



# City of Deer Park Messenger

Winter 2017

## Santa is Coming!



The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department (DPVFD) will continue its annual Christmas tradition with the *Santa Around Town* tours, December 13 through 16. On those nights, from 6pm to 9pm, DPVFD will visit Deer Park streets atop a decorated sleigh, beaming with lights and playing Christmas song favorites. "*Santa Around Town* is going to be even more special this year because it will give us a chance to reconnect with our residents following Hurricane Harvey," Chief

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## 2018 Cat Show

After the overwhelming success of their first "Felines, Football and Fun" Cat Show in January 2017, the Feline Paw Foundation is officially planning to hold their second annual show at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center. The 3-day event, January 26 through 28, will be bigger and better than last year, featuring live interviews with international judges, a Spanish-speaking judging ring, 22 animal-related vendors, and on-site cat/kitten adoptions and micro-chipping. Event hours will be from 4 to 8pm on Friday, January 26, from 9:30am to 5pm on Saturday, January 27, and from 9:30am to 4pm on Sunday, January 28. Tickets are on sale for \$7 per



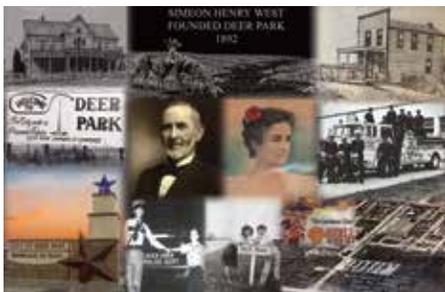
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## Deer Park Celebrated 125 Years



In July 2016, Mayor Jerry Mouton appointed a committee to plan activities to commemorate Deer Park's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary for 2017. The special celebration and all the activities are coming to a close. The 125<sup>th</sup> committee has been honored to plan and help host many of the events throughout this year.

The City of Deer Park, Shell Deer Park, and Deer Park Independent School District have played an integral part of making this year's celebration a success. There have also been other groups within our community that have contributed in-kind goods and services. All of the support and commitment have been instrumental in making our 125<sup>th</sup> birthday very special for the City of Deer Park.

We hope that some of the events, presentations, and memorabilia helped to educate and foster an appreciation for the history of Deer Park. Some of the highlights during

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## Gift of Christmas



The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department (DPVFD) will launch their *Gift of Christmas* campaign in November and all residents are encouraged to take part. According to DPVFD representative John Green, drop-off donation barrels will be placed in key areas throughout the city, and donations of food and toys collected during the cam-

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# General Information

## Elected Officials

Jerry Mouton, Jr. ....	Mayor
Sherry Garrison .....	Council Member - Position 1
Thane Harrison .....	Council Member - Position 2
Tommy Ginn .....	Council Member - Position 3
Bill Patterson .....	Council Member - Position 4
Ron Martin .....	Council Member - Position 5
Rae A. Sinor .....	Council Member - Position 6

Contact the Mayor and members of City Council by e-mail at [cityhall@deerparktx.org](mailto:cityhall@deerparktx.org).

## Department Directors

James J. Stokes .....	City Manager
Gary M. Jackson .....	Assistant City Manager
Shannon Bennett .....	City Secretary
Donna Todd .....	Director, Finance
Bill Philibert .....	Director, Human Resources
Bill Pedersen .....	Director, Public Works
Charlie Sandberg .....	Director, Parks and Recreation
Rebecca Pool .....	Director, Library
Robert Hemminger .....	Director, Emergency Services
Greg Grigg .....	Chief of Police
James Lewis .....	Director, Information Technology

## Other Appointed Officials

Jim Fox .....	City Attorney
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## City Facilities

Animal Shelter .....	281-478-7274	4213 Luella
Art Park Players Dinner Theatre .....	281-478-7288	1302 Center
Avon Recreation Center .....	281-478-7216	601 W. 8 <sup>th</sup> Street
Battleground Golf Course .....	281-478-2080	1600 Georgia
City Hall .....	281-479-2394	710 E. San Augustine
Claude Burgess Recreation Center .....	281-478-2060	4200 Kalwick
Community Center .....	281-478-2050	610 E. San Augustine
Fire Station #1 .....	281-478-2043	1302 Center
Fire Station #2 .....	281-478-7282	711 E. Pasadena Blvd.
Fire Station #3 .....	281-478-7281	2211 East X
Jimmy Burke Activity Center .....	281-478-2049	500 W. 13 <sup>th</sup> Street
Kingsdale Center .....	281-478-7215	2218 Kingsdale
Maxwell Adult Center .....	281-478-7276	1201 Center
Municipal Court .....	281-478-7238	1302 Center
Police Station .....	281-479-1511	2911 Center
Public Library .....	281-478-7208	3009 Center
Swimming Pool .....	281-478-2055	610 E. San Augustine
Transfer Station .....	281-478-7213	610 Underwood
Visitors Center .....	832-780-0973	203 Ivy Ave., Suite 606

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# December

- 2 Siren Test 12pm
- 4 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 5 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 9 Siren Test 12pm
- 16 Siren Test 12pm
- 18 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 19 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 23 Siren Test 12pm
- 25 City Services Closed - Christmas Holiday
- 26 City Services Closed - Christmas Holiday
- 30 Siren Test 12pm

# January

- 1 City Services Closed - New Year's Holiday
- 2 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 6 Siren Test 12pm
- 8 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 13 Siren Test 12pm
- 15 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 16 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 20 Siren Test 12pm
- 23 LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 27 Siren Test 12pm

# February

- 3 Siren Test 12pm
- 5 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 6 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 10 Siren Test 12pm
- 17 Siren Test 12pm
- 19 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 20 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 24 Siren Test 12pm
- 27 LEPC Meeting - 11am



1600 Georgia Ave.

[www.battlegroundgolfcourse.com](http://www.battlegroundgolfcourse.com)  
 Golf Course 281-478-2080  
 Republic Grill 281-478-2089

# Santa is Coming!

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Don Davis said. "We always look forward to this event as a chance to share the holiday spirit with our residents, and this year it will be even more meaningful."

As usual, Santa's helpers will be distributing candy along the route. The department asks that parents assist Santa with keeping small children safe as Santa passes by. "These nights are our chance to celebrate the Christmas holiday with our residents and let both adults and children see our department in a friendlier, more casual setting," said

Justin Crow, Deputy Fire Chief of Station #2. "We hope everyone will bring their families out and spend time with us."

As in previous years, the *Santa Around Town* routes can be found on the DPVFD's website, [www.dpvfd.org](http://www.dpvfd.org). Just click on the *Santa Around Town* link on the bottom left hand portion of the page and select the blue link for a street-by-street listing or the red link for a map. "On our website, we have provided a city street index to help our citizens determine which night Santa will be coming down their streets," Crow said. "Unfortunately, Santa's sleigh is not able to visit all of the streets in the city, because the streets are dead ends or there may not be enough room for our sleigh to turn around. Crow added,

"The attachment, available through [www.dpvfd.org/santa-is-coming](http://www.dpvfd.org/santa-is-coming), names each 'no turnaround' street and also details, in alphabetical order, which night we will visit with Santa."

In the event of a cancellation due to inclement weather or an emergency in the city, the tour will be rescheduled to Sunday, December 17 beginning at 6pm. Check the DPVFD Facebook page, as well as the City of Deer Park Facebook page and the city's website at [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov) for more information. All residents are encouraged to like the Deer Park Fire Department Facebook page for year-round updates, event information, and more.

# Gift of Christmas

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paign will be collected for community distribution.

Donation barrels will be located at Deer Park City Hall, the Deer Park Police Department, the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department Station #3, and the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce at 120 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Barrels will also be placed at various schools and businesses around the city. The barrels will be picked up between December 11 and 15.



"The donations our citizens provide will be collected for community distribution or given to families recommended for assistance by school nurses with DPISD," said Green. Green, with help from his wife, Jeannie, is chairing the event a second year. "The items will benefit between 30 and 50 families."

Also, with the donations made by businesses and residents, the Fire Department will place an order

through Wal-Mart for additional food items, such as eggs, bacon, turkey, ham, etc., to go along with the donated food on the day of delivery.

Green says those in need are encouraged to apply for assistance by going to Fire Station #3 and completing an application. He added that businesses that would like to have a collection barrel dropped off at their location can call Fire Station #3 at 281-478-7281 to request one.

For more information, send an e-mail to John Green at [john.green@dpvfd.org](mailto:john.green@dpvfd.org) or call 281-478-7281.

## 2018 Cat Show

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adult per day or \$10 per weekend pass; \$4 per senior or child (ages 6 & over) per day or \$7 per weekend pass. Children, ages 6 & under, may enter the event for free.

According to Michelle Piatt, Feline Paw Foundation Secretary and Vendor Coordinator, there will be exciting new features and all the fun experiences included in the 2017 show. "Our first show was recognized by The International Cat Association (TICA) as the South Central show of the year in 2017 - we brought in 1,170 people, raised thousands of dollars for animal shelter/rescue organizations and animal research and got 13 cats/kittens adopted," she said. "It was an incredible first year, and our goal is to keep building. This year, our goal is to bring even more of the greater Houston area population to Deer Park. With new features, including Spanish-speaking attractions and live interviews with judges from Sweden, Japan, Mexico, and all around the continental United

States, there will be lots to see and do."

A major focus of the "Felines, Football and Fun!" cat show will again be animal adoption. Piatt said three rescue groups, including the Deer Park Animal Shelter, will be present at the event with cats and kittens available for adoption. Texas Litter Control will also be on site conducting microchipping during the event. Additional information, including pricing, will be available closer to the event date. "Our organization promotes feline protection, awareness and wellness, and a portion of our proceeds will go to support animal shelters and animal research," Piatt said. "We hope to see the entire Deer Park community take part in the show, enjoy meeting new and fascinating breeds of cats, and help us contribute to animal welfare."

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to [www.felinepawfoundation.org](http://www.felinepawfoundation.org).

## DP's 125 Years

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the past year have been: The West Family visit, the musical - "An Evening with Simeon West," the 2017 LEPC Calendar, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert, the historical quilt, the granite marker and benches, and the Featured Friday event at the Deer Park Public Library.

There will be two more events in December to wrap up our anniversary year. Join us for *Christmas at the Cabin* at 5pm on December 1 before the start of the annual tree lighting ceremony at 6pm in Heritage Park. On December 19, there will be a viewing of the new storybook plaque and the George Moffit Patrick centennial marker in front of Patrick's Cabin, as well as a dedication of the Simeon West granite marker in front of the Deer Park Municipal Court and Theatre Building. December 20 is the actual date that Deer Park was founded. On December 15 at 11am, the Deer Park Public Library will host another Featured Friday program on the life of Simeon West, the founder of Deer Park. New pictures and information have been added to the presentation. The program will also include a recap of the 125<sup>th</sup> celebration activities this year.

On behalf of the 125<sup>th</sup> committee, we want to thank the citizens of Deer Park for your help and support this past year.

### Agenda & Minutes

To view City Council agendas and meeting minutes, or to listen to audio recordings of past meetings, go to [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov) and click on the *Agenda & Minutes* icon in the middle of the webpage.

## Response to Hurricane Harvey

On behalf of Mayor Jerry Mouton, the Deer Park City Council and City administration, we would like to acknowledge our staff for their dedication and hard work before, during, and after Hurricane Harvey. Our employees went above and beyond to serve the citizens during the storm, even while many of them were dealing with the impact of constant rain and flooding in their own homes. "We are so grateful to all of our employees for the work they did before the storm, their response when the rain hit, and their efforts after the fact,

with cleanup and in managing the evacuee shelter at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center," Mayor Mouton said. "It is a true honor to say 'thank you' for all you did."

As the rain brought by Hurricane Harvey continued to fall, many City of Deer Park employees waded through waist- or chest-high water, either to report to work or to address critical safety



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# Police Department

## *Calling 9-1-1*

Each agency has a limited number of 9-1-1 lines. These lines are quickly inundated during an emergency, which can overwhelm communication centers. As a result of Hurricane Harvey, many telecommunicators worked 12+ hour shifts for days at a time to provide for public safety, while experiencing personal emergencies of their own. According to CNNMoney, the Houston area received 80,000 calls in a 24-hour period. Normally, there would be about 8,000 calls received in a day.

Calling 9-1-1 for non-emergencies ties up critical resources and places significant strain on the system during emergencies and catastrophes. Calls that should have been placed on non-emergency lines can delay or block callers with life threatening emergencies. During Hurricane Harvey, many 9-1-1 callers were on hold for an extended period of time while emergency personnel tried to answer, sort, and prioritize the calls. In Deer Park, over 160 9-1-1 calls were received during the worst part of the storm. About 38 calls are received on an average day. Many calls were from people in other cities who could not reach emergency services in Houston.

Please call 9-1-1 for emergencies only, meaning when a life is on the line or a crime is in progress.

When calling 9-1-1, remember to:

- Give your location first. Not all phones can identify your location to the 9-1-1 dispatcher. Cell phones make up over 80% of 9-1-1 calls in Harris County. Cell phones provide GPS information, but do not give an

exact address.

- Answer all questions. The questions may not seem important to the caller, but the answers are needed by emergency responders.
- Stay on the line. Please do not hang up, even if you called by accident. Relay updates or let the 9-1-1 dispatcher know there is no emergency.
- Follow instructions. Instructions are provided by trained professionals for the safety of the caller and others.

## *Burglary Prevention*

Below are a few strategies to help you keep your property safe from burglars.

- Be extra cautious about locking your doors and windows when you leave, even for a few minutes. Do not advertise when you are not home. Burglars look for cues like outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day and stacked up mail.
- Don't leave descriptive posts on social media indicating you are out of town or on vacation. Phone recorded messages can also provide this information to callers if you are still using such antiquated apparatuses. If you leave town, use a timer that will turn lights, television sets, and radios on and off. If you leave for the evening, turn on lights and the television so the house appears to be occupied.
- Burglars know to look for hidden keys near the front and rear entrances. Do not hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above the door ledges. Instead give the spare key to another family member or a trusted neighbor.

- Do not leave your garage doors open when you are not outside. Several burglaries have happened with someone simply walked into an open garage and helped themselves while the homeowner was inside the home. It only takes seconds for this to happen.
- Don't pile up empty boxes on the curb identifying your television set, electronic pad, cell phone, and other large item purchases. Burglars will use this knowledge to come back and steal your new expensive possessions. Break the boxes down or cut them into smaller pieces where they can be concealed in a garbage bag.

## *Citizen's Police Academy*

The Deer Park Police Dept. is currently recruiting citizens for the 37<sup>th</sup> class of the Citizen's Police Academy. Classes begin on February 15, 2018 and meet every Thursday, 6:30-9:30pm, until graduation. Classes generally run for 14 weeks and cover several aspects of police-related work.

Classes include hands-on training in SWAT, DWI procedures, self defense, investigations, communications, and many other topics. Prospective students must be at least 18 years old with a clear criminal history, willing to attend the entire academy, and live, work, or attend school in Deer Park.

Graduates are encouraged to join the Deer Park Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association. Alumni members continue to interact with the police department in a number of capacities.

# Police Department

The academy is provided free of charge. For more information, contact Sheila Plovanich at 281-930-2118 or [splovanich@deerparktx.org](mailto:splovanich@deerparktx.org).

## *DPPD is Hiring!*

The Deer Park Police Department (DPPD) is actively recruiting men and women for Police Officer, Public Safety Attendant, and Telecommunications Officer. Some of the benefits for DPPD employees are:

- Eleven Paid Holidays
- Paid Vacation
- Merit Pay Increases
- Cost of Living Raises, Discretionary
- Compensatory/Overtime Pay
- Longevity Pay
- Sick Leave
- Pension Plans, TMRS
- ICMA 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- Section 125 Flexible Spending Account
- TCOLE Certification/Shift Differential/Field Training Officer Pay

The anticipated salaries for the positions are as follows:

- Police Officer: \$24.53 (cadet) to \$35.33 per hour
- Education Pay for Police Officer: \$400/month for Bachelor's Degree, \$450/month for Master's Degree
- Telecommunications Officer and Public Safety Attendant: \$17.42 to \$24.46 per hour

If you are interested, contact Officer Jammias at 281-930-2121 or [sjammias@deerparktx.org](mailto:sjammias@deerparktx.org) and learn how you can start a rewarding career as a Deer Park Police Department employee!

## *Document Your Property*

With the Holiday season upon us, many of you will be traveling to spend time with family and friends. Being away also means having to leave your home and valuables unattended. My name is Sergeant Sawtell. During my 21 years with the Deer Park Police Department, I have come to realize that no one is immune from being a victim of theft or burglary. With that being said, I would like to recommend an action that anyone can do at home in a short period of time. It is guaranteed to not only improve the chances of police finding the person(s) that stole from you, but greatly increase the likelihood of recovering your stolen property. The action is to document - pick a day out of the year to record serial numbers, model numbers, and unique characteristics (damages, marks, missing pieces, etc.) of your valuables. The best way to record this information is to take clear digital photographs of the items and the item's identifying information. Keep this information in a safe place, so that in the event your property is stolen, you can provide this documentation to the police. As you add valuables to your collection, add the new details to your documentation. Help us, help you!

Also, be sure to take advantage of the DPPD's free Residential Security Check program when you and your family travel out of town.

## *Residential Security Checks*

During the holidays, many families make plans to go out of town but have some concerns about leaving their residence. The DPPD offers a Residential Security Check Program for Deer Park residents. To deter-

mine if your residence qualifies, you must answer the following questions:

- Do you reside in an apartment?
- Will anyone be staying at the residence?
- Will you be gone less than 72 hours?
- Will you be gone longer than 30 days?

If you answered 'no' to these questions, you qualify for the Residential Security Check. And, the best part, it's absolutely free. To apply, complete the residential security check form and submit it to the DPPD along with a photo I.D. The form can be found online at [www.deerparktx.gov/police](http://www.deerparktx.gov/police), under *Community Services*, and by clicking on *Vacation House Check*. You may also request a printed form at the police station.

Once your information is processed, your residence will be checked once per day, or as workload constraints allow, for the duration of your absence (up to 30 days). At the end of the security check, you will receive a letter from the DPPD that will indicate the days your residence was checked.

For more information, please contact the Records Unit at 281-478-2000.

## *Shepherd Program*

Those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or autism are more likely to wander. Wandering poses an increased risk to the safety of those with the cognitive and/or communication limitations associated with Alzheimer's disease and autism.

The DPPD wants to be prepared

# Police Department

to locate your loved as quickly as possible if he or she wanders away from home. The Shepherd Program is designed to collect critical information needed to issue Silver and Endangered Missing Persons Alerts. Alerts are issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety and are activated in addition to the efforts made locally to find a missing person.

In an attempt to prevent abuse of the alert system, specific requirements must be met before an alert may be issued. The information required includes physician documentation of diagnosis, which can be difficult or impossible to retrieve immediately. By taking the time to provide all of the necessary information, you can ensure that an alert can be activated quickly if your loved one is lost or missing.

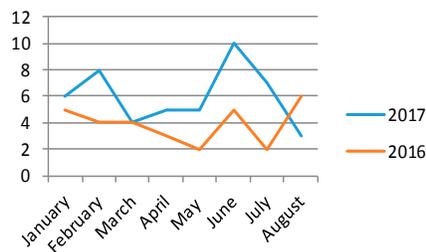
For more information on the Shepherd Program or to complete an application, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/police](http://www.deerparktx.gov/police), hover over Community Services, and click on Shepherd Program. You may also request a printed form at the police station.

## Crime Trends

Recently, residential and business burglaries have been a crime trend in our area. In fact, the number of burglaries have increased since 2016. From January to August of 2016, there were 31 reported burglaries, 24 of which were residential burglaries and 7 were business burglaries. In 2017, from January to August, there were 48 reported burglaries, 33 of which were residential burglaries and 15 were business burglaries. Overall, burglaries increased by 55% from 2016 to 2017.

There was a significant increase in the number of burglaries in February and June of 2017. However, in August, there were only 3 reported incidents. There was also a slight increase in burglaries related to attached/detached garages and exterior sheds from 8 in 2016 to 9 in 2017.

Burglaries Per Month



Based on historical data, despite the reduction of burglaries in August, there may be a slight increase in the number through October, followed by a reduction towards the end of the year.

To track crime in Deer Park, or to receive crime alerts by e-mail, go to [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com).

## Resident Reminder



Stagnant water in neglected swimming pools, buckets, tires, and birdbaths can easily become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Mosquitos will lay their eggs in as little as 1 inch of water. Within a short period of time, the eggs hatch into larvae, develop into pupae, and become adult flying mosquitos. Survey your property regularly and make sure mosquitos don't find the perfect spot in your yard.

# Public Works

## Drainage Culverts

If you live in an older part of town, there is a good chance that you have an open drainage ditch in your front yard. Many residents choose to have culverts installed so they will have a closed drainage system. Then the ditch can be covered and they can enjoy a larger front yard.

If you are interested in a drainage culvert, stop by the Public Works Dept. at City Hall or go to [www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks](http://www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks) and complete a culvert request form. Once your request is submitted, it will be forwarded to our Engineering Dept. Within 5 business days, a city employee will stop by your address to examine the site and determine the size of culvert that needs to be installed. You will then be notified of the size and type of culvert that must be purchased, as well as the backfill material that will be needed.

Once the homeowner has obtained all of the necessary materials, the Public Works Dept. will generate a work order to schedule the culvert installation. They will install the culvert and backfill within 10 days after receiving the work order.





## Understanding Flooding

The recent flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey has many southeast Texas residents questioning why one area of town floods while another area doesn't. There are many reasons why some areas are more prone to flooding. Several older subdivisions were built prior to today's understanding of flooding potential and current regulations that restrict certain uses of flood-prone land. Street and storm sewers are typically designed for normal rainfall events. When heavy rains fall, the systems become overloaded fairly quickly. Water will begin to pond in the streets and flow toward a ditch, creek or bayou, sometimes flooding homes along the way. Occasional street flooding is to be expected. However, persistent and frequent street flooding may be an indication that the drainage system is old and undersized or is in need of maintenance.



## Frequently Asked Questions

- *Is street flooding normal?* Yes. In most areas, the streets are considered to be a part of the
- *What does a stormwater detention basin do?* A stormwater detention basin is an area used to temporarily store potentially damaging flood waters until the channels can safely carry the water away. As flat as Harris County is, most of our stormwater storage has to be excavated. The Harris County Flood Control District uses stormwater detention extensively to reduce the risk of flooding throughout the county. Basins are typically large regional facilities that may be several hundred acres in size. Oftentimes, new developments use stormwater detention to offset or mitigate the negative effect development may have on flooding.
- *How does someone purchase flood insurance?* Go to [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov) to obtain more information about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and contact an insurance agent near you. If you need help locating an insurance agent, you may contact the NFIP Referral Call Center at 888-379-9531 to request an agent referral.
- *Who needs flood insurance?* Everyone needs flood insurance, even when they don't live

drainage system. During a typical rainfall event, water will flow through storm sewers located underneath the street or in roadside ditches to a drainage channel, such as a creek or bayou. When the capacity of the storm sewers or roadside ditches is exceeded, the street will hold water until the storm sewer or roadside ditch has the space to take on the water and drain it into the channel.

within the mapped floodplain. Imagine repaying a \$50,000 flood-related loan from the Small Business Administration. It costs hundreds of dollars a month over many years, while the average flood insurance policy usually runs about \$600 annually. For more information on purchasing a flood insurance policy, contact your local insurance agent.

- *The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps show my house is outside the flood zone. Do I really need flood insurance?* Yes, everyone needs flood insurance. No home is completely safe from potential flooding, even if the home is not mapped within the 100-year floodplain. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) show areas subject to flooding from a primary flooding source, typically major rivers, bayous and their tributaries. FIRMs are meant to help determine the risk of flooding for a property. However, flooding from sources that are not identified on FIRMs is possible. Unfortunately, this often occurs in Harris County. Many homes flood because excess stormwater cannot drain into a storm drainage system fast enough to prevent localized ponding from reaching the inside of a home. On a national basis, one-third of the flood loss claims are from property located outside of the mapped 1% (100-year) floodplain.
- *What is a floodplain?* FEMA defines a floodplain as any land area that is susceptible to being inundated by water from any source. In Harris County, a floodplain is generally defined

# Public Works

as an area susceptible to being flooded due to either a channel's capacity being exceeded or a tidal storm surge.

- *What is meant by the term 1% (100-YEAR) floodplain?* Also known as base flood, it is an area of land that has a 1% chance of being inundated by floodwaters from a bayou or creek in any given year. The 1% (100-year) flood event is a regulatory standard used to administer floodplain management programs and the National Flood Insurance Program. It is also used to set building requirements for new construction. Statistically, the 1% (100-year) flood has a 26% chance of occurring during a 30-year period of time, which is the typical length of many mortgages.
- *Why does flooding occur outside of the FEMA mapped floodplain?* Not all flood hazards are mapped on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, nor is every bayou or creek in the county studied. Flooding can occur from ponding or overland sheet flow when intense rainfall overwhelms the local street drainage system. The mapped floodplain is only an estimate of where flooding is predicted to occur from a bayou or creek, given a set of parameters, including a hypothetical rainfall occurring over a watershed for an assumed amount of time. During an actual rain event, natural conditions can result in greater amounts of rainfall or runoff, resulting in deeper and wider flood levels than shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

- *How can you determine if a home is in a floodplain?* Floodplain maps are produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To view, simply go to <http://maps.riskmap6.com/TX/Harris> and enter your address in the appropriate field. Additional information can be obtained by sending an e-mail to the City's Floodplain Administrator, Kathy Holcomb, at [kholcomb@deerparktx.org](mailto:kholcomb@deerparktx.org). While the maps will show your property's relationship to the floodplain, you should also consider hiring a surveyor to determine the elevation of your home relative to the Base Flood Elevation. This information is useful in determining a property's risk of flooding, as well as flood insurance requirements and rates.

## Construction Projects

- *Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project* - This project is identified in the 10-year Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Plan and split into two phases. It is being funded with Certificates of Obligation. In November 2015, the City entered into a contract with CDM Smith for the design of Phase II in the amount of \$2,130,425. Phase II of the project has been awarded to LEM Construction in the amount of \$13,636,685. Phase I of the project was awarded to CSA Construction. Construction of Phase I began in June 2015 and was completed in February 2017 at a cost of \$4,998,654.
- *New City Hall* - The City hired cre8 Architects to design the

new city hall. The building is being built on the vacant property east of the existing city hall. After the construction of the new building, the existing building will be demolished. The project has been awarded to Construction LTD at a cost of \$6,121,000. Construction is expected to be completed around April 2018.

- *Police Firing Range and Classroom* - In Nov. 2014, City Council authorized staff to enter into a contract with Griggs Group, Inc. (G2) for the design of the Deer Park Police Firing Range and Classroom. On April 5, 2016, the project was awarded to IKLO Construction in the amount of \$1,881,500. The facility is currently under construction and being funded with CCPD funds.
- *Construction of New Animal Shelter* - In July 2015, City Council approved using funds from Certificates of Obligation for the construction of a new animal shelter and equipment. City Council authorized city staff to negotiate a contract with Quorum Architects, Inc. for professional design services. In April 2017, the project was awarded to Construction LTD in the amount of \$2,240,668. The ground breaking ceremony was held on June 13, 2017. Construction started July 1 and is expected to be completed around May of 2018.
- *Street Replacement Project* - In November 2015, the City received \$7.5 million from the sale of Series 2015 Certificates of Obligation, of which \$4.7 million was allocated for street

## Public Works

reconstruction projects. These funds, along with \$1,718,148 in the Capital Improvement Funds (FY 2016-2017) will fund this project. The Street Replacement Project includes Baron Lane, Cork Lane, Dahlia Lane, Ember Lane, Fleet Lane, Glacier Lane, Hastings Lane, Iris Lane, Justin Lane, Kelvin Lane, Amherst Lane, Brown Lane, West 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Boston Avenue to Center Street, and West 12<sup>th</sup> Street from the dead end to Center Street. The project is expected to be awarded during the last quarter of 2017.

- *Sidewalk Improvement Project, Pasadena Blvd., East 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Spencer Highway* - J. A. Costanza & Associates Engineering, Inc. was hired to perform professional engineering services for the design of this sidewalk project. The improvements include 5 locations along Pasadena Blvd., one location on East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, and one location along Spencer Highway. The project was awarded to GMJ Paving Company, LLC at the September 19, 2017 City Council meeting in the amount of \$288,233.75. This project is expected to be completed in December 2017.
- *South Plant Lift Station Discharge Header Replacement* - Langford Engineering was hired to perform professional engineering services for the design of this project. The project is expected to be awarded during the last quarter of 2017.

## Library News

### *Friends of the Deer Park Library*

The Friends of the Library support programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as provide prizes for the summer reading programs. Following the 2012 expansion, the Friends purchased and dedicated *The Reading Tree* for children of all ages to enjoy. In 2015, the Friends installed a built-in display case to commemorate the library's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pick up or download a copy of the *Off the Shelf* newsletter today for the latest information on the Friends of the Library!

Patrons who wish to support the library are encouraged to join Friends. Annual membership dues begin at \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families, and \$2 for senior citizens. For more information, call 281-478-7208.

### *Featured Fridays*

The Featured Friday series began in January 2015 to provide programs of cultural, historical, and local interest to library visitors. It has continued to include an eclectic variety of presenters and topics. Many of the guest speakers are college professors or people with connections to the Deer Park community. Past program subjects have included the Great Galveston Hurricane of 1900, the early Texas concerts of Elvis Presley, and the first-hand experience of a World War II survivor.



The Featured Friday programs this year have focused on the citywide celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Deer Park. The 2017

series will end on Friday, December 15 as Councilwoman Sherry Garrison summarizes the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and shares new information on the colorful life of Simeon West, the Yankee businessman who founded Deer Park, Texas. Please join us for this special installment of the series as we learn about the history of our city!

The Featured Friday program series is just one of several services that the Deer Park Public Library offers its patrons. For more information, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/library](http://www.deerparktx.gov/library).

### *Matinée Movies*

*Thursdays, 4pm*

Join us for a movie and popcorn after school on Thursdays. Contact the library at 281-478-7208 for movie titles and suggested age ratings.



### *Infant Lapsit Storytime*

*For ages 0 to 2*

*Wednesdays, 10:15-11am*

*January 10-May 9*

Storytime features songs, nursery rhymes, socialization opportunities, and so much more! Parents and caregivers are required to stay with the child to help them participate.

### *Toddler Storytime*

*For ages 2 to 3½*

*Thursdays, 10:15-10:45am*

*January 11-May 10*

The sessions are designed to encourage a love for books and language, increase attention spans, and develop basic social skills. Parents and caregivers are required to stay with the toddler to encourage them to participate.

# Library News

## **Preschool Storytime**

*For ages 3½ to 6*

*Thursdays, 11am*

*January 11-May10*

Storytime incorporates books, fingerplays, songs, and activities to promote interest in reading and lifelong learning. In these sessions, children listen to stories and participate in group activities.

## **Holiday Storytime**

A special **Holiday Storytime** session for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers will be offered on December 21 from 10:15 to 11:30am. Refreshments will be served. Parents, there will be a special visit from Santa so don't forget your cameras!

## **New Year's Craft**

*For ages 5-12*

*December 12, 3:30-4:30pm*

Materials to assemble the craft are provided to children free of charge. Several New Year's theme craft options for children to choose from.

## **Winter Craft**

*For ages 5-12*

*January 23, 3:30-4:30pm*

Materials to assemble the craft are provided to children free of charge. There will be several winter craft options for children to choose from.

## **Valentine's Day Craft**

*For ages 5-12*

*February 13, 3:30-4:30pm*

Materials to assemble the craft are provided to children free of charge. There will be several Valentine's Day craft options for children to choose from.

## **Spring Break at DPPL**

Join us for fun and games at the Deer Park Library during spring break, beginning March 12. There

will be plenty of activities throughout the week for children and families. For a list of spring break events, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/library](http://www.deerparktx.gov/library), our Facebook page, or Twitter for updates. You can also pick up a brochure at the library in February.

## **Teen Time**

*For ages 12 & over*

*Wednesdays, 4-5:45pm*

Teens will enjoy socializing, making crafts, and a little friendly competition at video gaming, board games, and card games. Free snacks are provided by the Friends of the Library.

## **T.A.B. Meeting**

*For ages 12-18*

*1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 4:15pm*

Join the Teen Advisory Board and help plan for teen programs. Discuss reading trends and make suggestions for the teen collection. If you are interested, contact Robert at [youthlibrarian@deerparktx.org](mailto:youthlibrarian@deerparktx.org) or pick up a form at the library.

## **Teen Mystery Dinner**

*For school-aged teens*

*Feb. 7, 4-5:45pm*

At this dinner, everyone is a suspect, even you! Participants will be given clues to solve the mystery while enjoying a barbecue dinner provided by the Friends of the Library. Registration starts Jan. 3.

## **Mysteries & More Book Club**

Deer Park Mystery Book Club has changed its name to reflect the broader selection of books to be discussed. The book club is now Mysteries & More. Meetings continue to be every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Discussions will be about books from a variety of genres. For more information, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/library](http://www.deerparktx.gov/library) or call

281-478-7208.

*December 12* - No book selections. Group will discuss their favorite books this year.

*January 9* - Historical Fiction, *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

*February 13* - To Be Announced

## **Computer Classes**

Computer classes are free, but registration is required. Open lab sessions are also available.

- **Introduction to Computers** - Become familiar with computers and technical terminology, plus get comfortable using a mouse, opening software applications, and other basic skills.
- **Browsing the Web** - Learn the basic skills of browsing the world wide web. Topics include search engines, simple search techniques, security precautions, and the basics of e-mail.
- **Using Social Networks** - Learn the basics of social networking sites and how they are used. Websites to be discussed include Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
- **Microsoft Word 2016 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2016 version of Word and learn how to create and edit basic Word documents, including resumes and letters.
- **Microsoft Excel 2016 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2016 version of Excel and learn how to create and edit basic spreadsheets, as well as use simple formulas and functions.
- **Microsoft PowerPoint 2016 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2016 version of PowerPoint and learn how to create a presentation using themes, illustrations, transitions, and animation.

# Library News

- **Basic Genealogy** - Learn how to use Ancestry Library Edition and search the census using HeritageQuest Online. Start tracing your roots!
- **Find a Job** - Become familiar with the resources available to assist you with exploring career opportunities, searching for jobs, creating or updating a resume and cover letter, preparing for an interview, and more.

## New Classes This Fall

In 2018, Deer Park Public Library (DPPL) patrons will have access to NCCER trainee guides in eighteen skill areas, such as pipe fitting, boilermaking, and electrical. In addition to the guides, free classes on topics, such as the NCCER assessment process and working in the industrial sector, will be offered. To make this possible, the DPPL partnered with several area orga-

nizations, including San Jacinto College, the Construction & Maintenance Education Foundation, Workforce Solutions, and Dream It, Do It. The new classes and materials are in addition to the computer and job resources already available at the library. For more information, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/library](http://www.deerparktx.gov/library).

For a list of current offerings and a description of all of the computer classes offered at the library, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/library](http://www.deerparktx.gov/library).

## New Arrivals for Adults

### December

- *The Wanted* by Robert Crais
- *Year One* by Nora Roberts
- *Artemis: A Novel* by Andy Weir

### January

- *The Wife: A Novel of Psychological Suspense* by Alafair Burke
- *Robicheaux: A Novel* by James Lee Burke

- *The Whispering Room: A Jane Hawk Novel* by Dean Koontz
- *The Patriot: The Stunning True Story of Aaron Hernandez: His Rise and Fall as a Football Superstar, His Two Explosive Trials for Murder, His Shocking Death* by James Patterson

### February

- *Sunburn: A Novel* by Laura Lippman
- *Look for Me* by Lisa Gardner
- *The Tuscan Child* by Rhys Bowen



# Fire Department



## Close Before You Doze

*Close Before You Doze* is a public safety campaign encouraging families everywhere to close all doors to bedrooms, bathrooms, etc. at night to starve a fire of the oxygen it requires to grow. Simply closing doors will give you more time to escape in the event of a fire. Below you will find some fire safety tips to help you increase your chance of surviving a fast-moving house fire.

- Ensure that your smoke and

carbon monoxide alarms are in working condition. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound. Test them monthly.

- Close your doors at night.
- If there is a fire and you can get out of a burning structure, get out and close the doors behind you as you exit. If you can't get out, close the door between you and the fire to buy yourself valuable time. Don't ever go back inside a burning home.
- If parents are worried about not hearing their children in the middle of the night with the

door closed, simply place a baby monitor in your child's room. If you can't get to your children's room in the event of a fire because you're cut off by smoke, the closed door will provide a safety barrier and your children will be able to survive longer.

- Have an escape plan. Identify multiple escape routes from every room and practice them as a family at various hours.

Once there is a fire, there's little time to act. Prepare your family and follow these fire safety tips today so that you can sleep easier at night.

To learn more about emergency happenings around town, find us at [www.facebook.com/deerparkfiredepartment](http://www.facebook.com/deerparkfiredepartment).

# Parks & Recreation

## *P&R Project Updates (Including Type B Projects)*

- *Dow Park Pavilion Project* - This project was one of seven approved projects in the 2015 Type B dedicated sales tax election that was voted for by Deer Park residents. Halff Associates is the architect and South Pool and Spa is the general contractor. The project is being funded with \$1.5 million from Type B sales tax. The project started in early 2017 and is currently under construction.
- *Spencerview Athletic Complex* - This project was one of seven approved projects in the 2015 Type B dedicated sales tax election that was voted for by Deer Park residents. The city entered into a contract with T.F. Harper as the general contractor and Halff Associates as the architect. The project was funded with \$2 million from Type B sales tax. The project began in June 2016 and the dedication was held on Aug. 1, 2017, after the completion of the project.
- *Maxwell Adult Center* - This project was one of seven approved projects in the 2015 Type B dedicated sales tax election that was voted for by Deer Park residents. The project is funded with \$2 million from Type B sales tax. The City of Deer Park selected Halff Associates as the architect and Frost Construction as the general contractor for the project. Construction is expected to begin this December.
- *Girls Softball Renovation Project* - This project was one of seven approved projects in the 2015 Type B dedicated sales tax election and will be funded with \$3 million from Type B sales tax. Halff Associates is the architect. Construction bids were received from 10 general contractors to construct the project. The successful general contractor will be recommended by the Deer Park Community Development Corporation and approved by City Council.
- *New Soccer Complex* - This project is another one of the seven approved projects in the Type B dedicated sales tax election. The project is being funded with \$4 million from Type B sales tax. Halff Associates is the architect. Construction bids were received from 11 general contractors to construct the project. The successful general contractor will be recommended by the Deer Park Community Development Corporation and approved by City Council.
- *CorWorth Concession and Restrooms* - Two CorWorth (pre-fabricated) restrooms are scheduled to be installed during the current fiscal year. One, with concession and storage, will be installed at the Adult Softball facility on Pasadena Blvd. The other with restrooms will be installed at the Claude Burgess Center, located at 4200 Kalwick. The total cost for both buildings is \$284,243. Construction is anticipated to begin during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018.
- *Wayfinding Program (Phase 1, 2 & 3)* - A comprehensive wayfinding program was developed to educate and direct visitors to Deer Park, as well as engage those that are unaware of all that the city has to offer. The Deer Park Civic Wayfinding System is intended to celebrate the history and vibrancy of the area, while giving special attention to the parks, recreation, and open spaces of Deer Park. The city's approach was to implement the wayfinding system in phases over a period of several fiscal years. The wayfinding signs are classified as primary vehicular sign, secondary vehicular signs, tertiary vehicular signs, and monument signs (located in front of a park or city building). Approximately 90% of Phase 1 has been completed. Phase 2 is expected to begin by December. Phase 3 is anticipated to begin in April/May of 2018. National Sign Plazas is the contractor approved to complete all phases of the project. This project is being funded out of hotel occupancy tax (HOT) revenues.
- *Deer Park Nature Preserve* - Phase 1 was part of a voter approved General Obligation Bond program. \$500,000 is allocated in Bond funding for this project. City staff applied for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant and received a grant match in the maximum amount of \$400,000. In October, Phase 1 was approved by City Council to solicit bids from general contractors. The project will consist of a parking area, decomposed granite trails, a gateway structure, as well as lighting along the walking trails and a sidewalk. RVI is the project architect. The city will also be soliciting bids to obtain a contract for the restoration of the wetland area under guidance provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A conceptual plan also envisions Phases 2 and 3, which include an education center and more, pending funding availability.

# Parks & Recreation

## Reindeer Park

*Dec. 1, 6-9pm & Dec. 2, 4-8:30pm, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* Join us for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual fun-filled 2-day event, Reindeer Park. There will be arts & crafts for children, photos with Santa, karaoke, s'mores making, Santa's Tree Farm, snow areas and slides, the Reindeer Dash, the Christmas tree lighting at the Court & Theatre Building, and so much more! The Art Park Players will host shows inside the theatre. For more information, including specific activity times and cost, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/reindeerpark](http://www.deerparktx.gov/reindeerpark).

## Reindeer Dash

*Dec. 2, 9am, for ages 3 & over, \$10 per DPISD student, \$20 per person pre-registration or \$25 per person race day, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* Bring the whole family out to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Reindeer Dash 5K Run/Walk. The cross country course will be led by Rudolph! Proceeds will help families in need during the holiday season. Please note that awards will not be given and the race will not be chip timed. There will be a clock timing the event as you cross the finish line. This event will be held, rain or shine.

## Santa's Workshop

*Dec. 21, 4-9pm, for ages 6-12, \$25 per child, Deer Park Community Center* Parents, don't miss a chance to check off items on your holiday to-do list. Children will enjoy games, arts & crafts, a movie, and pizza for dinner.

## Art Park Dancers' Holiday Gala

The Art Park Dancers' Annual Holiday Gala is at 8pm on Dec. 22 at the Municipal Court & Theatre Building. The performance includes

a preview of the 2017-2018 Competition Dance Season routines. Tickets are \$5 each. For additional information, contact Alice Miller at [amiller@deerparktx.org](mailto:amiller@deerparktx.org).

## Market Days

*Dec. 16, Jan. 20 & Feb. 17, 9am-1pm, Dow Park* Stroll through Dow Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. Market Days help support local businesses by allowing them to sell their ready-made or homemade items. There is always something for everyone! Parking is free for this event. Please contact Betty Geck at [marketdays@yahoo.com](mailto:marketdays@yahoo.com) if you wish to be a vendor.

## Archery Camp

*Dec. 27-29, 10am-2pm, for ages 9-14, \$40 per child, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* This is a crash course in Recurve Archery! Participants will learn foundational archery skills and about safety from US Archery level 2 certified instructors. Archery instills confidence, increases attention span, and inspires a willingness to try other sports. Lunch is included.

## Roscoe's Fishing Adventure

*Jan. 26, 4-8pm & Jan. 27, 8am-12pm, free for all ages, Dow Park Pool* Join us for a fishing adventure at Dow Park Pool. We're partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife and stocking the pool with fish! Fishing poles will be provided. Jan. 26 is reserved for special populations, veterans, and their families. You must register in person at the Deer Park Community Center. Jan. 27 is open to the general public. Registrations can be made online for Jan. 27.

On Jan. 27, from 12 to 1pm, you are welcome to stay and help us get

all of the fish out of the pool. First come, first serve. Catch as many fish as you can!

## Game Room Theme Night

Monthly game room theme nights have been a hit! Join us for theme related games and activities at a free game room party on Jan. 19 and Feb. 9, 6-8pm. Feel free to dress up and go along with the theme of the party.

## Active Options

Parks and Recreation has options for you to stay active and keep moving! There's Ladies Low Impact Aerobics, Fencing, Yoga, Zumba, and Martial Arts for all skill levels. Prices vary by class. All classes are offered monthly with no contract. Do something good for yourself over the holidays and select a class to join. Go to [www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec](http://www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec) for more information.

For details on other Parks and Recreation activities, check out the *Live and Play* brochure at [www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec](http://www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec).

## Adopt-a-Pet



Dogs and cats are available for adoption at the Deer Park Animal Shelter after a holding period of 3 business days. There is a \$50 adoption fee, plus you must prepay for the spaying or neutering of the animal and a rabies vaccination. To view the pets currently available for adoption, visit the shelter Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm & Sat., 8am-12pm, or go to [www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter](http://www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter).

# Art Park Players



## CHICAGO The Musical

Feb. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23 & 24  
\$30 Meal & Show or \$15 Show Only  
Municipal Court & Theatre Building  
Set during the roaring "jazz hot" 20's, CHICAGO is one show-stopping song after another telling the story of two rival vaudevillian murderesses. Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart move at gunshot pace and stop at nothing to get the attention of the press and celebrity attorney, Billy Flynn. Their malicious crimes turn them into media darlings, producing a barrage of sensational headlines that ultimately have them join forces in search of fame, fortune, and acquittal.

## Junior APP Musical Theatre & Acting Academy

The Junior Art Park Players offer a versatile selection of talent-expanding, confidence-building classes and workshops throughout the year. With an average of 200 students each semester, we'd like to invite you into our theatre family. So, join us for a fun-filled season of acting, singing, and dancing! Classes begin on January 15. Admission fee for classes is \$100 per student. All classes will be held at the Court & Theatre Building.



For more information, call 281-478-7288. To purchase tickets to any of our shows, call 281-794-2448.

# Employee Awards

July Supervisor	July Support Staff	July Field Service
		
Daryl Denzer Information Technology	Brittany Russell Police Department	Bobby Bridges Fleet Maintenance
August Supervisor	August Support Staff	August Field Service
		
Sergeant B. R. Miller Police Department	Nathan Bell Information Technology	Charles Whiting Sanitation Department
September Supervisor	September Support Staff	September Field Service
		
Dawn Crenshaw Parks and Recreation	Kelly Davenport Police Department	No Photo Available Eugene Wyble Public Works

## Merry Christmas

Deer Park Mayor and City Council



*Jerry Mouton, Jr.*  
Mayor Jerry Mouton, Jr.

*Sherry Garrison*  
Council Member Sherry Garrison

*Bill Patterson*  
Council Member Bill Patterson

*Thane Harrison*  
Council Member Thane Harrison

*Ron Martin*  
Council Member Ron Martin

*Tommy Ginn*  
Council Member Tommy Ginn

*Rae A. Sinor*  
Council Member Rae A. Sinor

## Healthy Living

### *Drink More Water*

According to FamilyCircle.com, water is helpful in so many more ways than people think. There is evidence indicating that sometimes thirst is mistaken for hunger. So, drink a glass of water before you eat. It is also commonly believed that 90% of headaches are caused by dehydration (lack of water). Water is extremely important at keeping your body feeling its best.

- It boosts your mood and makes you feel calmer and more satisfied.
- You may heal faster. Dehydration can impair the recovery process, while drinking water improves microvascular circulation in your skin. That's why you are always advised to drink plenty of fluids when you are feeling under the weather.
- It can lower your risk of stroke. Dehydration causes blood to be thicker and possibly lead to stroke.
- Water won't ruin your workout and it helps prevent heat stroke and muscle cramps.
- Water can quiet a headache in as little as half an hour.
- You'll improve your driving experience. By not stopping for restroom breaks, you may become dehydrated enough to impair your driving. So, drink 16 oz. of water before you depart on long trips and another 7 oz. every hour while you're on the road.
- Water increases brain power and helps you stay sharp, as well as improve your memory, attention, and reaction times.

## Economic Development

### *Business News*



- In 2015, Deer Park City Council Member Ron Martin heard his wife remark that her YETI tumbler was too large and uncomfortable to hold. She wished it had a handle so Ron rigged her a makeshift handle. After realizing the popularity of the simple design, Ron and business partner, Joe Terry, started researching the idea of producing their own brand of tumbler handle. Patents were filed and only a few short months later, *The HANDL'R* entered the market. In its first year of production, over 80,000 units were sold online, as well as through local and regional retailers. Ron recently licensed The HANDL'R products to Boelter Brands under the H2X line, which means The HANDL'R will soon be sold nationally. You can also purchase the Deer Park-born device at [www.thehandlr.com](http://www.thehandlr.com).
- Deer Park is now home to *Chipotle Mexican Grill* restaurant, located at 8035 Spencer Highway (next door to 1000 Degrees Pizza). Their menu includes burritos, tacos, bowls, and salads. For more information, go to [www.chipotle.com](http://www.chipotle.com).
- Did you know that pollen was removed from most store-bought honey through the filtering process and that high fructose corn syrup has been added to some brands? *The Health Nut* in Deer Park has pure, raw, local honey that helps stabilize blood sugar, boosts immunity, and has antiviral/antifungal/antibacterial properties. They are located at 2606 Center St. and carry a variety of health-promoting products. They also offer a daily lunch menu.
- *Vega's Mexican Restaurant* is now open and serving Tex-Mex and traditional cuisine at 3709 Center Street.
- *HD Supply* has recently constructed a new 16,000 sq. ft. building at 1234 Underwood Road in Deer Park. Stop by and check out their great selection of tools, building supplies, home improvement equipment, and more. They sell to the general public, as well as to commercial businesses.
- Deer Park has ranked #98 in the best places to buy a home in Texas, according to the website *LendEDU*. What helped Deer Park place in the top 100? Items that were listed as most important to homebuyers included home value to income ratio, five-year population forecast, and five-year income forecast.
- The financial website *WalletHub* listed Deer Park as #17 on their list of the best small cities in the nation to start a small business. The study took into account several factors, including business environment, access to resources, and business costs. Cities in the study had populations between 25,000 and 100,000.

For questions, contact Debbie Westbeld at 281-478-2042 or go to [www.deerparktx.gov/ed](http://www.deerparktx.gov/ed).

# Council Actions

## August 2017

- Authorized the sale of surplus equipment and miscellaneous items to be auctioned via internet through Rene Bates Auctioneers.
- Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids for sidewalk improvements for Pasadena Blvd., East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, and Spencer Highway.
- Accepted the Deer Park Community Development Corporation's quarterly report for the period of April 1, 2017-June 30, 2017.
- Authorized changes to the City of Deer Park Administrative Manual as it pertains to education pay.
- Authorized the purchase of a 2 million gallon a day (MGD) high service pump from Texas Air Systems in the amount of \$14,873.
- Approved a facility usage agreement with Deer Park Independent School District for FY 2017-2018.
- Approved an interlocal agreement with Deer Park Independent School District for school resource officers/crossing guards for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Approved a resolution appointing a member to the Firemen's Pension Board.
- Approved an amendment to the FY 2016-2017 Salary and Classification Scales for full-time employees to begin with the 2<sup>nd</sup> pay period in August 2017.
- Approved an ordinance adopting minimum prevailing wage rates for various construction crafts and trades for public works construction performed under contract with the City of Deer Park pursuant to Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code.
- Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report for April-June 2017.
- Accepted the completion of the Spencerview Athletic Complex Renovation Project. Final cost was \$2,570,821.75.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for mowing services on East Boulevard.
- Renewed the agreement with Valley View Consulting, LLC for investment advisory services.
- Renewed the existing mowing contract, as well as added additional services, with Longclaw Contractors in the amount of \$79,355.
- Approved the Youth Sports Organization Utilization Agreement with Quest Soccer for 2017.
- Approved the Youth Sports Organization Utilization Agreement with Deer Park Pony Baseball for 2017.
- Approved an ordinance calling a public hearing to adopt Standards of Care for the After School Program.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2017-2018 Crime Control and Prevention District budget.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2017-2018 Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District budget.
- Approved an ordinance changing the time of the October 3, 2017 regular Council meeting from 7:30pm to 5:30pm, due to National Night Out.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2017-2018 Deer Park Community Development Corporation budget.
- Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2016-2017 employee classification scale for full-time employees.
- Chase rifle resistant body armor.
- Adopted the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.720000 per \$100 valuation.
- Approved the submittal of the 2017 Tax Roll and the calculation of the effective tax rate and rollback tax rate.
- Approved an ordinance ratifying the Mayor's Emergency Disaster Declaration on August 25, 2017, and extending the disaster for community recovery.
- Authorized staff to seek proposals from RPS Engineers to conduct an evaluation of the historic bridge at The Battleground Golf Course.
- Authorized the purchase of playground equipment and pavilion for the new area on Glenview Street.
- Authorized the purchase of services for the repair of the Surface Water Treatment Plant transfer pump #6 in the amount of \$35,874.63.
- Authorized staff to seek bids to obtain lease purchase financing for a new velocity ascendant 107' ladder truck for the Fire Control, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services District.
- Approved a recommendation from the Historical Committee for the purchase of 5 museum display cabinets.
- Approved a contract for architectural services with PGAL for the pre-design, programming, and planning phases of the Deer Park Emergency Medical Services annex.
- Authorized the City of Deer Park's Public Assistance Grant application through FEMA.
- Approved a contract with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston for a medical services director.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the publication of Notice of Intention to issue Certificates of Obligation; approving the preparation of

## September 2017

- Awarded the bid for the construction of the Maxwell Adult Center Expansion to Frost Construction in the amount of \$1,551,000.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the South Plant Lift Station Discharge Header Replacement project.
- Authorized staff to apply for a grant through the Office of Governor's Criminal Justice Division to pur-

# Council Actions

the Preliminary Official Statement; and approving other matters incidental thereto.

- Approved a resolution to restrict a portion of the unrestricted net assets in the Series 2002 - Texas Water Development Board Fund.
  - Approved a resolution to transfer \$5,356,980 from the FY 2016-2017 unassigned fund balance of the General Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund.
  - Amended the Financial Management Policy.
  - Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2016-2017 Water & Sewer Fund Budget for emergency repairs to a turbine pump at the Water Treatment Plant.
  - Approved an ordinance adopting the city's Investment Policy.
  - Approved an ordinance adopting the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget.
  - Approved an ordinance adopting the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Salary and Classification Scales.
  - Approved an ordinance appointing associate judges for a two year term.
  - Approved an ordinance calling a joint public hearing on the request to amend ordinance #3886, to allow the use of external shipping containers under certain conditions in the General Commercial Zoning District.
  - Approved an ordinance adopting the Standards of Care for the All Star Activity Program for the 2017-2018 DPISD school year.
  - Awarded a bid for the Sidewalk Improvement project to J.A. Costanza & Associates in the amount of \$288,233.75.
- October 2017**
- Accepted the completion of the SWTP Replacement of Electrical Switchgear B project. Final cost was \$45,802.
  - Approved the 2017 Ad Valorem Tax Rate.
  - Approved Change Order #1 to Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$102,370.50 for the Deer Park Animal Shelter & Adoption Center.
  - Approved an agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety for construction, maintenance, and operation of safety lighting systems on Highway 225 from Beltway 8 to Battleground Road.
  - Approved an ordinance appointing four members to the Crime Control and Prevention District of the City of Deer Park.
  - Approved an ordinance appointing four members to the Fire Control, Prevention & Emergency Services District of the City of Deer Park.
  - Approved an ordinance appointing four members to the Deer Park Community Development Corporation.
  - Approved a referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission to request amending the zoning ordinance to allow heliports as an accessory use for medical facilities in commercial districts via a specific use permit.
  - Approved a purchase from Vaught Services, LLC through the Interlocal Purchasing System to perform the rehabilitation of a 24" storm sewer line on Eastwind Drive in the amount of \$177,066.75.
  - Awarded the bid for mowing and edging services on city maintained medians, entrances, and rights-of-way on East Blvd. to Merriam Group, LLC in the amount of \$53,062 annually.
  - Accepted the completion of the Center St. and East Blvd. restriping project. Final cost was \$45,615.70.
  - Accepted the Quarterly Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 third quarter ending June 30, 2017.
  - Authorized staff to seek bids to construct the Deer Park Nature Preserve Phase I.
  - Authorized the purchase of shelving for the vault in the new city hall to Southwest Solutions Group in the amount of \$65,412.23.
  - Approved an amendment to the agreement with the Crime Control Prevention District for personnel, vehicles, facilities, equipment, and investments.
  - Approved an amendment to the agreement with the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Service District for personnel, vehicles, facilities, equipment, and investments.
  - Approved an ordinance to amend the FY 2017-2018 Deer Park Crime Control and Prevention District budget for the Firing Range and Training Facility.
  - Approved a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation related to the construction, maintenance, and operation of safety lighting systems along Highway 225.
  - Approved an ordinance amending Appendix A-Zoning, Section 7-Commercial Districts by adding a new Section 7.02.4.4, Special Use Permit to General Commercial Districts providing standards when an application may be made for the use of shipping containers as storage.
  - Approved an ordinance amending Appendix B for the monthly drainage utility fee from \$1.45 per equivalent residential unit to \$1.60.

## Drive Safely

The City of Deer Park prohibits the use of wireless communication devices while driving. Please use your cell phone in hands-free mode if you must use it.

***Register Today - Before a Storm is on its way!***  
***Transportation Assistance Registry***

If you will need help evacuating in the event of a hurricane, please dial 2-1-1 to register in advance for a ride. Dial 2-1-1 as soon as possible, if you:

- Have a disability or special health care need and require assistance to get out.
- Cannot drive and cannot arrange for transportation.
- Do not have a vehicle and you have no one else to help you evacuate.

The 2-1-1 registration process gives local emergency planners a better idea of the number of individuals who may need assistance, and the type of assistance they may need. The State of Texas will provide your information back to local emergency planners so they can plan accordingly.

Once you are registered, your information is safe in the state database. There is no need to call either 2-1-1 or your local emergency management office back to verify registration. This includes people who registered last year. Unless there is a change to your information, you do not need to re-register.

You will need the following information to register:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number (There is only room for one number, so please give the best number to call.)
- Contact name
- Contact relationship (aunt, brother, son, friend, landlord, etc.)
- Contact phone number
- Do you need transportation? (yes or no)
- Do you have any pets or service animals? (yes or no)
- Do you have a special medical need? (Describe the type of need you have.)



***Save Your Life. Dial 2-1-1 To Register In Advance For A Ride.***

***Report A Concern***

To report a concern or issue that needs our attention, complete this form and return it to:  
City Manager, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536.

*You can also submit the appropriate form online at [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov).*

***Together we can make Deer Park a better place!***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of concern: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the issue: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 700  
Deer Park, TX 77536

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The Mission of the City of Deer Park is to deliver exemplary municipal services that provide the community a high quality of life consistent with our history, culture, and unique character.

## Response to Hurricane Harvey

*Continued from pg. 4*

concerns. Public Works employees partnered with Shell Deer Park to prevent massive residential flooding when 2 stormwater detention ponds off of P Street were close to exceeding their banks. The city's emergency responders, consisting of the Deer Park Police Department, Deer Park EMS, and the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department, worked tirelessly to respond to calls throughout the storm and keep citizens safe. Parks and Recreation Department personnel assisted the Red Cross with the management



of an evacuee shelter at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center. Once it was possible to collect curbside garbage again, the Sanitation Division committed to working on the Saturday following the storm, as well as on the Labor Day holiday in order to get collections back on schedule. In addition, the staff at the Emergency Operations Center maintained up-to-date information on the city's web site and social media channels, providing weather and service updates, as well as addressing inaccurate rumors. "All of our employees did an incredible job in managing the many challenges of Hurricane Harvey," City Manager Jay Stokes said. "I am very proud of our entire staff."

The City of Deer Park would also like to thank the residents, who not only showed resilience throughout the storm, but also enormous generosity when the Red Cross



shelter was established in Deer Park. "I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Deer Park community for the overwhelming generosity shown to the evacuees at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center," Mayor Mouton said. "Through so many donations, on top of a willingness to volunteer time and energy, our citizens proved once again what a great place Deer Park is and how lucky we are to live here."