

DISTRICT NEWS

January, 2011

WINTER WEATHER TIPS

As we leave the holiday season and enter a new year, it is time in North Texas for our few months of cold winter weather. During this time, please check your required irrigation rain/freeze sensors so that your household irrigation does not create hazardous conditions on sidewalks and streets. In the event that we do experience extended periods of freezing weather, please protect your outside faucets and household pipes that may be on an exterior wall. It is not uncommon for the District to receive numerous after-hour calls for ruptured water pipes, which can easily be prevented. If roads are icy, the District does dispatch staff to place sand on bridges, hills, and other areas that are slick due to icy conditions.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

There has been extensive discussion and media coverage over the past few months regarding traffic safety and enforcement in Castle Hills. District 1-A has contracted with the City of Lewisville, since the inception of the development, to provide police services. Due to a recent Texas Attorney General Opinion, the legal standing of the existing traffic regulatory signs (speed limits, stop signs, no parking, school zones, etc.) was put into question. On December 20, 2010, the Lewisville City Council adopted an Ordinance that fully addressed the authority of all regulatory traffic signage in Castle Hills. Beginning January 4, 2011, traffic tickets that are written in the subdivision will be handled by the Lewisville Municipal Court. Traffic safety is a major concern of everyone and we all need to do our part to protect the safety of other motorists and pedestrians.

RECYCLE YOUR LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE AND UNWANTED HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Recycling live Christmas trees helps to reduce waste, extend landfill life, provides useful compost, and saves money. Now through January 15, live Christmas trees can be dropped off at Lewisville Lake Park which is located at Lake Park Road and Mill Street near the soccer fields, to be recycled into mulch. All nails, wire, ornaments, lights, and tinsel must be removed prior to dropping off trees. Also through January 15, free mulch will be available to residents for use in yards, gardens, flower beds, walkways, around trees and shrubs, or for livestock bedding.

The event is sponsored by Keep Lewisville Beautiful and Lewisville Parks and Leisure Services. For more information call KLB at 972-538-5949 or PALS at 972-219-3550.

In addition, residents are encouraged to recycle any unwanted holiday lights, working or otherwise. These lights contain glass, copper, and plastics that can be recovered and made into new products. Lights can be dropped off at the Lewisville locations of The Home Depot and Lowe's.

YOU CAN HELP THE DISTRICT (and yourself) SHOP CASTLE HILLS

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.

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 will be available beginning January, 2011.

WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation is typically thought of during the hot summer months when the water system is taxed at its highest levels. However, it is just as important to be conservative during the winter months when the need for outdoor water use is at its lowest. During the winter months, overwatering landscaping causes excessive water run-off in the streets and alleys which can cause icy conditions. Check your irrigation system controller and reduce the number of days, reduce the time each zone is running or turn the system off and manually operate your irrigation system only when needed.

DID YOU KNOW?

- You can pay your District utility bill either on-line through our website at www.dentoncountyfwsd.com or by setting up a monthly automatic bill pay through our office staff.
- There were 11 home permits issued in December.
- Customers purchased 36.3 million gallons of water in November, 2010 an increase of 8.23 million gallons from November, 2009. That represents an average increase of 1,645 gallons per resident this year.
- Castle Hills currently has 2,322 homes with an estimated population of 8,081.
- 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 for children walking to and from our schools.
- Most roadways in Castle Hills have only one lane in each direction, unless divided by painted lane markings or roadway buttons.