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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spring is perfect time to check home sprinkler system

LITTLE ELM (March 25, 2016) The ushering in of the spring season always signals the start of homeowners paying more attention to lawns and landscapes, and that means a thorough review of the sprinkler system is also in order, says Utilities Superintendent Andrew Figueroa.

“Before the sprinkler system is brought into full service, a close look at the various components should be undertaken,” he said. “Every part of the system should be reviewed by the homeowner or a professionally-licensed irrigation specialist. A poorly-running system could be wasting both water and money.”

Over time, even the most efficiently-designed irrigation systems can begin to break down. Without regular maintenance, even seemingly minor problems can result in excessive water use, reduced efficiency and damage to plants, shrubs, trees and lawns.

Town personnel recommends a review and necessary adjustments to these components:

- irrigation controller setup for run times, number of cycles, dates and times;
- changing the back-up battery in the controller;
- adjusting misdirected sprinkler heads;
- clearing blocked sprinkler heads by trimming grass, shrubs and other landscaping;
- repairing sunken or broken sprinkler heads;
- ensuring system water pressure ranges between 40-60 pounds per square inch to prevent misting;
- checking control valves to ensure proper operation.

“To ensure that the proper amount of water is reaching lawns, we encourage the use of the ‘Cycle and Soak’ technique to set the appropriate run times,” he added. “Because of the slow absorption rate of our soils, running sprinklers for too long at one time may mean that water meant for your landscape can’t be absorbed and is lost.”

The Cycle and Soak technique eliminates the practice of running one program cycle for each zone for an extended amount of time. Rather, the technique breaks up the run times into two or three shorter program cycles. For example, instead of running one program for all zones for 15 or 20 minutes, residents should program the controller to run two consecutive cycles of 7 to 10 minutes or three consecutive cycles of 5 to 7 minutes. The programs should be separated by about an hour between each program cycle.

In addition, there are still time and day water restrictions in place for Little Elm residents, which can be found at: <http://www.littleelm.org/index.aspx?nid=809>.

“The ‘Cycle and Soak’ method will result in more efficient watering and a healthier lawn,” said Figueroa. “Our goal is to help residents have healthy lawns and still save water and money.”

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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.