

Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



Irving Fire Department

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This month's newsletter focuses on our own Irving Fire Department (IFD), which has come a long way from its founding in 1925, when Irving was a one-square mile town and their main pieces of equipment were a 4-wheeled pull cart with a 20-gallon water barrel and a hand pump. The IFD is now a highly respected department, the first one in the state of Texas to achieve the honor of "Best Practices Recognition" status from the Texas Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA), which they did in 2014. Under the direction of Chief Victor Conley (who also earned honors from the TFCA as the 2013 Texas Fire Chief of the Year), the 318 members of the department provide a variety of services, including response to fire, medical, extrication, hazardous materials and other emergencies on a 24 hour per day basis from 11 stations across the city (with a 12th set to open in the fall.) All fire engines in the city are paramedic fire engines, meaning they are staffed with a minimum of one paramedic and supplied with all the tools necessary to provide initial emergency care. The department also has a Swiftwater Rescue Team, which has even helped provide an extra layer of safety at KIB kayak waterway cleanups in the past.



The IFD goes above and beyond both in performing their duties and in community outreach. They run the Citizens Fire Academy, a 9-week program where citizens can learn more about their fire department through classes and hands-on training. Among the many other ways they give back to the community are:

- "Fill the Boot" campaign: Firefighters seek donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, raising \$86,244 last year, another personal best
- Blue Christmas: a toy and food drive for needy families which includes a hotly contested chili cook-off and a pancake breakfast with Santa
- Supplies for Success: In August, they sponsored their 9th consecutive Supplies for Success Drive to provide school supplies to children from low-income families.
- Pink Shirt Days: In October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, firefighters wear pink T-shirts on select days and raise money for research.

For more information on the IFD, go to:
<http://www.cityofirving.org/408/Fire>.

Did You Know?

While searching the Earth911.com website, we found this recycle-related information that also ties into our feature on the Fire Department. A company called Oxgut makes items out of fire hoses that have been de-commissioned and salvaged from fire departments around the country. So instead of ending up in a landfill, these hoses are "upcycled" into mats, handbags, totes, hammocks, furniture, and other household décor. They also give a percentage of each sale to the Alisa Ann Rich Burn Foundation to help enhance the quality of life for burn survivors and promote burn prevention education.



The 25th annual Trash Bash registration is online at our website, www.keepingirvingbeautiful.org, or scan the QR code below. The north Champion Trails have now been opened, so TW Richardson Grove Park is on! The date is Saturday, Sept 24, National Public Lands Day and is an official TxDOT "Trash and Treasures" event. Join us at 9 a.m. for the cleanup, followed by a hot dog lunch.



Annual Awards Ceremony Held August 8

KIB's Annual Awards ceremony was held August 8 at the First Baptist Church of Irving, where 121 guests enjoyed the music of Irving Symphony violinist Caonex Peguero while dining on a delicious meal prepared by Kristine Sanborn. ICTN's Cathy Whiteman served as the emcee, and Councilman Brad LaMorgese represented the mayor's office as honorary chair and presenter. Awards were given to 11 honorees in 9 different categories, including: Youth Leadership: **Nimitz High School FFA**; Educator: **Dr. José Parra, Irving ISD Superintendent** and **Katherine Villarreal, North Lake College**; Faith Groups: **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**; Business and Industry: **Acosta Marketing Group - Acosta Cares**; Media: **Rambler Newspaper**; Civic Organization: **Irving Noon Day Lions**; Lifetime Achievement: **Ken and Rosa Gordon**; Green Government: **City of Irving Traffic and Transportation Department**; KIB Hometown: **Sammy Romero** and **Joe Putnam**. Keep Texas Beautiful Awards were also presented to North Lake's Alpha Zeta Eta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa - First Place in the College/University category, and Rambler Newspaper - 3rd Place in Media.



Winners of the 2016 Mayor and KIB and Keep Texas Beautiful Awards posed for pictures after the ceremony at the First Baptist Church of Irving.

