

GEORGETOWN CITY Reporter



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Reclaimed Water Helps Meet Irrigation Demand

In the hottest summer months, the water used for outside landscape irrigation is about 70 percent of the total daily water use in Georgetown. One way that the City reduces the use of treated drinking water for irrigating lawns is through the irrigation utility.

Established in 2001, the City's irrigation utility sells reclaimed water from the City's wastewater treatment plants to large commercial users such as golf courses. The irrigation utility uses a "purple pipe" distribution system that is supplied and metered separately from drinking water.

"The treated outflow from our wastewater treatment plants, if it's not used, is discharged to the river,"

says Glenn Dishong, utilities director. "So we want large commercial customers like golf courses to use the reclaimed water."

The irrigation utility can supply up to 4.5 million gallons of reclaimed water each day to golf courses and parks. The reclaimed water is not treated to the same standards as drinking water, but does meet standards for irrigation and incidental public contact at a park or golf course. The cost of the reclaimed water is \$1.05 per thousand gallons for the large commercial users.

Reclaimed water from the San Gabriel Wastewater Treatment plant is currently used for irrigation at San Gabriel Park, McMaster Athletic Fields, Southwestern University, and Georgetown County Club.

Treatment plants near Berry Creek and Cimarron Hills supply irrigation water for golf courses in those developments. Approximately half of the water used to irrigate golf courses in Sun City is piped from the Pecan Branch Wastewater Treatment plant. Other water to irrigate golf courses at Sun City comes from water wells

near the Georgetown Municipal Airport and water wells in Sun City. This well water used for irrigation is not treated.

Due to the cost of extending dedicated "purple pipe" distribution lines, it is financially feasible to provide the reclaimed water to very large commercial customers like golf courses, but not smaller commercial or residential users.

In addition to the use of reclaimed water, Dishong says a shift to landscapes that don't require much water will help to reduce the overall irrigation demand. For example, Zoysia and Bermuda are drought-tolerant grasses that require much less water than St. Augustine.

By providing reclaimed water to large irrigation users, the City reduces the peak demand on drinking water treatment plants, which extends the capacity of the water treatment system. It also makes sense to use the reclaimed water for irrigation rather than water that is treated to drinking water standards.

Electric Power Cost Adjustment Reduced

For City of Georgetown electric customers, the power cost adjustment or PCA will be reduced to \$0.0015 per kilowatt-hour from \$0.01, starting with billings after June 1. The \$0.01 PCA went into effect September 1 as a cost-recovery mechanism that captures the increased cost of wholesale power not included in the base electric rate.

The PCA is being reduced now that higher wholesale costs from last year have been recovered by the utility. The City purchases energy from wholesale suppliers including the Lower Colorado River Authority, CPS Energy of San Antonio, and AEP.

Independence Day Holiday

City offices closed on
Wednesday, July 4

There will be regular
solid waste and recycling
collection on July 4.



July Events

Farmers Markets

Sun City Market,

Tuesdays: 9 a.m. to Noon,
2 Texas Drive at Social Center

Georgetown Market,

Thursdays: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.,
New location:

Church of Christ parking lot,
1525 W. University Avenue

Details at www.gtfgma.com

Sertoma July 4 Celebration

Annual July 4 celebration in San Gabriel Park sponsored by the Georgetown Sertoma Club. Children's parade with bikes and wagons starts at 11 a.m. by the low-water crossing. Entertainment at the gazebo starts at noon and lasts until the fireworks begin after dark. Visit craft vendors, a children's area, and food vendors. Admission is free.

First Friday, July 6

Downtown live music, shops and restaurants are open late. See the Downtown Georgetown Association website at TheGeorgetownSquare.com.

The Palace Theater

Annie Get Your Gun,

June 29 - July 29

Details at GeorgetownPalace.com, or call (512) 869-7469.

Market Days, July 14

Handmade arts and crafts, food, and more on the Square from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details at TheGeorgetownSquare.com

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Fan Drive Helps to Beat the Summer Heat

The nonprofit organization Family Eldercare and the Georgetown Fire Department are working together to host the 2012 Summer Fan Drive in Georgetown. This summer-long effort collects fans for low-income residents including seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children. Funds for fans and air conditioning units also are collected.

Fans can be donated at all four Georgetown fire stations. The fans donated in Georgetown will be given to Georgetown area residents who need them.

Every summer, Georgetown firefighters respond to 911 calls for people who become overheated in their house or apartment. The residence may not have air conditioning, or it may have window units that don't cool the whole home, or the air conditioning may not be working.

Providing fans to residents without air conditioning "is preventing a potential future medical issue," says Georgetown Fire Chief Robert Fite, "and it's the right thing to do." The

Georgetown Fire Department participated in the fan drive last year and had an overwhelming response.

The fan drive started in May and continues through August 31. Last year, Family Eldercare delivered nearly 7,000 fans and 170 air-conditioning units to almost 3,400 homes in 10 counties in Central Texas.

Those eligible to receive a fan are low-income residents, including seniors who are 55 or older, persons who are disabled, and families with children. Air conditioners are available on a limited basis to those with serious medical conditions.

"Georgetown is a very giving community, and we are proud to be a part of helping our citizens through this program," says Fite.

Donations for the Summer Fan Drive may be made online on the Family Eldercare website at www.familyeldercare.org. For more information, go to www.familyeldercare.org or call the Georgetown Fire Department at (512) 930-3473.

Fireworks Prohibited

By City of Georgetown ordinance, fireworks of any kind are not allowed in the City Limits of Georgetown or within 5,000 feet of the City Limits, unless they are used in a permitted display authorized by the Georgetown Fire Department. The relevant ordinance revision for this rule was enacted in 2006.

Neither the possession nor the discharge of fireworks is legal in the City Limits or within the 5,000-foot buffer beyond City Limits. Violations can lead to fines of up to \$2,000 per firework. To view a map showing the 5,000-foot boundary, go to: <http://files.georgetown.org/fireworks-ban-map>.

Bike to Work

On Bike to Work Day on May 18, a number of City employees rode their bikes to work and also biked to lunch together, after meeting at the Williamson County Courthouse. The event was sponsored by the City's employee Wellness Committee.

Emergency Notices to Your Phone

When the City of Georgetown's 9-1-1 emergency operators need to contact a neighborhood about an immediate threat to human life or property, such as a threatening wildfire or a fuel tanker spill, they can use the Emergency Notification System to quickly send a voice message to thousands of phones.

If you only have a mobile phone, or if your home phone service is with Suddenlink or another voice-over-IP provider, then your phone number may not be in the 9-1-1 database.

You can register a phone number at <http://wireless.capcog.org>. The cell phone registry and the 9-1-1 emergency communications database are provided by the Capital Area Council of Governments or CAPCOG. If you have questions or want to register a number by phone, call the CAPCOG Homeland Security Division at (512) 916-6035.