

Chisholm Trail Newsletter

CHISHOLM TRAIL SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT

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SOAH JUDGE RECOMMENDS CCN TRANSFER TO GEORGETOWN

Administrative Law Judge Steven D. Arnold issued a Proposal for Decision on 11/5/2015 in support of the request to transfer the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from CTSUD to Georgetown. The purpose of the request is to ensure our service territory is provided with continuous and adequate water service, now and in the future. The Public Utility Commission will meet at 9:30 AM on 12/17/2015 at 1701 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX, in Room 7-100 to consider approval of the requested transfer.

The judge considered nine public interest factors in Texas Water Code and Texas Administrative Code to determine if the CCN transfer should be approved. He found that each and every issue regarding Georgetown's acquisition of the requested service area and related assets and facilities weigh in favor of granting the Requested Certificate to transfer the CCN to Georgetown.

Here are some of the major findings:

- In the past year, Georgetown has provided service and customers have received low-

er water bills and greater access to customer resources such as a 24-hour manned customer complaint line and multiple locations at which to pay bills, including the option to pay bills electronically.

- Georgetown has professional, engineering and technical staff dedicated to maintaining and operating its entire water system.
- The need for additional service can be best met with a combined regional system.
- The majority of CTSUD customers voted for pro-merger candidates and are in favor of the CCN transfer.
- The Texas Water Code allows individuals to protest rate changes if certain requirements are met, and many water utility customers in Texas are customers of independently-owned utilities and have no ability to vote for those individuals affecting their rates.

The full text of Judge Arnold's Proposal for Decision is available at www.ctsud.org.

SWEENEY AND ROBINSON RE-ELECTED TO CTSUD BOARD

Mike Sweeney (left) and Delton Robinson were each re-elected to serve individual 3-year terms as Board Directors of CTSUD. Of the 4 candidates, Mike Sweeney received 42% of the vote and won in Williamson, Bell and Burnet Counties with Delton Robinson winning 29% of the vote.

The completion of the merger of CTSUD with Georgetown was fully supported with a resounding combined total of 71% of voters for the two candidates in favor of the merger. The returning Directors were sworn in at the



Board meeting conducted on 11/19/2015. Mike Sweeney and Delton Robinson were first elected to the Board of Directors in November 2012.

We would like to thank each candidate who ran in this year's election.

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WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THE AUTUMN LEAVES!

Autumn is a season of change which brings cooler temperatures (eventually), but one thing that remains the same every year is the deluge of leaves that provide homeowners with a huge landscaping chore. There's an old saying that money doesn't grow on trees; however, what you decide to do with the leaves can definitely make a difference in your pocketbook.

There are different ways to dispose of the leaves. You can bag them and place them at your curb for pickup. However, unless your community has a composting program, they'll just take up space in the landfill. The Texas Agrilife Extension Service notes that 20 percent or more of the solid waste Texans generate comes from grass clippings, tree leaves and other landscape wastes. **About half of all landscape waste originates from fallen leaves.**

Instead of bagging them, two of the best forms of leaf disposal will actually provide a great basis for water conservation: mulching and composting.

Disposing of leaves through mulching

One way to deal with the leaves is to use your lawnmower to mulch them, providing extra groundcover that actually saves water, according to the extension service. The mulch also reduces evaporation helping you to save water, helps to prevent erosion, to control weeds, and to enrich

the soil. Tree leaves actually provide a good organic source of nutrients for your yard. Not only is composting beneficial by keeping the leaves out of the landfill or lakes, it also provides you with an economical source of nutrients for your garden, trees and flowers.

If you have a small to moderate amount of leaves, mowing them might be the easiest way to manage them.

For larger amounts of leaves, you can run them through a shredder to turn them into mulch, or you can set aside a portion of your yard for composting. Putting the leaves into a compost bin allows them to decompose and turn into a rich source of natural nutrients.

The benefits of composting

There are multiple benefits to composting or mulching your leaves. A little effort can pay big dividends for your yard or your garden and will save you money when it comes to providing nutrients for your plants by foregoing the purchase of fertilizer.

Leaves can either be one source of composted material or the sole source. They eventually decompose into a dark earthy substance, leaf mold compost. Most leaves are rich in potassium, and the nutrients can be returned to the soil to enrich your plants. <http://www.brazos.org/About-Us/News/2015-News/ArticleID/473/>

To report out-of-service water emergencies or make any other call in regard to customer service, please call Customer Care at 888-474-4904 or 512-930-3640