

# Georgetown Reporter

News from the City of Georgetown and Georgetown Utility Systems

Photo credit: Rudy Ximenez

## City Events

### Summer Concerts Music on the Square

Starting in June, enjoy free live music on the Courthouse Square each Friday night from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Music on the Square summer concert series. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, grab dinner-to-go from a local restaurant, and enjoy an evening of great live music. To see the lineup for June, go to [VisitGeorgetown.com](http://VisitGeorgetown.com).



Photo credit: Rudy Ximenez

### Dive-In Movie Dolphin Tale - June 18

Bring some snacks and enjoy the family movies this summer brought to you by Georgetown Parks and Recreation. On Saturday, June 18 come see the movie *Dolphin Tale*, a dive-in movie at Williams Drive Pool, 3201 Williams Drive. The movie starts at sunset, which is about 7:45 p.m. And bring your own flotation device, as long as it's no more than four feet long. Regular pool fees apply.



### Fixed-Route Bus Plan Update

The City of Georgetown and Capital Metro, an authorized recipient of Federal Transit Administration funding, entered into an agreement to complete a Transit Development Plan in November 2014.

The plan provides a framework for the implementation of a fixed-route bus system that serves transit needs within the city limits and connects to existing and future regional transit options. The technical findings and report from the plan were completed in May 2015.

Capital Metro and City staff provided a review of the Transit Development Plan findings and recommendations, current demand response service, and implementation options to City Council on February 9 this year. City Council directed City staff to revise service parameters and cost estimates in the plan. If approved in the budget process this year, the City of Georgetown could start fixed route bus service in 2017. For details, go to [transportation.georgetown.org/transit-development-plan](http://transportation.georgetown.org/transit-development-plan).



### Georgetown Public Library Summer Reading Program

Singer extraordinaire Joe McDermott kicks off the Summer Reading Program for toddlers to twelve-year-olds—called *Ready, Set, Read!*—on Tuesday June 7, at 10:30 a.m. Join the kick off fun where there will be fun, food, and time to register kids for the Summer Reading Club. Summer Reading runs from June 7 through July 26.

Summer Reading Program events will be held for children of all ages, tweens age 9–12, and teens age 12–18. Space is limited for events.

The summer program is free and open to everyone. A library card is required to check out library materials. Find out more about the Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. Eighth Street, at [library.georgetown.org](http://library.georgetown.org)



## Pool Maintenance

It's that time of year, is your pool ready for summer time? The City needs your help in protecting the San Gabriel River and the Edwards Aquifer from harmful chemicals used in pool maintenance.

Storm drains lead directly to local streams and rivers. Chemicals that get

added to pools for maintenance purposes are toxic to fish and other aquatic life. Some of these chemicals include chlorine, bromine, algacides, biocides, water conditioners, and stabilizers.

Dechlorinating your swimming pool prior to emptying it is more than just a good idea, it is required by City ordinance. To dechlorinate your pool, you can:

1. Allow the water to sit in the sun for three to four days without adding fresh chlorine.
2. Use a chemical de-chlorination additive, or
3. Discharge the water into your yard and allow it to percolate into the ground.

For the last method, which is preferred, be sure that the chlorine residual is zero first and check to make sure you won't flood the yard of your neighbors. Find out more at [transportation.georgetown.org/storm-water-plan](http://transportation.georgetown.org/storm-water-plan).

## Tiered Water Rates

Georgetown Utility Systems has a cost of service rate structure which includes a monthly base component along with a demand-driven component referred to as a tiered rate structure for water use. The demand component rate increases at higher usage levels. For example, 9,000 gallons of water use in one month would be billed at \$1.75 per 1,000 gallons. However, 18,000 gallons would be billed at \$1.75 for each 1,000 gallons up to 10,000 gallons, and the next 8,000 gallons would be billed at \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons.

Water Rates (Monthly)	
Amount of water used in gallons	Cost per thousand gallons
0 – 10,000	\$1.75
11,000 – 20,000	\$2.40
21,000 – 40,000	\$4.00
41,000 – 60,000	\$6.50
61,000 or more	\$8.50

These variable rates are reflective of the increased costs associated with higher water demand. The higher-tiered rates fund treatment capacity, capital infrastructure improvements, and conservation programs needed as a result of the higher demand on the treatment and distribution system. For details on rates, go to [gus.georgetown.org/customer-care/rates](http://gus.georgetown.org/customer-care/rates).

## Easing Into Irrigation

During the spring season, you can leave your landscape irrigation system controller in the "off" position since temperatures are typically less than ninety degrees and regular rainfall will sustain your yard.

As the weather turns warmer, slowly increase the amount of water you apply to your landscape. There are a few different approaches you can take. The easiest is to start with one day of watering per week. Remember, deep and infrequent watering will maintain a strong, healthy root system for your grass, trees and shrubs.

Another method with a two-day per week schedule is to reduce the run times by fifty percent for each watering zone. Most controllers have a seasonal adjustment feature that allows you to alter all of the run times equally with the touch of a button.

Using the cycle and soak method also helps to reduce wasteful runoff and gives your landscape a better chance of absorbing more of the water. This method applies half of the water needed with one cycle or start time, then applies the other half an hour or two later. Learn more at [conservation.georgetown.org/water-conservation](http://conservation.georgetown.org/water-conservation).

## Bulky Waste Pickups

Appliances, furniture, mattresses and other bulky waste items that don't fit in the trash cart cannot be left at the curb with regular weekly collection. A special bulky waste pickup should be scheduled.

City residents are allotted two free bulky waste pick-ups each year. Call Texas Disposal Systems at (512) 930-1715 to schedule a pickup. Items should be placed at the curb no more than twenty-four hours prior to a scheduled collection. Customers outside city limits pay \$25/cubic yard.

Unacceptable bulky waste items include, but are not limited to: tires, vehicle batteries, televisions, hazardous materials, and construction waste such as bathtubs, cabinetry or sheet rock.