

## **ARCHIVED CITY OF DEER PARK DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

### **MARCH 13-APRIL 22, 2020**

#### **04/22/20**

The Deer Park Municipal Court - along with several other City facilities – is currently closed to the public, pursuant to Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo’s “Stay Home, Work Safe” order. As well, all court dockets through May 15 have been cancelled.

As such, Municipal Court payments are not being accepted in-person at this time. Residents are advised that no fees are being added due to the closure, and no warrants are being issued at this time.

Municipal Court payments can be made online – with a \$1.50 fee - at <http://www.deerparktx.gov/1060/Online-Payments>. Payments by phone may be made with a \$2.50 fee by calling 866-202-5009.

Municipal Court staff is also responding to calls and emails as quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience and will follow up with additional information as it becomes available. Customers are encouraged to monitor City social media and to reach out directly once the Court resumes normal operation.

#### **04/17/20**

President Donald Trump Thursday issued new federal guidelines for "Opening Up America Again." The full guidelines - available to view on <http://www.deerparktx.gov/1869/COVID-19> - outlined a tiered approach to re-opening specific types of businesses throughout the U.S. The guidelines allowed individual states the opportunity to manage specific actions.

During a 12PM press conference Friday, Governor Greg Abbott announced a set of executive orders aimed at re-opening the Texas economy. The executive orders also outlined the closure of all schools – public, private and higher education institutions – through the end of the school year.

First, Abbott established a statewide strikeforce aimed at re-opening the Texas economy. The group, to include both public and private partners, will develop a plan and put together recommendations for the gradual re-opening of certain kinds of businesses, based on current data and the advice of medical professionals.

Also during the press conference, Abbott announced that – due to the advice of medical professionals that gathering students together would be unsafe at this time – all schools will remain closed through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

The Governor also announced that state parks will re-open to the public on Monday, April 20, provided social distancing measures are maintained by visitors. Finally, Abbott announced a lifting of restrictions on certain medical procedures and diagnostic tests starting April 22, aimed at allowing doctors and nurses to return to work.

On Friday, April 24, Abbott said retailers statewide would be allowed to open for “retail to-go,” similar to the carry-out/takeout services currently offered by restaurants. Further, Abbott indicated that additional business openings – as well as a possible lift of Stay-at-Home orders in Texas – would be announced on April 27 with additional considerations during the month of May.

Additional information about today’s executive orders can be found at [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus).

Governor Abbott also released a press release detailing the orders, available at <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-issues-executive-order-establishing-strike-force-to-open-texas>.

## **04/16/20**

Resident advisory:

Expanded testing options for Coronavirus (COVID-19) are available in and around the Houston community.

Please see Harris County Public Health Facebook page regarding drive-thru testing sites and mobile testing units.

As well, please be advised that citizens also have the option to visit a drive-up testing site at a Walgreens located in Pasadena, TX at 101 Southmore. The site will open on Friday, April 17 and will operate seven days a week from 9AM-4PM. Individuals interested in being tested must log on to <http://www.walgreens.com/coronavirus> or <http://www.walgreens.com/findcare> and complete a pre-screening assessment. Visit the City of Pasadena, Texas - City Hall Facebook page for more information.

## **04/09/20**

4PM

The City parks located within the Deer Park city limits are open to allow residents to engage in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

The City’s parks will remain open over the coming weekend (April 10-12), and available for citizen use.

However, as stated by Mayor Jerry Mouton in a message posted earlier today, residents are strongly urged to continue to adhere to social distancing guidance, avoid large gatherings and practice strong hygiene as we continue efforts to fight the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Failure to follow social distancing guidelines within the City parks could result in closure of the parks.

To date, the City has taken necessary precautions including closing public restrooms and the Splash Pad, removing basketball rims and nets on volleyball courts, and locking athletic facilities to assist with maintaining safety in our parks. The Dow Park Pavilions, playgrounds and outdoor workout equipment also remain closed.

12PM

A message from Mayor Jerry Mouton:

As we approach Easter weekend, we must remember that we are still fighting the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and it is critical we maintain the safety guidelines established by public health authorities.

While each of us enjoy gatherings and celebrations, now is a critical time in this response in which large gatherings - even just with extended family members - would negatively impact the efforts we've made so far to practice social distancing and "flatten the curve." To date, it appears that the social distancing measures in place have been working, and our community has been able to lessen the impact of this disease and the resulting demands on our medical resources. It is crucial that we keep up the good work.

I truly look forward to the day when we can all gather freely, but I ask that you join me in preserving the safety of our community at the present time. Continue to pay particular attention to social distancing measures over the next couple of weeks as we try to turn the corner on this pandemic.

As your Mayor and as a resident of Deer Park, thank you for everything you are doing and will continue to do to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

#### **04/07/20**

Residents are advised that the grounds of the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site will be closed until further notice as of 5PM today, April 7, following an order issued by Governor Greg Abbott.

Per the Governor's website, "Governor Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to close all state parks and historic sites as part of the state's efforts to strengthen social distancing practices and prevent gatherings of large groups of people. Historic sites and state parks will close to the public starting at 5:00 PM this evening and will reopen at the direction of the Governor."

The Texas Historical Commission website provides additional information regarding facility closures and public health information at <https://www.thc.texas.gov/publichealth>.

#### **04/03/20**

City of Deer Park facility closures/service adjustments following "Stay Home, Work Safe" order extension through April 30, 2020

Due to the "Stay Home, Work Safe" order being extended by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo to continue through April 30, 2020, the City of Deer Park will be extending the suspension of services not deemed essential for the health and safety of the community.

The "Stay Home, Work Safe" order – which originally went into effect on Tuesday, March 24 at 11:59PM - will continue through Thursday, April 30 at 11:59PM.

In compliance with the order, the City will close several public facilities and offer essential services via alternative means.

Facility closures will include City Hall (both the front lobby and the Utility Billing lobby), with the night dropbox located in the Utility Billing drive-thru remaining open. The Deer Park Community Center, the Municipal Court and Theater Building, the Deer Park Public Library, the Deer Park Visitors Center and the Deer Park Animal Shelter will remain closed through Thursday, April 30.

The Maxwell Adult Center, which closed to the public on March 13, will remain closed. Please see the City website and the Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page for information on meal distribution and other activity information.

Emergency services provided by the Deer Park Police Department, Deer Park Emergency Medical Services and the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department will continue as normal, and emergency calls should be directed to 9-1-1. However, Fire Stations #1, #2 and #3 as well as the EMS Station will be closed to the public.

While the Deer Park Police Department lobby will be locked, personnel will be on duty, and available to handle requests for police records. For inquiries and non-emergency calls, residents should call dispatch at 281-479-1511. Dispatch will continue to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Deer Park residents are reminded that although no one has instated a curfew associated with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) response – the nighttime curfew for juveniles (those under 17) is 11PM – 6AM Sunday through Thursday and 12AM-6AM Friday and Saturday. There is also a curfew for everyone that applies to all City maintained parks and green spaces with the exception of Dow Park. The park curfew hours are 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday.

#### Trash Service/Public Works

Curbside garbage and heavy trash pick-up will continue as normal until further notice. The Transfer Station, located at 610 Old Underwood Road, will be closed through April 30 (with closure dates including Saturday, April 4, Saturday, April 11, Saturday, April 18, and Saturday, April 25). The Recycling Center – co-located with the Transfer Station – will be closed through May 1.

To report Water and Sewer issues, citizens may call 281-478-7270 from 8AM to 5PM on Monday through Friday – after-hours and on weekends, calls should be directed to DPPD dispatch at 281-479-1511.

Residential and commercial building permits can be applied for online at:

<http://www.deerparktx.gov/1314/Permitting-Online-Portal-CAP> . Building inspections can also be scheduled at the same site. Developers that need to meet with the Building Official concerning commercial development will be by appointment only – please call 281-478-7270 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Citizens are welcome to contact us by email at [publicworks@deerparktx.org](mailto:publicworks@deerparktx.org).

#### Municipal Court

On Tuesday, March 24, the Deer Park Municipal Court - along with several other City facilities - was closed to the public, pursuant to Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo's "Stay Home, Work Safe" order.

As such, Municipal Court payments are not being accepted in-person at this time. Residents are advised that no fees are being added due to the closure, and no warrants are being issued at this time.

Municipal Court payments can be made online – with a \$1.50 fee - at <http://www.deerparktx.gov/1060/Online-Payments>. Payments by phone may be made with a \$2.50 fee by calling 866-202-5009.

Municipal Court staff is also responding to calls and emails as quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience and will follow up with additional information as it becomes available. Customers are encouraged to monitor City social media and to reach out directly once the Court resumes normal operation.

#### Deer Park Animal Shelter

The Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center will remain closed to the public through Thursday, April 30 at 5PM. Staff will continue to respond to emergency calls during this time (i.e. injured animals & wildlife, bite cases, aggressive animals and high risk wildlife animals). Residents should not trap any animals utilizing Humane traps at this time unless emergency exigent circumstances exist, e.g., suspected rabies, danger to citizens, etc. as staff will not be available to conduct pick-ups for routine business.

#### Online Payments

Per the closures outlined above, neither Utility Billing payments at City Hall nor drive-thru service at City Hall will be available during this time, with the night dropbox located in the Utility Billing drive-thru remaining open. Additionally, Municipal Court payments will not be accepted in person.

For Municipal Court payments, online payments can be made via the website – with a \$1.50 fee - at <http://www.deerparktx.gov/1060/Online-Payments>. Payments by phone may be made with a \$2.50 fee by calling 866-202-5009. For Central Collections/Utility Billing, online payments can be made via the website – with no added fees - at <http://www.deerparktx.gov/1060/Online-Payments>. Payments by phone may be made with a \$1.25 fee by calling 833-309-4332.

The Online Payments portal linked above may also be utilized for building and alarm permits, property tax payments and more.

#### Deer Park Public Library

Please be advised that all fines/late fees are being waived during the facility closure. Patrons are encouraged to continue to utilize the Deer Park Public Library's digital resources through the City's website, <https://www.deerparktx.gov/97/Library>.

#### City of Deer Park - Parks and Recreation Department updates

The following is a list of Parks and Recreation services that will closed due to the continuation of the "Stay Home, Work Safe" Order:

- All playgrounds, pavilions, sport courts, park bathrooms, and the splash park are closed until further notice.
- Dow Park Sand Volleyball Court lights will not be operating and nets are not provided.
- All athletic facilities will be locked and there will be no access to lights.
- All Deer Park Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Centers will close through Thursday, April 30. This closure includes: Deer Park Community Center, Earl Dunn Gym, the Maxwell Adult Center, the Jimmy Burke Activity Center, the Claude Burgess Center, the Avon Center, the Kingsdale Center, and the Municipal Court and Theater Building
- All Departmental structured programs are cancelled until further notice.

The Parks and Recreation facilities that will remain open and available for use are as follows:

- Ella and Friends Dog Park
- Deer Park Nature Preserve
- All city parks and trails will remain open and available for use.

The following essential services will continue being offered:

- Homebound meals for seniors currently on the approved homebound list will continue to be distributed normally.

If you or your family choose to visit a City Park, we strongly recommend that you practice social distancing and maintain a distance of six (6) feet away from others.

Please visit <https://www.deerparktx.gov/98/Parks-Recreation> for more information.

## **03/26/20**

Citizen advisory pertaining to the Deer Park Municipal Court:

On Tuesday, March 24, the Deer Park Municipal Court - along with several other City facilities - was closed to the public, pursuant to Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo's "Stay Home, Work Safe" order.

As such, Municipal Court payments are not being accepted in-person at this time. Residents are advised that no fees are being added due to the closure, and no warrants are being issued at this time.

Municipal Court payments can be made online – with a \$1.50 fee - at <http://www.deerparktx.gov/1060/Online-Payments>. Payments by phone may be made with a \$2.50 fee by calling 866-202-5009.

Municipal Court staff is also responding to calls and emails as quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience and will follow up with additional information as it becomes available. Customers are encouraged to monitor City social media and to reach out directly once the Court resumes normal operation.

Resident advisory:

Deer Park residents are reminded that toilet paper alternatives - paper towel, wipes, or cloths - should never be flushed. These materials can cause serious damage to wastewater infrastructure and potentially cause sewer back-ups, creating additional health concerns for the community.

"Clogs or other disruptions in the wastewater system can cause waste or fecal matter to back up into showers, toilets and sinks," Public Works Director Bill Pedersen said. "It is critical that all residents be mindful of the materials they flush through the system."

### **03/24/20**

Harris County issues "Stay Home, Work Safe" order

On Tuesday morning, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued a "Stay Home, Work Safe" order – effective tonight, March 24, at 11:59PM – in response to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The order requires all residents to stay home with the exception of those whose jobs are essential for health and safety of the community.

The order will be in effect until 11:59PM on April 3, 2020 and applies to Harris County, all cities within Harris County and all unincorporated areas. Please click on the link below to view the full order.

According to Judge Hidalgo, the order is being called in the interest of saving lives, flattening the curve of the virus and not overwhelming the health care system.

Key points of the order, linked below, include:

- Critical industries outlined in order will stay open – employees must maintain social distancing
- Does not impact access to groceries/food or gas stations
- Restaurants can continue to provide drive-through, carry-out orders (maintaining social distancing)

Additional details will be provided via City social media, the dedicated COVID page on the City's website, and DPTV. Additional information is also available at [ReadyHarris.org](https://www.readyharris.org).

### **03/23/20**

Are you signed up for CodeRED Emergency Notifications?

New users must sign up on CodeRED's website to create an account and enter personal contact information. A direct link to the sign-up page is available at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF095B5EF1AC>.

The user must keep track of the username and password because City employees do not have access to that information. New users having trouble signing up for the CodeRED emergency notification system can call CodeRED Tech Support directly at 866-939-0911 to be guided through the registration process.

If users previously registered for CodeRED and do not know their username or password, the user must contact CodeRED Tech Support directly at 866-939-0911.

Some users have reported that they were unable to reset their password even if they knew the username. In those cases, that user must contact CodeRED Tech Support directly at 866-939-0911. Tech Support will assist the user with resetting the password and updating contact information.

Additionally, please note that senior citizens and people with disabilities that want to sign up for the 2-1-1 State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) – which is a completely separate program from the CodeRED Emergency Notification System – must call 2-1-1 directly or go to <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov>.

### **03/22/20**

Resident advisory:

As the response to COVID-19 continues, the City of Deer Park would like to provide an overview of information sources for a variety of current questions.

On the City's website – [www.deerparktx.gov/COVID19](http://www.deerparktx.gov/COVID19) – citizens can find information about municipal facility closures or adjustments to hours and services, as well as a link to sign up for CodeRED emergency messages from the City. The page also provides links to partnering entities such as the Deer Park Independent School District.

The page also includes links to authoritative sources on COVID-19 including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Harris County Public Health (HCPH).

The City of Deer Park does not receive information regarding confirmed Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases – this information is maintained by Harris County Public Health. The City is neither involved in testing of any cases, nor are we informed of any results of confirmed cases.

With respect to the business community, each private business makes individual decisions regarding adjusted hours and temporary closures for restocking or cleaning, and are not required to inform the City about any of these items.

Residents are encouraged to utilize businesses' websites, phone lines or official social media pages to access this type of information.

Continue to follow strong hygiene practices including handwashing, maintain social distancing and avoid social gatherings. The most important thing that all citizens can do is remain calm and continue to monitor authoritative sources of information.

### **03/19/20**

Update: 3:30PM



On Thursday, March 19, Governor Greg Abbott announced a series of Executive Orders relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation. The four orders serve to limit public gatherings and help reduce exposure for people across the state.

These orders are in accordance with federal guidelines issued by the President and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and will aid in the state's efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Governor Abbott was joined for the announcement by Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Commissioner John Hellerstedt, MD, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Chief Nim Kidd, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and Speaker Dennis Bonnen.

Commissioner Hellerstedt also announced that he has declared a Public Health Disaster which will give state and local officials additional tools to respond to COVID-19.

These orders will be effective on a statewide basis starting at 11:59 PM on March 20, 2020 and will end at 11:59 PM on April 3, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC.

The following orders were issued by Governor Abbott:

Order No. 1: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

Order No. 2: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

Order No. 3: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

Order No. 4: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

This executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Update: 1PM

Deer Park Municipal Court

Effective immediately, all Deer Park Municipal Court arraignment and trial dockets will be suspended until further notice. Court dates will be reset and each defendant will be contacted by the court with a new date. The Municipal Court office will remain open during regular business hours for defendants to pay fines, request a driver's safety course, or deferred disposition. Please contact the court by phone with any questions or options for handing a citation at 281-478-7238, press 8 to speak with a clerk.

PREFERRED METHOD OF PAYMENT WILL BE DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS FOR WINDOW TRAFFIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Online payments can be made via the website – with a \$1.50 fee - at <http://www.deerparktx.gov/1060/Online-Payments>.

Payments by phone may be made with a \$2.50 fee by calling 866-202-5009.

Visit the City’s website for more information at <http://deerparktx.gov/398/Municipal-Court>.

Update: 11AM

Resident advisory: Online resources are available for citizens who may experience stress or anxiety as the fight against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) - an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – has added materials to its website pertaining to social distancing, quarantine and isolation, as well as coping with stress during infectious disease outbreaks. Visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/> to learn more.

Additionally, for information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on coping with stress and anxiety, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>.

### **03/18/20**

Learn from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the steps to take to self-quarantine if you are sick, as well as how and when to discontinue home isolation. Visit the CDC website here.

Deer Park Parks and Recreation Department

The City of Deer Park’s many public parks, trails and green spaces - as well as the Deer Park Nature Preserve - are open and available for families to utilize during the Coronavirus or COVID-19 response. With area schools closed through April 10, families and children are encouraged to get outside and enjoy open spaces like Dow Park, while remembering to practice Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) including consistent hygiene and social distancing.

As stated on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, residents can still safely enjoy the use of public spaces while protecting themselves from germs by using simple practices like limiting handshakes or hugs, trying not to touch commonly-used surfaces, and carrying extra hand sanitizer for you and your family.

Per guidance from the CDC as well as President Donald Trump’s “Coronavirus Guidelines for America,” park patrons are also encouraged to avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people.

### **03/17/20**

Deer Park Municipal Court

Please be advised that the Deer Park Municipal Court - located at 1302 Center Street - is operating during normal business hours until further notice. At this time, the preferred payment method at the

court will be debit/credit cards. Online payments can be made via the website – with a \$1.50 fee - at <http://www.deerparktx.gov/1060/Online-Payments>. Payments by phone may be made with a \$2.50 fee by calling 866-202-5009.

Visit the City’s website for more information at <http://deerparktx.gov/398/Municipal-Court>.

#### Central Collections/Utility Billing

As well, please be advised that Central Collections/Utility Billing - located in City Hall at 710 E. San Augustine - has advised that their preferred payment method will be debit/credit cards until further notice. Online payments can be made via the website – with no added fees - at <http://www.deerparktx.gov/1060/Online-Payments>. Payments by phone may be made with a \$1.25 fee by calling 833-309-4332.

#### Economic Development

The Deer Park Economic Development Facebook Page is being continually updated with information from local restaurants offering delivery, drive-thru, and curbside pickup.

Please visit the [www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.ED](http://www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.ED) for more information.

### **03/16/2020**

As the fight against Coronavirus or COVID-19 continues, Deer Park residents are encouraged to practice non-pharmaceutical interventions or NPIs in order to slow the spread of the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending events with attendance of 50 or more be cancelled or postponed for the next eight weeks. On Monday afternoon, President Donald Trump urged the public to avoid gatherings of 10 or more.

Read on to learn more about what you and your family can do to prevent the spread of germs, including practicing “social distancing.”

What are NPIs?

According to the CDC, Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) are actions, apart from getting vaccinated and taking medicine, that people and communities can take to help slow the spread of illnesses.

On a personal level, citizens should practice good hygiene, washing their hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, and practice covering coughs and sneezes. At the community level, residents are encouraged to practice social distancing, which includes staying out of crowded places, avoiding group gatherings, and staying at least six feet away from others at all times.

Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/> to learn more. Residents are also encouraged to visit the Texas Department of State Health Services (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>), and Harris County Public Health (<http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>) to stay informed.

Departmental updates:

#### Deer Park Public Library

The Deer Park Public Library will close to the public beginning Tuesday, March 17 and will remain closed through the end of the month (March 31). This measure is being taken to prevent additional spread of the Coronavirus or COVID-19.

According to Rebecca Pool, Director of the Deer Park Public Library, patrons will still be able to access the library's online catalog to reserve materials for drive-through pick-up.

"Starting tomorrow and continuing through the end of the month, patrons will have the option to call the library or go online to reserve materials through the library's online catalog, and then pick them up at the staff entrance – located near the library's book drop," Pool said. "Drive-through service will be provided between the hours of 10AM and 12PM and 2PM to 4PM."

Cardholders can reserve up to eight items per card. No new cards will be issued during this time.

If you've never used the Deer Park Public Library's online catalog before, placing a hold is easy. Just go to the City's website, [www.deerparktx.gov](http://www.deerparktx.gov), navigate to the Library's departmental page to access the library catalog. Select an item, click "Place request" and enter your library card and PIN number. Patrons are encouraged to call the Library for assistance at 281-478-7208.

#### Central Collections/Utility Billing

Please be advised that Central Collections/Utility Billing - located in City Hall at 710 E. San Augustine - is operating during normal business hours (8AM to 5PM, Monday-Friday). The department has advised that their preferred payment method will be debit/credit cards until further notice.

### **03/13/2020**

Effective Friday, March 13, Deer Park Mayor Jerry Mouton – in coordination with neighboring municipalities – has declared a local State of Disaster for public health emergency for the City of Deer Park.

The declaration shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of the City of Deer Park, Texas.

The declaration followed a State Disaster Declaration for Texas by Governor Greg Abbott.

"A novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, has spread throughout the world, and extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Harris County," Mayor Mouton said. "This declaration is being made in the interest of our community's health and safety, and I encourage all citizens to stay calm and keep informed about the Coronavirus disease, and to actively stop the spread of germs and respiratory diseases."

As of Friday, March 13, there have NOT been any presumptive or positive cases of COVID-19 within the city limits of Deer Park. Mayor Jerry Mouton as well as the City's Emergency Services Department

continue to monitor updates from Harris County Public Health, the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The full text of the declaration of local disaster for public health emergency is attached. Updates will be provided through the City's website, social media, and DPTV.

City Closures/Cancellations:

#### Parks & Recreation

After consulting with the City Health Officer, Dr. Donald Metz, the City has determined that the Maxwell Adult Center will be closed as it serves a potentially vulnerable segment of our community. The facility will be closed beginning at 2PM today (Friday, March 13) and will remain closed through March 31. Maxwell Center Staff will continue providing daily meals for our homebound citizens.

As of the time of this release, all indoor Parks and Recreation Department programs and facility rentals will be canceled through March 31. The department will conduct communication with impacted groups.

The Community Center, Game Room and Gym will be closing at 6:00 PM today, Friday March 13th.

Easter Eggstravaganza – scheduled for Saturday, April 4 – has also been cancelled.

#### Deer Park Public Library

Deer Park Public Library patrons are advised that effective through March 31, all programs have been cancelled at the facility. However, the library will be open during regular business hours. Please check back to the Deer Park Public Library Facebook for more information.

Specifically, the cancellations include:

Tuesday, March 17: Kid's craft at 3:30 pm; Crochet at 7 pm.

Wednesday, March 18: Infant Storytime—10:15 am; Teen Tech—4 pm; Computer Class (MS Excel Formulas & Functions) at 2:30 pm.

Thursday, March 19: Toddler Storytime—10:15 am; Preschool Storytime—11:00 am; Movie Matinee—4:00 pm; Computer Class (MS Word Intermediate) at 6:30 pm.

Friday, March 20: Featured Friday—11 am (Note: This program will be rescheduled.)

Monday, March 23: Adult craft at 4 pm.

Tuesday, March 24: Crochet at 7 pm

Wednesday, March 25: Infant Storytime—10:15 am; Teen Tech—4 pm (TBD).

Thursday, March 26: Toddler Storytime—10:15 am; Preschool Storytime—11:00 am; Movie Matinee—4:00 pm.

Monday, March 30: Computer Class (Introduction to Computers) 2:30 pm.

Tuesday, March 31: Friends Preview Night Book Sale 5-9 pm (Note: This event will be rescheduled for a later date); Crochet at 7 pm.

The Friends of the Library Book Sale – originally scheduled for April 1-4 - will be rescheduled for a later date.

#### Deer Park Police Department

Deer Park Police Department's "Chick-Fil-A with a Cop" event scheduled for March 17 has been cancelled.

#### Deer Park Municipal Court

Deer Park Municipal Court customers are advised that – due to the local State of Disaster called by Mayor Jerry Mouton for the City of Deer Park today, March 13 – court dockets will be cancelled for the remainder of March 2020.

Per Municipal Court staff, all defendants will be notified via mail at the last known address. The court offices will remain open during regular business hours for any questions or payments. The preferred payment method at the court is debit/credit cards.

#### Deer Park Public Works

Drinking water produced at the City's Surface Water Treatment Plant remains to be safe and unaffected and will be monitored continuously by licensed operators. Due to this fact, there will be no reason for boil water notices to be issued.

Normal trash collection schedule will remain in place. Wastewater Treatment Plant will remain in full operation.

Water main breaks, meter leaks and other water related issues – as well as sewer back-ups and other related issues - will continue to be serviced. Please report through the Deer Park Public Works Department as normal. After-hours requests should be submitted through Deer Park Police Department dispatch at 281-479-1511.