

# Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



## Irving Museums

This month's newsletter focuses on Irving's museums, giving us a glimpse into our diverse and fascinating history. Whether you want to know more about Irving in its earliest days, the African-American experience or stories behind our artwork, these museums can provide the information.

Among these facilities are:

- The Irving Archives—all individuals who have an interest in the history of Irving or its original communities have access to the archives, which are housed at 801 W. Irving Blvd, in the former Central Library building. Several exhibits are online, such as "Between the Forks," an in-depth look at pre-1903 Irving, including information on seven of the more prominent communities that would eventually become the city of Irving.
- Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center—Located at 3925 Jackson Street in one of the oldest African-American communities in the state, Bear Creek, this facility was created to honor the history of the area which was settled by freed slaves in 1850. It consists of: the J.O. Davis house, now a walk-through museum that tells the Bear Creek story; the Sam Green House; the Bear Creek Masonic Lodge; and a Native Plant Garden. The late Jackie Townsell was a longtime Bear Creek resident who served on the Irving City Council for 18 years, and the center is fittingly named in her honor.



The Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center in West Irving

- The Mustangs of Las Colinas—Most people know the iconic equestrian statue in Williams Square, but they might not know that it is accompanied by the Mustang Museum in the East Tower. Visitors can learn more about sculptor Robert Glen and the eight years it took to create the nine galloping mustangs and bring them to Irving. The museum also features additional pieces by Mr. Glen.
- The Ruth Paine House—This 1,250 square foot home on 5th Street has been restored to its 1963 look, and was opened as a city museum in 2013. This home is where Lee Harvey Oswald spent the night before the Kennedy assassination, and has become an important JFK-related site in the Dallas area. Visitors can make reservations for 90-minute interactive docent-led tours that bring that period of history to life by calling 972-721-3729.

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### Did You Know?

Since this issue features museums, we thought we'd let you know about museums and exhibitions dedicated to recycling. Did you know that:

A partnership between the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service has resulted in "Green Revolution," a virtual exhibit about recycling, upcycling, composting waste reduction and shrinking your carbon footprint. The exhibit has been touring the country since 2010. Museums throughout the USA are also adapting and installing eco exhibits to give their patrons the hands-on experience of Green Revolution.

Courtesy of Earth911.com



Our two most recent Adopt-a-Spot monthly winners, Charles Cadenhead (above), who maintains a spot in the Historic Hospital District with his wife Sherry (and their cat!), and Miss Bloomingdale's Academy in Las Colinas (below, staff member Maggie Carillo with KIB goodie bag and litter pickers).

## Record Number of Volunteers at Trash Bash

KIB's 25th annual Trash Bash, held on September 24 at TW Richardson Grove Park, was a huge success. There were 623 volunteers who gave 1,869 hours of service and collected 3,360 pounds of trash and 520 pounds of recyclables. Much more than just picking up litter, this event also had educational displays by naturalist Jon Halsey, reptile expert Barry Allen, and the Irving Water Department. In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the "Don't Mess with Texas" campaign, TxDOT staff was there to make it a "Trash and Treasures" event, with lots of games, information and prizes for lucky volunteers. North Lake nursing students gave complimentary blood

pressure screenings, along with insulated travel cups donated by longtime KIB partner Vizient. Verizon Green Team members handed out 250 "swag bags" filled with goodies. The first 500 volunteers received newly designed gray T-shirts that said "IRVING" on the front with a red heart replacing the V, showing that they love their town and keeping it clean. After the cleanup, everyone was treated to a hot dog lunch prepared and served by a team of volunteer city staff from various departments, with chips donated by Frito-Lay. It was a great way to celebrate the 25th year of this popular community event.

