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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sprinkler system watering enters seasonal schedule *Once-a-week watering matches trash collection day*

LITTLE ELM (November 2, 2017) For many, the annual holiday season officially begins on Halloween night and ends on New Year's Day, a reminder brought on by cooler temperatures and falling leaves.

That chilly reminder should also send a signal that changes also apply to watering our lawns with automatic sprinklers, says Andrew Figueroa, Utilities Superintendent.

"On November 1, we entered the Seasonal Watering schedule," he said. "Watering with automatic sprinkler systems enters the once-a-week restriction until March 31 of next year."

To simplify the schedule, Town officials have designated each neighborhood's allowable watering day to coincide with their trash and recycling collection day.

Lawns and landscapes enter a dormant stage during this general time period, requiring far less watering than in warmer months. This hibernation period will often turn lawns from green to brown, but that does not mean the grass has died.

To maintain a healthy lawn during this period does not require constant watering, but other steps can be taken.

While water is still essential, a once a week soaking is more than adequate, and when fall and winter rains or snow occur, no additional water is generally necessary. The Town's water conservation policy also prohibits over-seeding and the planting of cool season grasses.

For landscape beds, the addition of two to four inches of a quality, nutrient-rich mulch product or compost is often enough to keep the soil moist without additional watering. The nutrients in the mulch or compost also get the soil ready for spring plantings.

"Automatic timers should be turned off," said Figueroa. "If any watering is necessary, homeowners should use the manual on/off feature on their systems."

Officials also encourage the use of weather-based irrigation tools such as WaterMyYard.org or by regularly visiting <http://littleelm.org/809/Water-Conservation-Guidelines>.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.