



NTECC is now fully functional.

On the Horizon

April 2016



Quiet Zones

Carrollton and areas of Dallas are on track for having railroad quiet zones operational by mid-April. A quiet zone is a section of rail line where horns are not routinely sounded when trains are approaching crossings. View the map at cityofcarrollton.com/engineering.

Traffic Signal Boxes

Noticed the new artwork around town? Thirty-seven cabinets at various traffic signals have been wrapped in Carrollton-branded artwork to enhance the feel of the City and turn ordinary spaces into community landmarks. Adding the images discourages graffiti while showcasing City amenities.

Egrets Have Been Spotted



As you may remember, the City faced many challenges in 2011 with migratory birds nesting in our residential communities. These birds, protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918, are beautiful creatures that can leave behind a foul mess of feathers, feces, and regurgitated food. In addition, their waste often destroys the trees they nest in and any plant life below not to mention the smell intensified by sweltering temperatures.

Take preventive measures by following these steps: trim tree canopy to allow light to shine between limbs and remove old nesting material. Report heron and egret activity to Animal Services at 972-466-3420.

Carrollton Public Safety Departments Now Live at Joint Dispatch Center

The City of Carrollton joined Addison, Coppell, and Farmers Branch in public safety dispatch and operations on March 30 at the North Texas Emergency Communications Center (NTECC).

Carrollton, being the largest of the four cities, was planned as the final city to institute its services so as to prepare for any potential problems or adjustments learned from Farmers Branch, Coppell, or Addison's respective moves. The dispatch hub is now fully functional.

NTECC allows dispatchers to send the closest police, fire, or medical unit to the scene of an emergency despite city affiliation in order to significantly decrease response times. On a grander scale, the process will help to eliminate duplication of services and reduce costs. The cities began examining the opportunity for a merger in the latter portion of 2011.

The CyrusOne, Inc. facility located in Carrollton houses NTECC. The dispatch center occupies 12,000 of the 670,000 square feet the facility has to offer. By lodging the center within the existing building, the center is afforded amenities such as high levels of security, cloud computing technology, and stronger defenses against natural disasters.

The agreement to implement the consolidated dispatch center includes cost sharing among the cities. Costly technology investments that are needed for contemporary communications centers can now be approached collectively rather than individually.

Consolidated dispatch creates the ability to expeditiously direct the resources of all four cities in the event of border incidents or major events. Additionally, there will be a deeper on-duty complement of staffing than in any of the current individual centers, thereby increasing situational awareness. Staffing levels will be tailored to meet the call volume fluctuations, and the cross-jurisdictional operational awareness will increase service levels for all agencies being helped.



The four city managers act as the NTECC executive board and the four police chiefs and fire chiefs serve as the operational board. Jeff Ecker, center director, will oversee day-to-day operations and a staff of more than 60.

Other areas of the Metroplex such as Cedar Hill, Desoto, and Duncanville have already implemented a consolidated dispatch center. The Southwest Regional Communications Center (SWRCC) has been a successful collaboration and cost-saving service since 1999.



Carrollton Trails 5K

Registration is now open for the City's 5th Annual Carrollton Trails 5K on Saturday, May 7. Register by May 1 to take advantage of the "early bird" discount. The event also includes a 1-mile Fun Run/Walk, so bring the family along (maximum of six people from the same household) and save even more!

For more information, call 972-466-3080 or visit cityofcarrollton.com/carrolltontrails5k. To register online, visit cityofcarrollton.com/signupnow or sign up in person at either recreation center or the Senior Center.

Home Depot Plant Sale



Saturday, May 21, 8 am-12 pm, The Home Depot (2011 Keller Springs Road)—As an extension of Texas SmartScape month, the City of Carrollton and our local Home Depot will host a native and adapted plant showcase. Explore the many varieties of low-water-use plants that thrive in the Texas heat while you enjoy great music, food, crafts for the kids, as well as an opportunity to talk with master gardeners for landscaping tips in North Texas.

Water Restrictions

Each year, the City's Water Conservation Plan calls for restrictions on time-of-day watering beginning April 1. The use of a permanently installed automatic irrigation system is prohibited between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm from April 1 through October 31. Time-of-day restrictions conserve water by minimizing evaporation and wind drift during the warmest hours of spring and summer days.



In 2014, there were 100,921 distracted driver accidents in Texas. Please don't multitask in our construction zones – just drive.
(Texas Department of Transportation)

— Only You Can Prevent Sewer Backups —



When you flush your toilet or turn on the water in your house, the resulting wastewater begins a 20-mile journey to the treatment plant. Your habits have a direct impact on how much it will cost to treat the wastewater at the plant.

Only flush the 3 P's: toilet paper, pee, and well, you know. Never pour grease of any kind down the drain. Even using hot water won't help keep the grease flowing and over time will clog pipes and cause plumbing

to back up into tubs and sinks. Keeping trash out of the toilet and grease out of your sinks will substantially reduce the chance of a sewer backup at your house or in your neighborhood.



 cityofcarrollton.com/toilettrash

— Free Spring Events on the Square —



Movie on the Square: *Spaceballs* (1987), PG, May 4, 6 pm (movie begins at sunset)—Come in costume to enjoy Star Wars-themed booths, activities, and photo opportunities. Since Disney will not allow the screening of any of the *Star Wars* films, join us for a screening of Star Wars parody film *Spaceballs*. Bring blankets and lawn chairs and may the 4th, er, force be with you.

Concert on the Square, May 7, 6 pm—Corsicana native **Aaron Copeland** will fill the night air with fun, fresh country sounds. Bring blankets and lawn chairs.

Paws On The Square: Play, Shop, Learn, Adopt, May 14, 11 am-4 pm— This event will feature onsite adoptions provided by Operation Kindness, a dog scavenger hunt, Doga (dog yoga), a special appearance by the Carrollton Police Department K-9 unit, and more. All dogs must have ID tags, be on a leash at all times, have a current rabies vaccination, and be accompanied by someone 18 years of age or older.

 cityofcarrollton.com/downtown

— Minimize Property Risk with Insurance —

Myth: Only residents of high flood risk areas need to insure their property.

Truth: Between 20-25% of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims come from outside the high flood risk areas.

Even if residents live in an area that is not flood-prone, it is advisable to have flood insurance. The NFIP's Preferred Risk Policy is designed for residential properties located in low-to-moderate flood risk zones.

Carrollton's local flood hazard generally comes from the Elm Fork of the Trinity River, which flows down the western City limits, and four streams which run toward it in a southwesterly direction through the City. These streams, starting from the north end of the City, are: Indian Creek, Dudley Branch, Furneaux Creek, and Hutton Branch.

Damage caused by floods and high wind is often not covered in homeowners' insurance. Contact your insurance company to determine your flood insurance eligibility. Visit FloodSmart.gov or call 800-427-2419 to find an agent in the Carrollton area. It takes at least 30 days to activate flood insurance.

You can visit the FEMA map service center website at msc.fema.gov to find out if your home or business is located within a flood risk zone or contact the City of Carrollton Engineering Department which also provides this service at 972-466-3204. Flood maps are available at the Engineering office located at City Hall (1945 E. Jackson Road).

 972-466-3204

— Help Protect Our Storms Drains

Help us protect our ponds, creeks, and rivers by keeping grass clippings, leaves, and other debris out of storm drain inlets.

In wooded areas and grassy fields, rainwater soaks into the ground as nature intended, and leaves generally decompose where they fall. But in urban areas like Carrollton, that rainwater gushes down the streets, delivering the grass clippings, leaves, dirt, oil, fertilizers, and garbage into the storm drainage system.

Stormwater does not get treated before it goes into our creeks and rivers, so a big source of water pollution today actually comes from you and me. Collectively, our urban

households can have a damaging effect on the environment.

Inevitably, some debris will get into the water, but much of the pollution can be prevented by blowing or sweeping grass clippings back onto the lawn rather than into the street or storm drain inlet.

If you use a landscaping company, make sure they are following this practice too. **Blowing grass clippings into the street or storm drain inlet may result in a fine of up to \$2,000.**

 cityofcarrollton.com/envservices

— Summer Reading Program



On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!, Ages 0-12, June 2-August 21—Complete a reading log and receive a certificate of completion and a free book. You can also earn a circus ticket voucher from “Reading with Ringling Brothers” Summer Reading Program (while supplies last).

Karate Demo with the Carrollton Sidekicks, June 4, 2-3 pm, All Ages, Josey Ranch Lake Library—Learn about the concentration, self-discipline, and strength required to meet your karate goals. You may even be asked to try some karate moves!

— Less Water, More Green

Fine-Tune Your Irrigation System to Save Money and See Better Results

A proper irrigation system provides just the right amount of water to have a beautiful, healthy landscape while still conserving water and saving money. For information about maintaining or updating your irrigation system, visit smartirrigationmonth.org.

For a healthy, drought-tolerant lawn, learn the Cycle/Soak Method of Irrigation which means more cycles for shorter periods.

Free Irrigation Inspections

If you're a Carrollton Water Utilities residential customer with an in-ground irrigation system, you may be eligible for a

Get Your Head in the Game, Teens (entering 7th to 12th grade in the fall), June 4-August 21—Every half hour you read can enter you into a drawing of your choice to win fantastic prize packages: signed books, loot crates, gift cards, and more. Coming to events or participating on our Facebook or Instagram can also get you closer to prizes. After 10 hours of reading, you also get a free book. At 20 hours, you are invited to our exclusive, private pool party at the end of the summer!

Exercise Your Mind, Adults, June 2-August 13—To participate, pick up a reading log, read four adult books (print or audio), and turn in the reading log. Receive a free book with each completed log.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Carrollton Public Library.

 cityofcarrollton.com/library

free irrigation inspection (available through September 30 or until annual program funding is exhausted). **To schedule your inspection, call 972-466-3000.** *Those who participated in 2014 and 2015 are ineligible for an inspection.*

Free Pressure Reducing Valve Program

The City of Carrollton offers free pressure reducing valves (PRV) to residents with water pressure above 95 psi. The device is installed after the water meter to reduce the amount of pressure coming into your home. The PRV has the ability to reduce water consumption up to 30%.

 **972-466-3200**
cityofcarrollton.com/water

Board Member Boot Camp

Tuesday, May 17, 6:30 pm, Josey & Hebron Library—Favoritism. Uneven application of the governing documents. Lack of professionalism. Not following protocol. As a board member of an HOA, your board meetings should be held more like a business and less like a social club. This interactive session is designed to highlight how HOA boards go astray, exposing themselves to potential lawsuits. RSVP preferred at cityofcarrollton.com/nnworkshops.

CarrolltonAlert Assistance

Wednesday, April 20, 12:15 pm, Hebron & Josey Library—Join us for the CarrolltonAlert Registration Assistance class and let us help you get signed up for the City's new emergency mass notification system. This program allows you to receive emergency notifications directly to your phone, email, and mobile devices. **Class registration is not required.**

Volunteers Needed to Feed 1,750 Local Kids

Sack Summer Hunger 2016 kicks off in June at Metrocrest Services and you can help! Volunteer assignments for individuals and groups include sorting kid-friendly snacks and meals or delivering to local low-income participants. Details at metrocrestservices.org or contact Erica Mahoney at 972-446-2100.

Got Drugs?

Saturday, April 30, 10 am-2pm, Carrollton Police Department & Hebron Valley Elementary—Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse. Save lives and protect the environment by dropping off old drugs at these designated sites for proper disposal. Call 972-466-3521 or visit cityofcarrollton.com for more information.



Enter your pet's best photo for a chance to be featured in the 2017 City of Carrollton calendar.

cityofcarrollton.com/petphotocontest

Proceeds benefit Carrollton Animal Services and Adoption Center.

Upcoming Events

Splash Into Summer



Celebrate summer at Rosemeade Rainforest Aquatic Complex or Thomas Splash Park! For information on fees, swim lessons, rentals, and more, visit cityofcarrollton.com/aquatics.

Rosemeade Rainforest Aquatic Complex Pre-Season Hours

Saturday, May 28	10 am-6 pm
Sunday, May 29	1-6 pm
Monday, May 30	10 am-6 pm

Pool Hours Beginning June 5

Rainforest:	
Friday & Saturday	10 am-6 pm
Sunday	1-6 pm
Monday-Thursday	10 am-8 pm

Main Pool:

Friday & Saturday	10 am-6 pm
Sunday	1-6 pm
Monday-Thursday	1-8 pm

Thomas Splash Park

Multiple spray features provide a safe play environment for children to cool off during the hot weather. To start water features, simply tap the sensor on top of the red fire hydrant. Pavilions and a deck are available on a first come, first served basis.

Visit cityofcarrollton.com/splashpark or call 972-466-3080 for up-to-date information on opening day and hours.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Thursday, May 5 • 7 pm • FREE
Hebron & Josey Library



The students from Creekview High School's Ballet Folklorico class will perform dances from states all over Mexico. Enjoy the colorful costumes and traditional dancing by local high school students.

Mother's Day Concert and Picnic

Sunday, May 8 • 6 pm • FREE
A. W. Perry Homestead Museum



Celebrate with family and friends on the Museum grounds and beautiful Pearl Perry Gravley Park while listening to the **Downtown String Band** play bluegrass, traditional acoustic, and swing music from the front porch of the historic home. Bring a picnic basket, blankets, and lawn chairs. Free ice cream and lemonade will be provided, and children can make a card and an old-fashioned handmade gift for mom. Create a theme for your picnic and enter the contest in one of three categories: Best Family, Most Elegant, or Most Creative. Registration for the contest begins at 5 pm and judging takes place at 5:45 pm with winners announced and prizes awarded at the beginning of the concert.

Public Works Open House & Equipment Rodeo

Wednesday, May 18 • 9 am-3 pm
Josey Ranch Lake Library • FREE



Join us as we celebrate the men and women who provide daily service to our City. The event will feature equipment demonstrations and displays, as well as informational booths highlighting water conservation, stormwater protection, and other programs that show how Public Works contributes to Carrollton's safety and quality of life. Children with appropriate adult supervision are encouraged to attend, and will be allowed to examine the various equipment. For more information, call Public Works at 972-466-4291.

Carrollton Public Works Department is a proud participant in National Public Works Week, May 15-21, which features the importance of Public Works in community life.

- **Preschool Play Date, May 10, 10:30 am-12 pm, Josey Ranch Lake Library**—Come explore play stations throughout the Library where you can engage with your preschooler to boost development and increase learning.
- **Teddy Bear Picnic, May 14, 1-3 pm, Perry Museum**—Bring your teddy bear and a picnic lunch to the festivities which include: crafts for your bear, games, cookies and lemonade, and a teddy bear first aid station where a certified teddy bear nurse will repair your well-loved stuffed companion. New this year, a Teddy Bear Fashion Parade to show off your well-dressed bear! **Registration required.**
- **Fly Fishing, May 21, 9 am-1 pm, Ages: 10+, Rosemeade Recreation Center, dallasflyfishers.org**—Learn to cast, tie basic fishing knots, tie flies and discuss their uses, review equipment, and learn about aquatic ecosystems, safety, fishing, ethics, and regulations. Class includes all equipment and materials. Participants need to bring a hat, glasses, and lunch. **Pre-registration recommended.**
- **Youth Fishing Event, May 28, 9 am-12 pm, Ages: 16 & under, Josey Ranch Park Pond**—The pond will be stocked with adult catfish. It is recommended that children bring their own equipment; however, loaner rods, reels, bait, and tackle will be provided. Registration will take place the morning of the event; there is no pre-registration. Prizes and trophies will be awarded. The pond will be opened to licensed adults at the conclusion of the event.
- **Let's Get Crammin', May 31, 4-8:30 pm, Ages: Teens, Hebron & Josey Library**—Need a space to study for finals? Join us in the meeting room for some quality study time.
- **Board Game Night, June 2, 6:30-8:30 pm, Ages: Teens, Hebron & Josey Library**—Bring your friends and try out the latest and greatest games. Betray your friends in *The Resistance* or show off your art skills in *Telestrations*.
- **Video Game Mania!, June 3, 3:30-5 pm, Ages: Teens, Josey Ranch Lake Library**—Come in every Friday with your friends and compete in retro gaming (vintage Super Mario Bros., Sonic the Hedgehog, and Pac-Man). Collectible Card Games like Yu-Gi-Oh, Pokémon, or *Magic: The Gathering* will also be available.