

CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE

MARCH | APRIL 2019



CITY PARTNERS WITH WAZE TO HELP DENTON DRIVERS NAVIGATE TRAFFIC

Whether you are traveling for work or fun, traffic and construction can make navigating through Denton difficult. With this in mind, the City partnered with Waze through the Connected Citizens Program to help keep drivers informed of traffic conditions and help them get where they want to go faster and easier.

The Waze navigation app is well-known for being an effective tool to warn drivers of delays or accidents. With its unique social component, Waze also collects traffic information anonymously, directly from drivers on the road. And with users reporting conditions through the app, drivers get the information they need to avoid construction and traffic delays.



Through the Connected Citizen Program, the City shares road construction information, including closures, detours, and hazards. The City's information, combined with Waze's real-time, user-reported information, helps direct users to alternate routes, gives drivers better control over their commute, and warns them which areas to avoid.

The Waze partnership is the latest initiative from the City to use data and technology to improve mobility and the quality of life for all who travel in or through Denton. With the anonymous insights collected through Waze, the City can further promote safe roads and make educated decisions about roadwork and other operations, helping the community save time and travel more efficiently. Other cities across the Metroplex, including Plano and Frisco, are already using Waze, so you can reduce travel times throughout the DFW area.



To learn more about Waze and download the free app, visit www.waze.com/get or visit the App store or Google Play.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

DENTON CITY COUNCIL

- Monday, March 4 (Luncheon)
- Tuesday, March 5 (Work Session & Council Meeting)
- Tuesday, March 19 (Work Session & Council Meeting)
- Tuesday, March 26 (Work Session)
- Monday, April 1 (Luncheon)
- Tuesday, April 2 (Work Session & Council Meeting)
- Tuesday, April 9 (Work Session)
- Tuesday, April 16 (Work Session & Council Meeting)
- Tuesday, April 23 (Work Session)

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

- Monday, March 11
- Monday, March 25
- Monday, April 8
- Monday, April 22

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

- Wednesday, March 6
- Wednesday, March 20
- Wednesday, April 3
- Wednesday, April 17

These and other public meetings are broadcast live on DTV and at www.cityofdenton.com/dtv.

For a current list of meetings and agendas, visit www.cityofdenton.com/public-meetings.



FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome to the *Resident Update*. This bimonthly newsletter offers a chance for you to hear directly from your local government about what is happening in your city. This issue includes information about how you can get involved and engaged in City efforts, including important information about the City's new partnership with Waze, ongoing efforts to update the Denton Development Code, and how to get involved in the Parks master planning process.

If you would like to learn more about the City operations and get involved in government, this issue also includes details on how to register for the City's Citizen Academy and Teen Council.

Remember, May 4 is Election Day in Denton and early voting begins on April 22. In this issue, you can get important information about the upcoming City Council election, how to register to vote, and where to get more information about early voting and Election Day polling locations.

We are always interested in hearing from you, and we encourage everyone in Denton to get involved and engaged with the City of Denton.

DENTON CITY COUNCIL



- Chris Watts**, Mayor | Chris.Watts@cityofdenton.com
- Gerard Hudspeth**, District 1 | Gerard.Hudspeth@cityofdenton.com
- Keely G. Briggs**, District 2 | Keely.Briggs@cityofdenton.com
- Don Duff**, District 3 | Don.Duff@cityofdenton.com
- John Ryan**, District 4 | John.Ryan@cityofdenton.com
- Deb Armintor**, At Large Place 5 | Deb.Armintor@cityofdenton.com
- Paul Meltzer**, At Large Place 6 | Paul.Meltzer@cityofdenton.com

Not sure who your Council Member is?

Visit www.cityofdenton.com, click on the magnifying glass in the top right corner, and type "Find My Council Member" in the search bar.

CITY HOSTS 3RD ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY EVENT

On Thursday, Jan. 17, City of Denton leaders and 250 community members came together at the third annual State of the City event at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center.

The event began with an engagement fair for attendees to meet with City staff and Council Members, followed by the Mayor's annual address. In his address, Mayor Chris Watts reflected on accomplishments from the past year and highlighted future goals. He discussed capital improvement updates, social service initiatives, and organizational changes, all of which exemplify Denton's ongoing growth and development.

As he outlined his vision for 2019, Mayor Watts said now is a time of tremendous and important growth for Denton. He also recommended residents download the Engage Denton app to report issues like potholes, sidewalks needing repairs, signal timings, and more. You can download the app or submit a service request at www.engagedenton.com.



The Mayor's address and the official State of the City video are available to view on the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/cityofdenton.

The *2017-18 Annual Report* was also released at the event featuring key accomplishments, long-term objectives, and ways the City is working to serve you better. A copy of the report can be viewed at www.cityofdenton.com/stayupdated.

REGISTER FOR THE DENTON CITIZEN ACADEMY

Enjoy a unique and educational experience with your city government by taking part in the Denton Citizen Academy. Interactive sessions will introduce you to Denton's public safety, infrastructure, economic development, and more. Participants will learn first-hand how decisions are made and services are delivered every day. The program is held over five sessions from May through July, focusing on Utilities, Quality of Life, Public Safety, and Development and Growth. The Academy is free and open to all Denton residents 18 years of age and older, and participation is limited to 25 citizens. For additional information and to register, visit www.cityofdenton.com/citizenacademy or call (940) 349-8009.




PARKS & REC SEEKING INPUT FOR MASTER PLAN

Denton Parks and Recreation

Master Plan | Needs Assessment Survey



Scan using the camera app 

Denton Parks and Recreation is seeking public input to help develop a new long-range, comprehensive master plan. Community input from a Needs Assessment Survey will serve as a significant part of the overall process. The survey is available in both English and Spanish using the QR code or by visiting www.dentonparks.com. 10,000 households were randomly selected to receive a postcard invitation to take the survey, however, feedback from the entire community is encouraged. To learn more about the process and other opportunities to engage, visit www.dentonparks.com.

UPDATES UNDERWAY FOR DENTON DEVELOPMENT CODE

The City is in the process of updating the Denton Development Code (DDC). The DDC is one of the most important codes in the City as it regulates what, where, and how development occurs in Denton. The last comprehensive DDC and Zoning Map updates were made more than 16 years ago. With the recently adopted City comprehensive plan, Denton Plan 2030, and Denton's ongoing growth, it is time to reevaluate the Code and make the changes necessary to implement our vision for Denton's future.

The goal of the DDC Update is to promote responsible and quality development while also protecting and preserving Denton's unique charm and character. To ensure that we balance smart growth and community preservation, the new DDC will center on the following themes:

- Focus on customer service
- Protect neighborhoods
- Build a strong foundation
- Provide flexibility
- Coordinate efforts throughout the City
- Tailor development standards to specific context

Because the DDC includes the standards and processes that regulate development and set zoning designations, the DDC update will affect all Denton residents, businesses, and property owners. While you may find yourself in a new zoning district, the current policies affecting single-family neighborhoods or existing developments will not change. However, if you own or live near undeveloped property, you are likely to see new zoning and development regulations and processes.

The City is hosting a number of public meetings where residents can learn more about the DDC update and proposed Zoning Map, speak with City staff, and provide feedback. Meetings will be held on **Monday, March 18** and **Thursday, March 21** at 6 p.m. at the Denton Civic Center, 321 E. McKinney St.

If you are unable to attend a public meeting and would like more information regarding your property or how the DDC update could impact you, call Development Services at (940) 349-8541 to speak with a member of the City's Planning staff.

A draft of the DDC update, the proposed Zoning Map, and FAQs are currently available online at www.dentoncode2030.com. You will also find details about upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council Work Sessions and Public Meetings.

TEEN COUNCIL GIVES YOUNG LEADERS A HEAD START

Tomorrow's leaders get a head start in Teen Council by actively participating in community-driven projects that inspire them to roll up their sleeves and get engaged. Denton's Teen Council currently has 26 students and is mentored by staff in the Parks and Recreation Department who are encouraging them to take the lead in how they plan, execute, serve, and engage, both locally and regionally.



In 2018, Teen Council members came together locally to serve and benefit the Spirit of Christmas Food Drive and Operation Christmas Child. This year, they will continue serving the community by hosting the 2nd Annual Battle of the Bands on Friday, March 29 and by representing the City at the Texas Youth Advisory Commission Summit in Fort Worth, a two-day statewide summit that provides opportunities for teens to share their community impact projects and develop new ideas moving forward.

Teen Council currently meets twice a month during the school year from October to the end of May. Registration is open for the 2019-20 school year. To see the program qualifications and apply, visit www.dentonparks.com.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A LOOSE DOG OR COYOTE

LOOSE AND STRAY DOGS can be a danger to citizens. Here's what to do if you see one:

- Use caution when approaching a loose or stray dog. If in doubt, report the stray animal to Animal Services at (940) 349-7594 Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call (940) 349-8181 after hours.
- If the situation escalates to an emergency, such as a dog pursuing or attacking a person, call 911 immediately.
- It is the responsibility of pet owners to be familiar with the laws regulating pets in public spaces. The City of Denton has a leash law and all animals must be restrained when in public, including at all City parks and trails (with the exception of Wiggly Field Dog Park). Failure to properly restrain a pet can result in a fine for the owner.

NEW MAP TRACKS COYOTE SIGHTINGS

The City has launched a new map to track coyote sightings in the area. Residents can report sightings via the Engage Denton app (available at www.engagedenton.com), which captures the location of the sighting. Sightings are then loaded into the interactive map where they will remain for 90 days. The coyote sighting map is available at www.cityofdenton.com/animalservices and clicking on "Wildlife" under "Important Resources." To report a coyote sighting, use the Engage Denton app or visit www.engagedenton.com. Coyotes are creatures of habit. Know where they have been sighted and be prepared.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A COYOTE:

- For attacks or any aggressive animal sighting, call 911 immediately.
- If you encounter a coyote, make a loud noise, yell, and wave your arms to scare the animal away. These actions, called "hazing," will help instill the fear of humans and break bad coyote behaviors.
- Take a whistle or tennis ball with you when walking in your neighborhood. These are helpful tools to use to scare off a coyote.
- Report the coyote sighting through the Engage Denton application.

IF A COYOTE SEES A PERSON, IT IS COMMON FOR THEM TO:

- Be startled and run away.
- Freeze and stare at the person. If this happens, keep making loud noises and increasing the intensity of your efforts to scare away the coyote.
- Run or walk a short distance away, stop, then look back. Coyotes are curious by nature. Keep being loud to scare them away.

PROACTIVE COYOTE-DETERRENT MEASURES:

- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed to eliminate hiding places for coyotes.
- Do not leave any food outside, including bird seed, pet food, and compost.
- Never feed a coyote.
- Keep your pet on a leash at all times.
- Keep cats indoors and do not leave dogs unattended outside.

For more information about coyotes and other wildlife, visit www.cityofdenton.com/animalservices.

CITY TO HOLD COUNCIL ELECTION ON MAY 4

Saturday, May 4 is Election Day for City Council candidates. Four seats are up for election: Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4. Qualified voters are only eligible to vote for candidates in the district in which they reside.

WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES? *(Listed in alphabetical order)*

District 1

George Ferrie
Gerard Hudspeth

District 2

Keely G. Briggs

District 3

Jesse Davis
Matt Farmer
Diana Leggett

District 4

Emily Meisner
John Ryan



HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

You will need to register through Denton County Elections Administration. To learn more, visit www.votedenton.com. The last day to register to vote for this election is April 4.

WHAT DISTRICT AM I IN?

To find your voting district, visit www.cityofdenton.com/vote, click "Locate my Voter District," and enter your physical address.

WHERE DO I VOTE EARLY FOR THE ELECTION?

During early voting, you can vote at any polling location in Denton County. You can find early voting location information at www.votedenton.com.

WHERE DO I VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?

Election Day polling locations are assigned based on City Council district and County precinct. You can find your voting precinct information and polling locations at www.votedenton.com.

ANIMAL SHELTER HAPPY TAILS UPDATE: BOOMER

There is nothing quite like the joy of helping animals find their new forever homes at the Linda McNatt Animal Care and Adoption Center. We recently heard the story of Trey, Boomer, and the Stoner family, and we had to share it.

Boomer (then-Pepe) is a shepherd-mix who had made his way to the Center. Employees knew that Boomer was kind, loving, and ready to find his family. Trey, an Animal Control Officer, had a special bond with Boomer and knew when the Stoner family came to the Center in December that Boomer would be a perfect fit.

"Trey was the employee who took the time with us and introduced us to Pepe (Boomer). He was patient and you could tell by his interaction with the animals there that he really cares," said the Stoners.

Following their experience, the Stoners added, "We just want to thank the shelter and especially Trey for taking the time to love all of the pets and people who they come in contact with."

Thanks to employees like Trey and adopters like the Stoners, animals at the Linda McNatt Animal Care and Adoption Center find loving homes and families throughout the Denton community.



Looking to adopt a pet? Visit www.cityofdenton.com/animalservices.

FEATURED EVENTS

MARCH 8

ADAPTED RECREATION ST. PATTY'S DANCE

Friday, March 8 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
North Lakes Rec Center, 2001 W. Windsor Dr.

Join us for a St. Patty's-themed dance complete with music, a disco dance floor, food, photo booth, and fellowship fun. Rec pass admission. Adapted recreation dances welcome participants of all ages who have physical and/or developmental disabilities. Ages 16 and up.

MARCH 19

JAZZ: AMERICA'S UNIQUE ART FORM

Tuesday, March 19 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
North Branch Library, 3020 N. Locust St.

Join us for a short presentation and demonstrative performance by a student ensemble from the highly acclaimed jazz program at the University of North Texas. For all ages.

MARCH 23

31ST ANNUAL GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

Saturday, March 23 | Cleanups will begin at 9 a.m. at various locations around Denton, followed by a volunteer appreciation party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Denton Civic Center.

Each year thousands of volunteers join Keep Denton Beautiful, Inc. to improve the beauty and environmental health of the community. Visit www.kdb.org for more information and to register. Registration is open through March 11.

APRIL 13

DENTON REDBUD FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Denton Civic Center, 321 E. McKinney St.

This award-winning community event –Denton's official Arbor Day celebration– offers fun for attendees of all ages, with a focus on trees and community beautification. Visit www.kdb.org for more information. For all ages.

APRIL 13

REDBUD FESTIVAL STORYTIME

Saturday, April 13 at 11 a.m.
Denton Civic Center, 321 E. McKinney St.

Join us at the Redbud Festival for a tree-themed preschool StoryTime! For ages 1-5.

Visit library.cityofdenton.com for a complete list of Denton Public Library events and activities.

APRIL 13

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to noon
MLK Jr. Rec Center, 1300 Wilson St.

Hop in and enjoy a hot breakfast, carnival games, and crafts with the Easter bunny. Then, immediately following the crafts and games, the Cute Kids Foundation will sponsor an egg hunt! The fee includes a photo, pancake breakfast, and juice. \$5 per kid; each additional photo costs \$1. Ages 3 and up.

APRIL 18

FREE TEEN TWILIGHT EGG HUNT

Thursday, April 18 at 8 p.m.
Denia Rec Center, 1001 Parvin St.

Teens, ages 11-16, will enjoy door prizes and a fun night with friends. Teens need to bring a flashlight to participate. Registration begins at 8 p.m. and the hunt begins after sundown.

Visit www.dentonparks.com for a complete list of Parks & Rec events and activities.

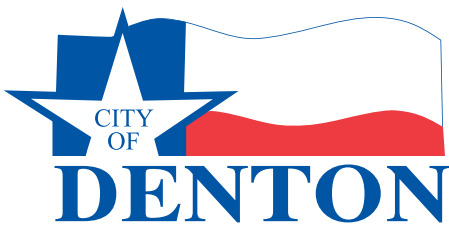
APRIL 20

FREE EASTER EGG'STRAVAGANZA

Saturday, April 20 | 9:30 a.m. Bounce house and arts and crafts; 10:45 a.m. Magic show; and 11:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Quakertown Park and Denton Civic Center, 321 E. McKinney St.

The park will be divided by age and grades (toddlers to grade 5) for the egg hunt, and field signs will help guide families to the designated areas.



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STAY UPDATED

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