



# NRH



A newsletter for the residents of North Richland Hills

## SPRING / SUMMER 2016

### Page 2

City Council Election  
Canceled

Police Department Earns  
State Recognition

### Page 3

Residents Give City  
Services Positive Ratings

When Do I Need a  
Building Permit?

### Page 4

Look Out Texans  
Campaign Urges Street  
Safety

'Round the Town with  
Oscar

Know Your Watering  
Schedule

Construction Begins Soon  
on Rufe Snow Drive

### Page 5

Keep NRH Beautiful Earns  
Governor's Award

NRH<sub>2</sub>O Resident  
Discounts, New Slides

### Page 6

Employees Honored

Recycling Rate Increases  
37%

### Page 7

Protect Yourself, Family  
from Zika, West Nile

Summer Reading Club

### Page 8

Calendar

## City Hall Grand Opening is May 13

**J**oin us for the grand opening of your new City Hall on May 13, 2016. The event will include an open house from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the plaza starting at 6 p.m. The ceremony will be followed by a free Sounds of Spring concert with the Beatles tribute band "The Eggmen" starting at 7 p.m. Seating will be on the lawn. A variety of gourmet food trucks will be on site or you are welcome to bring your own picnic, but please no glass containers. There will also be a kids zone during the concert with free games and a variety of arts and crafts.

Wear your walking shoes and plan plenty of time to see all areas of the new building. The Water Department, Economic Development, Purchasing, Development Services and Neighborhood Services are located on the first floor through the two main City Hall entrances. The second floor includes offices for the City Council, City Manager, City Secretary, City Attorney, Communications, Human Resources and Information Technology. The third floor includes Parks & Recreation Administration, Finance, Budget, Citicable and the City Council Chambers. The Municipal Court is located on the west side of the building and Public Safety is located on the east side of the building, including the Police Department, Jail, Fire Administration and Emergency Management.

During the grand opening, informational booths for other city facilities such as the Library, the Maker Spot, NRH Centre, NRH<sub>2</sub>O Family Water Park and the Animal Adoption

*(Continued on Page 2)*



Your new City Hall is now open at 4301 City Point Drive. Join us for the grand opening celebration on May 13, 2016.

# May 2016 City Council Election Canceled

**N**orth Richland Hills will not hold a general election in May because the mayor and three council members were unopposed for re-election. The election has been canceled in accordance with state law and the following City Council Members will begin new terms on May 16:

- **Oscar Trevino, Mayor** - Mr. Trevino is president and owner of O. Trevino Construction, a heavy-highway contractor. He has served as mayor since 2002, and previously served as a council member for three years.
- **Rita Wright Oujesky, Place 2** - Mrs. Wright Oujesky is a financial consultant for Morgan Keegan & Company. She has served on the council since 2012.
- **Dr. Tim Barth, Place 4** - Dr. Barth is a professor and associate dean with the College of Science & Engineering Department of Psychology at TCU. He has served on the council since 2006.
- **Scott Turnage, Place 6** - Mr Turnage is co-founder of Uretek ICR, a contracting firm specializing in concrete lifting and stabilization. He has served on the council since 2006, with prior service from 2002 - 2004.

Each council member is elected at-large and represents the entire community. Terms are for two years. You can learn more about the City Council at [www.nrhtx.com/council](http://www.nrhtx.com/council).

While there will be no City Council election, NRH residents in the Keller school district will go to the polls on May 7, 2016 to elect school board trustees.



*Oscar Trevino  
Mayor*



*Rita Wright Oujesky  
Place 2*



*Dr. Tim Barth  
Place 4*



*Scott Turnage  
Place 6*

## NRH Police Department Earns State Recognition

**T**he North Richland Hills Police Department has once again achieved "Recognized" status from the Texas Police Chiefs Foundation's Best Practices Recognition Program. The department was first recognized in 2011. As part of the recognition process, the department underwent an extensive audit of its policies, procedures, equipment, facilities, and operations by the Texas Police Chiefs Foundation and successfully exceeded all aspects of the audit. The recognition process assures the City Council, city management, and citizens that the North Richland Hills Police Department is operating under the current best practices in Texas law enforcement. Learn more about the NRH Police Department at [www.nrhtx.com/police](http://www.nrhtx.com/police) and [www.facebook.com/nrhpdpd](http://www.facebook.com/nrhpdpd).



## City Hall *(Continued from Page 1)*

& Rescue Center will be available to residents in the Community Room.

Construction of the new City Hall was approved by voters in 2012. The facility brings most city services and departments together in one convenient location to serve the community for generations to come.

The new facility will also help to stimulate revitalization along Boulevard 26. Vacant land adjacent to the new City Hall will be redeveloped with a mix of uses. The property is privately owned and represented by ARA Newmark, a national commercial real estate brokerage with local offices in Dallas. The city is working closely with ARA Newmark on marketing the property and meeting with prospective parties interested in purchasing and developing the property.

The old City Hall and Municipal Court buildings on Loop 820 are for sale and will be redeveloped with commercial uses. The former Fire Administration building on Dick Fisher Drive continues to serve as a training center and backup dispatch and emergency operations center.

# Residents Give City Services Positive Ratings

**N**orth Richland Hills residents continue to see their community as a great place to live. A recent citizen's survey found that 96% of residents rate the quality of life in North Richland Hills as excellent or good, 94% feel the community is an excellent or good place to raise children and 95% would recommend NRH to a friend or family member as a good place to live.

The survey was conducted by National Service Research of Fort Worth in November and December 2015 using statistically sound research standards. Results were presented to the City Council during a March 14, 2016 City Council Work Session. The survey has a margin of error of 3.2%.

Survey respondents gave high marks to public safety, the library, parks and recreation, garbage and recycling collection, and water service with more than 90% rating each service as excellent/good. Code enforcement and street maintenance were identified as areas needing improvement.

While the city conducts a citizen survey every other year, input from residents is always appreciated. Residents who have a comment, question or suggestion about city services may e-mail [nrhadm@nrhtx.com](mailto:nrhadm@nrhtx.com) or call 817-427-6003.



See more survey results at [www.nrhtx.com](http://www.nrhtx.com).

## When Do I Need a Building Permit?

**T**he City of North Richland Hills joins communities across the nation in recognizing the month of May as Building Safety Month and reminds residents of the importance of building codes and building permits.

Most home improvement projects beyond cosmetic work require a building permit. The permit and inspection process helps protect your family from safety risks like structural failures, fire hazards or electrical shock. It may also help eliminate costly repairs for shoddy work. Following are some common projects that require permits:

- Installing or replacing water heaters, HVAC systems, water lines or sewer lines;
- Any electrical or gas line work;
- Replacing a roof;
- Adding or replacing walls or windows;
- Pouring of concrete, widening / replacing driveway;
- Installing storage sheds 200 square feet or greater;
- Construction of carports or patio covers;
- Foundation repairs;

- Installing a tornado shelter;
- Installing lawn irrigation systems;
- Installing a fence, or replacing 4 or more panels;
- Building or replacing a deck more than 30" above grade or a retaining wall over 4 feet in height;
- Building or repairing a swimming pool or spa.

Projects that are cosmetic, such as painting, wallpapering, carpeting, patching sheetrock, putting in cabinets and trim work, etc., do not require permits. Additionally, permits are not required when replacing fixtures on existing wiring or plumbing.

Safety is the primary reason building permits are required. When a permit is issued, the city will inspect the work to make sure it is done correctly and in compliance with current building and safety codes. It is the homeowner's responsibility to make sure that their contractor obtains a building permit. Permits should be displayed on site until the work is completed and passes inspection. For more information, please contact the Planning & Development Department at 817-427-6300.

# Look Out Texans Campaign Urges Street Safety

**S**pring means more people are out bicycling and walking, so now is the time to refresh street safety knowledge. Understanding how everyone can use the road together helps protect our friends, family and neighbors.

Especially during National Bike Month in May as communities celebrate the benefits of bicycling, the Look Out Texans campaign urges everyone to remember safety and to look out for one another while bicycling, walking and driving.

When bicycling, always be prepared! Make sure your tires, brakes, chains and quick release levers are working properly. Wear a helmet that is snug and buckled. According to the Texas Medical Association, a properly fitting helmet can prevent up to 85 percent of head injuries, the most common cause of disability or death in a bicycle crash. Also, know how to position yourself on the road when approaching different intersections and making turns. For example, move to the left portion of a lane when turning left.

State law requires people to operate bicycles with the same rights and duties applicable to a person operating a motor vehicle. Therefore, when bicycling, stop and yield at traffic signals and stop signs and use hand signals to let others know when you're turning, changing lanes or stopping. As with driving, you should look over your shoulder and scan ahead for vehicles before signaling your turn and making your move.

Bicyclists have a right to use the road, so people driving should respectfully treat them as motor vehicles. Allow a minimum of three feet when passing a person riding a bicycle. When parallel parked, look before opening your car door. People on bicycles may be riding closer to the right of the travel lane, putting them in the path of an opening door.

This year for National Bike Month, resolve to make safety for you and others a priority whenever you bicycle, walk or drive. Visit [www.LookOutTexans.org](http://www.LookOutTexans.org) to see more safety tips and learn about the Look Out Texans campaign.



Join Mayor Oscar Trevino and other city leaders on the monthly 'Round the Town with Oscar bike rides. This is a family friendly ride and open to all ages. It is a great opportunity to get outdoors, meet new people, be active and ride through NRH! The casual and easy bike rides begin and end at Cross Timbers Park, 7680 Douglas Lane at 5:45 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 3
- Tuesday, June 7
- Tuesday, July 5
- Tuesday, August 2
- Tuesday, September 6
- Thursday, October 6

You can find more information at [www.nrhtx.com/roundthetown](http://www.nrhtx.com/roundthetown) or by calling the NRH Parks & Recreation Department 817-427-6620.

## KNOW YOUR WATERING SCHEDULE

### MONDAY

No sprinkling, irrigation allowed

### TUESDAY & FRIDAY

Non-residential sites (apartments, businesses, parks, common areas)

### WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY

Residential addresses ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8

### THURSDAY & SUNDAY

Residential addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day.

[www.nrhtx.com/conservation](http://www.nrhtx.com/conservation)

## Construction to Begin Soon on Rufe Snow Drive

**A** project to widen and improve Rufe Snow Drive between Mid-Cities Boulevard and Ridgeway Road is preparing to begin construction this May. This transportation project is funded in large part through federal grants, with the City paying approximately 20% of construction costs.

The project will widen the existing five-lane roadway to seven lanes (three travel lanes in each direction plus a center turn lane) and provide sidewalks along both the east and west sides of the roadway.

The City Council awarded the \$12 million construction contract to Kodiak Trenching and Boring in March, and the contractor is preparing to mobilize. Construction is expected to take about 22 months to complete. Questions may be directed to the Public Works Department at 817-427-6400.

# Keep NRH Beautiful Earns Governor's Award

**K**ee Texas Beautiful (KTB) has recognized North Richland Hills as one of 10 winners of the 2016 Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA) for outstanding community improvement. The award is one of the most coveted annual environmental and community improvement honors in Texas. The winners will share \$2 million in landscape funding from the Texas Department of Transportation; North Richland Hills will receive \$250,000 for a landscaping project along a state maintained right-of-way.

Communities submitted materials to one of 10 population categories and judges chose the winners based on their achievements in seven environmental and community improvement areas: community leadership and coordination; education; public awareness; litter prevention and cleanup; litter law and illegal dumping enforcement; beautification and community improvement; and solid waste management.

The GCAA program has recognized outstanding communities for more than 49 years, with TxDOT providing landscape funding since 1986. KTB will formally recognize and award North Richland Hills during its 49th Annual Conference in Sugar Land in June.

Keep Texas Beautiful, a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement nonprofit, strives to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment. North Richland Hills has been a Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate for over 20 years. If you or your organization are interested in participating in Keep NRH Beautiful programs, please contact Debbie York at 817-427-6651 or email [dyork@nrhtx.com](mailto:dyork@nrhtx.com).

While the application for this award was prepared and submitted by Keep NRH Beautiful, the award honors the entire community and is truly an award for all of North Richland Hills to be proud of. North Richland Hills also received the Governor's Community Achievement Award in 2005 and 2010. Those awards funded the Emerald Hills Bike Plaza and the median improvements and landscaping on Boulevard 26 at Loop 820.



## NRH RESIDENT DISCOUNTS

on tickets and passes!



For details and discounts, visit [nrh2o.com/nrhresidents](http://nrh2o.com/nrhresidents)

## FUN UNDER CONSTRUCTION!



NRH<sub>2</sub>O is launching 4 new slides for the 2016 summer!

Follow [nrh2o.com/blog](http://nrh2o.com/blog) for updates!

9001 Boulevard 26 | North Richland Hills, 76180  
[nrh2o.com](http://nrh2o.com) | 817-427-6500

# NRH Employees Honored

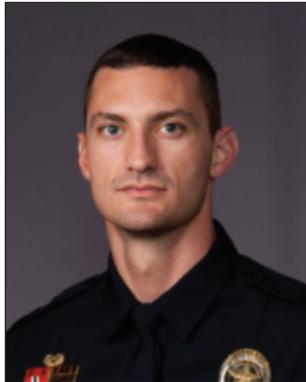
**E**arlier this year, the City of North Richland Hills recognized several employees for their outstanding service and dedication during 2015. The annual awards were presented to employees who exemplify the city's core values of respect, service, productivity, integrity, responsibility, innovation and teamwork.

The honorees were selected for the awards by their peers. The City of North Richland Hills congratulates these award winners and thanks all city employees for their service.

If you have experienced service from a city employee that you feel is worthy of commendation, we would like to hear about it. Call the city at 817-427-6000 or email us at [communications@nrhtx.com](mailto:communications@nrhtx.com).



*Officer Ken Boyer  
Police Officer of Year*



*Sergeant Jon Richerson  
Police Supervisor of Year*



*Joe Pawlewicz  
Civilian Employee of Year*



*David Smith  
Firefighter of Year*



*Tyler Marble  
Paramedic of the Year*



*Captain Steve Rucker  
Fire Officer of the Year*



*Eva Ramirez  
R-SPiRiT Award*



## Recycling Rate Increases 37%

**N**orth Richland Hills residents are recycling more. According to Republic Waste Services, more than 2,700 tons of materials were collected curbside for recycling in North Richland Hills last year, an increase of 37% over the prior year.

The increase comes after the city made it easier to recycle by providing 65-gallon rolling carts to residents in early 2015. The rolling carts hold more than three times as much as the old 18-gallon bins and are easier for residents to take to the curb.

The city encourages residents to continue to increase the recycling rate in 2016. As a reminder, acceptable items for recycling include:

- plastic jugs, bottles and tubs;
- plastic bags;
- glass jars and bottles;
- paper, newspaper, magazines and cardboard;
- wax coated paper containers and juice boxes;
- metal cans and scrap metal;
- aluminum cans and foil;
- aerosol cans.

Recyclable materials can be placed loose in your recycling cart and do not need to be sorted by material type. The materials will be sorted at a recycling plant.

Recycling benefits the entire community by reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfill, conserving natural resources and preventing pollution. More information about recycling can be found on the city's website at [www.nrhtx.com/recyclemore](http://www.nrhtx.com/recyclemore).

# Protect Yourself, Family from Zika, West Nile

**W**hether you enjoy backyard barbecues, picnics in the park or just sitting by the pool, summer is the time to have fun in the great outdoors. But nothing spoils the fun faster than one very tiny creature: the mosquito. Not only are mosquitoes a nuisance, but they can also carry potentially serious illnesses including the West Nile, Chikungunya and Zika viruses. Reducing the mosquito population, and your risk of being bitten by them, is your best defense. Here's what to do:

- **Use insect repellent whenever you spend time outdoors, day or night.** Look for a repellent with DEET or another EPA-

registered repellent such as Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, PMD or IR3535.



- Wear long sleeves and pants to leave less of your skin exposed.
- Remove stagnant water from your property. Any amount of standing water can give mosquitoes a place to lay their eggs. Standing water may be found in stagnant swimming pools, bird baths, flower pots,

trash containers, children's toys, clogged rain gutters and other places. Place environmentally-friendly Bti briquets in standing water that can't be drained. Bti can be purchased at local home and garden stores.

- Properly maintain your landscaping to help reduce the mosquito population. Mosquitoes go to cooler, humid, shady areas in your yard during the daytime to rest and escape hot dry summer air. Thinning shrubs and cutting down tall grass and weeds will reduce the harborage areas and number of mosquitoes in your yard.

It's the time of year to get outdoors and be active, but it's also time for you to swat down mosquitoes. Please follow the tips above. They could make your summer more enjoyable and, just maybe, save your life.

The City of North Richland Hills will work with Tarrant County Public Health Department throughout the summer to monitor for mosquito borne illnesses and implement mosquito control activities. Visit our website at [www.nrhtx.com/mosquitocontrol](http://www.nrhtx.com/mosquitocontrol) to get more information and sign up for alerts. Questions may be directed to the Neighborhood Services Department at 817-427-6650.

## The Mayor's Summer Reading Club 2016

You're invited to join The Mayor's Summer Reading Club this summer! Join us for special events and programs each week for all ages. Beginning on Monday, June 6, 2016 you can **"Read and Watch Your World Grow"**!

All ages are invited to join this incentive program that rewards reading with prizes\*, coupons and tickets to NRH2O!

Visit [library.nrhtx.com/src](http://library.nrhtx.com/src) for more info!



\*Prizes available while supplies last; some prizes may not be available to all ages due to donor restrictions. See Library for details.

**Library**  
NORTH RICHLAND HILLS

817-427-6800  
[www.library.nrhtx.com/src](http://www.library.nrhtx.com/src)



City of North Richland Hills  
 4301 City Point Drive  
 North Richland Hills, Texas 76180

Presort Standard  
 U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Fort Worth, TX  
 Permit No. 609

POSTAL CUSTOMER

## 2016 Meetings & Special Events

*Dates may be subject to change. To verify visit [www.nrhtx.com](http://www.nrhtx.com) or call 817-427-6000.*

**May**

- 2 Teen Court
- 3 'Round the Town with Oscar
- 4 Outdoor Warning Sirens Test
- 5 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 6 Sounds of Spring Concert
- 7 Free Comic Book Day, Library
- 9 Flutasia Concert, Library
- 9 City Council
- 9 Teen Court
- 11 Youth Advisory Committee
- 13 City Hall Grand Opening/Open House
- 13 Sounds of Spring Concert
- 14 NRH Centre Spring Dance Recital
- 16-20 Early Voting for Primary Runoff
- 16 City Council Meeting
- 16 Teen Court
- 17 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 19 CPR Class
- 19 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 19 Library Board
- 20 Sounds of Spring Concert
- 21 NRH<sub>2</sub>O Opens for Summer
- 23 Blood Drive, Library
- 24 Primary Election Runoff
- 30 City Holiday, Normal Trash Service

**June**

- 1 Outdoor Warning Sirens Test
- 2 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 6 Parks & Recreation Board
- 6 Teen Court
- 7 'Round the Town with Oscar

- 11 Bike Rodeo, Cross Timbers Park
- 13 City Council
- 13 Teen Court
- 14 Dallas Zoo at NRH<sub>2</sub>O
- 16 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 17 Dive in Movie at NRH<sub>2</sub>O
- 18 CPR Class
- 18 Fireworks at NRH<sub>2</sub>O
- 20 Teen Court
- 24 Dive in Movie at NRH<sub>2</sub>O
- 24 World's Largest Swim Lesson
- 27 City Council Meeting

**July**

- 1 Dive in Movie at NRH<sub>2</sub>O
- 4 Family 4th Fireworks Show
- 4 City Holiday, No Trash Service
- 5 'Round the Town with Oscar
- 6 Outdoor Warning Sirens Test
- 7 Planning & Zoning Commission

- 8 Dive in Movie at NRH<sub>2</sub>O
- 11 City Council
- 11 Teen Court
- 14 CPR Class
- 15 Dive in Movie at NRH<sub>2</sub>O
- 16 Fireworks at NRH<sub>2</sub>O
- 18 Teen Court
- 21 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 22 Dive in Movie at NRH<sub>2</sub>O
- 25 Teen Court
- 25 City Council Meeting
- 29 Dive in Movie at NRH<sub>2</sub>O

**August**

- 1 Parks & Recreation Board
- 1 Teen Court
- 2 'Round the Town with Oscar
- 3 Outdoor Warning Siren Test
- 4 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 5 Dive in Movie at NRH<sub>2</sub>O

### City of North Richland Hills

**City Council**

- Mayor Oscar Trevino
- Mayor Pro Tem David Whitson
- Rita Wright Oujesky
- Tito Rodriguez
- Tom Lombard
- Tim Barth
- Scott Turnage
- Tim Welch

**City Manager's Office**

- Mark Hindman, City Manager
- Karen Bostic, Assistant City Manager
- Paulette Hartman, Assistant City Manager
- Jimmy Perdue, Director of Public Safety
- Mike Curtis, Managing Director

**Stay Connected**

817-427-6000 [www.nrhtx.com](http://www.nrhtx.com)  
[www.facebook.com/NRHCityHall](http://www.facebook.com/NRHCityHall)  
[www.twitter.com/CityofNRH](http://www.twitter.com/CityofNRH)