



**2021**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

# CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE



Pet Mayor Elvis

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Meet Denton's First Pet Mayor
- Library Updates Forge Makerspace
- Provide Feedback on the City Budget
- What's New at Denton PD?
- All About Roundabouts
- and more!

[www.cityofdenton.com](http://www.cityofdenton.com)

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City of Denton offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6 in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

## DENTON CITY COUNCIL

**Gerard Hudspeth**, Mayor  
Gerard.Hudspeth@cityofdenton.com

**Vicki Byrd**, District 1  
Vicki.Byrd@cityofdenton.com

**Brian Beck**, District 2  
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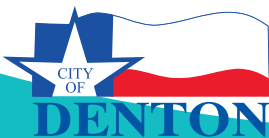
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**Not sure who your Council Member is?**  
Visit [www.cityofdenton.com/council](http://www.cityofdenton.com/council), click on "Find Your Council Member" in the menu bar, and enter your physical address.



## FROM THE MAYOR GERARD HUDSPETH



Fall is coming around the corner and in this college town we know what that means—a bit more traffic, busier restaurants, and maybe a little more noise from that house down the street on a Friday night. It's easy to lament the start of school and the oncoming masses of students, faculty, and staff from our institutions of higher learning: TWU, UNT, and NCTC. This may be especially true, given the remote nature of the previous academic year.

It may also be just as easy to forget the central role these institutions play in our community. Quite simply, **we aren't us without them**. It's true though! These 100 year old institutions that call Denton home are a cornerstone of our history—our histories are intertwined.

- They bring in **NEW PEOPLE with NEW IDEAS**;
- Contribute to our **UNIQUE COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE**; and
- Add to our **CULTURE, boost our LOCAL ECONOMY, and bring NATIONAL NOTORIETY to Li'D.**

These institutions are a **guiding light in innovation and leadership**. They are training the next generation of business and community leaders, and contributing to organizations that drive our state and nation forward. While many students will go far and achieve great things, many will choose to keep their remarkable accomplishments local—**contributing to the fabric of our city as residents, business leaders, and community leaders**.

Finally, we can't deny the benefits that our three institutions provide us as residents. **Top tier athletics, beautiful open space and architecture, and amenities that don't exist just for the enjoyment of the students**. This fall, I want to encourage you to get out and explore our campuses starting with a list of my personal favorites!

## Backyard Benefits Checklist:

- Have lunch at the new UNT Union
- Visit TWU's Texas Woman's Hall of Fame
- See the stars at the UNT Sky Theater Planetarium
- Take in a One O'Clock Lab Band show
- Support one of our many hometown teams
- Visit TWU's Redbud Trail, Botanical Garden, & Butterfly Garden
- Check out NCTC's new Exchange campus in downtown Denton



Our universities, the faculty, and the students are **as Denton as they come**. 2020 wasn't the same without them, so join me in welcoming them back for the 2021-22 school year!

## GET TO KNOW ELVIS, THE CITY'S FIRST PET MAYOR

Playful, curious, adventurous, adorable—it's hard to choose which word best describes **Elvis, the City's first-ever Pet Mayor**.



After winning the popular vote in the inaugural Pet Mayor contest on the City's new engagement website, [www.discussdenton.com](http://www.discussdenton.com), Elvis, a 6-year-old AKC Standard Poodle, was elected to represent the Denton community as the 2021-22 City of Denton Pet Mayor.

Whether he's making an appearance at local events, riding on a float in a parade through town, or just being friendly on a walk with his owners, Angie and Ernie Stripling, in downtown

Denton, Elvis is a champion at bringing the community together.

### *What is Elvis up to next?*

You never know! Our Pet Mayor Elvis is full of surprises and has so much to offer our community, so we will be watching right along with you!

Whether he's showing up to visit students at local schools and organizations, or comforting adults and children as a trained therapy dog, Elvis' fun and friendly personality is the ultimate expression of the City's values and character.

Get to know Pet Mayor Elvis better and stay updated on his journey at [www.discussdenton.com/petmayor](http://www.discussdenton.com/petmayor) and follow him on Instagram and Facebook.

Pet Mayor Elvis encourages you to find your furry companion and new best friend at the City of Denton Animal Shelter today! To learn more and see a current list of adoptable pets, visit [www.dentonanimalshelter.com](http://www.dentonanimalshelter.com).



## PET MAYOR ELVIS FUN FACTS

- Elvis is a registered member of Therapy Dogs International.
- Elvis has lived in Denton his entire life with his parents Ernie and Angie.
- He is well traveled and has friends from coast to coast.
- Elvis' popularity has grown over the years, much like his size.
- As a dog of many talents, Elvis is extremely photogenic and has his own social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram.
- Elvis knows basic obedience commands and tricks.

## LIBRARY UPDATES FORGE MAKERSPACE AT NORTH BRANCH

Whether you want to get crafty or want to indulge in tech, the expanded **Forge Makerspace at North Branch Library** has more equipment now than ever to help you create, solder, laser cut, code, and more! The Forge recently stocked up on **new machinery**, including a laminator, laser engravers, a desktop CNC machine, new 3D printers, a 3D scanner, and more!

If you're new to using these types of machines, the library hosts classes to help you learn how to safely use the equipment. Attend the library's monthly 3D Printer Orientation class to learn how to find 3D project templates, modify project files, or design your own project. The library will also teach you how to use the Glowforge Laser Engraver, which

allows you to cut, engrave, or score proofgrade wood or acrylic sheets to create gifts, home decor, jewelry, awards, keepsakes, and tools. To see a list of all the equipment at the Forge and more information on how to use it, visit [bit.ly/DPLForge](http://bit.ly/DPLForge). For a list of upcoming classes at the Forge, visit [bit.ly/DentonLibraryEvents](http://bit.ly/DentonLibraryEvents).

*\*New makerspace furniture and equipment is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Grant #LS-246193-OLS-20).*



# CITY SEEKING FEEDBACK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET

The City's fiscal year begins annually on the first day of October. In preparation for each new year, the City's Finance Department works with all other City departments to develop their anticipated budgets over the next twelve months. That process has officially started for development of the FY 2021-22 budget.

Beginning in June, departments presented 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, which is presented to Council during a budget workshop on Aug. 2. 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**. To view the budget presentations, visit the Preliminary FY 21-22 Budget page of our website at [www.cityofdenton.com/proposedbudget](http://www.cityofdenton.com/proposedbudget).

Community members may also submit online comments to the City at [www.cityofdenton.com/proposedbudget](http://www.cityofdenton.com/proposedbudget). 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 comment option to encourage participation from the community. Residents are encouraged to watch and participate in the City's budget meetings as we work to adopt the 2022 tax rate and FY 2021-22 operating and capital budget.

## FY 2021-22 BUDGET CALENDAR

### MONDAY, AUG. 2

Budget workshop with City Council.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 14

Public hearing regarding the proposed tax rate and budget.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 21

Budget and tax rate adoption.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 1

FY 2021-22 officially begins.

## VOLUNTEER FOR STREAM CLEAN AND HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each fall, hundreds of volunteers come together to improve the environmental health of our community during the **Stream Clean, City of Denton's annual waterway cleanup**. Join fellow Dentonites on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to noon to help us keep our waterways clean.

With the help of volunteers, **thousands of pounds of litter are removed from our local watershed**, which could otherwise travel along our local waterways and contaminate essential bodies of water, such as Lake Lewisville.



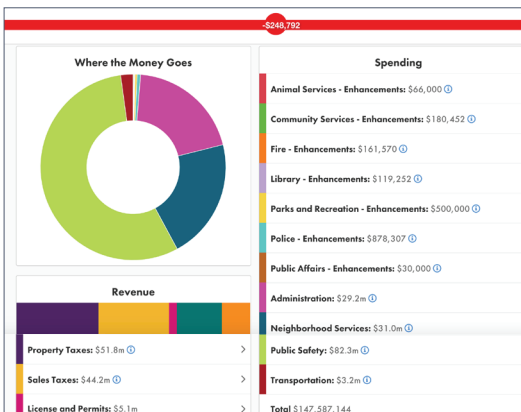
**Each piece of litter removed helps improve the environment and the water we drink.**

Before the litter cleanup, head over to the Denton Civic Center plaza (321 E. McKinney St.) for a **Volunteer Appreciation Party** with a free breakfast at 8 a.m.! Enjoy music and a warm-up led by fitness staff from Denton Parks & Recreation. Day-of registration will also be available during the party from 8 to 9 a.m.

**Volunteers of all ages and experience levels are welcome to participate.**

To register, visit [www.bitly.com/denton-volunteer](http://www.bitly.com/denton-volunteer) by Thursday, Oct. 7. Registration is open to both individuals and groups. Participants receive **free litter cleanup supplies and a free event T-shirt (while supplies last)**. For questions or to register over the phone, call (940) 349-8737.

Stream Clean is sponsored by the City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department, Keep Denton Beautiful, Water Utilities Department, Watershed Protection, Environmental Services, Sustainability, and the Solid Waste and Recycling Department.



For this budget year, the City has launched a pilot program for residents to get a glimpse into how our budget process works. This program is a budget simulation tool called **Balancing Act**, where residents can pick which supplemental items should be funded out of the City's General Fund. Supplemental items include additional staff for departments such as Police, Community Services, Library, and much more. Using Balancing Act, you can build your budget by selecting which supplemental items you'd like to fund and then submit your proposed budget to our Finance Department for review. To build your own City budget, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/proposedbudget](http://www.cityofdenton.com/proposedbudget).

# HAPPY TRAILS

**It's No Surprise That Trails Make Us Happy!**

The benefits of walking, hiking, & biking are well-documented and it comes as no surprise that trails are the #1 requested recreation resource for passive, moderate, and intense recreation/exercise.

## City resources to help you hit the trails.

Explore Denton Parks using the all NEW ESRI StoryMap, or simply access one of the many PDF trail maps at [www.dentonparks.com](http://www.dentonparks.com).

Already there? Just visit Denton Parks at [www.AllTrails.com](http://www.AllTrails.com) to access pre-developed routes, maps, trail photos, reviews, and MUCH more. It's mobile and SUPER easy to use!



**APPS  
MAPS  
& MORE**

**Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center**

Lower Prairie Trail	.86 miles
Yucca Trail	.11 miles
Quarry Trail	.14 miles
Wetlands Trail	1.86 miles
Bottomlands Trail	.72 miles
Confluence Trail	.11 miles
Bois d'Arc Trail	.20 miles
Fisherman's Trail	.56 miles
Davis Prairie Trail	.82 miles
Davis Connector	.12 miles
Creekside Trail	.76 miles
Cottonwood Trail	.23 miles

**Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center**

- Collins Gate Entrance**  
310 Collins Rd.  
Main entrance with a gravel parking lot and two paved handicap parking spaces.
- Hartlee Field Gate Entrance**  
5792 Hartlee Field Rd.  
Gravel parking lot, public restrooms, and pavilions, are expected to open fall 2021.
- Porta-Potty**
- Floodplain**  
Extent of wetlands depends on rainfall.

**NEW Denton Mountain Bike Trails**  
The mountain bike trails and Hartlee Field Rd. parking lot are expected to open fall 2021.

For the full map and more trail resources, visit us online at [www.dentonparks.com](http://www.dentonparks.com).

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE DENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT?



To better meet the needs of everyone in our growing community, the Denton Police Department continues to make critical enhancements in how we serve you. While not an exhaustive list, a few recent changes and how they impact our community are highlighted below:

**Launch of Co-Responder Mental Health Program** – The Mental Health Division, led by a civilian program manager and a sergeant, is composed of the Homeless Outreach Team and the Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT). These teams aim **to serve our most vulnerable community members with compassion and steadfastness** by connecting those in a serious mental health crisis or experiencing homelessness with help.

This unit also strives to **reduce arrests of people suffering from mental illness** while increasing the likelihood they will receive mental health services. CIRT is a co-responder program that partners each officer with a clinician, who respond together in plain clothing. Since May, CIRT has been responding to calls and conducting follow-ups with positive feedback from those they serve.



**Proactive Enforcement Efforts** – Denton PD continues to listen to and address areas of concern from residents, including violent crime and intoxicated drivers. As mentioned in the last edition of *Resident Update*, a **proactive gun violence initiative** has led to the seizure of numerous guns that were used during criminal offenses or were illegally possessed or carried. Violent offenses where a gun was displayed, used, or discharged continue to be thoroughly investigated and will not be tolerated in our community.

Additionally, Denton PD is committed to discouraging individuals from driving while intoxicated (DWI)

through strategic prevention, enforcement, and prosecution. This would not be possible without the help of community members, as nearly half of DWI arrests in Denton occur after someone calls 911. Denton PD greatly appreciates the public's assistance in addressing this issue and keeping our roads safe.

**Temporary Headquarters** – As part of the voter-approved 2019 bond program, Denton PD has temporarily moved within City Hall East (601 E. Hickory St.) to Suite F. The Utilities Customer Service lobby is currently shared with Police while PD facilities are renovated. Visit this shared lobby to speak with an officer, request a police report, and more.

The Police Department's drug disposal bin has also moved to the Customer Service lobby. If you have expired or unused medications at home, help prevent misuse by disposing of medications in the bin from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Accreditation Process** – The Police Department is currently seeking accreditation through the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) "Best Practices" Agency Recognition Program. To become accredited, Denton PD must comply with all 170 best practices identified by TPCA for law enforcement agencies. These best practices assist agencies like Denton PD in the **efficient and effective delivery of service, the reduction of risk, and the protection of individuals' rights**. It is expected that Denton PD will achieve accreditation later this year.

**Denton PD remains committed to making Denton a safe, sustainable, and livable city for everyone, by keeping victims safe and holding offenders accountable.**

**Chief of Police Advisory Board** – In the summer of 2020, the Denton City Council created an ad hoc use-of-force committee of community members to review Denton PD's response-to-resistance policies and engage in dialogue. The committee held 10 meetings and concluded its work with a recommendation to create an advisory board to the Chief of Police.

The advisory board, which is composed of 11 voting members and five ex-officio members, began meeting in June. The advisory board's purpose is to provide feedback, advice, and recommendations to the Police Chief in various areas, including policy, training, and community engagement.

The work of improving our service to the community is never done. In addition to these updates, the department's priorities this year include **enhancing outreach, conducting training on topics like fair and impartial policing and active bystandership, and strategically responding to family violence and other critical issues**.

To learn more about *your* local police department, follow Denton PD on their social media channels and visit [www.dentonpolice.com](http://www.dentonpolice.com).



The Mental Health Division, as well as Chief Frank Dixon and two patrol officers trained in crisis intervention, recently held a NAMIWalks event on the Square in support of mental health awareness.

# ALL ABOUT ROUNDABOUTS

The City of Denton has installed roundabouts to **improve safety and traffic congestion** at certain intersections over the years. Currently, there are five roundabouts installed throughout Denton.



Roundabouts have proven to **make intersections safer and more efficient**. However, for some drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, **navigating roundabouts can be a challenge**, often times because they are not familiar with their basic functionality.

Modern roundabouts keep traffic flowing and improve safety by **slowing traffic through an intersection**. Reduced speed means drivers are able to bypass other vehicles easily and if accidents do occur, they often are not as severe as those in intersections. Traffic continues to move through roundabouts resulting in reduced driving delays, fuel savings, and less pollution. They also have the unique ability to allow drivers to reverse their direction in a safe manner.

**To help you safely travel through a roundabout, here are few pedestrian and driver reminders:**

## SINGLE LANE ROUNDABOUTS

**Slow Down and Look:** Reduce your speed and look to your left before entering the roundabout. Remember that traffic already traveling in the roundabout has the right of way. Be sure to look for pedestrians who may be in or are approaching the crosswalk, because pedestrians always have the right of way.

**Maintain a Low, Steady Speed:** Keep a low, steady speed as you continue to drive through the roundabout. As you approach your desired exit, use your turn signal to let other drivers know your intention. You don't need to slow down further or come to a stop to exit a roundabout. The only exceptions are when pedestrians are in the crosswalk or if an emergency vehicle is approaching. If an emergency vehicle is approaching, exit the roundabout and pull over immediately.

## MULTI-LANE ROUNDABOUTS

**Yield to Both Lanes of Traffic:** Unlike single lane roundabouts, drivers need to yield to two lanes of traffic in a multi-lane roundabout. If you plan to turn right, stay in the farthest right lane and wait for approaching cars to pass before entering the roundabout.

**Choose Your Lane:** Multi-lane roundabouts often have at least three possible exits. If you want to turn left or make a U-turn, stay in the left lane. If you are planning to make a right turn, stay in the right lane. You can continue to go straight from either lane.

**Stay in Your Lane:** Even though these types of roundabouts have multiple lanes, you are still not allowed to pass other drivers who may be moving slower or are unfamiliar with roundabout rules. Additionally, use extreme caution when driving next to semi-trucks and other oversized vehicles as they have a large turning radius. Stay a bit behind large vehicles traveling in the lane next to you to avoid getting side-swiped.

Visit [www.cityofdenton.com/roundabout](http://www.cityofdenton.com/roundabout) for additional information.

THE CITY OF DENTON PRESENTS



National Night Out is an annual community-building event that gives you the chance to get to know your neighbors and meet the Denton Police Department, the Denton Fire Department, and other City staff.

## ATTEND THE KICKOFF PARTY

PUBLIC SAFETY FAIR • COMMUNITY COOKOUT • FAMILY FUN

Thursday, Sept. 23 • 5 to 8 p.m.

MEET YOUR DENTON NEIGHBORS & CITY STAFF  
(Free hot dogs & drinks while supplies last!)

DENTON CIVIC CENTER • 321 E. MCKINNEY ST.

## HOST A NATIONAL NIGHT OUT NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY

Tuesday, Oct. 5 • 6 to 9 p.m.

BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS TOGETHER & INVITE PUBLIC SAFETY STAFF

REGISTER BY SEPT. 24 • [WWW.CITYOFDENTON.COM/NNO](http://WWW.CITYOFDENTON.COM/NNO)

# DENTON COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

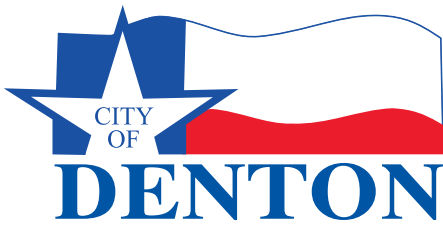
Tuesday, Sept. 14  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Denton Civic Center  
321 E. McKinney St.

Registration Not Required.

To learn more, visit  
[www.dentonjobfair.com](http://www.dentonjobfair.com)





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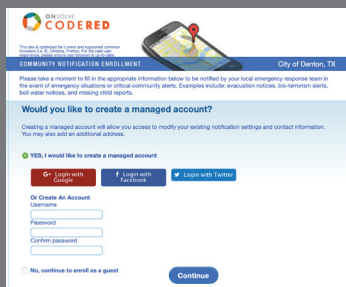
**RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER**

# 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**.

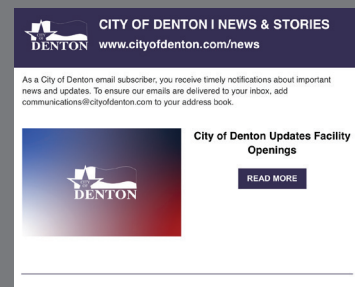
Sign Up for CodeRED Emergency Alerts  
[www.cityofdenton.com/codered](http://www.cityofdenton.com/codered)



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