In December, the Dallas Cowboys Football Club unveiled their design for the new Cowboys stadium. Amidst Ring-of-Honor football players, cheerleaders, and NBC Sportscaster Bob Costas, an elegantly designed stadium was unveiled by virtual tour, complete with 3-D architectural renderings and animated aerial approaches to the stadium.

As with any development, the journey toward completion includes dreams, vision and hard work. The journey toward building the new Cowboys stadium in Arlington is just that, but on a grand scale. At 300 feet high and a quarter of a mile in length, the new Cowboys stadium is destined to become the largest National Football League stadium.

Over the past two years, several functional teams in Arlington have worked closely and steadily with the Cowboys to secure land, seek funding, develop plans, and communicate about the project to the community. Operational, Financial, Legal, Development, Communication, and Real Estate teams have worked closely with the Cowboys on bringing the stadium project to reality.

Located within the Entertainment District, the stadium and grounds cover 140 acres. At 2.3 million square feet, the stadium will be a state-of-the-art facility. Retractable roof panels, opening doors at the end-zones and field level suites will be part of the technological innovations built into this one-of-a-kind facility.

Continued on page 2
Interest in the new Cowboys Stadium has continued to be high. Anyone can view the construction by accessing the stadium’s web-cam on the City’s website at www.arlingtontx.gov/cowboys. The City’s Cowboys web page also contains the Dallas Cowboys unveiling videos which include the virtual tour of the stadium, 3-D architectural visualization and sideline animation. ♠

“A Stadium Takes Shape, continued

“We are the most visible football team in sports,” said Jerry Jones at the unveiling of the Stadium design in December.

“This stadium will probably be the most visible building in the country. We wanted the tradition to be reflected of the Dallas Cowboys, of course, that hole in the roof is a big part of that tradition. The entire building is glass, and that adds a touch of design, along with it being a very strong building.”

The stadium is taking shape as construction continues to build the infrastructure and supports for the building. Standing at 15 percent complete, the construction is on schedule for the opening date in August 2009. To date, the total project cost is $200,894,450. Arlington has committed a total of $325 million toward building the stadium. The project costs are paid out of a trust account jointly controlled by the City and the Cowboys. The City’s portion of the total expenses to date is $99,993,716.

Over the next three months, construction will come up out of the bowl. Construction began 50 feet down at the base of the stadium. The installation of drainage, utility, and electrical systems, as well as footing and support columns, are now reaching the top of the bowl. Elevated decks, support columns, iron and stairs, and scaffolding for the upper levels will soon be visible above grade.

The Cowboys stadium in Arlington is the continuation of a great Texas football tradition. “It is going to be a great development,” said Mayor Robert Cluck, “It is something that has never been seen before. I like the arches; I like the height of it, the smoothness of it. It just fits that area, and we are really proud it’s going up there.” ♠
Construction of the Cowboys Stadium is in full swing and on target for the 2009 opening. To date, 50 percent of the main concourse has been constructed, 25 percent of the columns are complete, 23 percent of the concrete is in place, and 8 percent of the parking is under construction. When complete, the project will include 26,000 tons of steel, 225,000 cubic yards of concrete, and half a million square feet of glass and stone.

The Stadium is going to be a vast structure with a span of 756 feet wide across midfield (north to south) and 845 feet wide across the end zones (east to west).

The stadium roof is an amazing piece of machinery that will allow events to take place even if our Texas weather does not cooperate. The retractable roof can open or close in 12 minutes. The unique rack and pinion drive system is the first of its kind in the world, with a quarter mile of track. The weight of each panel is 2.1 million pounds.

There will be plenty of seating for Cowboys fans. The capacity is estimated at 80,000 seats, but flexibility is built in with the end zone decks that could add up to 10,000 additional seats. When the retractable glass doors are open between the end zone decks and end zone plazas, capacity expands to 100,000 within the ticketed plaza areas. The decks and plazas provide 420,000 total square feet, or ten acres of space for Cowboy Stadium visitors.

The action on the field will be easily viewed throughout the Stadium. The center-hung scoreboards are 50 feet high by 180 feet long, extending from one 20-yard line to the other on each side. They will be suspended from cables over the playing surface. Scoreboards that are 27 feet high by 47 feet long will also be hung facing each end zone.

While at the Cowboys Stadium, there will be ample choices for fans who want to eat and drink. Not including the mobile food carts and kiosks, there will be 286 concession areas. Additionally, there are eight clubs and 23 bars/lounges in the venue.

There is approximately 207,000 square feet of club space in the building spread out between the eight different clubs.

Getting around the stadium will be accommodated in a variety of ways once you enter through one of the ten permanent ticket entrances. There are twenty-two escalators, including sixteen escalators that will take patrons to the upper concourse level. Sixteen elevators will provide additional means to travel from the ground level to the upper levels. For those who are traveling by foot, ten major staircases will be provided.

The excitement is building for the opening of the expansive Cowboys Stadium as construction continues. Keep your eyes focused toward the Stadium site where construction activity is constantly occurring, and the landscape changes daily.
PHOTO gallery

February 2006

May 2006

August 2006

South side, Event Level to Main Concourse

South side, Event Level to Silver Level
Mark your Calendar
7:30 a.m. Friday, March 16
Arlington Construction Zone
Breakfast at Entrepreneur Expo
Fort Worth Convention Center

Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck and City of Arlington officials showcase Arlington’s healthy construction market. Representatives from the Cowboys Stadium and the Glorypark will introduce upcoming contracting opportunities.

www.entrepreneurexpo.org or call 817-871-6021.

Did you know?

By the Numbers:
Minority and Women-Owned Business Stats as of Jan. 31, 2007:

400 - Number of registered minority and women-owned enterprises
57 - Number of minority and women-owned enterprises with contract awards
$29.4 million - Dollars paid to minority and women-owned enterprises of the total $121 million in contract dollars paid
24% - Contract dollars paid to minority and women-owned enterprises

“From a business standpoint, we’re excited to be part of the Cowboys project,” said Dale Sharpe-Jenkins, president and chief executive officer of the Jenkins Agency, Inc. “As members of this community for more than 20 years, we are thrilled to be a part of the excitement that’s building in our city.”

Since August 1998, the Jenkins Agency has served as a single point of contact for a wide range of insurance needs, offering property and casualty insurance for businesses, as well as employee benefits, group health, life, home and auto. The Jenkins Agency joined the teams working on the Cowboys Stadium in September 2006.

Agent Cassandra Sharpe-Taylor began working at the Cowboys Stadium site as the administrator of the Owner Controlled Insurance Program, which is a requirement for all contractors on the $1 billion project. “What a great experience to be a part of a project of this size, from start to finish,” said Cassandra, who is also pursuing a master’s degree in city and regional planning at UT-Arlington.

As Manhattan, the prime contractor, awards construction contracts, the Jenkins Agency enrolls each contractor into the master insurance policy, which is a requirement for all contractors working on the venue. The master policy includes general liability, umbrella/excess and workers compensation.

Dale Sharpe-Jenkins is the president and chief executive officer with more than 25 years of experience in the insurance industry. She is a certified insurance counselor and a licensed agent in the state of Texas.

Dale established the Jenkins Agency in 1998 as a one-woman enterprise. The company expanded in 2000, when her husband, Jeffery Jenkins, joined the agency as a chief executive officer. The couple describes the joint venture as a “leap of faith.” Jeffery Jenkins is a licensed agent with more than 20 years in the industry.

The company’s book of business has grown from a start-up agency to writing million of dollars in premiums today. The company has expanded over the years to include retail sales and consulting.

The Jenkins have a partnership both at work and at home. They are active in the Arlington community and are the parents of two daughters ages 17 and 21.

The Jenkins say they’re on a winning streak. “We are capitalizing on building good relationships in Arlington.”

Front row, left to right: Jeffrey Jenkins, Dale Sharpe-Jenkins, Cassandra Sharpe-Taylor. Back row: Demetrice Gammage, Rosalind Fantroy.

Coming Next Quarter:
Safety and Fire Protection – Two minority-owned enterprises have teamed up to perform fire protection and safety services on the Stadium project. DFW Fire Protection is an African-American owned firm and 3i is one of the minority strategic alliance partners with Manhattan Construction. Read about this joint effort next quarter.
Arlington Man Recognized as a Community Quarterback

The Dallas Cowboys recently named Arlington resident Thurman Jasper as a runner-up in the 2006 Dallas Cowboys Community Quarterback Award program – an annual volunteer recognition and grant program designed to help identify local volunteers who demonstrate leadership, dedication and a commitment to bettering the North Texas community.

At the age of ninety-three, Jasper is an active volunteer with the Arlington Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, where he serves as President. Legally blind himself; Jasper spends countless hours encouraging others similarly afflicted and in need of information and support. As part of his recognition, Jasper received a $2,500 grant from Gene and Jerry Jones Family Charities donated on his behalf to the National Federation of the Blind. A resident of Arlington for more than 50 years, Jasper’s service to the Arlington community also includes work with U.T.A., Special Olympics, YMCA, Arlington Historical Society and the Kiwanis Club.

The Community Quarterback Award panel was made up of Calvin Hill, former Dallas Cowboys running back and team consultant; Babe Laufenberg, KTVT-TV CBS 11; Brad Sham, Dallas Cowboys Radio; Kristi Scales, Dallas Cowboys Radio; Mrs. Gene Jones, Gene and Jerry Jones Family Charities Chairman of the Board and Charlotte Anderson, Dallas Cowboys Executive Vice President.

Dallas Cowboys Open Spring Scheduling for the Gatorade Junior Training Camp

In 2006, the Dallas Cowboys served more than 2,000 Arlington youth through the team’s Dallas Cowboys / Gatorade Junior Training Camp (JTC) program at Butler, Burkin, Rankin, Little and Miller Elementary Schools – along with a special two-day session held at Carter Junior High School aimed at increasing student interest in available athletic opportunities. Underwritten by Gene and Jerry Jones Family Charities and Gatorade, JTC is a complimentary grass roots, non-contact football clinic featuring the educational and recreational benefits of football presented in a safe and fun environment for students (both boys and girls), typically between the ages of 7 and 14. JTC emphasizes fun, instead of winning, so that ANY student can participate - regardless of age, gender, ability or experience. For more information on scheduling a JTC at your school, church or community center this Spring, please visit Community at www.dallascowboys.com or call 972-556-9959.
On Monday, February 12, a portion of Copeland Road west of Convention Center Drive was closed. The closure is in preparation for the construction of a temporary by-pass road, which is part of more than $150 million in roadway improvements planned along Interstate 30.

During the three-week closure of Copeland Road, alternate routes include Convention Center Drive, Nolan Ryan Express Way (from Copeland Road to Road to Six Flags), Ballpark Way, and Randol Mill Road. This area of Copeland Road is scheduled to be completed by March 5.

When the temporary by-pass road is complete, Copeland Road will become a three-lane asphalt roadway. Traffic will be re-routed until the completion of I-30 improvements. Businesses and residential properties in this area are being notified of the construction plans via information bulletins. Portable message boards are also going up in the area.

Looking Ahead
Roadway construction in the Entertainment District will enhance mobility and traffic safety. Baird Farm Road is under construction to become a six-lane divided boulevard with a new bridge over I-30. A new Center Street bridge is in progress and a modified Collins Street bridge is planned, along with I-30 frontage road improvements and other Arlington gateway enhancements.

For more information about this project, contact the City of Arlington Office of Communication at 817-459-6402 or www.arlingtontx.gov.