

## Stay Safe When Shopping, Cooking this Holiday Season

The holidays can be a very busy time of year. By taking certain safety precautions you can have both a joyous and safe holiday season. The North Richland Hills Police Department encourages you to follow these safety tips:

- Shop during daylight hours. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Only carry the necessary cash, checks and/or credit card you expect to use.
- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of money.
- If your credit card is lost, stolen or misused contact your lender immediately.
- Keep a record of all your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Keep wallets or purses close to you at all times.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages.
- Beware of strangers; "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Report any suspicious activity to the North Richland Hills Police Department at 817-427-7191.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep a close eye on the range. The NRH Fire Department also reminds you of the following safety tips:

- Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, towels or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto burners and catch fire.
- Always keep a lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.
- Test your smoke alarms, and let guests know what your fire escape plan is.

### Welcome New Businesses

#### A. Keith Rousey (Power Washing Business)

3805 Parchmand Ste. C, 817-201-1393

#### Aerotek (Employment Staffing)

9001 Airport Freeway #500, 817-345-4900

#### Astra English Language Center (Tutoring)

8053 Boulevard 26 Ste. B, 817-812-2910

#### Groce & Groce, P.L.L.C (Law Office)

8201 Mid Cities Blvd. #200, 817-306-7600

#### Keopatra Organic Spa & Salon

6021 Walker Boulevard #131, 817-514-9209

#### Mina's Pizza & Pasta

5755 Davis Boulevard #100, 817-503-0000

#### Sana Indian Restaurant & Grocery

6248 Rufe Snow Drive #422, 817-503-7000

#### Sassy Central Day Spa

7956 Davis Boulevard #102, 817-503-7384

**The City of North Richland Hills encourages you to support local businesses and shop NRH first!**

### Pass Through Rate Adjustment Goes into Effect in Decemeber

The City of North Richland Hills purchases drinking water, as well as sewer treatment services, from the City of Fort Worth and the Trinity River Authority (TRA) as a wholesale customer. The "pass through" portion of your utility bill covers the cost for purchasing the water and sewer treatment services. The City does not mark up pass through rates or make a profit off pass through rates. This portion of each payment goes to Fort Worth and TRA to pay for their supply and treatment services. Pass through rates have historically increased from year to year and the City will implement a water pass through increase as a result of projected increases in the City of Fort Worth and the Trinity River Authority rates due to increases in their production and maintenance costs.

A water pass through increase of \$0.1480 per hundred cubic feet will go into effect on December 1, 2008. The increase to an average residential customer with a ¾ inch meter using 1,329 cubic feet (9,840 gallons) will be \$1.96 per month or 3%. This amount will vary per customer per month dependent upon the actual usage. There will not be a sewer pass through increase this year.

Questions about your water and sewer bill may be directed to the City of North Richland Hills Utility Customer Service Department at (817) 427-6200.

## NRH Holiday Events

### Christmas Tree Decorating Program

On Wednesday and Thursday, **December 3 and 4**, the NRH Public Library will hold its annual Christmas Tree Decorating program. Children of all ages are encouraged to come to the library from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. each day to make paper ornaments and help decorate the tree in the Children's Department. The Library is located at 9015 Grand Avenue. For more details, call 817-427-6818.

### Holiday Lighting Contest

Keep NRH Beautiful annually recognizes residents for beautifully decorating the outside of their homes during the holiday season. Nine winners will be recognized at the **December 8** City Council meeting. Residents are encouraged to nominate neighbors by calling 817-427-6651 prior to 5 p.m. on **December 5**.

### Pet Photos with Santa

Bring your pets and pose with Santa from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, **December 11**, at the NRH Animal Adoption and Rescue Center. The Center is requesting a \$7 donation for the first pose, \$5 donation for the second pose and \$2 donation for additional prints. The donations benefit the Shelter Fund. Dogs and cats must be currently vaccinated for rabies and wearing their tag. Pets residing in NRH must be licensed with the City and wearing their tag. The Animal Adoption & Rescue Center is located at 7200B Dick Fisher Drive. Please call 817-427-6570 for more information.

### Reel Time

Create a new family holiday tradition! Come relaxed in slippers and jammies to enjoy the hit holiday film "Elf", cocoa and popcorn! Join us for this fun, free event on **December 12** (twElf) at 6:30 p.m. at the NRH Recreation Center, 6720 N.E. Loop 820. For more details, please call 817-427-6600.

### Santa's Holiday Drop & Shop

Hey parents, need some extra time to shop for the holiday season? On Saturday, **December 13** bring the kids by, drop them off and we'll take care of the rest. You shop 'til you drop while recreation staff entertains your kids through activities, crafts and more! Pre-register for the morning (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.) or afternoon (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.) session. It's just \$20 per child. Sign up early, space is limited! Limit one session per child. This program is open to kids ages 4 – 12. The Recreation Center is located at 6720 N.E. Loop 820. For more information, please call 817-427-6600.

### Toys for Tennis Tournament

Richland Tennis Center will hold its 5th Annual Toys For Tennis Tournament at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, **December 13**. The entry fee is \$8 per person. Participants are also asked to bring an unwrapped toy. The deadline to register is **November 28**. Please call 817-427-6680 for more details.

### Elves Workshop

The NRH Recreation Center will hold an Elves Workshop on Saturday, **December 13** for children ages 3 to 6. The cost is \$16 per child. Sign up for a morning (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.) or afternoon (1 p.m. – 3 p.m.) session. Participants will enjoy singing holiday songs, making festive crafts, decorating sugar cookies and a visit from ol' Saint Nick. Each child will get to take home a photo with Santa. Space is limited. To register your elf for this special event, call 817-427-6600.

### Food & Toy Drives

The City of North Richland Hills offers residents several opportunities to share in the holiday spirit and give to those who are less fortunate:

- The City is collecting donations of nonperishable food and new, unwrapped toys **November 17 through December 5** at City Hall. The donations will be given to the Community Enrichment Center to help needy families.
- NRH Santa Cops are accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys **December 1 through 17**. Donations can be dropped off at the Police Department during normal business hours. Donations will also be accepted at A Night of Holiday Magic on Saturday, **December 6** at NRH<sub>2</sub>O.

The Santa Cops Program assists families in need with children who attend Birdville ISD.

- The NRH Firefighter's Association is accepting donations of nonperishable food and new unwrapped toys at NRH Fire Stations and at the Fire Administration building **through Christmas Eve**. This drive also benefits the Community Enrichment Center.

### NRH<sub>2</sub>O Season Pass Sale

NRH<sub>2</sub>O begins selling 2009 Season Passes online on **November 11, 2008**. Purchase your pass between **November 11 and December 24** and receive special discounts. By purchasing your pass early, you'll also receive a special entertainment package with a coupon for a refillable souvenir bottle and in-park coupons including free admission tickets for friends (available while supplies last). Beginning **November 24** you can purchase your pass by visiting the park offices which are open Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., or avoid the trip and purchase your season pass online 24/7! For more details, call 817-427-6500 or visit [www.nrh2o.com](http://www.nrh2o.com).

### Holiday Closings & Trash Schedule

City Hall and other non-emergency offices will be closed for the holidays on **November 27 and 28, December 25, and January 1**. Duncan Disposal will not provide garbage and recycling collections on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. For each of these holidays, Thursday collections will be made on Friday and Friday's collections shift to Saturday.