

KEEP IRVING BEAUTIFUL



NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2



Photos (clockwise from upper left): Visitors to KIB table at Cimarron Park Mardi Gras event; MLK Day of Service with Cistercian students; painting birdhouses at Adventure Discovery Center Day Care; Mike Griffith with Parks staff and his "retirement tree."

KIB started 2023 activities early, with no sign of stopping! First event was a Mardi Gras celebration on Jan. 4 at Cimarron Park Recreation Center, where we promoted recycling and litter abatement by giving out blue bags and car litter bags, along with other items. We partnered with Cistercian Preparatory for an MLK Day service project on Monday, Jan. 16 at T.W. Richardson Grove Park. A total of 58 students and staff gave 116 hours by conducting a cleanup (collecting 137 pounds of trash and recyclables) and brightening a bridge along the Champion Trail with a fresh coat of paint. The birdhouse project continued on Jan. 24, this time with the children of the Adventure Discovery Center, who painted birdhouse that had been previously assembled by KIB volunteers. KIB made a visit to the Heritage Senior Center on Jan. 25 to promote recycling and to connect with our senior friends.

Everyone at KIB wishes Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Mike Griffith a very happy retirement. Mike has overseen KIB since we moved to the Parks Department, and we thank him for his guidance and dedication to the program. Many Parks and Recreation staff members gathered at Fritz Park on Jan. 27 where a tree had been planted in his honor. Good luck, Mike, and we will miss you!"

VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS

Valentine's Day cards are due by Monday, Feb. 6. Please call the KIB office at (972) 721-2175 prior to bringing them by. KIB staff will deliver them to area nursing homes to bring some joy to our seniors! The Adult Day Therapeutic Program group will join us at ICTN on Feb. 9 to make cards and then take a tour of the studios.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

KIB is scheduled for the first Career Day of the year at Keyes Elementary on Feb. 4. Staff will talk to students about volunteering, recycling and KIB programs.

Keep Irving Beautiful is proud to announce that we are the winners of not just one, but two National Innovation Awards from Keep America Beautiful. One is a 2021 award for the unique way we modified the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off, and the other is a 2022 award for the environmental mascot skit. Our own Sammy Romero is the recipient of the prestigious Lady Bird Johnson Award as the outstanding volunteer in the entire nation. Congratulations, Sammy!

KIB staff is busy preparing for an activity-filled spring, "Save the Date" for our spring cleanup, the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off – April 1.