



**FARMERS  
BRANCH**

**MEMORANDUM**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

To: City Council  
Through: Ben Williamson, City Manager  
From: Ray Silva-Reyes, Director of Public Works  
CC: Jawaria Tareen, Deputy City Manager  
Date: November 4, 2024  
Subject: Household Hazardous Events (Future Agenda Item)

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Mayor and Councilmember Neal requested that the Public Works Solid Waste Division review the number of household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events. This memo presents information on the existing program and State requirements and proposes solutions while seeking the City Council's direction.

HHW consists of various chemicals residents can purchase and use at their homes but are of such nature that disposal in a municipal solid waste landfill should be discouraged. Some examples of HHW are oil and latex paints, yard chemicals and fertilizers, automotive fluids, and furniture stains and oils. HHW from residents can be disposed at a Type I landfill such as Camelot Landfill, whereas if the source of the material is commercial or industrial, the material is prohibited.

The City of Farmers Branch and many other cities contract with Dallas County to provide alternative household hazardous waste disposal services. Dallas County has a facility where participating city residents may take household hazardous waste items for disposal. Also, Dallas County will provide local household hazardous waste events within the contracting cities. A contracting city must request an event in advance and must pay for all costs associated with the event.

For at least the past decade, the City has provided one local HHW collection event and paid for the monthly ongoing service at the Dallas County facility. The fiscal year 2024-2025 reflects the cost of this service level. Staff budgeted for

\$44,500 for the household hazardous waste contract with Dallas County in the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. Again, this budgeted amount covers the cost of one local event per year, and the ongoing operation and disposal costs for residents who take HHW materials to the Dallas County facility. These events are in alignment with the City Council Strategic Plan to provide functional, sustainable, and well-maintained infrastructure, facilities, and equipment.

In 2024, the City conducted three shredding events for the residents of Farmers Branch. They were held on March 2nd, July 13th, and October 12th at City Hall. A HHW event was held on September 28th at the Senlac Service Center. Electronics for the city were accepted at the Citizens Collection Center (CCC) until September 28, 2024.

With the closing of the CCC, residents can now drop off electronics at United Electronics Recycler at 505 Airline Drive, Coppell TX 75019, or the Home Collection Center at 11234 Plano Road, Dallas TX 75234. The Home Collection Center does not accept TVs.

In 2025, the city will conduct three shredding and electronics combination events for the residents. The events will occur in Spring, Summer and Fall. Details on dates have not yet been confirmed. The HHW event will be conducted by Dallas County in the fall of 2025. The date has not yet been determined.

Recently, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) adopted the 2024 TPDES Phase II (Small) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, TXR040000. TCEQ has issued revised guidelines for the permit renewal that affect the City of Farmers Branch, especially the HHW events.

The most recent shredding has the lowest amount of material accepted to date. It has taken over a decade to get to this volume. The number of participants was on par with previous events, but the volume per user is down, which is to be expected. Similarly, the most recent HHW event had a low turnout. Typically, about 150 residents participate, whereas the October 2024 event had approximately 75 participants.

Our current permit requires that we advertise the HHW program through Dallas County once a quarter in one of our communications. The current permit does not require that we have an event in Farmers Branch. It does require that we count the number of users of the Dallas County facility and the annual Farmers Branch HHW event.

The new permit lists actions that cities can take regarding public education. HHW advertising is not required in the new permit. There is no requirement to host an

HHW event, nor is there a requirement to count the number of program users. We will be focusing on sediment and erosion control as they are our biggest pollutants.

Due to the decreased volume but stable participation at the shredding event and the decreased volume and participation at the most recent HHW collection event, Staff recommends the City continue with the current number of events for both HHW and shredding.