



# City of Deer Park Messenger

Fall 2013



## Fire Prevention Week

The Deer Park Fire Department and the Fire Marshal's Office would like to inform residents that Fire Prevention Week is October 6 through 12. This year's fire safety campaign will focus on how to prevent kitchen fires and inform everyone of the dangers of kitchen fires, most of which result from unattended cooking.

According to the latest National Fire Protection Association research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two out of every five home fires begin in the kitchen, more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

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## Fire Prevention Parade

Kick off Fire Prevention Week with a grand parade of over 100 fire trucks on Oct. 5 at 10am. The parade will start at the stadium parking lot on P St. and end at the intersection of Center St. and 13<sup>th</sup> St.



## 2013-14 Budget

On July 29, the City Manager presented to the Mayor and City Council a proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on October 1, 2013. The City Manager's proposed budget totals \$55,538,142. The proposed budget amounts for the major City funds are as follows:

General Fund	\$35,156,526
Water & Sewer Fund	9,676,500
Debt Service Fund	5,531,674
Special Revenue Fund	2,625,994
Storm Water Utility Fund	333,540
Golf Course Lease Fund	143,940
Capital Improv. Fund	2,069,968
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,538,142</b>

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## Garbage Bags

Last year, the City instituted a new method of garbage bag distribution, which no longer included residential doorstep delivery. This fall, beginning on Monday, Oct. 7 through Saturday, Oct. 26, the City will again operate a garbage bag distribution center in the west parking lot of the Jimmy Burke Activity Center, located at 500 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St. The hours of operation for the distribution center will be 6am to 6pm on weekdays and 7am to 4pm on Saturdays (Oct. 12, 19 & 26). Residents will be able to drive through and pick

*Continued on pg. 7*

# General Information

## *Elected Officials*

Jerry Mouton, Jr. ....	Mayor
Sherry Garrison .....	Councilmember - Position 1
Thane Harrison .....	Councilmember - Position 2
Chris Richey .....	Councilmember - Position 3
Bill Patterson.....	Councilmember - Position 4
Beckie Stockstill-Cobb .....	Councilmember - Position 5
Rae A. Sinor.....	Councilmember - Position 6

Contact the Mayor and members of City Council by e-mail at [cityhall@deerparktx.org](mailto:cityhall@deerparktx.org).

## *Department Directors*

James J. Stokes .....	City Manager
Gary M. Jackson .....	Assistant City Manager
Sandra Watkins .....	City Secretary
Donna Todd.....	Director, Finance
Bill Philibert.....	Director, Human Resources
Bill Pedersen.....	Director, Public Works
Scott E. Swigert.....	Director, Parks and Recreation
Rebecca Pool.....	Director, Library
Malcolm Swinney.....	Director, Emergency Services
Greg Grigg.....	Chief of Police
Linda McHone.....	I.T. Manager

## *Other Appointed Officials*

Jim Fox .....	City Attorney
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## *City Facilities*

Animal Shelter .....	281-478-7274.....	4213 Luella
Art Park Players Dinner Theatre .....	281-478-7288.....	1302 Center
Avon Recreation Center .....	281-478-7216.....	601 W. 8 <sup>th</sup> Street
Battleground Golf Course .....	281-478-2080.....	1600 Georgia
City Hall.....	281-479-2394.....	710 E. San Augustine
Claude Burgess Recreation Center .....	281-478-2060.....	4200 Kalwick
Community Center.....	281-478-2050.....	610 E. San Augustine
Fire Station #1.....	281-478-2043.....	1302 Center
Fire Station #2.....	281-478-7282.....	711 E. Pasadena Blvd.
Fire Station #3.....	281-478-7281.....	2211 East X
Jimmy Burke Activity Center .....	281-478-2049.....	500 W. 13 <sup>th</sup> Street
Kingsdale Center.....	281-478-7215.....	2218 Kingsdale
Maxwell Adult Center .....	281-478-7276.....	1201 Center
Municipal Court .....	281-478-7238.....	1302 Center
Police Station .....	281-479-1511.....	2911 Center
Public Library .....	281-478-7208.....	3009 Center
Swimming Pool.....	281-478-2055.....	610 E. San Augustine
Transfer Station .....	281-478-7213.....	610 Underwood

The *Messenger* is a quarterly newsletter published by the City of Deer Park, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536. Go to [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov) to read the newsletter online or to sign up for *Notify Me* so you can receive the latest edition of the *Messenger* by e-mail as soon as it is available.

## *Calendar*

### **September**

- 2 City Services Closed
- 3 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 5 Siren Test 6pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 16 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 17 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 24 LEPC Meeting - 11am

### **October**

- 3 Siren Test 6pm
- 7 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 8 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 15 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 21 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 22 LEPC Meeting - 11am

### **November**

- 4 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 5 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 7 Siren Test 6pm
- 18 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 19 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 26 LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 28 City Services Closed
- 29 City Services Closed

City services will be closed on Sept. 2 for Labor Day and on Nov. 28 & 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holidays. Curbside collection of rubbish will resume on your next regular collection day.

## **Notify Me**

For current City news and information, join the e-mail subscription lists of your choice by selecting *Notify Me* at [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov).

# Employee Awards



*April – Supervisor  
Frank Hart, Police Dept.*



*April – Support Staff  
Fred Beck, Public Works Dept.*



*April – Field Services  
Ronnie Gilliam, Parks & Recreation Dept.*



*May – Supervisor  
Jazmin Hernandez, Parks & Recreation Dept.*



*May – Support Staff  
Shannon Bennett, City Secretary's Dept.*



*May – Field Services  
Edwin Garcia, Public Works Dept.*



*June – Support Staff  
Kristen Villalovos, Parks & Recreation Dept.*



*June – Field Service  
Anthony Kuchinski, Police Dept.*

## Maxwell Center

The Maxwell Adult Center is a recreational facility for all Deer Park citizens, ages 55 and over. It is open from 9am–5pm, 5 days a week, and offers a variety of classes. Bingo is every Wednesday at 1pm.

### *Oil Painting*

Oil painting classes for ages 55 & over are available at the Maxwell Center. Bernadine Roop and Bea Staton, two of the most talented ladies in the Deer Park Art League, will hold classes each Tuesday at 9am and 1pm.

### *Meal Programs*

Seniors can participate in a congregate meal program and eat lunch in exchange for a \$2 donation. Lunch is served around 11:45am every day.

Reservations are required. We also have a homebound meal program for seniors who are restricted to their homes.

### *Fitness Room*

Come try out our new fitness center, Mon. & Fri., 8am-5pm and Tues.-Thurs., 8am-7pm. It is a free service for seniors.

### *Bus Trips*

For information about upcoming bus trips, call 281-478-7276 or stop by at 1201 Center Street.



# Economic Development

## Business News

- **First Choice Emergency Room** will soon open at 3701 Center St. (the old Blockbuster Video location near H-E-B). First Choice is the leading freestanding emergency room system in the country, both the largest and the oldest. Their facilities are innovative and fully equipped emergency rooms with state-of-the-art diagnostic technology and on-site labs.
- Deer Park graduate, Crystal Worthen, has opened **Emma's Closet** at 118 Dixie Dr. (former location of Brewed Awakenings). Emma's is a one-stop shop featuring children's consignment clothing, a team spirit boutique, and an assortment of girls' and women's accessories.



- The **Deer Park Animal Hospital** at 2822 Center St. has proudly served our community for 39 years. They were recently named a Certified Cat Friendly Practice (CCFP) by the American Association of Feline Practitioners, a certification earned by only 7 other vets in the Houston region.
- Deer Park residents, Steve and Suzanne McDaniel, have opened **Summit Athletics** at 1806-F Battleground Road (at the X Street intersection). This 5,000 square foot, 24-hour access gym offers state-of-the-art equipment, personal training, and a wide variety of classes, including Zumba®, spin classes, boot camps, and kick boxing. They also offer free tanning with

membership.

- Entrepreneurs abound in Deer Park. We have over 500 home-based businesses according to the State Comptroller's office, which likely contributes to the success of **Market Days of Deer Park**. This local marketplace was co-founded by Deer Park locals, Becky Geck and Miranda Brown. The event, which consistently has over 30 vendors, takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9am-1pm in Dow Park, behind city hall near the pavilion.
- **Serendipity Gift Shop** at 4502 Center St. now offers a *Frequent Shoppers Rewards* program where customers get \$10 off their next purchase for every \$100 spent.

## BOOT BARN

- **Boot Barn Shoe Repair** at 112 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. recently expanded to include a wide variety of purses, jewelry, and home furnishings, including large, beautiful hand-crafted crosses.



- Congratulations to **Eclipse Massage & Spa** at 4321 Center St. for being named the Deer Park Chamber's Business of the Year for 2012.

For questions, contact Debbie Westbeld, Economic Development Administrator, at 281-478-2042 or go to [www.deerparktx.gov/ed](http://www.deerparktx.gov/ed).

*Continued from pg. 1 - Fire Prevention Week*

"Often, when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said Fire Marshal Buddy Rice. "Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson."



## Safety Tips

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food. If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stove top.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stove tops.

# 2013-2014 Budget

*Continued from pg. 1 - 2013-14 Budget*

The proposed budget is based on a proposed tax rate of \$0.72/\$100 of valuation. This is the same tax rate as levied in FY 2012-2013. As in the past, all residential property owners will continue to receive a 20% value reduction on their homestead property for the purpose of computing the property tax. By way of example, the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 will pay property taxes on \$80,000 of that value. Additionally, senior citizens, ages 65 and older, will continue receiving an additional exemption of \$50,000 on the value of their homestead. Utilizing the same example of a residence valued at \$100,000 for a senior citizen, they will pay property tax on \$30,000 of the value of the residence. As a further benefit for senior citizens, ages 65 and older, the amount of property taxes paid to the City is capped as of the year in which they turn 65. Unless a senior citizen makes improvements to their home, such as adding a room or building a swimming pool, they will never pay more in property taxes to the City than the amount paid in the year they turn 65 years of age, even if their existing residence increases in value. If you would like more information on these exemptions and the tax cap for senior citizens, please contact the Tax Dept. at 281-478-7222.

The City uses a variety of funds to pay for its operations. The General Fund includes funds for the general operation of the City, including services such as Police, Fire/EMS, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Library, and Administration. The proposed FY 2013-2014 General Fund budget calls for no ad valorem tax increase, the same number of

full-time staff positions as in the current fiscal year, and a 2% cost of living increase for full-time City employees. New for FY 2013-2014, the City will no longer provide commercial garbage waste removal. Instead, we will enter into an exclusive agreement with a private commercial waste hauler. This will increase both revenues and expenses in the General Fund, while also providing new revenues associated with the exclusive contract. Residential garbage service is not impacted by this change, as City crews will continue servicing homes in Deer Park.

Last summer, the City Council agreed to a multi-year process of funding significant Water & Sewer capital improvements. City staff prepared a ten year Capital Improvements Program outlining necessary improvements to our water lines, sewer lines, lift stations, water towers, water treatment plant, and wastewater treatment plant. FY 2013-2014 is the third year for this program, with expenditures planned for sewer line rehabilitation in the College Park and Heritage Park areas of Deer Park, water line replacement throughout Deer Park, and major improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. These costs will be covered via the issuance of an estimated \$6,920,025 in certificates of obligation backed by water and sewer revenues in FY 2013-2014. The City's Water & Sewer Fund operates as an enterprise fund, which means it derives revenue from water and sewer rates, not property taxes. Debt obligations for water and sewer system improvements must be funded through water and sewer revenues. For FY 2013-2014, water and sewer rates are budgeted to remain

unchanged in comparison to FY 2012-2013. For the fourth consecutive year, base rates will continue to be \$10.25 for 2,000 gallons of water and \$10.25 for 2,000 gallons of sewer. Likewise, the rate per 1,000 gallons of water and sewer charges above the first 2,000 gallons are budgeted identically to those of the past three years.

Funds are provided in the Debt Service Fund to pay the annual interest and principal payments on previously issued bonds. The amount due in FY 2013-2014 for these payments is \$5,277,266.

The Special Revenue Fund consists of revenue from the Hotel Occupancy Tax, Municipal Court fees, Police Forfeiture funds, and grant funds. For FY 2013-2014, proposed Hotel Occupancy Tax expenditures total \$913,000, Municipal Court related expenditures equal \$532,220, and Police Department expenditures are \$31,865. Grant funds equate to \$1,148,909 and will assist projects, including the new Patrick's Bayou Detention Pond. Several events are funded through our Hotel Occupancy Tax proceeds, including the annual Reindeer Park, the Totally Texas Festival, the Halloween Carnival, and 4<sup>th</sup> Fest.

The Capital Improvements Fund is for the purpose of funding capital improvements on a cash or pay-as-you-go basis. This fund reduces the use of long-term debt financing. Numerous projects totaling \$2,069,968 are included in this fund for FY 2013-2014.

The Storm Water Utility Fund allows the City to cover expenses

associated with the unfunded federal mandate known as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES mandate requires cities to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water runoff through a permitting program. Those expenses in FY 2013-2014 total \$333,540.

The Golf Course Lease Fund of \$143,940 is new for FY 2013-2014. Previously, all golf course operations were part of the General Fund. In May 2013, the City began leasing The Battleground Golf Course and Republic Grill to Touchstone Golf. This new fund contains revenues, including lease payments and certain reimbursements, and expenditures associated with certain capital items per the lease agreement.

In May 2011, Deer Park voters authorized a ¼ cent sales tax for a new Crime Control & Prevention District (CCPD) and a ¼ cent sales tax for a new Fire Control, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services District (FCPEMSD). These Districts are component units of the City Government, led by their respective Board of Directors. The FY 2013-2014 budgets of both entities have yielded significant savings to the City's General Fund, while allowing for the purchase of many other items to be utilized by the Deer Park Police Dept. and Deer Park Volunteer Fire Dept.

For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at 281-478-7245. You may also review the proposed budget at [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov), or visit the City Secretary's Office or the Deer Park Public Library.

### *Friends of the Library*

Contact the library for details on the Friends of the Library annual fall book sale. Annual membership dues for the Friends of the Deer Park Library are \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families, and \$2 for senior citizens.

### *Beginners' Crochet Class*

*For ages 8 to adult  
Tuesdays, 7-8pm*

This free class is offered at the library for those with some or no previous knowledge. Learn at your own pace. Attend at your own convenience. Initial materials provided. Registration is not required.

**Storytime** programs for toddlers and preschool children incorporate books, fingerplays, songs, and activities to promote interest in reading and lifelong learning.

### *Toddler Storytime*

*For children up to 3½ years old  
Thursdays, 10:15-10:45am  
Sept. 4-Dec. 5*

The sessions include stories and activities designed to encourage a love for books, increase attention spans, and develop basic social skills. Parents and caregivers are required to stay with the toddler to encourage them to participate.

A special Halloween storytime will be held on Oct. 31 for toddlers and preschoolers at 10:30am. Children are welcome to wear their costumes.

### *Preschool Storytime*

*For ages 3½ to 6  
Thursdays, 11-11:45am  
Sept. 5-Dec. 5*

In these sessions, children listen to stories and participate in group activities.

### *Fall Craft*

*For ages 5-12  
Sept. 10, 3:30-4:30pm*

Children may choose from 2 available fall crafts for ages 5-8 or 9-12. Materials are provided free of cost.

### *Thanksgiving Craft*

*For ages 5-12  
Nov. 12, 3:30-4:30pm*

Children may choose from 2 available Thanksgiving crafts for ages 5-8 or 9-12. Materials are provided free of cost.

### *Teen Tech*

*For school-aged teens  
Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm  
June 19-Aug. 21*

Teens will enjoy socializing and a little friendly competition at video gaming, board games, and card games. Free snacks are provided by the Friends of the Library. Teens are invited to participate in a tournament as part of a Halloweenie Roast event on Oct. 30.

### *Computer Classes*

*Registration starts Aug. 26*

Computer classes are free, but space is limited so registration is required. Some classes have pre-requisites. For more information or to register, please call 281-478-7208.

- **Introduction to Computers** - Become familiar with the computer and technical terminology, plus get comfortable using a mouse, opening software applications, and other basic skills.
- **Browsing the Web** - Learn the basic skills of browsing the world wide web. Topics include search engines, simple search techniques, security precautions, and the basics of e-mail.
- **Using Social Media** - Learn the

# Library News

basics of social networking sites and how they are used. Websites to be discussed will include Facebook, Google, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

- **Microsoft Word 2010 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2010 version of Word and learn how to create and edit basic Word documents, including resumes and letters.
- **Microsoft Excel 2010 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2010 version of Excel and learn how to create and edit basic spreadsheets, and use simple formulas and functions.
- **Microsoft PowerPoint 2010 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2010 version of PowerPoint and learn how to create a presentation using themes, illustrations, transitions, and animation.
- **Career Resources** - Learn how the library can assist you in your job search. Become familiar with our career resource databases.
- **Online Resources** - Find out what online resources the library has available.
- **Ancestry.com, Part 1** - Learn how to search for family history. You'll create a free account so you can access our resources from home and search at your own pace.
- **Ancestry.com, Part 2** - Learn how to use census records, message boards, and forums to continue researching your family line.
- **Accessing OverDrive** - Learn how to use OverDrive to download free ebooks.

**Mystery Book Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Join

other mystery readers to discuss the selected books and other mysteries you enjoy. Registration is not required. You are welcome to come whether you have read the books or not.

*Sept. 10 - YA Supernatural  
The Vanishing of Katharina Linden*  
by Helen Grant  
& *The Graveyard Book*  
by Neil Gaiman

*Oct. 8 - And the Story Continues  
The Kingdom*  
by Amanda Stevens  
&  
*Catching Fire*  
by Suzanne Collins

*Nov. 12 - Classics  
The Black Tower*  
by P. D. James  
&  
*The Third Man*  
by Graham Greene

## New Books

### Easy Books

- *My Neighbor is a Dog* by Isabel Minhos Martins
- *A Little Book of Sloth* by Lucy Cooke
- *If You Want to See a Whale* by Julie Fogliano
- *A Long Way Away: A Two-Way Story* by Frank Viva

### Juvenile Books

- *The 13-Story Treehouse* by Andy Griffiths
- *P.S. Be Eleven* by Rita Williams-Garcia
- *Doll Bones* by Holly Black
- *Hero on a Bicycle* by Shirley Hughes

### YA Books

- *The Lucy Variations* by Sara Zarr
- *In the Shadow of Blackbirds* by Cat Winters
- *Darius & Twig* by Walter Dean

Myers

- *The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave* by Rick Yancy
- Adult Fiction**
- *Never Go Back* by Lee Child
  - *Gone* by James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge
  - *Silencing Eve* by Iris Johansen
  - *Storm Front* by John Sandford
  - *Sycamore Road* by John Grisham
  - *Bridget Jones: Mad about the Boy* by Helen Fielding
  - *The Wolves of Midwinter: The Wolf Gift Chronicles* by Anne Rice
  - *Takedown Twenty: A Stephanie Plum novel* by Janet Evanovich
  - *The First Phone Call from Heaven* by Mitch Albom
  - *King and Maxwell* by David Baldacci

*Continued from pg. 1 - Garbage Bags*

up 2 free boxes of garbage bags through Oct. 26. In late September, residential customers will receive a lime-green colored coupon in the mail, which will be required to redeem the garbage bags. Beginning Oct. 28 through Nov. 27, residents who have not yet obtained their garbage bags will be able to redeem their coupon for 2 free boxes of garbage bags by visiting the Utility Billing Dept. at City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm. After the Nov. 27 deadline, the garbage bags will be available for sale in the Utility Billing Dept. at City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm, excluding holidays.

For more information, refer to DPTV on Comcast channel 16 or AT&T U-verse channel 99, or visit our website at [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov).

# Public Works

## *Flood Map Information*

To view the flood maps and determine the flood zone your property is in, visit the Public Works Dept. at City Hall, call 281-478-7252, or go to [www.harriscountyfemt.org](http://www.harriscountyfemt.org).

## *Automotive Waste Oil Collection*

The City's Sanitation Division is providing residents with a convenient way to properly dispose of oil by adding the service to curbside pick up. The collection trucks are equipped with a waste oil repository to gain control over hazardous waste, protect the environment, and improve community service. Waste oil in screw top containers should be set out with regular garbage on one of your two service days. The household containers will be placed in the oil storage tank and allowed to drain while the collection crew proceeds to the next house. Once the oil container is drained, it will be discarded into the rear hopper and compacted along with the other household refuse.

## *Heavy Trash Pick Up*

Non-kitchen type rubbish needs to be placed at curbside by 8am on Wednesdays for heavy trash pick up. At times, the volume of trash causes pick up to continue into Thursday and Friday. If the material was at curbside by 8am on Wednesday, the sanitation crew is aware of it, and will be back by Friday afternoon. For questions, contact us at 281-478-7253.

## *Guidelines for Heavy Trash Pick Up*

- Tree limbs must be less than 50 lbs. or 4 ft. in length.
- Concrete, bricks, shingles, paint cans, and household chemicals must be taken to the Transfer Station on Sat., 9am-4:30pm.

- Tires, batteries, and other car parts are not accepted by the landfill.

## *Adopt-a-Pet*

The City's Adopt-a-Pet program offers friendly pets at a minimal cost. Dogs and cats are available for adoption after a holding period of 3 working days. There is a \$50 adoption fee. You must also prepay for the spaying/neutering of the animal and a rabies vaccination. Pets are always available for adoption. To search for adoptable pets, go to [www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks](http://www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks) or [www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter](http://www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter), or stop by the animal shelter during normal business hours. Call 281-478-7274 for more information.

## *Drainage Maintenance*

The drainage system in Deer Park includes both open and closed segments. The open sections are drainage swales and ditches, which are utilized to carry storm water away from homes to drainage areas. The closed system is comprised of storm water inlets and storm drain pipes, which also carry water from streets and developments to drainage areas.

Maintenance of these systems is very important. The City performs maintenance work on the system at least twice a year and on an as-needed basis. Debris in ditches and streams can obstruct the flow of flood water, which can cause overflow onto streets and yards. Dumping is against City ordinance and may be punishable with a fine. To report illegal dumping, call 281-478-7252.

Citizens are expected to perform routine maintenance on ditches

located on rights-of-way in front of their properties, including the removal of high weeds, litter, and other items that may be considered a nuisance. The area should also be maintained so that water is not stagnant and becomes breeding grounds for mosquitos.

Remember to always check with the Public Works Dept. before you build on, fill, alter, or regrade your property. A permit is needed to ensure that such projects do not cause problems on other properties.

## *Property Protection Measures*

Repetitive flooding is generally a concern for many in our area. As a result, the City has undergone several drainage improvement projects and has plans for continued improvements. Despite our efforts, the possibility of flooding remains, especially at times when rainfall comes down so fast that the drainage systems are not capable of handling the amount of water all at once. Therefore, you are encouraged to consider some permanent flood protection measures for your property.

- Check your home for water entry points, including windows, doors, dryer vents, etc.
- Know how to shut off the electricity and gas.
- Find a safe place in your home where you can place items high enough above the ground to prevent them from being damaged from flood waters.
- Consider raising your outside air conditioning unit, breaker box, and other outdoor utilities above possible future flood levels.
- Consider sealing the walls in

# Public Works

your home with waterproof coatings, impermeable membranes, or supplemental layers of masonry or concrete. Doors, windows, and other openings can be equipped with permanent or removable shields. Another precautionary measure is to install backflow valves in sewer lines and drains.

- The best way to protect your home is to elevate it, but it is also the most expensive way. Generally, elevating your home involves either lifting the house and building a new foundation or extending the existing foundation, or leaving the house in place and building an elevated floor or adding a new upper story to the house.

## Flood Information

Because Deer Park is a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program, residents can purchase flood insurance to protect their properties against the hazards of flooding.

## Important Facts

- Floods can be caused by heavy storms, hurricanes, and inadequate or overloaded drainage systems.
- An inch of water can cause costly damage to your property.
- You don't need to live near water to be flooded.
- Approx. 25% of all flood insurance claims are paid on properties rated as being low to moderate risk areas.
- Most property insurance policies do not cover damage caused by flooding.
- Federal disaster assistance requires a Presidential declaration, which happens for less

than 50% of flooding events.

- The most typical form of federal disaster assistance is a loan that must be repaid with interest.
- A flood policy will pay covered losses, even if a disaster is not declared by the President.
- The average flood insurance policy with \$100,000 in building coverage is \$400 a year, versus a monthly disaster loan payment of \$240 for many years on a \$50,000 disaster loan.
- There is a 30-day waiting period after you purchase a flood insurance policy before coverage is in effect.



## Two Separate Sewer Systems

Did you know that the storm water sewer system and the sanitary sewer system are two separate systems with different purposes? The storm water sewer system is designed to prevent flooding and consists of gutter drains, ditches, and underground storm sewers. The water is not treated before it enters the receiving body of water, which may be your favorite beach. The sanitary sewer system collects wastewater flowing from drains (toilets, sinks, showers, washing machines, and dishwashers) inside homes and businesses. It brings sewage to the treatment plant, where it is treated using

physical and biological treatment methods before being released.

## City Projects

- The Patrick's Bayou Storm Water Detention Basin is currently under construction on the north end of town. The project will construct a 35-acre storm water detention basin. The project started in January 2013 and is expected to be completed by April 2014.
- The rehabilitation of the elevated water storage tank located at 8<sup>th</sup> & Avon Streets is currently under construction and should be completed by September 2013.
- The Detention Pond Rehabilitation Project was awarded in July and should be completed by the end of September 2013. This project involves rehabilitating 8 city maintained detention ponds around the city.
- The Water Line Improvement Project was awarded in July. This project involves water line replacement on Rutgers, Columbia, East Columbia, and East Dartmouth Streets in the College Park area. This project should be completed by November 2013.

## Recycling

The City of Deer Park recycling containers are located at the Transfer Station, 610 Underwood Road. Your recyclable materials (aluminum, plastic, glass, and paper) will be accepted at the Transfer Station on Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm, and Sat., 9am-4:30pm. For more information, contact the Public Works Dept. at 281-478-7253.

# Police Department

## *National Night Out 2013*

On Oct. 1, neighborhoods throughout Deer Park are invited to join thousands of communities nationwide for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the Deer Park Police Dept. (DPPD). Over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases around the world will participate. Once again, the national corporate sponsors are Target Corporation and NextDoor.com.

National Night Out, a year-long community building campaign, is designed to: (1) Heighten crime prevention awareness, (2) Generate support and participation in local anti-crime programs, (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and (4) Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and plan to fight back. In addition to the traditional outside lights and front porch vigils, most cities celebrate National Night Out with block parties, parades, festivals, safety fairs, and youth activities. Residents in neighborhoods across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on the outdoor lights, and spend the evening visiting with neighbors and police.

National Night Out emphasizes the importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement in our fight to build a safer nation. Contact Community Liaison, Sheila Plovovich, at 281-930-2118 or [splovovich@deerparktx.org](mailto:splovovich@deerparktx.org) for more information.

## *Warrants Warrant Your Attention*

The DPPD is utilizing Blackboard Connect to notify people with outstanding municipal warrants. Blackboard Connect is a service used by City officials to create and disseminate time sensitive messages to telephone numbers stored in the notification database. Notification of warrants through Blackboard Connect gives people the opportunity to quickly address their warrants and stop accruing further charges.

With the failure to appear in court rate at almost 40%, the Deer Park Municipal Court is also utilizing Blackboard Connect to notify people of their failure to appear. A failure to appear charge (\$200 fine) is added to anyone who fails to appear on their court date.

A couple of the new patrol cars are now equipped with cameras that can read the license plates of passing motorists. The License Plate Recognition (LPR) system is designed to associate a license plate with a person who has outstanding warrants and stolen vehicles. If you are issued a traffic citation and that citation becomes a warrant, your information is then placed in the LPR system. The vehicle you were in when you were issued the citation will be flagged. If you drive by a patrol car with the LPR system, the officer will be notified that your vehicle is associated with a warrant. The resulting traffic stop will determine whether the occupant of the vehicle is the person possessing the outstanding warrant. Be aware that if you allow someone else to operate your vehicle, any infraction that the person may receive could inconvenience you later. Obey all traffic laws and take care of your citations.

## *Car Seat & Child Passenger Safety*

All children who are younger than 8 years old and less than 4 feet, 9 inches tall must be properly secured in a car seat or booster seat. The DPPD Traffic Unit, in conjunction with Deer Park Emergency Services, Texas Children's Hospital, and other entities under the Safe Kids Greater Houston Coalition, want to remind you that we host car seat educational awareness classes and seat inspections every month. Those who attend the class may be eligible for a free car seat, if they qualify. Arrangements can also be made so we can speak to your organization about car seat and child passenger safety.

The 1-hour classes are by appointment only and are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at Deer Park Fire Station #1, 1302 Center St., from 10am-3pm. We also offer car seat installations and inspections by appointment, which generally take about 45 minutes to do. In addition, DPPD works with Safe Kids Greater Houston to host this service at Monument Chevrolet in Pasadena on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 11am-5pm. You must register in advance for the free classes and inspections by contacting Diana Suarez at 832-828-1312 or Sergeant J. W. White at 281-930-2152. For more information, go to [www.safekidsgreaterhouston.org](http://www.safekidsgreaterhouston.org).

## *Memorial Garden*

A memorial stone commemorating our 1<sup>st</sup> police K-9, Charly, who passed away on April 8, 2013, is located at the main entrance of the Deer Park Police Station. The police department worked closely with Tiffany McGallian and Harold McHone of the Parks & Recreation

# Police Department

Dept. to design the garden and fabricate the base of the memorial.

Chief Greg Grigg presided

over the ceremony to unveil the memorial stone and garden on May 30. Officers and K-9s from Baytown, Webster, Pasadena, Pearland, and the Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's office were in attendance.



## *Copper Theft Prevention*

Copper theft has become a common occurrence throughout the United States. Below are some tips to help prevent the theft of copper items from your property.

- Remove the exterior of your air conditioning units and spray paint the copper tubing with a florescent orange or green paint. Be sure to set the exterior cover back in place.
- Use DataDot® technology or SmartWater® on your tubing instead of spray paint. For more information on these products, go to [www.datadotusa.com/index.htm](http://www.datadotusa.com/index.htm) and [www.smartwater.com/Video.aspx](http://www.smartwater.com/Video.aspx).
- Remove the landscaping and fencing from around the air conditioner unit to improve the surveillance of the area.
- Install or improve the lighting over your air conditioner units.
- Spray paint or use microdot or DataDot® technology for the copper found in utility rooms, boiler rooms, etc.
- Engrave any copper tubing with the address of the property.
- Ensure that any theft is reported to the Deer Park Police Department at 281-479-1511.

## *Tech Support Scam*

Be aware of a scam in which you are contacted by phone and advised to update your spyware or other software. You will be offered a free upgrade or will be informed that your computer has a virus or malware and the caller can upgrade or fix your computer on the spot. You will then be asked to log onto a web site, such as [www.techzonesupport.info](http://www.techzonesupport.info). Once you log onto the site, they will have total access to your computer and remotely take control.

The cursor on your screen will begin to move and your files deleted. During the process, a Western Union page will appear on your screen and you will be instructed to send \$200 immediately or all of your files will be deleted.

The caller offering you a free upgrade does not know what software you have on your computer or if your computer is infected with a virus. The caller needs to get you to log onto the site and allow remote access so they can take away files or simply steal your personal information. The caller may also download a virus onto your computer and then agree to repair your computer for a price.

This scam is happening all over the United States. According to the Federal Government, the suspects are mostly in India. The Federal Trade Commission has shut down 80 Internet domain names and 130 phone numbers in the United States that have been used in the scam.

If you are contacted by someone offering you a service or update you did not request, do not continue the phone call. Most importantly, do not go to a website directed by

the unknown caller. It is important to use reputable antivirus software and keep it updated. Always back up all of your files onto another device or to another secured location. Damages from a scam such as this could cost you thousands of dollars in repairs to your computer. For more information, contact the Federal Trade Commission at 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580, 202-326-2222, [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov). You may also contact Officer Taylor at 281-930-2148 or [ttaylor@deerparktx.org](mailto:ttaylor@deerparktx.org).

## *False Alarm Prevention*

False alarms caused by lightning strikes are controllable through the proper grounding of alarm systems and the use of power and phone line surge suppressors. The use of surge suppressors greatly reduces false alarms by redirecting and dissipating electrical current to the ground. In order to avoid costly false alarms that may occur during inclement weather, contact your alarm dealer and follow these simple steps:

- Repair loose fitting doors and windows.
- Ensure that all alarm contacts are firmly in place.
- Use wide-gap door and window contacts.
- Use surge protectors/suppressors on the alarm system and the phone line sending the signal to the alarm center.
- Ensure the battery back-up protection is in good working order, fully charged, and holds a charge for at least 4 hours. Generally, the useful alarm system back-up battery life is 4-5 years.
- Ensure your alarm system is properly grounded.

# Police Department

Remember that a properly designed, installed, and maintained alarm system will not generate false alarms due to power surges or power interruption. Taking the proper precautions will greatly reduce the chances your alarm system will be the cause of a false alarm during a storm. However, in the case of a catastrophic lightning strike, the system may malfunction or suffer damage.

The Deer Park alarm ordinance does excuse alarms caused by violent conditions of nature. During hurricanes and tornadoes, alarms activations are expected to occur throughout the city.

## *Help 9-1-1 Help You*

You should call 9-1-1 for an emergency situation that requires immediate assistance from police, fire, or EMS. If you are uncertain whether it is an emergency, call 9-1-1. Calls to 9-1-1 include life threatening or medical emergencies, house fires, crimes in progress, or anything that appears to be an emergency.

You should not call 9-1-1 because you do not know the non-emergency phone number, to obtain general information on special events such as fireworks displays and parade times, to report a power outage at your home, or for assistance with situations that do not require the immediate intervention of emergency services.

Prank calling 9-1-1 is not a joke. If 9-1-1 lines or call takers are busy with prank calls, someone with a real emergency may not be able to get the help they need. In most locations, it is against the law to make prank calls to 9-1-1. For more information, go to [www.911.org](http://www.911.org).

According to the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network, you should do 3 things when you call 9-1-1:

- *Give the exact location of the emergency* - Callers should provide the exact location of the emergency, especially when calling from a wireless phone. Most wireless calls are received at the 9-1-1 call centers with an approximate location. There are instances when the 9-1-1 call center does not receive location information. By providing an exact location, you will ensure that emergency services personnel arrive as quickly as possible.
- *Stay on the line as long as the call taker instructs* - When callers hang up, it could mean that something has gone wrong, so 9-1-1 call takers will attempt to call back. A hang up can delay appropriate emergency assistance and tie up 9-1-1 lines and resources longer than needed.
- *Answer all the questions the 9-1-1 call taker asks you* - It is not unusual for callers in crisis to become frustrated or fail to see why operators' questions are important. By asking questions, an operator is able to gather important information that will result in the dispatching of appropriate emergency services.

The City currently uses the Blackboard Connect service to disseminate time sensitive messages, such as emergency alerts for hazardous materials or chemical releases, shelter-in-place orders, local area evacuations, and dangerous criminal suspect alerts, to telephone numbers stored in our notification database. Residents and businesses wishing to receive City activated emergency

alerts should register for Blackboard Connect at [www.deerparktx.gov/oem](http://www.deerparktx.gov/oem).

## *School Zones*

Deer Park and La Porte schools are back in session on Aug. 26.

## *Important Reminders*

- Plan ahead for the increase in traffic and do not engage in distracted driving.
- Be aware of the school's drop off and pick up times, as well as the flow pattern and designated drop off/pick up points.
- Give special attention to school zone times.
- Do not block any residential driveways or park in the no parking zones.
- Remind children to cross busy streets at the crosswalks and with the assistance of an adult or crossing guard.
- Tell children never to run into the street or cross in between parked cars.
- Encourage your children to use the buddy system and avoid walking alone.
- Remind children to walk in front of a parked bus so the driver can see them.
- It is the law to obey the crossing guards under the Texas Transportation Code 542.501, which requires drivers to obey traffic direction from school crossing guards who are performing their duties.

Go to [www.safekids.org/safetytips](http://www.safekids.org/safetytips) for more information.

For questions or concerns, contact Sergeant J. W. White, Deer Park Police Dept. Traffic Unit, at 281-930-2152 or [jwhite@deerparktx.org](mailto:jwhite@deerparktx.org).

# Parks & Recreation

- *Facility Rentals* - Did you know that residents and non-residents can rent City of Deer Park facilities for parties? Reservations are required at least 3 weeks prior to the event. We strongly recommend booking our facilities as far in advance as possible. For more information, contact our office at 281-478-2050, Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. Go to [www.deerparktx.gov/recreation](http://www.deerparktx.gov/recreation) to view pictures of the facilities available for rent
- *Gulf Coast Sports Challenge* - Each year, companies are invited to participate in their choice of events out of the 13 athletic competitions offered from Sept. through Nov. Most events are double elimination tournaments and scheduled for Saturdays. Companies are encouraged to participate in as many events as possible to earn points. Teams are awarded a point value based on the place they earn in that event. Companies that have participated in the past include the City of Deer Park, City of La Porte, Ineos, Shell, Lubrizol, Oil Tanking, and more. For more information, call 281-478-2050 or go to [www.deerparktx.gov/recreation](http://www.deerparktx.gov/recreation).
- *Market Days* - Sept. 21, Oct. 19 & Nov. 16, 9am-1pm Stroll through Dow Park on Market Days every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month and find a variety of homemade goods and ready-made items. Contact Betty Geck or Miranda Brown at [marketdays@yahoo.com](mailto:marketdays@yahoo.com) if you wish to become a vendor. Seasonal photos will be available on site in Oct., Nov., and Dec.
- *Morning Zumba* - Mondays, 9:30-10:30am, Sessions: Sept. 9-30, Oct. 7-28 & Nov. 4-25, for ages 16 & over, \$30 per session, \$10 walk-in fee, Deer Park Community Center Start your week off right with a high energy workout that combines dance and fitness with Latin rhythms.
- *Evening Zumba* - Tues. & Thurs., 7:30-8:30pm, Sessions: Sept. 3-26, Oct. 8-29 (includes class on Oct. 28) & Nov. 5-26 (includes class on Nov. 25), for ages 16 & over, \$68 per session, \$10 walk-in fee, Deer Park Community Center Zumba is a high energy cardio experience that combines dance and fitness moves with Latin rhythms. It's for men and women of all fitness abilities.
- *Deer Park Karate* - Mon., Wed. & Fri., for ages 4 & over, early registration \$40/mo. for 3 days/week or \$30/mo. for 2 days/week, add \$10 after the 5<sup>th</sup>, Deer Park Community Center We teach Taekwondo and ShorinRyu. Learn a variety of defensive and offensive maneuvers.  
Tiny Dragons (ages 4-6), 4:30-5:30pm  
Intro. Class (ages 7-12), 6:40-7:15pm  
Beginners' Class (ages 7-12), 7:15-8pm  
Teen/Adult Class (ages 13 & over), 8-8:45pm
- *Self Defense for Women* - Saturdays, 1-2:30pm, Sept. 7-28, for ages 13 & over, \$50 per person, \$10 discount for groups of 3 or more, Deer Park Community Center You'll learn basic blocking and striking techniques, as well as defensive and offensive maneuvers.
- *Yoga for Health & Well-Being* - Mon. & Wed., 6:45-7:45pm, Sessions: Sept. 2-30, Oct. 2-30 & Nov. 4-25, for adults, \$55 for any 4 classes within a session, \$95 for 8, or \$15 per class, Claude Burgess Recreation Center Yoga is a non-competitive, non-judgmental form of exercise to develop strength, cultivate flexibility, tone muscles, improve balance, and eliminate toxins from the body. It helps reduce tension and stress by soothing the central nervous system.
- *Pilates* - Tues. & Thurs., 6:30-7:30pm, for teens and adults, early registration \$40/mo. for 2 days/week or \$20 for 1 day/week, add \$10 after the 5<sup>th</sup>, \$7 walk-in fee, Deer Park Community Center Strengthen and tone your body, better your posture, regain balance, and burn calories.
- *Ladies Low Impact Aerobics* - Mon., Wed. & Fri., 8:30-9:30am, for adults, \$20/mo., add \$10 after the 5<sup>th</sup>, Deer Park Community Center A cardiovascular exercise class for sculpting, weight training, and elevating your heart rate.
- *Basic Dog Obedience Training* - Tues., Sept. 3-Oct. 22, 7-8pm, \$75 per session, Jimmy Burke Activity Center Learn how to train your dog to listen using positive reinforcement. Class on Oct. 22 will be held at the Deer Park Community Center.
- *Art Park Dancers* Fall dance classes begin Sept. 3. Spring dance recital, *Snow White*, is on May 24, 2014. Please remember to check recital cast assignment before registering for class: 1<sup>st</sup> cast 4pm & 2<sup>nd</sup> cast 7:30pm.
- *Worldwide Day of Play* - Sept. 21 is Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play, an entire day devoted to play! To celebrate,

# Parks & Recreation

Nickelodeon will go off the air from 12-3pm to encourage you to participate. We've joined in the fun and scheduled 3 hours of free games, inflatables, refreshments, music, and more at Dow Park to encourage families to get out and play. Hot dogs and ice cold water for the first 100 people, popcorn, inflatables, face painting for the kids, and geocaching in the park (bring a smart phone) throughout the entire event, a 3-legged race at 12:30pm, water balloon toss at 1pm, and pool relay races at 2pm (Swimmers must wear a bathing suit). In case of inclement weather, limited activities will be held inside the Deer Park Community Center.



- *Family Camp Out - Sept. 27-28, 6pm-8:30am, \$10 for ages 18 & over, \$7 for ages 17 & under for up to 7 family members (early registration through Sept. 6), \$15 for ages 18 & over, \$10 for ages 17 & under for up to 7 family members (registration after Sept. 6), Avon Recreation Center* Join us for games, s'mores around a fire, and an outdoor movie on our big screen. We'll have campfire chili dogs for dinner and a small breakfast along with coffee and hot chocolate in the morning. Bathrooms will be available throughout the night. Be sure to bring a tent, sleeping bags, warm clothes, and anything else you might need to

make your family camp out comfortable. Electricity will not be available.

- *Another Man's Treasure - Feb. 21, 7am-3pm & Feb. 22, 7am-2pm, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* Become a vendor. All booths are indoors. Registration for Deer Park residents begins Oct. 1. Registration for non-residents begins Nov. 4. Single booth (10'x10') = \$40 Double (20'x10') = \$50 Triple (30'x10') = \$60
- *Brazos Bend Introductory Hike - Oct. 1, 8am-1pm, for all ages, \$12 (includes transportation, entry fee, and snack), Meet at Deer Park Community Center, Room 12* Join us on a trip to Brazos State Park. We will be hiking for about 3 miles. Children ages 6-13 who are able to keep up must be accompanied by a guardian. Children ages 14-17 can participate without a guardian, but must provide a signed waiver. Remember to bring sunscreen and water.
- *Concealed Handgun Class - Oct. 5 & Nov. 2, 8:30am-4pm, for ages 21 & over or 18, if actively serving in the military, \$100 for students, \$90 for Deer Park educators, \$70 for City employees, \$70 for DPVFD, \$60 for Active Military or Reserve, \$40 for Police Officers, Deer Park Community Center* This course covers the rules and regulations to obtain a license to carry a concealed firearm in the State of Texas, as well as the safety, maintenance, and storage of a firearm. Fingerprinting is required prior to the class. Refer to [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us) for more information on fingerprint requirements.

- *Wild Child Destination: Space Center, Fudruckers & Putt Putt Fun House - Nov. 4, 9am-5pm, for ages 6-11, \$35 per participant, Claude Burgess Center* No classes for DPISD. Join us as we venture out to several fun destinations.
- *Movie in the Park - Nov. 9 & Dec. 14, 7:30pm, free to the public* Enjoy a family friendly movie on the outdoor inflatable screen at Dow Park. In case of inclement weather, the movie will be shown in the gym.
- *Getting Paid to Talk - Nov. 18, 6:30-9pm, for ages 18 & over, \$10 per person, Deer Park Community Center* Explore several aspects of voice over work for television, radio, and more. Topics of discussion include how to prepare a demo and earn great income in this field. Space is limited. For more details, go to [www.voicecoaches.com/gppt](http://www.voicecoaches.com/gppt).
- *Junior Tennis - For ages 5-17, \$89 per session (1 day/week) or \$178 per session (2 days/week), Dow Park Tennis Courts* Tennis programs designed for all ability levels. The traditional Saturday program focuses on beginner through intermediate levels and are led by Coach Joel Hoffman and Coach Chris Hoffman. Midweek tennis classes are for intermediate through advanced levels and are led by Ted Geier, USPTA Developmental Coach. Tennis Buddies, ages 5-8 Saturdays, 8:30-9:30am, Sept. 21-Oct. 26 & Nov. 9-Dec. 7 Future Stars, ages 9-14 Saturdays, 9:45-10:45am, Sept. 21-Oct. 26 & Nov. 9-Dec. 7 Performance Team (intermediate level), Saturdays, 9:45-10:45am, Sept. 21-Oct. 26 &

# Parks & Recreation

Nov. 9-Dec. 7  
Performance Team (intermediate level), Tues. & Thurs., 5-6pm, Sept. 26-Oct. 24 & Nov. 5-Dec. 5  
Tournament Tough (advanced level), Tues. & Thurs., 6-7pm, Sept. 26-Oct. 24 & Nov. 5-Dec. 5  
Also available, Adult Cardio, Mon. & Wed., 5:30-6:30pm, Sept. 25-Oct. 23 & Nov. 4-Dec. 9



## Halloween

- *Haunted Maze - Oct. 18 & 19, 7:30-11pm, Oct. 25 & 26, 7:30-11pm, \$8 per person, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* It's that time of the year again, where there is something frightful around every corner. Parental discretion is advised. Not recommended for young children. Tickets will not be sold after 10:45pm each night. Actors will take a 5-minute break at 9pm and 10pm each night.
- *Strut Your Stuff Halloween Costume Contest - Oct. 31, 6:30-8pm, for all ages, \$2 per entry, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* Enter the costume contest for a chance to win some cash! 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place awarded in every category, as well as \$100 for best of show.
- *Halloween Carnival* This year's annual Halloween carnival, which will feature a Dr. Seuss theme, is on Oct. 31 from

6-9pm at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center. It's free admission and parking, so put on your craziest, family-friendly costume and enter the costume contest or enter the pumpkin carving/decorating contest. We'll also have Pumpkin Town with plenty of fun carnival games for young children. Tickets are 50 cents each or 3 for \$1. Most games require 1-2 tickets and everyone wins! Pumpkin Town ticket sales are from 6:15-8:45pm. Other events start at 6pm. Concessions will be available for purchase.



## Thanksgiving

- *Turkey Camp - Nov. 25-27, 7:30am-5:30pm, for ages 6-11, \$75 per participant, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* Gobble until you wobble with fun for the Thanksgiving Break with arts & crafts, games, and field trips. Limited to 45.
- *Turkey Shoot - Nov. 26, 6-9pm, for ages 6 & over, \$2 per person until Nov. 10, \$3 per person after Nov. 10, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* Equipment will be provided for all Turkey Shoot participants. No personal equipment allowed. There will be 4 age groups, beginning at age 6. Participants ages 18 & over will compete in archery only. Winners in each division will receive a prize.



## Christmas

- *Reindeer Park - Dec. 6, 6-9pm & Dec. 7, 3-8pm* Join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual fun-filled 2-day event, Reindeer Park. There will be a Santa's Village with craft vendors, photos with Santa, Santa's Tree Farm, the Christmas tree lighting, an ice skating rink, snow areas and slides, Christmas at the Cabin, and a lighted Christmas parade! The theatre will host Mrs. Clause's Marketplace and an Art Park Players' performance at Prancer's Playhouse. Overflow parking will be at the Houston Safety Council, where a trolley service will be available to transport passengers to and from the activity center and theatre. Trolley service will not be available during the parade. Go to [www.deerparktx.gov/reindeerpark](http://www.deerparktx.gov/reindeerpark) for more information.
- *Sleigh Ride - Dec. 18-21, 6:15-7:30pm & 7:15-8:30pm, \$5 per rider, Deer Park Community Center, Room 12, Registration starts Oct. 7.* Join us for hot chocolate and cookies as we prepare to load up the sleighs and enjoy Deer Park's Christmas lights. Space is limited so reservations in advance are required. Children must be accompanied by an adult and a waiver must be signed for each participant. Limited to 60 per ride.

***Register Today - Before a Storm is on its way!***  
***Transportation Assistance Registry***

If you will need help evacuating in the event of a hurricane, please dial 2-1-1 to register in advance for a ride. Dial 2-1-1 as soon as possible, if you:

- Have a disability or special health care need and require assistance to get out.
- Cannot drive and cannot arrange for transportation.
- Do not have a vehicle and you have no one else to help you evacuate.

The 2-1-1 registration process gives local emergency planners a better idea of the number of individuals who may need assistance, and the type of assistance they may need. The State of Texas will provide your information back to local emergency planners so they can plan accordingly.

Once you are registered, your information is safe in the state database. There is no need to call either 2-1-1 or your local emergency management office back to verify registration. This includes people who registered last year. Unless there is a change to your information, you do not need to re-register.

You will need the following information to register:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number (There is only room for one number, so please give the best number to call.)
- Contact name
- Contact relationship (aunt, brother, son, friend, landlord, etc.)
- Contact phone number
- Do you need transportation? (yes or no)
- Do you have any pets or service animals? (yes or no)
- Do you have a special medical need? (Describe the type of need you have.)



***Save Your Life. Dial 2-1-1 To Register In Advance For A Ride.***

***Citizen Work Request***

Do you know of something that needs to be done? Maybe something we have missed? Please let us know. Simply complete this form and return it to: City Manager, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536.

*You can also submit a Work Request online at [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov).*

***Together we can make Deer Park a better place!***

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the work \_\_\_\_\_

May we call you for more information?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

# Council Actions

## May 2013

- Awarded a proposal for the Battleground Golf Course Lease & Issuance of Notice to Proceed.
- Awarded a proposal for the purchase of APCO 911 Advisor Medical Dispatching (EMD) and Call-Taking software.
- Awarded the bid for the purchase of a 1 year supply of lime slurry to Lhoist North America.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for mowing services.
- Authorized staff to seek proposals for commercial garbage collection services.
- Approved the purchase of video enhancement hardware and software from Ocean Systems in the amount of \$18,946 for the police department.
- Authorized staff to seek proposals for an employee compensation and benefits program.
- Authorized staff to advertise and seek bids for the annual Water Line Replacement project.
- Approved an agreement with Touchstone Golf for a temporary concession agreement for the Battleground Golf Course.
- Approved an agreement with Love's Truck Stop for a water line extension.
- Approved an agreement with CDM Smith for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Renovation project.
- Approved an agreement with Layne Christiansen Company for the P Street Water Well Rehabilitation project.
- Authorized the submission and acceptance of a grant for bullet proof vests from the United States Department of Justice.
- Approved an interlocal agreement with League City for the OSSI Program.
- Approved a recommendation from the Luella Striping Committee for no changes to the striping on Luella Avenue.
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and an ordinance calling a joint public hearing to rezone 8015 Spencer Highway from Multi-Family Two (MF-2) to General Commercial (GC) zoning.
- Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2012-2013 Water and Sewer Fund Budget for the emergency rehabilitation of the P Street water well.
- Awarded the bid for a 1 year supply of gasoline and diesel to Petroleum Traders Corporation.
- Approved the Quarterly Financial Report for January through March 2013.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for a 1 year supply of sodium hexametaphosphate for the Water Treatment Plant.
- Approved a settlement for medical expenses.
- Approved a resolution amending the Personnel Policy Manual relating to FMLA and Workers Compensation and the right to fill a vacant position.
- Approved an ordinance rescheduling the Joint Public Hearing to rezone 8015 Spencer Highway from Multi-Family Two to General Commercial zoning.
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and a proposed ordinance on the request of SOZO Church for a church and a church office at 4200 Center Street.
- Approved an ordinance appointing two members to the Planning & Zoning Commission/Board of Adjustments.
- Approved an ordinance appointing two alternate members to the Board of Adjustments.
- Approved an ordinance appointing two members to the Recreation Commission.
- Approved a running chronological listing of Mayor Pro-Tem designations.

## June 2013

- Awarded the bid for the Senior Meals Program to Skillet's.
- Awarded a contract for professional auditing services to Belt Harris Pechacek, LLP.
- Approved the purchase of the VOIP Phase II Phone System through the State DIR Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the lease purchase financing of the Phase II of VOIP Phone System.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the Detention Pond Rehabilitation project.
- Authorized staff to advertise and seek bids for a 1 year supply of garbage bags.
- Accepted the completion of the Emergency Sanitary Replacement project for Park Vista Lane. Final cost was \$147,978.93.
- Approved a request from First Choice Emergency Room to locate a construction trailer at 3701 Center Street.
- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Crime Control & Prevention District Board.
- Awarded the bid for mowing services to Klean Kuts Yard Care at a price of \$500 per mow (\$23,000 per year).

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- Awarded a proposal for the Compensation and Benefits Survey & Analysis to Fox Lawson at a cost of \$35,500.
- Awarded the bid for a 1 year supply of sodium hexameta-phosphate to Shannon Chemical Corporation in the amount of \$1.267 per pound.
- Approved an agreement with Deer Park Independent School District for FY 2013-2014 facility usage.
- Approved an agreement with CenterPoint Energy for a staging area site in the event of an emergency.
- Approved the appointment of 3 City representatives to the Chamber of Commerce Tourism Advisory Committee.
- Approved an agreement with IDS Engineering for the design of streets for drainage improvement projects.
- Authorized signators to act on the City's behalf in all matters related to the acquisition of real property.
- Approved an ordinance addressing inspector weekend work and requiring contractors to pay a minimum charge of four hours for inspections occurring on weekends or City holidays and after hours.
- Approved an ordinance to rezone 8015 Spencer Highway from Multi-Family Two to General Commercial.
- Approved a request from Structural Preservation for a temporary occupancy permit to locate a construction trailer at 1003 Clay Court.
- Awarded the bid for lease purchase financing of a refuse truck to Branch Banking & Trust Company at an interest rate of 1.38%.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for year 3 of the Sanitary Sewer Overflow program.
- Authorized the purchase of a raw water meter for the water treatment plant from CC Lynch & Associates in the amount of \$30,780.
- Awarded a proposal for commercial garbage collection services and authorized staff to negotiate a contract with Waste Management.
- Awarded the bid for the waterline improvement 2012 project to Alcott Inc. DBA TCH in the amount of \$256,456.
- Awarded the bid for the lease purchase financing of a VOIP Communication System to Commerce Bank at an interest rate of 1.60%.
- Authorized the purchase of golf course maintenance equipment through Buy Board to comply with the lease agreement with Touchstone Golf.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street Pavement Failure Replacement project.
- Approved the appointment of 3 members to the Compensation Study Committee.
- Approved an interlocal agreement with the City of Houston for radios.
- Referred a request from CenterPoint Energy to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a specific use permit to place a communications tower at their existing substation located at 2100 Center Street.
- Referred a request to Planning & Zoning Commission for a specific use permit to operate a day care at 4509 Center Street.
- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Recreation Commission.
- Approved an ordinance appointing members to the Senior Citizen Commission.
- Approved an ordinance appointing members to the Planning & Zoning Commission/Board of Adjustments.
- Approved an ordinance appointing an alternate member to the Board of Adjustment.
- Approved a recommendation from the Crime Control and Prevention District to accept the FY 2013-2014 budget, and an ordinance calling a public hearing.
- Approved a recommendation from the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District to accept the FY 2013-2014 budget, and an ordinance calling a public hearing.
- Approved the additional funding to cover the cost of new permitting software for the Public Works Department.
- Approved an amendment to the contract with IDS Engineering Group for the weir design at the Patrick's Bayou Detention Basin.

## July 2013

- Awarded the bid for lease purchase financing of a refuse truck

### Utility Billing & Central Collections

You can conveniently pay your water bill by automatic bank draft. For information on setting up the electronic draft, call 281-478-7221. You can also pay online at [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov).

# Art Park Players

## Junior Art Park Players 2013 Fall Semester Schedule

### Mondays:

- Musical Theatre Class, ages 4 & 5, 4:30-5:30pm
- Musical Theatre Class, ages 13-18, 5:30-6:30pm

### Tuesdays:

- Vocal Performance Class, 4:30-5:30pm
- Musical Theatre Class, ages 6 & 7, 4:30-5:30pm
- Musical Theatre Class, ages 8 & 9, 5:30-6:30pm

### Wednesdays:

- Modeling Class, 4:30-5:30pm
- Musical Theatre Class, age 10, 4:30-5:30pm
- Musical Theatre Class, ages 11 & 12, 5:30-6:30pm

### Thursdays:

- REACTION Performing Group, 4:30-6:30pm

### Fridays:

- The Company Acting Class, 4:30-6pm



## Art Park Players Dates to Remember

- Sept. 16: JAPP Fall Semester begins.
- Oct. 11-26: Dinner Theatre Production, *Lend Me a Tenor*
- Dec. 3-6: JAPP Christmas Production, *Scrooge The Musical*
- Dec. 2-7: The Louise McBee Circle of Life, Circle of Wreaths Fundraiser benefiting The Rose
- Dec. 2-7: Angels in the Arts Craft Show
- Dec. 7: APP Christmas Dinner Theatre



To purchase tickets to any of our shows, call the Art Park Players Box Office at 281-794-2448. Unless otherwise noted, productions are held at the Municipal Court & Theatre Building located at 1302 Center Street.

The Art Park Players are always looking for volunteers. If you're interested in helping build sets, serving as a crew member for a production, locating props and costumes, working with our children's theatre school, or working at the concession stands, please call 281-478-7288 or send an e-mail to [artparkplayers@deerparktx.org](mailto:artparkplayers@deerparktx.org).



## THE BATTLEGROUND AT DEER PARK



## The Battleground at Deer Park

1600 Georgia Ave.

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

Golf Course 281-478-2080  
Republic Grill 281-478-2089

## Garage Sales

A garage sale permit must be obtained before conducting a garage sale. The fee for the permit is \$5 and may be obtained from the Utilities Dept. at City Hall. A garage sale sign permit may be obtained for an additional \$5. A \$25 deposit is required. A garage sale permit can be issued only once within a 6-month period for the same address or same person and cannot exceed 10 consecutive days.





P.O. Box 700  
Deer Park, TX 77536

Presorted Std.  
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Deer Park, Texas  
Permit #15

The mission of the City of Deer Park is to plan and execute activities necessary to provide expected quality services to the citizens so that the opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life is afforded to all.

## Disaster Debris Removal Guidelines



The City of Deer Park has adopted the guidelines below for the removal of disaster debris.

- A disaster is an event that results in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage or loss of property. A State of Emergency must have been declared by the City.
- Disaster debris may include vegetation (branches, leaves, stumps), construction materials (drywall, lumber, carpet, furniture, mattresses, plumbing), household hazardous waste (oils, batteries, pesticides, cleaning supplies, lawn chemicals),

white goods (refrigerators, washers, dryers, freezers, air conditioners, stoves, water heaters, dishwashers), and electronics (televisions, computers, radios, DVD players).

- The City will remove disaster debris only if, the City makes the determination that the debris is extensive enough to pose a serious and immediate threat to life, health, safety, and welfare or an immediate threat of significant damage to property, and a federal, state, or local agency will provide reimbursement for the removal of the disaster debris.
- The City will use all available media sources to notify residents when disaster debris collection will commence and when it will end.

### *Collection Tips*

- Separate disaster debris by cat-

egory and place in the right-of-way or next to the curb.

- Place regular household waste in appropriate bags and place in the normal pick up location.
- Be patient as debris collection crews will be assigned to certain areas and will make multiple passes to collect disaster debris.
- Do not mix items from different debris categories. Mixing of debris types may result in non-collection.
- Do not stack disaster debris against trees, poles, fire hydrants, mailboxes, and storm drains.
- Do not commingle disaster debris from community property, such as common areas or private parks – it will not be collected.

Contact the Public Works Dept. at 281-478-7253 for more details.