



CITY NEWSLETTER

City of Springtown

March 2009
Spring Issue

Contest Winners

The City of Springtown recently held a contest for a new City Logo and Marketing Phrase. There were several good submissions for each contest. We would like to congratulate Keith Warren for his submission of our new Marketing Phrase "Where Country Meets Living". The winner of the Logo contest was Pam Smith who submitted the logo designed below:



"Where Country Meets Living"

Our new logo and Marketing Phrase will be used on letterhead, envelopes, business cards and other items that we publish. Thank you to all that submitted their ideas.

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Upcoming Events:

- *Movie Night in the Park March 28, 2009*
- *Good Friday is April 10, 2009
City Offices will be closed*
- *Easter is on April 12, 2009*
- *City Wide Clean up Saturday, April 25th*
- *Early voting April 27th—May 5th. Election day is Saturday, May 9, 2009.*
- *Mayfest May 9, 2009*
- *Mother's Day May 10, 2009*
- *Memorial Day Monday, May 25, 2009. City Offices will be closed*

Public Transportation Services

Public Transit Services provides transportation service for older adults and disabled residents of Parker County. They charge \$4 one way—anywhere in Parker County and require a 24 hour advance notice for reservations. They do not offer

weekend or holiday transportation service. For reservations call 920-328-1391 or call Toll Free at 1-866-521-1391. Both numbers are automated. Normal business hours are 8:30 am– 5:00 pm Monday—Friday.



Mulching and Composting

Mulching and Composting saves time and money by lowering your water bill, buying less fertilizer and lawn and leaf bags.

What is mulch?

Mulch is a material that is used to protect soil and to inhibit weed growth by covering the ground. Good mulches include wood chips, leaves, grass clipping and compost. They benefit your lawn and garden by preventing erosion, suppressing weeds, retaining soil moisture, moderating soil temperature, and adding nutrients as they break down slowly.

How to use mulch:

- Put a 3-4 inch layer of mulch around your trees, shrubs, and garden plants. Mulch should not be piled up against the stems or trunks of plants.
- Create a self-mulching lawn. Wait to mow until your grass is between 2 and

4 inches high. Then mow only the top 1/3 of the grass, and don't bag the clippings. This way, the clippings will feed your soil and won't smother your grass.

- If you have too many clippings, rake them into mulch layers around trees and shrubbery.

What is compost?

Compost forms when you mix things like leaves, grass clippings, vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds and filters, and used tea bags, and the mixture breaks down. It eventually forms humus, which you can use to enrich your soil. Compost has many of the nutrients that plants need. It can be used as mulch or topdressing, or mixed into the soil.

How to use your compost

- To plant a lawn or garden, mix 1 to 2 inches of compost into the top 6 inches of soil.

- To maintain a lawn or garden, sprinkle a 1/4 to 1/2 inch layer of sifted compost on it once each year and water in the compost.

- Mix 3 to 4 inches of compost into the top 8 to 10 inches of soil for intensive gardening.

- Use compost as about 1/3 of a potting soil mix (with equal parts of topsoil and sand) to add nutrients and to control fungus.

For additional information on mulching and composting, call TCEQ Publications at 512-239-0028. You may also go to www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/compost/BackyardComposting.html.

To print or order TCEQ composting publications electronically, go to the TCEQ Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications.

Fleas

Fleas are tiny insects with hind legs modified for jumping; adults are found on pets; eggs, larvae and pupae are found in carpet and in shady, moist soil in the yard; they leave black droppings around pet sleeping areas and jump when disturbed.

Fleas can attack pets and people-flea bites are mostly on the lower legs, and can turn red and itch. Most adult fleas live on the animal host, however, flea eggs and larva can be found in bedding, carpeting and areas where pets spend time resting and sleeping. An effective program to eliminate fleas must include controlling fleas on pets, and removing eggs and larva from the living area.

Least Toxic Solutions

- Keep your house well vacuumed, especially where your pet rests; dispose of vacuum bags after use to prevent fleas from escaping back into your home
- Steam clean carpets to remove organic material which is food for flea larvae
- Wash your pet's bedding regularly in hot water; wash your bedding if pets sleep with you
- Use a flea comb to remove fleas from your pet. Drop fleas in a bucket of soapy water
- Shampoo your pet regularly with a gentle shampoo to remove fleas and flea eggs. Shampoos containing chemical pesticides are not necessary because ANY soapy water will kill fleas.
- Try flea traps that utilize light, heat and sticky boards to trap adult fleas living in your carpeting



Fire Ants

Fire ants create mounds up to 18" tall. They prefer open sunny areas such as lawns, pastures, parks and disturbed areas, and often nest under side walks, slabs or at the base of trees.

Fire ants can be a problem year round but are most prevalent in the spring and fall. Fire ants don't injure turf grass but mounds become unsightly; and are aggressive and cause painful stings that may become infected. They can invade electrical equipment and cause short circuits.

Least Toxic Solutions

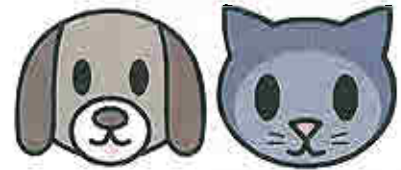
- Properly identify as fire ants—many other species of ants occur in Texas
- Carefully pour a large pot (about 3 gallons) of boiling water on each mound. This will kill a mound about 60% of the time and works best after a rain.
- Introduce nematodes. They are small round worms that attack fire ant larvae, as well as grubs and other soil-dwelling larvae
- Choose baits over contact products; baits are safer to use because they are ant-specific

Pet Micro-chipping available

The City Council recently updated its Animal Control Ordinance. In this Ordinance Council approved the micro-chipping of dogs and cats. As a condition of release of impounded animals to owners or to persons adopting unclaimed animals, such animals will be implanted with a computer readable tracking chip containing identifying information. The charge for micro-chipping is \$15 per animal and you must provide proof of current rabies vaccinations. Soon this will be available to all residents on a voluntary basis. If you would like to have your pet micro-chipped then please call Animal

Control at 817-220-4834 for more information. Updating the fee schedule for animals that are impounded was also included in this Ordinance. The new fees are listed below:

- (1) Micro Chipping \$15
- (2) Outside the city limits \$25
- (3) 1st impoundment in 12 months \$25
- (4) 2nd impoundment in 12 months \$50
- (5) 3rd impoundment in 12 months \$100
- (6) 4th impoundment in 12 months \$500



The Springtown Animal Shelter currently has dogs and cats available for adoption.

For more information and to obtain a list of our current wonderful animals that are waiting for a loving person to adopt them call us at 817-220-4834.

Winter Averaging

If you are a residential customer, then your waste water charge was just re-evaluated based on your water consumption during the month's of November, December and January. The city chose these months, your "winter average," because residential customers are normally not watering their lawns during this time. If for example, your residential water usage was 2000, 4000 and 1000 for these months, we would take the average of these three amounts (2333) times \$3.85 for a charge of \$8.98

plus the base charge of \$12.50 for a total of \$21.48.

If you have additional questions concerning Winter Averaging then please call Jessica at 817-220-4834.

*Save water, save money.
Help us conserve water.*



Reporting Street Light Outages

You may report street light problems by contacting City Hall at 817-220-4834 during regular business hours or by visiting us on the web at www.cityofspringtown.com. We have a link to Oncor Electric Delivery on our website. Our staff will contact Oncor Electric Delivery to provide maintenance on their lights. It usually takes from 5-7 days for them to repair or re-

place a street light once it is reported. If the street light is not repaired within 7 business days after you have notified us then please contact us.



City of Springtown

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We're on the Web.
www.cityofspringtown.com

Movie Night in the Park

The Park Board will hold it's second Movie Night in the Park. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 28th. It will be at Newby Pavilion behind Wells Fargo. The movie start time will be at dusk. Please watch the Springtown Epigraph for a list of movies to be shown. The bounce house will be open prior to the movies starting. Concessions will also be available.

"The popcorn machine is fixed so there shouldn't be any delays for popcorn".

Please come join us for a fun filled evening in the Park.



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