



ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

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Rockwall Unveils New Pettinger Nature Preserve

Tucked away in a quiet corner on the north side of the City of Rockwall, lies the newly unveiled Pettinger Nature Preserve. The land was generously donated by Wesley and Hedwig Pettinger, to only be used in its natural state.

The Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department has worked to clear paths through the dense woods for easier accessibility. In addition, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has worked diligently to monitor and inventory insects and wildlife in the area, and to date, have identified more than 300 different species. Visitors can find the preserve, and a different pace of life, by visiting 1740 Wind Hill Road.



It's a Hat Trick!

Rockwall Awarded Again for Fields of Excellence

If you haven't yet seen the splendor of the Leon Tuttle ballfields, you should. The Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department works hard on a daily basis to maintain the fields to the highest standards, and they've been recognized for that hard work. For the third year in a row, Rockwall has won the Fields of Excellence Award.



The nationwide program is given to honor the teamwork and dedication of field crews striving to give young athletes the best playing surface possible. Only 87 awards were presented this year, and Rockwall was one of 12 in Texas. The Tuttle ballfields won based on their logo designs, turf grass quality and the overall stellar conditions of the Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex.

Water Usage Up Substantially

We're using increasingly more water this year compared to last year. In 2019, Rockwall residents hit the highest amount of water usage per day in August, which amounted to 20 million gallons of water in a day! This year, we hit the same 20 million gallons—in June... and are routinely hitting that number or more every day now.

If you notice usage in your home has gone up, you may want to investigate further. You could potentially have a broken sprinkler head, as pictured here. Many times, we run sprinklers overnight and don't always notice a malfunction.



Out and About in Rockwall



Fourth of July Celebration

While the Fourth of July festivities in Rockwall this year were slightly different from years past, residents were happy to celebrate the nation's independence. The day started with a parade through Historic Downtown Rockwall. To practice COVID-19 safety, parade goes spread out along the long winding route. Then later in the evening, onlookers in Harry Myers Park were treated to live music and a parachute jump from a vintage WWII plane, coordinated by the Rockwall American Legion Terry Fisher Post 117, while they awaited the fireworks. To top the night off, the socially distanced crowd enjoyed the annual fireworks display sponsored by the Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department.



Consider Texas SmartScape™

Did you know? Texas SmartScape™ provides design, care, and plant search tools that are "Smart" for North Central Texas. Plants require less water, which helps with conservation, and improves storm water runoff by decreasing the amount of pesticides, fertilizer and herbicides used in traditional landscaping. For more information, please see txsmartscape.com. Additional benefits include:

- Aesthetic – Looks good year round with little effort
- Ecological – Attracts butterflies, birds, beneficial animals
- Economic – Requires less fertilizer and water
- Stress Relief – Less worry about plants and flowers wilting

Love Your Landscape... Frequency of Mowing

There are some important steps to take to help ensure you have a healthy lawn. Here are some tips:

Proper Mowing Frequency

- Minimum of twice per week
- Never cut more than 1/3 of the leaf blade

Proper Mowing Height

- Bermuda grass (common) 1.0" to 2.5"
- Bermuda grass (hybrid) 0.5" to 2.0"
- St. Augustine 2.0" to 3.0"
- Zoysia grass 0.5" – 2.0"
- Buffalo grass 2.0" to unmowed

Proper Fertilization

- 4 to 6 pounds per 1,000 square feet of nitrogen per year
- Accomplish this by applying 1.25 to 1.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in March, June, July, October

Proper Watering

- 1" of water per week, and most importantly, if it rains—do not water that week
- Water conservation is critical

