

NEWS STREAM



Regional. Reliable. Everyday.

Hat Tip to Our History

December is about more than just the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. It also marks several important milestones in the history of NTMWD.

- **1953** - Citizens in our 10 original Member Cities voted overwhelmingly to join NTMWD
- **1973** - Completion of the Lavon Lake Dam Expansion
- **1975** - Addition of the City of Richardson as a Member City

Additionally, we recently celebrated John Gay of McKinney for his decades of service as legal counsel. His work was instrumental to advancing key projects, like the Lavon Lake dam expansion above, and we recognized his achievements at our October board meeting.

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8 North Texas Cities Named Best Places for Young Families

Several of our Member Cities and Customers were recently named as Best Places for Young Families in Texas by NerdWallet. Murphy, a customer city, ranked first, followed by the Member Cities of Frisco, Wylie, Allen, Forney and Royse City - all in the Top 10.

The rankings were based on public school excellence, home affordability, and overall growth and prosperity. Accolades like this mean more people flocking to our region. That's why we continue to plan ahead to provide the essential services needed now, and in the future, for our thriving cities.

[\[SEE WHERE YOUR CITY RANKS +\]](#)



IrrigationOFF: Protect Your Lawns &

Pipes From Freezing Temps

Winters in North Texas can be unpredictable with freezing temps coming out of nowhere. Remind residents and businesses to turn OFF their irrigation systems from now until March 31 and protect pipes from freezing to avoid water waste and dangerous conditions on roads and sidewalks. Residents can sign up for weekly alerts from WaterMyYard.org to know when to water and when to wait.



[\[SIGN UP NOW +\]](#)

Safe Drinking Water is Top Priority

NTMWD and our cities work hard and take pride in delivering safe drinking water to over 1.6 million people. We test more than 250,000 water samples each year to make sure we meet or exceed state and federal standards for clean water.

So we were surprised when a recent online publication issued a list of the 25 U.S. cities with the worst drinking water. Four NTMWD Member Cities are included and 16 of the cities listed are from Texas, many from the DFW area. We have significant concerns about the methods used to develop this list, which is NOT based on scientific studies. We added a response with key facts to counter these unsubstantiated claims, as did the City of McKinney.



[\[NTMWD RESPONSE +\]](#)

[\[MCKINNEY RESPONSE +\]](#)

Give Thanks for Holiday Workers

Many of our staff members, like water plant operator John Occhino in our ozone control room, work on Thanksgiving Day and other holidays throughout the year. These dedicated team members make sure our cities have the vital water, wastewater and solid waste services as needed every single day. We are thankful for people like John and everyone else on our team and yours who are working this holiday season.



As a reminder, our [solid waste facilities](#) will be closed on Thanksgiving Day but our water and wastewater operations run 24/7/365.

Landfill Gas Harvesting Plant Construction Completed

Construction of the new gas to energy plant at the 121 Regional Disposal Facility in Melissa is now complete. The plant, operated by Morrow Renewables, will harvest the landfill gas and convert it to clean-burning natural gas. The sale of the natural gas will help offset the operating cost of the landfill.

The plant is currently harvesting and recycling

enough gas to offset the emissions of 29 million gallons of gasoline consumed. Next year, the installation of 75 additional wells will increase production capacity by 33% and still leave room for future expansion

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China's Ban on Imported U.S. Waste May Mean More Landfill Waste

The recent Chinese ban on imported waste means that our solid waste services will be busier than ever before. The Chinese government hasn't yet clarified exactly which materials will be banned, but we are nonetheless prepared to process additional amounts of lower-grade plastic and paper, if needed, to make sure that we can continue to keep up with our communities' needs.

[\[LEARN MORE +\]](#)



Cease the Grease Holiday Collection Season

Protect plumbing and pipes from clogging this holiday season. Encourage your residents, friends and neighbors to bring used cooking oils and greases to our Environmental Services building at 201 E. Brown Street in Wylie or to another grease collection point nearby. Visit the Cease the Grease website to find local grease recycling centers near your communities.

[\[CEASE THE GREASE +\]](#)

[\[DEFEND YOUR DRAINS +\]](#)



Recycling Tips for the Holidays

It's a good time to remind our neighbors and friends to save water and avoid waste this Christmas season with these helpful tips. Cut water waste by washing only full loads of dishes and laundry, soaking dishes before hand washing, and defrosting food in the fridge instead of under running water. To cut holiday landfill waste, collect any paper or cardboard such as wrapping and clean food packages to recycle and, once the fun is over, compost your tree.

[\[READ MORE +\]](#)



WFAA: 'Tis the Season for Trees

'Tis the season for cutting and lighting Christmas trees. It's also the season for selecting and planting new trees for your yard. Watch our latest segment on WFAA Channel 8 with NTMWD water conservation expert Denise Hickey and Texas A&M AgriLife horticulturalist Patrick Dickinson as they share tips for choosing the right fall and winter trees to plant now.

Be sure to watch on Saturday, Dec. 16 for landscaping gift ideas for the holidays.

[\[READ MORE +\]](#)



North Texas Water Conservation Symposium Recap

NTMWD, along with Dallas Water Utilities and the Tarrant Regional Water District, recently co-hosted the 11th Annual North Texas Regional Water Conservation Symposium at the University of Texas at Arlington. This event brought together big names in the world of water, including keynote speakers George Hawkins from DC Water, Eric Eckl from Water Words That Work, and WFAA meteorologist Colleen Coyle.

A series of speakers gave short, informational, and inspiring messages about local and global water issues to round out the event. Visit our blog for a recap of the event and more information on the featured speakers.

[\[READ MORE +\]](#)



Mapping Success with GIS

We had a great time celebrating #GISday on Nov. 15 with our team and partners, including teams from the cities of Plano, Rockwall and Wylie. GIS is a fun day to learn about geographic information systems. For us, it's a way to showcase how we use geography and GIS technology every day to keep track of hundreds of miles of pipelines, property lines, city and county boundaries, roads, waterways, elevations, and more for all of our services.

[\[WATCH VIDEO +\]](#)



Celebrating Our Veterans

NTMWD is proud of the many veterans that we employ all across the District. For Veterans Day, we put together a tribute video to honor former and current servicemen and women. These amazing people served our country, and now they serve our region and the nearly 2 million people who work and live in North Texas.

[\[WATCH VIDEO +\]](#)



Guest Blog: Wings Over the Wetland a Big Success

The John Bunker Sands Wetland Center recently held its annual fundraising event - Wings Over the Wetland. The event helps support this thriving educational center that provides a growing number of programs for schools, educators, researchers, environmentalists, and nature lovers. John DeFillipo, Executive Director of the Wetland Center, contributed a guest blog to recap the night's festivities and mission.

[\[READ MORE +\]](#)



Upcoming Events

Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 24
[#OPTOUTSIDE @JBS Wetland Center](#)
Visit the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center on Black Friday and walk off that turkey dinner. Instead of shopping inside and fighting the crowds, spend your day breathing in the fresh air with hiking and bird watching. The Wetland Center will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and entry is FREE!

Nov. 27- Jan 8 @NTMWD
[Cease the Grease](#)



IN THE NEWS

- [Bitter, weeks-long fight in McKinney over forcible annexation ends with victory for landowners](#) (Dallas Morning News)
- [City of Melissa Adopts New Water and Wastewater Rates](#) (City of Melissa)
- [Petition to Stop Potential Lake Corridor Grows Strength in Collin County](#) (NBC 5)
- [As cooler weather begins, NTMWD encourages consumers to prepare lawns for 'hibernation'](#) (North Texas e-News)
- [Trash Talk: Price of Recyclables Sinks After China Bans U.S. Scrap](#) (The Wall Street Journal)
- [Worker, 22, dies after being trapped in 20-inch sewer pipe](#) (ABC News)
- [Collin County Precinct 3 Commissioner Chris Hill announces candidacy for county judge](#) (Community Impact News)
- [With change coming to east Plano, city outlines Oak Point development priorities](#) (Community Impact News)
- [Dallas-Fort Worth scores with young families — especially Murphy](#) (Dallas Morning News)
- [\\$120M mixed-use project will bring new shops and eateries to McKinney](#) (Dallas Morning News)
- [Frisco economic development chief who helped propel city's rapid growth is retiring](#) (Dallas Morning News)
- [Water fight continues: City still working to reform water rates for residents](#) (Plano Star Courier)
- [Republic Services Opens Hauling Facility in North Texas](#) (Waste 360)
- [\\$300 Billion War Beneath the Street: Fighting to Replace America's Water Pipes](#) (The New York Times)
- [Dallas named top contender for Amazon's new headquarters](#) (Dallas Business Journal)
- [Mesquite annexation effort takes second sidetrack through appeals court](#) (Dallas News)

