

CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE

JULY | AUGUST 2019



PARKS AND REC PLANS FOR EXCITING IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW PARKS

Over the last several months, the City's Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) has been busy creating new parks and planning improvements for existing public spaces and amenities.

Last year, the Department began a playground replacement project that updated older neighborhood park playgrounds with newer equipment and shade structures. This year, PAR will replace the playgrounds at the **MLK Jr. Rec Center**, **Quakertown Park**, **Carl Gene Young Sr. Park**, **Nette Shultz Park**, and **McKenna Park**. The new **Patrick Park** in the Carnegie Ridge neighborhood will also include a new playground. These projects are scheduled to begin in August and continue through December.

The new **G. Roland Vela Athletic Complex** is nearing completion and is expected to open to the public in August. Next door to Vela is the upcoming **North Lakes Dog Park**, which will feature three active pens and is scheduled to open by the end of the year.

Additionally, City Council has approved construction for the **American Legion Hall Senior Center** renovation, which is now in the final design stages, and the new **North Lakes Park Tennis Center**, which is expected for completion in 2020.

Parks and Rec is also looking to the future of the Department and the City as they work on a **Master Plan** that will serve as a road map for the next 10 years. This Master Plan will focus on long-range priorities for existing and future parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and more.

To better understand what is important to the community, PAR has hosted multiple public input meetings, community open houses, and an online survey. Community input is a vital part of the Master Plan and will allow the Department to understand needs and where to focus funding in the next decade. To participate in the online survey, visit www.dentonparksmasterplan.com before the survey closes on Wednesday, July 31.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

DENTON CITY COUNCIL

- Monday, July 15 - Luncheon
- Tuesday, July 16 - Work Session & Council Meeting
- Tuesday, July 23 - Work Session
- Monday, Aug. 5 - Luncheon
- Tuesday, Aug. 6 - Work Session & Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Aug. 13 - Work Session
- Tuesday, Aug. 20 - Work Session & Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Aug. 27 - Work Session

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

- Monday, July 8
- Monday, July 22
- Monday, Aug. 12
- Monday, Aug. 26

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

- Wednesday, July 17
- Wednesday, Aug. 7
- Wednesday, Aug. 21

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

It is estimated that every day, 130 people die of an opioid overdose in the United States. The misuse of opioids, from prescription pain relievers to heroin, has become a national crisis that affects communities and families across the nation and our state.



Launched in 2001 by the Salvation Army in Melbourne, Australia, International Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise awareness of overdoses and reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths. It also spreads the message about the tragedy of drug-related death and that drug overdose is preventable. Community members, government, and nonprofit organizations hold hundreds of events each year around the world to raise awareness about addiction and overdose.

I am pleased to inform Denton residents that North Texas Overdose Awareness Day will be held on Saturday, Aug. 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the south lawn of the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square. This free event will provide resources and support for families struggling with addiction and commemorate those who have been lost to overdose. Please visit www.overdoseday.com for more information about this important cause.

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

CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHES DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

The Denton City Council recently established a new committee that will advise the Council and City staff on issues affecting people with disabilities. The Committee on Persons with Disabilities—an 11-person board established by ordinance in October 2018—held its first meeting in February of this year. The Committee advises the City on a range of matters relating to accessibility and accommodations for City projects and activities. These include, but are not limited to, the City’s Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan; new construction and repair of existing sidewalks, ramps, and crosswalk features; the planning and development of adaptive/handicap-accessible parks; incorporation of new or enhanced signage at City facilities; and parking lot rehabilitation.

This Committee’s advisory role is critical to the City and community as it allows for the continued inclusion of people with disabilities and their families. Members of the public are invited to attend or speak at the regular Committee meetings, which are held at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Questions regarding the committee can be sent to Marc Oliphant, staff liaison, at Marc.Oliphant@cityofdenton.com. For additional Committee information and a schedule of upcoming meetings, visit www.cityofdenton.com.

DENTON DEVELOPMENT CODE ADOPTED AND CITY-INITIATED ZONING CHANGES BEGIN

On April 23, City Council approved the 2019 Denton Development Code (DDC). The 2019 DDC replaces the previous development code that had been in place for 17 years. Throughout the process of updating the Code, the City held 17 work sessions, 23 public meetings, and provided notice to all property owners within the city limits. As a result of these activities, valuable public input was gathered and incorporated into the new Code. The 2019 DDC will go into effect on Oct. 1, 2019 with major changes that include:

- An improved code format for ease of use and greater clarity;
- Simplified development processes;
- Landscape and conservation standards that consolidate tree and landscape requirements;
- Neighborhood meeting requirements that increase transparency in the development process and provide neighborhoods the opportunity to ask questions and discuss projects;
- Simplified zoning categories and greater alignment of zoning districts with surrounding areas; and
- Greater flexibility in the application of Code requirements.

The adoption of a new Zoning Map to accompany the new DDC was delayed and will be considered by City Council on Aug. 6. This delay allows City staff to consider citizen comments as they review zoning changes, non-conforming uses and structures, and other zoning designations that are inconsistent with the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, the City-initiated zoning change process will evaluate areas where properties were recently annexed, never properly zoned, or where the zoning could better reflect the community’s vision of the area.

City Council will consider the City-initiated zoning changes in groups based on area or district type. Public hearings will be held for areas including I-35, US380, Loop 288, and locations around both universities. For a schedule of upcoming public hearings, visit www.dentoncode2030.com.

For more information regarding the 2019 DDC or proposed changes to the zoning map, visit www.dentoncode2030.com or call Development Services at (940) 349-8541.

CITY CONDUCTS SMOKE TESTING AS PART OF SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM SURVEY

The City is currently conducting a routine survey of its sanitary sewer system through smoke testing until Aug. 30. Smoke testing helps identify defective openings and poor or non-permitted connections in the City's sewer system that allow rainwater runoff to enter, decreasing the system's capacity and ability to handle normal flows. By finding and repairing these defects, the City is able to defer expensive infrastructure needs and reduce the burden on the utility system.

Smoke testing requires crews to access manholes and force air, combined with non-toxic smoke, into the sewer pipes. A defective opening is detected if smoke is seen coming up out of the ground or other unexpected locations. Residents may see smoke exit from rooftop vents on buildings, from manholes, and from the ground where broken sewer pipes may exist.

The smoke is non-toxic, creates no fire hazard, leaves no residue, dissipates quickly, and is harmless to animals. Those with respiratory issues may find the smoke to be irritating to breathe and should avoid close contact. The smoke will not enter a home or business unless there is defective plumbing present, or the drains have dried out. To help prepare your home for testing, pour about three cups of water into any seldom-used drain prior to the testing in your area.

Signs will be posted in areas where crews are actively smoke testing. Testing will occur on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. City of Denton Police and Fire Departments are aware of the areas where smoke testing will occur. Where repairs are needed on public assets, City crews will schedule repairs and notify homeowners in advance of the work. Due to the number of defects typically identified during this process, repairs may be scheduled several months after smoke testing is completed.



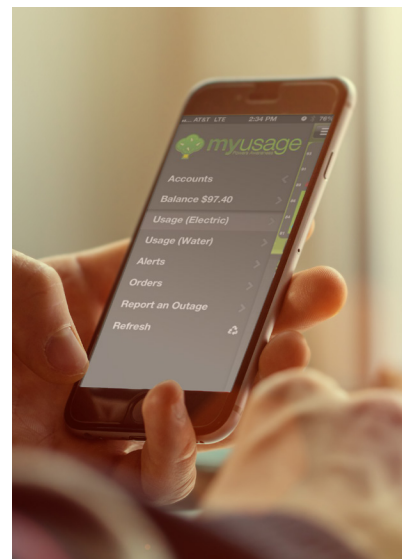
For additional information and answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.cityofdenton.com/water.

PAY AS YOU GO NOW AVAILABLE FOR UTILITY CUSTOMERS

The City of Denton now offers utility customers the opportunity to track and control how much energy they use and how much they want to spend on utilities each month. When you choose Pay As You Go with MyUsage, your utility bill becomes similar to putting gas in your car—when the gas tank gets low, it's time to refill it.

The MyUsage website and mobile app is a tool that lets you track your utility usage and shows how much money you have left on your prepaid account. When the account gets low, you'll get a notification to add more money. This frees you from late fees, deposits, and reconnect fees.

For additional information or to participate in the Pay As You Go program, call City of Denton Customer Service at (940) 349-8700 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and ask to be enrolled.



CITY SEEKING RESIDENT FEEDBACK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 BUDGET

Now that we're more than halfway through the current fiscal year, the City has begun preparing for next year's budget, which will go into effect on Oct. 1. The Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget process begins early, with staff members outlining their budget priorities in March and April. Developing a city budget is a collaborative process involving input from community members, City staff, and City Council, with the goal of delivering exceptional services and achieving the City's key priorities and strategic initiatives.

FY 2019-20 Budget Calendar:

Aug. 1 — 1st Budget Workshop

Aug. 6 — 2nd Budget Workshop

Aug. 20 — 1st Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Sept. 10 — 2nd Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Sept. 17 — City Council Adopts Budget

Beginning in August, the City will host a number of workshops and public hearings relating to the adoption of a budget and tax rate for the next fiscal year. At each meeting, community members will have the opportunity to provide feedback and input directly to the City Council and City staff.

In addition to public meetings, community members may submit online comments to the City at www.cityofdenton.com/budget. Submissions received from this site will be reviewed by City staff and communicated to City Council as part of the budgeting process. Over the next couple of months, staff will also be promoting the online submission option to encourage participation from the community.

PARKS AND REC TO DISCONTINUE USE OF GLYPHOSATE HERBICIDE IN CITY-OWNED PUBLIC PARKS AND SPACES

The City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department will soon end its use of glyphosate herbicide, the active ingredient in the commercial product commonly known as Round Up®. This decision will apply to all land maintained by the City and includes all park land, and lands surrounding the libraries, fire stations, and City Hall buildings.

Council expressed concern about the environmental impact of the herbicide and questioned what could be done to limit its use. Parks and Rec created a focus group, which included specialists from the University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University, Texas A&M AgriLife, Denton County Beekeepers Association, Master Naturalists and Gardeners, and other local stakeholders to assist in this effort. City Council approved the decision to end the use of the herbicide on May 7 of this year.

In addition to ending the use of glyphosate, the City is piloting a study at Denia Park for an all-organic maintenance program. Denia was selected for its variety of park features that include ballfields, open space, a recreation center, and landscaping. The "Dirt Doctor," Howard Garrett, is working with the City on this yearlong study.

The Integrated Pest Management Program, which dictates what herbicides to use, will also increase grass fertilization on City-maintained land to improve the health of the natural turf. Grass growth naturally inhibits weed growth. Increased growth and improvement in the turf will result in additional watering and mowing needs. While some weeds will remain, the City's goal is to maintain a level of service that provides a positive resident and user experience. Going forward, City staff will work to create a comprehensive integrated pest management approach for the City.

IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE FOR DOWNTOWN DENTON

If it has been a while since you found your way to the Square, you are in for a treat. Throughout the last year, a number of great things have been happening in Downtown Denton. You will notice new wayfinding signs, updated sidewalks, additional lighting, and new businesses alongside your favorites.

The City's wayfinding project involved installation of new larger, easy-to-read signs for vehicles and pedestrians. Directional signs, parking lot identification signs, and new information kiosks have been installed throughout the Downtown area. The new information kiosks, located at the Hickory Street parking lot and the Cedar Street parking lot, feature details about upcoming events and maps to help with pedestrian navigation.

To enhance walkability and pedestrian safety, the City Council approved the use of \$1.46 million from the Downtown Tax Increment Financing Fund to install additional street lighting and make sidewalk repairs and accessibility updates on West Oak, West Hickory, North Elm, and North Locust Streets in the Downtown core.



Jupiter House Coffee and clothing and accessories store La Di Da recently re-opened after being closed due to smoke damage from a fire in December 2017. The remodeling of More Fun Comics was made possible when the Lion and Crown restaurant moved in next door, which included a complete overhaul of the exterior of 101 W. Hickory St.

Additional remodeling is happening at Rubber Gloves Rehearsal Studio, which is scheduled to open in late summer, and existing businesses Le Muse Vintage and Steve's Wine Bar moved into new locations. Also, Half Pint Children's Boutique, La Rose Maison Art Gallery, and Gnome Cones all recently opened. With a planned renovation of the Fine Arts Theatre and a new open-air music and food venue called H2Oak in the works, you can expect to see more updates coming to the Downtown area in the coming months.

While business is growing Downtown, the City has adopted Denton Square Design Standards to preserve and build upon the image of the Square as the historic, vibrant, small-town heart of a growing city. These standards guide the look and feel of current and future buildings in and around the Square and protect the architecture of Downtown Denton.

ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR SET FOR AUG. 10

The second annual Denton Back to School Fair will be held on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the UNT Gateway Center (800 N. Texas Blvd.). The Back to School Fair event is designed to help local families and students be prepared for their first day of school with a new backpack and school supplies. In addition to providing access to resources for families to have a healthy start to the school year, the program includes health education resources, free vision screenings, hearing exams, haircuts, and more. Families must register students to receive supplies at the fair by Friday, July 19. For additional information and to register, visit www.dentonbacktoschool.org.



The nonprofit organizations coordinating the event are seeking contributions to serve the children and families that need these resources. Donations can be made online at www.dentonbacktoschool.org. Every \$20 donated will provide a backpack and school supplies for one student.

FEATURED EVENTS

JULY 5

FAMILY FUN MOVIE AT THE LIBRARY

Friday, July 5 at 3:30 p.m. - *The LEGO Movie 2*
 Friday, Aug. 2 at 3:30 p.m. - *How to Train Your Dragon 3*
 South Branch Library - 3228 Teasley Ln.

Friday, July 12 at 4 p.m. - *Frozen*
 Friday, Aug. 9 at 4 p.m. - *Ralph Breaks the Internet*
 North Branch Library - 3020 N. Locust St.

Bring the family to the library and enjoy a feature film presentation this summer! For all ages.

JULY 19

DIVE-IN MOVIE AT WATER WORKS PARK

Friday, July 19 - *Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone*
 Water Works Park - 2400 Long Rd.

Join us for an outdoor movie at the wave pool! Gates will open at 8 p.m. and tickets will be \$10 per person, which includes public swim time in the wave pool and/or children's pool until 9 p.m. and admission to the movie. Discounted \$5 admission will be available for WWP season pass holders. For all ages.

JULY 26

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE CELEBRATION

Friday, July 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 North Branch Library - 3020 N. Locust St.
 Friday, July 26 from 3 to 5 p.m.
 Emily Fowler Central Library - 502 Oakland St.
 South Branch Library - 3228 Teasley Ln.

To celebrate the end of another great Summer Reading Challenge, come to any Denton Public Library location and enjoy small crafts and activities. For all ages.

AUG. 17

CLEAR THE SHELTERS ADOPTION EVENT

Saturday, Aug. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Linda McNatt Animal Care & Adoption Center
 3717 N. Elm St.

Each year, hundreds of animal shelters come together to host Clear the Shelters, a nationwide pet adoption drive. The goal of this initiative is to find loving homes for animals in need at a critical time of year when shelters are typically at capacity.

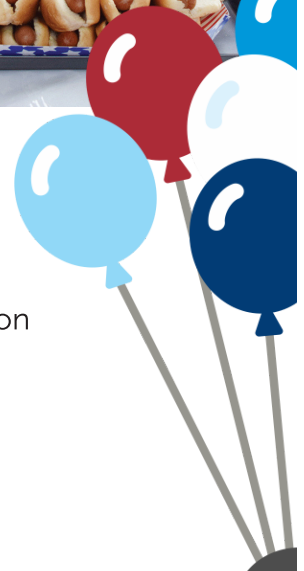


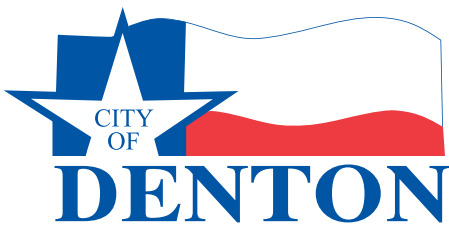
Fourth of July

Special Event Activity Start Times

- Liberty Run and Walk | Denton Civic Center, 7:30 a.m.
- Yankee Doodle Parade | Downtown Denton, 9 a.m.
- Free Family Fun Jubilee | Denton Civic Center, 10 a.m.-noon
- Hot Dog Eating Competition | Denton Civic Center, 11:30 a.m.
- Dollar Day at the Pool | Civic Center Pool, noon-6 p.m.
- Kiwanis Club Fireworks | Apogee Stadium, 9:30 p.m.

Learn more at www.dentonparks.com.





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