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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saving money this summer easy as flipping a switch *'Water sense lowers expense'*

LITTLE ELM (June 22, 2016) Among the many ways families might save money this summer, such as clipping and using coupons at the grocery store, convincing the family to enjoy a staycation, or delaying a major purchase, the easiest and perhaps most significant savings might be turning off the automatic timer on the irrigation system.

“Switching the controller to the off position can be a real money saver,” says Utility Superintendent Andrew Figueroa. “These timers were added to irrigation systems to increase convenience and provide for hands-free operation, but they are not necessary. In fact, they can be a real money waster.”

Figueroa is among the many water specialists in the North Texas area who advise residents to operate their sprinkler system in the manual mode, turning on the system only when necessary. A healthy lawn and landscape do not require a steady stream of water to survive and thrive. Experts say that about one inch of water a week is more than sufficient to encourage the development of a deep root system for local grasses.

“Knowing exactly how long your sprinkler system should run to provide one inch of water is essential,” he said. “And, if any rain occurs during the week, it may negate the need to water at all. Consumers have the ability and the opportunity to save water, save money and still maintain a healthy lawn, simply by taking a sensible approach.”

The Town has adopted “Water sense lowers expense” as a reminder of such sensible approaches.

Furthermore, Little Elm residents are encouraged to sign up for weekly watering advice from www.watermyyard.org, a science-based website that provides precise calculations on how much watering is necessary in the local area. The site was developed by scientists and irrigation experts from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and is sponsored by the North Texas Municipal Water District.

There is no charge to sign up for the site, and it can provide weekly watering recommendations via email message or text.

“Saving money this summer can be as simple as walking into the garage and flipping a switch,” said Figueroa. “Of course, implementing the manual mode on the controller should follow a thorough review of the system, making sure that sprinkler heads are operating properly, aimed in the correct position, and functioning at the highest level of efficiency.”

Little Elm remains in Water Conservation Stage until further notice. To review watering restrictions currently in place, to read tips on watering, and to obtain information on water conservation, please visit <http://littleelm.org/index.aspx?nid=709>.

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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.