

Spring
2020

Midlothian Matters

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Midlothian City Council Members

City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Richard Reno	Mayor
Justin Coffman	Mayor pro tem
Wayne Sibley	Place 1
Mike Rodgers	Place 2
Ted Miller	Place 3
Clark Wickliffe	Place 4

City of Midlothian Texas
104 West Avenue E
Midlothian, Texas 76065
972-775-3481
www.midlothian.tx.us



New Fire Station Heralds Modern Era of Response

In June, Midlothian opens its newest state-of-the-art Fire Station on US Highway 287 and West Main Street. This replaces the current Fire Station No. 1 on 8th Street that was built in the mid-1960s when an all-volunteer fire department served Midlothian's population of fewer than 2,500 residents. Ushering in this new era of response, Midlothian will be operating three fully equipped and staffed fire stations to serve a population of 43,000 residents, not to mention several industrial facilities, distribution warehouses, 11 schools, shopping centers, and other businesses in a 115-square-mile response area.

Voters approved the cost of \$8.1 million in 2017 for the new fire station, which enhances coverage for the expanding westside of town. It also eliminates the need for a fourth fire station to provide services for a city the size of Midlothian.

The facility will house its fleet of existing fire trucks, including a 100-foot aerial platform truck, and ambulances. It can accommodate up to 12 firefighters per shift. Overall, the Midlothian Fire Department employs 60 firefighters/paramedics that work in three different platoons.

A new digital alerting system promises to greatly improve response time to alarms by enabling the dispatcher to quickly identify the call type and resources needed.

As soon as the dispatcher codes the call type, the station alerting system activates with audio and visual prompts. An automated voice announces the call type and location. Visual LED sign boards located throughout the station scroll vital call details as personnel move towards the apparatus bay. In the bay, wall clocks display how many seconds it takes the crew to respond from the time the alerting system activates to the time they leave the station. This is a reminder of the importance of each second in the response to emergency calls. Finally, in all the dorms and hallways, speakers contain LED lights that illuminate the path from the dorm to the response vehicle.

On display in the shiny museum-like foyer of the new fire station will be the fully-restored 1918 Model TT Ford/Howe pumper engine that was donated to the City by W.W. Major Fire Company. Other vintage artifacts, such as the volunteer alerting siren used by the City until radio systems were deployed, will also be on display. The foyer will be open to the public when personnel are present.



Mayor Tips Hat to City Employees

I always knew Midlothian was strong, but I never knew the depths of our strength until our community fell headlong into the COVID-19 crisis in March. As this story continues to unfold, I want to recognize some of the heroes of the City who continue to provide essential services and in some cases make great personal sacrifices to do so.

The waters we navigate are uncharted and it will be a while before we know the results of our efforts, but I am honored to serve as Mayor of such an incredibly dedicated team.

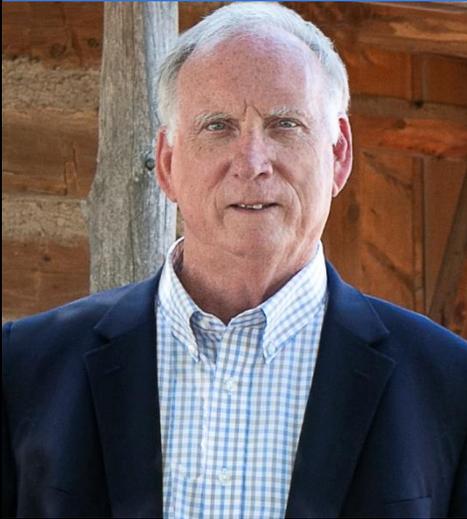
Mayor Richard Reno

Sign Up For City News & Alerts

The City of Midlothian operates a notification system and will send residents City News and Alerts upon request.

Be sure to sign up for future issues of *Midlothian Matters* newsletter.

Register at www.midlothian.tx.us and click on "Notify Me."



Mayor Richard Reno

Acting upon Ellis County's declaration of a local state of disaster on March 17, 2020, City administrators took immediate steps to ensure the safety of the public and employees of the City of Midlothian. The **Police and Fire Departments** reviewed and adjusted emergency plans to continue to provide service around the clock while at the same time limit infection exposure to personnel and the public.

Close coordination with Ellis County Emergency Management ensued upon the onset of the crisis. Elected officials worked in concert with Federal, State, and local governments to provide up-to-date and consistent information to Midlothian citizens, dedicating an online resource page at www.midlothian.tx.us and posting regular updates through news announcements and social media.

To protect City workers, employees began to work from home and staggered shifts where possible without compromising customer service standards.

Midlothian Stands Strong During COVID-19 Pandemic

Deemed essential services, for many governmental departments it has been business-almost-as-usual in the midst of an unknown and unprecedented challenge.

By Mayor Richard Reno

All departments instantly went into problem-solving mode, coming up with creative ways to avoid disrupting services even though doors were locked during the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order. The workload did not decrease but rather shifted to being handled by telephone and online. **Utility Services** staff split shifts to allow some to work from home, which sometimes left only one team member to field phone calls from customers. To share the burden, managers assumed duties in front offices.

The director of the **Midlothian Senior Center** cast a wide net to ensure her 300-person membership was connected to services upon which they depended, making personal calls to check on the wellbeing of members and maintaining a core of volunteers ready to step in as needed.

Animal Services curtailed services that brought the public to the shelter, but worked hard to reunite lost pets with their owners.

Field staff continued to service animal traps and respond to reports of animal bites, aggressive animals, animal welfare, and loose animals.

Community Services understandably suspended issuing permits for garage sales, temporary food service, and solicitors. However, recognizing the urgent need for businesses to inform their customers of changes in hours and services, the department enlisted Council's approval of a fee waiver for temporary sign permits until July 8, 2020.

Fortunately, **City Council** meetings are livestreamed and online participation forms are available. **Engineering** and **Planning** services proceeded, while **Public Works** handled its usual duties on top of ensuring that City facilities were cleaned and sanitized. Meanwhile, **Conference Center** and the **Parks and Recreation** staff went through the painful process of rescheduling a full line-up of Spring events. (See *Upcoming Events*, page 8.)



US Highway 287 at Walnut Grove Road



Mockingbird Lane water tank

Road and Infrastructure Improvements

Keep Pace with Growth and Development

Everywhere you go in Midlothian, there seems to be something new being built. To support the new housing and business developments, many improvements are being made to the City's roadways and infrastructure.

TXDOT ROADWAY PROJECTS

US Highway 287 Grade Separation at Walnut Grove Road: Estimated completion, summer 2020

Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) project is well underway. It is being constructed so that the main lanes of US Highway 287 are elevated at the Walnut Grove Road intersection. This will eliminate the need for the existing traffic signal on Highway 287 and greatly improve safety at this intersection.

FM 663: TxDOT feasibility study underway

City leaders requested that TxDOT begin to plan for much needed improvements along FM 663. As a result, TxDOT currently is completing a feasibility study, which would improve this roadway to a four-lane, divided roadway, beginning

at US Highway 287 and extending south to FM 875. This study is the first step necessary for the State to begin to plan for and program this work as a future project.

FM 1387: Under design

TxDOT has completed their schematic design and held a public meeting on the future improvement of FM 1387 from Midlothian Parkway to FM 664. This project is currently under design and will, at a minimum, consist of a four-lane, divided roadway. With a portion of the funding for this project already secured, a preliminary date of 2026 has been set for the State to begin accepting bids.

2017 CITY ROADWAY BOND PROJECTS

S. 14th Street: Completed

This project added an additional two lanes to South 14th Street, running between McAlpin Road and north to US Highway 287. Approved by City voters in November of 2017, this thoroughfare provides direct access and an alternate route to FM 663 to residents of Lawson Farms, Hillstone, Dove Creek, and Brandi Ridge developments.

City Water Treatment Plant No. 2 Expansion: Under construction 1761 Auger Road

Work is currently in progress to expand the City's Auger Water Treatment Plant from 8 million gallons per day (MGD) to 12 MGD. This expansion includes the addition of 4 MGD of low-pressure membrane units, new pumps, and associated appurtenances. Additionally, a second 3 MG concrete ground storage tank is under construction and once complete, the plant will have a treated water storage capacity of 6 MG.

Mockingbird Lane Elevated Storage Tank

Rehabilitation: To begin summer/early fall 2020

Design plans are also in the works for the rehabilitation of the City's Mockingbird Lane 2 MG elevated storage tank (EST), which was built in 2008. These plans will include the cleaning and recoating of the exterior of the EST, as well as the addition of a mixer and some other modifications and improvements.

EYE ON IT

New Facilities to Serve Community Needs

Fire station, hospital, middle school No. 3, and more coming soon!

Midlothian Fire Station No. 1 (replacement facility): Completion date, June 2020
Corner of Highway 287 at West Main Street

Baylor Scott & White Midway medical office building: Opening August 2020
4431 East US Highway 287

Methodist Midlothian Medical Center and medical office building: Opening September 2020
1201 E. US Highway 287

Google Data Center: Completion date summer 2020
3800 Railport Parkway

Earl & Marthalu Dieterich Middle School: Opening August 2020
Ledgestone Lane

Ledgestone Lane Complete
Completed in the fall of 2019, construction of this MISD-City partnered roadway project runs from Mt. Zion Road south to the Plainview/Ashford Lane intersection and will be the main access to the new middle school.

When it Rains, It Drains!

Protect our creeks and ponds from contaminated runoff



Protecting our storm drain system safeguards all of the creeks, rivers, lakes, and ponds that we all enjoy for recreation and fishing. Stormwater flowing over rooftops, streets, driveways, and yards catches pollutants along the way and deposits them into our storm drains. Contrary to what many people think, storm drains do not lead to wastewater treatment plants, but rather into these naturally occurring bodies of water. Although rain water falls on buildings, roads, parking lots, sidewalks, loading docks, and landscaped areas, eventually it finds its way to the nearest water body often via a storm drain inlet.

In order to stem the tide of unlawful discharge of non-stormwater runoff, stormwater runoff from construction sites, and post-construction stormwater runoff from development projects, the City has renewed its Storm Water Management Program. Citizens can help protect our storm drain system by reporting suspected unlawful discharge of contaminants into a storm drain. Never dump anything onto the street or into a gutter or storm sewer drain.

To report a problem, contact the Engineering Department at 972-775-7199 or visit us online at www.midlothian.tx.us. Find us under Development Services. Click Storm Water.

Technical College Scholarships Available

Did you know Midlothian Economic Development (MED) and Texas State Technical College (TSTC) have teamed up to advance workforce training?

For an investment of about \$8,000, a student can earn a technical certificate from TSTC and for about \$12,000, a student can earn an Associate of Applied Science degree. Many graduates start out making \$40,000 or more a year, with rapid increases as they gain experience.

The MED is working to lower the cost by providing the **Midlothian Workforce/Careers Scholarship** for the Midlothian community. Each scholarship is \$1,000, offering residents within Midlothian ISD boundaries a jumpstart on their tuition. The scholarship is awarded in increments of \$500 for the first two semesters a student is enrolled.

Scholarship Eligibility

- Recipients must live within the Midlothian school district boundaries.
- Recipients should be enrolled in any program at TSTC North Texas (Red Oak) and/or TSTC Waco.
- Recipients can either be a recent high school graduate that maintained a 2.5 GPA or a Midlothian resident with a high school diploma or GED.

“The goal of this scholarship program is to directly benefit Midlothian-area residents enrolling at TSTC to ultimately provide more trained technicians to the local workforce and, specifically, our industry partners in the area,” said Marcus Balch, provost for TSTC North Texas in Red Oak.

Choose the career path that is right for you. Earn a technical certificate in Diesel Equipment Technology, HVAC Technician, or Welding and enter the workforce in about 12 months. Or increase your earning potential with an associate’s degree in Computer Aided Drafting & Design, Cybersecurity, Diesel Equipment Technology, Electrical Power & Controls, Industrial Systems Electrical Specialization, or other high-tech programs.

Registration for Fall 2020 classes opened on Monday, March 30, 2020, and remains open until classes begin. Learn more about the Midlothian Workforce/Careers Scholarship by visiting www.Midlothian-TX.org/TSTC-Scholarship or call MED at 972-723-3800.

How to Properly Dispose of Household Waste

Do not rinse or clean items over/near storm sewer drains

Do not litter (even cigarette butts)

Do not dump any chemicals (even soapy water) down a storm sewer drain – “nothing but rain”

Sweep leaves and soil from sidewalks and driveways back onto the lawn or compost

Pick up after your pets; bury or dispose of waste in the trash

Limit your use of fertilizer and pesticides to just what is needed

Take advantage of car washes that send their water to the sanitary sewer so that water will be treated

Do not flush wipes, paper towels, or sanitary products down the toilet.

Annual Residential Chemical Waste Pick-Up

Once a year the City of Fort Worth’s mobile cruiser travels to Midlothian to collect leftover household chemicals. A voucher must be purchased to participate. Check with Public Works at 972-775-1983 or visit the [website for more information](http://www.midlothian.tx.us/19-Public-Works).

www.midlothian.tx.us/19-Public-Works

New Traffic Division Goals: Increase Safety and Officer Approachability

By John Spann, Traffic Division Commander



As Midlothian grows, our police department has needed to adjust and grow in order to respond to a corresponding increase in traffic-related calls. Our Patrol Division is responsible for enforcing traffic laws and working accidents in addition to other regular patrol duties.

Due to City growth and an 11 percent increase in traffic-related calls from 2017-2018, our department started a new Traffic Division. Its focus is on the issues associated with our major thoroughfares, such as a large amount of reckless driver/accident calls on our two busiest Farm to Market Roads, 1387 and 663. While our Patrol Division still enforces traffic violations, the Traffic Division's primary focus is traffic enforcement and accident investigation with the goal to change drivers' behavior in order to prevent accidents, particularly those involving an injury. The Traffic Division has six officers, all of whom have or are working towards their "Advanced Traffic Investigator" certification. Two of the six officers specialize in commercial vehicle enforcement and are responsible for enforcing the federal motor carrier safety act rules, state laws as they apply to commercial vehicles and drivers, local ordinances specific to commercial vehicles, and the code of federal regulations as it applies to oversize and overweight vehicle regulations and hazardous materials. They also investigate commercial vehicle accidents.

In April, two of the officers in the Traffic Division transitioned to motorcycles from traditional police vehicles. Police officers on motorcycles can resolve specific problems better than in cars, such as maneuvering through heavy traffic to respond to accidents. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Agency, motorcycles also allow officers to get closer to citizens, which can result in forming positive relationships. Adults and children often tend to feel more comfortable approaching an officer on a motorcycle without the perceived barrier of an enclosed vehicle, fostering communication and trust.



Commander Tim Hicks

Midlothian Schools and Police Partner for Safety

Commander Tim Hicks took the helm as Director of Safety and Security at Midlothian Independent School District (MISD) in August 2019. Since then he has worked with School Resource Officers (SROs) and MISD administration to fine-tune emergency plans at all 11 Midlothian campuses.

As the schools' safety/security director, Hicks sees his charge as three-pronged. First is to teach faculty and students to respond to a threat, which could be related to weather, crime, or even infectious disease. Second is to prevent campus crime and consistently re-evaluate procedures designed for safety of all students and faculty. Third is to lead and mentor the SROs assigned to the campuses.

Both the Board of Trustees for MISD and the Midlothian City Council approved the appointment of Hicks in a unique partnership between the school district and the Police Department. "The safety and security of our students and staff are our top priorities in MISD," said Lane Ledbetter, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, upon welcoming Commander Hicks to the MISD family. MISD and Midlothian PD share the financial responsibility of the SRO and security program. "This partnership improves both organizations' ability to serve and protect the students and staff of MISD," he stated. "Our goal is to be as proactive as possible so we can best serve everyone in Midlothian and MISD," said Chief of Police Carl Smith. "Working so closely with the school district benefits our entire community."

A member of the PD since 2011 and a commander for five years, Hicks is an active-shooter training instructor. In addition to his school district duties, he serves as assistant commander of the Southern Regional Response Group where he recruits and trains SWAT team members.

Managing Traffic Growth

The US 287 route is extolled as the safest, fastest, shortest, and most scenic route connecting all the National Parks in the American and Canadian Rockies with the Gulf of Mexico. Sitting at the strategic juncture of US Highway 287 and 67, Midlothian sees about 30,000 vehicles pass through daily, including, a large number of commercial vehicles. Enter, the new Midlothian Traffic Division, which aims at making these roads even safer.

Ensuring Incident Command Readiness

Since joining the school district, Hicks has used his experience and training to reinforce incident command procedures that delineate the chain of command.

"In an emergency, it is critical that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in order to ensure safety of students, staff, and officers."

Commander Hicks

Mayor Outlines Four Vital Community Sectors

Whether you're a relative newcomer to Midlothian or have lived here for many years, most of us seem to agree that this City possesses a unique charm worth protecting and preserving as we advance towards a population of 80,000 or more in the next 20 to 30 years.

From where I sit as your Mayor, I see four major sectors of our City – **Suburban, Industrial, Rural/Country, and Old Town**. Each sector contributes to Midlothian's uniqueness. As a lifelong Texan, and businessman in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for 28 years, I believe it is rare for a community to have retained the qualities that attracted many of us to move here, others to stay, and still others to return.

Mayor Richard Reno

City Planning Efforts Strike Balance to Retain Community's Unique Appeal By Mayor Richard Reno

Suburban spaces provide our greatest and quickest-growing challenge. These are the sections of the city where the majority of our residents live – in well-maintained and thriving neighborhoods. They also provide the modern conveniences and amenities for shopping, dining, and businesses that we demand. The City Council has long been aware that growth in this sector must not overtake and displace the other sectors.

Our **Industrial** sector is a long-established part of our community, providing a stable tax base, contributing job opportunities, and supporting our nonprofit service organizations. Over the years, industry leadership has lent a "can-do" spirit to Midlothian, exemplifying what can be achieved when corporations and the community work together.

Country or rural space ties us to our Texas heritage through the land, which represents an integral part of Midlothian's beginnings in the 1800s as a farm community. From both new and established residents comes a consistent call to protect and cultivate the rural nature and green spaces of Midlothian. Our City Council works hard to keep sight of this desire to preserve open areas for community use and not to sacrifice these spaces in a rush to develop other areas.

Old Town is our historic downtown area, which serves as the heart and soul of our city center. Here, citizens find city government, small businesses, restaurants, and shops housed in historic buildings that echo our city's heritage. It operates as our cultural center, serving as the home to our annual Arts and Wine Festival, downtown trick-or-treating, scarecrow festival, tree lighting, street dance, and other popular community gatherings.

In the next decades, Midlothian's city government must nurture these four major components within our city to maintain the distinct culture and charm that sets our town apart from cookie-cutter communities. We have developed a comprehensive plan that generally acknowledges each sector's contribution to the community. We believe that all these components are essential to continue to be the Midlothian that will best serve its residents.



Photo courtesy of Avi Waxman-unsplash

It is our goal to find ways to balance the interests of each of these sectors and nurture their continued health, growth, and development. We may have to take a close look at the way we regulate each of these sectors. I realize that disagreements can arise between those with large lots, ranchettes, and livestock, who may want to be left alone, and those in suburban developments who prefer regulation to ensure that their property values and aesthetics will not be compromised. Based on our comprehensive plan, Midlothian has outlined general boundaries and established that we want a place for each of these components within our city limits. Over the coming months, we will be working to bring together stakeholders from each of these sectors to begin a discussion about how we can best achieve this delicate and necessary balance.



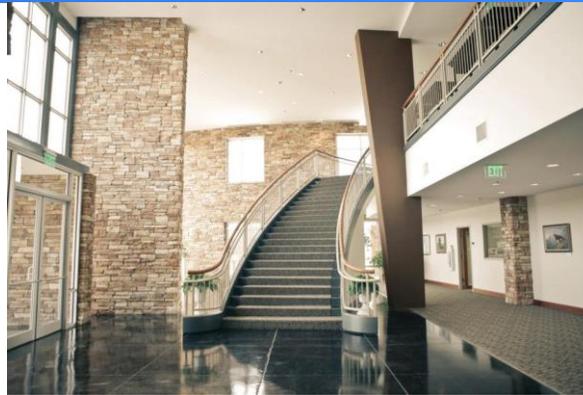
Downtown Midlothian, Texas

Conference Center Open – Book Now

A beaming bride, giddy teens in dressy clothes, thoughtful executives – if the walls of Midlothian’s Conference Center could talk, they would share thousands of memories of those who have filled its stately rooms since opening in 2002.

With 600 events a year, the Conference Center put Midlothian on the map as a destination for corporate and social events. While offering all the amenities of a metropolitan event venue, the Conference Center features an intimate charm and a warm, friendly atmosphere to hold the most casual or formal affair. Reasonably priced by market standards, the Conference Center has become a favorite site for business meetings and training seminars, as well as banquets and weddings.

Like many businesses, the Conference Center was closed during the Stay-at-Home orders, but the staff now welcomes inquiries by phone, in person, or online and is happy to help you plan your next affair. The Conference Center website provides 360-degree views of all meeting spaces, along with floorplans and details for each space.



Midlothian Conference Center welcomes groups of 25 to 800 or more.

Conference Center Amenities

- Large catering kitchen
- Outside catering and alcohol allowed
- Complimentary event set-up and tear-down
- Complimentary parking
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Custom floor plans
- Pre-function space
- Package pricing
- Audio-visual equipment and services
- Adjacent hotel
- ADA accessibility
- Freeway accessibility

In Memoriam

Arthur “Art” Charles Pierard

November 8, 1953 to February 19, 2020

Art Pierard was born November 8, 1953, in Lichfield, Illinois to Arthur E. and Mary Crawford Pierard. Art passed away on February 19, 2020, and is survived by his wife of 32 years, Gwen, their daughter, Carrie Hubbard, Art’s mother, sister, brother, and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

A valued member of the Midlothian City Council since 2018, he was instrumental in passing the senior citizen’s tax freeze and reducing the city tax rate. He enjoyed visiting with residents and was passionate about Midlothian. He provided valuable input during the planning process for Midlothian’s Historic Downtown when his life was cut short in a vehicle accident. His unique perspective and genuine spirit will be missed.



Art Pierard
Midlothian City Council, Place 6
2018 - 2020

Your Next Event Starts Here

Custom floor plans for corporate meetings and social events.

Spaces and capacities

Blue Bonnet Ballrooms -
120-800

Pre-function Gallery

Elegant lobby

Outdoor courtyard and
covered promenade

Upstairs lounge - 50

Boardroom – 12

Wildflower rooms – 25-75

Chaparral room – 32-80

Contact information:
www.midlothiancenter.com or
call 972-775-7125.



Nelson McGuire
2019 Fishing Derby
Winner, 10-12 yrs.

Discover Parks

Back Alley Plaza
152 Plaza Drive

Civic Center Park
224 S. 11th Street

Hawkins Spring Park
1498 FM 1387

Heritage Park
234 N. 8th Street

Jaycee Park
1711 Meadow Lane

Kimmel Park
801 W. Ave. F

Margie Webb Park
200 S. 7th Street

Community Park
3601 S. 14th Street

Dog Park
1111 Walter Stephenson Rd.

Sports Complex
1000 S. 14th Street

Mockingbird Nature Park
1361 Onward Road

Mountain Peak Park
6411 Hill Drive & W. FM 875

Ridgeview Park
750 Walter Stephenson Rd.

Triangle Park
200 E. Avenue G

www.midlothian.tx.us/parks

972-775-7161

Upcoming Events

Please visit our website or call us to check dates and times before attending any of these events.

MIDLOTHIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT BICYCLE SAFETY COURSE

For Pre-K through Middle Schoolers
June 8 through 12
9 a.m. to Noon
Midlothian Community Park
3601 S.14th Street
Each day designated for a specific age.
To register visit
www.midlothian.tx.us

MIDLOTHIAN OUTDOOR MARKET

Saturdays, June 20-October 10
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Downtown Midlothian
Heritage Park

INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS SHOW

July 3, 9:15 p.m.
MISD Multipurpose Stadium
Sponsored by Midlothian Economic Development Corporation and Citizens National Bank

July 4th PARADE

10 a.m.
Downtown Midlothian

2ND ANNUAL PARKTOPIA

Friday, July 24
5 to 9 p.m.
Midlothian Community Park
3601 S. 14th Street

MIDLOTHIAN CHAMBER'S WINE & ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 11
2 to 9 p.m.
Downtown Midlothian
8th Street & Avenue F

MOVIES IN THE PARK

July 11, August 1
7 p.m.
Hawkins Spring Park
1498 FM 1387

ELLIS COUNTY MARKET

Saturday, July 25
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Ellis County Youth Expo Cntr.
2300 US Highway 287
Waxahachie

MAYOR'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

Saturday, August 8
9 a.m. to Noon
Frank Seale Middle School
972-775-1800
Call for information.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Kick off – Sat., September 5
5:30 to 8 p.m.
Event – Tues., October 6
6 to 8 p.m.
Midlothian Community Park
3601 S. 14th Street

WILD FLOWER WALK

Saturday, September 12
9 a.m.
Mockingbird Nature Park
1361 Onward Road

KIDS FISHING DERBY

Saturday, September 19
8 a.m. to Noon
Midlothian Community Pond
3601 S. 14th Street

MID-WAY AIRPORT PANCAKE BREAKFAST & FLY-IN

Saturday, October 3
8 to 11 a.m.
131 Airport Drive

DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREAT

Friday, October 30
4 to 6 p.m.
Downtown Midlothian

FALL FESTIVAL & WINE WALK

Saturday, November 7
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Downtown Midlothian

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, November 7
8 a.m. to Noon
1050 N. Hwy. 67

VETERANS TRIBUTE DINNER

Wednesday, November 11
6 p.m.
Midlothian Conference Center

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Tuesday, December 1
6 p.m.
Heritage Park

SOUTHERN STAR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Monday, December 7
1 to 8 p.m.
Downtown Midlothian

MERRY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, December 11
6:30 p.m.
Downtown Midlothian

MAYOR'S WINTER WALK

February 20, 2021
10 a.m.
Mockingbird Nature Park
1361 Onward Road

Call for Entries

City of Midlothian

Website Photo Contest

Details at

www.midlothian.tx.us/PhotoContest

Deadline: July 10, 2020

Midlothian Residents, Businesses Sign Up to Save Water and Money with WaterSmart

Midlothian residents and business owners now have access to an easy-to-use online and mobile customer portal called WaterSmart that allows users to view their daily and hourly water usage, find leaks, and manage their water utility bills.

Explained Utility Billing Manager Ami Ranton, "As a result of Midlothian's water meter network upgrade to advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), water customers now have powerful new capabilities at their fingertips, including notifications of possible leaks and high bills. More detailed consumption analytics also help the City manage resources more effectively." Added Assitant Finance Director Sue McKenrick, "Midlothian prides itself on finding innovative ways to better serve our customers while keeping operational expenses down." This program eliminates the need to manually read meters and provides real-time visibility into consumption. Customers benefit from valuable tools, such as **water shut-off reminders** and **leak alerts**. Register today at www.Midlothian.watersmart.com.

Water Conservation Tips for All



- ❖ Add a rain barrel to your garden or flower beds.
- ❖ When replacing landscaping elements consider xeriscaping, which reduces the need for supplemental water.
- ❖ Inspect your irrigation system for leaks and breaks.
- ❖ Check hose bibs for leaks and ensure vacuum breakers are in place and functioning properly.

Get more tips at WaterIsAwesome.com.

Calculate Your Irrigation Usage

Here is an easy formula to calculate approximate amount of monthly irrigation water usage.

First record the water meter use before and after running a station/zone for 10 minutes. That will give the actual gallons used for 10 minutes. Then, divide by 10 to get the gallons per minute (**GPM**). On average, a pop-up station uses approximately 15 to 16 **GPMs**.

To approximate your amount of monthly irrigation water usage:

Multiply your number of stations by the number of minutes each station runs by the **GPM** by the number of days you water per month.

1. Number of Stations _____ x Number of Minutes = _____ Total Minutes
2. Total Minutes _____ x **GPM** _____ = _____ Total Gallons used per watering cycle
3. Total Gallons per cycle _____ x Number of Days per month you water _____ = _____ **Total Gallons used per month**

Example:

15 minutes x 8 stations = 120 total minutes

120 total minutes x 16 **GPM** = 1,920 total gallons used per watering day

1,920 gallons per day x 8 days per month = 15,360 total gallons of water used per month

Special Notice: Wipes Clog Pipes

With the shortage of toilet paper many people are using disposable wipes, paper towels, and towelettes as alternatives. Please **do not flush** anything except toilet paper. Even wipes labeled flusable do not break down. Disposing of wipes in the trash protects your pipes at home and the pipes at wastewater treatment facilities.



How to Register for WaterSmart

Log on
Midlothian.watersmart.com

Register
Use account number listed on your water bill as your registration code.

Personalize
Answer a simple profile survey to provide accurate comparisons to similar households.

Utility Billing Office

Phone: 972-775-7130

Mailing Address
104 W. Avenue E

Physical Address
102 W. Avenue E

Email
utilitybilling@midlothian.tx.us

Office Hours:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., M – F

After-hours water/sewer leak emergencies:
972-775-3333



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2020 City Council Election

Candidates

Mayor

Richard Reno

Councilmember, Place 2

Walter Darrach

Councilmember, Place 1

Wayne Sibley
Dustin Slayton

Councilmember, Place 6

Hud Hartson
Allen Moorman
Jacob Wallace
Tiffany Robinson Carra

Early Voting Schedule: October 19 through 30

Election Day Schedule: Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Deadline for voter registration is October 5, 2020.