



City of Deer Park Messenger

Winter 2013

Santa Around Town

Santa and his sleigh of music and lights will be escorted through our neighborhoods by the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Dept. Santa will be touring around town on Dec. 18 through 21, from 6pm to 9:30pm every night. To find out when Santa will be in your neighborhood, visit our website at www.dpvfd.org or www.giftofchristmas.com.

While Santa is riding atop a sleigh pulled by his reindeer, the firemen will be giving candy to all of the children. The volunteers of the Deer

Park Fire Dept. have really enjoyed spreading this glimpse of Christmas cheer to all residents for the past 29 years. So, from our family to yours, *Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!*



Gift of Christmas

The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department (DPVFD) is collecting toys, non-perishable food items, and monetary donations for the Gift of Christmas program. The program continues to help over 120 families in need within the Deer Park Independent School District each year. The residents, businesses, and schools in our community are who make it all possible.

Help make it another successful year by placing collection receptacles at your school or business and encouraging everyone to donate. Call 281-478-7283 to request a collection container and schedule the firefighters to pick up your donations Dec. 12-19. You may also drop off items at Fire Station No. 3, Dec. 2-16, Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm. Please do not wrap the gifts. If you prefer to make a monetary dona-

tion, please make checks payable to the "Deer Park Volunteer Fire Dept. GOC." The DPVFD is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization so donations are tax deductible. All donations will be used to purchase food and gifts. To notify us of a family in need, please call 281-478-7283.

Become a Member



Are you interested in serving your community as a firefighter or an emergency medical services provider? The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Dept. is accepting applications for volunteer firefighters and EMS providers. The next academy will begin in March 2014. For more information or to apply online, go to www.dpvfd.org.



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City Services Closed

City facilities will be closed on Dec. 24 & 25 for the Christmas holidays and on Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. Curbside collection of rubbish will resume on your next regular collection day.

DPTV

Catch all new episodes of the Texas Parks & Wildlife television series every Wednesday at 7pm. The week's episode repeats on Saturday at 10:30am. Watch DPTV on Comcast channel 16, Comcast digital cable channel 99, or AT&T U-verse channel 99.

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.

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. Director

Other Appointed Officials

Jim Fox City Attorney

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. 8th 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. 13th 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 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

December _____
 2 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
 3 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
 5 Siren Test 6pm
 16 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
 17 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
 24 City Services Closed
 25 City Services Closed

January _____
 1 City Services Closed
 2 Siren Test 6pm
 6 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
 7 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
 20 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
 21 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
 28 LEPC Meeting - 11am

February _____
 3 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
 4 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
 6 Siren Test 6pm
 17 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
 18 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
 25 LEPC Meeting - 11am

Emergency Notifications

Sign up for the City's emergency notification service at www.deerparktx.gov/oem. Click on the Blackboard Connect icon.



Then click on the one-step notification sign up icon to enter your contact information into the database.



Season's Greetings

Wishing you happy holiday moments to enjoy and remember all year long.

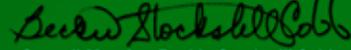

Council Member Sherry Garrison


Council Member Thane Harrison


Council Member Chris Richey




Council Member Rae A. Sinor


Council Member Beckie Stockstill-Cobb


Mayor Jerry Mouton, Jr.


Council Member Bill Patterson

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.

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., 7am–5pm and Tues.–Thurs., 7am–7pm. It is a free service for seniors.

Woodworking

The Maxwell Center offers a woodworking class each Wednesday at



1pm. Instructor Michael Moeskau was recently featured in *Monument Life* magazine for his pumpkin carving talents.



Brazilian Embroidery

Join us on Tuesdays at 9am to learn about Brazilian (3-dimensional) embroidery. Instructor Mel Hutchinson will have samples on display for you to look at. This class is perfect for those who enjoy sewing or working with their hands.

Bus Trips

Jan. 25 - Saturday Liberty Opry Matinee. Bus will depart from Maxwell Center at 12:15pm. Cost is \$14 plus donation and meal at Simply Country Inn.



Senior Holiday Banquet

December 12, 6pm
Jimmy Burke Activity Center

Join us for a traditional holiday meal and entertainment by the DPHS orchestra. Reservations are required. Call Virginia at 281-478-7276 or stop by at 1201 Center Street.



Employee Awards



*July – Supervisor
Chris Brown, Police Dept.*



*August – Field Services
Jeff Eaton, Humane Dept.*



*July – Support Staff
Ernestine DeHaven, Police Dept.*



*September – Supervisor
Kellie Bass, Police Dept.*



*July – Field Services
Greg Melching, Public Works Dept.*



*September – Field Services
Jared Byrd, Public Works Dept.*



*August – Support Staff
Nathan Bell, I.T. Services Dept.*

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.

Prescription Discount Card Program

The City of Deer Park, in conjunction with the National League of Cities, offers a prescription discount card program to help Deer Park residents cope with the high cost of prescription medications.

The card is free to all Deer Park residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health insurance. By using this card you may save an average of 20% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs at participating pharmacies.

There are no membership fees or enrollment forms required to get the card. Residents may access the program online at www.caremark.com/nlc to print a card, check drug prices, and locate participating pharmacies.

Cards are available at City Hall, the Community Center, Public Library, Maxwell Adult Center, and Police Station.

For more information, visit www.deerparktx.gov and select *Prescription Discount Card Program* under *Our Community* or call 888-620-1749 toll free.

This is not insurance. Discounts are only available at participating pharmacies. By using the card, participants agree to pay the entire prescription cost less any applicable discount. Savings may vary by drug and pharmacy.

Fire Department



Candle Safety

Candles are common around Christmastime. However, they can cause several problems if you are not observant.

- Never use candles on a tree or a place near an evergreen tree.
- Make sure candles are mounted in a secure and nonflammable base that will not tip easily.
- Never leave a candle unattended or burn candles where small children can reach them.



Christmas Lighting

Prior to putting up your Christmas lights this year, take a few minutes to check them. Remember that lights are more difficult to repair when already hung. Make sure to conduct the following checks on the lights while they are unplugged.

- If plastic inserts are missing or broken in the plugs or connectors, replace or discard the cord. Exposed metal conductors might shock you.
- Check all sockets for cracks or

broken pieces. These will not protect you from electrical shock and should be replaced.

- The prongs on a plug should remain fixed and not wobble when in use. Check by pushing them against a hard surface or plugging into a connector five times.
- Check the entire cord for cracked or bare wires. If any wires are exposed, do not use them. Also, be sure to check the areas where the lights are attached.
- Plug the lights into a connector for at least 10-15 minutes and watch for smoke or melting plastic.
- Use lights on natural or plastic trees only; never use lights on metal trees. For metal trees, use a color wheel or indirect lighting.
- Be exceedingly careful when working on a roof. This time of year, dampness can make roofs extremely slippery. Have appropriate clothing and footwear for the job. Be sure to use a ladder and not a makeshift device. Whenever possible, have someone hold the ladder firmly to the ground while you are on it. If you are working alone, make sure someone knows you are up there and what you are doing. To prevent sliding and slipping, tie the tip of the ladder to the roof. Move the ladder as close to where you need to be as possible. Rather than move the ladder one more time, some may decide to overbalance on the ladder and soon find themselves on the ground or hanging from the eaves. Also, be wary of overhead power lines, antennas, and other objects.



Safely Dispose of Gift Wrapping and Boxes

Always dispose of gift wrapping immediately after you open gifts. Don't try to burn the paper in a fireplace or wood stove. Place it in a metal container until it can be taken out with the trash or recycled. Gift boxes can be easily reused or recycled.

Buying Your Christmas Tree

When buying a tree, try to buy one that has been recently cut. A family outing to cut your own or buying a live tree for future planting are two alternatives to the pre-cut tree. No matter what you decide to do, remember the following tips:

- Before putting the tree in the stand, make a fresh, angled cut about two inches from the original cut.
- Water the tree at least once each day to assure a high moisture level. Also, keep the tree away from all heat sources.
- Never leave lights on when you are not at home. Extended use of lights will also have a drying effect on the tree.
- When taking down your tree after Christmas, don't attempt to discard it by burning it in your fireplace.
- When the needles begin to fall, the tree is beginning to dry out and should be removed.

Police Department

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

Although this is the season to be jolly, please be wary of burglars, thieves, pickpockets, and other holiday grinchers. Nothing ruins the holiday spirit like becoming a victim of a crime.

The majority of us view the holiday season as a joyous time to spend with our friends and families. Unfortunately, burglars view the holiday season a little differently. They see it as an opportunity to burglarize your home and vehicle.

Safety Tips for the Holidays

- Be extra cautious about locking your doors and windows when you leave, even if it is just for a few minutes. Do not openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window of your home, making it easily visible from the street. It's very tempting for a potential criminal to break the window and take what he sees.
- Do not advertise when you are not home. Burglars look for cues, such as outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day and stacked up mail. Also, do not post your holiday plans on a social media site. If you are out of town, use a timer that will turn lights, televisions, and radios on and off. If you leave for the evening, turn on the television and lights so the house appears to be occupied. Burglars know to look for hidden keys near the front entrance. Do not hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above the door ledges. Instead give the spare key to a family member or trusted

neighbor.

- Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. When extension cords connect exterior Christmas lights to an outlet inside the house through a window, the window cannot be properly secured or locked.



- Don't post your family name on your mailbox. A burglar can call directory assistance to get your telephone number. While the burglar is in front of your house, he can call to confirm if you are away. Furthermore, don't leave descriptive messages on your answering machine, such as "You've reached the Smiths. We will be away on a ski trip during the Christmas holidays, so please leave a message." Messages on social media sites also provide the same information. Burglars love to hear that they will have plenty of time to break in and completely ransack your home.
- While out shopping for Christmas presents, be sure to stay alert and aware of your surroundings. While you are focused on getting ready for the holidays, criminals are out looking for easy targets. If possible, try to shop before dark. Also, try to shop with a friend or family member so you are not out alone. Never park in an unlit parking lot or in any area that reduces visibility.
- Lock your vehicle every time you get out. If you have packages, be sure to lock them in the

trunk or back portion of the vehicle. Make sure packages are hidden and are not in plain view.

- When walking to your vehicle, have your keys readily available. Look around the parking lot as you walk so you'll be aware of any suspicious persons in the area and confirm that you are not being followed. When you arrive at your vehicle, scan the interior to make sure no one is hiding inside. If you see something suspicious, if someone is following you, or if someone is inside of your vehicle, call the police department immediately. If you are being followed, return to the store until the police arrive.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchased items with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm with the purse zipped or securely closed. Men need to carry their wallets in an inside jacket pocket, not in a back pant pocket.
- After Christmas day, don't pile up empty gift boxes from your new televisions, notebooks, iPhones, and other gifts out on the curb for garbage. Burglars will use this knowledge to come back and steal your new expensive gifts. Break the boxes down or cut them into smaller pieces where they can be concealed in a garbage bag.
- When enjoying yourself at holiday parties, the Deer Park Police Department would also like to remind you not to drink and drive. Save a life and call a cab or have a friend take you home.

Police Department

Bias Based/Racial Profiling

Bias based/racial profiling is defined as a law enforcement-initiated act based solely upon an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin, or on the basis of other criteria rather than upon the individual's behavior, activity, or other lawful reason. Deer Park Police Officers are strictly prohibited from engaging in bias based/racial profiling. Citizens who believe they have been the subject of bias based/racial profiling may file a complaint with any employee of the Deer Park Police Dept. or call the Internal Affairs Division at 281-930-2103.

Electronics Recycling Day

The Deer Park Citizens' Police Academy Alumni Association (DPCPAAA) is hosting an electronics recycling drive on Jan. 18, 9am-4pm at the Deer Park Police Station. Recyclable items include computers, hard drives, laptops, keyboards, routers, cables, printers, fax machines, copiers, small appliances, such as toasters, mixers, microwaves, curling irons, game consoles, projectors, batteries, disc drives, toner cartridges, electric fans, alarm clocks, CD/VCR players, etc.

The DPCPAAA is made up of graduates from the Deer Park Citizen's Police Academy who volunteer their time to assist with traffic control for parades, warrant calling, park patrol, handicap parking enforcement, the Peace Officers Memorial, various clerical duties, and serving meals to officers on holidays and special occasions.

For more information, contact Sheila Plovovich at 281-930-2118 or Adell Boren at 713-299-6382.

Citizens Police Academy - Class 29

The Deer Park Police Dept. is currently recruiting citizens for the 29th class of the Citizen's Police Academy. Classes begin on Feb. 20 and meet each Thursday, 6:30-9:30pm, until graduation. Classes generally run for 14 weeks and cover several aspects of police-related work.

Classes include hands-on training in SWAT, DWI procedures, self defense, investigations, communications, and many other topics. Prospective students must be at least 18 years old with a clear criminal history, willing to attend the entire academy, and live, work, or attend school in Deer Park.

Graduates are encouraged to join the Deer Park Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association. Alumni members continue to interact with the police department in a number of capacities.

The academy is provided free of charge. For more information, contact Sheila Plovovich at 281-930-2118 or splovovich@deerparktx.org.

Selling A Home Should Not Be Alarming

False burglar alarms are costly, dangerous, and divert law enforcement officers' attention from actual emergencies and crime prevention activities. Law enforcement officers respond to millions of false alarm calls every year. Some false alarms are caused by real estate agents showing properties for sale. Generally, if a municipality has an alarm ordinance, any fees or fines resulting from false alarm responses will be charged to the property owner.

Tips for Property Owners

- Contact your monitoring company to advise that the property is on the market and that real estate agents will be in and out throughout the day. Set up special instructions so they may call you or a listing real estate agent for instructions before they request dispatch on all burglar alarm activations. Ensure that the alarm company has up to date work, home, and cell phone numbers for you or the listing agent.
- Provide complete training to agents on how to properly turn the alarm system on and off.
- Obtain a separate pass code and password for real estate agents who are allowed to enter the home during this time. Agents can use their codes to turn off the alarm system, cancel a response, and identify themselves to the alarm company as a valid alarm user.

Tips for Real Estate Agents

- Indicate on the property listing documents that there is an active alarm system at the home.
- Educate real estate agents on how to arm and disarm the system, as well as how to cancel a false alarm if one should occur.

Tips for Visiting Real Estate Agents

- Before you enter a property, find out if the property owner has an active alarm system installed.
- If there is an active alarm system, contact the listing agent to determine the proper procedures for entering the property.
- Answer the phone at the site to prevent a police dispatch if the alarm company attempts to call for verification of a needed

Police Department

response.

- If you cause a false alarm, notify the listing agent and monitoring station immediately.

For more information, contact Officer Merv Howard at 281-930-2144 or mhoward@deerparktx.org.

Be On the Lookout for Sliders

Sliders are thieves who are “sliding” into cars and snatching valuables from open windows and unlocked doors. Sometimes, the perpetrator is caught red-handed. More often, the victim has no idea until it’s too late. These thieves are often at gas stations waiting for the opportunity to snatch purses and other valuables while customers casually pump fuel into their vehicles. These criminals simply want to take your unprotected valuables and avoid confrontation.

Please be aware that these crimes are on the rise. An incident caught on tape in Houston showed a woman walking into a gas station as a man in a neighboring vehicle cased the inside of her car. When she returns to the gas pump to fill up the tank, the man opens the door on the opposite side of the vehicle and takes her belongings without her noticing. Avoid being the next victim, lock the car doors every time you exit the vehicle, even if you are standing next to your vehicle pumping gas.

Remember to **Lock** your car, **Take** your keys, and **Hide** your valuables. Also, keep your purse with you or hide it inside of your locked vehicle.



Extra Traffic Enforcement

Please be aware that there will be extra traffic enforcement in specific problem areas around town. For example, you may have already noticed the new signs changing the speed limit in the 4800-5000 block of East Blvd. (near Wal-Mart, Chick-fil-A, and NTB Auto Center) from 50 mph to 40 mph for traffic in both directions. An analysis revealed this location to be among the highest traffic accident locations in Deer Park. Increased enforcement in this area started Oct. 1, 2013.

The extra traffic enforcement is made possible through funds received from the Texas Department of Transportation under a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant. The following sites were surveyed and determined to have compliance rates low enough to meet the requirements for selective traffic enforcement:

1. 5300 State Highway 225 E/B Feeder at Robin (45 mph)
2. Georgia (2400-3200 block) (30 mph)
3. East P Street (100-1500 block) (30 mph)
4. San Augustine (1200 block west - 1300 block east) (30 mph)
5. Louisiana Street (1900-3200 block) (20 mph)
6. 13th Street (700 block west - 1300 block east) (30 mph)
7. State Highway 225 (4900-7000 block) (65 mph)
8. East Boulevard (700-1800 block) (40 mph)
9. W. 13th Street (1300-1800 block) (40 mph)

The primary goal of STEP is to increase effective enforcement and

adjudication of traffic safety-related laws to reduce crashes, fatalities, and injuries. To achieve this goal, STEP combines intensive enforcement of traffic safety laws with extensive communication, public education, and community outreach. The program will be used as a supplement for normal patrol duties to achieve the highest level of voluntary compliance with traffic laws and maximize the safety and quality of life for all. Officers will continue to patrol their designated beats.

For more information, contact Sgt. J.W. White at 281-930-0842 or jwhite@deerparktx.org.

Ban on Illegal Smoking Products

On Sept. 17, the Mayor and City Council passed an ordinance by a unanimous vote. The new ordinance prohibits the possession, sale, offer to sell, barter or trade of an illegal smoking product or psychedelic/hallucinogenic compounds. All synthetic cannabinoids, psychedelic, and hallucinogenic compounds are banned in Deer Park and any person who violates any provision of the ordinance shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined up to \$500.

This new ordinance is in response to a nationwide increase in the use of synthetic drugs and the knowledge that these compounds have no accepted medical use and have not been approved by the FDA for human consumption. There has been evidence of both acute and long-term public health and safety issues. The DEA has declared the synthetic drugs an imminent hazard to public safety.

Police Department

The DPPD strongly encourages businesses not to sell the banned substances and requests that residents report any business or individual selling the synthetic drugs.

Periodic inspections for businesses in Deer Park aim to ensure compliance with this ordinance. Those businesses found to be in violation will be charged accordingly.



Identity Theft

The U.S. Department of Justice states, "Identity theft is a crime. Identity theft and identity fraud are terms used to refer to all types of crime in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses another person's personal data in some way that involves fraud or deception, typically for economic gain." Victims of identity theft should:

- Contact your local police department and file a report.
- Obtain a copy of your police report and/or the case number.
- Contact the Texas Department of Public Safety at 512-424-2600.
- Notify all creditors and merchants of your stolen credit cards.
- Notify your banks and credit unions.
- Contact the Social Security Administration at 800-269-0271.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission at 877-438-4338

to inquire if someone has applied for credit in your name.

- Notify the U.S. Passport Agency at 202-647-0518.
- Contact the credit reporting agencies to request a fraud alert and obtain a free credit report.

Equifax - P. O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com

To report credit fraud, call 800-525-6285.

To request a credit report, call 800-685-1111.

Experian - 701 Parkway, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com 888-397-3742

TransUnion - P. O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92634, www.transunion.com

To request a credit report, call 800-916-8800.

To report credit fraud, call 800-680-7289.

Tips To Protect Your Identity

- Shred all trash that has identifiers and account information.
- Never give information over the telephone or internet, unless you initiated the conversation or you know who you're dealing with.
- Remove extra information from your checks. Make the clerk or cashier ask for identification when your checks are used.
- Ensure all carbon copies from credit cards are destroyed.
- Check credit history and bank records frequently.
- Minimize the number of credit/debit cards that you carry in the event your wallet or purse is stolen.

For more information, go to the Texas Attorney General's website at www.oag.state.tx.us.

Economic Dev.

Business News

- **Dunkin' Donuts** will soon open at 3313 Center St. and you can enjoy a free medium-sized cup of coffee (hot or iced) for the first 21 days of business. This is Dunkin's way of showing their appreciation to the Deer Park community. Deer Park's Dunkin' Donuts is an all-day stop for coffee, baked goods, and sandwiches.



- Deer Park graduate, Hector Gonzalez, recently opened **Hometown Equipment Rentals** at 9515 Spencer Highway. Hometown provides a diverse selection of quality, well-maintained equipment for both the homeowner and the industrial/commercial customer. Homeowners can definitely make life easier with access to smaller tools, such as chippers/mulchers, stump grinders, tillers, and trenchers. Hometown also offers folding tables and chairs, tents, air coolers or heaters, and portable gas generators for rent.
- The **Deer Park Sign Shop** has opened at 912 W. Pasadena Blvd. Owner Cesar Villareal has successfully operated their first location in Pasadena for the past 7 years. They can design, fabricate, install and repair commercial and industrial signs, plus create banners, business cards, car magnets, vehicle wraps, yard signs, and much more.
- **Rock Realty** has opened at 444 W. Pasadena Boulevard, offering residential and commercial real estate services. The owner,

Economic Dev.

Cindi Robison, has based her real estate and legal career in Deer Park since 1995.

- **Garza Firearms** celebrated their 2nd anniversary in Deer Park at 2817 Pickerton St. (just off Center St. near AT Voomer Audio). Owner and Deer Park graduate, Gary Garza, offers all types of firearms, ammunition, and supplies at a very low-cost.
- Shirley Terry-Lopez started her beauty career 30 years ago as an image consultant and make-up artist. In 1989, she opened **Beyond Beauté** at 2805 Center St. Dr. Elena Geppert, a board-certified plastic surgeon, now offers Botox injections on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Beyond Beauté in Deer Park.



- **Nolan Power Group** has relocated their Houston office to 207 Deerwood Glen in Deer Park. Nolan Power Group is a family-owned business based in Louisiana that has served the stationary power needs of the southern region for over 30 years. Their current 8 employees will be moving to the new facility. The company has plans to hire more employees after relocating.



For questions, contact Debbie Westbeld, Economic Development Administrator, at 281-478-2042 or go to www.deerparktx.gov/ed.

Public Works



Mosquito Control

The City uses an EPA approved application to spray for mosquitoes Monday through Thursday during mosquito season. In addition to spraying, the City treats drainage ditches and the storm sewer system (areas of standing water) with EPA approved Altosid Briquets. This is the most effective approach in controlling the mosquito population by killing mosquito larvae before they develop into adult mosquitoes.

Nothing takes the fun out of an outdoor event like mosquitoes. In addition to inflicting a painful bite, mosquitoes can transmit diseases. Mosquitoes require water to breed. They lay eggs in stagnant or slow moving water, moist soil, leaf litter, or any area that is likely to collect water. Be diligent about getting rid of standing water around your property. Drill holes in the bottom, not the sides, of garbage and recycling containers stored outdoors. Keep the gutters clean and unclogged. Also, make sure your downspouts drain properly, without leaving puddles in the drainage area. Keep swimming pools cleaned and chlorinated, even when not in use. Ornamental ponds should be aerated to keep water moving and discourage mosquitoes from laying eggs.

Keep your property clean of items that can hold water, including discarded aluminum cans and tires.



Prevent Clogged Drains & Sewer Overflows

Disposing of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) down your household fixtures can be a health hazard, cause an unwelcome clogged sink or toilet, and cost you and your city lots of money.

Blockages account for 43% of all sanitary sewer overflows. You should avoid sending any foreign material down your sewer pipes, including paper products, wood, metal, and toys. The worst items to send down the drain are, of course, fats, oils, and grease. FOG solidifies in the lines of the collection system and form large chunks that get stuck or build up on the walls of the pipes, thus narrowing the lines headed to the treatment plant. A blockage of the collection system could cause sanitary sewer overflow, in which the sewer overflows and spills into ditches, the ship channel, and the bay. It could also cause the sewer system to backup into your yard and home. Untreated wastewater can be quite costly to clean up and can cause serious health issues for you and the surrounding community, including killing fish in our waterways.

Instead of pouring your cooking oil and grease into the sink drain, place them in a container with a tight sealing lid. Once your used grease solidifies, place it in a trash bag. Liquid oil and grease can be placed

Public Works

in a container, such as an old milk carton, and placed at the street curb with your normal household trash. The City will collect your used motor oil and cooking oil. For residents who compost, used cooking oil is biodegradable and can be added to your compost piles.

A common misconception that can lead to the discharge of FOG into the system is running hot water and slowly pouring FOG down the drain so it does not cause a blockage. If the fats, oils, and grease make it through your lines to the main line, which is not likely due to the FOG cooling too fast, the blockage will be building downstream from your connection.

Please properly dispose of FOG and do not send it into the lines of the collection system. Your participation can save money and prevent backups into homes.

Flood Map Information

To view the flood maps and determine the flood zone your property is in, call 281-478-7244, go to <http://maps.riskmap6.com/TX/Harris/>, or visit the Public Works Dept. at City Hall.

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.



Keep dirt, mulch, leaves, and other debris out of the storm drain!

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 mid-year 2014.
- The Rehabilitation of the Elevated Water Storage Tank located at 8th St. & Avon St. has completed construction. The project was awarded to Gulf States Protective Coating, Inc. for \$361,700. The final construction cost was \$355,865.
- The Water Line Improvement Project was awarded in July 2013 to TCH in the amount of \$242,556. This project involves water line replacement on Rutgers, Columbia, East Columbia, and East Dartmouth Streets in the College Park area. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.
- The Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation for Spencer View Terrace Subdivision was awarded to Horseshoe Construction in the amount of \$538,450. This project is expected to be completed during the 1st quarter in 2014.



Patrick's Bayou Detention Project Construction

Library News

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
Wed. & Thurs., 10:15-10:45am
Jan. 8-May 1*

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.

Preschool Storytime

*For ages 3½ to 6
Thursdays, 11-11:45am
Jan. 9-May 1*

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



Holiday Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers

Dec. 5, 10:30-11:30am

This special storytime hour is a combined toddler & preschool session. The children will enjoy Santa stories and refreshments.

Holiday Craft

*For ages 5-12
Dec. 17, 3:30-4:30pm*

Two separate craft sessions are presented simultaneously for children ages 5-8 and 9-12. Materials are provided free of charge.

Penguin Craft

*For ages 5-12
Jan. 14, 3:30-4:30pm*

Two separate craft sessions are presented simultaneously for children ages 5-8 and 9-12. Materials are provided free of charge.

Valentine Craft

*For ages 5-12
Feb. 11, 3:30-4:30pm*

Two separate craft sessions are presented simultaneously for children ages 5-8 and 9-12. Materials are provided free of charge.

Teen Tech

*For school-aged teens
Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm*

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.

Teen Mystery Dinner

*For school-aged teens
Feb. 13, 4-6pm*

At this dinner, everyone is a suspect, even you! Guests will be given clues to solve the mystery while enjoying a meal provided by the Friends of the Library.

Teen Advisory Board Meetings

*For ages 13-18
Dec. 10, Jan. 14 & Feb. 11
4-5pm*

Join the library's Teen Advisory Board and be a part of the planning for teen programs. We'll also discuss

reading trends and make suggestions for the teen collection. Meetings will be every 1st Tuesday of the month at 4pm. Interested teens should send an e-mail to Robert at rzambrano@deerparktx.org or stop by the library.

Computer Classes

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.

Register for December classes on Nov. 20, January classes on Dec. 23, and February classes on Jan. 27.

- **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 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

Library News

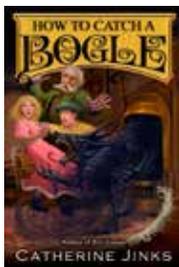
and functions.

- **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.

Mystery Book Club meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Join other mystery readers to discuss the selected books and other mystery favorites. Registration is not required. You are welcome to come whether you have read the books or not. Please call 281-478-7208 or go to www.deerparktx.gov/library for the titles of the books to be discussed.

Great Reads for Children & Teens

- Big Wet Balloon by Ricardo Liniers
- The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos by Deborah Heiligman
- Brush of the Gods by Lenore Look
- Bully by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- House of Hades by Rick Riordan
- How to Catch a Bogle by Catherine Jinks
- Kelsey Green, Reading Queen by Claudia Mills
- Locomotive by Brian Floca
- The Coldest Girl in Coldtown by Holly Black
- The Beginning of Everything by Robyn Schneider



- Hostage Three by Nick Lake
- Burned by Ellen Hopkins

New Arrivals for Adults

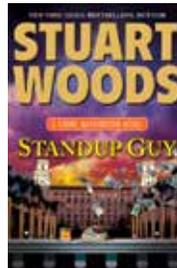
December

- The Gods of Guilt by Michael Connelly
- Hazardous Duty by W.E.B. Griffin & William E. Butterworth IV



January

- Innocence by Dean Koontz
- Standup Guy: A Stone Barrington Novel by Stuart Woods



February

- The Polaris Protocol: A Pike Logan Thriller by Brad Taylor
- Do or Die by Suzanne Brockmann
- Killer by Jonathan Kellerman
- Private L.A. by James Patterson & Mark Sullivan
- After I'm Gone by Laura Lippman
- Worthy Brown's Daughter by Phillip Margolin



Deer Park Library Hours

Mon. & Wed. 10am-6pm
Tues. & Thurs. 10am-9pm
Fri. & Sat. 10am-5pm



Parks & Recreation

It's Christmastime!



- **Reindeer Park - Dec. 6, 6-9pm & Dec. 7, 3-8:30pm** Join us for the 3rd 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, a zip line, the Christmas tree lighting, snow areas and slides, a cross country run, 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 Area Safety Council. A shuttle service will be available to transport passengers to and from the activity center, theatre, and Houston Area Safety Council parking lot. The shuttle will run from 6-9pm on Friday, and 3-8pm on Saturday. Go to www.deerparktx.gov/reindeerpark for more information.
- **Reindeer Dash 5K Run/Walk - Dec. 7, Run begins at 8am, Walk begins at 8:15am, \$20 per person in advance, \$25 per person on race day, Jimmy Burke Activity Center** Bring the whole family out to the Inaugural Reindeer

Parks & Recreation

Dash 5K Run/Walk. It will be a cross country course led by Santa Claus and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Please note that awards will not be given. The chip timing system will still be available. Packet pick up is Dec. 6, 12-6pm at the Earl Dunn Gym. Those who register by Nov. 29 will receive t-shirts. Proceeds will be donated to families in the Deer Park Independent School District through the Opportunity Center.

- *Movie in the Park - Dec. 14, 7:30pm, free to the public* Come watch the classic movie, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, on the outdoor inflatable screen at Dow Park.
- *Breakfast with Santa - Dec. 14, 9am, \$10 per child, \$5 per adult, Deer Park Community Center, Room 12* Santa will stop by for breakfast before heading off to the North Pole to finish preparing for the big day. Children will enjoy making a wish list and holiday crafts. All participants will receive a McDonald's Big Deluxe Breakfast. Breakfast is limited to the first 50 children. Registration will close on Dec. 4. This is a self-paced breakfast. All craft supplies are given to participants when they arrive and supervision is required. A ticket is required to be admitted to the event.
- *Sleigh Ride - Dec. 18-21, 6:15-7:30pm & 7:15-8:30pm, \$5 per rider, Deer Park Community Center, Room 12* 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.

- *Santa Sleep Over - Dec. 20-21, 7:30pm-7am, \$35 per child, Meet at Deer Park Community Center* The children will be delighted to kick off their winter break with this fun-filled night of fun. We'll start off with the Festival of Lights at Moody Gardens, followed by games, movies, and snacks at the Community Center. Children should eat dinner before arriving. They will need to wear comfortable clothes and bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and a change of clothes. A minimum number of participants is required. Maximum number is 50.
- *Elf Camp - Dec. 23, 9am-5pm, for ages 6-11, \$20 per child, Deer Park Community Center* Parents, don't miss this opportunity to get all of your last minute Christmas shopping done. We've got a fun-filled day planned for your little ones - games, cooking, arts & crafts, and more. Limited to 25. Children must bring a sack lunch.



- *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 5th, \$7 walk-in fee, Deer Park Community Center* Strengthen and tone your body, better your posture, regain balance, and burn calories. Classes will not be held in December.
- *Ladies Low Impact Aerobics - Mon., Wed. & Fri., 8:30-9:30am, for adults, \$20/mo., add \$10 after the 5th, Deer Park Community Center* A cardiovascular exercise class for sculpting, weight training, and elevating your heart rate.



- *Concealed Handgun Class - Jan. 4 & Feb. 1, 8:30am-4pm, for ages 21 & over or 18, if actively serving in the military, \$110 for students, \$100 for Deer Park educators, \$70 for City employees, \$80 for DPVFD, \$70 for Active Military or Reserve, \$50 for Police Officers, Cost does not include \$15 range fee paid directly to the range, Deer Park Community Center* This course covers the rules and regulations to obtain a license to carry a

Parks & Recreation

concealed firearm in the State of Texas, as well as the safety, maintenance, and storage of a firearm. The class is designed for those getting their license for the first time. Renewals are now handled online through the Texas Department of Public Safety at www.txdps.state.tx.us. Fingerprinting is required prior to the class. The closest fingerprinting location is L1 Identity in Pasadena. Forms that must be completed prior to start of class are available online at www.tchconcealed.com.

- *Another Man's Treasure - Feb. 21, 7am-3pm & Feb. 22, 7am-2pm, Free admission and parking, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* To become a vendor, please reserve one of our indoor booths. Single booth (10'x10') = \$40 Double (20'x10') = \$50 Triple (30'x10') = \$60
- *One Day Fun Day - Jan. 2 & 3, 7:30am-5:30pm, for ages 6-11, \$25 per child per day, Claude Burgess Center* Join our exciting one-day camps during Christmas break! Each day we'll have fun on field trips and playing games. You may sign up for one or both days.
- *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

Future Stars, ages 9-14

Saturdays, 9:45-10:45am

Performance Team (intermediate level), Saturdays, 9:45-10:45am

Performance Team (intermediate level), Tues. & Thurs., 5-6pm, Jan. 14-Feb. 20

Tournament Tough (advanced level), Tues. & Thurs., 6-7pm, Jan. 14-Feb. 20

- *Adult Cardio, Mon. & Wed., 5:30-6:30pm, Jan. 13-Feb. 19, \$65 per week (1 class) or \$130 per week (2 classes), Dow Park Tennis Courts* It's the ultimate, high energy workout. Get in shape and burn calories! Go to www.cardiotennis.com for more information.
- *Adult Co-ed Kickball Tournament - \$50 per team (at least 9 players), registration deadline is Mar. 3, tournament is March 8, 9am, Adult Sports Complex, 2600 Pasadena Blvd.* Co-ed teams play in a double elimination tournament. Champions win team t-shirts and the registration fee is covered for the spring kickball league.
- *Adult Co-ed Kickball League - \$200 per team (at least 9 players), registration deadline is Mar. 10, league begins Mar. 19, Adult Sports Complex, 2600 Pasadena Blvd.* New adult kickball league for men and women! Co-ed teams play in a 6-week organized league on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. League champions win their own choice of a trophy or team t-shirts.
- *Adult Spring Softball League - \$420 per team, \$400 per team*

for returning teams, league begins Mar. 17, Monday evenings are for Men's recreation teams, Tuesday evenings are for co-recreational teams, and Thursday evenings are for men's competitive teams, Adult Sports Complex, 2600 Pasadena Blvd. It's 8 weeks of scheduled double-header games on all grass infields. All leagues are class D leagues registered through A.S.A. Payment is required to secure a spot for your team. Register by Mar. 10 and receive an additional \$20 off, plus 6 softballs for your team!

- *Youth Basketball League - Season begins mid-Jan., \$60 per child, for ages 7-12, DPISD Gym* The number of teams in the league are determined by the amount of volunteer coaches who register for the season. Teams will be determined by a "blind draft" per age division, regardless of the school they attend. Each player will receive a basketball jersey. Practices are twice a week and games are held on Saturdays.
- *Become a Lifeguard -* As a lifeguard, you are entrusted with the lives of others. You must be extremely responsible, attentive, and patient. You are required to complete the NASCO certification course, which includes physical challenges and a written exam to ensure you are capable of performing the necessary duties of the job. To become a lifeguard, go to www.deerparktx.gov/hr and complete an online application. If you are selected, you will be called for an interview.

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.

Report A Concern

To report a concern or issue that needs our attention, complete this form and return it to:
City Manager, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536.

You can also submit the appropriate form online at www.deerparktx.gov.

Together we can make Deer Park a better place!

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Location of concern: _____

Describe the issue: _____

Council Actions

August 2013

- Awarded the bid for a one-year supply of refuse bags to Interboro Packaging Corporation in the amount of \$155,160.
- Authorized staff to seek proposals to provide arbitrage rebate services.
- Authorized the purchase and upgrade of the SCADA software system for the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$148,600.
- Approved an interlocal agreement with Deer Park Independent School District for School Resource Officers and Crossing Guards for 2013-2014.
- Approved an interlocal agreement with La Porte Independent School District for Crossing Guards for 2013-2014.
- Approved an amendment to the Gateway Project agreement.
- Approved an ordinance amending the terms of the board members of the Crime Control and Prevention District.
- Approved an ordinance amending the terms of the board members of the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District.
- Authorized the rejection and rebidding of the Detention Pond Rehabilitation project.
- Authorized the sale of surplus equipment and miscellaneous items to be auctioned online through Rene Bates Auctioneers.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the West 13th Street Pavement project.
- Authorized the renovation and purchase of park and playground amenities at Dow Park, Terrace Park, and other neighborhood parks from the Play-Well Group via the BuyBoard.
- Approved the appointment of members to the Budget Advisory Committee.
- Approved a revision to an agreement with Essayon Engineering and Development for engineering and design work for the East Highline Drainage project.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the Crime Control and Prevention District 2013-2014 budget.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Services District 2013-2014 budget.

September 2013

- Approved the quarterly financial report for April-June 2013.
- Approved the quarterly investment report for Jan.-Mar. 2013.
- Approved the quarterly investment report for April-June 2013.
- Approved the purchase of an Automated Fingerprint Identification System machine from Morpho Trak in the amount of \$25,595 for the Police Dept.
- Approved the appointment of members to the Boards and Commissions Nominating Committee.
- Approved a request for a temporary occupancy permit from Dunkin' Donuts to locate a construction trailer at 3313 Center Street.
- Approved an agreement with Waste Management for the collection and removal of solid waste from commercial property.
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 90-11 of the Code of Ordinances as it relates to solid waste.
- Approved an ordinance amending the speed limits on East Blvd.
- Approved a resolution supporting action on the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012.
- Authorized the submittal of the 2013 Tax Roll and the calculation of the Effective Tax Rate and the Rollback Tax Rate.
- Approved the anticipated tax collection rate of 100%.
- Approved an ordinance calling two public hearings on the proposed 2013 Tax Rate.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the 12th Street Drainage project.
- Approved a change order for the Avon Water Storage Tank project and accepted the completion of the project. Final cost of the project was \$354,355.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for a one-year supply of Ferric Chloride.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for a one-year supply of Pulsar, plus Calcium Hypochlorite Briquettes or equivalent.
- Approved the expenses for Council to attend the 2013 Texas Municipal League Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.
- Approved a resolution supporting the nomination of a representative to the Harris County Appraisal District Board of Directors.
- Approved an agreement with Next Step Transition Center for the use of the Community Center to provide habilitation services to individuals, eighteen years and older, with developmental disabilities.
- Approved a resolution to designate authority to the City Manager to assign fund balance to reflect the City's intended use of the funds.

Council Actions

- Approved a resolution authorizing publication of Notice of Intention to Issue Certificates of Obligation and approved the preparation of the Preliminary Official Statement.
 - Approved a resolution to restrict a portion of the unrestricted net assets in the Series 2002 – TWDB Fund and the Water & Sewer Fund.
 - Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2012-2013 Water & Sewer Fund to replace a blower at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
 - Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2013-2014 Budget.
 - Approved an ordinance regarding the annual review of the City's Investment Policy and notating necessary updates to the policy.
 - Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2013-2014 Classification and Pay Scales.
 - Approved an ordinance appointing members to the Crime Control & Prevention District Board of Directors.
 - Approved an ordinance appointing members to the Fire Control Prevention & Emergency Medical Services District Board of Directors.
 - Approved an ordinance calling a Joint Public Hearing to rezone a 6.5 acre tract of raw land along Underwood Road from General Commercial (GC) to Light Industrial (M-1).
 - Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and an ordinance on the request of CenterPoint Energy for a Specific Use Permit to place a communication tower at their existing substation located at 2100 Center St.
 - Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and an ordinance on the request for a Specific Use Permit to operate a daycare at 4509 Center St.
 - Approved an ordinance changing the time of the October 1, 2013 Regular Council meeting from 7:30pm to 5:30pm, due to National Night Out.
 - Approved an ordinance making possession of synthetic marijuana, the sale of synthetic marijuana, or an attempt to purchase synthetic marijuana a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.
 - Authorized a temporary concession agreement extension for the alcohol sales at the Battleground Golf Course and the Republic Grill with Touchstone Golf, LLC.
- October 2013*
- Awarded a proposal for arbitrage services to Arbitrage Compliance Specialists in the projected amount of \$14,600.
 - Authorized expenses for City Council to attend the National League of Cities Congress of Cities and Exposition in Seattle, Washington.
 - Awarded the bid for the 3rd year Sanitary Sewer Overflow project to Horseshoe Construction in the amount of \$538,450.
 - Approved an appointment of members to the Historical Committee.
 - Approved the naming of a Councilmember as a voting delegate at the National League of Cities Congress of Cities and Exposition annual conference to vote on behalf of the City of Deer Park.
 - Approved an ordinance calling a Joint Public Hearing to rezone 210 Helgra St. from Multi-Family 2 (MF-2) zoning to Community Services (CS) zoning.
 - Approved an ordinance calling a Joint Public Hearing to rezone 216 East Vaughn from Single Family 1 (SF-1) zoning to General Commercial (GC) zoning.
 - Authorized staff to form an Arbitration Committee for the purpose of settling a personnel dispute per City Charter Section 5.14.
 - Approved an appointment of a City representative to the Arbitration Committee.
 - Approved an ordinance to abandon a 20-foot sanitary sewer easement in the Enclave at East Meadows, Sec. 2 subdivision.
 - Approved an ordinance levying Ad Valorem Taxes for 2013.
 - Accepted the completion of the Library Expansion Project. Final cost was \$1,624,553.30.
 - Authorized staff to seek applications for bank depository services.
 - Authorized the purchase of 4 Chevy Tahoes for the Police Department through the Houston-Galveston Cooperative Purchasing Program.
 - Approved an amendment to the agreement with the Crime Control Prevention District for FY 2013-2014.
 - Approved an amendment to the agreement with the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District for FY 2013-2014.
 - Approved an ordinance amending the City attorney contract.
 - Approved an ordinance appointing two associate judges

Council Actions

- of the City of Deer Park.
- Approved an ordinance amending the compensation for the associate judges of the City of Deer Park.
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 90-5 of the Solid Waste Code regarding placement of trash in municipal rights-of-way prior to garbage collection days.
- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District Board of Directors.
- Approved an ordinance and a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Specific Use Permit to open a church at 1305 W. Pasadena Boulevard.
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and an ordinance calling a Joint Public Hearing to rezone 5.841 acres out of and part of Outlot 515 Town of La Porte from General Commercial (GC) to Light Industrial (M-1).
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and an ordinance calling a Joint Public Hearing to rezone 2.249 acres out of and part of Outlot 515 Town of La Porte from General Commercial (GC) to Light Industrial (M-1).
- Approved an ordinance to rezone 4410 Underwood from General Commercial (GC) to Light Industrial (M-1).

Art Park Players

Louise McBee Circle of Life, Circle of Wreaths & Angels In the Arts Craft Show

Dec. 3-7

It's time for the Art Park Player's annual wreath auction benefitting *The Rose*. A variety of vendors will be attending.

Mrs. Kringle's Closet & The Mistletoe Cafe Luncheon & Style Show

Dec. 7, 11am-1pm

\$15 per ticket

Ladies, come join the Art Park Players as they celebrate the Christmas season with author, Eva Piper. Eva is the wife of best-selling author Don Piper, whose *90 Minutes in Heaven* has brought hope and healing to many. Now, Eva is telling her side of the story in the upcoming book *A Walk Through the Dark*.



Scrooge, The Musical

Dec. 7

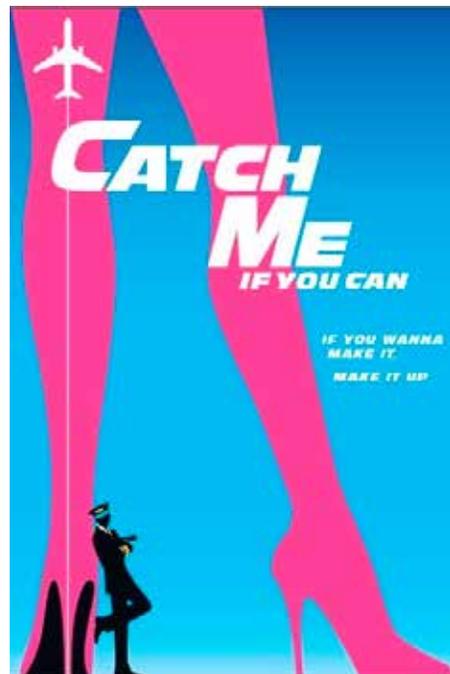
6:30pm Dinner, 7pm Show

Join the Art Park Players for this year's Christmas dinner theatre production of the classic tale.

The Jr. Art Park Players Acting Company Showcase

Dec. 13 & 14, 6:30pm

The JAPP Acting Company performs their semester's work in this 2-night event.



Catch Me If You Can, The Musical

Feb. 14 - Mar. 1

The production is based on the film, *Catch Me If You Can*, starring Leonardo Dicaprio and Tom Hanks. It is the true story of a young man who, before the age of 21, forged over 2 million dollars worth of checks and successfully impersonated an airline pilot, a doctor, and a lawyer. Auditions will be held on Dec. 10 at 7pm.



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.



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.

Dog & Cat Owners

Residents are asked to note the following City Ordinance regarding dogs and cats running at large.

Section 14.1. - Definitions

Running at large means: (Off-premises) Any dog which is not restrained by means of leash or chain of sufficient strength and not more than 15 feet in length to control the action of such animal while off premises; or any cat which is off the owner's property.

Section 14-8. - Duties of owners and persons in control and protection of animals.

It shall be unlawful for any owner or person to fail to prevent any animal from running at large within the corporate limits of the city.

Your compliance is appreciated.

Donate to Interfaith Helping Hands



The City of Deer Park Charity Committee supports the efforts of Interfaith Helping Hands, a food bank that has been assisting local families in need for 30 years. The most needed items are peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti sauce, canned meat, macaroni and cheese, instant mashed potatoes, and crackers. Donations are accepted at 1300 E. 13th St. (Deer Park United Methodist Church), Tuesday & Thursday, 10am-2pm. Photo I.D. with current address is required for food assistance. For more information, contact Brian Barry at 281-479-8829.



1600 Georgia Ave.
www.battlegroundgolfcourse.com
Golf Course 281-478-2080
Republic Grill 281-478-2089

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.



Recycle

Recycle aluminum, plastic, glass, and paper at the Transfer Station on Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm, and Sat., 9am-4:30pm. For more information, call 281-478-7253.