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“On the Horizon” is the City of Carrollton’s quarterly utility bill newsletter inserted into all paper copies of utility bills mailed out to households. http://cityofcarrollton.com/onthehorizon.

Register by April 2 for the Museum’s Teddy Bear Picnic on April 5
Join the A.W. Perry Homestead Museum (1509 Perry Road) in its celebration of the teddy bear from 1 - 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 5. Bring a teddy bear, a picnic lunch, and enjoy the festivities which include crafts for your bear, games, cookies, and lemonade. There will also be a contest for the best dressed teddy bear and a teddy bear first aid station, where a certified teddy bear nurse will repair your well-loved bear. Registration by April 2 is required. The fee is $15 per Carrollton family ($16.50 per non-resident family), up to five people. For more information, call the Museum staff at 972-466-6380.

Great American Clean-Up Drive-Up Shred-a-Thon - April 5
The Don’t Mess with Texas Trash-Off serves as Texas’ signature event for the Great American Clean-Up, the nation’s largest community improvement program, held annually from March 1-May 31. Participants can receive trash bags, volunteer giveaways, promotional items, and more. Start organizing your group or company and plan for a day of cleaning. In honor of the event, Keep Carrollton Beautiful is teaming up with the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Rotary Club on Saturday, April 5 at Newman Smith High School (2335 N. Josey Lane) for the Drive-Up Shred-a-Thon. From 10 a.m.-noon, miscellaneous documents will be shredded at a cost of $10 for the first banker’s box and $5 for each additional box. All proceeds will benefit community and international service projects of the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Rotary Club, the Newman Smith High School Interact Club, and the Brookhaven College Roteract Club. For more information, visit cfbrotary5810.org.

Carrollton’s Summer 2014 Leisure Magazine Available
The May-August 2014 issue of Carrollton’s *Leisure Connections* magazine will fill you in on all City events, activities, and programs for the summer. *Leisure Connections* is available online beginning April 4 at cityofcarrollton.com/leisuremag. Hard copies of the magazine are available April 7 at: Rosemeade Recreation Center (1330 E. Rosemeade Parkway), Crosby Recreation Center (1610 E. Crosby Road), Hebron & Josey Library (4220 N. Josey Lane), Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road), City Hall (1945 E. Jackson Road), Carrollton Senior Center (1720 Keller Springs Road), and other City facilities. City-sponsored activities at recreation centers, libraries, and other leisure facilities include athletic league opportunities, community events, and classes for adults and children. Registration begins April 7 for residents and April 21 for non-residents; classes begin April 28.

Free Tax Assistance in Carrollton
Volunteers with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) provide free tax return assistance from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Mondays at the Carrollton Public Library at Hebron and Josey (4220 N. Josey Lane) through April 14. For seniors ages 50 and over, AARP volunteers will be available on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Carrollton Senior Center (1720 Keller Springs Road) through April 10. Bring identification, a copy of last year’s tax return, as well as all documents and information for 2013.

Family Fun Night - April 14
Visit Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road) on Monday, April 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for a night of free, fun games and crafts for families. For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/library or call 972-466-4800.

Rosemeade Teen Council - April 15
Are you between 13 and 17 years of age and interested in making a difference in your community? Come out to monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of every month to discuss how you can put your stamp on the Rosemeade Recreation Center (1334 E. Rosemeade Parkway). Free pizza and drinks for all who participate. For more information, contact Grant Carver at 972-466-9812 or email grant.carver@cityofcarrollton.com.

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Puppet Show Celebrating National Library Week - April 17
Celebrate National Library Week at Hebron and Josey Library on Thursday, April 17 at 4 p.m. All ages are invited to attend this free event where they will be amazed and amused as their favorite books come alive. For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/library.

Beloved Carrollton Park Celebrates Grand Re-opening and Ribbon Cutting - April 26
Construction on the brand new, all-inclusive playground at Mary Heads Carter Park (2320 Heads Lane) is complete, and City officials will formally open the area with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 26. The event will include a time for community participation at 10 a.m. when residents can help finalize some of the park features. Please send an RSVP to parksadmin@cityofcarrollton.com if you or your group would like to volunteer for the community build portion from 10 a.m. to noon. Afterward, hot dogs and drinks will be served for the ribbon cutting. For more information, call Carrollton Parks & Recreation at 972-466-3080 or visit cityofcarrollton.com/parksandrec.

Got Drugs? - April 26
Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 at Hebron Valley Elementary (4108 Creek Valley Boulevard) or the Carrollton Police Department (2025 E. Jackson Road). For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/police.

League of Extraordinary Teens - April 30
Teens, want to make a difference at your Library? Visit Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road) on Wednesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m. and work with staff and other extraordinary teens to make the Library YOUR kind of place. Plan events, suggest materials, and hang out. For more information, call 972-466-4800 or visit cityofcarrollton.com/library.

Save The Drains For Rain!
Don't dump any liquids, chemicals, or waste into storm water drains! Not only is it illegal, the polluted storm water can impact our drinking water. The polluted storm water runoff eventually flows into the Trinity River, impacting the source of our drinking water, endangering the fish, ducks, and other aquatic life in our creeks, as well as destroying the beauty of our greenbelt. Report any observed pollution that could result in the impairment of our waterways to 972-466-3060 or by visiting cityofcarrollton.com/envservices.

Road Closures Due to Rosemeade Parkway Water Line Construction
The eastbound lanes of Rosemeade Parkway between Cromwell Drive and Standridge Drive, and Josey Lane and Furneaux Lane will be under construction for new water lines. New lines will be located in the outside lane (south side), but both lanes will be closed for construction; delays should be expected. It is advised that either Frankford Road or Hebron Parkway be used for eastbound travel until the project is completed. The project is expected to be completed by mid-May. For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/publicworks.

Carrollton Trails 5K/1-mile Fun Walk Registration Has Begun
Registration has begun for the 3rd annual Carrollton Trails 5K and Family Fun Walk event on Saturday, May 3. Early registration guarantees a race bag, a T-shirt, and timing chip. Races include a timed 5K, a 5K Fun Run (untimed), and a 1-mile Fun Walk. Strollers and pets are allowed, but no bicycles or in-line skates are allowed. Race participants will park at Creekview High School (3201 Old Denton Road) and be bused to the starting line. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age category of the 5K competitive run. This event is sponsored by Baylor Medical Center of Carrollton, Frost Bank, Whole Foods Market, Top Golf Allen, Elite Care, and Venetian Cinemas. For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/carrolltontrails5k.

City Seeks Historic Photo
The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC) is looking for photos of the very first Carrollton City Hall/Fire Station built in 1933. The photo will be placed on the historical marker at Pioneer Park in Historic Downtown Carrollton. The location of the park marks where Carrollton's first City Hall stood. The two story, frame building housed administrative offices, the volunteer fire department headquarters, and

stored the Carrollton fire truck. An addition was added in 1941 before the second City Hall was built in 1951 at the southwest corner of Broadway Street and Belt Line Road. Please send photos to photos@cityofcarrollton.com or call 972-466-3040 for more information. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Applications Now Available for Ballots by Mail for May 10 Election
The City of Carrollton will hold a General Election on May 10 for Mayor and At-Large Places 2, 4, and 6. Applications for ballot by mail are now available. Mayor Matthew Marchant will be seeking re-election unopposed. Council member Anthony Wilder will seek re-election for Place 2 against Young Jun Sung. Incumbent Bob Garza will be seeking re-election for Place 4 unopposed, and Rick Pfeil and Steve Babick will be running for Council Place 6.

Early voting will take place on the following dates:

Monday, April 28 - Saturday, May 3	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, May 4	1 p.m.-6 p.m.
Monday, May 5	7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 6	7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Dallas County Precincts will early vote at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road). Denton County Precincts will early vote at Hebron and Josey Library (4220 North Josey Lane).

Photo ID is now required to vote in Texas. Find out more information at votetexas.gov.

Dallas County residents can call 214-819-6389 or visit dallascountyvotes.org for more information. Denton County residents can call 940-349-3200 or visit votedenton.com.

First Egret Scout Birds Return: Nesting Abatement Efforts Underway
Birds that precede egret nesting have been sighted and City staff have begun efforts to encourage them to relocate. Hand-launched pyrotechnics have been effective in keeping the birds on the move thus far. As they become more accustomed to these, propane cannons will be deployed in the next couple of days. Be aware that the cannons, although very effective, are loud and may sound like gunfire. Activity will most likely be focused in the areas affected last year, especially neighborhoods near Josey Lane north of Frankford Road.

Take the following steps before eggs are laid in nests: Protect your trees by thinning the tree canopy to allow sunlight to shine between limbs and other trees, and remove old nesting material. Deter the birds from nesting by hanging reflective tape and scare eye balloons in trees, spraying birds with a water hose, and by using air horns or other loud noises to frighten them away. Report any egret or other migratory bird activity immediately to Carrollton Animal Services at 972-466-3420 or animalservices@cityofcarrollton.com.

Sign Up for Recyclebank to Earn Reward Points
Carrollton residents are encouraged to sign up for Recyclebank's recycling rewards program. Recyclebank rewards citizens for taking every day green actions, such as recycling, with discounts and deals from locally-based businesses and national brands. All residents are eligible to participate in the program. Sign up today for a free account at recyclebank.com/wm, and automatically earn 300 Recyclebank points. Over the course of the year, Carrollton households signed up for Recyclebank can earn an average of $165 in rewards value. For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/solidwaste. To sign up for a free Recyclebank account, visit Recyclebank.com/wm.

Beat the Drought, Go the Texas SmartScape® Route!
Even at a time of severe water restrictions, you can still have a thriving lawn or garden during a hot Texas summer. By using native plants, water is conserved and the amount of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are reduced. This saves you money and helps keep chemicals out of our streams, rivers, and lakes. Considering that 40 to 60% of the typical household's water bill goes to irrigation, now is the time to consider native, adapted plants, which once established, require 80% less water than other plants. To help reduce the amount of water and money spent on your landscape, consider converting to a Texas

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SmartScape®**.** Texas SmartScape® is an award winning gardening program educating homeowners about the ecological and economic benefits of using landscaping plants, trees, shrubs, and grasses native to the region and climate.

Whether in the market for major landscape overhaul or just a few quick fixes to save water this summer, txsmartscape.com has the tools for success. The interactive database allows you to search SmartScape® approved plants that are the right fit for any yard, while the landscape design tool walks pros and first-timers alike through the entire landscaping process. There are plenty of tips and ideas to help maintain and care for a SmartScape® yard.

Simple ways to save water:
• **Water less frequently**. Most lawns only need watering once every 5 to 7 days in the growing season and every 15 to 20 days in the winter. If it rains, you may be able to water even less often.
• **Water early or late**. Water your yard only between 7 p.m. and 10 a.m. to avoid loss from evaporation. Follow Water Conservation Restrictions.
• **Reduce turf grass**. Lawns typically require a large amount of supplemental water and generally more intensive maintenance than other vegetation.
• **Install drip irrigation** in flower beds and at the roots of shrubs. Drip irrigation delivers almost 95 percent of the water to plants.

Free Irrigation Inspections
Eligible Carrollton Water Utilities residential customers, with in-ground irrigation systems, can apply to receive a free irrigation inspection through September 30 or until funds are exhausted. The Save Water by the Yard inspection service includes a consultation by a licensed expert who will check the settings on the irrigation system's control box, walk the system lines to check for leaks and provide customers with tips on system maintenance and water conservation. Residential customers who have previously participated in 2012 or 2013 are ineligible for an inspection in 2014. Call 972-466-3000 for more information or to make an appointment for an inspection.

Residents Invited to Attend Pedestrian Bridge Ribbon Cutting - May 1
The City of Carrollton will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to honor the grand opening of the Hutton Branch Trail pedestrian bridge. The City has completed a 12-foot wide pedestrian bridge that crosses the Hutton Branch Creek near the Downtown Carrollton DART Station. The bridge, spanning 130 feet, is the longest pedestrian bridge in Carrollton, and will allow for safer crossing as it moves pedestrians off the vehicular bridge. The structure provides easy access to downtown businesses, the DART station, restaurants, retail and safe routes to school. Carrollton Mayor Matthew Marchant and City Councilmembers will speak at the ceremony on Thursday, May 1 at 11 a.m. near the Denton/Palm Trail head.