

2021
APRIL/MAY

CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE



**DENTON
STRONG**




IN THIS ISSUE

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- We're Hiring Summer Jobs
- DCPH Vaccine Information
- Planning for the Year 2040
- Prevent Recycling Contamination
- and more!



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City of Denton offices will be closed on **Monday, May 31** in observance of Memorial Day.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

To protect the health and safety of the Denton community; City Council, board, and commission members; and City staff, all public meetings have moved to a remote format until further notice. All meetings will use the new Rules of Procedure that were adopted during the March 31, 2020, Council meeting.

Scheduled public meetings are streamed online at www.cityofdenton.com/dtv, made available on-demand, and can be viewed live on the City's DTV cable channel (Frontier FiOS on channel 38, Charter Spectrum on channel 194, and Grande on channel 12). Due to the remote format of the meetings, no in-person attendance at Denton City Hall will be permitted.

Certain meetings will accommodate and receive public input on eligible agenda items. Members of the community are able to participate using our virtual public comment options, including an online Virtual White Card and by phone.

For additional information and a current list of upcoming public meetings, visit www.cityofdenton.com/publicmeetings.



FROM THE MAYOR



Gerard Hudspeth, Mayor

Throughout the last year, Denton has proven to be one of the strongest, most compassionate, and resilient communities in North Texas. From the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, to February's unexpected and unprecedented winter weather emergency, the residents and businesses that make up our unique city have stepped up to the challenge.

The week of Feb. 14 proved to be bitterly cold and challenging as sub-zero temperatures rapidly covered the state. As you know, communities across Texas, including Denton, were faced with power and water outages, hazardous driving conditions, and empty store shelves. It was an unprecedented event in a year of unprecedented events. For all of us, it was a time of uncertainty and anticipation. For some of us, it was a time of fear and great concern.

What I hope to convey to you in this short message is that, throughout the entire storm, this community—our community—stood tall and never wavered. We took care of our loved ones, checked on our neighbors, and provided for those in need.

City leaders and staff, in partnership with the State of Texas and Denton County, worked alongside residents, nonprofit organizations, and grass roots community groups to provide Denton residents with access to critical information, warming stations/shelters, power for essential medical devices, bottled water and showering facilities, drivable roadways, and critical emergency services. We all did more with less under trying and extraordinary conditions.

Lessons will be learned from this storm. Not everything went the way we would have liked, but we will rise above this challenge more resilient and united than ever.

I am proud to be a part of this great community. Stay strong.

DENTON CITY COUNCIL

- Gerard Hudspeth**, Mayor | Gerard.Hudspeth@cityofdenton.com
- Birdia Johnson**, District 1 | Birdia.Johnson@cityofdenton.com
- Connie Baker**, District 2 | Connie.Baker@cityofdenton.com
- Jesse Davis**, District 3 | Jesse.Davis@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/council, click on "Find Your Council Member" in the menu bar, and enter your physical address.

WE'RE HIRING SUMMER JOBS



SUMMER CAMPS

Must like making a positive impact on the community and in the minds of kids.

We're currently accepting applications for the following summer camp jobs:

- Camp Supervisor
- Camp Counselor
- Camp Coordinator II

WATER WORKS PARK

Civic Center Pool, & Denton NAT
(age requirements will vary by position)

If you're ready for a rewarding summer job experience, apply online at www.dentonjobs.com

We're also currently accepting applications for the following aquatic summer jobs:

- Concessions Manager
- Assistant Concessions Manager
- Concessions Attendant
- Pool Cashier
- Birthday Party Host/Hostess
- Lifeguard
- Swim Instructor I
- Swim Instructor II- WSI



IT'S GREAT

Casey King, Camp Counselor, 2019

300+ SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE

We have 300+ summer jobs to fill that are essential to summer programs and facility operations. For job descriptions, conditions of employment, and a schedule of training deadlines, visit www.dentonjobs.com.

TRAINING REGISTRATION IS OPEN

To register for American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor or Waterpark Lifeguard training, visit www.dentonparks.com.

APPLY ONLINE
www.dentonjobs.com

COVID-19 VACCINES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As of March 23, 2021, the Texas Department of State Health Services announced that all individuals over the age of 16 are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. To date, the Denton County Public Health (DCPH) vaccine clinic has already administered more than 170,000 first and second doses. To see how you can join the clinic waitlist, visit the DCPH Vaccine Interest Portal at <http://bit.ly/DCPHPortal>. Demand and availability will impact how long it will take for you to receive your invitation for a vaccine appointment.

If you need help getting to the clinic, there are also transportation resources available. Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) and Span Inc. are working with Denton County to help all residents have access to vaccinations. If you have a vaccine appointment and need a ride, just call **(940) 243-0077**.



IMPORTANT COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES



Register for the Vaccine Interest Portal: <http://bit.ly/DCPHPortal>

See if You're Eligible for the Vaccine: DentonCounty.gov/vaccine



Vaccine Clinic Transportation Help: (940) 243-0077



As our community continues to fight against COVID-19, the City of Denton recommends that individuals and businesses use precautions and best practices recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to slow the spread. We can help keep our friends, neighbors, and families safe by washing our hands frequently, wearing face coverings, and practicing social distancing.

CITY TO UPDATE MULTI-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Denton is looking a generation into the future! The City is in the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan—a **major guiding document that sets a vision for what the community will be 20 years from today**, and provides a pathway toward that vision. The Plan helps us understand our unique community characteristics and environment, and how they can impact development, the provision of City services, protection of our natural

assets, and other governmental activities. **The Plan sets goals, policies, and actions to manage growth, promote reinvestment, and improve the quality of life for Denton residents.** This process occurs once every 5-7 years and is an important and essential event.



To capture the spirit of this effort, this significant project was given the name **Denton Plan 2040: Growing with a Unified Purpose**. “Growing with a Unified Purpose” was selected because the city is currently experiencing, and will continue to experience, tremendous growth. We need a Comprehensive Plan that provides a framework that adequately accounts for Denton’s continued long-term growth and provides a forward-looking roadmap that joins the operations of the City with the goals of the community under a unified purpose.

Comprehensive Plan Schedule



The update process officially kicked off in February with stakeholder interviews and focus group meetings. In March, the City held its first virtual community workshop where attendees were provided the opportunity to share their own vision for Denton’s future. A second community workshop is expected in May 2021, which will focus on Downtown Denton, new growth areas, city infrastructure and services, and economic development. Additional public meetings will occur throughout the spring and summer.

Once complete, Denton Plan 2040 will reflect Denton as is and as it will be, **embody the community’s vision, and target major issues that the City must address in both the near-term and long-term.** The Plan will also include a special topic study, which is to review and update the Downtown Master Plan.

Denton Plan 2040 will play an integral role in various City services, programs, and initiatives, including:

- Master Plans
- Master Planned Communities
- Overlays and Districts
- Mobility and Plans for Future Roads
- Connectivity
- Modes of Transportation (bicycle, trails, bus, and rail transit)
- Pedestrian Circulation (Downtown and University areas)
- Zoning
- Placement of Parks and Open Space
- Location of public safety facilities
- Economic development strategy
- Employment (Workforce Development)
- Infrastructure plans, investments
- Growth (location, capacity, timeline)
- Annexation
- Budget and Finance
- Land Use (balance and distribution)
- Housing (diversity and affordability)
- Community Health
- Environmental Protection
- Air and Water Quality
- Natural Resources
- Historic Preservation
- Tourism and Entertainment
- Public Art
- Urban Design
- Neighborhood Protection
- Redevelopment and Infill
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Emergency Services

The anticipated completion of Denton Plan 2040 is October 2021. For additional information about Denton Plan 2040, including future updates and announcements about public input opportunities, visit www.cityofdenton.com/denton2040.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 1

Saturday, May 1 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 ballot order.)*

District 1

Matt Irvine
Birdia Johnson
Vicki Byrd

District 2

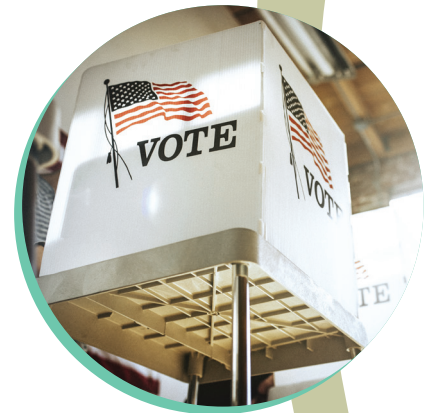
Connie Baker
Daniel Clanton
Brian Beck

District 3

Jesse Davis

District 4

John Ryan
Alison Maguire



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 and date of birth. If you have any problems locating your information, contact the Denton County Elections Administration at **(940) 349-3200**.

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.

¿DONDE PUEDO ENCONTRAR INFORMACION DE ELECCION EN ESPAÑOL?

Para obtener información sobre la eleccion en español, visite a www.votedenton.com y haga clic en "Español" en la pancarta que se encuentra arriba de la página o llame a la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad al **(940) 349-8309**.

FIVE TIPS TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY & SAFE THIS SPRING

As spring weather approaches, the City's Community Improvement Services Division has compiled a list of tips to help you maintain health and safety in your neighborhood and remain in compliance with City codes:

1 KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR: Local code requires that sidewalks remain clear to allow people to walk freely without any obstructions. Take care **not to park vehicles over a sidewalk**, and **keep bushes trimmed** to avoid blocking a walkway.

2 TRIM GRASS & WEEDS: Grass and weeds taller than 12 inches in height are considered unsanitary and a code violation. **Keep your yard trimmed below 12 inches** to help keep the community safer and cleaner!

3 REMOVE TRASH & DEBRIS: Keep property free from trash and debris to prevent attracting mosquitoes, rodents, and disease-carrying pests. Prioritize your property and health by **getting rid of bulky trash** and items that may collect standing water. Residents can **request a bulk trash pickup** by submitting a 'Trash and Recycling' request through the Engage Denton mobile app or calling Customer Service at **(940) 349-8700**.

4 STORE TRASH CARTS PROPERLY: Trash carts must be stored on the side or rear of the house or inside a garage or shed. Carts can be put out after 6 p.m. the day before your trash day and must be placed back on the side or rear of house by 8 a.m. the day after trash is collected.

5 REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY WEATHER UPDATES: There is a higher risk of severe storms in Texas during the spring months. CodeRED is an **emergency notification service** that alerts residents of local emergencies and weather events. Visit www.cityofdenton.com/codered to register for CodeRED alerts and stay prepared for extreme weather conditions.

 **CodeRED™**
Keeping citizens informed.

HELP US PREVENT CONTAMINATION

Over the last several months, the City has seen an increase in recycling contamination. **What is recycling contamination, you ask?**

Contamination is defined as any material placed in a recycling cart that can contaminate other recyclables. Contamination can affect the processing of recyclables, the safety of staff, and the quality of recycled material.

KEEP THESE CONTAMINANTS OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING CART:

Bagged Recyclables

Please do not bag recyclables.

When it gets to our recycling facility, staff will not know if the bag contains clean recyclables or trash. Keep your recycling loose and dry in the cart and at our recycling drop-off locations.



Plastic Bags & Film

Take single-use plastic shopping bags, films, and wraps (like bread bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, etc.) to a drop-off box, which are often available at local grocery stores. **These items do not belong in your recycling cart.** Single-use plastics are flexible and can wrap around our machinery. This halts production and causes our recycling facility staff to have to climb into the machinery and pull out these tangles.



Styrofoam

Throw Styrofoam away in your trash cart. Styrofoam is not recyclable through our program and decreases the quality of the recyclables it may be bailed with.



Trash

Please do not use your recycling cart as an additional trash cart or donation bin.

Items such as food waste, yard waste, furniture, and clothing/textiles are all things that do not belong in your recycling cart. If you have additional trash you cannot fit in your trash cart, contact Customer Service at **(940) 349-8700** to schedule additional trash bags as bulky items, or make arrangements for a second trash cart. If you aren't sure how to dispose of something, check out our Waste Wizard app at **www.dentonrecycles.com**. This online application can provide more information on what goes in your trash cart, recycling cart, or requires special disposal. Our staff is also available to answer any questions you may have—just send an email to **dentonrecycles@cityofdenton.com**.



MEET ANTHONY CUNNINGHAM

COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER

Since joining the Denton Police Department (DPD) in 2003, Officer Cunningham has dedicated his time to helping bridge the gap between our agency and the community we serve. As part of this **commitment to community-oriented, relationship-based policing**, he is stationed at a remote office at MLK Jr. Recreation Center. He believes as DPD does, that it is essential for officers to know and understand the people, places, and cultures in the areas where they work.

Officer Cunningham's roots run deep in Southeast Denton where he was raised. He has 25 years of service as a certified police officer and has obtained his Master Peace Officer license from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Outside of work, he can be found coaching youth sports and mentoring students.

"I am excited for the opportunity to engage community members in dialogue that connects core concerns with community action," Cunningham said. "This will help the department identify attainable and specific areas for change that will unify and build community trust and empowerment."

To get in touch with Officer Cunningham, call **(940) 349-7978**, email **Anthony.Cunningham@cityofdenton.com**, or stop by the MLK Jr. Recreation Center located at 1300 Wilson St.

SIGNS OF SPRING IN THE REDBUD CAPITAL OF TEXAS

Spring is here and so are the blooming redbud trees! The redbud is so beloved in Denton that in 1994, Denton became the **Redbud Capital of Texas**. Although small in stature, the redbud tree is easily identifiable by its green heart-shaped leaves and vibrant, not red, but pink flowers. Redbuds can grow up to 15 to 30 feet in height and the crown can reach 10 to 20 feet, which makes it the perfect understory tree species.

Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are attracted to the bright magenta flowers, and **many native species of bees rely on this early bloomer for survival**. Texas has three native varieties of redbuds: eastern redbud, Texas redbud, and Mexican redbud. Our Cross Timbers region is well suited for the Texas variety due to its drought tolerance and drier, more alkaline soils.



While the typical in-person **Redbud Festival** may be canceled this year, Keep Denton Beautiful (KDB) is still offering a few ways to celebrate our most beloved tree. KDB, in partnership with Texas Woman's University (TWU), will be sharing a designated campus **Redbud Route** along TWU's Dr. Bettye Myers Butterfly Garden. Walk the route and share your photos using the hashtag **#dentonredbuds**.

While you're out and about experiencing Denton's fantastic parks, help us create more future redbud routes across the city by mapping your own findings using the iNaturalist app: www.inaturalist.org/projects/denton-trees. These pink blossoms only last a short time between mid-March and May—**enjoy them before they're gone!**

FEATURED EVENTS

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Denton Public Library's annual **Summer Reading Challenge** will take place from May 27 to July 31.

Readers of all ages can sign up online at Denton.ReadSquared.com beginning May 27. No library card is required and people of all ages are encouraged to join the challenge.

HONEY RUN VIRTUAL 5K & 10K

Honey Run has gone virtual this year! Visit www.dentonparks.com to register for this free, virtual race.

Participants will receive a free T-shirt, but quantities are limited to first come, first served. Prizes will be raffled for those who complete the race.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to Quakertown Park for a socially distanced outdoor family movie night! Movies will begin around sunset.

April 23 - The Croods: A New Age (PG)
May 14 - Jumanji: The Next Level (PG-13)

For more spring and summer activities, visit www.dentonparks.com.

DENTON FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES OPENING OF REBUILT FIRE STATION 3 AND NEW FIRE STATION 8

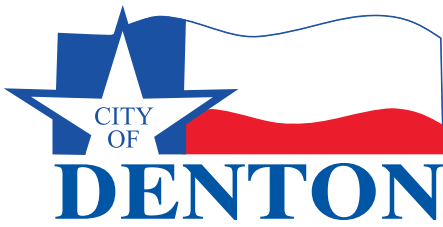


The Denton Fire Department (DFD) recently celebrated the grand opening of the newly rebuilt **Fire Station 3** (1401 Underwood St.) on Feb. 12. This four-bay, 16,000-square-foot station replaced the existing two-bay station that was built in 1970. The new station, which can house up to 12 firefighters, currently houses Engine 3 and Medic 3, a small Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting truck (ARFF 3), and a second Battalion Chief who supervises the stations on the west side of the city. Fire Station 3 is built for growth and will eventually house a second truck company.



Additionally, on Friday, Feb. 26, DFD opened the brand new **Fire Station 8** (3131 Colorado Blvd.). This is the first new fire station and engine company since Fire Station 7 opened for service in 2007. This two-bay, 8,400-square-foot station serves southeast Denton and houses Medic 8, the new Engine 8, and can house up to seven firefighters.

To learn more about the Denton Fire Department, including the location of all eight fire stations, visit www.dentonfire.com.



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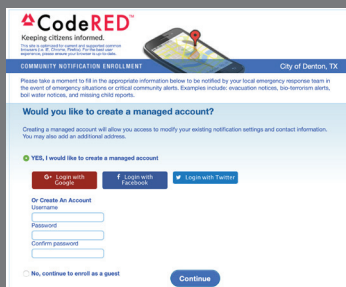
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE

CONNECT WITH US TO STAY UPDATED!

Want to know what's going on at the City of Denton? We've got you covered!
Follow our official communication channels to stay updated about what's happening in **your city**.

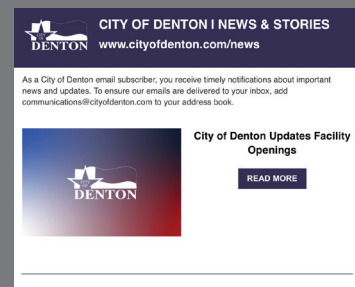
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www.cityofdenton.com/codered



Read City of Denton News & Stories
www.cityofdentonnews.com



Sign Up for Email Notifications
www.cityofdenton.com/stayupdated



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