

DISTRICT NEWS

October, 2010

BOARD ADOPTED UTILITY RATES FOR 2010/11

District 1-A presented to each Board of Directors updated Utility Rates for fiscal year 2010/11 for consideration at their August and September meetings. All District Boards, with the exception of District 1-B, approved the suggested rates which become effective October 1, 2010. Below is a summary of utility rate changes:

- Residential Water Rates: No change from last year.
- Residential Sewer Rates: Base Rate increase from \$8.75 to \$10.70 per month.
Volume Rate increase from \$3.70 to \$4.90 per 1,000 gallons. Volume usage is determined by the average monthly water used during November to February, or the Winter Average Period. Average monthly increase is \$7.74.
- Solid Waste: The monthly solid waste pick-up rates have increased from \$15.13 to \$15.43 as a result of increases by Waste Management.

New rates became effective October 1, 2010.

BOARD ADOPTED PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR 2010/11

During the month of September, each District Board took action on adopting both tax and utility rates for the fiscal year starting October 1, 2010. Property taxes in all Districts remain at the same tax rate as last year. Due to an overall reduction in the Market Value established by the Denton Central Appraisal District, the average homeowner will see a reduction in District property taxes.

District	Property Tax Rate	Average Resident Tax Bill	Homeowner Change from Last Year Increase/(Decrease)
1-B	\$0.90	\$3,230	\$(208)
1-C	\$0.90	N/A	N/A
1-D	\$0.90	\$4,630	\$(119)
1-E	\$0.90	\$3,324	\$(16)
1-F	\$1.00	\$3,182	\$(598)
1-G	\$1.00	N/A	N/A
1-H	N/A	N/A	N/A

NEW FEATURE - BUDGET BILLING

For the past few months, District 1-A has been testing a new Budget Billing feature in our Utility Billing software that will provide customers an easy way to even out your water bills on a year-round basis. The amount of your monthly payment is based on a rolling 12-month average of your consumption amount. Changes to the average monthly usage will result in changes each month of the budget bill total amount. The average is recalculated during each billing cycle, which will cause your payment amount to fluctuate somewhat from month to month, but it should help reduce your highest summer water bills. This feature is still in the testing stage and we will let you know when it is available.

YOU CAN HELP THE DISTRICT (and yourself)

When you shop, choose a Castle Hills retailer first. Through an agreement with the City of Lewisville, retailers in Castle Hills now charge the 1% Lewisville municipal sales tax rate. Those tax dollars collected by the retailers are used to cover the expense of providing public safety services to the District, reducing the need to cover those expenses through property taxes or utility revenues. Funds in excess of the public safety expense are shared by the City of Lewisville and the Districts offsetting District debt obligations or as a new revenue source.

The District website, www.dentoncountyfwsd.com, provides a list of retailers in the Village Shops and the Lewisville Towne Crossing (Target center) for your convenience. By shopping at our retailers first, you are providing a direct benefit to the community.

WATCH FOR THE KIDS

School is back in session which puts large concentrations of children walking to and from school each day and an exceptional amount of vehicle traffic around the schools. The areas around Castle Hills Elementary, Independence Elementary, and Killian Middle School are very busy in the morning and afternoon, which requires special attention. Please pay close attention to traffic signage, speed limits, cross walks, and other drivers in these areas. If you have children walking to and from school, please remind them to use marked cross-walks, look both ways before crossing a street, and to use the sidewalks.

DID YOU KNOW?

- You can pay your District utility bill either on-line through our website at www.dentoncountyfwsd.com or set-up monthly automatic bill pay through our office staff.
- Rosa's Mexican Cantina is currently under construction in the Lewisville Towne Crossing Development adjacent to our Target. Watch for the opening later this year.
- There have been 280 new home permits issued from October 2009 to August 2010.
- Customers purchased 14 million gallons of water in the month of February, 2010 or an average of 5,919 gallons per household.
- Customers purchased 92.73 million gallons of water in the month of August, 2010 or an average of 41,213 gallons per household.
- Castle Hills currently has 2,250 homes with an estimated population of 7,875.
- If you need after hour assistance from the District, you can call (972) 709-2359 for our on-call service.
- School is back in session. Please watch before and after school for children walking to and from our schools.