

Council puts additional 2% hotel occupancy tax on ballot

The City Council has voted to put an additional 2% hotel occupancy tax, or HOT, on the May 4 ballot.

HOT is paid by those renting a hotel room. The 2% HOT would be in addition to the current 15% general state and local HOT. If approved by voters, the 2% increase would put the total HOT at 17%, which is the current rate in Houston and Austin.

The 2% HOT is projected to generate \$10 million per year, which would be used to support revenue bonds for the Fort Worth Convention Center renovation. Construction costs for the long-planned renovation have increased due to inflation and other factors.

votetexas.gov



WORTH KNOWING



After a decade of dedicated service, Henry hung up his harness and has retired. Henry, a Labrador-mix, is himself a former shelter pet. He was found wandering the streets of Fort Worth, alone, hungry and sick. Living on the streets nearly took its toll on the young dog. Today, Henry is a healthy and happy dog who has spent the last decade raising funds for shelters, visiting schools and attending public events to help teach people how to take care of pets.

Earth Month is here! This year's theme is Planet vs. Plastics

Plastic pollution is an increasingly global issue. Plastics recycling is one of the simplest solutions to combatting this growing problem, but it is also one of the most underutilized actions taken by people.



Plastic pollution's negative impacts on the environment:

- Harms marine and human health
- Contributes to litter on beaches, waterways and landscapes
- Clogs waste streams
- Takes up valuable space in landfills

The simple action of placing a plastic bottle in a recycling bin versus discarding it in a trash bin can make a significant difference, especially in Fort Worth.

FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/environmental-services/solidwaste/recycling

Three local entities will share in more than \$660,000 to provide services battling the ongoing opioid crisis in Fort Worth. In 2022, overdoses in Fort Worth reached a three-year high, with MedStar Mobile Health treating an average of three patients a day in August of that year. Grant recipients include: SaferCare Texas, My Health My Resources of Tarrant County, and the Fort Worth Fire Department.



Lawn watering season is here. Ensure your system is ready at the Sprinkler System Spruce Up class

With watering ramping up during the warmer months, customers should consider sprucing up their sprinkler systems with WaterSense-labeled products. Spring is the perfect time to sprinkle in savings that can help support conservation in Fort Worth and beyond.

With sprinkler systems popping back up, consider replacing any cracked or broken spray nozzles with new high-efficiency rotary nozzles. These sprinkler heads are easy to replace, available at all major home improvement stores, and can increase water savings up to 30% across your yard. By reducing pressure, these new sprinkler heads create heavy droplets that stream out of the sprinkler, reducing evaporation and helping to ensure the water falls exactly where you want it.

Not sure how to replace one of these easy, high-efficiency sprinkler heads? Join the irrigation experts from RootedIn 6-8 p.m. April 11, online or in-person, at the Botanic Research Institute of Texas (Fort Worth Botanic Gardens) for a Sprinkler System Spruce Up class. Tickets, parking and giveaways are always free. Sign up through Eventbrite at SaveFortWorthWater.org/ClassesandEvents.

Know your watering days. Once spring repairs are made, make sure your system is set to the correct days and times for your address. Following the citywide irrigation ordinance ensures water towers and reservoirs stay full and flowing.

FortWorthTexas.gov/departments/water/savefwwater/residents/leaks

Do You Know Your Watering Days? FORT WORTH

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
No watering except by handheld hose, soaker hose or drip irrigation

Monday
No watering by any customers

Tuesday & Friday
Non-residential (apartments, businesses, parks, commons)

Wednesday & Saturday
Residential addresses ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8

Thursday & Sunday
Residential addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

This year-round watering schedule is mandated by city ordinance and applies to automatic and manual sprinkler systems.

Estimate your outdoor water usage with our irrigation calculator tool and get more tips to save water and money at SaveFortWorthWater.org.



WORTH GOING



An exclusive art exhibition featuring the work of internationally renowned sculptor Seward Johnson is open at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden through Sept. 1. The exhibit includes two of the artist's most popular works: the Mona Lisa-inspired "Reason to Smile" and the iconic V-J day scene "Embracing Peace." The exhibit features 21 pieces that celebrate the power of renewal and connection through art and nature.

fwbg.org