systems, LLC</li> <li>Koll Development Company</li> <li>Office Resource Group</li> <li>Prediction Analytics</li> <li>PS Business Parks</li> <li>Reliant Energy</li> <li>San Jacinto Public Affairs</li> </ul>

To share in the benefits enjoyed by these entities, please call us at 214.217.8484 or visit [www.irvingchamber.com](http://www.irvingchamber.com).