
CITY DESK

City of Coppel | Water Bill Insert

Holiday Closings

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2016, in observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Preparing Your Garden for Spring

Don't let the cold weather slow you down. Now is a great time to learn what you can do to start your garden off on the right foot! This class will provide an overview of late winter to early spring gardening chores including propagating transplants, soil preparation, weed control, pruning, and fertilization. Dallas County Master Gardener, Ruth Klein will also cover her essential winter dos and don'ts worth noting to hit the ground running with planting in February.

Jan. 23 from 11 am to 12:30 pm at the Biodiversity Education Center (367 Freeport Pkwy.). Free to the public and registration not required. For more information visit coppellcommunitygarden.org.

Docent Training for the Biodiversity Education Center

Would you like to volunteer with visiting students who come to the Biodiversity Education Center? Do you have free time during school hours? January 31 and February 7 from 2 -5 pm the Biodiversity Education Center will be holding its first training for docents. Attendance on both dates is required to complete the training. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the Biodiversity Education Center at 972-304-3581 or cnp@coppelltx.gov to register. There is no charge, but participants are asked to complete their volunteer registration at coppelltx.gov/volunteer prior to attending training. To learn more about the Biodiversity Education Center, visit www.coppelltx.gov/BEC.



Water/Sewer Rates Increase Feb. 1

During the Dec. 8 regular meeting, Coppell City Council approved an ordinance to raise the current water and sewer rates by 15% beginning Feb. 1, 2016. The City has not raised water and sewer rates since 1994. The current rates have provided the water/sewer fund with a healthy operating reserve, the ability to make bond payments and fund all operating and capital expenses from existing revenue levels and reserves.

However, the City has experienced an increase in costs from Trinity River Authority (TRA) related to increased flow from the City. The increase in TRA cost is estimated to be \$1.1 million for fiscal year 2016. Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) is passing along a 27% increase in water volume rates and a 9% increase in the water demand rate related to a dispute between DWU and the Sabine River Authority. These two items increase the cost of providing water and sewer service to customers today.

In addition, the Engineering Department identified the need for a second source pump station and ground storage tank. The cost of this project will require the City to issue \$10 million in revenue bonds. Revenue bond debt covenants require the water/sewer fund to maintain rates at a level that provide net revenues equal to 125% of the average bond payment.

The increased water and sewer rates will allow the City to accomplish the following:

- cover the increase in costs from DWU,
- cover the increase in costs from TRA,
- provide at least 180 days of expenses in operating reserves,
- provide a sufficient amount in reserves to cover unanticipated expenses and lower than anticipated revenues,
- ability to issue bonds for second source pump station, as well as two future issues of \$5 million each,
- ability to meet bond coverage requirements for revenue bonds,
- ability to increase amount available for maintenance and capital items,
- provide funds for the repair and replacement of aging water/sewer infrastructure.

The rates shown in the ordinance translate into a 15% or \$11.52 increase in the average monthly residential water bill. The increase will take effect on February 1, 2016. Contact Water Billing at 972-304-3695 for more information or email H2oBills@coppelltx.gov.

Upcoming Library Programs & Events

For information about the library and updates on construction, visit: coppelltx.gov/library.

LIBRARY CLOSED JAN 18 & 19

The library will be closed on Mon., Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King Jr Day and closed Tues., Jan. 19, for a staff inservice day.

RANDOM FANDOM

Thursday, January 21 • 6:30 pm

Grab your Raptor Squad to celebrate *Jurassic World*. Enjoy snacks, crafts, and a movie. Rated PG-13. Random Fandom will be held at the Coppel Public Library located at 500 Southwestern Blvd.

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

Monday, February 1 • 6 pm

Join us in February to create candy bouquets! These make great gifts for Valentine's Day. All supplies provided. Sign up is required, please email cozbyprograms@coppelltx.gov or call 972.304.3658. For adults age 18 and up. Some Assembly Required will meet at the Senior and Community Center, 345 W Bethel Rd.

PAGE TURNERS

Monday, February 8 • 7 pm

In February, we will discuss *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister. Place a copy of the next book selection on hold at the Information Desk. Page Turners meets at the Library, temporarily located at 500 Southwestern Blvd.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Tuesday, February 9 • 7 pm

Join us for stories, songs, and fun! Every month is something different. All ages welcome. Family Fun Night will be held at the Coppel Public Library located at 500 Southwestern Blvd.

Prevent Storm Water Pollution

Choose native and adapted plants and grasses that are drought tolerant and pest resistant. These require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

February Meetings

Park Board	2/1	6:30 PM	Town Center
Economic Development	2/3	6 PM	Town Center
Building and Standards	2/4	7 PM	Town Center
City Council	2/9	7:30 PM	Town Center
Library Board	2/11	7 PM	Town Center
Planning and Zoning Commission	2/18	6:30 PM	Town Center
City Council	2/23	7:30 PM	Town Center

Operating Sprinkler Systems in Cold Weather

It's important to remember that not only is operating a sprinkler system during freezing temperatures unsafe and potentially damaging to your system, it's also against the law.

Municipal Ordinance states that it is unlawful for any person or organization to operate a sprinkler system or permit water to run-off from a sprinkler onto streets or sidewalks if the temperatures are at or below freezing (32°F or 0°C). (Ord # 2007-1157)

This is not only a nuisance, it may also create a hazardous situation for you and your fellow citizens, so remember to include your sprinkler system in your pre-freeze preparations.

Residential Trash & Recycling Rate

Rates for Republic Service's solid waste and recycling disposal service will increase 3%, effective Jan. 1, 2016. This increase is included in the original contract with Republic Services signed in 2014, and will result in a \$13.27 per month residential base fee (previously \$12.88), excluding a 15% franchise fee and a \$0.10 Public Education and Outreach fee.

A 10% discount is available for senior citizens, 65 years of age and older, please contact the Coppel Utility Billing department at 972-304-3695 or email H2oBills@coppelltx.gov for more information.

Transportation Survey Available Online

The City of Coppel is seeking community input regarding transportation needs. Your response will help identify the unmet transportation needs as well as assist with developing solutions to meet the needs within the Coppel community.

Unmet transportation needs can be defined as existing transit services or service alternatives, or trips that are not adequately meeting the identified transportation needs of residents. If you are the caretaker of an individual who requires transportation for medical purposes or ordinary daily activities including employment, and needs assistance completing the survey, please take a moment to answer the questions from his or her perspective.

The survey is available online at: coppelltx.gov/transit. The survey will close January 29 at 5 pm. If you need assistance taking the survey please call the City Manager's Office at 972-304-7016.

To view the latest information regarding this topic, visit: coppelltx.gov/transit.

