

Navigator

August 2021

A Message From Finance Director John Zagurski

If you are new to Town, you may not be aware, but the Town of Northlake is experiencing rapid growth in our residential population. Based on the most recent figures from the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Town of Northlake grew by almost 50 percent last year, which was the highest growth rate in the region. The immediate challenge facing the Town of Northlake is maintaining service levels with growth in our residential population. To meet this issue head-on, Town Council and staff developed the following budget priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget:

- **Maintain the low property tax rate of \$0.295**
- **Maintain current customer service levels**
- **Invest in infrastructure to sustain the commercial tax base**
- **Maintain employee compensation at regional market levels**

To maintain the low tax rate of \$0.295, the Town increased the operating rate and decreased the debt rate. This shift prioritized operations and cash funding over expanding the debt capacity of the Town. With the additional growth

in property tax revenue from new construction, the increase in sales tax revenue and the expected rise in development-related fees, the Town can support the increased demand for services and expansion of the Town's infrastructure with proportional increased resources. This operating plan will maintain existing service levels for a greater number of residents, customers, businesses and activities with increased complexity.

With this budget, we fund the following additional positions: three police officers, three public works employees, two development positions and one new administrative position. Each of these positions is needed to address a growing demand for current services. Adding new employees is just one side of the coin for staffing; ensuring competitive market compensation is the other. The Town had fallen to 9 percent below the market average; this budget also provides a salary adjustment to the market along with longevity pay. These changes will aid in the recruitment of new positions and increase retention of employees, which saves the Town money in retraining staff.

The Town is cash funding with current revenues four new vehicles, six vehicle replacements and the new Development Services office. We are also issuing \$7.5 Million in Certificates of Obligation. The majority goes to fund as sewer line extension at the southern end of Town, which will support a growing commercial base. Attracting new commercial businesses to the Northlake allows for residents of the Town to pay

less in property taxes for the services they receive.

This budget does more than provide resources for current services; it places the Town in a solid financial position to address the challenges that we will face in the future.

For more detailed information on the budget, please view the proposed budget [here](#). ▾

Shirley Rogers Retirement

Earlier this month, Town Secretary Shirley Rogers retired after 24 and a half years of service to Northlake. Rogers was the Town's first employee and dedicated her life to Northlake. "What an amazing journey this has been! It has been my privilege to serve the citizens of this wonderful community that I have grown to love so much. I have been given so many opportunities I never dreamed of, met and worked with the most talented people. The mayors and council members I have worked for through the years gave me encouragement and direction that I am forever grateful for. Beginning as the only employee, to now over 50+ employees, I consider them my 'family.'



May Northlake continue to grow, prosper and may everyone realize that it is a great place to live, work and pray," Rogers said.

Grass Clippings and Yard Waste

Here in Northlake, we are part of the Grapevine Lake and Lewisville Lake Watershed. This means that rainwater eventually ends up in either body of water and then is taken to a water treatment plant to be processed for consumption. Improper disposal of possibly harmful substances (i.e. household wastes like grease, oil, lawn clippings, pet waste, etc.) hinders this process and damages the watershed. To protect our watershed, please collect your yard waste and dispose of it properly. ▸

Town Cleanup Day

October 2, 2021 will be the Town's biannual Cleanup Day! Trash can be brought to the Northlake Public Works building (1400 FM 407) to be disposed of.

Accepted items include: Bulk waste includes waste not generated on a regular basis, including: Furniture (couch, table, mattress, box spring, desk, dresser, etc.); Refrigerators and AC Units (MUST be tagged with a Freon evacuation certificate by a licensed agent); Appliances (washer, dryer, dishwasher, etc.); Hot Water Heaters; Fencing/Decking/Siding (please remove nails, cut into lengths 4' or less, and tie and bundle under 50 pounds); Trampolines (broken down); Basketball goals (broken down into sections 4' or shorter, no concrete in base or poles); Carpeting/Flooring (please cut into lengths 4' or shorter and tie, bundle under 50 pounds).

Items not accepted include: Hazardous



Employee Spotlight: Emily Harville

On August 11th, 2021, Emily Harville was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) with the Unsung Hero Award. Emily does so much for the Police Department and is often not recognized for her daily tasks. She regularly assist victims by ensuring all their documents, videos, statements, lab submissions and cases are in order before being sent to the District Attorney's office. She is often the first voice a victim of DWI or other incidents will hear when calling the police department. She guides them to the right person or answers any questions to assist the victim and put them at ease.

Material of any kind; Dirt; Waste generated by a private contractor (remodelling, landscaping); Rocks; Motor Oil; Pesticides/Insecticides; Gasoline/Kerosene; Medical Waste; Bricks; Tile; Batteries; Paint (liquid); Gasoline; Fertilizer; Concrete; Tires; Pool Chemicals; Cooking Oil. ▸

Hazardous and Bulk Waste Pickup

With the Town's renewed contract with Waste Connections comes Hazardous and Bulk Waste Pickup. Used motor oil and used cooking oil, batteries of all kinds, paint of all kinds, household cleaners, light bulbs of all kinds, household cleaners, aerosol cans, automotive fluids and fuels, lawn and garden items (fertilizer, pesticides, weed killer, etc.), pool chemicals and additives, varnishes, strippers, turpentine and stains and glues and epoxies can be picked up by HHW Solutions after making an appointment for pickup through

the Waste Connections app ([Apple](#), [Android](#)) or by visiting [HHWSolutions.com](#). Chemicals must be in their original labeled containers (not applicable to used motor oil and cooking oil). All items must have spill-proof lids. Collect oil in a container with a screw-top lid. All items must have easily read labels. An appointment is not needed for bulk/bundle waste pickup, but the item(s) must be placed curbside no later than 7:00 a.m., be reasonably contained (i.e. lashing tree trimming bundles together), not exceed a total of three cubic yards (this is about the same space as filling the bed of a full sized pick-up three times) and not have a single item that weighs over 50 lbs. Appliances smaller than three cubic feet in size will be accepted, but items containing refrigerant must have certified writing from a professional stating refrigerants have been removed. Waste related to construction/demolition will NOT be accepted. ▸

Trash and Recycling Services

Beginning in May 2021, the Town of Northlake will take over billing from Waste Connections for trash and recycling services. Billing statements will be included in monthly residential water bills and will reflect charges for trash, recycling, water and sewer. Additionally, monthly rates for garbage and recycling services went down from \$16.23 to \$15.26.

Statements for utility services will be distributed between the 26 and 28 of each month and are due on the 15 of the following month. If the 15 of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, payment is due the following business day.

All billing-related questions (e.g., how much your statement will be, how to make a payment, when is payment due, etc.) can be directed towards the Town via email (utilitybilling@town.northlake.tx.us) or by phone (940-648-3290).

All service-related questions (e.g., to upgrade from a 65 to 95 gallon bin, what items are accepted for pickup, when bulk pickup is, missed pickup, etc.) and scheduling Hazardous Waste pickup can be directed towards Waste Connections via phone (817-222-2221) or their website (<https://www.wasteconnections.com/justin/contact-us>). ▸

