

Patrick's Bayou Detention Project

On January 10, 2013, the City of Deer Park and Harris County officials broke ground on the Patrick's Bayou Storm Water Detention Basin. Joining the City and County officials at the groundbreaking were representatives of the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Division of Emergency Management and Deer Park residents who reside near the location of the detention basin. The 30+ acre detention basin is located on a 42 acre tract south of SH 225 and north of the new San Jacinto Elementary School. On December 18, 2012, the City Council awarded a bid in the amount of \$5,475,963.65 for the construction of the Patrick's Bayou Storm Water Detention Basin to Serco Construction Group, Ltd. The basin construction will be

through the end of January 2014. It is estimated that 575,400 cubic yards will be excavated and deposited in offsite locations. Any of the sites proposed for offsite disposal of the soil cannot constitute a "significant" or "adverse" environmental effect. The detention basin design and construction is being funded by the City of Deer Park, the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), and through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The HMGP grant was divided by FEMA into two phases: Phase I was for design and engineering, and Phase II is for construction. In addition to the detention basin, the City will also undertake related offsite drainage projects, totaling an estimated \$2.1 million.

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From Left to Right: Ray Landers, Councilman Bill Patterson, PHA Commissioner Jimmy Burke, Mayor Wayne Riddle, HCFCD Director Mike Talbott, Councilwoman Rae Sinor, Harris County Commissioner Jack Morman, Councilman Chris Richey & Councilman Jerry Mouton



Left Photo: Mayor Wayne Riddle & Harris County Commissioner - Precinct 2, Jack Morman; Right Photo: Mayor Wayne Riddle & Director of the Harris County Flood Control District, Mike Talbott



Officials representing the City of Deer Park, Harris County, and the Port of Houston Authority stand with business leaders and members of the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce ceremoniously break ground to officially open the construction of Patrick's Bayou detention pond near the 600 block of Luella and Highway 225 on Thursday, Jan 10. Courtesy of Kirk Sides, Deer Park Broadcaster



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Severe Weather



A thunderstorm is considered severe if it produces hail at least 1 inch in diameter or has

wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour. Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes. Heavy rain from thunderstorms can cause flash flooding, and high winds can damage homes and blow down trees and utility poles, causing widespread power outages.

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City Officials

Elected Officials

Wayne Riddle.....	Mayor
Vacant	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

Department Directors

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

Other Appointed Officials

Jim Fox	City Attorney
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City Facilities

Animal Shelter	281-478-7274.....	4213 Luella
Art Park Players Dinner Theatre ...	281-478-7288.....	1302 Center
Avon Recreation Center	281-478-7216.....	601 W. 8 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.....	281-478-7252.....	610 Underwood

City of Deer Park

710 E. San Augustine
P.O. Box 700
Deer Park, TX 77536
281-479-2394 Tel
281-479-2489 Info. Line
281-478-7217 Fax
www.deerparktx.gov

Central Collections & Utility Billing

You can now 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 by signing in to use the utility billing services at www.deerparktx.gov.

City services will be closed on March 29 & May 27 in observance of Good Friday & Memorial Day.

Curbside collection of rubbish will resume on your next regular collection day.



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



To keep you informed about what's happening in our community, the City of Deer Park has the e-mail notification service **CITY NEWS**. To join, visit us at www.deerparktx.gov and click the *CITY NEWS icon*.

Employee Awards



October – Support Staff
Sheila Plovovich, Police Department



November – Field Services
Chris Rains, Public Works Dept.



October – Field Services
Kathy Landry, Parks & Recreation Dept.



December – Supervisor
Kellie Bass, Police Department



November – Supervisor
Dawn Crenshaw, Parks & Recreation Dept.



December – Support Staff
Jarrett Grundman, Police Department



November – Support Staff
Clayton Hall, Police Department



December – Field Services
Joanna Edwards, Parks & Recreation Dept.

Maxwell Center

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

Meal Programs

Seniors can participate in a congregate meal program and eat lunch in exchange for a \$2 donation. Lunch is served every day about 11:45am. Reservations are required. We also have a homebound meal program for seniors who are restricted to their homes.

Fitness Room

A recent addition to the Maxwell Center is the fitness room. Stop by to exercise and try out our new fitness equipment. The fitness room is open Monday and Friday from 9am–5pm, and Tuesday through Thursday from 9am–7pm.

Bus Trips

March 11 - Sunshine Farm (Magnolia, Texas) The bus will leave the Maxwell Center at 8am. Cost is \$5, plus donation and lunch at the Old Magnolia Steak House in Montgomery.

Please contact the Maxwell Center to find out about more upcoming trips.

E.M. Maxwell Adult Center
1201 Center Street
281-478-7276



Economic Development

Business News

- Deer Park now has its very own self-proclaimed *cookie man*, Frank Racioppo. Frank has opened his bakery, *Cookies Express/Regals' Royal Cheesecake*, at 910 W. Pasadena Blvd. (just south of the new DPISD Administration building). He has also teamed up with Deer Park's own *Kake Chick*, Ruby Rodriguez. Stop by and try their delicious cookies, brownies, cheesecakes, and more.
- *Koby's Jewelry* is open at 3428 Center St. (next door to Shipley's Donuts). Owner and Deer Park resident, Bob Zapf, features fine jewelry, including Citizen and Rolex watches. His wife, Kona, has opened a boutique in an adjoining space, *KZ Boutique*, which features upscale fashion jewelry, clothing, scarves, gifts, and more.
- Congratulations to *Trademark Images* at 4126 Center St., celebrating their 5th anniversary as Deer Park's spirit-wear store. Owners and Deer Park natives, Sue Terrell and Cassie Pullig (mother and daughter), sell everything you need to support your favorite sports team, including stickers, shirts, cups, and *bling* items. They can also do embroidery, screen-printing or custom rhinestones on virtually any garment, as well as help with a spirit-boosting design.



- *Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores* is constructing a large truck and travel facility in the



northwest corner of Independence Parkway at SH 225. This \$9 million project on 11.5 acres is transforming into a large truck/travel retail facility with two restaurants. Love's will service 1,000 trucks each day, providing a 7-bay fueling station and an on-site tire store.

- The *Houston Area Safety Council* (HASC) is constructing their new mega-campus at the southeast corner of Spencer Hwy. at Center St. (across the street from Jimmy Chngas restaurant). This 30-acre campus will attract people from all over the world with its 67,000 square foot training facility and task-oriented structures with hands-on training opportunities. HASC expects to see as many as 2,000 visitors per day once all 3 phases are built. Although technically located in Pasadena, the campus will bring many new customers to Deer Park businesses, especially our hotels and restaurants.

Business Moves

- *CrossFit Deer Park* has moved to 101 Arbor Drive (next door to Simonize Car Wash on Center Street).
- *Serendipity Gift Shop* has moved to a larger location at 4502 Center Street (next door to Flower Cottage).
- *Sophisti-Cuts Hair Salon* has moved to 116 Dixie Drive (next door to Phat Fitness).
- *Deer Park's Pro-Source Staffing* has moved to 210 W. Pasadena Blvd.

For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/ed or contact Debbie Westbeld at 281-478-2042.

Grill & Golf Course

The Republic Grill

1600 Georgia • 281-478-2089
www.deerparktx.gov/republicgrill

Join us at The Republic Grill for delicious food and a relaxing atmosphere.

- *Sunday Buffet* from 11am to 2pm, \$13.95 per person
- *Breakfast Buffet*, Fridays & Saturdays from 7:30am to 10am, \$7.95 per person
- *Daily Lunch Buffet*, Monday through Friday from 11am to 2pm, \$9.95 per person - Each day you'll find a chef's choice entrée and a signature entrée to satisfy your taste buds.

Mother's Day Buffet

The Republic Grill will be hosting a special Mother's Day Buffet on May 12 from 11am to 2pm. The buffet is \$14 per person, plus tax. All mothers will receive a corsage. Please call 281-478-2084 for reservations. Seating is limited.



Meet the Cook

David Turner has been named head cook at The Republic Grill. He has been in the hospitality industry for well over a decade. He studied culinary arts at San Jacinto College and graduated in 2008 with an Associate's Degree in Restaurant Management. David also holds specialized

Grill & Golf Course

certifications in multiple areas of the culinary field. He strives to bring the freshest ingredients and contemporary ideas to every aspect of The Republic Grill. He prefers to use products from Texas whenever possible. So, come see David and try out The Republic Grill.

Room Rentals

The Republic Grill offers a scenic and serene atmosphere for your next special event. Rooms available for rental include:

Banquet Room (seats 150)

Dining Room (seats 50)

Banquet/Dining Room (seats 200)

Boardroom (seats 10)

Outdoor Rentals are also available.

For more information, contact:
Xenia Kulick, Events Coordinator
281-478-2084
xkulick@deerparktx.org

The Battleground Golf Course
1600 Georgia • 281-478-2080
www.deerparktx.gov/battleground

Every hole at The Battleground Golf Course presents an invigorating challenge and a lesson in Texas history. According to the 2012-2013 winter issue of Avid Golfer Magazine,

Golfers on the east side of town have some outstanding choices to play. The best in this price category is the Battleground at Deer Park. Not only is this course fun to play and always in good condition, each hole here pays tribute to the historic battles in Texas. Plus, a certain New York Yankees pitcher comes here to practice or play with his kids.

Art Park Players



Puttin' On the Ritz:

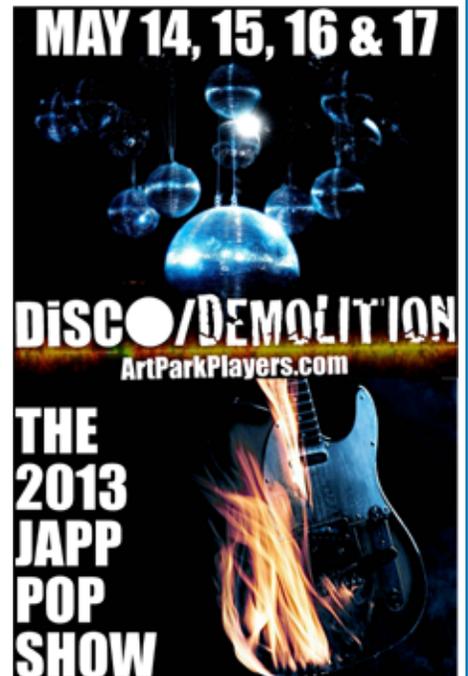
Lost Treasures

An elegant evening of classics
benefiting the
Mead Holm Scholarship Fund

Thursday, May 9, 2013
7:00 pm

Box Office:
281-794-2448

ArtParkPlayers.com



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 Bldg. Check out our all-star cast at www.artparkplayers.com.

Deer Park Library Hours

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



Come see the newly renovated Deer Park Public Library. For details on the upcoming grand re-opening, go to www.deerparktx.gov/library.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Deer Park Public Library will hold their spring book sale on April 24-27 during normal library business hours. Members of the Friends of the Library are invited to attend the preview sale on April 23 from 5-9pm. 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 6

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 6-15 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.

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 6-May 2*

The sessions include stories and activities designed to encourage a love for books and language, increase attention spans, and develop basic social skills. Parents and caregivers are required to stay with the toddler to encourage them to participate. Storytime will not be offered on April 24 & 25 due to the Friends of the Library Book Sale.

Preschool Storytime

*For ages 3½ to 6
Wed. & Thurs., 11-11:45am
March 6-May 2*

In these sessions, children listen to stories and participate in group activities. Storytime will not be offered on April 24 & 25 due to the Friends of the Library Book Sale.

Beginning 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.

Children's Craft Time

- *Bunnies & Chicks Craft*, for all school-aged children, March 12, 1:30-3:30pm
- *Spring Craft*, for ages 5 to 8, April 4, 3:30-4:30pm
- *Mother's Day Craft*, for ages 5 to 8, May 2, 3:30-4:30pm

Pre-Teen Craft Time

- *Flower Craft*, for ages 9 to 12, April 11, 3:45-4:45pm
- *Mother's Day Craft*, for ages 9 to 12, May 9, 3:45-4:45pm

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. Snacks are provided by the Friends of the Library. No fee or registration required. Extended hours from 1 to 5pm on March 11 & 13 during spring break. Those who want to test their skills are invited to participate in a tournament. Teen Tech will not be offered on April 24 & 25 because of the Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale.

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 10 through July. Be a part of the summer fun at the Library, while you make new friends and accrue volunteer credit.

Computer Classes

Computer classes are back! Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for approximately 2 hours in the new tech lab. All classes are

Library News

free, but space is limited so registration is required. Some classes have required pre-requisites. Please call the library for more information. April and May classes will be announced soon.

Introduction to Computers

Become familiar with the computer, and get comfortable using a mouse, opening software applications, and other basic skills.

March 5, 2-4pm

March 7, 2-4pm

Browsing the Web

Learn the basic skills of browsing the world wide web. Topics include search engines, simple search techniques, and the basics of e-mail.

March 19, 2-4pm

March 21, 2-4pm

Basic Microsoft Word 2010

Become familiar with the newest version of Word and learn how to create and edit basic Word documents, including resumes and letters.

March 7, 6:30-8:30pm

March 26, 2-4pm

Basic Microsoft Excel 2010

Become familiar with the newest version of Excel and learn how to create and edit basic spreadsheets, and use simple formulas and functions.

March 21, 6:30-8:30pm

March 28, 2-4pm

Mystery Book Club meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm. Join other mystery readers to discuss the selected books and other mysteries you enjoy. Registration is not required. You are welcome to come whether you have read the books or not.

March 12 - Western Mysteries

Cold Dish

by Craig Johnson

&

Dance Hall of the Dead

by Tony Hillerman



April 10 - Award Winners

The Lock Artist

by Steve Hamilton

&

Wicked Autumn

by G. M. Malliet

May 8 - WWII Espionage

The Unlikely Spy

by Daniel Silva



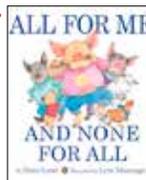
Family Flick

March 11, 10:30am-12pm

Join us for some family friendly fun as we watch the movie, *All Dogs Go To Heaven*, and eat popcorn.

New Books - Children's Interest

- *All for Me and None for All* by Helen Lester
- *All you Never Wanted* by Adele Griffin
- *The Ant and the Grasshopper* by Rebecca Emberley
- *Ask the Passengers* by A. S. King
- *Bomb: The Race to Build-and Steal-the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin
- *The Brides of Rollrock Island* by Margo Lanagan
- *Dark Lord: The Early Years* by Jamie Thomson

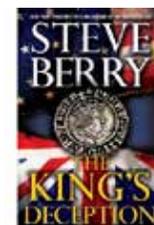
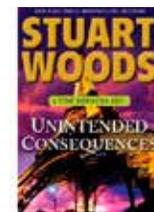


- *The Fire Chronicle* by John Stephens
- *Gods and Warriors* by Michelle Paver
- *Max & Ruby's Treasure Hunt* by Rosemary Wells
- *The Diviners* by Libba Bray
- *Ocean Sunlight: How Tiny Plants Feed the Seas* by Molly Bang & Penny Chisholm



New Books - Adult Fiction

- *Starting Now: A Blossom Street Novel* by Debbie Macomber
- *The Hit* by David Baldacci
- *Taking Eve* by Iris Johansen
- *The 12th of Never* by James Patterson & Maxine Paetro
- *Unintended Consequences* by Stuart Woods
- *Robert P. Parker's Wonderland: A Spenser Novel* by Ace Atkins
- *The King's Deception* by Steve Berry
- *Whiskey Beach* by Nora Roberts
- *Bunker Hill: A City, a Siege, a Revolution* by Nathaniel Philbrick
- *Silken Prey* by John Sandford



Access your library account, check out e-books and audio books, and much more 24/7 using our online resources. Go to www.deerparktx.gov/library for more information.

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 Saturday, 9am-4:30pm.
- Tires, batteries, and other car parts are not accepted by the landfill.

Adopt-A-Pet

The City's Adopt-a-Pet program offers friendly pets at a minimal cost. Dogs and cats are available for adoption after a holding period of 3 working days. There is a \$50 adoption fee. You must also prepay for the spaying/neutering of the animal and a rabies vaccination. Pets are always available for adoption. Go to www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks and click on Animal Control to search for adoptable animals. You can also visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter or stop by the animal shelter during normal business hours. Call 281-478-7274 for more information.

Property Protection Measures

Repetitive flooding is generally a concern for many in our area. As a result, the City has undergone several drainage improvement projects

and has plans for continued improvements. Despite our efforts, the possibility of flooding remains, especially at times when rainfall comes down so fast that the drainage systems are not capable of handling the amount of water all at once. Therefore, you are encouraged to consider some permanent flood protection measures for your property.

- Check your home for water entry points, including windows, doors, dryer vents, etc.
- Know how to shut off the electricity and gas.
- Find a safe place in your home where you can place items high enough above the ground to prevent them from being damaged from flood waters.
- Consider raising your outside air conditioning unit, breaker box, and other outdoor utilities above possible future flood levels.
- Consider sealing the walls in your home with waterproof coatings, impermeable membranes, or supplemental layers of masonry or concrete. Doors, windows, and other openings can be equipped with permanent or removable shields. Another precautionary measure is to install backflow valves in sewer lines and drains.
- The best way to protect your home is to elevate it, but it is also the most expensive way. Generally, elevating your home involves either lifting the house and building a new foundation or extending the existing foundation or leaving the house in place and building an elevated floor or adding a new upper story to the house.

Local Flood Hazard

Because Harris County is located near the Gulf of Mexico and along the coastal plain of southeast Texas, it is subject to the natural overflow of land from intense local thunderstorms, general storms extending over periods of several days, and torrential rainfall associated with tropical events. The potential for extreme rainfall events, coupled with flat topography and poorly draining soils, contribute to the frequent occurrence of flooding in our county. Since 1900, Harris County has had 33 major flooding events, with 10 of those occurring since 1980.

You are encouraged to find out if your home is in a mapped floodplain so you can determine your potential risk of flooding from a bayou or creek overflow. Keep in mind that structures located outside of a floodplain are still at risk for flooding in Harris County. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs or floodplain maps) do not identify all sources of flooding. FIRMs do not consider risk associated with street flooding caused by roadside ditches and storm sewers exceeding their capacity or flooding caused by sheet flow, which is stormwater traveling over land to reach the bayous. In addition, of the more than 2,500 miles of bayous and creeks in Harris County, only about half have been studied for the purpose of floodplain identification and delineation. There is a possibility that there are structures in a floodplain that have not been mapped yet. FIRMs also do not show flooding risks from flooding events that exceed the magnitude of a 0.2 percent (500-

Public Works

year) flood, such as Tropical Storm Allison. In 2001, Tropical Storm Allison dropped 28.5 inches of rain in 12 hours in some areas of Harris county. Sixty-five percent of the area that flooded during Allison was not in a mapped floodplain.

Many property owners who find they are not located in a mapped floodplain mistakenly believe that they do not need flood insurance. Be aware that just an inch of water inside a home can cause thousands of dollars in damages. Repaying a \$50,000 disaster loan at a 4 percent interest rate will cost an average of \$240 a month for about 30 years, while an average flood insurance premium costs about \$400 per year for about \$100,000 of coverage. Don't take the risk when you can protect your structure relatively inexpensively with flood insurance. Remember that homeowners insurance does not cover flooding. For more information, call an insurance agent or go to www.floodsmart.gov.

FOG & The Environment

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). 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 back-

up 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.

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.

Proper Disposal of FOG

Fats, oil, and grease are a major environmental problem in cities all over the country, including Deer Park. Instead of pouring your cooking oil and grease into the drain, pour it into a heat resistant plastic bag or an old container with a tight sealing lid. Once your used grease or oil solidifies or cools, place it at the street curb with your normal household trash or take it to the Transfer Station, the City's local household hazardous waste facility. Be sure to scrape fats, grease, and food from plates and cooking utensils into the trash before washing them or placing them in your dishwasher. For residents who compost, used cooking oil is biodegradable and can be added to your compost piles.

Please help protect our natural environment and keep waterways clean by properly disposing of fats, oils, and grease. Your participation can save money and prevent costly backups.

Oil & Fluid in our Waterways

Did you know that used oil from a single oil change can pollute up to one million gallons of freshwater? When oil leaks from parked cars in driveways, the rain washes the oil into the storm drains. The runoff then flows into our waterways untreated, polluting our water and endangering marine life. Minimize oil and fluid runoff by:

- Routinely checking your car for oil and fluid leaks, and fixing leaks as soon as possible.
- Using sawdust or cat litter to clean-up spills, and properly disposing of the material.
- Using a drip pan when performing vehicle maintenance.
- Recycling used motor oil. Contact the Public Works Dept. at 281-478-7253 for details.

City Projects

- The Battleground Golf Course Historic Bridge Rehabilitation project has been completed.
- The Georgia Avenue Headwall project has been completed.
- The Lambuth Lane at Channel B112-03-001 Culvert Replacement project has been completed.
- The painting and rehabilitation of the 500,000 gallon elevated water storage tank at 8th Street and Avon Street is scheduled for the 1st quarter in 2013. The project was awarded to Gulf States Protective Coatings in the amount of \$361,700.
- Construction of the Patrick's Bayou Detention Basin will begin in the 1st quarter of 2013. The project was awarded to Serco Construction Group, LTD in the amount of \$5,475,963.



Back to Basics

One of the most prevalent, but preventable, crimes the Deer Park Police Department (DPPD) deals with is vehicle burglary. The victims of the burglaries usually say they didn't think this would happen in Deer Park. The fact of the matter is, it happens all of the time, and if you don't remain vigilant, you will be next! There are 2 simple steps to decrease the chances of having your vehicle burglarized:

1. Lock your doors
2. Do not leave valuable property in your vehicle

It's that simple. When criminals can see valuables laying out in your vehicle, they will take it. When you leave your vehicle unlocked, they will go in it. We all work too hard for what we have to just hand it over to criminals. We strongly encourage you to be vigilant, be safe, and report suspicious activity to police.

Alarm Systems Require Permit & User Responsibility

Technology in alarm systems has evolved over the years and consumer grade systems are readily affordable. Alarm systems can be purchased, installed and monitored via an alarm company, or self installed with video/audio and internet self monitoring. You can even simply use a local sounding alarm. Alarm permits are required for all alarm systems with few exceptions.

Businesses and residents must be mindful that alarm systems are often necessary or required to safeguard property, offer a sense of

security and well being, summon emergency assistance, or monitor activity. With the use of an alarm system, comes the responsibility of preventing false alarms, which increasingly consumes police and other emergency responder's time, as well as local government's financial resources. The financial burden to the affected business or resident also increases as a result of false alarms. Studies have shown that nationwide false alarms account for 96-98% of all alarm calls and a majority of the false alarms are caused by user error.

A very important part of controlling false alarms is a Verification Protocol. Contact your alarm monitoring company and find out if they have an established Verification Protocol. If they don't have one, ask them to implement one. You and the company should have a clear and mutual understanding of what each other's responsibilities are regarding alarm activations. You, whether a business or homeowner, should provide your alarm monitoring company with an emergency contact list of names and telephone numbers. The contact list should have individuals who reside close to your alarm site and have alarm code access, and who are able to properly operate your alarm system. The list should be kept current at all times with immediate notification to the alarm monitoring company when there are changes. The alarm monitoring company should make at least two attempts to contact someone on your contact list to verify the need for a police response before calling for a police dispatch. This verification process should take no longer than 5 minutes before the police are called.

The City of Deer Park does have a tiered fee schedule for excessive false alarms, more than 3 during a 12-month period, which has an impact on all budgets. A conscious effort by you and your alarm monitoring company to follow a Verification Protocol could have a positive impact on the reduction of false alarm dispatches and related costs. For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/police or contact Officer Howard at 281-930-2144 or mhoward@deerparktx.org.

What To Do When An Emergency Vehicle Approaches

Do you know what to do when an emergency vehicle is approaching?



Many drivers are unaware of the proper procedure to yield the right of way to emergency vehicles. It is extremely important for police officers and firefighters to have the ability to navigate the roadways safely as they respond to calls. Texas traffic laws instruct drivers on what to do when they find themselves in certain driving situations and also state what the penalties will be for violations.

When an emergency vehicle approaches, drivers on the road must stop. Texas Traffic Code defines stop as a complete cessation of movement. The Code also states that on the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle using audible and visual signal or of a police vehicle lawfully using only an audible signal, an operator, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall:

1. Yield the right-of-way
2. Immediately drive to a position

Police Department

parallel to and as close as possible to the right hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection

3. Stop and remain standing until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed

The Code defines an emergency vehicle as a police patrol vehicle, a fire fighting apparatus, or an ambulance. Through many years of research, The Texas Department of Public Safety has discovered that it is safer for drivers of emergency vehicles, when responding to emergency calls, to travel in the far left lane. This provides the other drivers with a place to retreat. The driver of the emergency vehicle has been trained to pass on the left and will do so in most instances.

Be sure to immediately stop upon pulling over to the right-hand lane. Some drivers will move to the right-hand lane, but continue to travel. The driver of the emergency vehicle may have the intention of turning at the next intersection just in front of you, so if you do not stop, you may cause an accident. If you are stopped at a red light intersection and approached by an emergency vehicle, you should remain stopped and let the emergency vehicle pass you in a safe manner. The drivers of emergency vehicles have been trained on how to maneuver through the traffic and will choose the safest route for themselves and others on the roadway. Authorized emergency vehicles have the right to safely travel into oncoming traffic lanes if necessary, so remain still until the emergency vehicle has passed. If it is not safe for the emergency vehicle to pass, the emergency vehicle will remain stopped

behind you until the light turns green and all traffic can proceed. If you are in front of an emergency vehicle and cannot safely move, then remain at a stop until the light changes, or you are instructed by a police officer to disregard the light. The Deer Park Police Department wants all of the motorists on the road to travel safely and courteously.

Warrant Payments

The Deer Park Police Department would like for you to start the new year with a clean slate and pay any outstanding warrants, failure to appear penalties, and other fines via one of our payment options.

1. *Payment in person* - You may appear in person before your scheduled court date and pay the designated fines. Payments will be accepted in the form of cash, money order, American Express, Mastercard, or Visa at 1302 Center St., Deer Park, Texas. You may appear in court concerning an outstanding warrant or failure to appear in which your original court date has passed. Please contact the municipal court prior to appearing for court schedules.
2. *Payment by mail* - You may pay the designated fines by mailing a money order along with your ticket to Deer Park Municipal Court, PO Box 700, Deer Park, TX 77536. This payment must be received by the Court prior to your court date. In order to pay outstanding warrants, the full amount must be enclosed, including the warrant's fees. All payments by mail are considered a plea of guilty.
3. *Payment online* - You may make payments in full online before

your scheduled court date at www.municipalonlinepayments.com/deerparktx/court. Online payments concerning warrants and failure to appear penalties will reflect additional fees that must be paid in full.

A plea of guilty or no contest concerning certain traffic violations within the State of Texas are reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety and may be subject to additional action through the Driver Responsibility Program. For more information regarding the Texas Department of Public Safety Driver Responsibility Program, please go to www.txdps.state.tx.us.

Bottle Bombs

Homemade chemical bombs, also known as acid bombs, bottle bombs, and MacGyver bombs, are explosive devices that can be easily made from volatile household chemicals purchased at a local hardware or grocery store. These chemical bombs are a teenage prankster's favorite because they are made with simple, common ingredients. Deer Park has had incidents involving these homemade "bombs" so the police department wants to warn you of the dangers.

There have been subjects in Deer Park mixing chemicals in plastic 20-ounce and 2-liter bottles. When the volatile chemicals are mixed, there is a strong chemical reaction releasing a gas, which causes pressure to build inside the plastic bottle resulting in an explosion. The caustic, boiling liquid released from the explosion can cause chemical burns, loss of hearing, loss of sight, and loss of fingers or hands. The subjects creating these bombs are certainly not chemists and do not

use precise methods when mixing the compounds. As a result, these chemical bombs are unpredictable and dangerous. If you are caught making one of these bombs, or are in possession of one, you will face felony criminal charges. Help us to ensure the safety of all residents and visitors by not using or making homemade chemical bombs.

Car Seat & Child Passenger Safety

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

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

Frequent Crash Intersections

The DPPD wants citizens to be

aware of a few high accident locations in an attempt to reduce the number of accidents at these locations. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately 52% of all accidents occur within a 5-mile radius of home and 69% of all car accidents occur within a 10-mile radius from home.

The accident reports at these locations reveal that they are likely to share the same contributing factors:

1. Failure to yield the right of way (taking unnecessary risks to enter the roadway, usually between esplanades)
2. Rear End Collisions

Most people would assume that the above contributing factors are the result of driver inattention. Driver inattention is a serious issue in today's roadways. Doing anything behind the wheel that takes your attention away from the task of driving, such as using cell phones, eating, adjusting the radio, putting on make-up, etc. results in driver inattention. When an inattentive driver is in a hurried state of mind or driving too fast for current conditions, there is a higher probability for an accident to occur. A former insurance company attorney, Michael Pines, states it best in *Many Car Accidents Occur Close to Home (2008)*:

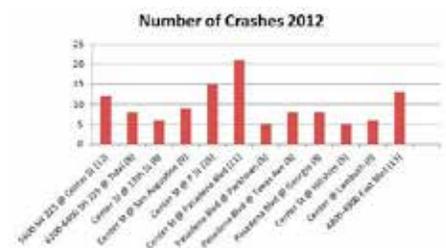
A major cause of these increased driving distractions is that people tend to have a false sense of security when driving close to home, or in familiar areas, a factor that could lead to the high percentage of auto accidents close to home. Car accident safety experts recommend

that when driving close to home, you should not be fooled into having a false sense of security. Drivers need to be twice as cautious when driving near home and be on the lookout for distracted and careless drivers. Simply being aware of the fact that the likelihood of an auto accident increases dramatically the closer you are to home may save you from possibly becoming involved in a car accident.

The Deer Park Police Department will be increasing enforcement in these areas and seeking engineering solutions, when possible. Please keep these locations in mind, and remember to pay attention and drive defensively. For more information, contact Sgt. J.W. White at 281-930-2152 or send an e-mail to jwhite@deerparktx.org.

2012 Most Frequent Accident Locations

- 5600 SH 225 @ Center St. (12)
- 6200-6400 SH 225 @ Tidal (8)
- Center St. @ 13th St. (6)
- Center St. @ San Augustine (9)
- Center St. @ P St. (15)
- Center St. @ Pasadena Blvd. (21)
- Pasadena Blvd. @ Parktown (5)
- Pasadena Blvd. @ Texas Ave. (8)
- Center St. @ Hillshire (5)
- Pasadena Blvd. @ Georgia (8)
- Center St. @ Lambuth (6)
- 4800-4900 East Blvd. (13)



Parks & Recreation

Weight Room

Work out in the weight room at the Earl Dunn Gym. It is free to all Deer Park residents and it's open Mon.-Thurs., 6am-9pm, Fri., 6am-6pm & Sat., 9am-3pm. For ages 16 & over. Proof of residency is required.

Ladies Low Impact Aerobics

A cardiovascular exercise class for sculpting, weight training, and elevating your heart rate. For ages 18 & over.

*\$20 per month, \$10 fee added after the 5th Mon., Wed. & Fri., 8:30-9:30am
Deer Park Community Center*

Pilates

Strengthen your core, tone your body, and improve your flexibility. For teens & adults.

*\$40 per month (2 days/week) or
\$20 per month (1 day/week)
\$10 fee added after the 5th
Tues. & Thurs., 6:30-7:30pm
Deer Park Community Center*

Oil Painting

Learn the art of oil painting and

create your own masterpiece. The instructor has 35 years experience. Supply list available.

*\$55 per month
Thursdays, 9am-12pm
Deer Park Community Center*

Deer Park Karate

We teach Taekwondo and Shorin-Ryu. Learn a variety of defensive and offensive maneuvers, such as counters to punches, escapes from bear hugs, and hand and foot striking techniques.

*\$30 per month (2 classes/week) or
\$40 per month (3 classes/week)
\$10 fee added after the 5th
Mon., Wed. & Fri.
Intro. Class, ages 7-12,
6:40-7:15pm
Beginner's Class, ages 7-12,
7:15-8pm
Teen & Adult Class, ages 13 & over,
8-8:45pm
Deer Park Community Center*

Tiny Dragons Introductory Class

This class helps kids develop the physical skills necessary for Martial Arts, such as balance, posture, and

coordination. The kids will also learn valuable life skills, such as discipline, courtesy, respect, focus, and concentration. For ages 4-6.

*\$30 per month (2 days/week) or
\$40 per month (3 days/week)
\$10 fee added after the 5th
Mon., Wed. & Fri., 4:30-5:30pm
Deer Park Community Center*

Zumba Fitness

Join the fastest growing fitness craze and experience an exciting high energy workout that combines dance and fitness with Latin rhythms.

*\$85 per session, \$10 walk-in
Tues. & Thurs., 7:30-8:30pm
Through Mar. 28 & Apr. 9-May 16
Deer Park Community Center*

Sunrise Exercise

This class your increases heart health and muscular strength with cardio and weight training. It includes full-body weight lifting to tone your whole body. Bring a set of dumbbell hand weights to each class. For ages 13 & over.

*\$35 per month
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Through April 30, 6-6:45am
Earl Dunn Gym*

Yoga for Health & Well-Being

New instructor and schedule! Joni Kyle, RYT 200, will offer an upbeat flowing yoga that improves strength, flexibility, and reduces tension with the combination of breath and movement. Yoga mats are available. Wear comfortable clothing. Shoes are not required.

*\$55 for any 4 classes within a session,
\$95 for any 8 classes within a session,
or \$15 per class
Mon. & Wed., 6:45-7:45pm
Mar. 4-27, Apr. 1-24 & Apr. 29-May 22
Claude Burgess Recreation Center*

44th Annual Egg Hunt & Festivities

Join the Easter Bunny at Dow Park for some fun and excitement on March 23 from 9am to 12pm.

Petting zoo, pony rides & wagon rides, 9am-12pm, Nominal fee

Bunny Bingo, 9-10am, 25¢ per card

Carrot Pull, 9:15am, \$1 per pull

Sidewalk Chalk Picture Contest (Awards immediately after Egg Hunt),

9:15-10:15am, \$1 per sidewalk square

Rubber Ducky Races, 9:15-10:15am, Free

Egg Hunt, 10:30am, Free

(Parents may only assist with children ages 6 months to 2 years old. Aggressive parents will not be tolerated!)

Rockin' Cowgirls, 11am-12pm, Free

In case of inclement weather, the annual Egg Hunt will move indoors to the Earl Dunn Gym and will be scheduled as follows: 10:30am for 6 months-2 yrs. old, 10:50am for 3-5 yrs. old, & 11:10am for 6-9 yrs. old.

Self Defense for Women

Learning self defense is one of the most effective ways to improve your sense of security. This program teaches defensive and offensive maneuvers, basic blocking, and striking techniques that are easy to learn, remember, and execute. Wear comfortable clothing. For ages 13 & over.

\$80 per person per 8-week session or \$50 per person per 4-week session, \$10 discount if your child is currently a Deer Park Karate student or if you are registering with a group of 3 or more
Mar. 5-Apr. 30

Tues. & Thurs., 6:45-7:45pm

Deer Park Community Center, Rm 10

TOT Basketball Program

The Teams of Tomorrow (TOT) basketball program is a weekly ball handling and dribbling session designed for ages 3-5. TOT is non-competitive and uses music to build your child's basketball skills, motor skills, listening skills, and self-confidence.

\$36 monthly, plus \$30 registration fee (includes TOT shirt, unit prizes, and trophy) \$10 fee added after the 5th

Thursdays, 11:30am-12:15pm

Mar. 5-26 (no class Mar. 11), Apr. 2-30 & May 7-28

Deer Park Community Center, Rm 10

Basic Dog Obedience Training

We will guide you through the proper use of positive reinforcement to train your dog to listen. The dogs will learn simple commands that will make them better family members.

\$75 per 8-week session

Tues., 7-8pm

Mar. 5-Apr. 23 & May 7-June 25

Jimmy Burke Activity Center

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Join us for Illusion Institute's 3-on-3 basketball tournament during spring break for all junior high and high school students. It's 3 days of friendly competition and a chance to win \$300 (prize for champion). Every team is guaranteed 4 games. *\$225 per team (includes T-shirt & game officials)*

March 11-13

Junior High: 1-4pm

High School: 5-8pm

Earl Dunn Gym

Market Days of Deer Park

Come to Dow Park every 3rd Saturday of the month for homemade goods and ready-made items. To become a vendor, send an e-mail to marketdays@yahoo.com.

Mar. 16, Apr. 20 & May 18

9am-1pm

Dow Park

Introduction to

Orienteering and Geocaching

Learn the basics of orienteering (map reading) and geocaching. You will then venture out to Dow Park to put your new skills to the test and find hidden geocaches. Registration ends March 8. For all ages.

\$10 per person

Mar. 16, 8:30-11:30am

Deer Park Community Center

Nature Walk at

Armand Bayou Nature Center

Discover the local flora and fauna at Armand Bayou Nature Center. Bring a camera and water. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Registration ends Mar. 11. For ages 55 & over.

\$10 per person

Mar. 18, 9:30am-12:30pm

Meet at E.M. Maxwell Center

Getting Paid To Talk

Explore the numerous aspects of voice over work for television, film, radio, audio books, documentaries, and the Internet. We will cover all the basics, including how to prepare the all-important demo, how to be successful, and how to earn great income in this exciting field. For ages 18 & over. For more details, go to www.voicecoaches.com/gppt.

\$10 per person

Apr. 3, 6:30-9pm

Deer Park Community Center

Concealed Handgun Class

This course covers the rules and regulations to obtain a license to carry a concealed firearm in the State of Texas, as well as the safety, maintenance, and storage of a firearm. Fingerprinting is required prior to the class. For ages 21 & over or 18, if actively serving in the military. Go to www.tchconcealed.com for more details.

\$100 for students, \$90 for Deer Park educators, \$70 for City employees, \$70 for DPVFD, \$60 for Active Military or Reserve, \$40 for Police Officers
April 6, 8:30am-4pm

Deer Park Community Center, Rm 17

Deer Park Junior Tennis

Tennis programs designed for all ability levels, ages 5-17. 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.

\$89 per 6-week session (1 day/week) or \$178 per session (2 days/week)

Tennis Buddies, ages 5-8

Saturdays, 8:30-9:30am, Apr. 6-May 11

Future Stars, ages 9-14

Parks & Recreation

Saturdays, 9:45-10:45am, Apr. 6-May 11 Performance Team (intermediate level), Saturdays, 9:45-10:45am, Apr. 6-May 11 Performance Team (intermediate level), Tues. & Thurs., 5-6pm, Apr. 2-May 9 Tournament Tough (advanced level), Tues. & Thurs., 6-7pm, Apr. 2-May 9 Adult Cardio, Mon. & Wed., Apr. 1-May 8 Dow Park Tennis Courts

Become a Lifeguard

Being a lifeguard means you're trusted with the lives of others, so you'll need to be extremely responsible, attentive, and patient. You will be required to attend the NASCO certification course, which includes physical challenges, as well as a written exam to ensure you're capable of performing the necessary duties of the job. If you're interested in becoming a lifeguard, please complete an online application at www.deerparktx.gov/humanresources. If you are selected, you will be called for an interview. At that point, you will be asked to come prepared for the physical portion of the test. Please bring a swimsuit and towel. You must be able to swim 200 meters without stopping, which is 4 times down an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

*\$100 per participant
NASCO Lifeguard Certification
April 12-14 (tentative)*

Picnic in the Park

Join us for a picnic at the Clear Lake Park Pavilion. Bring your lunch, a drink, and a light jacket. Registration ends Apr. 8. For ages 55 & over.

Free

April 15, 10am-1pm

Meet at the E.M. Maxwell Adult Center

Family Camp Out

Join us for a camp out overnight at

the Avon Recreation Center in Deer Park. We'll have fun and games, s'mores around a fire, and an outdoor movie on the big screen. We'll provide a small breakfast, coffee, and hot chocolate. Bathrooms will be available throughout the night. Be sure to bring a tent, sleeping bags, warm clothes, and anything else you might need to make your family camp out comfortable. Electricity will not be available. In case of inclement weather, the camp out will be rescheduled to April 26-27. Price includes a 20'x20' campsite.

\$10 per adult, \$7 per child (fees through March 19)

\$15 per adult, \$10 per child (fees March 20-April 12)

*April 19-20, 6:30pm-8:30am
Avon Recreation Center*

Kick Off Night

This year's Summer Kick Off Registration on May 2 is at a new location. It's the 1st opportunity to sign up for summer programs, including swim lessons, plus meet the staff and instructors. Check out the list of programs in the summer issue of the Parks & Recreation brochure. Registration from 6-7pm is exclusively reserved for Deer Park residents. Proof of residency is required. Registration from 7-8pm will open to residents and non-residents. Sign up will be held at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center (enter through the back half of the building near the garage door). Doors will open at 4pm. At that time, you will receive an assigned number. You may wait around until registration begins or you may leave and come back. You must be back in time for your number to be called or you will be assigned a new number. On May 6, you can register or make changes, at 9am in the Com-

munity Center office or online at activenet.active.com/dprecreation. Payment must be made at time of registration. Checks are no longer accepted. Acceptable forms of payment include cash, money order, cashier's check or major credit card. An account is required before registering. Set up can be completed at activenet.active.com/dprecreation prior to your arrival. Computers and assistance will be available at Kick Off Night as well.

Movie in the Park

Come watch the movie, *Brave*, on the outdoor inflatable screen. Concessions will be available for purchase. Movie starts at 8:15pm. In case of inclement weather, the movie will be moved to Earl Dunn Gym.

Free, May 4

Dow Park Pavilion

Birding at

Armand Bayou Nature Center

Join us on an adventure to the Armand Bayou Nature Center, only a short distance from Deer Park. A brief *Birds of the Bayou* demonstration in the auditorium will be followed by a trail walk to see if we can spot any of the birds we learn about. Make sure to bring some walking shoes, a camera, and water. Registration ends April 29. For ages 55 & over.

\$10 per person

May 6, 7:30-11am

Meet at E.M. Maxwell Adult Center

Head Start Track and Field 2013

Prepare for Summer Track with the Head Start program. Two workouts are held each week with conditioning and general skills development. Participants can compete in the

Continued on pg. 19

Evacuation Assistance Request Form – Chemical Emergency Or Impending Storm

Please register in advance. Do NOT wait until a storm is in the Gulf of Mexico.

This service is for residents with special needs who do not have a vehicle, cannot drive themselves, or cannot make other transportation arrangements with family, friends, or neighbors. The City of Deer Park will help transport residents with special needs to a central staging area for state-supported transportation to a northern area designated by the State of Texas.

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone (____) _____ Number of persons living at this address _____

Reason for requiring assistance:

Do not drive or no vehicle available but otherwise mobile

Wheelchair..... Mobile without chair Completely wheelchair bound

Bedridden Somewhat mobile Completely bedridden

Special conditions or needs _____

Name of nearest relative _____ Address _____

Telephone (____) _____

Please have all medications ready to take with you in case of evacuation.

Mail form to: City of Deer Park, Parks & Recreation Dept., P.O. Box 700, Deer Park, Texas 77536. You may drop off the form at the Community Center, 610 E. San Augustine, or the Maxwell Adult Center, 1201 Center Street. Or, you may complete the form online at www.deerparktx.gov/residents.

For more information, call (281) 478-2050.

Citizen Work Request

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

You can also submit a Work Request online using the City's Action Center. Visit us at www.deerparktx.gov.

Together we can make Deer Park a better place!

Location _____

Briefly describe the work _____

May we call you for more information?

Name _____

Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Council Actions

November 2012

- Awarded the bid for a one-year supply of pool chemicals to Progressive Commercial.
- Approved an agreement with Deer Park Chamber of Commerce for Tourism and Visitor Promotion, Advertising Services, and the Totally Texas Festival for 2013.
- Awarded the bid for a one-year supply of ferric chloride to PVS Technologies in the amount of \$548 per dry ton.
- Rejected a proposal for building maintenance services.
- Authorized the purchase of 6 patrol units through the H-GAC cooperative purchasing program.
- Authorized the purchase of 2 license plate recognition systems through the H-GAC cooperative purchasing program.
- Authorized the purchase of COBAN equipment to be installed in patrol units as mandated by state law.
- Authorized the purchase of Library furnishings through purchasing cooperatives per the Library Expansion project.
- Approved the re-appointment of a representative, Councilman Thane Harrison, and alternate representative, Councilwoman Beckie Stockstill-Cobb, to the 2013 Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors.
- Approved an agreement with the Deer Park Youth Baseball Association for improvements to an equipment storage unit.
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and an ordinance calling a joint public hearing to rezone 30.1537 acres out of Lot 1 of the B.R. Root Subdivision

- in the William Jones Survey from General Commercial to Light Industrial.
- Approved an ordinance amending various sections of the Code of Ordinances as they relate to dangerous dogs and imposing impound and boarding fees.
- Approved an ordinance changing the Regular Council Meeting from January 1, 2013 to January 8, 2013 due to the New Year's Day Holiday.
- Awarded the bid for the Library furniture to Library Design Systems, Inc. for a total base bid and addendum in the amount of \$94,558.
- Authorized the issue of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for leasing or management services of the Battleground Golf Course.
- Authorized the issue of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for MEP engineering firms to evaluate select buildings at San Jacinto Elementary School.
- Reauthorized the purchase of three packages of Library furnishings via purchasing cooperatives.
- Authorized the appointment of a Golf Course Request for Proposals Selection Committee.
- Authorized the appointment of a Boards & Commission Selection Committee.
- Approved a resolution requesting members of the 83rd Legislative Session of the State of Texas to support legislation that increases funding for the Texas Recreation and Parks account and large county and municipality recreation and parks account local park grant programs, and the Texas State Park

System.

- Approved an ordinance reaffirming and correcting the Tax Abatement Policy.
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 66-91 and 66-99 of the Code relating to illegal parking.
- Approved an ordinance amending Schedule B - User fees relating to fees for illegal parking.

December 2012

- Approved the Quarterly Investment Report for July through September 2012.
- Approved the purchase of a Jet Truck Sewer Cleaner through the Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- Approved an ordinance expressing the City's appreciation of the Texas Municipal League for its recent 100th Annual Conference.
- Approved an ordinance transferring ownership interest in real property, 8.6367 acres of land located just east of Bonnette Jr. High School along Pasadena Blvd., to Deer Park Independent School District for future expansion of the Bonnette Jr. High School campus.
- Approved an ordinance from the results of the Joint Public Hearing to rezone a 30.1537 acre tract of land out of Lot 1 of the W.B. Root Subdivision in the William Jones Survey, Abstract 482, Harris County, Texas from General Commercial to Light Industrial Zoning.
- Awarded the bid for the Patrick's Bayou Storm Water Detention Basin Project to Serco Construction in the amount of \$5,475,963.
- Approved the transfer of Fire Dept. equipment to the Deer

- Park Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Approved the authorization to amend the purchase of Library furnishings via purchasing cooperatives.
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission on the request of Siemens for a 162' sign variance at 405 Deerwood Glen.
- Approved a request from Serco Construction for a temporary occupancy permit to locate a construction trailer at 6400 Highway 225 for the Patrick's Bayou Storm Water Detention Basin Project.
- Approved a request from E & S Construction for a temporary occupancy permit to locate a construction trailer at 2751 Aaron St. for the expansion of their current facility.
- Approved a proposal from Swain & Associates for construction management services for the painting and rehabilitation of the elevated storage tank at West 8th and Avon Streets.
- Approved an ordinance appointing four members to the Library Board of Trustees for terms beginning January 1, 2013 and expiring December 31, 2014.
- Approved an agreement for the FY 2013-2014 Selected Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) TxDOT – Speeding Grant.
January 2013
- Authorized the purchase of a Kubota Mini Excavator through the H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program at a cost of \$25,983.
- Approved the expenses for Mayor to attend the U. S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C.
- Approved the expenses for Council to attend the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Approved an agreement with CDM Smith for construction management services for the Patrick's Bayou Detention Facility Project.
- Approved a resolution supporting action by the 2012 Sunset Advisory Commission to strengthen governance of the Port of Houston Authority.
- Awarded the bid for the Avon Water Tower project to Gulf States Protective Coatings, Inc. for a total price of \$361,700.
- Accepted the completion of the Battleground Golf Course Bridge Rehabilitation project. Final cost was \$229,635.
- Approved revisions to the Emergency Pay Policy to improve consistency with FEMA reimbursement guidelines.
- Approved a request for qualifications for staff to negotiate a contract for an assessment of the old San Jacinto Elementary campus.
- Approved an agreement for Disaster Response with the Department of State Health Services.

Patrick's Bayou Detention Project, Continued from pg. 1

Possession of the 42 acre site for the detention basin was ultimately acquired by eminent domain (condemnation) through the cooperative efforts between the HCFCD and the City of Deer Park. The value of the property was set at \$9,000,000 by the court appointed special commissioners in the eminent domain proceedings. This cost was shared equally by the HCFCD and the City. While the value of the property set by the special commissioners is being contested through the court system, the condemnation allowed the County and City to take possession of the property and construct the seriously needed improvements.

It has taken many years to reach this point. Prior to concluding that the detention basin was the best solution for alleviating flooding, engineering studies in 1980 and 2002 proposed the possibility of adding a large culvert under SH 225 and through the Shell Refinery. This was ultimately determined not to be a feasible alternative due to the lack of a drainage right-of-way or easement through the Shell Refinery, numerous pipeline crossings running through the Shell refining complex downstream of SH 225, and the presence of an active Superfund site downstream. Expansion of the culvert system would increase flow to the Superfund site, which in

turn would disturb contaminated sediment.

At the groundbreaking Mayor Riddle stated, "The beginning of this phase marks the final chapter in a tumultuous process of finding a drainage outlet for storm water that would prevent flooding on the northern part of the City." Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman thanked the HCFCD personnel for staying with the project through tough budget years and commented, "This project is a great example of what happens when you have departments working together. We are finally here breaking ground."

City Event Calendar



March

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



April

- 1 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 2 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 4 Siren Test 6pm
- 12 Totally Texas Beauty Pageant
- 13 Totally Texas Festival & Parade
- 15 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 16 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 23 LEPC Meeting - 11am



May

- 2 Siren Test 6pm
- 6 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 7 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 11 General Election Day
- 20 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 21 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 27 City Services Closed
- 28 LEPC Meeting - 11am

Parks & Recreation, Continued from pg. 15

Gulf Coast Track Circuit starting the 1st week of June in the Summer Track program. For boys & girls, ages kindergarten through 12th grade. A copy of the child's birth certificate is required.

\$50 (includes registration for Head start, registration for Summer Track, T-shirt & transportation to meets) Tuesdays & Thursdays May 7-30, 6-8pm Deer Park North Campus Track

Swim Lessons

Registration will be held on May 2 in conjunction with the Summer Kick-off event. Levels are assessed by the age of the child, the discretion of the parent, and the discretion of the instructor.

\$40 per 2-week session Saturdays, July 6-Aug. 3, only for Baby Splashes (ages 3 months-3 years) and Pre-school (ages 3-5) Tuesday-Friday, 9am June 18-28, July 9-19 & July 30-Aug. 9 Beginner (ages 5-8)

*Advanced Beginner (ages 7-10)
Intermediate (ages 9-11)
Advanced (ages 10 & over)
City Pool at Dow Park*

*Art Park Dancers present
Beauty and the Beast
Gaines Mason Auditorium
402 Ivy St.
May 25, 4pm & 7:30pm
\$5 Tickets*

Prepare for Severe Spring Weather, Continued from pg. 1

Know the Difference

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm warning is issued.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.

Every year people are killed or seriously injured by severe thunderstorms despite advance warning. While some did not hear the warning, others heard the warning and

did not pay attention to it. This information, combined with timely watches and warnings of severe weather, may help save lives.

Be Prepared

- Discuss thunderstorm safety with all members of your household.
- Pick a safe place in your home for household members to gather during a thunderstorm. This should be away from windows, skylights, and glass doors that could be broken by strong winds or hail.
- Make trees and shrubbery more

wind resistant by keeping them trimmed and removing damaged branches.

- Protect your animals by ensuring that any outside buildings that house them are protected in the same way as your home.
- Get trained in first aid and learn how to respond to emergencies.
- Put together an emergency preparedness kit.

This article was provided by the American Red Cross.



American Red Cross



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

Election Information

The City of Deer Park will conduct a General Election on May 11, 2013 to elect a Mayor and 3 Council members.

Register to Vote

You must be registered to vote by April 11, 2013 if you wish to vote in the May 11th 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. 29 & 30, 7am-7pm
May 1, 2, 3, 6 & 7, 8am-5pm

Election Day

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 identification. Currently, forms of identification necessary to vote include:

- A voter registration certificate (preferred)
- Texas Driver's License
- State issued photo ID
- Photo ID establishing a voter's identity
- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Citizenship papers
- Government mail
- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck that indicates voter's name and address

Contact the City Secretary's Office at 281-478-7248 or visit the City's website at www.deerparktx.gov for more information.

Gardening Tip

Late winter and early spring is the proper time to trim your crepe myrtles. Start by removing any sucker growth coming up at the base of the tree. Next, select 4 to 6 main branches to leave intact. Doing this will allow air circulation in the canopy and help prevent powdery mildew. Start thinning out the canopy by removing any broken or crossing branches, as well as diseased branches. While you're trimming, be sure to step back and confirm that you are removing equal amounts of branches from each side of the tree.



*Celebrate Texas' Independence
in Deer Park,
The Birthplace of Texas*

**Totally Texas Festival &
Parade - April 13**
Beauty Pageant - April 12