



MESSENGER

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2018

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No Trash Collection

City offices will be closed on **Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 24 & 25**, in observance of the Christmas holiday, as well as on **Tuesday, Jan. 1** in observance of New Year's Day. There will not be curbside collection of rubbish on these days. Service will resume on your next regular collection day following the holiday. Garbage should not be placed out for pick up earlier than 6 p.m. on the evening before the scheduled collection day.



City of Deer Park

710 E. San Augustine
Deer Park, TX 77536
(281) 479-2394
www.deerparktx.gov

www.facebook.com/deerparktx

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deerparktxgov

New Exhibit at San Jacinto Museum



Have you heard about the special exhibit open at the San Jacinto Monument? Representing a special partnership between Shell Deer Park, the San Jacinto Museum of History, and the City of Deer Park, “Big Energy: A Texas Tale of People Powering Progress,” opened to the public this fall and will remain open throughout 2019.

The entire community is encouraged to come experience the exhibit, where attendees can learn how the people of Deer Park grew the city, the industry and the school district into the energy hub of tomorrow. The exhibit represents a unique and insightful walk through the past, present, and future of Shell and the city it calls home.

For more information and ticket pricing, visit www.sanjacinto-museum.org.

As a special bonus, tickets for the exhibit will double as 10% off coupons to five Deer Park restaurants – Antonio’s Italian Restaurant, BiBi’s House of Kabob, Deer Park Sushi, Pappa Geno’s, and the Republic Grill at the Battleground Golf Course. Visit www.deerparktx.gov for more information on the restaurants.

Santa Around Town



The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department will continue its annual Santa Around Town tradition, December 12 through 15. On those nights from 6 to 9 p.m., they will visit Deer Park streets atop a decorated sleigh, beaming with lights and playing Christmas song favorites.

"Santa Around Town is a very special tradition for our department, and we hope to see the Deer Park community take part this

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K9 Ty Retires



The Deer Park Police Department held a retirement ceremony on September 24 for Ty, K9 Narcotics Officer Eddie Pereira’s four-legged partner of 9 years.

At the event, Chief Greg Grigg provided a brief history of K9 Ty’s time with the department, recognizing his certification as a nationally specialized canine through the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association, the largest police service dog association in the USA.

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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 Mayor and City Council Members by e-mail at 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

City Facilities

Animal Shelter 281-478-7274 4213 Luella
 Art Park Players Dinner Theater ... 281-478-7288 1302 Center
 Avon Recreation Center 281-478-7216 601 W. 8th 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 #2 281-478-7269 711 E. Pasadena Blvd.
 Fire Station #3 281-478-7281 2211 East X
 Jimmy Burke Activity Center 281-478-2049 500 W. 13th 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

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.

Calendar

December

- 1 Siren Test - Noon
- 3 Planning & Zoning Meeting
- 4 City Council Meeting
- 8 Siren Test - Noon
- 15 Siren Test - Noon
- 17 Planning & Zoning Meeting
- 18 City Council Meeting
- 22 Siren Test - Noon
- 24 City Offices Closed - Holiday
- 25 City Offices Closed - Holiday
- 29 Siren Test - Noon

January

- 1 City Offices Closed - Holiday
- 5 Siren Test - Noon
- 7 Planning & Zoning Meeting
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 12 Siren Test - Noon
- 15 City Council Meeting
- 19 Siren Test - Noon
- 21 Planning & Zoning Meeting
- 22 LEPC Meeting
- 26 Siren Test - Noon

February

- 2 Siren Test - Noon
- 4 Planning & Zoning Meeting
- 5 City Council Meeting
- 9 Siren Test - Noon
- 16 Siren Test - Noon
- 18 Planning & Zoning Meeting
- 19 City Council Meeting
- 23 Siren Test - Noon
- 26 LEPC Meeting

There is a possibility of a meeting date change due to unexpected circumstances.

Notify Me

Subscribe to receive City news and the Messenger newsletter by e-mail at www.deerparktx.gov.



City Hall Hours

Monday - Friday
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Save the Date

Mayor Jerry Mouton's 2019 State of the City address will be held on Thursday, February 28 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center.

Streetlight Out?

CenterPoint Energy maintains streetlights in our area. To report a street light outage, call (713) 207-2222 or visit www.centerpointenergy.com/outage. Simply click on *Report Streetlight Outages* from the menu on the left and complete the online form. You will be asked to provide the 6-digit stenciled number on the pole to identify the exact location.



Economic Development

- **The Flawsome Studio** is open at 114 Dixie Drive. At this unique photography studio, you can hire the Flawsome Studio owners to take the picture or you can bring your own camera or photographer. They have a great selection of backdrops, lighting, props, and more. There's even a confetti room for those who want to play while you take their picture. Call (346) 617-8524 or book online at www.theflawsomestudio.com.
- **Sign Guys 365** is open at 8007 Spencer Highway. It's your one-stop shop for all your signage needs. Let them help you with your signs, banners, car wraps, car magnets, and more. Call Jaime at (281) 954-1208 or visit www.signguys365.com.
- **Evry K-9** is open at 302 W. Pasadena Boulevard. Owner Mark Cousins specializes in teaching your dog basic obedience skills and behavior modification, plus offers service dog training, puppy prep, and much more. They also offer doggy daycare, boarding, and grooming services. Visit their website at www.evryk9.com or call (832) 768-4859.
- Deer Park graduate J.D. Walt and his partners have opened **Chicago Title Southeast** at 4621 Center Street. They provide real estate closing services, title insurance, and more for both residential and commercial customers. Call (832) 821-7330 for more information.
- **Belvieu Bridal** is open at 122 W. San Augustine. In addition to their beautiful wedding gowns, they also offer wedding planning, styling, and coordination services. Visit www.belvieubridal.com or call (281) 884-8429 for more information.
- **Pappa Geno's** restaurant is open at 8035 Spencer Highway. They proudly serve "Houston's Best Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich," plus hoagies, burgers, chicken, salads, and delicious sides like cheese fries. To view their full menu, go to www.pappagenos.com.
- **Stephen Terry Pest Elimination** is open at 1702 Center Street. Check out their do-it-yourself pest elimination products or schedule an appointment to have them handle all of your pest problems, including bees, fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, roaches, and more. Call (713) 477-0047 or visit their Facebook page for tips and treatment suggestions.

Congratulations to our Employee Award Recipients!

Supervisor of the Month

August

Lt. Frank Hart - Police Dept.

Support Staff

July

Kathy Holcomb - Public Works

3rd Quarter Team

Parks Crew

Ronnie Gilliam, Taylor Sandoval,
Jose Esquivel & Manny Lopez

Field Services

August

Rita Skinner - Custodian

For questions, contact Debbie Westbeld, Economic Development Administrator, at (281) 478-2042 or dwestbeld@deerparktx.org. For business news, go to www.deerparktx.gov/ed or read the bi-monthly Economic Development Newsletter. Watch *Business News You Can Use*, a monthly segment on DPTV that highlights the business community in Deer Park.

Fire Department

Gift of Christmas

The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department has launched their annual *Gift of Christmas* donation campaign and all residents are encouraged to take part. According to *Gift of Christmas* Chairpersons John and Jeannie Green, drop-off donation barrels will be placed in key areas throughout the city. Donations of food and toys by local schools and area businesses are collected for distribution to deserving families. Donation locations include City Hall at 710 E. San Augustine, the Deer Park Police Department at 2911 Center Street, the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce at 120 E. 8th Street, and the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Dept. Station #3 at 2211 E. X Street. There are also barrels at Deer Park public schools and various business locations. The barrels will be collected between December 10 and 14. The donations our citizens provide will benefit families that are selected from the applications submitted. The items collected will assist numerous families during the holiday season. In addition to donations collected, the Fire Department will



place orders for additional items, such as eggs, bacon, turkey, etc., to go along with the canned goods. Applications for assistance can be obtained through your child's school or Fire Station #3. Any business requesting a collection barrel may call Fire Station #3 at (281) 478-7281.

State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry

Do you or someone you know need assistance during an emergency or disaster event? The State of Texas offers Texans the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency planners and responders with additional information on the needs in their community.

Who Should Register?

- People with disabilities
- People with access and functional needs, such as:
 - People who have limited mobility
 - People who have communication barriers
 - People who require additional medical assistance
 - People who require transportation assistance
 - People who require personal care assistance

How to Register

- Go to <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov> and register online
- Dial 2-1-1 or use your video relay option of choice

Registration is voluntary and all information you provide will be kept completely confidential.

Santa Around Town

Continued from pg. 1

year," Chief Don Davis said. "We always look forward to this event as a chance to share the holiday spirit with our residents." 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 this time with us."

As in previous years, a document describing the Santa Around Town routes will be available on the city's website at www.deerparktx.gov. "Each year, we provide 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 the streets in the city, whether they are dead ends or because there may not be enough room for our sleigh to turn around." The index includes the streets in alphabetical order and indicates the day of the week the Fire Department will be coming.

In the event of a cancellation due to inclement weather or an emergency in the city, the reschedule date will be Sunday, December 16, beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, check out our Facebook page, Deer Park Fire Department, as well as the City of Deer Park Facebook page, and the city's website at www.deerparktx.gov. All residents are encouraged to like the Deer Park Fire Department Facebook page for year-round updates, event information, and more.

K9 Ty Retires

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Officer Pereira, who will be keeping Ty at his home, also recognized the entire department for their cooperation and utilization of his unit.

During his tenure, K9 Ty and Officer Pereira completed many community service assignments, including numerous canine demonstrations and drug awareness programs for the Deer Park Independent School District. Ty completed over 1,200 narcotic searches, helping seize an estimated street value of \$88,000 worth of illegal drugs, such as marijuana, crack cocaine, powder cocaine, MDMA, and methamphetamine, off the streets of Deer Park. Ty also helped seize approximately \$140,000 dollars in cash from individuals suspected to be involved in illegal drug sales. K9 Ty and Officer Pereira made over 300 drug arrests in Harris County.

Bias Based/Racial Profiling

Bias based/racial profiling is defined as a law enforcement initiated act based solely upon an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, or on the basis of other criteria rather than upon the individual's behavior, activity, or other lawful reason. Deer Park Police Officers are strictly prohibited from engaging in bias based/racial profiling. The Deer Park Police Dept. is committed to providing service and enforcing laws in a fair and equitable manner. Citizens who believe they have been the subject of bias based/racial profiling may file a complaint with any employee of the Deer Park Police Department or call the Internal Affairs contact, Captain Wade Conner, at (281) 930-2102.

Deer Park Police Department

Citizen's Police Academy

The Deer Park Police Department is currently recruiting citizens for the 39th class of the Citizen's Police Academy. Classes begin on February 21, 2019 and meet every Thursday, 6:30-9:30 p.m., 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.

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

Holiday Crime Prevention

Protect your home from thieves by following a few safety tips.

- **Resist the urge to mention your trip on social media or in public.** If you are going out of town, wait until you get back home to post pictures and details about your trip. Also, consider the consequences of broadcasting your location when using the new Facebook Places feature, which allows you to check in at participating stores and share your current location with others. Stores are offering valuable promotions to shoppers who check in.

However, using Facebook Places and other similar location applications will let everyone know you aren't home. It could end up costing you more than you bargained for.

- **Remember to lock the doors and windows to your home and vehicle.** Most car burglaries occur without forced entry. There have also been many cases where thieves entered a residence through an unlocked door, easily taking high dollar items, such as game consoles, big screen TV's, and more. According to ADT Security, 40% of all burglaries are identified as *no force entries*, meaning thieves gained access through unlocked doors or windows.
- **Deny easy access to the garage.** Keeping your garage door opener in your vehicle is easy access for you **and** criminals. Thieves have stolen tools, lawn mowers, and other equipment from the garage.
- **Display the Christmas tree, not the gifts.** For many families, a picturesque holiday includes the beautiful lit and decorated Christmas tree with lots of gifts underneath displayed in front of the living room window. The problem is that criminals can see the gifts, too. The best thing to do is to keep the children guessing and criminals less interested by not putting out the gifts until Christmas Eve.

Crime in Texas

Every year, the Texas Department of Public Safety publishes an annual report providing statistics for crime reported in the State of Texas. The annual Crime in Texas report analyzes and compares specific crime rates on a yearly basis for all cities in the state. Online access allows for

Deer Park Police Department

a quick comparison of data from previous years to determine how crime trends change over time. The reports include data on crimes, such as murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, drug seizures, weapons arrests, family violence, and hate crimes reported to law enforcement. For more information or to access the Crime in Texas reports, go to www.dps.texas.gov and click on the *Crime Statistics* link under the *General Info* tab in the bottom left corner of the screen.

Firearms in the Home

Firearm owners are responsible for ensuring guns in their homes are always stored where they are inaccessible to children or other unauthorized persons. If you have children, then you've probably already taught them to have respect for a firearm and discussed the consequences of unsafe firearms handling. If you haven't, please do so immediately. Children may inadvertently still find an unsecured firearm somewhere. Be sure they know to follow these 3 steps:

1. Do not touch the firearm.
2. Leave the area.
3. Tell an adult.

Explain that if they touch the firearm, it may fire and hurt someone. An adult can secure the firearm to prevent an accident.

Guidelines for Secure Storage

- Empty your firearm by removing all of the ammunition. Check the chamber to ensure it's empty.
- Lock your firearm in a theft-proof container that is out of sight and out of reach for children.
- Consider securing your ammunition in a different location.
- Firearm locks are another level

of protection that can prevent unauthorized access to your firearm.

L.E.A.D.

January 9 is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, otherwise known as L.E.A.D. L.E.A.D. was founded in 2015 to recognize officers across the United States for the sacrifices they make every day. A few of the organizations supporting this day include Concerns of Police Survivors, FBI National Academy Associates, Fraternal Order of Police, Officer Down Memorial Page, Law Enforcement United, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, and National Troopers Coalition. More organizations across the nation continue to join this effort each year.

Space Heater Safety

Space heaters can be a great addition to your home during the winter months. However, they don't come without a list of safety concerns. If a space heater is being used, be sure the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working properly. Also, always turn off space heaters when you are not in the room or you are going to sleep. Flammable materials should be kept at least 3 feet away from the heater. If an extension cord is used, confirm that it is a heavy duty cord that can handle the output needed to run the space heater. Never put the extension cord under a rug because it will build up heat and can start a fire. Lastly, use space heaters equipped with a tip-over safety switch that will automatically shut the heater off if it falls over.



Vehicle Accident

If you've ever been in a car accident, you recognize that it is a high stress and emotional situation, especially if there are injuries. Knowing how to handle the situation properly is the best way to get through it.

- **Stay at the scene.** Never leave the scene of an accident. If you leave, particularly where someone has sustained injuries or was killed, you can face serious criminal penalties for being a hit-and-run driver.
- **Check on all drivers and passengers.** Before assessing property damage, make sure everyone involved in the accident is okay. Get medical attention for anyone who needs it. If a person is unconscious or has neck or back pain, don't move them until qualified medical help arrives, unless a hazard requires moving the person.
- **Call the Police.** If there's significant property damage, physical injury, or death, call the police. Let the dispatcher know if there are any injuries. When police arrive at the scene, request a police report to be filed.
- **Exchange Information.** An accident report is not required if there were no injuries, the damage to your vehicle is under \$1,000, or the accident occurred on private property. Be sure to get the names, numbers, addresses, driver's license numbers, license plate numbers, and basic insurance information from all drivers involved. Also, obtain the names, phone numbers, and addresses for any passengers.
- **Take Pictures.** Take photographs of the damage to your vehicle as soon as possible after the accident. Pictures of your vehicle before the accident can help assess the extent of the damage sustained.

DPCPAAA

The Deer Park Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. All proceeds benefit the Deer Park Police Dept. Thank you for your support. For more information, go to www.dpcpaaa.org.



Order your tamales today! Delicious Ramirez Tamales ready to eat, \$10 per dozen. Choose to pick up on Dec. 1 at Santa's Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or Dec. 21 at the DPPD Parking Lot, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.



Didn't pre-order? You can still purchase fresh Ramirez Tamales at Santa's Market. We'll also have delicious homemade gourmet cookies and candies!



Annual Cocoa with a Cop
Dec. 14 & 15, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Bring the family to this free event at the Deer Park Police Station for warm cocoa and cookies. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be here, too!

New Chairman for SETH-FC



Join the City of Deer Park in congratulating Troy Cothran, who has been elected as the Chairman/President of the Board of Directors for the Southeast Texas Housing Finance Corporation (SETH-FC). Cothran is the City of Deer Park's representative to the SETH-FC Board of Directors. The public purpose of SETH-FC is to create and promote affordable housing opportunities for the citizens and communities of

southeast Texas. During his time with the corporation, Cothran has connected homebuyers with a range of significant assistance programs, many in the Deer Park area. "I have been a part of this organization for 10 years, and I am very excited to serve as Chairman of the Board," Cothran said. "I feel like our organization has really been picking up momentum and moving in the right direction, and I look forward to continuing that trend." In addition to serving as Chairman/President of the Board, Cothran is also a member of all 3 of the corporation's special committees – the Management Committee, the Audit/Finance Committee, and the Personnel Committee.

"As the only active realtor on the corporation's Board of Directors, I know what buyers are looking for and the types of programs that will be attractive to them," he said. "The ultimate goal is to help homebuyers, both with down payment assistance programs and with tax credits that can save them money going forward." One such program, SETH-FC's 5 Star Texas Advantage program, provides down payment and closing cost assistance when a buyer is interested in purchasing a home. "Since the 5 Star program was established in October 2012, SETH-FC has provided 103 families with \$14,730,438 in mortgage funds with an average loan amount of \$143,014," Cothran said. "We also provided the 103 buyers with \$736,522 in down payment assistance as a grant with the average grant of \$7,151."

Cothran added, "SETH-FC has also issued Mortgage Credit Certificates (MCC), which provide up to \$2,000 per year in tax credits to 11 families in the past five years. The buyers can claim the MCC credit for as long as they live in the home."

Cothran, who is also a member of the Houston Area Realtors Board of Directors, encouraged potential homebuyers to learn more about the programs available through SETH-FC. "The programs we use can save homebuyers significant amounts of money," he said. "Many times, the key is just making sure potential buyers are aware of these programs and how to qualify."

Donation to City of Deer Park

On February 21, 2017, SETH-FC made a generous donation to the City of Deer Park in the amount of \$50,000 for the purchase of wellness equipment in McHenry Park at the Maxwell Adult Center. That year, SETH-FC made a \$50,000 donation to each of 20 jurisdictions, including the donation to Deer Park, with a full amount donated of \$1 million.

To learn more about the SETH-FC, go to www.sethfc.com or contact Cothran at Victory Properties, Inc. at (281) 479-6100.

Public Works



Drainage Maintenance

The drainage system in Deer Park includes both open and closed segments. The open sections are drainage swales and ditches, which are utilized to carry storm water away from homes to drainage areas. The closed system is comprised of storm water inlets and storm drain pipes, which also carry water from streets and developments to drainage areas.

Keeping the drainage system maintained is very important. City employees perform maintenance work on the system at least twice a year and on an as-needed basis. Citizens are expected to perform routine maintenance on ditches located in the right-of-way in front of their properties, including the removal of high weeds, litter, and other items that may be considered a nuisance. The area should also be kept free of stagnant water so it does not become an ideal breeding ground for mosquitos.

Debris in ditches and streams can obstruct the flow of flood water, which can cause overflow onto streets and yards. Dumping in ditches and storage basins is against the city's Code of Ordinance and may be punishable with a fine. To report illegal dumping, call (281) 478-7252.

Always check with Public Works before you fill, alter, regrade, or build on your property. A permit is

needed to ensure that such projects do not cause problems on other properties.

Code Enforcement

Code enforcement officers provide essential and beneficial services that ensure quality of life within the City of Deer Park. On a daily basis, the Code Enforcement Division handles citizen complaints relating to potential violations of city ordinances that are not criminal in nature. Common violations may include dirty pools, encroachment of easement or right-of-way, falling fences, graffiti, high grass, illegal barbecue pits or containers, junk debris or vehicles, low hanging trees, raw sewage on the ground, occupied RV trailers, parking on front yard grass, failure to obtain a permit for building, plumbing, electrical or mechanical work, and failure to obtain a garage sale permit. To report code violations, go to www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks.



Protect Pipes From Freezing

Prevent pipes in your home from freezing by being prepared and informed. Frozen pipes can be a messy and expensive situation.

Water expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on metal and plastic pipes or any other object holding water. Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines, and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and

crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets. Pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

Prepare water supply lines and pipes before the onset of cold weather by following these suggestions:

- Drain water from swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines according to the manufacturer's or installer's instructions. Do not put antifreeze in these lines unless directed to do so. Antifreeze is environmentally harmful, and is dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife, and landscaping.
- Remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs. Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Keep the outside valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing the pipe to break.
- Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated.
- Consider installing products specifically made to insulate water pipes, such as pipe sleeves, or using UL-listed film tape, heating cable or similar material on exposed water pipes. Newspaper can provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes – even ¼ inch of newspaper can provide significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.

Resident Reminders

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 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., or go to www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter.

Code of Ordinances

The City of Deer Park contracts with Municipal Code Corporation to make the city's Code of Ordinances available online. By following the link on our website, you can access our code and also that of other cities across Texas and the United States. The search engine will allow you to search by topic. Go to www.deerparktx.gov, hover over the menu option *How Do I?*, click on *City Code*, and then follow the link.



Flood Map Information

To view the flood maps and determine the flood zone your property is in, call (281) 478-7239, go to <http://maps.riskmap6.com/TX/Harris/>, or visit the Public Works Dept. at City Hall.

Deer Park Public Library

Matinée Movies, Thursdays, 4 p.m.

Stop by for an afternoon movie and popcorn! For movie titles and suggested age ratings, call (281) 478-7208.

Winter Craft, for ages 5-12, December 11, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Let's celebrate the winter holidays with crafts! Materials are provided free of charge. Children may choose from several craft options.

A. A. Milne Craft, for ages 5-12, January 15, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

We're celebrating Alan Alexander Milne's birthday, creator of Winnie-the-Pooh, with a craft. Materials to assemble the craft are provided to children free of charge. There will be 2 craft options for children to choose from.

Valentine's Day Craft, for ages 5-12, February 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Materials to assemble the craft are provided to children free of charge. Children may choose from several craft options.

Tweens Cook, for ages 7-11, January 21, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. & 4-6 p.m.

There's 2 parts to this treat-making class! The morning will be spent making a frozen hot chocolate cheesecake, while the afternoon will be for eating. Registration is required and begins on January 2.

T.A.B. Meeting, for ages 12 to 18, 1st Tuesday of the month, 4:15 p.m.

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.

Teen Time, for ages 12 & over, Wednesdays, 4-5:45 p.m.

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.

Teen Mystery Dinner, for school-aged teens, February 6, 4-5:45 p.m.

Everyone is a suspect in this fun, interactive mystery. Participants will be given clues to solve the mystery while enjoying a barbecue dinner provided by the Friends of the Library. Registration starts January 2.

Ugly T-shirt Screen Printing, for teens, December 6 & 13, 4-6 p.m.

Learn the basics to D.I.Y. T-shirt screen printing. This is a 2-part activity where you will design and print the T-shirt. Registration is required. Call (281) 478-7208 for more information.

Teen Blind Date with a Book

Stop by the Deer Park Public Library this February to check out our Teen Blind Date with a Book display. All display books have been wrapped so your selection will be based on a few simple keywords. Take your book home, read it, and rate it. No peeking before you check out! Inside each book is a form so you can rate your experience. With each form you submit, you are entered for a chance to win our prize drawing, gift cards to a local restaurant and movie theater, at the end of the month.

Storytime

January 9 - May 2



Infant Lapsit Storytime

(for ages 0 to 2), **Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.**, 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 at 10:15 a.m.**, is 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.

Preschool Storytime

(for ages 3½ to 6), **Thursdays at 11 a.m.**, 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.



Join us for a special **Holiday Storytime** with Santa for children ages 6 & younger on December 20 from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. There will be lots of fun, stories, refreshments, and photo opportunities. Don't forget your camera!

Deer Park Public Library

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 Monroe Edwards: The Counterfeit Prince of Old Texas, the Battle of Galveston, and a history of the Galveston Beach Revue. The Featured Friday program series is one of several services that the Deer Park Library offers. For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/library.

Community Scan Day, February 16, 2-4 p.m.

Do you have family photos, documents, letters, or other items that offer insight into the history of Deer Park? The Deer Park Public Library (DPPL), in partnership with the Friends of the Deer Park Public Library and the City of Deer Park Historical Committee, is hosting a Community Photo Scan Day on February 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. The public is invited to share their items and help build a community digital photo collection to preserve local history. Volunteers will scan or photograph your historic photos, slides, documents, and other items. The number of items per person is limited to 20. You keep your original items and receive a digital copy for sharing or saving. The DPPL and the City of Deer Park Historical Committee will keep a copy of the scans for their digital archives. The scans will be posted online where family, friends, and the public can access them. We are in search of items that reflect local history, people, places, and events. Photos of local scenes and buildings, past residents, social events, the Ship Channel, the San Jacinto Monument, the oil industry, churches, schools, and businesses are of particular interest. This is a free event. Items will be scanned on a drop-in basis, so patrons may experience a wait during busy times. If you have any questions, please contact the library at (281) 478-7208.

Read & Stream - eMedia @ DPPL

The whole family can enjoy books, comics, movies, music, audio books, magazines, and music from anywhere with your Deer Park Public Library Card! This past year, the library added several new services, including Hoopla Digital, streaming movies & TV from RBDigital, and RomanceBookCloud. Go to www.deerparktx.gov/library for more information or share your experience on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.Library/.

With your Deer Park Public Library card, you can access:

- eBooks and eAudio books on Overdrive
- eBooks, eAudio books, comics, music, movies, and TV shows through Hoopla Digital
- TV shows, movies, and magazines through RBDigital
- Children's titles on Tumblebooks
- Romance books through RomanceBookCloud

Blind Date with a Book

Are you ready to find the book of your dreams? Check out the Blind Date with a Book display during the month of February. The display features an

Deer Park Public Library

assortment of wrapped books so you won't know the identity of your book until you get home. Choose your blind date book, take it home, read it, and submit the form to rate your date! We're hoping you'll discover a great read. If your date turns out to be a dud, all is not lost. With each form you submit, you are entered for a chance to win our prize drawing, gift cards to a local restaurant and movie theater. Blind Date with a Book is an exciting opportunity for you to find great new titles and authors.

Mysteries & More Book Club

The Mysteries & More Book Club meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. to discuss books from a variety of genres. Future titles will be selected at upcoming meetings. Registration is not required. Go to www.deerparktx.gov/library or call (281) 478-7208 for details. Books were not selected for December 11. The group will be discussing their favorite books of the year.

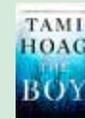
Computer Classes are free, but registration is required. For a list of current classes offered, go to www.deerparktx.gov/library.

- **Basic Genealogy** - Learn how to use Ancestry Library Edition and search the census using HeritageQuest Online. Complete useful charts and start tracing your roots!
- **Introduction to Computers** - Become familiar with computers and technical terminology, plus get comfortable using a mouse, opening software applications, and other basic skills.
- **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 Excel 2016 Formulas & Functions** - Learn how to get Excel to do the work for you by using commonly accessed formulas and functions.
- **Microsoft Excel 2016 Graphs & Pivot Tables** - Become familiar with using graphs and pivot tables to make your Excel workbook stand out.
- **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.
- **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 Word 2016 Resumes** - Learn how to create a basic resume with simple formatting.
- **Finding 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 Books for Adults

December



The Boy by Tami Hoag



The 13-Minute Murder
by James Patterson &
Shan Serafin

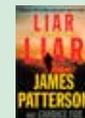
January



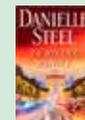
*The New Iberia Blues:
A Dave Robincheaux
Novel* by James Lee
Burke



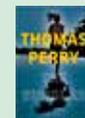
*The Rule of Law : A
Novel* (Dismas Hardy)
by John Lescroart



Liar Liar (Harriet
Blue) by James
Patterson & Candice
Fox



Turning Point: A Novel
by Danielle Steel



The Burglar by Thomas
Perry



*The Best of Us
(Sullivan's Crossing)* by
Robyn Carr

February



Never Tell (A D.D.
Warren and Flora
Dane Novel) by Lisa
Gardner



*Connections in Death:
An Eve Dallas Novel* (In
Death, Book 48) by
J.D. Robb

Library Hours

Mon. & Wed., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs., 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Healthy Living



Mental Health

Mental health can have a significant impact on your overall well-being. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, an estimated 1 out of every 5 Americans will be diagnosed with a mental illness at a point in their lifetime. Follow the recommendations below to help support your mental wellness.

- Get enough sleep daily. The CDC suggests the following hours of sleep, including naps: 12-16 hours for infants up to 12 months old, 11-14 hours for children ages 1 to 2, 10-13 hours for children ages 3 to 5, 9-12 hours for children ages 6 to 12, 8-10 hours for teens ages 13 to 18, and 7-9 hours for adults.
- Take a walk several times per week.
- Practice mind exercises, such as reading a book or working on a puzzle.
- Try something new or do something of interest to you every week, such as a hobby or sport.
- Learn to say "no" when something comes up that you don't want to do.
- Take time to have fun, such as go shopping or fishing.
- Develop contentment. Be proud of your achievements, both big and small.
- Build a network of friends for social support.

Sources: Health Magazine and www.psychcentral.com

Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department will observe holiday hours on December 24 and will be open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. For a list of services available during this time, go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec.

Did you know?

- The Parks & Recreation Dept. maintains roughly 330 acres of parkland.
- 135,000 pounds of blown snow will be pumped for Reindeer Park at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center on Dec. 1.
- When the Deer Park Nature Preserve is complete, it will be the only public tent camping area within a 20 mile radius.
- In 2017, the Parks and Recreation Dept. offered over 750 activities and programs, providing over 8,180 hours of programming to over 15,236 patrons.

Tree Lighting Ceremony, Nov. 30, 6 p.m., Municipal Court & Theater Building Join the Mayor and City Council at our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Frosty, Rudolph, and Santa will be there as we officially kick off the holiday season. Performances include the Deer Park High School Swing Choir, San Jacinto Elementary Choir, Art Park Singers, and Reaction. Photo opportunities with Santa will be at Patrick's Cabin. There will also be plenty of concessions and local vendors for holiday shopping.

Reindeer Park, Dec. 1, 4-9 p.m., Jimmy Burke Activity Center This year we are packing all the fun into one day! There will snow areas and slides, carnival rides, pony rides, a petting zoo, wagon rides, and curling. Purchase wristbands at the Community Center starting Nov. 19. Presale price is \$10 per person. Tickets at the door on the day of the event are \$15. Santa will be inside the activity center from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Rosie's Photography will be there to take pictures. Be sure to visit the new holiday forest, where children can play games, decorate cookies, or be creative with arts & craft projects. The live band is perfect for getting everyone into the holiday spirit. Concessions will be available.

Game Room, Mon.-Fri., 3-8:30 p.m. & Saturday, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Challenge your friends and the game room staff to a game of ping pong, foosball, pool, air hockey, or skeeball. The game room is equipped with board games, arcade games, Nintendo Wii, Xbox 360 Kinect, Xbox One, and Play Station 4. We're also available for parties! Each game room party includes a party room, tables, chairs, and 2 hours of exclusive fun in our game room for up to 30 individuals. All this for \$75, plus a \$100 refundable deposit for residents. For non-residents, the fee is \$85, plus a \$100 refundable deposit.

Earl Dunn Gym, 610 E. San Augustine

Using the gym is free for Deer Park residents, ages 16 & over, with a valid ID. Residents under the age of 16 must purchase a game room membership for \$10 per person. All non-residents must purchase a recreation membership for \$20 per person. Resident and non-resident memberships are valid for one year and grant access to the gym and game room. Come check out our new multipurpose exercise room and body weight workout space with weights, kick boxing bags, jump ropes, weighted balls, and more!

Parks & Recreation

Dow Park Pool Slides

Have you seen the new twist and turn fiberglass slides at Dow Park Pool? These are seamless fiberglass slides that will surely make your experience a lot more fun! We continue to strive to improve the quality of life in Deer Park and are looking forward to seeing you in May 2019 when Dow Park Pool reopens for the summer.



Dow Park Pavilions

The Dow Park Pavilions were completed in August 2018. A dedication ceremony was held on Sept. 27. The space can be rented for your next event beginning in January 2019. For more information, call (281) 478-2050.

Patrick's Cabin

The Parks and Recreation Department spearheaded restoration modifications to the exterior of our model of the historic Patrick's cabin located at 1410 Center Street. Split logs were replaced and the cabin was leveled and re-stained to better capture the authenticity of the 1830's.

Rental Facilities

We have rental facilities available for Deer Park residents and non-residents, ages 21 & over. All rentals must be made in person at the Deer Park Community Center. Fees are due at time of reservation. Rental time includes both set up and break down. For a list of rental facilities, go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec.

Roscoe's Fishing Adventure, Jan. 25 (4-8 p.m.) & 26 (8-11 a.m.), **Dow Park Pool** Join us for a fishing adventure as we partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife and stock the pool with fish! Admission is free, but all participants must register. Fishing poles are provided on a first come, first serve basis. Bring your own cooler to transport your fish. Jan. 25 is reserved for special populations, veterans, and their families. You must register in person at the Deer Park Community Center. Jan. 26 is open to the general public and registration can be done online. Help us get all of the fish out of the pool during open fish on Jan. 26 from 12 to 2 p.m.

Check out the *Live and Play* brochure at www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec.

Art Park Players

A Division of the Parks & Rec. Dept.

Louise McBee Circle of Life, Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, **Municipal Court and Theater Building**



You will be amazed by the array of beautiful wreaths in the lobby, which were graciously donated by little angels in the community to honor someone who has had breast cancer. The public is invited to participate in the silent auction. The winners will be announced at the end of the evening on Dec. 1. Last year, over 60 wreaths were donated! This year, we are hoping for even more. If you would like to donate a wreath, contact Susan Mele at (281) 478-7288. All donations are 100% tax deductible and all funds collected go directly to The Rose.

Mrs. Kringle's Claus-ette, Nov. 30, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., **Municipal Court and Theater Building**



Start your holiday shopping at our annual artisan fair, Mrs. Kringle's Claus-ette. You'll find unique gifts for everyone in your life. Cookies and wassail will be served.

Delights of December, Dec. 1, Meal 6 p.m., Show 7 p.m., \$25 Meal & Show or \$15 Show **Only, Municipal Court and Theater Building**



Join the Art Park Players for Delights of December, featuring your favorite Christmas songs and holiday characters. It's a Christmas spectacular for the entire family with many photo opportunities. Call the Box Office at (281) 794-2448 for reservations. Concessions, as well as Santa and his elves, will be in the lobby.

Art Park Players



Forever Plaid, Feb. 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22 & 23, \$30 Meal & Show or \$15 Show Only, Municipal Court and Theater Building One stormy night, 4 eager singers, known as The Plaids, are killed on the way to their first big gig. This quartet gets one last chance to return from the afterlife to do the show they never got to perform. The Plaids deliver an unforgettable show that will have you rolling in the aisles when you're not humming along to the great nostalgic pop hits of the 1950's. Call the Box Office at (281) 794-2448 for reservations.

Maxwell Center

A Division of the Parks & Rec. Dept.



Senior Christmas Banquet, for ages 55 & over, Dec. 11, 6 to 8 p.m., free, Jimmy Burke Activity Center Elvis has returned to the building! Please join us as we celebrate the holidays. Catered meal provided by Azalea Catering. Entertainment by Mr. Vince King. All attendees are required to RSVP. Doors open at 5 p.m. RSVP deadline is December 3. For questions or to make your reservation, call (281) 478-7276.

City Construction Projects

Public Works Updates

- **13th Street and Underwood Road Pavement Improvement Project** - This project is for the repair of the paving joints and section along East 13th Street and Underwood Road. On August 21, 2018, City Council awarded the pavement improvement project to D&W Contractors in the amount of \$170,050.
- **Rehabilitation of the P Street Ground Storage Water Tank** - This project is for the rehabilitation of the interior and exterior of the storage tank. It is being funded out of the 2017-A certificates of obligation. Dunham Engineering has been hired to perform the engineering design work for the rehabilitation of the tank at a cost of \$65,000. The project is currently out for bid. Construction is expected to begin by December 2018.
- **2018 Lane Striping Project** - City Council has approved an annual lane striping program. The 2018 Lane Striping Project includes portions of Georgia Ave., San Augustine St., 13th Street and East Blvd. The intersections and crosswalks on these streets, as well as the major intersections along Center St. and Luella Ave., will also be a part of this project. It will be funded out of the General Fund and is expected to begin during 4th quarter in 2018.
- **Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project** - This project is identified in the 10-year Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Plan. The project was split into two phases and is being funded with Certificates of Obligation. Phase I of the project was awarded to CSA Construction and was completed in February 2017 at a cost of \$4,998,654. In June 2017, Phase II of the project was awarded to LEM Construction in the amount of \$13,636,685. Anticipated completion for Phase II is August 2019.
- **Street Replacement Project** - The City received \$7.5 million from the sale of Series 2015 Certificates of Obligation for the Street Replacement Project and the construction of the new Animal Shelter. A portion of the funds, along with \$1,633,813 allocated in the Capital Improvement Fund (FY 2017-2018), will fund the Street Replacement Project. The streets affected are West 9th Street from Boston Avenue to Center Street and West 12th Street from the dead end to Center Street, Arbor Drive, Baron Lane, Cork Lane, Dahlia Lane, Ember Lane, Fleet Lane, Glacier Lane, Hastings Lane, Iris Lane, Justin Lane, Kelvin Lane, Amherst Lane, and Brown Lane. This project has been awarded to D&W Contractors in the amount of \$5.1 million. Construction began in May 2018 and is anticipated to continue for 450 days. Construction on 9th Street and 12th Street are about 75% complete. Ridgeway Subdivision, which encompasses Arbor Drive, Baron Lane, Cork Lane, Dahlia Lane, Ember Lane, Fleet Lane, Glacier Lane, Hastings Lane, Iris Lane, Justin Lane, and Kelvin Lane, is approximately 40% complete, while construction on Amherst Lane and Brown Lane is about 45% complete with an expected completion date in late summer of 2019.
- **Construction of New Animal Shelter** - The funds from the sale of the Series 2015 Certificates of Obligation will also be used for the construction of the new Animal Shelter. Quorum Architects, Inc. was hired to design and oversee the project. In April 2017, this project was awarded to Construction LTD in the amount of \$2,240,668. The ground

City Construction Projects

breaking ceremony was held on June 13, 2017, with construction starting shortly thereafter and expected to be completed by the 4th quarter in 2018.

Parks & Recreation Updates

- **Dow Park Pavilion Project** - This project was identified as 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 Halff Associates as the architect and South Pool and Spa as the general contractor. However, the City terminated the contract with the previous general contractor and awarded a contract for the completion of the project to Millis Development and Construction, LLC. The project was funded with \$1.5 million from Type B sales tax. The project, which included new restroom buildings and pavilion structures, was completed in September 2018. The public was invited to the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held on September 27.
- **Maxwell Adult Center** - This project was also 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 began in November of 2017. Demolition of the interior and site preparation for the new addition has been completed. The project has an expected completion date in December 2018.
- **Girls Softball Complex** - This project was included as one of seven approved projects in the 2015 Type B dedicated sales tax election that was voted for by Deer Park residents. This project is funded by \$3 million from Type B sales tax. The City selected Tandem Services as the general contractor and Halff Associates as the architect for this project. Construction began in January 2018. The project is on schedule and is expected to be completed by mid-December 2018.
- **New Soccer Complex** - This project is another one of the seven approved projects in the 2015 Type B dedicated sales tax election. The project is being funded with \$4 million from Type B sales tax. The City of Deer Park selected Halff Associates as the architect and Tandem Services as the general contractor. Construction began in January 2018. The project is on schedule and is expected to be completed in spring 2019.
- **CorWorth Concession and Restrooms** - This project includes 2 prefabricated CorWorth restrooms. One, with concession and storage area, for the Adult Softball facility on Pasadena Blvd. and the other one with restrooms for the Claude Burgess Center. The total cost for both buildings is \$284,243. This project has been completed.
- **Wayfinding Program** - A comprehensive wayfinding program was developed to educate and direct visitors to Deer Park, as well as engage those that are unaware of what 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 signs, secondary vehicular signs, tertiary vehicular signs, and monument signs (located in front of a park or city building). National Sign Plazas is the contractor approved to complete the initial phase of the project. This project is being funded out of hotel occupancy tax (HOT) revenues. Phase 1 signs are being adjusted and, at this time, 15 wayfinding signs are scheduled to be installed along Center Street and the surrounding perimeters of the city by the end of 2018. Four monument signs are already installed in parks around the city. Future phases are contingent upon the completion of the adjustments to Phase 1 signs.
- **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. The City applied for and received a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant in the maximum amount of \$400,000 of which the City will match an equal amount. 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 awarded construction of the project to Millis Development and Construction, LLC. There will be a separate contract for the restoration of the wetland area (conservation easement) under guidance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A conceptual plan envisions Phases 2 and 3, which include an education center and more, pending future funding availability. Phase 1 of the Deer Park Nature Preserve has been completed. The dedication is planned for the 1st quarter in 2019. The

Const. Projects

conservation easement area is being worked on with a scope of work and is expected to go out for bid by the end of 2018.

- **Dow Park Pool Slides** – \$125,000 was budgeted in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 for 2 new slides at Dow Park Pool. The slides were delivered and erected in September 2018. The slides will be ready for summer 2019! One slide is a fiberglass 36” open flume body slide, while the other is a fiberglass 96” family slide.
- **Adult Complex Pavilion** – There is a new 20' x 44' pavilion at the Adult Softball Complex to provide shade, as well as a place for visitors to gather and eat during league games and tournaments. The project was funded in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget and installed this fall.
- **Brookhollow Playlot and Big Bend Park** – New playground equipment was funded in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget for both Brookhollow Playlot and Big Bend Park. The equipment has been installed. Brookhollow Playlot received a playground block that children can climb on and go through, while Big Bend Park received a large rope structure that challenges children's dexterity and balance.

Recycle

The City of Deer Park offers single-stream recycling at the Transfer Station, 610 Underwood Road. Residents can recycle their paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, and metal cans by dropping them all into one single bin. For more details, call (281) 478-7213.

Council Actions

Regular City Council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Special meetings and workshops are held as needed. To view full agendas and meeting minutes or to listen to the audio recordings, go to <https://cityofdeerpark.legistar.com/calendar.aspx>.

August 2018

- Awarded a one year supply of trash bags to Houston Poly Bag at \$8.67 per roll for 18,000 rolls.
- Approved the surplus property list and authorization to auction these items via the internet through Rene Bates Auctioneers.
- Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report for the period of April through June 2018.
- Accepted the completion of the rehabilitation of the corrugated metal pipe (CMP) in storm sewer - Basin 1. Final cost was \$282,841.36.
- Accepted the completion for the assessment of the city's corrugated metal pipe storm water system. Final cost was \$235,126.
- Approved an ordinance calling for a joint public hearing on the proposed City of Deer Park FY 2018-2019 budget.
- Approved an agreement for engineering services for the rehabilitation of the P Street ground storage tank.
- Approved a resolution for a written policy to accept primary depository bank service applications from financial institutions not doing business within municipal boundaries of the City of Deer Park.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the official wet/dry map for the purpose of allowing or prohibiting alcohol sales.
- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Senior Citizens Commission.
- Approved an ordinance to amend the Appendix B - Fee Schedule of the Deer Park Code of Ordinances pertaining to electrical permits and solar panels.
- Awarded the bid for lease purchase financing of the refresh to the VOIP Communication System to City National Bank.
- Awarded the bid for the 13th Street and Underwood paving improvements to D&W Construction in the amount of \$170,050.
- Accepted the completion of the 18” Force Main Rehabilitation project. Final cost was \$22,323.10.
- Accepted the completion of the Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project at Princeton and Meadow Lark. Final cost was \$171,228.
- Approved a request to issue a Request for Proposals for arbitrage rebate services.
- Approved a request to issue a Request for Proposals for primary bank depository services.
- Approved an ordinance approving the FY 2018-2019 Deer Park Community Development Corporation budget.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the city's juvenile curfew.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2018-2019 Crime Control & Prevention District budget.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2018-2019 Fire Control, Prevention, and Emergency Services District budget.
- Approved an ordinance changing the time of the October 2, 2018

Council Actions

regular City Council meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. due to National Night Out.

- Accepted the completion of the South Lift Station Discharge Header Modification project. Final cost was \$76,830.
- Cast a ballot for Region 14 Representative to the TML-IEBP Board of Trustees.
- Approved the submittal of the 2018 Tax Roll and the calculation of the effective tax rate and rollback tax rate.
- Approved the total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll by proposing to adopt a tax rate of \$0.720000 per \$100 valuation.
- Approved an ordinance calling two public hearings on the proposed 2018 Tax Rate.
- Approved an ordinance appointing three members to the Crime Control and Prevention District.
- Approved an ordinance appointing three members to the Fire Control, Prevention, and Emergency Medical Services District.
- Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2017-2018 budget for the Capital Improvement Fund budget for the Dow Park Pavilion project.
- Approved a change order on the Dow Park Pavilion and Improvements project in the amount of \$23,018.95.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the cross-connection (backflow) control program and revising the Appendix B - Fee Schedule.
- Approved an ordinance calling a public hearing to adopt the Standards of Care for the All Star Activity Program.

September 2018

- Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids for the Deer Park Emergency Medical Services Station.
- Accepted the completion and retainage release for the South Lift Station Discharge Header Modifications project. Final cost was \$76,830.
- Cast the City of Deer Park's votes in the election of members for the Board Trustees of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool.
- Cast a ballot for the Region 14 Representative to the TML-IEBP Board of Trustees.
- Approved the submittal of the 2018 Tax Roll and the calculation of the Effective Tax Rate and Rollback Tax Rate.
- Adopted the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.720000 per \$100 valuation.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the Standards of Care for the All Star Activity Program for the 2018-2019 DPISD school year.
- Approved an ordinance calling two public hearings on the proposed 2018 tax rate.
- Approved an ordinance appointing three members to the Crime Control and Prevention District.
- Approved an ordinance appointing three members to the Fire Control, Prevention, and Emergency Medical Services District.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Capital Improvement Fund budget in the FY 2017-2018 budget for the Dow Park Pavilion project.
- Approved a change order for the Dow Park Pavilion project in the amount of \$23,018.95.
- Accepted the completion and retainage release for the Deer Park Community Development Dow Park Pavilion project for Millis Development and Construction, LLC. Final cost was \$290,116.36.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the cross-connection (backflow) control program and revising the Appendix B - Fee Schedule.
- Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids for the 2018 Lane Striping project.
- Authorized the purchase and installation of network equipment in the amount of \$30,198.66.
- Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids for the rehabilitation of the P Street 1-million gallon ground storage tank.
- Authorized the donation of Nikon DTM-350 equipment to Clear Lake Shores Police Department.
- Appointed a City of Deer Park Representative to the 2018 Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly and Board of Directors.
- Appointed the City's representatives to 2 Arbitration Committees.
- Appointed a member to the Tourism Committee.
- Amended the Financial Management Policy.
- Approved a resolution to uncommit \$2,500,000 and \$500,000 of the FY 2016-2017 committed fund balance for the renovation and furnishing of the new City Hall.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the publication of Notice of Intention to issue Certificates of Obligation, approving the preparation of the Preliminary Official Statement, and approving other matters incidental thereto.
- Approved a resolution to transfer \$4,482,244 from the FY

Council Actions

2017-2018 unassigned fund balance of the General Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund.

- Approved an ordinance adopting the City's Investment Policy.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2018-2019 Budget.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2018-2019 Salary and Classification Scales.
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 106-25 (b)(c) of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to water and sewer rates.
- Approved an ordinance and results of a Joint Public Hearing to rezone the property located at 1702 East Boulevard from Single Family 1 to General Commercial.
- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Fire Control, Prevention, and Emergency Medical Services District.

October 2018

- Awarded the bid for Arbitrage Rebate Services to Arbitrage Compliance Specialists.
- Awarded the bid for a building to contain the PAX ammonia feed skid at Pasadena Blvd. to Macaulay Controls in the amount of \$17,910.
- Accepted the completion and release of retainage for the Deer Park Nature Preserve Phase I project. Final cost was \$563,240.70.
- Approved the purchase of two Ford F-350 trucks, one Ford F-250 truck, and one Ford F-150 truck for the Fire Department and Fire Marshal's Office, two grass/booster fire trucks (F-350) through the H-GAC Buyboard Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount of \$168,301.
- Approved an ordinance cancelling the November 20, 2018 regular City Council meeting.
- Accepted the Quarterly Financial Report for the FY 2017-2018 third quarter ending June 30, 2018.
- Accepted the completion of the Surface Water Treatment Plant Driveway project. Final cost was \$29,945.46.
- 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 Services District for personnel, vehicles, facilities, equipment, and investments.
- Authorized the purchase of Christmas light decorations from Inception Marketing Barcana through the TIPS Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount of \$63,012.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the Dow Park soccer field parking lot.
- Authorized the purchase of furniture for the newly renovated Maxwell Adult Center from Gateway through the Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount of \$86,629.30.
- Approved two contract amendments between the City of Deer Park and the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System.
- Submitted a request to the Board of Adjustments for a six inch variance to the height of a privacy fence to be constructed along the east property line of the Deer Park City Hall.
- Approved a contract with PAX Water Technologies to install a new PAX chemical feed system at the Pasadena Boulevard ground storage tank in

the amount of \$162,600.

- Approved a three year extension of commercial waste removal services with Waste Management of Texas, Inc.
- Authorized the purchase of two replacement field mowers from Textron Golf in the amount of \$119,397.52.
- Authorized the submission of a grant application for Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Round 1 funds for Hurricane Harvey.
- Authorized the purchase of emergency equipment, graphics, and supplies for new emergency services vehicles in the amount of \$102,516.71.
- Approved an ordinance appointing three members to the Deer Park Community Development Corporation Board of Directors.
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 66-178, Schedule G relating to school zones.

Prescription Program

The City of Deer Park, in collaboration with the National League of Cities, offers a prescription discount card program, My Healthy Hometown, that may save residents an average of 24% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs at participating pharmacies. The card is free to all Deer Park residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health insurance. For more information, call (888) 620-1749 or go to www.deerparktx.gov, hover over *Residents*, and click on *Prescription Program*. Residents can pick up a card at City Hall.



Need to report a concern?

Citizens can submit concerns directly to the appropriate city personnel. Simply go to www.deerparktx.gov and click on the *Report a Concern* icon. Then select the appropriate form, such as Park Maintenance Request, Report City Maintenance Issues, Report Loud Barking Dogs, Request Sidewalk Maintenance, Billing Information or Meter Read Work Request, etc.

Once you click on the form, you will be sent to the *Sign In* screen. There you can choose to sign in using your existing CivicPlus login or creating an account. You can also sign in using your Facebook or Yahoo account. After signing in and agreeing to the terms of use, you can enter the details into the online form fields and submit your concern. You can later log into your account to check on the status of your request.

If you are unable to submit your request online, please call (281) 479-2394 and you will be directed to the appropriate department to report your concern.



The Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a non-profit, cooperative partnership of community residents, emergency responders, and chemical industry leaders. The committee works together to protect the health and safety of plant workers, community residents, and our environment. For more information, go to www.deerparklepc.org. A schedule of the monthly LEPC meetings, which are open to the public, is also available.



Wally is a wise turtle because he knows that whenever there is danger, he's safe when he goes inside his shell. During

a chemical emergency, be sure to remember the following safety tips:

1. Go inside your home. Seek shelter in your vehicle if you are traveling.
2. Close all doors and windows, plus turn off your air conditioner or heater.
3. Stay informed by phone, social media, television, or radio.

For updates, check out CAER Online (www.ehcma.org/caeronline), Facebook (deerparktx.oem), Twitter (@deerparkoem), Deer Park TV on Comcast Cable Channel 16 or AT&T U-Verse Channel 99, or local news stations. To register for the city's emergency notification service, go to www.deerparktx.gov/oem, click on the *Emergency Notifications* icon on the bottom left of the screen, and then click on the *CodeRED* icon.

DPTV

DPTV is the City of Deer Park government access channel providing residents with local government information. Programming focuses on matters pertaining to city services, workshops and meetings, special events, public service announcements, and topics deemed by the city to be of benefit or interest to our residents. To watch DPTV, turn to Comcast channel 16 or AT&T U-Verse channel 99.



Caddo Lake, East Texas
© Chase Fountain, TPWD

Texas Parks & Wildlife

Texas Parks and Wildlife is a weekly nature series focusing on the incredible diversity of wildlife, scenic locations, and fascinating characters that make Texas unique. Watch a brand new episode every week on DPTV. Each episode repeats all week.



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Deer Park, TX 77536

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Wishing you a
*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

From Mayor Jerry Mouton &
Members of City Council



**2019 Gulf Coast
Feline Foundation
TICA Cat Show**

January 26 & 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Watch the City of Deer Park social media channels for information on the January 2019 Cat Show. We'll be holding another fun, family-friendly event at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center, and you won't want to miss the pedigreed breeds and opportunities to adopt from several rescue organizations, including the Deer Park Animal Shelter!



1600 Georgia Ave.

www.battlegroundgolfcourse.com

Golf Course 281-478-2080

Republic Grill 281-478-2089