

Georgetown Reporter

News from the City of Georgetown and Georgetown Utility Systems

City Events

City Council Election

Voters in City Council District 3 will go to the polls in May. Incumbent John Hesser and Dwaine Boydston are on the ballot in District 3. Early in-person voting is April 25 through May 3. Election Day is May 7. The last day to register to vote is April 7. Incumbents Steve Fought in District 4 and Tommy Gonzalez in District 7 are unopposed. To see early voting locations or vote center locations on Election Day, go to wilco.org/elections.



Chase the Chief 5K

The fourth annual Chase the Chief 5K and Fun Run is Sunday, April 17 from 1 to 5 p.m. in San Gabriel Park. The event is sponsored by the Georgetown ISD Council of PTAs and the Georgetown Police Department and presented by the Georgetown Health Foundation. Chase the Chief includes a 5K run and a 3/4-mile Fun Run. Registration is \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. For details or to register, go to chasethechief.georgetown.org.



Safety & Maintenance Project Georgetown Municipal Airport

The Georgetown Municipal Airport opened in 1945 and now plays a vital role as a general aviation reliever airport for the region. Today Airport businesses account for approximately 200 jobs in the local economy. With \$8.3 million in funding from the Texas Department of Transportation and \$830,000 in Airport funding in a 90/10 match grant program, safety and maintenance improvements will begin this year. These include replacement of fueling tanks to enhance environmental protection, taxiway resurfacing and realignment, new taxiway lighting, and an update to the current 2003 Airport Master Plan. For more information, see a Citizen FAQ on the Airport website at airport.georgetown.org.



Georgetown Public Library

Live Music: Hill Country Winds performs in the library's Live Music at the Library series on April 17 at 2 p.m. The woodwind group from Austin will perform a program featuring classical and jazz pieces.

Art: Works by the Sun City Visual Arts Club will be on display at the library in April. There is an opening reception on April 1.

Go to library.georgetown.org for details. The Georgetown Public Library is located at 402 W. Eighth Street in Georgetown.



Red Poppy Festival

The 17th annual Red Poppy Festival on the downtown Square is April 22 – 24. Tracy Lawrence is the headliner at the Saturday night street dance and Kimberly Dunn is the opener on Saturday night. The Friday night concert features Dysfunkshun Junkshun. Other festival highlights include the Red Poppy Bike Ride on Saturday at 8 a.m., the Red Poppy Parade on Saturday at 10 a.m., and the Car Show on Saturday at 11 a.m. There is a free shuttle from the First Baptist Church all day on Saturday. The official 2016 Red Poppy Festival poster is on sale for \$5 starting April 1 at the Visitors Center at 103 W. Seventh Street. For all the details, go to redpoppyfestival.com.

Zero Waste Event

This year the organizers of the 2016 Red Poppy Festival will take a number of steps toward becoming a zero waste event. The goal is by 2021 for 90 percent or greater of the waste from the event will be recycled, composted, or otherwise diverted from the landfill. Food vendors are using only compostable or recyclable plates, dishes, drinking straws, napkins, and cutlery. Composting carts will be available at the food court and recycling carts will be available throughout the festival area. You can help to reach the zero waste goal if you bring reusable shopping bags and personal water containers to the event and use the recycling and composting carts at the festival.

Improvement Project

Austin Avenue Bridges

The City of Georgetown is studying Austin Avenue from Morrow to Third Street, including the two bridges crossing the San Gabriel River, to evaluate future planning

options. The bridges were constructed in 1939 and have been weight-limit restricted due to TXDOT inspection reports in 2013 and 2015. This study will evaluate various short- and long-term options considering safety, mobility, public input, and costs to recommend a comprehensive action plan. A public involvement process to inform the evaluation of options and the recommendation of an ultimate plan is expected to take as much as a year.

Go Green

Energy Tips

With the warmest summer days just around the corner, your air conditioner is soon to be tested. And your monthly electric usage is likely to ramp up as well. Air conditioners account for 18 percent of home energy use in Texas, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Depending on your use and other factors, air conditioning could be as high as 40 or 50 percent of your bill. What can you do to lower your energy use? Check and change your air filter once a month. Replacing a dirty, clogged air filter with a clean one helps lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

In addition, consider using a programmable thermostat for increased energy efficiency. According to the Department of Energy, you can save 10 percent each year on heating and cooling bills just by setting your programmable thermostat back 7 to 10 degrees for eight hours per day. Finally, if you are replacing your air conditioning unit, look for one with an Energy Star label. On average, they are up to 15 percent more efficient than standard conventional models. For more information on energy efficiency, go to conservation.georgetown.org.

Spring Irrigation Tune-Up

Now is a great time to have your irrigation system tuned up and ready for the hot dry summer months ahead. We recommend homeowners have their systems serviced either by the homeowner or a licensed, local irrigator. Licensed irrigators are identified by the initials LI followed by a six digit number (i.e. #000123), and are required to include the number on any form of advertisement, as well as on their service vehicles.

Here is a tune-up checklist for your irrigation system:

- Turn off all water outlets and make sure the water meter is not spinning (this will verify there are no leaks in the system).
- Test the rain and soil moisture sensors and check, clear, or replace clogged nozzles.
- Adjust the spray pattern and direction of heads and nozzles, checking for line breaks.
- Inspect the areas around each spray and rotor head for water bubbling out of the ground or the head itself.
- Raise the heads to clear the taller areas of turf and verify every zone valve turns on from the irrigation controller.

Whether you hire a licensed irrigator, or like to do it yourself, following these steps will ensure optimal system efficiency, and save you money on your water bill.

An initial public input meeting on the Austin Avenue Bridges project is 4 to 7 p.m. on March 31 at the Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth Street. Attendees will be able to review project information, visit with staff and project team members, and share their input for the area and the project. The meeting will be an open house format, so that attendees can come and go at their convenience. Find out more about the project at austinave.georgetown.org.