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City Steps Up Inspections that Lagged

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Weatherford – Letters are going out to thousands of Weatherford mailboxes from Backflow Solutions Inc. in Worth, Ill. requiring home owners and businesses to have their backflow prevention devices inspected. This is not a scam.

All homes with irrigation systems as well as all commercial and industrial businesses in the city must use a backflow preventer to keep contaminants from entering the drinking water supply in accordance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The city also requires these devices to be inspected on an annual basis, but has not been enforcing that requirement.

Assistant City Manager Sharon Hayes said the city is about to review the frequency of the required inspections to make sure they are not exceeding TCEQ requirements.

“it’s not our intent to require more than is necessary,” she said.

Backflow preventers have been a requirement at the state level for more than a decade now. Hayes recalled an incident in another state many years ago where a pesticide company was filling a tank with water and left the house unattended. At the same time there was a break in the distribution system, causing a negative water pressure, and it back siphoned everything in the tank into the water system.

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