



## IFCD 3, Board leading flood protection in Valley Ranch

By Kim Andres

As a place to live and work, Valley Ranch offers several advantages including a family-centric environment and a location in close proximity to the DFW Airport and with a short drive to numerous businesses and shopping venues. Additionally, Valley Ranch stands apart from its neighboring communities due to its unique system of canals which together with retention ponds extend throughout much of the community and offer residents a terrific amenity including pathways for jogging or for just taking a leisurely afternoon stroll.

But what many may not recognize is that Valley Ranch's canals not only provide an aesthetic element, but also facilitate an important municipal function by acting as conduits for the collection and drainage of storm water runoff as it occurs in Valley Ranch.

Together with other flood control related facilities, the canals enable the development of homes in Valley Ranch by providing protection from the base flood due to the proximity of the land to the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Built in 1980, the grass covered levee that extends along the eastern edge of Valley Ranch has the effect of "lifting" properties from the flood plain to allow for the development of the residential community we recognize today. The interconnected series of canals, storage "sumps" and a pump station to the west of the levee collect the storm water runoff and "move the water"

from within Valley Ranch to a point of outflow to the Elm Fork. Together these features comprise the flood and storm drainage facilities of the Irving Flood Control District Section III.

Known also as IFCD 3, the District is a local government entity governed by a five-member board of directors that is appointed by the Irving City Council.

This past June, the Irving City Council named new members to the board of directors who currently serve on the board. The appointees include Kim Andres, president; Chris Wallace, vice president; William Correa, treasurer; Chris Calvery, secretary; and, through a later appointment, Rakesh Patel, board member. All board members are residents of Valley Ranch. The work of the board is conducted through monthly board meetings that are publicly announced and open to attendance by the public. At all times, the goal is to administer the business of the IFCD 3 in a fiscally sound and transparent manner.

Shortly after being appointed last June, the board took action to strengthen the stewardship of the IFCD 3's funds by enlisting the Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District (DCURD) to provide professional services for the District. Similar to the IFCD 3, DCURD is a governmental entity with drainage infrastructure expertise as it operates its own drainage infrastructure and improvements within the Las Colinas development in Irving. By contracting for facility maintenance, project management and

certain financial services from DCURD, the IFCD 3 realizes significant benefits including reduced operational costs and professional expertise in key operational areas.

Since joining forces with DCURD, we have completed a number of successful projects:

- Repaired the canal bank sink-hole located on the Sundance Canal next to the Villas of Beacon Hill subdivision
- Installed security fencing to protect our pump station facility and floodgates and to facilitate pedestrian access from Valley Ranch alongside the pump station facility to the City's newly completed Sam Houston Trail Park.
- Completed repairs to the main sluice gate at the pump station facility
- Implemented routine waterway debris removal program throughout the Valley Ranch community

Our future projects include:

- Engineering, designing and constructing improvements to stabilize the Ledbetter sump area at the northeast intersection of MacArthur and Avenue of Champions.
- Completing erosion repairs to the waterway slope and shoreline along Valley Ranch Pkwy. East at the bridge just north of Cimarron Park
- Implementing a functional fencing program along the inside perimeter of the levee as it extends from the Lakes Subdivision north and west to connect with MacArthur Blvd.
- Improving the monitoring and operational functions of the flood control facilities with the "supervisory control and data acquisition" or "SCADA" system in the pump station.

In an effort to support communication and transparency with our constituents, the board launched a new Web site, [www.ifcd3.org](http://www.ifcd3.org). The site enables board members to share news and information with members of the Valley Ranch community. By entering the site, a resident can review the minutes of

board meetings, current financial information and audit reports pertaining to the District's finances, the levee certification issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other information pertaining to projects.

Flood protection is an important part of the community. The IFCD 3 board is committed to fulfilling the important role of governing IFCD 3 as it fulfills its responsibility for providing the flood protection services. The board is committed to doing so in an efficient, effective and transparent manner — with a strong focus on fiscal stewardship. As the board moves forward, we will endeavor to keep Valley Ranch residents and businesses, the Valley Ranch Associations, the City of Irving and other constituents informed of new developments as they occur and invite you to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Kim Andres is the president of the board of directors for the Irving Flood Control District Section III. Ms. Andres is a 15-year resident of Valley Ranch and is an attorney with Citi.