

NRH Launches New Online Portal for Permits

The City of North Richland Hills recently implemented a new online paperless system for permits and inspections. The new NRH E-Services Portal allows residents and contractors to conduct all business online, including application, document and plan submittal, permit review and approval, fee payment, and inspection requests and results. Customers no longer need to bring applications, plans, or payments to City Hall.

In addition to building permits, frequently used forms on the new E-Services Portal include applications for garage sale permits, special event permits, zoning change requests, rental home inspections, and more. You can access the new NRH E-Services Portal at www.nrhtx.com/eportal. If you have questions, please call 817-427-6300.

When do I need a building permit?

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 poorly completed 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 (including valves);
- Replacing residential roof decking;
- Adding or replacing walls or windows;
- Pouring concrete, widening/replacing driveway;

- Installing storage sheds 144 square feet or more;
- 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 3 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 existing residential shingles, electrical lighting or plumbing fixtures.

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 the proper permit(s). Permits should be displayed on site until the work is completed and passes inspection.

Many simple permits for smaller projects take only a few days to be approved and inspections are completed within a day of being requested. Alternatively, work done without permits can result in fines and longer project timelines because of possible corrective work. For more information, please call us at 817-427-6300.

Reduce Water Use During Winter Months

The City of North Richland Hills reminds you that lawns and other landscaping plants need less water this time of year. Lawns go dormant and landscape watering needs are dramatically reduced in winter months. Half an inch of water about every two weeks during the winter months will keep your lawn healthy. If we receive plenty of rainfall, there is no need to irrigate.

Making seasonal adjustments to your irrigation system is not only good for your lawn, it also reduces your monthly water bill. Your monthly sewer fee is recalculated each year based on the amount of water

used during the winter months.

Since wastewater is not metered, the sewer fee is determined by averaging the amount of water that is used at your home during December, January and February. These months provide a better picture of indoor water/sewer usage as compared to summer months when more water is used for irrigation, swimming pools and other outdoor uses. The new sewer average is calculated each March and is applied to your bill starting in April of each year. If you have questions about your water bill, please call the Water Office at 817-427-6200.

Don't Pour Cooking Oil, Grease Down Drain; Recycle it Instead

The City of North Richland Hills reminds you to never pour cooking oil or grease from your holiday feasts down the drain! Over time, all of that grease clogs your pipes and can cause costly sewer backups. Protect your home, city and the environment by properly disposing of cooking oil and grease. You can pour small amounts of oil and grease over newspaper or paper towels and place it in the garbage. Larger amounts can be collected and recycled into biodiesel or biogas.

The NRH Public Works Department will collect used cooking oils and grease for recycling **Nov. 29 - Dec. 3** and **Jan. 4 - 7**. Containers holding discarded cooking oil and grease must be made of plastic and have a screw top lid. This program is for residential kitchens only and excludes commercial users. Petroleum products are not accepted. Please call 817-427-6440 to arrange a pick up or get more information.

Good Neighbor Tip: Signs

Signs are often used to advertise and inform the public. The types of signs and placement of signs in our community are regulated by city ordinance to ensure they are appropriate and compatible with their surroundings and do not create a safety hazard or public nuisance. Please be a good neighbor and do not place any sign, including garage sale signs, on a light pole, utility pole, traffic pole, tree or in the right of way on a public street.

An exception is made for certain political signs and real estate signs along a public street, provided they do not create a safety or traffic hazard. For more information, please visit www.nrhtx.com/codecompliance or call the Code Compliance office at 817-427-6663.

New Business Spotlight

Fort Worth It Realty, LLC

6851 NE Loop 820, Ste. 220, 469-702-1460
www.ftworthitrealty.com

Japan House

7536 Boulevard 26, 817-537-2223
www.japanhousedfw.com

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

Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings / Collection Schedule

With the exception of public safety services, City Hall and other city offices will be closed **Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 and 26** for the Thanksgiving holiday. Garbage and recycling will not be collected on Thanksgiving Day. Thursday's collections move to Friday; Friday's collections move to Saturday.

City Hall will also be closed **Friday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 31** for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Since both holidays fall on Saturday, there will be no changes to the residential garbage and recycling schedules. Collections will be made on your usual days. Please call or visit our website to view holiday hours for all city facilities.

NRH Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us as we ring in the holiday season with the lighting of the city's 46-foot-tall Christmas Tree on **Thursday, Dec. 2** at 6 p.m. at Stormy Plaza, 9010 Grand Ave. Families will be able to enjoy the city's Christmas Tree and all of the holiday lights and scenery along Grand and Hawk Avenues through Jan. 2. More details about the tree lighting will be available on the city's website prior to the event. Please contact NRH Parks & Recreation at 817-427-6620 or nrhpart@nrhtx.com with any questions.

Christmas Lighting Contest

Keep NRH Beautiful annually recognizes residents for beautifully decorating the outside of their homes during the holiday season. Residents are encouraged to go to www.nrhtx.com/knrhb to find out more information about the program and submit nominations. Nominations will be accepted until 3 p.m. **Friday, Dec. 10** and winners will be announced on **Tuesday, Dec. 14**.

Bell Conte Ringers Holiday Concert

Enjoy an evening of traditional Christmas carols with an accomplished bell choir, the Bell Conte Ringers of the Arlington Heights United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. The Bell Conte Ringers will perform selections of their *Carols by Candlelight Concert* at the NRH Library on **Monday, Dec. 20** at 6 p.m., as part of the Library's free Fall Concert Series. Joining the Bell Conte Ringers will be Sueda Lutrell, a handbell tree soloist, playing an astounding set of 36 bells hung in patterns on a bell tree. The *Carols by Candlelight Concert* is a popular Fort Worth event each year, so this is a performance you don't want to miss. The Library is located at 9015 Grand Ave.