



City of Deer Park
Messenger

Spring 2014

Outdoor Warning System

New Testing Schedule

You will soon notice a significant change in the testing schedule for the outdoor warning system. Beginning in April, the outdoor warning system will be tested every Saturday at 12pm, instead of the first Thursday of the month. This change will allow for more frequent testing of the system and enhance community awareness.

Citizens are encouraged to review their plans for sheltering in place, as well as what to do if an actual emergency condition arises. Sirens will be sounded for chemical emergencies and tornado warnings that pose an imminent threat to our community. For information about

sheltering in place, please visit the Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee's website at www.deerparklepc.org.

Please confirm that your cell phone numbers and unlisted numbers are registered on Blackboard Connect, the City's emergency notification service. To register or verify that your phone numbers are in the database, go to www.deerparktx.gov/oem or call 281-479-2394.

Also, stay connected with the City of Deer Park Office of Emergency Management on Facebook at www.facebook.com/deerparktx.oem and Twitter @deerparkoem.



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Roadside Solicitation

New Ordinance

In past years, there have been concerns over roadside solicitation within the city limits of Deer Park. Solicitors have been observed standing in the center island of Center Street, at the curb alongside the roadway, at the corners of intersections, and entering the roadway to collect donations. Concerns about the safety of the solicitors and passing motorists, in addition to previous unsuccessful attempts to gain compliance through safe solicitation practices, led City Council to pass an ordinance on December 17, 2013.

The new ordinance states that no person shall act as a public area solicitor within the city without first obtaining a license and naming a responsible adult to oversee the solicitation activity and ensure compliance with the ordinance. A fee is not associated with the license. All organizations and individuals planning to host a public solicitation, such as a car wash, selling bottled water, and other activities, must obtain an application from the City Secretary's Office located within City Hall. For more information, call 281-478-7248.

Peace Officers Memorial Service

The 14th Annual Peace Officers Memorial Service is scheduled for 10am on May 15 at the Municipal Court and Theatre Building. We will honor those in law enforcement who lost their lives in the line of duty. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. This year, National Police Week is May 11-17.

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
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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 th 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 th 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

March

- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting - 5:30pm
- 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

April

- 1 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 5 Siren Test 12pm
- 7 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting - 5:30pm
- Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 12 Siren Test 12pm
- 15 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 18 City Services Closed
- 19 Siren Test 12pm
- 21 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 22 LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 26 Siren Test 12pm

May

- 3 Siren Test 12pm
- 5 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting - 5:30pm
- Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 6 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 10 Siren Test 12pm
- 17 Siren Test 12pm
- 19 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 20 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 24 Siren Test 12pm
- 26 City Services Closed
- 27 LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 31 Siren Test 12pm



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

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

Try out our 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.

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.

For information on upcoming bus trips, please call 281-478-7276.



Employee Awards



*October – Supervisor
Matt Edwards, Public Works*



*November – Support Staff
Crissy Naranjo & Lupe Estrada,
Human Resources*



*October – Field Services
Noe Mendoza, Parks & Recreation*



*December – Supervisor
Tim Rawls, Meter Reader - Utilities Div.*



*October – Support Staff
Ethel Ridgeway, Police Dept.*



*December – Field Services
Bobby Bridges, Public Works*



*November – Field Services
Jesse Rodriguez, Public Works*



*December – Support Staff
Clayton Hall, Police Dept.*

Fire Department

Seasonal Allergies

Allergy season typically kicks off in the spring and fall when certain trees, grasses, and flowers pollinate. Allergies cause short-term inflammation of the mucous membranes that line the nasal passages. Although it's usually not a dangerous condition, it can be very uncomfortable and, for some people, can severely disrupt daily activities.

Normally, the immune system does not respond to mild substances like pollen or mold. However, in sensitive individuals, the body's defense mechanism views these substances, which enter the body through the eyes, nose, or throat, as an infectious agent and initiates an attack. The immune system unleashes a series of chemicals, such as histamine and other compounds, resulting in localized inflammation that leads to irritation and discomfort. Symptoms of an allergic reaction begin 5 to 10 minutes after exposure to the allergen, subside within an hour, and may return 2 to 4 hours later. Allergies produce an array of symptoms, including eye irritation, sneezing, runny nose, congestion, stuffy nose, headache, wheezing, and coughing. Symptoms may also interfere with sleep and result in irritability.

Although allergies can develop later in life, most will have surfaced before age 20. On average, allergies begin by age 10. Allergies also tend to run in families. More than half of allergy sufferers have a close relative with a history of allergies.

Allergies themselves are not serious. However, infections, such as a sinus infection characterized by fever,

pain, and green or yellow nasal discharge, can mimic allergies. Asthmatics and people diagnosed with congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or other pulmonary diseases may experience increased reactions during allergy season and need EMS services when a reaction does occur.

Over-the-counter (OTC) allergy medications may ease your discomfort. Antihistamines can stop the itching and sneezing caused by the release of histamine that the body produces in response to allergens. However, they can cause drowsiness, dry mouth, confusion, and blurred vision. A nasal decongestant, such as pseudoephedrine, may help relieve a stuffy nose by constricting the blood vessels and reducing blood flow to the nasal passages, which reduces swelling. However, some undesirable side effects, such as insomnia and restlessness, can occur. While Fire and EMS services are available to assist those experiencing severe attacks, individuals known to suffer from seasonal allergies should consult with their physician to discuss available treatment options.



Fire Safety

It's an excellent time for outdoor barbecues! Unfortunately, each year, the Deer Park Fire Dept. responds to an increased number of fires caused by outdoor cooking. Below are some tips to help keep you and your family safe this spring.

- Keep your grill clean to reduce the potential for flaring.
- Inspect your gas grill for leaks, frayed igniter wiring, worn hoses, and connections. Use leak detection solution to check all connections for tightness. Check the grill hose regularly for cracks, brittleness and leaks.
- Utilize the propane exchange program to ensure you're using a propane tank that has been properly inspected.
- Always grill outdoors in well ventilated areas. Never grill in a parking garage, breezeway, carport, patio cover, porch, or under any surface that can burn.
- Keep the grill lid open when lighting. Propane gases or lighter fluids will build up in enclosed areas and cause a flash fire or explosion when lighting.
- Turn the grill off at the gas source first, then the burners. This allows the line to empty reducing the possibility of a line rupturing or gas release when disconnecting.
- Cover disconnected hose end fittings and burner air intakes with small plastic bags or fitting caps for protection when the grill is not in use.
- Make sure the grill is shut off and completely cooled before covering it.
- Secure your propane tank to your grill.
- Never leave the grill unattended. Fats from foods that are cooking can cause flaring and result in uncontrolled flames.
- The hot exterior surface of grills can create severe burns on contact so be aware of children when the grill is in use.

Police Department



Vehicle Model Added to Fleet

The Deer Park Police Department has added a new vehicle model to its fleet. The 2013-2014 Crime Control and Prevention District budget enabled the purchase of 4 Chevrolet Tahoe vehicles to replace the aging Ford Crown Victoria models. Similar to many area agencies, the DPPD recognizes the benefits of adding the SUV's to its fleet.

- The vehicles are larger with a roomier interior than any of the previous police vehicle models utilized.
- Fuel usage and cost is comparable to the Chevrolet Caprice.
- The vehicles have a higher resale value than any police vehicle in use.

H.E.A.T. and T.R.I.P. Programs Discontinued

The Texas H.E.A.T. (Help End Auto Theft) and T.R.I.P. (Texas Recovery and Identification Program) programs, which were administered by the Texas Department of Public Safety, ceased operating on Dec. 31, 2013. TxDPS no longer accepts new registrations for either program. Existing registrations could not be renewed and were removed from the program regardless of their expiration date. H.E.A.T. and T.R.I.P. decals should be removed and destroyed from registered vehicles and equipment.

National 9-1-1 Education Month

April is National 9-1-1 Education Month. Greater Harris County 9-1-1 previously promoted their campaign, Help 9-1-1 Help You. Anytime you call 9-1-1, you are strongly encouraged to follow these tips to ensure your safety, as well as the safety of others.

- Give your location – It is important for callers to provide the exact location of the emergency, especially when calling from a wireless phone. Providing an exact location will ensure that emergency services are dispatched to the appropriate location.
- Always stay on the line – When callers hang up, it could mean that something has gone very wrong, so 9-1-1 call takers will attempt to call back. A hang-up call can delay appropriate emergency assistance and tie up 9-1-1 lines longer than necessary.
- When calling 9-1-1, always answer the questions – It is not unusual for callers in crisis to become frustrated or fail to see why the 9-1-1 operator's questions are important. The operator asks questions in order to discern important information that will result in the correct emergency response and personnel being dispatched to the scene.

Greater Harris County 9-1-1, a national award winning provider, publishes additional information about services, 9-1-1 education materials, and awards at www.911.org. Greater Harris County 9-1-1 services more than 5 million citizens and 40 different

call centers, which handle 8,000 to 10,000 calls per day. The Deer Park Police Department's Communications Unit answers approximately 20,000 of these calls every year. More than 70% of calls originate from mobile phones, which can present challenges when attempting to locate a caller. Public education, training for call takers, cooperation from wireless providers, and the use of enhanced technology assist our efforts in dealing with those challenges.

National Telecommunicator Week

National Telecommunicator Week is April 13-19, which is during National 9-1-1 Education Month. We want to recognize the efforts of dispatchers and call takers who work tirelessly behind the scenes along with Fire, EMS, Police, and other first responders to protect and serve their communities.

The State of Texas requires Telecommunications Officers (TCOs) to possess a license in order to dispatch. TCOs are licensed by the same agency that regulates peace officers. Deer Park TCOs must take a basic telecommunications course, a crisis communications class, and TCIC/NCIC, TDD/TTY and 911 equipment training shortly after employment. In addition to required courses, TCOs may take specialized courses pertaining to domestic violence, active shooter situations, hostage negotiations, stress management, hazardous materials, cultural diversity, ethics, law enforcement, fire safety, and other topics.

Deer Park TCOs are unique in how they dispatch compared to

Police Department

larger agencies. Due to Deer Park's smaller size, one TCO may be responsible for handling several tasks at the same time. These tasks include answering non-emergency phone calls, answering 9-1-1 calls, dispatching police, Fire, EMS and city services, and many other clerical duties. Deer Park TCOs are also trained to provide pre-arrival instructions for both medical and other types of calls. TCOs work rotating shifts and experience stress levels similar to those experienced by other first responders due to the demands of the job, hours, and repeat exposure to tragic incidents.

Because TCOs are not physically present at the scene of the emergency situation, they do not routinely see the results of their life-saving efforts. TCOs are often referred to as first, first responders for being the initial contact during a crisis. TCOs must be skilled and capable of passing difficult training.

Citizens are invited to learn about the Communications Unit and other facets of the Deer Park Police Department through the Citizen's Police Academy.

False Alarm Prevention is Your Responsibility

Do you think about your security system when you leave for work or go on vacation? Do you consider who may need to enter your home to care for your pets and plants, who may stop by with deliveries, etc.? Everyone who will enter the premises should be trained on how to use the security system, including bypassing the motion detector, what to do if an alarm occurs, and how to cancel an alarm. You are strongly encouraged to keep an alarm system

instruction card (preferably multi-lingual) readily available near the keypad. Perhaps, give each person who will enter the premises their own disarm code for the keypad and a pass code/password to give to the monitoring company if an accidental alarm should occur. Authorized personnel should understand the difference between an entry code and an identity password.

When an alarm activation occurs and the alarm company calls, the operator will ask for a password. Few customers typically answer correctly on the first try. Your identity password is the word you gave your alarm company when your system was installed, which identifies you as an authorized alarm user. The word should be a familiar one that is easy for you to recall. The identity password may be referred to as a pass code, password, personal identification code, or personal identification number. Your identity password is not your entry/exit code.



When your system was installed, the installer asked you to select a secret entry/exit code, typically four digits, which you enter into the keypad to arm or disarm your system. You probably selected a number which is easy to remember for you and others using your system. When the alarm company calls, this

may be the first number you recall because you use it frequently, but it is not your identity password. Remember, it is a secret code that only you and other authorized users should know. The entry/exit code cannot identify you as an authorized user to the alarm monitoring company, because it is not on file with them.

Remember that the alarm ordinance requires alarm system users to obtain a permit from the Deer Park Police Department. You should also agree upon an alarm verification procedure with your monitoring service and provide them with a current emergency contact list. Proper planning can help avoid false alarms and the possibility of a fine.



How to Handle a Stuck Accelerator Pedal

Do you know what to do if your gas pedal gets stuck while you are driving? Below are some suggestions to follow if you find yourself in this situation.

- First, attempt to disconnect the engine. If you are driving and your vehicle seems to be accelerating despite the fact that you have taken your foot off the gas pedal, disconnect the accelerating engine from the wheels. In a manual vehicle, press down on the clutch. In an automatic vehicle, put the transmission into neutral. Usually, the lever can be shifted from reverse

Police Department

or drive and into the neutral position. This can be done by moving the lever towards 'N'. In both cases, the engine will be disconnected, so the wheels will stop accelerating the vehicle. The engine itself will keep on running, but the rev limiter will prevent it from overloading and causing any damage. Once the engine is disconnected, slow down and stop at a safe spot alongside the road. As you roll to a complete stop, turn off the ignition.

- If the above solution does not work, your best option is to brake firmly. The brakes are the strongest means of vehicle control available to the driver. Furthermore, it might disconnect a faulty cruise control system or electronic fuel injection system that might be causing the problem. In petroleum-driven vehicles, a jammed accelerator would hinder the operation of the brake-booster, making the pedal feel somewhat stiffer (like when the engine is turned off). This, however, has little to no effect on the actual stopping force produced by the brakes. It simply means that more physical effort is required to press the brakes fully. Regardless of speed, road surface, or incline, apply the brakes instantly and firmly. In past occurrences, there have been drivers, already at a high speed, who depressed the brake pedal too progressively and "burned" the brakes by applying them only partially and not completely.
- If the vehicle does not seem to decelerate or if you find it hard to bring it to a final halt, you might choose to turn off the

engine while still moving. This is a last resort, but it is not as problematic as one may think. While you do lose power-steering, your momentum will enable you to control and guide the vehicle without any difficulty. Some vehicles have steering wheels that can lock, but this normally occurs only when the key is taken out of the ignition. Instead, turn the key one step back, or alternatively, press the ignition button. As the brake booster stops working, the brakes produce the same normal stopping force. However, they will require stronger pressure from the driver's foot. At this point, you may need to try applying the handbrake gently.

Call 281-930-2152 or send an e-mail to jwhite@deerparktx.org for more information.

Public Works

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.

Keeping the drainage system maintained 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

Resident Reminders - Building Permits

Generally, a permit is required for the construction, repair, or addition to a residence or commercial business. Permitted work will be inspected by city code officials to ensure it complies with the city's minimum standards. Projects that require a permit include, but are not limited to, electrical or mechanical work, new roof or siding, and the construction of carports, patios, storage buildings, and driveways. Permits must be posted in front of the residence or commercial business in which the work is being done. Any person working within the city limits on a project without the required permits will be subject to a \$500 investigation fee and a triple permit fee.



For more information, please call 281-478-7270. Permit applications can be obtained at City Hall in the Public Works Department or online at www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks.

Public Works

their properties, including the removal of high weeds, litter, and other items that may be considered a nuisance. The area should also be kept free of stagnant water so it does not become an ideal breeding ground for mosquitos.

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 more information, call 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.

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.



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 or www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter, or stop by the animal shelter during normal business hours. For more information, call 281-478-7274.

Flood Information

Hurricane season will soon be here. Are you ready for it? 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 paid 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.

Do You Need A Permit?

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. For more information, call 281-478-7252.

Public Works

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 Water Line Improvement Project has been completed. The project was awarded to TCH for \$242,556. This project involved water line replacement on Rutgers, Columbia, East Columbia, and East Dartmouth Streets in the College Park area.
- 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 by the end of the 1st quarter in 2014.
- The 12th Street Storm Drain Improvement Project was awarded to R. Construction Company on Nov. 19, 2013 in the amount of \$360,110. This project will involve drainage improvements on 12th St. at Center St. and is expected to be completed by the end of the 2nd quarter in 2014.
- The Drainage Improvements to Deer Park Gardens Subdivision Project (N. Amy, S. Amy, and Brenda Street) went out for bid in January 2014 and is expected to be awarded by the end of the 1st quarter. At the time of this printing, a cost estimate was not available.

Economic Development

Business News



- *Altar'd Market* has moved to 106 E. San Augustine, between the U.S. Post Office and Church's Chicken. The owner, Mandie Morris, has packed the shop with amazing vintage pieces, refurbished and repurposed furniture, inspiring handmade items, and shabby chic home décor. She offers monthly classes for painting and refinishing furniture. She also does furniture-makeovers.
- *Educational Enrichment Services* offers tutoring services in Deer Park for grades 1st through 5th. Contact owner, Mary Sirmons, at 281-478-4391 for more information.
- *Emma's Closet*, located at 118 Dixie Dr. (across the street from Altar'd Market), now stocks dance wear, including leotards, tights, ballet shoes, and tap shoes.
- *The Jewelry Factory* has merged with New Creations at 4005 Center St. and the store is packed with gift items, beautiful jewelry (including Stainless Steel jewelry which is all the rage right now), customized plaques, laser engraving, and more, with no interest layaway.
- *Barbie Bowtique/Glitter Sparkle Bronze* has moved to 2816 Center St. (across the street from the Deer Park Police Sta-

tion). Owned by former Deer Park High School cheerleaders, Chrissy McRee and Kendra Craft Schroeder, Barbie Bowtique has cute and affordable items any girl would love.

- *Kallie Kouture*, a children's resale boutique, is open at 1305A W. Pasadena (across the street from Bonnette Junior High). Owner and Deer Park resident, Sarah Evans, offers a huge variety of kids' clothing, plus new toys and baby gear.
- *Discovered Treasures* recently opened at 4930 Luella Ave. by area resident, Dawn Aucion. This is a wonderful collection of solid-wood antiques, collectibles, home décor, resale items, and yard art.



- Deer Park's Amanda Henson recently opened *Raining Rustic* at 4132 Center St. The store carries apparel in junior through plus sizes, along with affordably priced purses, boots, and jewelry.
- *Waller County Line BBQ* has opened at 6915 Spencer Highway (formerly Two Cities restaurant location).

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

Library News

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Deer Park Public Library will hold their spring book sale. The dates of the sale were not available at the time of this printing. Please check our website or call 281-478-7208 for more information. Annual membership dues for Friends of the Library are \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families, and \$2 for senior citizens.

Summer Reading Club Registration starts June 5

The Summer Reading Club at the Deer Park Library is open to children of all ages up through high school. The Reading Club provides a fun way to improve reading skills, while earning incentive prizes. The library also offers a variety of programs for different age groups throughout the summer. A brochure of events and prizes will be available after May 1.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Summer Reading Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for June 5-14 in the library's meeting room. Anyone may browse the book fair, sponsored by the Friends of the Deer Park Library. Proceeds from the book fair provide incentive prizes for Summer Reading Club.

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
March 5-May 8*

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
March 6-May 8*

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

Bugs in Bloom Craft

*For school-aged children
March 11, 2:30-3:30pm*

Materials to assemble the craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate 2 different skill levels will be available.

Bunny Craft

*For school-aged children
April 8, 3:30-4:30pm*

Materials to assemble the craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate 2 different skill levels will be available.

Mother's Day Craft

*For ages 5-12
May 6, 3:30-4:30pm*

Materials to assemble the craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate 2 different skill levels will be available.

Teen Advisory Board Meetings

*For ages 13-18
March 3, April 7 & May 5
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 to pick up a form.

Teen Summer Volunteers

Registration starts May 1

Teen volunteers are needed to assist staff during the Summer Reading Club program. Volunteers will work with staff and other teens starting the week of June 9 through July. Be a part of the summer fun at the library, while you make new friends and accrue volunteer credit.

Family Movie

March 10, 10:30am-12pm

Join us for a family friendly movie and popcorn. Please contact the library for movie information.

Matinee Movie

Thursdays, 3:30pm

Children are invited to come by after school on Thursdays through May 22 for a movie and popcorn. Please call the library for movie titles and suggested age ratings. On March 13 (during spring break), the movie will begin at 2:30pm.

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.

Library News

Register for March classes starting February 20, April classes starting March 24, and May classes starting April 21.

- **Introduction to Computers** - Become familiar with computers 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 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.

March 11 - Art & Mystery

The Art Forger

by B. A. Shapiro

&

People of the Book

by Geraldine Brooks

April 8 -1930's Germany

A Trace of Smoke

by Rebecca Cantrell

&

The Book Thief

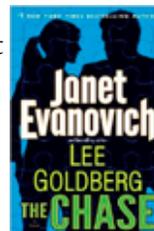
by Markus Zusak

Go to www.deerparktx.gov/library or call 281-478-7208 for May's book club selections.

New Arrivals for Adults

March

- The Chase by Janet Evanovich and Lee Goldberg



April

- The Target by David Baldacci
- I've Got You Under My Skin by Mary Higgins Clark
- To Dwell in Darkness by Deborah Crombie
- Live to See Tomorrow by Iris Johansen
- Blossom Street Brides: A Blossom Street Novel by Debbie Macomber
- Carnal Curiosity by Stuart Woods



May

- The Keeper by John Lescroart
- Unlucky 13 by James Patterson

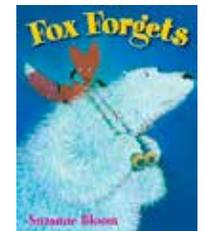
& Maxine Paetro

- Field of Prey by John Sandford

New Books for Children

Easy Books

- Marc Brown's Playtime Rhymes: A Treasury for Families to Learn and Play Together by Marc Tolon Brown
- Off We Go! by Will Hillenbrand
- Dusk by Uri Shulevitz
- Fox Forgets by Suzanne Bloom
- The First Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein



Juvenile Books

- Numbed by David Lubar
- Listening for Lucca by Suzanne M. LeFleur
- Boy on the Porch by Sharon Creech
- Great American Dustbowl by Don Brown



Young Adult Books

- Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
- Chasing Shadows by Swati Avasthi
- Dream Thieves by Maggie Stiefwater
- The Waking Dark by Robin Wasserman



Deer Park Library Hours

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



Healthy Living New Year, New You!

It's the start of a new season and you've probably heard someone say or maybe even said it yourself time and time again, "I'm going to start exercising after the new year." Well, today is as good of a time as any to make that decision. Make time for yourself and be active by doing something that makes you happy. Find 30 minutes a day to ride a bike, take a hike, do 50 pushups and walk a mile, try cross-fit training, practice yoga, or any other activity that gets you moving. Only 30 minutes makes all the difference! So, even though you may feel like you've gained a ton of weight over the holidays, studies show that the average American actually only gains about one pound. Take it one day at a time and aim to exercise 30 minutes at least 3 times a week. It is not too late to focus on a healthier you this year.

Lacy Stole
Athletic & Aquatic Supervisor

Tiffany's Tips

Spring Clean Your Yard

Bring life back to your yard this spring with a few simple steps. Make sure your tools are in good shape and the blades are sharp. Dull blades can tear stems leaving wounds susceptible to disease. Remove dead plants and prune damaged foliage back to healthy growth. Remove any weeds you see in your yard, even the small ones. It will make the job easier in the long run. Prune shrubs back to the desired shape and manageable height. Pick up the leaves that have accumulated in your flower beds.



The leaves, dead foliage, and yard clippings that you accumulate

during yard clean up can be placed into a compost bin to create a rich fertilizer for your garden, landscaping, and lawn. Ready-made compost bins are available at local hardware stores. You can also easily make one yourself using an old garbage can, pallets, or some metal wire and a few posts. The simplest way is to make a pile in a corner of your backyard. Keep your compost pile moist and mix it up about once every other week. When your compost is ready, spread it in your garden and over your lawn to promote healthy growth.

Tiffany McGallian
Park Operations Coordinator



Kiddie Pool Renovations

Renovations to the kiddie pool, including updates to its pump and filtration systems, are well underway. The new kiddie pool amenities include a zero depth entry, sprays, a mushroom fountain, and a dumping water bucket feature. For updates on our progress, go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec or www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.ParksandRecreation.

City Pool Luau & Kiddie Pool Rededication

Join us for the annual City Pool Luau. We'll celebrate opening weekend and the kiddie pool rededication with games, food, music, door prizes, and more!

May 24: 12-7pm

May 25: 2-6pm

May 26: 2-6pm

New Process for Summer Registration

After much consideration, the decision has been made to change the summer registration process. Parks & Recreation will not host a kick off night this year. Registrations will be launched online, making the process easier and more efficient. We will continue to strive not only to meet, but also exceed your expectations with our programs and our customer service.

March 7: Summer brochure will be available online.

March 17: Printed copies of the summer brochure will be available.

Parks & Recreation

April 22: Registration opens for customers in our loyalty program. You are a member of our loyalty program if you have registered for any of our programs, activities, or classes on or after June 1, 2013. You may register online or in person, beginning at 9am.

April 23: Registration remains open for our loyalty program members and opens at 9am for all Deer Park residents.

April 24: Registration remains open for our loyalty program members and Deer Park residents. Registration opens at 9am for everyone, including non-residents.

Contact us at 281-478-2050 or recreation@deerparktx.org for more information.

Activities & Classes

- *Movie in the Park - March 1 @ 7:30pm, April 5 @ 8pm & May 3 @ 8:15pm* Movie in the Park is expanding to the 1st Saturday of every month! Come watch a family friendly movie for free. In the event of rain, the movie will be shown in the Earl Dunn Gym. For movie titles, go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec.
- *Self Defense for Women - Saturdays, 1-2:30pm, March 1-29, for ages 13 & over, \$40 per person, \$10 discount for groups of 3 or more or mothers of a current student, Deer Park Community Center* You'll learn basic blocking and striking techniques, as well as defensive and offensive maneuvers.
- *Evening Zumba - Mon. & Wed., 7-8pm, Sessions: March 3-26, April 7-30 & May 5-28, for ages 16 & over, \$50 per session (2 days per week), \$10 walk-in fee, Deer Park Community Center*

New day & time for Easter Egg Hunt & Festivities



Meet the Easter Bunny at Dow Park on Sunday, April 13.

Petting zoo, pony rides, wagon rides, and face painting.
12:30-3:30pm, fee varies by activity

Bunny Bingo - Parents are welcome to assist their children. 12:30-1:30pm, 25¢ per card

Carrot Pull - Rabbit's garden is full of prizes.
12:30-1:45pm or while supplies last, \$1 per pull

Sidewalk Chalk Picture Contest - Start signing up at 12:15pm. Draw an Easter-themed masterpiece on the sidewalk. Awards will be given for 1st through 3rd place in each category: I did it myself (ages 6 & under), ages 7-12, and family (at least one adult with one or more children). 12:30-1:45pm, \$1 per sidewalk square



Rubber Ducky Races - Send your ducky to the finish line with the power of water.
12:30-1:45pm, Free

Egg Hunt - Parents may only assist with children 6 months to 2 years old. Aggressive parents will not be tolerated. Over 15,000 toy and candy filled eggs. Some eggs contain a certificate redeemable for a prize. The prizes are for children ages 6 months to 9 years old and are limited to 1 per child. There is no guarantee that every child will get a prize. In case of inclement weather, the egg hunt will be moved into the Earl Dunn Gym and scheduled by age groups.
2pm, Free

Rockin' Cowgirls - The Art Park Players Rockin' Cowgirls will rock the pavilion with singing, dancing, games, and giveaways.
2:30-3:30pm, Free



Parks & Recreation

Join the fastest growing fitness craze in the world. Zumba is a high energy cardio class that combines dance and fitness moves with Latin rhythms. Zumba is for men and women at all fitness levels.

- *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.
- *Yoga for Health & Well-Being - Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45pm, March 5-26, for adults, \$30 per session 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.
- *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.
- *Spring Break Out - March 10-14, 7:30am-5:30pm, for ages 6-11, \$100 for residents, \$110 for non-residents, Jimmy Burke Activity Center* We're planning an exciting week of activities

with field trips, dodge ball, arts & crafts, cooking, and more.

- *Market Days - March 15, April 19 & May 17, 9am-1pm, Dow Park* Stroll through Dow Park on Market Days every 3rd 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 if you wish to be a vendor. Easter pictures will be available on site in April.
- *Adult Spring Softball League - \$420 per team, \$400 per team for returning teams, league begins Mar. 17, Monday evenings - men's recreation teams, Tuesday evenings - co-recreational teams, Thursday evenings - men's competitive teams, Adult Sports Complex, 2600 Pasadena Blvd.* It's 8 weeks of scheduled doubleheader games on all grass infields. All leagues are class D leagues registered through A.S.A. Payment is required to secure your spot. Register by Mar. 10 to receive \$20 off, plus 6 softballs for your team!
- *Adult Cardio, Mon. & Wed., March 24-April 28, 5:30-6:30pm, \$65 per session (1 day/week) or \$130 per week (2 days/week), 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.
- *Deer Park 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.
- *Saturdays, March 29-May 10* Tennis Buddies, ages 5-8, 8:30-9:30am
 - *Future Stars, ages 9-14, 9:45-10:45am*
 - *Performance Team (intermediate level), 9:45-10:45am Tuesdays & Thursdays, March 25-April 29*
 - *Performance Team (intermediate level), 5-6pm*
 - *Tournament Tough (advanced level), 6-7pm*
 - *Getting Paid to Talk - March 31, 6-8:30pm, 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.
 - *Concealed Handgun Class - April 5, 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 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

Parks & Recreation

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.

- **Family Camp Out, Texas Outdoor Family Workshop - April 5 @ 9am to 11am on April 6, for all ages, \$65 (waived if you sign up through Parks & Recreation Dept.), Brazos Bend State Park**
This workshop is brought to you by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Deer Park Parks & Recreation Dept. Your family will learn basic outdoor skills from highly trained specialists and volunteers. All equipment will be provided and no experience is required. You are responsible for transportation, food, and sleeping bags. Transportation and food can be provided for a small fee.
- **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 Lifeguard Certification course tentatively scheduled for April 26-27, which includes physical challenges and a written exam to ensure you are capable of performing the necessary duties of the job. For more information, contact Debra Culp at 281-478-2050 or dculp@deerparktx.org.
- **Pet Adventure Day - May 17, 9am-12pm, free to the public, Ella & Friends Dog Park** Join us for a day full of fun activities

with your dog! Rescue organizations, kennel clubs, veterinarians, and pet shops will be there. For event schedule, go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec.

- **Art Park Dancers Spring Recital - May 24, 4pm & 7:30pm, \$5 per ticket, Gaines Mason Auditorium at Deer Park High School North Campus** The Art Park Dancers will be performing Snow White.
- **Concert in the Park Kick Off Night - May 30, 5:30-9:30pm, free for all ages, Dow Park** Join us for a big night of music, food, and fun to kick off the summer!
- **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.
- **Deer Park Karate - Mon., Wed. & Fri., for ages 4 & over, early registration \$40/mo. for 3 days/week, add \$10 after the 5th, Deer Park Community Center** We teach Taekwondo and Shorin-Ryu. Learn a variety of defensive and offensive maneuvers. Tiny Dragons (ages 4-6), 4-4:45pm or 4:45-5:30pm Intro. Class (ages 7-12), 5:30-6:15pm Beginners' Class (ages 7-12), 6:40-7:40pm Teen/Adult Class (ages 13 & over), 7:45-8:45pm
- **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.

For more information, view the Parks & Recreation brochure online at www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec.

New Playground at Dow Park

There's a new playground at Dow Park! The play areas have been specifically designed to accommodate different age groups. The Activio Bambino (for ages 2-5) features 2 slides and multiple play panels, plus it's shaded to protect the little ones from the sun. The Wilderness Hideout (for ages 5-12) features slides, a rock climbing wall, the aeroglider, and log crawl tubes, as well as an ADA accessible ramp and transfer station.



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

November 2013

- Accepted the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Bronze Member City Award for outstanding registration support in TAAF programs, such as youth basketball, swimming, and track.
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and an ordinance to rezone 210 Helgra from Multi-Family (MF-2) to Community Service (GS).
- Awarded the bid for the W. 13th Street Pavement Failure & Replacement project to 4-C Construction Services in the amount of \$105,228.
- Awarded the bid for a one-year supply of chemicals for the Water Treatment Plant to PVS Technologies in the amount of \$511 per dry ton.
- Awarded the bid for a one-year supply of pulsar plus calcium hypochlorite briquettes to be used at the city pool to Progressive Commercial Aquatics in the amount of \$2.15 per pound.
- Authorized the purchase of a 26 cubic yard rear loading garbage truck for the Sanitation Dept. through the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- Authorized the purchase of additional disk storage space for electronic data storage utilizing the State Department of Information Resources contract price schedule.
- Authorized the purchase of a 2013 Ford Focus for the Meter Reader Dept. through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- Authorized the purchase of various emergency equipment to outfit four police vehicles.
- Authorized the purchase of a 700 MHz police radio system through the City of Houston Interlocal Agreement.
- Authorized the purchase of wireless modems, applicable antennas, and NetMotion encryption equipment for police units.
- Approved the payment for the OSSSI software licensing fee in the amount of \$39,261.
- Authorized staff to seek an appraisal on city-owned property at 8th St. and Avon St.
- Appointed a city representative to the Arbitration Committee.
- Approved the casting of a ballot for Ed Heathcott for the Board of Directors of the Harris County Appraisal District.
- Adopted a Post-Issuance Compliance Policy and Procedures to monitor continuing compliance with the requirements imposed on tax-exempt debt.
- Approved an agreement with T.F. Harper & Associates LP through the Texas Cooperative Purchasing Network for the renovation of the children's pool and fence at Dow Park Municipal Pool.
- Approved an Equipment-Lease Purchase Agreement with Motorola, Inc. for radio equipment for the Fire Dept. and EMS Dept. in the amount of \$616,253.55.
- Approved an ordinance amending Appendix B (Fee Schedule) of the Code of Ordinance providing new fees for fire training facilities.
- Approved an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of the City of Deer Park, Texas Certificates of Obligation Series 2013; levying a tax and providing for the security and payment thereof.
- Approved an ordinance amending and enacting a new city ordinance regulating peddlers and solicitors in the City of Deer Park.
- Approved a recommendation from Planning & Zoning Commission to rezone 2.249 acres out of and part of Outlot 515 Town of La Porte from General Commercial (GC) to Light Industrial (M1).
- Approved a recommendation from Planning & Zoning Commission to rezone 5.841 acres out of La Porte Outlot 515 Deer Park from General Commercial (GC) to Light Industrial (M1).
- Awarded the bid for the 12th Street Storm Drainage Improvement project to R Construction Company in the amount of \$359,420.10.
- Authorized the purchase of Musco Sports Light System for the Adult Sports Complex and a control system upgrade for Dow Park through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- Authorized the purchase of a 2015 Saf-T-Liner school bus for the Parks & Recreation Dept. through the TxMAS Purchasing Program.
- Authorized the purchase of a 2014 Ford F-150 truck for Duty District Officer through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- Authorized the purchase of a 2014 Ford F-150 truck for the Fire Marshal's Office through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Council Actions

- Authorized the purchase of 2 mobile Automated License Plate Recognition Systems through Houston-Galveston Area Council.
- Authorized the purchase of COBAN in car video recording equipment for police units.
- Authorized the purchase of a software upgrade and enhancement for Laserfiche, the City's document storage software solution.
- Accepted the quarterly investment report for July through September 2013.
- Approved a specific use permit to operate a Frac Tank Operation at 5.841 acres out of and part of Outlot 515 Town of La Porte.
- Approved a specific use permit to operate a Frac Tank Operation at 2.249 acres out of and part of Outlot 515 Town of La Porte.
- Approved an ordinance amending Schedule B to address solid waste fees.

December 2013

- Accepted the 4th Quarter Financial Report Ending September 30, 2013.
- Approved the appointment of a City of Deer Park Representative to 2014 Houston-Galveston Area Council.
- Approved a Youth Sports Organization utilization agreement with the Deer Park Pony Baseball Association for 2014.
- Approved a contract with the Deer Park Seals Swim Team as an independent contractor for 2014.
- Approved a Youth Sports Organization utilization agreement with the Deer Park Little

- League Association for 2014.
- Approved a Youth Sports Organization utilization agreement with Quest Association for 2014.
- Approved a Youth Sports Organization utilization agreement with the Deer Park Youth Baseball Association for 2014.
- Approved a Youth Sports Organization utilization agreement with the Deer Park Girls Softball Association for 2014.
- Approved a proposal from Ron Cox Consulting for facilitating a goal setting/strategic planning process for City Council and city staff.
- Approved an application for Pasadena Taxi Company to operate a taxi cab business in Deer Park.
- Authorized the transfer of the retired Police Dept. phone system to the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network.
- Approved an ordinance abandoning a right-of-way easement, control, jurisdiction and dominion of the City of Deer Park, Texas, over a 0.097 acre portion of land, a 60 foot wide right-of-way, by plat titled Holly Lane.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances Appendix B Fee Schedule for Building Permit Fees.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the Brenda/Amy Drainage project.
- Authorized the purchase of real property located at 217 Helgra, which includes three lots.
- Approved a resolution to apply for a grant from the Texas Dept. of Transportation for a Selected Traffic Enforcement Program – Speed Enforcement.

- Approved an ordinance amending Sections 22-31 through 22-43, Regulating Roadside Solicitors, Establishing Registration Requirements for Roadside Solicitors, Regulating Handbills; Providing Penalties for Violation and Declaring an Emergency in the City of Deer Park.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Deer Park Section 66-196, Schedule G School Zones, speed limit 20 miles per hour, at designated times.

January 2014

- Awarded a request for application for bank depository services to Wells Fargo Bank for a new 5 year depository agreement.
- Authorized staff to advertise for Request for Proposals for the purpose of updating the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning and Subdivision ordinances.
- Approved a proposal from Pro-Medic Consultants, LLC for an EMS billing audit.
- Approved a proposal for Professional Services from IDS Engineers for preparation of a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for the Patrick's Bayou Detention project.
- Approved the sponsorship of the Battleship Texas Centennial Celebration.
- Approved a contract for independent contractor services with the Lighthouse Aquatics Swim Team for 2014.
- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Board of Directors of the Deer Park Fire Control Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District.

Council Actions

- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Library Board of Trustees.
- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Senior Citizen Commission.
- Awarded the proposal to the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce to host and administer the 2014 Totally Texas Festival.
- Authorized the purchase from the Playwell Group through the Texas BuyBoard Cooperative for the equipment to renovate park and playground amenities at the Avon Recreation Center Park, Bayou Bend Park, Brownwind Park, Deer Meadows Park, Destiny Park, Dow Park, Park Green Park, and Running Brook Park as part of the Year One General Park and Facility Upgrade Plan of the 2013 Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.
- Approved a request of the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Dept. for a specific use permit to place a storage container at the Drill Field at 102 Luella.
- Approved a resolution to adopt an updated and revised city employee travel policy.
- Approved a resolution to support the proposed Hike and Bike Trail and the application for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. Recreational Trail Grant.
- Approved an ordinance amending the 2012 Energy Code.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Classification Scale for full-time employees by adding a position under Pay Range No. 19 – Paramedic Supervisor.

Art Park Players



Potluck Playfest

March 22

7pm Dinner & Show

A performance of *Original Plays* produced in the 24-hour play festival.

Decadence

Junior Art Park Players

April 22, 23, 25 & 26

6:30pm

The 2014 pop show brings the style of your favorite decades to a revue of modern music hits!



Gypsy, A Musical Fable

Art Park Players

\$25 Dinner & Show, \$15 Show Only

\$10 Show Only with student I.D.

May 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 -

7pm Dinner, 8pm Show

May 4 & 18 -

1pm Dinner, 2pm Show

Gypsy is loosely based on the 1957 memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee.

Garage Sales

A garage sale permit is required in Deer Park. The permit fee is \$5. A garage sale sign permit may be obtained for an additional \$5. A \$25 deposit is required. A permit can only be issued once within a 6-month period for the same address or same person and cannot exceed 10 consecutive days.



Puttin' On The Ritz

May 15 @ 7pm

It's the APP annual fundraiser benefiting the Mead Holm Scholarship Fund. Join us for hors d'oeuvres, a fashion show, and musical entertainment.



Auditions for Thoroughly Modern Millie

May 13 @ 7pm

Auditions will be held for teens through adults. You must have a prepared vocal, script reading, and dance audition.

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.



Recycling

The City of Deer Park encourages residents to participate in our recycling program. Collection bins for aluminum, plastic, glass, and paper are set up at the Transfer Station, located at 610 Underwood Road. For more information, contact the Transfer Station at 281-478-7213.



P.O. Box 700
Deer Park, TX 77536

Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
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.

General Election

The City of Deer Park will conduct a General Election on May 10, 2014 to elect 3 Council members.

Register to Vote

You must be registered to vote by April 10, 2014 if you wish to vote in the May 10 election. Voter registration cards are available at City Hall, the Deer Park Public Library, and the Harris County Clerk's Office.

Early Voting

Early voting will be conducted in the City Secretary's Office at City Hall, 710 E. San Augustine, as follows:

Apr. 28 & 29, 7am-7pm
Apr. 30, May 1, 2, 5 & 6, 8am-5pm

Election Day - May 10

On election day, voting will be conducted at the Deer Park Community Center, Room 12, 610 E. San Augustine, from 7am-7pm.

Identification Required to Vote in Election

To vote in any election within the State of Texas, a voter is required to be a registered voter and to provide photo identification. Forms of identification required to vote include a current:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States passport

For more information, contact the

City Secretary's Office at 281-478-7248, visit our website at www.deerparktx.gov, or go to the Texas Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.tx.us.



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