

## Properly Dispose of Leaves, Other Yard Waste

Did you know that blowing or sweeping leaves, grass clippings, or other yard waste into the street or down the storm drain can cause flooding? Yard waste that is swept or blown into a nearby storm drain can clog the storm drain and keep water from draining through. The City of North Richland Hills asks that you properly manage your yard waste by leaving it on the lawn.

Grass clippings left on the lawn can provide up to 25% of your lawn's total fertilizer needs, and leaves contain 50% to 80% of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the season. To keep these nutrients where they can nourish your lawn, use the mulch setting on your mower or compost grass clippings and leaves for use in flower beds.

Yard waste that is left in a street or blown into

the storm drain will eventually be washed into nearby creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. This can deplete the oxygen level in the water, which is harmful to aquatic life. Chemical fertilizers used on the lawn can also harm aquatic life.

Leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste can also be bagged and placed on the curb for pick up on your normal trash collection day. If you have a large number of bagged leaves they may not all be picked up by the garbage company at once. The remainder will be picked up on your following collection day.

If you hire a company to care for your lawn, please educate them on proper lawn care. For more information, contact the North Richland Hills Neighborhood Services at 817-427-6663.

### Water Taste, Odor Changes Caused by Natural Compound

Some water customers in North Richland Hills have noticed changes in the taste and odor of their drinking water in recent weeks. This is because of an increase in geosmin, a compound that is naturally occurring in the water supply. Geosmin has an earthy or musty odor and is naturally present in some foods such as beets, spinach and mushrooms. Geosmin, even at low levels, can be detected by people.

While the taste and odor can be unpleasant, geosmin is non-toxic and safe to consume. Heating your water increases the release of geosmin compounds, which explains why the smell is more easily detected when in the shower or when used for hot beverages. Chilling your water may make the geosmin less detectable.

According to the Trinity River Authority (TRA), which supplies water to the City of North Richland Hills, it is a normal occurrence for there to be an increase in geosmin in area lakes this time of year. TRA is monitoring the situation and making adjustments to their treatment processes to try to mitigate the increase in geosmin level.

### Garbage Rate Adjustment

On February 1, 2021 Republic Waste Services will adjust its monthly fee for garbage and recycling collection services in North Richland Hills. The monthly residential curbside collection will increase by 45 cents. This rate increase will appear on residential bills in February. As a reminder, senior citizens can receive a 75-cent discount on the monthly garbage and recycling collection fee. For commercial customers, a 3% increase will appear on the March bill (for February service). Please contact the NRH Water Office at 817-427-6200 with any questions.

### 2021 Holiday Collection Schedule

Republic Waste Services will change the residential garbage and recycling collection schedule for the following holidays in 2021:

- **Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6:** Monday collections will be made on Tuesday and Tuesday collections shift to Wednesday.
- **Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 25:** Thursday collections will be made on Friday and Friday collections shift to Saturday.

There will be no change to the residential garbage and recycling collection schedule for Independence Day or Christmas Day in 2021, because they fall on the weekend. Normal collections will be made on all other holidays.

## Monthly Good Neighbor Tip: Outdoor Holiday Lights

Did you know outdoor decorative or holiday lighting can be a safety hazard if left outdoors too long? Over time, the exposure to sun and climate changes can cause the plastic and wiring to break and become an electrical and fire hazard. It is a violation of city code to allow temporary electrical power and lighting installations to be installed for more than 90 days. Please be a good neighbor and remove decorative and holiday lighting in a timely manner. In addition to protecting your home, this helps to enhance the appearance of North Richland Hills' neighborhoods. For more information, visit [www.nrhtx.com/codecompliance](http://www.nrhtx.com/codecompliance) or call 817-427-6663.

## Reminders About Wildlife

Residents may notice wildlife in area parks, neighborhoods and open spaces during certain times of the year as the animals seek out new sources of water, food and ground cover. Wildlife that is common to our region includes rabbits, raccoons, possums, armadillos, hawks, coyotes, skunks, snakes and other small animals. If these animals find food, water and protection from the elements, they may not leave the area. To discourage wildlife from relocating to your property remove all food and water sources. Make yards less inviting by cutting back shrubs, removing brush piles, and sealing off crawl spaces under homes, decks and storage buildings.

For your safety and respect of the wildlife, you should never approach, chase, capture, feed or harm any of the animals you see in local parks and neighborhoods. Although normally not aggressive, wild animals can bite if threatened or handled. Also, never allow your pets to run free. Small pets are easy prey for coyotes. Dogs should always be on a leash or in a fenced yard and cats should never go outdoors.

The City of North Richland Hills encourages residents to educate themselves about wildlife and to take the above steps to minimize encounters with wildlife. More information can be found online at [www.nrhtx.com/wildlife](http://www.nrhtx.com/wildlife). Questions about wildlife may be directed to the North Richland Hills Animal Adoption & Rescue Center at 817-427-6570.

## New Business Spotlight

**Call To Repair** (cell phones / computers)  
5198 Rufe Snow Dr. #121, 818-900-9045  
[www.calltorepair.com](http://www.calltorepair.com)

**Elleuminating Beauty Studio**  
5342 Davis Blvd., Ste. A, 817-300-6714  
[www.sheselleuminating.com](http://www.sheselleuminating.com)

**Support local businesses. Shop NRH first!**

## Upcoming Events

### Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic

The North Richland Hills Animal Adoption & Rescue Center will host a low cost rabies vaccination clinic from 10 a.m. to noon on **Saturday, February 27** at the center at 7301 Iron Horse Blvd. Rabies vaccinations will be \$5 from the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection. They will also offer core pet vaccinations, heartworm testing, microchipping and heartworm prevention medication. Please visit [www.texasforthem.org](http://www.texasforthem.org) for pricing information.

### Youth, Adult Spring Sports Leagues & Field Reservations

The NRH Parks & Recreation Department often receives inquiries about youth and adult sports leagues. The majority of recreational youth sports conducted within North Richland Hills are organized by local youth sports associations. All of the associations are coordinated by volunteers within the community. Each association utilizes specific parks within NRH to conduct the seasonal youth leagues; therefore, limited field use for teams outside of these associations is available. Registration can be completed online for the youth sports listed below.

For more information about specific youth sports or general questions about registration for the upcoming seasons, please contact the Youth Sports Associations directly. Spring sports are registering now and most will begin in early to mid-March.

#### YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES

- **Richland Youth Association (RYA)**  
RYA offers youth baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football and superkids. Spring baseball registration opens in January. Visit [www.ryasports.com](http://www.ryasports.com) for more information and to register.
- **Birdville Area Youth Futbol Alliance (BAYFA)**  
BAYFA offers youth soccer. Spring registration is open now. Go to [www.bayfa-soccer.com](http://www.bayfa-soccer.com) for more information and to register.

#### ADULT LEAGUES & FIELD RESERVATIONS

For information on Adult Softball, Adult COED Volleyball and Adult Basketball leagues, please contact NRH Athletic Coordinator Michael Richardson at [mrichardson@nrhtx.com](mailto:mrichardson@nrhtx.com). For youth sports teams *NOT* registered and participating in RYA leagues or BAYFA leagues, limited athletic field practice space is available for reservations. For inquiries on field locations and reservation information and limited availability, please contact Michael Richardson at [mrichardson@nrhtx.com](mailto:mrichardson@nrhtx.com).