



2021
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE



Sunset at North Lakes Driving Range

IN THIS ISSUE

- Solid Waste Service Improvements
- New Way to Get Emergency Alerts
- Quick Facts About 2021-22 Budget
- Halloween Safety Tips
- Five Things to Do This Fall
- and more!

www.cityofdenton.com

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City of Denton offices will be closed on Nov. 25 & 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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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.



FROM THE MAYOR GERARD HUDSPETH



Just a few weeks ago, another annual budget was passed by Council. But what should this budget tell you, our residents? In fact, beyond the numbers, funds, and financial charts, our City's budget gives us not only a look into the next year of our operations, but the future of our community:

OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Our local economy is rebounding well from the pandemic and primed for future growth. Nothing illustrates this more than the increases in property values and sales tax revenues. People are building and improving structures, and making their purchases in Denton, and we can expect for this economic growth to continue. Put simply, this is a place where people want to build and spend their life.

FY 2021-22 BY THE NUMBERS

Number of taxable properties: 56,634
Average increase in value for the properties: 7.9%
Total taxable value: \$14.4 billion

Entities contributing sales tax: 11,000+
Estimated sales tax revenue: \$46 million
Estimated sales tax revenue increase over previous year: 5%

SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Police and Fire are the cornerstone of public safety, but this year's budget shows that the Council is not only supporting our first responders, but, as you can see below, we're viewing safety more broadly by adding positions to impact homelessness, neighborhood and housing vitality, and animal services to not only keep us safe, but also improve the welfare and wellbeing of our community members.

- 2 Street Outreach** Positions
- 3 Community Services Coordinator** Positions
- 1 Sworn Officer** and **5 Civilian** Police Positions
- 1 Emergency Management** Position
- 1 Animal Control** Position



SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION

This budget makes several clear statements about our intention to preserve our natural assets for future generations. We've dedicated \$500,000 as seed funding for a new fund that will drive sustainability initiatives throughout the City. We've also updated our water rate structure, creating one simple set of rates that incentivize residents to practice reasonable conservation.

Much more about the budget is contained within this issue. I hope you give it a read and tell your Council members what you think.

SOLID WASTE SERVICE UPDATES IN EFFECT OCT. 1

The City's Solid Waste & Recycling Department recently made a number of updates to yard waste, extra trash bag, and bulky item residential curbside collection services. As of Friday, Oct. 1, the following updates are in effect:

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The subscription fee for yard waste and the requirement to request brush pickup has been discontinued.

You no longer need to opt in to receive the City's yard waste collection services. The monthly fees for yard waste (\$1.00 kraft bags; \$0.50 yard waste cart) will be removed from your utility bill automatically.



All yard waste must be contained in a kraft paper bag or a City-issued yard waste cart—no plastic bags will be collected. Yard waste carts can be purchased for \$20. Please call Customer Service at (940) 349-8700 if you would like to purchase a cart. Uncooked vegetative waste, such as peels, cores, tops, and loose coffee grounds can still be placed in your yard waste cart or kraft bags.



Additionally, you no longer need to call and request brush piles for collection. Brush must be cut to 4 to 8 feet in length and stacked with the cut ends facing the street. Brush should be at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on your collection day and at least 4 feet away from other carts and objects. Brush piles that are more than 4 cubic yards (about the size of 4 washing machines), will have additional fees assessed. If applicable,

overage charges will automatically be applied to your residential utility bill.

EXTRA TRASH BAG COLLECTION FEE

Trash bags left outside of trash carts will no longer be picked up as bulky items. Instead, you can have extra bags picked up for \$5 per bag for each bag left outside of your trash cart. Charges will be automatically applied to your utility bill and there is no need to call ahead to have extra bags collected.



BULKY ITEM COLLECTION

Bulky item collection must be requested through Customer Service at (940) 349-8700. Scheduled service includes two bulky items per week; \$5 per extra item. Additional fees may apply if items collected exceed scheduled service.

Bulky items are normal household items that won't fit in a trash cart.

Items NOT eligible for pickup through the bulky item service include construction/remodeling materials and trash bags.

For additional information, visit www.cityofdenton.com/solidwaste.



ALERT DENTON

CITY OF DENTON

SIGN UP FOR THE CITY'S NEW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM: ALERT DENTON!

The City launched a new emergency notification system, **Alert Denton**, for residents on Monday, Oct. 4. The system is powered by Everbridge and will replace the current CodeRED platform to communicate with residents and businesses during emergencies or other critical events.

All residents, including those who currently receive text or email alerts through CodeRED, are encouraged to register at www.cityofdenton.com/alertdenton to receive emergency communications through Alert Denton.

The new platform will alert residents about various events, ranging from severe weather, fires, floods, critical public safety messages, and other emergencies. In the future, the City has the capability to allow users to sign up for non-emergency or routine announcements, such as road closures, utility maintenance, or major event notifications.

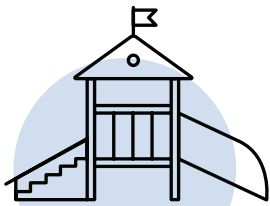
Residents listed in the City of Denton 911 database will be automatically subscribed to alerts by phone, but Alert Denton allows citizens to self-register, provide additional contact information, or opt out. To ensure real-time access to potentially lifesaving information, residents should sign up to receive messages according to their preferred contact method—cell phone, SMS, home phone, email, fax, pager, and more.

"Like CodeRED, messages can be tailored to specific geographic areas to help ensure that the right residents receive the right message," said Chief Kenneth Hedges. "We hope all of our community members will take five minutes and sign up for this potentially lifesaving service."

CITY ADOPTS FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 ANNUAL BUDGET

On Sept. 21, the Denton City Council officially adopted the Fiscal Year 2021-22 annual budget. The City of Denton budget represents an investment in our community—an investment made by taxpayers, ratepayers, residents, and businesses—to make Denton a great place to live, work, and play.

The City budget process is long, and sometimes complicated, but it's important for all residents to know the value of their tax dollars. As you can see below, the average Denton homeowner pays \$129.84 in property taxes each month, which helps to provide funding for critical services and infrastructure in our great city. Listed below are just a few of the enhancements funded by this year's budget that will help us to serve you even better in the coming year.



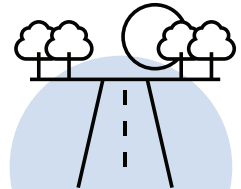
Parks & Recreation capital improvement projects.



One new intern position for Internal Audit.



One new Animal Control Officer for Animal Services.



Street improvement projects.



Public safety capital improvement projects.



The average Denton homeowner pays **\$129.84 per month** in property taxes to the City of Denton.



One new full-time and two part-time positions for Denton Public Library.



Reinstatement of six positions, and new and existing park maintenance for Parks & Recreation.



One new sworn officer position, five civilian positions, and two outreach positions for the Denton Police Department.



Closed captioning, translation services, and one new position for Customer Service & Public Affairs.



One new Emergency Management position for the Denton Fire Department.



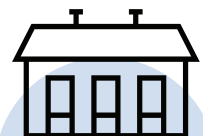
Three new positions for Community Services to assist with neighborhood and housing services.



One new Records Management position for the City Manager's Office.



One new position for Municipal Court.



Additional capital improvement projects, including vehicle replacements, facility improvements, and the design of Fire Station 9.

CITY OF DENTON

FY 2021-22 BUDGET

BETTER TOGETHER

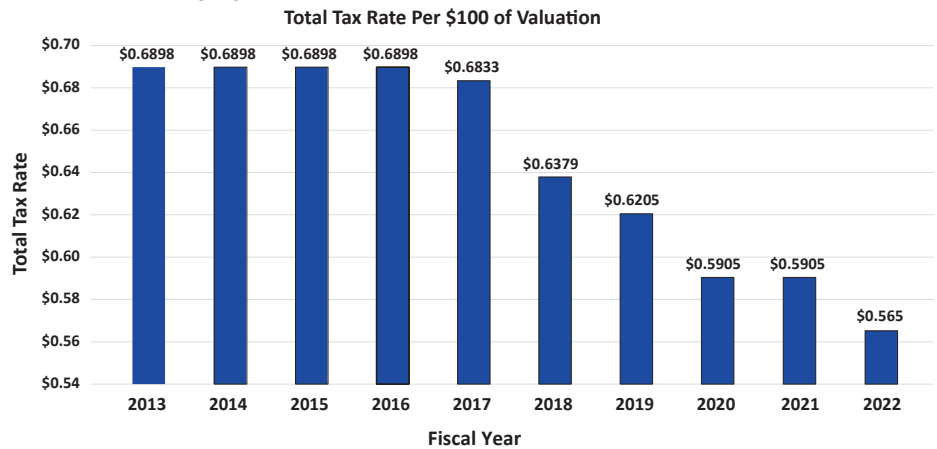
For additional information, visit www.cityofdenton.com/budget.

TAX RATE

\$0.565 for every \$100 of property value.

TAX RATE DECREASE

TAX RATE HISTORY



The FY 2021-22 budget includes a new rate structure, which will result in a

RATE DECREASE

for the average residential customer for water services, and

NO INCREASES

for wastewater, solid waste, and electric services.

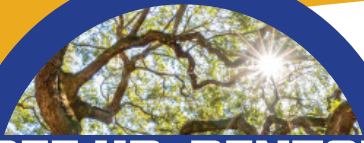
UTILITY RATE HISTORY

	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22
Electric (1,200 kWh/month)	\$124.80	\$124.80	\$124.80	\$124.80
Water (7,600 gallons/month)	\$49.94	\$49.94	\$46.62	\$44.22
Wastewater (5,400 gallons/month)	\$31.52	\$31.52	\$31.52	\$31.52
Solid Waste - Standard Cart	\$24.51	\$21.51	\$20.51	\$20.51
Total	\$235.01	\$232.01	\$229.93	\$223.38

SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

- Design for new Fire Station 9 (\$750,000)
- DTV closed captioning, live Spanish translation, and one new public meeting attendant (\$130,400)
- Bond funds issued for street improvements (\$36.64 million)
- Investment in parks approved in the 2019 bond program (\$2 million)
- One new Emergency Management position (\$95,000)
- Three new Community Development positions (\$270,678)





TREE UP, DENTON!

By participating in Denton's urban forestry programs, you enhance our city's urban tree canopy and help Denton thrive environmentally and economically.

The **Tree Rebate Program** was designed to both incentivize and reduce the price of tree planting for Denton residents. This year, we've added new species to the list of qualifying trees! To learn more about the program, including step-by-step instructions, a list of qualifying trees, and to apply for rebates, visit www.dentontreebates.com.

To prioritize plantings in response to tree loss due to winter storm Uri and the Emerald Ash Borer, Keep Denton Beautiful (KDB) and City of Denton have added incentives for planting larger trees, with tiered rebates.

TREE REBATES ARE AVAILABLE in the following gallon-size increments:

- 5-gallon - \$50*
- 15-gallon - \$100*
- 30-gallon - \$250**



**Rebate amounts are per tree for up to five trees per property.*

***Limit two trees per property. Rebates are applied to eligible Denton utility accounts.*

Tree rebate applications are accepted annually from Oct. 1 through May 15.

This year, **Texas Arbor Day** is on Friday, Nov. 5. and Denton will celebrate its 30th year as a **Tree City USA**. With the help of volunteers, Denton Parks and Rec and KDB will plant 170 seedlings along the North Lakes Wildflower Trail. The trees of native species will provide shade along multiple sections of the trail. In addition to shade, trees boost oxygen levels and beautify our public spaces. To learn more about Texas trees, visit texastreeid.tamu.edu."

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

One of the most anticipated days of the upcoming fall season, especially for kids, will be Halloween on Sunday, Oct. 31. Help us keep Halloween safe for pedestrians and trick-or-treaters by keeping the following safety tips in mind:

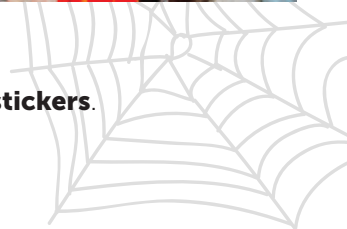
Slow down. Be especially alert when driving in neighborhoods. Take extra time looking for pedestrians.

Make sure your child's costume fits properly to prevent trips and falls. Masks should not obstruct their vision.

Turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot pedestrians from greater distances.

Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers. Wear light colors if possible.

Last but not least, **don't drink and drive.**



WE CARE TO SHARE

Misinformation about COVID-19 has led to confusion over how the virus is spread and how it can be stopped. If you're reluctant to get vaccinated, explore our vaccine resources to get key facts about the effectiveness and safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

Learn more and get your COVID-19 vaccine today.

www.WeCareDenton.com

FIVE THINGS TO ADD TO YOUR FALL TO-DO LIST!

1 Turn your pumpkins into Dyno Dirt.

When you're ready to dispose of your fall pumpkins, place them at the curb to be picked up with your yard trimmings. The pumpkins will be mixed with your leaves, tree branches, and grass, and composted into Dyno Dirt products by the City's Beneficial Reuse Division. You can place your pumpkins in your **brown cart, kraft bags**, or simply **place your pumpkins on the curb** to be picked up with your brush. As stated on page 3, you no longer need to schedule brush pickup. To learn more about the City's Solid Waste & Recycling services, visit www.cityofdenton.com/solidwaste. To learn more about Dyno Dirt products, visit www.cityofdenton.com/dyno.



Attend a community event.

Oct. 14, 6-8 p.m. | Denton Animal Shelter Trunk-or-Treat
Grab your costumes and kick start your Halloween festivities with outdoor fun and bags of candy from City departments!

Oct. 16, 6-8 p.m. Halloween Harvest
Free Halloween festivities, including carnival games and lots of candy, at Denia Rec Center.

Oct. 29, 6 p.m. Movie in the Park
Bring your blankets & lawn chairs and enjoy "Hocus Pocus" at Quakertown Park.

Oct. 30 | Halloween Carnival and Haunted House
Enjoy a carnival in the morning (10 a.m.-noon) and a haunted house in the evening (7-10 p.m.) at MLK Jr. Rec Center.

Oct. 30, 2-4 p.m. Día de los Muertos
Celebrate this beautiful Mexican holiday during the day at the MLK Jr. Rec Center.

2 Maintain your drain.

During the holidays, nothing is better than a home-cooked meal. However, these meals can have an adverse effect on your pipes if you dispose of excess fats, oils, or grease (FOG) down the drain. FOGs harden and cling to the walls in your household pipes or city sewer lines, which can reduce water flow and cause a sewage backup into your home or neighborhood. Visit www.maintainyourdrain.com for helpful tips on how you can better maintain your drain and to learn more.

3



4 Prepare your fire safety plan.

October is Fire Prevention Month. Help ensure that your home and family have a plan and are ready for the unexpected. Fire Prevention Month is the perfect time to talk with your family about fire safety. Make it a family activity by testing alarms, changing the batteries, learning how to use a fire extinguisher, and planning your escape route.



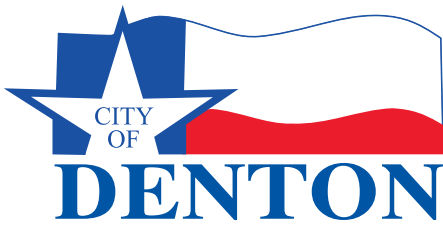
For safety tips and more, follow the Denton Fire Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dentonfire.

5 Shop Denton.

Celebrate **Shop Small Saturday** on Nov. 27 by visiting or going online to your favorite Denton small business and knocking out your holiday gift-shopping list (and treating yourself, too!).

When we make the conscious decision to shop in Denton, we are saying "yes" to a strong, vibrant, and local economy.

5



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Denton, TX
Permit No. 438
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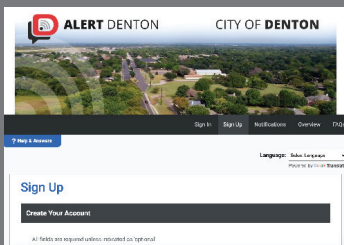
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

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 Alert Denton Emergency Alerts
www.cityofdenton.com/alertdenton



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