

On the Horizon

November 2016



Run for Rover 5K



The inaugural Run for Rover will be held on **Saturday, February 18**. Sign up your pup for a dog-specific race this spring benefitting the Carrollton Animal Services & Adoption Center. The race will start at the newly constructed McInnish Dog Park, 2241 Sandy Lake Road, and will route through the sports complex for a full 5K. A shorter route will be offered to smaller or older dogs, or dogs who will still be working off some holiday weight. Don't have a dog? Your new best friend is waiting for you at our Adoption Center!

Runners who register by Sunday, February 12 will receive a race T-shirt and a bandana for Rover. Registration cost will be \$15 for humans and \$5 for dogs. Additional charges will apply for day-of registration. There will be treats, giveaways, water, and plenty of play time after the run. For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/runforrover.



**Don't Miss Out—
Purchase Your Pet
Calendar Today!**

\$10 (sales tax included)

cityofcarrollton.com/animalservices

All proceeds go directly to Carrollton Animal Services & Adoption Center. Your support provides shelter, food, medical attention, and love to hundreds of animals in our care.

Online Construction & Traffic Updates

The City of Carrollton now offers a new communication tool to keep residents aware of any traffic shifts or delays caused by both City-managed and TxDOT-managed construction projects. A new Facebook page, @CarrolltonRoads, delivers real-time updates posted directly from the streets of Carrollton.

Borne out of a desire to keep residents and visitors armed with the latest information before they travel to or within Carrollton, the posts are made in real time. Increased traffic congestion is inescapable in times of growth. Crews will report directly from the site through posts on Facebook which then automatically populate a scrolling feed on the City's enhanced website that launched earlier this year.

The City is one of the first municipalities to deliver information 24/7, and work is still being done to provide e-notifications on post updates.

"Please note that from time to time there may be typos or misspellings, but hopefully everyone can excuse those, and appreciate that we are working hard to deliver timely information from the field," said Public Works Director John Crawford.

Bringing residents the fastest, most accurate communication possible remains a priority for City staff.

"This is a multi-department, first-of-its-kind pilot program," Marketing Director Kelli Lewis said. "We're excited for the opportunity to further develop engagement with our citizens on an issue that affects everyone."



— Carrollton Awarded National Grant —



"We are excited about this opportunity and plan to use these two additional officers to expand our Bike Patrol Program," said Police Chief Rex Redden. "The bike officers bring a new perspective to policing. They are able to interact more closely with the public and can reach locations that are inaccessible by vehicle."

The City of Carrollton was awarded \$250,000 of a national public safety grant through the Department of Justice in order to address growing personnel needs.

While the COPS grant is well established, this is the first year the Carrollton Police Department has applied.

Officers in vehicles will continue to be used to respond to regular calls for service where more equipment and speed is needed in the response. The bicycle officers will be utilized primarily for crime prevention and deterrence in neighborhoods and businesses.





Coming Soon:
**\$5 Rabies
 Vaccinations**
March 18
10 am-12 pm
972-466-3420

Winter Quarter Averaging

Reminder: Residential sewer use is calculated using the average water consumption for meter readings taken in the months of January, February, and March as the estimated sewer volume per month (Winter Quarter Average). Your new sewer usage level based on the Winter Quarter Average will be effective for the bill which includes your April meter read.

Residential Recycling

Residential recycling collection service occurs every other week. A map of your neighborhood and its recycling schedule can be found at cityofcarrollton.com/solidwaste. If you would like to request a printed copy, call 972-466-3593 or email marketingservices@cityofcarrollton.com.

Trash and bulk waste are collected one day each week from Carrollton single-family residences (**Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day collections will be delayed by one day**). For any questions or to request a recycling container, call 972-466-4950.

Free Tax Assistance

Volunteers with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will provide free tax return assistance from **10 am to 5 pm on Mondays at Hebron & Josey Library from January 30-April 10** and from **10 am to 2 pm on Fridays at Josey Ranch Lake Library from February 3-April 14**. Bring identification, last year's tax return, and all documents and information for 2016.

Youth Volleyball League

Girls ages 8-14, as of September 1, 2016, get spiked up for the volleyball season! Learn to bump, set, spike, and serve, plus the rules of the game. Registration is from January 3- February 3. League registration includes eight league games, officials, one hour of practice each week, and an end of season tournament. If you are interested in coaching, please contact Carrollton Athletics at 972-466-9837 or visit cityofcarrollton.com/athletics starting in January.

— Four Stars for Transparency



The City of Carrollton continues to be recognized for its dedication to open government as it has earned a Transparency Star in Public Pensions from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts under the new Transparency Stars program.

The Transparency Star, the City's fourth so far, was given on Friday, September 16 and is awarded to local governments whose websites provide visual and narrative explanations of actuarial valuations, contribution rates, and benchmark comparisons, in addition

to other criteria. Carrollton is the first local government entity to achieve transparency goals in public pensions.

"Cities must strike the balance of providing this important benefit to their employees without ever forgetting that it's the taxpayers who are footing the bill," Assistant City Manager Bob Scott said. "We closely monitor our pension obligations to ensure that liabilities are controlled and costs remain reasonable."

Scott said transparency regarding the financial impacts of these commitments to employees is an important part of striking that balance.

Cityofcarrollton.com is equipped with various financial reports which provide taxpayers a transparent look at where their money goes.

 cityofcarrollton.com/finance

— Inclement Weather Guidelines

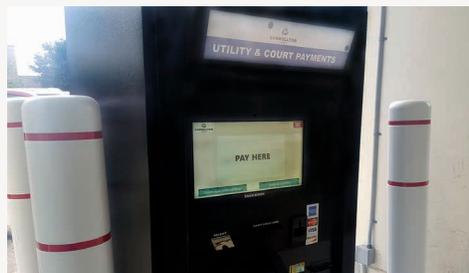
Severe weather (snow, ice, high winds, etc.) may necessitate the temporary closure of City leisure facilities. During the weekdays, these facilities and programs will typically follow the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District's (C-FB ISD) closure schedules (including full-day closures, delayed openings, and/or early closings). Closure schedules are announced on area television and radio stations. Automated telephone messages regarding inclement weather operating schedules are recorded as conditions warrant.

During adverse weather conditions, the public is advised to limit driving to minimize accidents, falls, and other weather related incidents.

REMINDER: Turn off irrigation systems during freezing weather. Creating a roadway ice hazard is a safety issue and can be an expensive citable offense—up to \$2,000 a day.

 cityofcarrollton.com

— 24/7 Water Utility Payment Kiosk



In October, Carrollton Utility Customer Service (UCS) installed a self-service kiosk in the drive-through lane at City Hall. This kiosk provides customers the option to pay water utility bills with cash, check, or credit card (a 3% convenience fee applies for all card transactions). When a customer drives up to the kiosk, they may enter either a water utility account number (shown on your bill in this format XXXXXXX-XXXXX) or

the service address for the water account. When the customer confirms the account, the amount due and any past amount due will be shown. An "Other Amount" payment option is available as well. Once it is processed, a receipt is printed or emailed and the payment is viewable by City staff immediately. This change will expedite after-hour payments for service restoral and provide another option for customers to use.

Carrollton is pleased to present this option to its customers along with payment in person at City Hall, payment through phone, via auto-draft, customer's online banking service, Fidelity Express, online NetBill, and by mail. UCS appreciates the opportunity to serve Carrollton's citizens!

 **972-466-3120**
cityofcarrollton.com/ucs

Egret Prevention



As you may remember, the City has faced many challenges 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.

Nesting season is just a few months away and we encourage you to take preventive measures by following these steps: trim tree canopy to allow light to shine between limbs and remove old nesting material.

If you identified migratory bird activity in your trees last year, begin thinking now about hanging visual deterrents such as owls, scare-eye balloons, reflective tape, or other similar materials in your tree(s). Report heron and egret activity to Animal Services immediately.

 **972-466-3420**
cityofcarrollton.com/animal_services

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Services

The City's enhanced HHW disposal service is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Carrollton household residents can call the Waste Management HHW Hotline at 1-800-HHW-PKUP (1-800-449-7587) to schedule a collection appointment.
2. Residents will receive a kit via mail in which to place HHW items. The kit should be placed by the resident's garage or front porch by 7 am on appointment day.
3. A customer service representative will collect the items at no additional charge.

Visit cityofcarrollton.com/solidwaste for more information.

Keep Your Holidays from Going Up in Flames



fire and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over, and are placed on uncluttered surfaces. Avoid using candles in the bedroom or other areas where people may fall asleep. Lastly, never leave a child or pet alone in a room with a burning candle.

The holiday season represents a time for family festivities and good cheer; however, it also poses an increased risk of home fires. Cooking, live Christmas trees that dry out, and candle décor are some of the leading seasonal causes of U.S. home fires.

Fortunately, with added awareness and minor adjustments to holiday cooking and decorating, the season can remain festive and safe for everybody.

Don't leave a cooking area unattended: Stay in the kitchen while you're frying, grilling, or broiling food. Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep flammable objects such as dish rags and paper products away from it. Turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even for short periods of time. If you're simmering, boiling, baking, or roasting food, check on it regularly and use a timer as a helpful reminder.

Be vigilant with candles: December is the peak month for candle-caused home fires. The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) statistics show that two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles. Consider using candle warmers or even flameless candles, which look and smell like real candles. If you do use traditional candles, keep them at least 12 inches away from anything that can catch

Christmas trees in the home:

One of every three Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems, and one in six results from a heat source that is too close to the tree. Make sure artificial trees are certified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant. If you choose a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched. Before placing it in the stand, cut two inches from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and water it daily. Ensure all trees do not block exits and stand at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles, or heat vents. Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory and are designed for indoor use. Replace any worn or broken strings of lights or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for the recommended number of strands to connect. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed. After Christmas, recycle or dispose of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside the home.

By following these fire prevention tips and measures, you can greatly reduce the risk of fire in your home, and enjoy a safe holiday season.

 nfpa.org/holiday

Picking Up After Your Pets



The City of Carrollton reminds residents to pick up after pets during walks and at the City's two dog parks. Bring along a plastic bag to collect your pet's waste, then dispose of it in a trash can. When it rains, pet waste left on the ground is carried by storm water into our surface water. Picking up after pets is one way to help reduce the pollution in our ponds, creeks, and other surface waters.

For more information on local pet code requirements, contact Carrollton Animal Services at 972-466-3420.

Local Pantry Helps Carrollton Families

The Metrocrest Services food pantry ensures individuals experiencing tough times do not go hungry. Carrollton residents, depending on income and financial situations, are eligible to receive food at no cost. Donations of nonperishable foods are accepted Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 9 am to noon. Metrocrest Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit at 13801 Hutton, Suite 150, in Farmers Branch. Details at metrocrestservices.org or 972-446-2100.

Upcoming Events

Enjoy a Staycation This Holiday



Brookhaven Bell Choir

Sunday, December 11 • 3 pm • FREE
Josey Ranch Lake Library

Take a break from holiday shopping and listen to the handbells from Brookhaven College, directed by Bonnie Riddle.

Carrollton Wind Symphony Holiday Concert

Friday, December 16 • 7:30 pm • FREE
Creekview High School

Celebrate the music of the holidays with this free concert. For more information, visit carrolltonwindsymphony.org

Winter Wonderland

Monday, December 19 • 10:30-11:30 am
Hebron & Josey Library • FREE

Come meet Santa and read stories with Mrs. Claus! The whole family will enjoy decorating gingerbread cookies.

Twelve Days of Winter Break

December 19-January 2 • FREE
Carrollton Public Library

Pick up a schedule of activities for kids highlighting the winter holidays and traditions.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade

Saturday, January 14 • 10 am • FREE

Come celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by watching a memorial parade through the streets of Carrollton. The parade will begin on Rainwater Lane (behind Carrollton City Hall) and proceed west to Josey Lane; south on Josey Lane to Keller Springs Road; east on Keller Springs Road to Kelly Boulevard; south on Kelly Boulevard to end at Ted Polk Middle School at 2001 Kelly Boulevard. Call 972-242-0933 for more information. Sponsored by Christ Community Connection, Inc. in partnership with the City of Carrollton.

Chinese New Year

Sunday, February 5 • 3-5 pm • FREE
Hebron & Josey Library



Carrollton Sun Ray Chinese School Youth organization and the Newman Smith High School Chinese class will be leading a variety of activities celebrating the Chinese culture.

African American Read-In

Sunday, February 19 • 3-4 pm • FREE
Josey Ranch Lake Library



All are welcome to learn about African American authors, stories, poems, and songs. Special guests will read selections aloud for the audience. Free books will be given away to children and teens. This program is presented by Professional Achievers for Community Excellence (PACE). Light refreshments will be provided.

Daddy Daughter Dance

Saturday, February 25 • 6-9 pm
Bent Tree Bible Fellowship Church



Join us for a lively dance party with cookies, punch, crafts, games, prizes, and photo opportunities. Pre-registration cost will be \$25 total for daddy and daughter (plus \$10 for each additional daughter). Additional charges will apply for day of registration. Register online at cpoaddd2017.eventbrite.com. Proceeds benefit the Carrollton Police Officers Association. Sorry, no moms or sons allowed and dinner will not be served.

- **Game On! for Adults**, December 10, 3:30-5:30 pm, Hebron & Josey Library—Check out the latest trending games. Feel free to bring your own to share with others.
- **Let's Get Crammin'**, December 13, 4-8:30 pm, Ages: 13-18, Hebron & Josey Library—Join us in the meeting room for study time. Snacks will be served.
- **Last Minute Gifts!**, December 19, 6:30-8 pm, Ages: 13-18, Josey Ranch Lake Library—Create DIY holiday gifts for a loved one...or for yourself. You do you.
- **Retro Cinema: Jurassic Park**, December 21, 6:30 pm, Josey Ranch Lake Library—Take time out of your holiday festivities to come watch nifty '90s movies.
- **Anime Marathon**, December 27, 4-6 pm, Ages: 13-18, Hebron & Josey Library—Follow us on Instagram (@cplteenleague) or Facebook (/cplteenleague) to find out more!
- **Crafternoons**, January 12 & February 9, 4-6 pm, Ages: 5-12, Hebron & Josey Library—Join us for after school craft fun and create something amazing!
- **Saturday Story Time**, January 14 & February 11, 10:30 am, Ages:3-6, Josey Ranch Lake Library—Children participate in stories, songs, finger-plays, action rhymes, and puppetry.
- **Lego Challenge**, January 18 & February 15, 6-8 pm, Josey Ranch Lake Library—Join us for Lego night; new building challenges each month.
- **Teen Board Game Night**, January 5, February 2, March 2, 6:30-8:30 pm, Ages: 13-18, Hebron & Josey Library—Play intense games of Superfight, Code Names, The Resistance: The Dystopian Universe, and more.
- **T-Shirt Fashionistas**, January 19, 6:30-8:30 pm, Ages: 13-18, Hebron & Josey Library—Bring out your inner fashion designer and adorn T-shirts with glitz, glam, and famous quotes! *To guarantee your T-shirt size, please register by January 13.*
- **Anti-Valentine's Day Party**, February 13, 6:30-8 pm, Ages: 12-18, Josey Ranch Lake—Whatever reason you have for not loving Valentine's Day, we have a party for you.