

# WATER CONSERVATION NEWS

March/April 2009



## **New Rebate Item!**

The City of Allen's Water Rebate Program has expanded to include a rebate for SMART irrigation technology equipment beginning this month. Qualifying equipment may include drip irrigation retrofit, moisture sensors, flow sensors, high efficiency sprinkler nozzles, spray bodies with built-in pressure regulation and check valves, and/or SMART controllers.

A rebate of 50% of the cost up to a maximum of \$125 for installation of qualifying SMART irrigation technology equipment is available. For more information visit the City's website, [www.cityofallen.org](http://www.cityofallen.org).

## **Sustainable Landscape Seminars**

The City of Allen and Keep Allen Beautiful is hosting Sustainable Landscape Seminars, a series of lectures on topics such as: Design Basics; Choosing Plant Materials; Maintenance of Landscape (lawn and tree care); Disease and Insect control; Irrigation; Making a Rain Barrel; Proper Fertilization; and more. For more information on current topics and registration, visit our website: [www.cityofallen.org](http://www.cityofallen.org) and click on the Water Conservation banner on the Home page.

## **Fix a Leak Week!**

Leaks can account for, on average, more than 11,000 gallons of water wasted in the home every year from culprits such as running toilets, dripping faucets, and failing pipes. Nip that drip in the bud!



## **Spring is Here!**

It's time to begin thinking about new landscapes and lawn maintenance. Begin any new landscape project with a plan that includes use of research-proven techniques to provide maximum gardening and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting our environment. Smartscape and Earth Kind are two ways to insure you are landscaping with effectiveness and environmental responsibility.

The principle goals of Earth Kind include:

- ▶ Reducing landscape water use
- ▶ Reducing landscape fertilizer & pesticide use
- ▶ Reducing yard wastes entering landfills
- ▶ Landscaping for Energy Conservation

For more information visit:



[www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com)



<http://earthkind.tamu.edu>

## **FREE Compost!**

Every gardener's dream is enough "black gold" to enrich the gardening loves of their life... flowers, vegetables, trees, shrubs, & lawns. Come to 510 S. Jupiter Road, the City of Allen's compost storage site, with your water bill or driver's license, and get one cubic yard of FREE compost. The compost site is open on the weekends from mid-February until the end of November. This is FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED! If you arrive and there is not any compost, check back another time. Savvy gardeners know that compost worked into soil surfaces will help the soil retain moisture after watering, and provide nutrients to the plants. Let our "black gold" work a little black magic for your garden and lawn!

**Watch Your Mailbox!**

Your free copy of the Texas Urban Landscape Guide is arriving soon! This guide addresses simple tips on landscape design and maintenance, irrigation, and water efficiency.



**Save the Date!**

**April 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

In cooperation with the Allen Reads program, Keep Allen Beautiful will host special activities as part of the upcoming *Seeding a Healthy Community - A Festival for Healthy Environmental Living* set for April 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Watters Creek at Montgomery Farm, US 75 and Bethany Drive. This environmental/ecological festival will be fun for the entire family!

**April 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

<p><b>FREE!</b></p>  <p><b>Live Green EXPO</b></p> <p>EMPOWERING NORTH TEXANS</p> <p><b>SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 9AM-5PM</b></p> <p><b>PLANO CENTRE</b></p> <p>2000 E. SPRING CREEK PKWY. AT JUPITER RD.</p>	 <p><i>Living with</i> <b>Ed</b></p> <p><b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER</b></p> <p><b>ED BEGLEY, JR.</b></p>
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For more information contact Ki-Afi Moyo, Live Green Expo Event Manager, at 972-816-9489.

◆ *Be sure to visit the City of Allen booth!* ◆

**DOO the Right Thing!**

Pledge to DOO the right thing and pick up after your pet! Pet waste not only risks the health of other animals and people, it can cause serious water quality problems. Pet waste is high in nutrients, which feed the algae that can choke out our creeks and lakes. The water becomes cloudy and green—unattractive for swimming, boating and fishing.



**Pledge to DOO the Right Thing**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (your name), resident of \_\_\_\_\_ (city), pledge my family's commitment to DOO the Right Thing for the love of our pet and to protect our water quality, maintain a clean community and a healthy environment by picking up after my pet. We are committed to:

- ✓ Picking up after our pet when we go on walks in our neighborhood or in the park.
- ✓ Picking up the backyard on a regular basis.
- ✓ Disposing of wastes in the garbage or by flushing it down the toilet.

For the love of \_\_\_\_\_ (your pet's name) \_\_\_\_\_ (breed)  
Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ on this date \_\_\_\_\_.

**One dog can make a difference!**  
**Complete the pledge and fax to 214-509-4590**

**WaterSense**

The City of Allen is committed to promote the value of water and help citizens to make smart decisions regarding water use and has signed a partnership agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



**The City of Allen has educators available for presentations about water conservation, and other environmental programs. Contact: 214-509-4553.**