Fort Worth launching text messaging service for Municipal Court communications

The City of Fort Worth is making an important enhancement to Municipal Court communication services beginning in October.

What to expect: The City of Fort Worth, in collaboration with law firm Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, will introduce a text messaging service to enhance outreach to constituents and improve communication on outstanding municipal court matters.

This innovative service will be provided free of charge to Court patrons. In addition to the current notification methods of phone calls and mailed notices, patrons will receive text message alerts on outstanding cases, providing them with timely information to help resolve their matters efficiently.

Why this matters: As communication preferences continue to evolve, there has been a significant increase in the use of text messaging over traditional communication methods. This new service represents a natural extension of existing outreach efforts and aligns with how many residents prefer to receive information.



Helpful tips for handling fall leaves and brush

With fall drawing near, leaves need to be raked and trees and shrubs need to be trimmed. Here are a few reminders about how to dispose of yard trimmings and brush.

- 1. **Bag it:** Paper yard bags can be purchased at grocery, hardware and garden stores. These bags are for leaves, grass clippings and other small trimmings only.
- 2. **Bundle it:** Use string or twine to bundle shrub and tree trimmings. Bundles should be no more than four feet long and weigh no more than 40 pounds.
- 3. **Stack it:** Individual tree and shrub limbs less than eight feet long and four inches in diameter can be stacked at the curb on your weekly pickup day. Make sure piles do not exceed 10 cubic yards.
- 4. Cart it: Use the optional 96-gallon green yard cart, available for \$75. The one-time fee is charged on your water bill, and there is no additional monthly charge for the cart. Call the City's customer service center at 817-392-1234.
- 5. **Drop it off:** Take brush to one of the City's four drop-off stations.

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Scare off water waste this spooky season

As the weather starts cooling down, it's time to get rid of some spooky water-wasting practices. The spooky season is full of tricks, but saving water can be a treat for all.

Here are some water-wasting "tricks" you should avoid and water-saving "treats" to start using:

Trick: Letting irrigation leaks linger

A broken sprinkler head or cracked pipe in your irrigation system can gush water without you noticing. Check your system regularly. If you're not sure where to start, check out Fort Worth Water's SmartIrrigation System Evaluation program that offers residential customers one irrigation system evaluation free of charge. mysprinklereval.com/fwcitynews

Treat: Adjusting your irrigation controller if it rains

Make sure to turn off sprinklers if we get rain.

Trick: Watering when it's windy

The fall season is sure to bring strong gusts of wind to North Texas. Wind can blow water off course, leading to runoff and evaporation. Be sure to water when it's not too windy.

Treat: Upgrading to WaterSense-labeled products

WaterSense-labeled products including toilets, showerheads, faucets and more that meet the Environmental Protection Agency's specifications for water efficiency and performance.

Trick: Running dishwashers and washing machines when they're only half-full. Dishwashers and washing machines use the same amount of water regardless. It's best to wait until they're full to maximize water use.

Treat: Tracking water use in the MyH2O Portal

Fort Worth Water customers can track water use in the MyH2O Portal. This allows customers to better understand and manage water use and control costs.

savetarrantwater.com

WORTH KNOWING

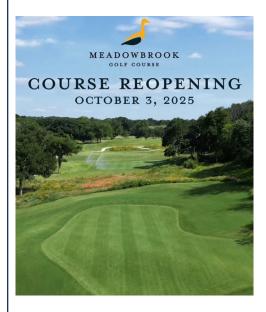
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The City Council established the Fort Worth Small Business Development Program to increase business opportunities in Fort Worth. The decision also protects the work of hundreds of millions of dollars in current and future federal grants. These grants support vital infrastructure projects and social support programs that nearly 40,000 Fort Worth residents rely on annually, as well as the jobs of 120 City employees who support these projects and programs. © fortworthtexas.gov/sbdp

Starting Oct. 1, customers who choose to pay development-related charges by credit card or debit card will incur a service fee of 2.27%. Payments made by check, electronic check (e-check or ACH), cash, or money orders will not incur a convenience fee.

The City Council approved the adoption of the Eastside Transportation Plan (ETP) to be included in the upcoming Master Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Plan update. Council approved funds of \$1.1 million for the plan, which outlines capital projects necessary to inform the design and reconstruction of East Lancaster Avenue (SH 180), Brentwood Stair Road and Bridge Street. SH 180 reconstruction is fully funded and 60% designed from Loop 820 to Riverside Drive.

WORTH GOING



Meadowbrook Golf Course officially reopens to the public on Oct. 3 after a \$13 million renovation that included updated course routing, relocated putting green, new short-game area, additional parking, and maintenance and drainage improvements. Watch for details about opening activities and tournaments.

fortworthgolf.org/golf/meadowbrook

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