

2020
AUGUST | SEPTEMBER

CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE

CITY OF DENTON CONTINUES RESPONSE TO COVID-19 WITH ADAPTED SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

When the COVID-19 outbreak reached our community, the City of Denton acted quickly to assist our most vulnerable populations. When shelters for those experiencing homelessness had to close due to the lack of safe social distancing, the City took immediate action to find an alternate temporary shelter arrangement for those individuals.

For those at risk of becoming homeless, the City partnered with United Way of Denton County and donated \$50,000 to start a local Eviction Prevention Fund. After the fund was established, Denton County and other community stakeholders have come together to contribute significant financial resources and it has grown to become a major resource for residents in need of mortgage, rent, and utility assistance. To date, the fund has helped to keep 937 Denton County families in their homes, including 277 families within the Denton city limits.

In addition to funding, City employees volunteered to assist local nonprofits who were struggling with a decrease in volunteers due to COVID-19. City employees helped to prepare meals, assist with childcare, and provide translation services. From March 18 to June 21, 169 City employees filled 565 shifts and worked a total of 2,094 hours at Our Daily Bread, Grace Like Rain, Monsignor King Outreach Center, and the Denton Community Food Center.



FINANCIAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The City of Denton also took early action to manage the City budget to ensure core services would continue to be available in spite of the uncertainty of the financial

impacts of the pandemic. In an effort to provide the City additional time to evaluate the budget in the next quarter, a number of cost containment measures were swiftly implemented. Starting in March, some of the City's first financial responses were to:

- forecast the possible impact of the pandemic;
- delay and/or reprioritize capital projects;
- implement a temporary hiring freeze;
- cease non-critical travel and training; and
- analyze contracts for possible savings.

In April, the City launched a voluntary program to provide employees wishing to leave the organization—whether for retirement, career change, or other personal reasons—the opportunity to do so prior to the City considering any further employee reduction measures. This program was successful in capturing cost savings while ensuring enough staffing in key areas to maintain the level of service the community needs, and providing additional flexibility for the next year's budget.

HOW TO FIND ASSISTANCE

The City also partnered with United Way of Denton County to provide funding to expand their Information and Referral program, allowing them to dedicate more time, staff, and resources to those affected by the pandemic. Community members can contact United Way and receive help navigating critical services, such as federal loans, state unemployment services, CARES Act programs, housing, legal services, and more.

If you are an individual or business and need assistance, contact United Way of Denton County by calling (940) 566-2688, emailing info@unitedwaydenton.org, or filling out an online form at [unitedwaydenton.org/info](https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/info).

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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 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, in-person attendance will not be permitted at Denton City Hall.

Certain meetings will accommodate and receive public input on eligible agenda items. Citizens are able to participate using a number of 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



Much has changed in the months since my last message to you in one of our *Resident Update* newsletters. We now find ourselves in a new reality with COVID-19 still impacting our community and the people who live and work here. During this time, our City strives to continue to provide critical services, even as we, like many of you, have dealt with the pandemic and its effect on the local economy.

Now comes the time where we look to the next budget year, prioritize our needs, and set a 12-month course for our local government. While the budget cycle presents its own unique challenges each year—usually weighing one set of projects versus another all the while ensuring we're wisely using the funds entrusted to us by the community—this year will be decidedly different. The Council and City staff have fought hard over the previous months to continue the safe provision of City services. Compared to other cities in the DFW Metroplex, the budget restraint we have exercised over the previous 3 to 4 years, coupled with our aggressive approach to utilizing federal stimulus funding, has enabled the City to continue to provide programs, services, and construction that enhance and improve our community.

As we move forward and consider our next budget, I ask that you participate in two vitally important processes.

First, I ask that you attend a budget hearing or reach out to your Council members and share with us what you feel are our priorities as a City. We are your representatives and decisions such as these are best made with a considerable amount of resident input. More information on these opportunities can be found at www.cityofdenton.com/budget.

Second, I implore you to complete the 2020 Census before Oct. 31. The amount of federal funding that I spoke of earlier is based solely on our population (as are many other sources of federal funding). Without a complete count of all Denton residents in this year's Census, we will not receive our fair share of federal funding allocations in the future. You have a direct impact on the amount of federal funding we receive. Please visit www.2020census.gov and be counted.

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

CITY TO HOLD COUNCIL ELECTIONS NOV. 3

As a result of COVID-19, the Saturday, May 2, 2020 General and Special elections were postponed and rescheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3. The purpose of this election is to elect candidates to City Council Districts 1 and 2 (known as single-member districts), with only qualified voters residing in that district being eligible to vote, and also to elect candidates to City Council Places 5, 6, and 7/Mayor (known as at-large seats), wherein any qualified voter in the city may vote for one candidate in each of those places.

WHAT CITY COUNCIL SEATS ARE UP FOR ELECTION?

The following are the City Council seats up for election. A complete list of candidates can be found at www.cityofdenton.com/vote.

General Election

Place 5 (At Large)
Place 6 (At Large)
Place 7 - Mayor (At Large)

Special Election

District 1 (Single Member)
District 2 (Single Member)



HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

You will need to register through the Denton County Elections Administration. To learn more, visit www.cityofdenton.com/vote. The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 3 elections is Monday, Oct. 5.

WHAT DISTRICT AM I IN?

To find your voting district, visit www.cityofdenton.com/vote, click "Which District Am I In," and enter your physical address. If you have any problems locating your information, contact the Denton County Elections Administration at (940) 349-3200.

WHAT IS MY VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBER?

To find your Voter Registration Number, visit the Denton County Elections Administration website at www.votedenton.com and click "Voter Lookup." Having your Voter Registration Number readily available when going to vote is extremely helpful when inquiring where you will vote or getting a determination on the status of your voter registration. You can also find the number on your Voter Registration Card. If you have any problems locating your information, contact the Denton County Elections Administration at (940) 349-3200.

WHERE AND WHEN DO I VOTE EARLY FOR THE ELECTION?

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

WHERE AND WHEN DO I VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, NOV. 3?

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 las elecciones 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.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MOVES TO CITY HALL

The City's Development Services Department has temporarily relocated to City Hall (215 E. McKinney St.) and is now open for in-person services by appointment. All development application types are currently being accepted electronically. To schedule an appointment, call (940) 349-8360. For the most up-to-date information about how you can do business with Development Services, call (940) 349-8360 or visit www.dentondevelopmentservices.com.

CITY SEEKING RESIDENT FEEDBACK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET

Though the calendar year begins on Jan. 1, the City's fiscal year begins annually on the first day of October. In preparation for each new fiscal year, the City's Finance Department works with all departments in the City to develop their anticipated budgets over the next twelve months. That process has officially started for development of the FY 2020-21 budget.

Beginning in late July, departments began presenting their preliminary budgets to the City Council and Public Utilities Board. Each of these presentations sets the framework for the City Manager's proposed budget that is presented to Council during a budget workshop on Aug. 6. 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.

Throughout August and September, the City will host a workshop and public hearing related to the adoption of the 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. Citizens are encouraged to watch and participate in the City's budget meetings as we work to adopt the 2020 tax rate and FY 2020-21 operating and capital budget.

FY 2020-21 BUDGET CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUG. 6

City Manager's proposed budget presented to City Council.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

Public hearing regarding the proposed tax rate and budget.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 15

Budget and tax rate adoption.

THURSDAY, OCT. 1

2020-21 Fiscal Year officially begins.

Shop local. We're in this together.

Local businesses need your support more now than ever.



Get it to go. Order directly from local restaurants and bars for to-go or curbside pickup.



Share positive reviews. Share your positive experience shopping with your favorite local businesses by leaving reviews on Yelp, Google, Facebook, and social media sites.



Buy in advance. Purchase gift cards or services from local businesses to use at a future date to help them stay afloat.



Stay looped in. Keep up with your memberships and services that are still offered online.

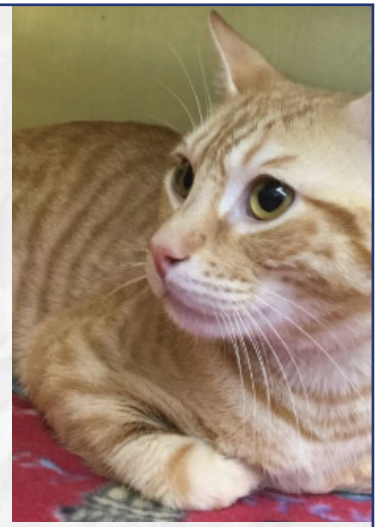


Follow along. Local businesses are online and sharing specific ways you can support them in-person or online.



Say thank you. When shopping at local businesses, be kind and express gratitude for the work they are doing so you can Shop Local.

Find more at www.ShopDentonTexas.com or   @SHOPDentonTexas



Clear the Shelter This August!

Half-priced (\$30) Adoptions Aug. 17-19 | Free Adoptions Aug. 20-22

All animals are up to date on shots, neutered/spayed, and microchipped.

To visit an animal, you must make an appointment. You can begin making appointments for Clear the Shelter on Monday, Aug. 10. One family/appointment will be allowed in the shelter at a time.

Call 940-349-7594 to make an appointment or sponsor an adoption!

www.dentonanimalshelter.com



COUNCIL APPROVES PILOT PROGRAM FOR DOWNTOWN PARKLETS AND STREATERIES

New features could be coming to public spaces in the downtown area! The Denton City Council recently approved a six-month pilot program to allow parklets and streateries in certain public spaces downtown.

WHAT ARE PARKLETS AND STREATERIES, YOU ASK?

A parklet is a temporary, constructed public space installed in a parking spot or loading zone intended to serve as outdoor seating, but can also include other amenities such as shade structures. A streaterie is much like a parklet, but it is reserved for the use of the adjacent restaurant during their business hours—just like a sidewalk café, but not on the sidewalk. When the business who maintains the streaterie is closed, it works just like a parklet—free for everyone to use!



Features like these are popping up in downtown spaces across the nation and a pilot program will allow the City to see if they will work well for Denton. Parklets and streateries will be allowed throughout the duration of the pilot program in downtown areas except for on Elm, Hickory, Locust, and Oak Streets.

For additional information and to apply for the pilot program, visit www.cityofdenton.com/parklets.

KDB TO PROVIDE 600 FREE TREES TO DENTON RESIDENTS AT ANNUAL GIVEAWAY OCT. 24

Keep Denton Beautiful, Inc. (KDB), a nonprofit partner of the City of Denton, will offer free trees to Denton residents at its annual Community Tree Giveaway on Saturday, Oct. 24. The Community Tree Giveaway is KDB's largest and longest-running tree distribution effort, and 2020 marks the 22nd year of the one-day giveaway event. By participating in programs like the Tree Giveaway, Denton residents enhance Denton's urban tree canopy and help our city thrive environmentally and economically.

To receive a tree, Denton residents must register via www.kdb.org beginning Thursday, Oct. 1. There is a maximum of one tree per Denton household. Spots are limited on a first come, first served basis. Registration will close once all spots are filled.

A total of 600 trees will be distributed, with eight different species offered, all of which are drought-tolerant, and native or well-adapted for Denton soils and climate. Information about the available tree species and tree planting and care resources for this year's giveaway can all be found at www.kdb.org.

On the day of the giveaway, proof of Denton residency will be required (I.D. or utility bill). Trees will be placed in vehicles by KDB volunteers in a drive-thru fashion to help quickly move traffic. This year, additional health and safety protocols will be implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For more information about the Community Tree Giveaway, visit www.kdb.org or call (940) 349-8737.

AVAILABLE TREE SPECIES:

Autumn Blaze Maple
Drummond Red Maple
Dura Heat River Birch
Mexican White Oak
Mexican Sycamore
Nellie R. Stevens Holly
Southern Wax Myrtle
Shumard Oak



NEW AUTOMATED PHONE LINE FOR YARD WASTE

Customer Service has introduced a new, self-service option for Solid Waste pickup requests, available in English and Spanish. Customers can skip the lines and wait time to get things scheduled or opt in or out of yard waste service in minutes using the automated phone line, (940) 349-8740.

- Opt-in to the yard waste program (kraft bags or brown carts)
- Opt-out of the yard waste program
- Schedule a collection for more than four cubic yards of yard waste brush (about four washing machines)
- Schedule a collection for no more than 25 plastic trash bags of leaves twice per year

For next day collection, customers can place a collection request the day before their collection day by 7 p.m. Requests made after 7 p.m. will be scheduled for their next week's collection day.

To learn more about collection and yard waste service options, visit www.cityofdenton.com/yardwaste.

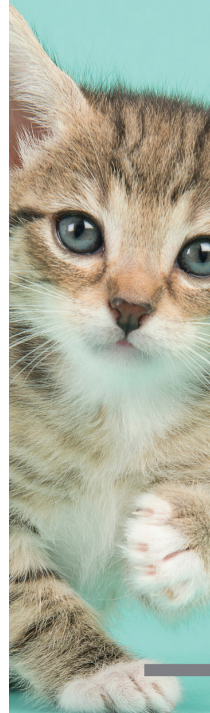
Foster with the Denton Animal Shelter

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The shelter is always looking for more people willing to foster cats and dogs. The animals typically needing fostering are bottle-fed kittens, nursing mama's, animals recovering from surgery, and those not handling the shelter stress.

Fosters have all food, crates, litter, etc. supplied.

To learn more and fill out an application, email Gayla.Nelsen@cityofdenton.com.



DENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW "TAKE ME HOME" PROGRAM

When a loved one goes missing, every moment counts – especially for individuals with Autism, Alzheimer's Disease, and other conditions. The Take Home Program, a free service recently launched by the Denton Police Department, allows caregivers to voluntarily provide essential details and photos of loved ones who may have difficulty communicating in the event they are alone or experiencing an emergency.

The Take Me Home Program can help save precious time when it matters most. In the event your loved one goes missing, first responders will already have a recent photo and vital information to help bring them home safely and quickly. The program also works in reverse—If someone is found who cannot identify themselves, public safety personnel can search their name or description in the secure Take Me Home system. While Take Me Home is particularly designed to help individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities, anyone who may struggle to identify themselves to first responders can be registered.

Participating in the program is easy!

- Visit www.cityofdenton.com/takemehome to learn more and to access the online registration form in English or Spanish.
- Provide a recent photo and detailed information about your loved one, such as their emergency contact(s), favorite places, likes, and dislikes.
- The submitted form will be saved in a secure database that is accessible only to public safety personnel.
- Opt-in to receive annual email reminders to update the registrant's photo and details.



Communities across the U.S. have seen great success after implementing this program. To learn more, visit www.cityofdenton.com/takemehome. If you have any questions, email dentonpolice@cityofdenton.com.

YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

How can I learn more about my local police department and become more involved?

Once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, many of the opportunities for community involvement in the Police Department will return. You can request a tour of the Department, or even apply to ride out with an officer! You can also enroll in our Citizen's Police Academy, which is one of the best ways to really get to know the ins and outs of the City of Denton Police Department. You can also call and have your district officer come out and meet with you one on one or to your neighborhood group. We want to hear what is important to you, not what we think is important for your neighborhood. We typically offer community events once a month where you can mingle with officers ask questions. Lastly, be sure to follow us on social media! We always post the dates for community events and classes on our channels, along with press releases and traffic alerts.

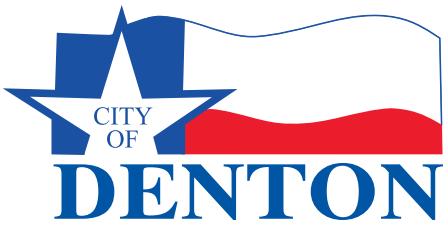
What are some pro tips to protect myself from burglary?

Unfortunately, burglaries happen, and it is smart to be proactive to protect yourself from these sorts of crimes. The Denton Police Department took 372 burglary reports in 2019.

Our top tip to prevent vehicle burglaries is to always lock your car doors and take any belongings with you. Burglars prefer to target unlocked cars, as they are less likely to be caught from the sound of breaking glass. They also tend to target cars when they know the reward is high (e.g. They're more likely to break into a vehicle where valuables are visible, than a vehicle that appears empty). For added security, park in front of a working security camera. This way, if a burglary does happen, we have a better chance of catching the culprit.

For your home, our pro tip is similar: lock your doors and your windows. A lot of times windows are forgotten, but trust us, this one is important! For added security, a working home security system or simple motion-activated floodlights are both great deterrents.

And just remember, if you see someone actively burglarizing your car or home, be sure to call 911 and your Denton Police Officers will be on their way!



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Denton, TX
Permit No. 438
ECRWSS

*******ECRWSS**EDDM

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

2020
AUGUST | SEPTEMBER

CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE

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Email Notifications



www.cityofdentonnews.com



RECYCLABLE
IN THE
CITY OF DENTON