

# NRRH

A newsletter for the residents of North Richland Hills

## WINTER 2017

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## North Richland Hills Among 10 Best Communities in Dallas-Fort Worth

**N**orth Richland Hills has been recognized as one of the 10 best neighborhoods in Dallas-Fort Worth by the *Dallas Morning News*.

The newspaper scored more than 300 neighborhoods in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwall and Tarrant counties on several factors including: safety from crime; affordability of homes; good schools; well maintained and quiet neighborhoods; rising home values; pet-friendliness; places to shop and things to do; commute; walkability; trees and landscaping; parks; and greenspaces.

North Richland Hills was the only Tarrant County community included in the top 10 ranking, which was published in the October 16, 2016 newspaper.

“North Richland Hills prides itself on being a welcoming and neighborly community. Quality of life is important here, and it shows,” the article said. Contributing factors to our quality of life include well-maintained neighborhoods, walkability and pet-friendliness, along with our modern public facilities and numerous recreational amenities. The newspaper mentioned our new city hall, animal shelter, recreation center, library and makerspace, as well as the award-winning NRH<sub>2</sub>O Family Water Park, Iron Horse Golf Course, and our expansive system of parks and trails. Economic redevelopment, revitalization and the future TexRail service were other positive factors noted about North Richland Hills.



### Dallas Morning News' 10 Best Neighborhoods

1. West Plano
2. Allen
3. East Plano
4. Frisco East
5. Eldorado Heights (McKinney)
6. Breckinridge Park (Richardson)
7. Westfalls Village (Frisco)
8. Corinth
9. North Richland Hills
10. North Central Plano

# NRH Improving Streets, Other Infrastructure

**T**he City of North Richland Hills is continuously working to improve our municipal infrastructure, including our streets. During 2016, the Street Division completed asphalt rehabilitation projects on City Point Drive and Redondo Street and resurfaced around 4 lane miles of other city streets. They also excavated and patched over 100,000 square feet of asphalt pavement; made around 14,000 square feet of concrete curb and gutter repairs; and patched a little over 5,000 square feet of potholes. The following capital projects were also completed over the past year:



- **Main Street Drainage:** This capital project included the installation of additional drainage pipes under Main Street east of Chilton and Jerry Court to better accommodate storm water runoff. New asphalt pavement was placed after the utility installation was complete.
- **Rufe Snow (Karen to Loop 820):** This capital project reconstructed and widened the section of Rufe Snow immediately south of Loop 820. Construction took almost a year despite its relatively small scope, due to the presence of gas pipelines and some additional signal work to accommodate the future extension of Meadowlakes Drive east of Rufe Snow.
- **Lynda Court:** This project involved a partnership with Tarrant County to administer federal Community Development Block Grant money to reconstruct Lynda Court, including the installation of a new water line, concrete roadway pavement and sidewalks.

## Projects Underway

- **Rufe Snow (Mid-Cities to Ridgetop):** This major capital project involves federal grant money to reconstruct and widen 1 ¼ miles of Rufe Snow Drive from Mid-Cities Boulevard to Ridgetop Road. Construction began in May 2016 and is expected to continue into early 2018. The former 5-lane roadway will be rebuilt as a 7-lane roadway to match the section of Rufe Snow south of Mid-Cities.
- **Calloway Channel Repair Project:** Approximately 900 feet of the western channel bank along the Calloway Branch tributary just east of Graham Ranch will be restored and fortified to prevent future erosion problems. Construction will begin in January 2017 and is anticipated to take four months.

## Upcoming Projects

- **Harmonson Road Sewer:** The existing 18” sanitary sewer main along Harmonson Road, from Dawn Drive to just east of Lochridge Court, will be reconstructed beginning in February 2017.
- **Smithfield Road:** This project will align Smithfield Road with Bridge Street at Davis Boulevard, creating a four-leg intersection. Smithfield will also be widened from Davis to just north of Mid-Cities and turn lanes will be added to the intersection at Mid-Cities to increase efficiency and reduce delays during peak times. New sidewalks and street lighting will be added. Utility relocation is concluding and construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2017.
- **Rufe Snow / Glenview Intersection:** An additional lane will be added to Rufe Snow Drive just north and south of the intersection with Glenview Drive to better accommodate increased traffic from the new charter school. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2017. Interim measures will be taken to mitigate school-related congestion until the project is complete.
- **Meadowlakes Extension:** Meadowlakes Drive will be extended to the east of Rufe Snow Drive, creating a fourth leg at that signalized intersection. Meadowlakes will connect to Corona at the current intersection of Corona and LaRue. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2017.
- **Other Street Improvements:** The annual Preventive Street Maintenance Program will begin in early spring. This project will improve about 10% of the lane miles within the city through asphalt overlays, asphalt rehabilitation projects, slurry sealing, and crack sealing. Questions may be directed to Public Works at 817-427-6400.

**NRH C.A.R.E.S.**  
 Caregiver's Assigned Registry for Elderly & Special Needs



The NRH C.A.R.E.S Program allows family members of the elderly and those with special needs to register their loved ones with NRHPD. A free alert bracelet containing a serial number inscription is provided for your loved ones to wear. Should they go missing, the bracelet can assist the police in his or her safe return home.

Register online: [www.nrhtx.com/nrhcares](http://www.nrhtx.com/nrhcares)




For more information, please contact Community Services at 817-427-7024

## NRHPD Focuses on Mental Health Needs

The North Richland Hills Police Department recognizes the need for specialized mental health training to reach and better serve a portion of our community in need of mental health services. To address this critical need within our community, the Police Department now has a dedicated full-time Mental Health Police Officer.



Officer Chris Morgan

Officer Chris Morgan has received specialized training to address the health and safety of citizens suffering with mental health issues. Officer Morgan collaborates with Tarrant County MHMR to identify and evaluate treatment needs and support services for our citizens. The goal of the program is to reduce crisis contacts with police and better serve citizens with special needs. If positive and productive relationships can be forged with our citizens in need, a better outcome can be achieved should officers be called to assist them during a crisis.

If you would like more information or to speak to Officer Morgan, please call 817-427-7092.

**UNIDOS**  
 LA POLICIA TRABAJANDO JUNTO CON LA COMUNIDAD HISPANA

**Feria de Salud y seguridad**

Fecha: 25 de Febrero 2017  
 Hora: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Lugar: W. G. Thomas Coliseum  
 6108 Broadway Ave.  
 Haltom City



## New Drug Collection Site Allows Residents to Safely Discard Unwanted Medications

Prescription drug abuse is among the top concerns of parents and law enforcement alike. As a proactive measure, a new medication drop box has been installed in the lobby of the North Richland Hills Jail to provide the community with a safe, effective, and convenient way to dispose of unwanted prescription or non-prescription medications.

The jail is located on the east side of our new City Hall at 4301 City Point Drive. The drop box is available to the public 24/7 and provides a geographically convenient location for citizens to discard dangerous and abuse prone substances otherwise stored in the home. If you have questions, contact the Police Department at 817-427-7000.

The drop box was provided free of charge to the citizens of North Richland Hills through our partnership with the Challenge of Tarrant County. Visit [www.challengeetc.org](http://www.challengeetc.org) for information on how you can support the fight against drug abuse.



# City Departments Earned Many Honors in 2016

**S**everal city departments and employees were recognized for their outstanding service in 2016. Following are some of the awards and honors they received.

## Budget & Finance

- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association;
- Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute;
- Purchasing Manager Eva Ramirez named the United Way Employee Campaign Manager of the Year for the Northeast Tarrant Region.

## Economic Development

- Certificate of Economic Excellence from the Texas Economic Development Council.

## Human Resources

- Gold Fit-Friendly Worksite Award from the American Heart Association.

## Keep NRH Beautiful

- Governor's Community Achievement Award for outstanding community improvement and \$250,000 grant from the Texas Department of Transportation;
- Keep Texas Beautiful's Sustained Excellence Award and Gold Star Affiliate Award.

## Library

- Texas Municipal Library Director's Excellence in Library Services Award;
- Texas Library Association's Branding Iron Award.

## Parks & Recreation

- NRH<sub>2</sub>O Family Water Park named one of America's best water parks by FoxNews.com and by TripAdvisor.com;
- World Waterpark Association Al Turner Memorial Commitment to Excellence Award given to NRH<sub>2</sub>O Manager Frank Perez and the Chris Stuart Emerging Leader Award given to Chris Duxbury;
- Cook Children's Hospital and Safe Kids Tarrant County awarded the Green Crystal Award to NRH Water Safety 365 initiative;
- Iron Horse employee Josh Deer awarded the Spectrum Award from PGA golf professional Ernie Els for his work with the #GAMEON initiative;



Iron Horse Golf Course was ranked the top course in the DFW Value Priced Division by *Avidgolfer Magazine*, the 15th best course among all golf courses in the metroplex, and the toughest USGA rated course in Tarrant County.

- Managing Director Vickie Loftice awarded the President's Award from Texas Recreation & Parks Society;
- NRH Senior Center awarded Texas Recreation & Park Society North Region award for Excellence in Programming.

## Planning & Development

- Gold Level Scenic City Certification;
- Certificate of Achievement for Planning Excellence.

## Police Department

- Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Recognized Status for compliance with 166 best business practices for Texas law enforcement;
- Police Department Motor Unit awarded more than 40 trophies throughout the year;
- Police Department Bicycle Patrol Unit and Volunteers in Policing Bicycle Unit awarded numerous trophies throughout the year.

# Where Do Your Property Taxes Go?

**D**id you know, less than 25% of your overall property tax payment goes to the City of North Richland Hills? The rest goes to the school district, county, county hospital district and the county college district. Each governmental entity sets its own budget and property tax rate annually. Current tax rates are:

Birdville ISD*	\$1.4539
City of NRH	\$0.61
Tarrant County	\$0.254
JPS Hospital District	\$0.227897
Tarrant County College	\$0.144730

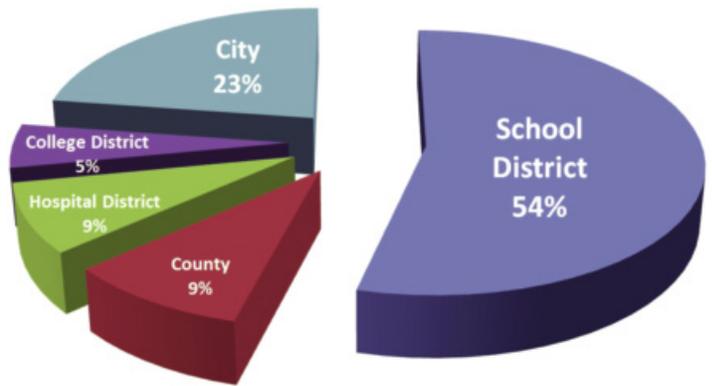


Chart does not reflect applicable homestead, senior or disabled exemptions.  
\*Some NRH residents reside in Keller ISD, which has a tax rate of \$1.52.

Property taxes are collected in January of each year. For more information about paying property taxes, please call the Tarrant County Tax Office at 817-884-1100.

# Council Adopts Balanced Budget, Sets Tax Rate

**O**n September 26, 2016 the North Richland Hills City Council approved a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and voted to keep the city's property tax rate at 61-cents per \$100 valuation. The annual budget provides funding to continue the day to day operations of the city including 24-hour police, fire and EMS service, public works, parks and recreation, public library, neighborhood services, building inspections, and other city services.

The budget also includes funding for:

- the purchase of body cameras for police officers;
- the replacement of three fire trucks;
- pay raises for public safety personnel and other city employees to reflect the current market and ensure our ability to retain and recruit the most qualified personnel;
- the renovation of Northfield Park;
- the realignment of Smithfield Road between Mid-Cities Boulevard and Davis Boulevard;
- \$1 million for other residential street maintenance.

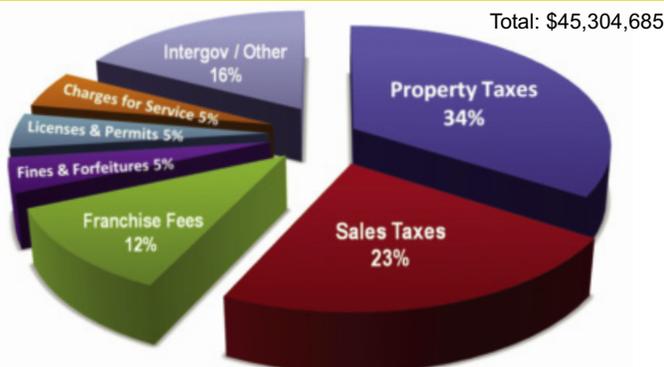
This is the fifth consecutive year that the property tax rate was set at 61-cents per \$100 valuation. It includes 34.8083 cents for maintenance and operations and 26.1917 cents for debt service.

Although the city's tax rate remains the same, residents will see their property tax bill change if the value of their home has changed. Property values are determined by the Tarrant Appraisal District and may decrease, increase or remain the same from year to year. Property tax bills for senior citizens and disabled residents will not change unless they have purchased a new home or made additions to their home.

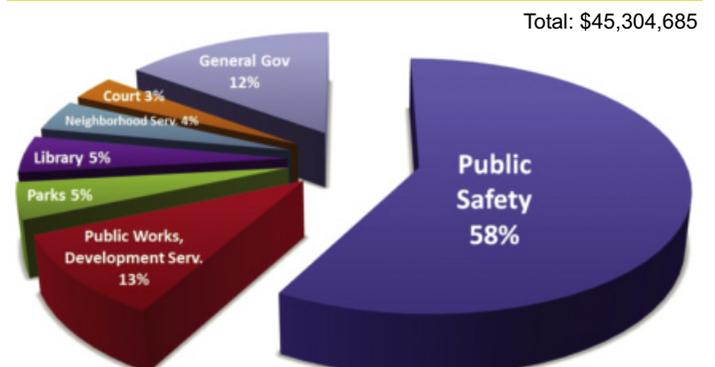
The City property tax equals less than 25% of a resident's overall property tax bill. Residents also pay property taxes to the school district, county, county hospital district and the county college district.

The annual budget is available to view on the city's website at [www.nrhtx.com/budget](http://www.nrhtx.com/budget), at City Hall or at the Public Library. The city's new fiscal year began on October 1.

## FY 2016-17 General Fund Revenues



## FY 2016-17 General Fund Expenditures



# Practice Water Safety 365 Days a Year

**F**amily fun around the swimming pool may be over for now, but water is still everywhere! The City of North Richland Hills and the NRH Water Safety 365 initiative are reminding residents to practice water safety 365 days a year to prevent drowning in our community. Here are some tips to help keep you and your family safe this winter:

**Never Leave Children Unattended Around Water - Not Even for a Moment:** Drowning is completely silent and a child loses consciousness within seconds. Texts, doorbells, and other distractions can wait. An undistracted adult should always be within arms reach of children around water. Never rely on another child or on a bath seat or ring to keep a child safe.

**Identify Hazards Around Your House:** Children can drown in less than one inch of water. Bathtubs, buckets, kiddie pools, and toilets are all common hazards around the house. Drain containers and tubs and store them upside down after each use, and consider using a toilet lock or latch on the bathroom door to keep children out of the bathroom. Swimming pools are a known drowning hazard, but don't forget to watch children around creeks, koi ponds, and hot tubs - and if a child is missing, check these places first.

**Put Layers of Protection Around Pools/Spas:** Layers of protection include fencing, alarms, covers, safety equipment, and other measures that can delay a child's access to water and help rescue anyone around a pool or spa who is in trouble. Visit [www.nrhw365.com](http://www.nrhw365.com) to



learn 16 ways you can protect your family if you have a pool, spa, or hot tub.

**Learn CPR:** Make sure everyone in your household knows what to do in case of emergency, and make sure all adults have been trained in CPR skills that can help save a life before paramedics arrive. NRH Fire Department offers monthly CPR/First Aid classes. See a schedule and more information at [www.nrhtx.com/CPR](http://www.nrhtx.com/CPR).

**Learn to Swim:** Swim lessons are offered year round at the NRH Centre. Find a schedule and more information at [www.nrhcenre.com](http://www.nrhcenre.com) or call 817-427-6600.

**Turn Around, Don't Drown:** Make sure that all drivers in the house know never to drive across flooded roads, even if the water doesn't look very deep.

## Congratulations Citizens Civic Academy Graduates



Fifteen North Richland Hills residents graduated from the fifth NRH Citizens Civic Academy (CCA) in October 2016. Front row, left to right: Adriana Rivera, Wendy Werner, Mary Ann Hall, Joycelyn Taylor, Gail Washington and Whitney Harding. Back row, left to right: Dr. Tim Barth, Kelvin Deupree, Doug Halcomb, Kristin James, Brandon Arnold, Harry Huet, Donald Hall, Walt Anderson, Hillory White, Linda Robert, Peter Sackleh, Tito Rodriguez and Mark Hindman. The CCA is held annually each fall. For more information, visit [www.nrhtx.com/CCA](http://www.nrhtx.com/CCA).



# Healthy Starts Here

The NRH Centre can help you start and maintain your New Year fitness goals. Visit us online to see what we have to offer you and your family in 2017!

Visit [NRHCENTRE.COM](http://NRHCENTRE.COM) for information on current availability of membership purchase promotions



6000 Hawk Avenue  
North Richland Hills, TX 76180 (817) 427-6600

For a detailed list of programs, prices and amenities, please visit

[nrhcentre.com](http://nrhcentre.com)

Featuring a Main Ballroom, Upstairs Terrace, Outdoor Plaza, Catering Kitchen and friendly, professional staff, the Grand Hall at the NRH Centre is the perfect venue to showcase your event!

*Grand Hall*  
at **NRH**  
CENTRE

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6000 Hawk Avenue, 76180  
817-427-6640 [nrhcentre.com](http://nrhcentre.com)

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## 2017 Meetings & Special Events

*For more information, please visit [www.nrhtx.com](http://www.nrhtx.com) or call 817-427-6000.*

### January

- 1-8 Christmas Tree Recycling Drop-Off
- 2 Non-emergency City Offices Closed  
Normal Garbage Collection
- 3-6 Holiday Grease Recycling Collection
- 4 Outdoor Warning Siren Test
- 4 Christmas Tree Recycling Pickup
- 5 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 9 City Council Meeting
- 9 Teen Court
- 11 Youth Advisory Committee
- 14 Year of the Book Kick Off at Library
- 16 Non-emergency City Offices Closed  
Normal Garbage Collection
- 17 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 18 NE Transportation Services Board
- 18 Candidate Filing Begins
- 19 CPR Class
- 19 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 19 Library Board
- 20 Summer Camp Registration Begins
- 21 Polar Plunge at NRH2O
- 23 City Council Meeting
- 23 Teen Court
- 27 NRH Centre Parents Night Out
- 30 Teen Court

### February

- 1 Outdoor Warning Siren Test
- 2 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 2 Citizens Police Academy Begins
- 4 Daddy/Daughter Dance
- 6 Teen Court
- 6 Parks & Recreation Board

- 8 Youth Advisory Committee
- 10 City Council Goals Retreat
- 13 City Council Meeting
- 13 Teen Court
- 16 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 16 Library Board
- 16 Citizens Fire Academy Begins
- 17 Candidate Filing Ends
- 18 CPR Class
- 20 Teen Court
- 27 City Council Meeting

### March

- 1 Outdoor Warning Sirens Test
- 2 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 6 Teen Court
- 6 City Council Meeting
- 8 Youth Advisory Committee
- 9 CPR Class
- 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 13-17 NRH Centre Spring Break Camp

- 14 Keep NRH Beautiful Commission
- 16 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 16 Library Board
- 20 Teen Court
- 27 Teen Court
- 24 NRH Centre Parents Night Out
- 27 City Council Meeting
- 31 NRH Centre Family Movie Night

### April

- 1 NRH Centre April Pool's Day
- 1 Mayor's 5K Walk
- 3 Parks & Recreation Board
- 3 Teen Court
- 4 'Round Town with Oscar
- 5 Outdoor Warning Sirens Test
- 6 Planning & Zoning Commission
- 8 Easter in the Park
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 10 Teen Court
- 12 Youth Advisory Committee

## City of North Richland Hills

### City Council

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

### 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](https://www.facebook.com/NRHCityHall)
- [www.twitter.com/CityofNRH](https://www.twitter.com/CityofNRH)