BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

As Opening Day 2009 draws closer, the pace of construction on the new Cowboys Stadium quickens. The 1,100 construction workers are busy with many facets of the stadium, from completing the south side arch to installing toilets, concession stands, bunker suites, and the roof. Excitement is building as both the exterior elements to the stadium are applied and suites, locker rooms, clubs and lounges take shape on the inside. Walking through the stadium, one can almost feel the excitement of a Cowboy football game on a Sunday afternoon.

(continued, next page)
Get Cowboys Stadium Updates!

View construction progress by accessing the live webcam on the City of Arlington’s website at www.-arlingtontx.gov/cowboys. This site also contains the latest news on the development as well as announcements such as Super Bowl XLV to be played in Arlington in 2011. The Cowboys webpage is your source for staying informed.

Build it and They Will Come continued

On a brisk, February morning the northern quarter-mile free-standing arch was completed with the raising of the final keystone 300 feet above the playing field. A few spectators were on hand to witness the raising of the final piece, weighing 186,000 pounds and measuring 51-feet long and 35-feet tall. It was another milestone moment for the first stadium of its kind in North America with two quarter-mile free-standing steel arches. Each arch containing 50,000 bolts is accompanied by 165,000 total feet of welding, and is covered with 2,000 gallons of primer paint and 2,000 gallons of finish paint. These impressive arches will support the 660,800 square feet roof, one of the largest domed sports structures in the world. The retractable roof will open or close in 12 minutes. The arches will also carry the weight of the 660-ton (1.2 million pounds) scoreboard, scheduled for installation in the spring/summer of 2009. The scoreboard is 160-feet long and 70-feet tall.

Since December 2007, approximately 60 percent of the 2,600 pieces of glass have been installed on the south side of the facility. The glass introduces a major architectural element with its sleek, translucent design allowing natural sunlight to radiate into the stadium. Combined with the retractable roof, the end zone doors will add to the openness and airy feeling of the stadium. Workers began installing the fritted glass at the southwest corner of the stadium moving east. The midpoint on the south side contains a large 115 feet long by 68 feet high video screen that will be used to display advertisements, the stadium name or other purposes that are identified. Just below the glass and video screen is limestone marble, a natural stone with a blue-grey color, quarried near Ontario, Canada. Once the stone surrounds the base of the stadium, it will project a natural, earthy compliment similar in color to match the glass.
Fan seating continues to be built as crews erect the steel structures for the East End Zone seating. The field-level suites are taking shape with concrete blocks and precast concrete structures.

When the 80,000 plus fans come to the new stadium for games and other events, they’ll enjoy a large selection and variety of eating, drinking, and shopping choices. The 286 concession areas, 8 clubs and 23 bars/lounges are taking shape. Also taking shape are plenty of restrooms available nearby – 669 water closets, 188 handicapped closets, 34 locker room toilets, and 379 bathrooms for suites. The main concourse will serve as the primary gathering space providing ingress and egress to the entire stadium.

Once the Super Bowl arrives in 2011, we’ll see how the stadium can expand seating to accommodate 100,000 fans. In fact, the new structure has not only secured professional football’s biggest game, it has lured the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic and will be the new home of the Texas A&M-Arkansas football series.

On October 3, 2009, former Southwest Conference foes Texas A&M and Arkansas will revive their college gridiron rivalry at the new stadium. Games between these two football powers halted after November of 1991 when the Razorbacks left the Southwest Conference for the Southeastern Conference. The long-term agreement calls for the schools to compete at the new stadium for a decade followed by five, four-year rollover options.

That means the Aggies and Razorbacks could meet in Arlington for 30 consecutive seasons, if options are exercised, with games played on a late September to mid-October weekend during the State Fair of Texas in Dallas.

Keeping Score

- 4,000 Gallons of primer and finish paint used to cover each arch
- 12 Length of time in minutes for retractable roof to open or close
- 286 Total number of concession areas
- 699 Number of water closets
- 188 Number of handicapped closets
- 660 The weight in tons of the center hung scoreboard
- 34 Number of locker room toilets
- 379 Number of bathrooms for the suites
- 23 Number of bars/lounges
- 660,800 The square footage of the roof
- 160 and 70 The scoreboard length and height in feet

With 58 percent of the project complete, the Cowboys Stadium remains on schedule for an August 2009 opening. To date, project costs have reached $511,707,135. Arlington has committed a total of $325 million. The City’s portion of the total expenses to date is $252,964,709. The costs are paid out of a trust jointly controlled by the City of Arlington and the Cowboys.
Photo gallery

FEBRUARY 2008
View south to home side.

FEBRUARY 2008
Upper level looking northeast.

APRIL 2008
South side exterior glass.
This photo gallery captures this quarter’s construction milestones.

Photography courtesy of the City of Arlington and the Dallas Cowboys.
When video display boards at the new Cowboys Stadium light up for the 2009 NFL football season, Blue Star Electric President and Owner Sally Walker will marvel in their glow. As the rooftop retracts above an estimated 80,000 fans on game day, she’ll know its operation was possible due to her involvement.

Walker secured an electrical contract to work on the Cowboys Stadium. To date, Blue Star Electric has provided nearly $1 million in conduit, wires, connectors, fittings and other electrical supplies to the Cowboys Stadium project. As a subcontractor, she works closely with JMEG Electrical Contractors who performs the installation.

She said her work on this $1 billion venue project is a result of perseverance and good relationships among industry professionals. After reading about the Cowboys Stadium coming to Arlington, Walker said she got online and registered as a women-owned business.

Walker began her company in 2001 with a small business loan, “a wing and a prayer,” she said. “I was tired of being someone else’s employee,” she said. “I understood the business and knew I could succeed as a woman in a male-dominated profession.”

Walker has grown her Arlington-based company to include three part-time employees. After studying religion, psychology and political science, she also obtained a journeyman electrical license.

While working on the stadium, Blue Star Electrical is also completing a contract with Children’s Medical Center Legacy in Plano. Some of her largest clients have included the Texas Department of Transportation and Dallas’ Victory Park project. She has supplied electrical goods and equipment for the Capital One building in Dallas and new dormitories at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

But Walker states the Cowboys Stadium has been the biggest, most exciting project to date. “The Cowboys Stadium is going to be a beautiful complex,” she said. “It has the real potential to bring a lot of commerce to this city and region. I am pleased to say that I had a part in helping to make it a success.”

Learn more about Blue Star Electric by calling 817-253-7513 or e-mail BlueStarElect@aol.com.

Members of the Fair Share Committee toured the Cowboys Stadium on March 4, getting an up close and personal look at construction progress.

Coming Next Quarter:
The Fair Share Committee is comprised of community leaders with a vested interest in growing opportunities for historically underutilized businesses. Next quarter, meet MWBE Coordinator Katrina Keyes and discover how the program is meeting this goal by increasing the participation of minority and women-owned enterprises working on the Cowboys Stadium project.
Dallas Cowboys Coaches Clinic

The Dallas Cowboys will present their annual youth Coaches Clinic at Texas Stadium in July. The complimentary, one day clinic, is underwritten by Gene and Jerry Jones Family Charities for youth, middle school football coaches, and Salvation Army agencies across the United States. The clinic allows the Dallas Cowboys coaching staff to share their strategies, as well as years of football knowledge and experience with coaches who strongly impact the lives of young athletes. Cowboys Owner and General Manager Jerry Jones, along with Head Coach Wade Phillips will address the participants during lunch, discussing their thoughts on coaching youth football and the importance of making an impact on young athletes playing the game. For more information on the Dallas Cowboys Coaches Clinic, visit “Community” at www.dallascowboys.com.

Stadium Financing Update

While the sub-prime mortgage fall out continues to cause ripple effects throughout the national economy, including the municipal bond industry, it has not significantly affected the City of Arlington’s portion of the bonds issued for the Cowboys Stadium complex.

In spite of recent fluctuations in the market, the Cowboys Stadium Complex bonds are still currently projected to be repaid by 2020, according to City of Arlington Director of Financial Services Anna Mosqueda. That is 15 years in advance of the original 2035 maturity date.

In an April 1 memorandum to Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck and the City Council, Mosqueda said that as the sub-prime mortgage related credit turmoil has grown, there has been heightened attention regarding its impact on the Municipal Bond Insurers who insure a large amount of municipal bonds and also provide insurance for principal and interest associated with securities backed by pooled sub-prime mortgages.

“As the value of these securities has dropped and the likelihood of default has increased, rating agencies have begun to examine the previously AAA rated bond insurers for adequate capital backing to support a potential pay off to investors,” Mosqueda said. “Further exacerbating the situation is that mutual funds are significant players in the purchase of securities, and they require those securities to be AAA rated. As the ratings of a bond insurer are affected, there is a domino effect in the market. The market continues to be very fluid with changes occurring on a daily basis.” The city finance team in conjunction with the Public Financial Management Group (PFM), the financial advisor for the bond issue, and JPMorgan Chase, the re-marketing agent, continues to monitor these changes.
Making Roadway Connections in the Entertainment District

An estimated $4 million in roadway improvements along Copeland Road and the new Baird Farm Road were completed in April, opening up travel throughout the City’s Entertainment District.

The Baird Farm Road extension from Copeland Road to Randol Mill Road now connects I-30 with the new Dallas Cowboys stadium and the Ball Park in Arlington.

The new Baird Farm Road Bridge over I-30 is scheduled to be completed in summer 2010. This bridge will provide direct access to the Entertainment District via I-30 while providing another North/South route across the Interstate.

Now Open!

The Road to Six Flags extension between Nolan Ryan and Ballpark Way is open. The Texas Rangers and City of Arlington celebrated the completion with a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 3. Now the Road to Six Flags really is a road to the Six Flags Amusement Park. Motorists can drive from Cooper Street all the way to Six Flags Drive.

Interstate 30

Traffic has been shifted onto temporary main lanes to rebuild I-30. The nearly two miles of construction will carry three lanes of traffic in each direction. This traffic shift is necessary to allow for the lowering of the new lanes between Collins Street and Ballpark Way. The first major phase of work will remove old pavement and begin excavation. The new eastbound main lanes will be approximately 20 feet below the current grade.

The $165.6 million project includes the reconstruction of the I-30 main lanes from Cooper Street to Ballpark Way, new bridges at Center Street and Baird Farm Road, and the replacement of the Collins Street Bridge. Completion of the Center Street Bridge is set for fall 2008, with significant portions of the remaining project complete by the summer of 2010.

Due to construction, the Nolan Ryan eastbound entrance ramp will be closed for several months. Use the Copeland Road entrance ramp as an alternate route to I-30. The eastbound I-30 to northbound Ballpark Way exit ramp has been closed permanently.

Plan ahead, observe traffic control signals and follow detours. Visit the City of Arlington website for updates.

For more information about roadway improvement projects planned in the Entertainment District, call the City of Arlington Department of Public Works at 817.459.6550 or visit the City of Arlington website at www.ArlingtonTx.gov keyword search Entertainment District.