

2020
JANUARY | FEBRUARY

CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE

ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 23

On Thursday, Jan. 23, the City of Denton will host its annual State of the City event at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center (3100 Town Center Tr.) from 6 to 8:30 p.m.



Now in its fourth year, State of the City is a great opportunity for the Denton community, the Mayor and City Council, and City staff to come together to celebrate the accomplishments from the past year and look forward to building the future together.

Denton reached major milestones in 2019, including the completion of major road construction projects, opening a second runway at Denton Enterprise Airport, completing a new Fire training facility, and celebrating the grand opening of the G. Roland Vela Athletic Complex.

The City is also planning and building for the future. With voter approval of a \$220 million bond package this past fall, the City continues to make investments into facilities for the Police Department, improving roadways, and purchasing land within the city for future park space.

Event attendees will have the opportunity to meet with staff from various City departments to ask questions and receive information about many of the services and programs that the City provides. You can hear from Parks and Recreation, Denton Public Library, Sustainability, Streets and Capital Projects, Police, Fire, and Animal Services, just to name a few.



The event is free and open to everyone, and there is no preregistration required. The department fair begins at 6 p.m., and the Mayor will give his State of the City address beginning at 7 p.m.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

DENTON CITY COUNCIL

- Tuesday, Jan. 7 - Work Session & Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Jan. 14 - Work Session
- Tuesday, Jan. 28 - Work Session
- Monday, Feb. 3 - Luncheon
- Tuesday, Feb. 4 - Work Session & Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Feb. 11 - Work Session
- Tuesday, Feb. 18 - Work Session & Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Feb. 25 - Work Session

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Jan. 13 & 27, Feb. 10 & 24

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Jan. 8 & 22, Feb. 5 & 19

These and other public meetings are broadcast live on DTV and at www.cityofdenton.com/dtv.

For a current list of meetings and agendas, visit www.cityofdenton.com/public-meetings.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

City of Denton offices will be closed on **Monday, Jan. 20** in observance of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



FROM THE MAYOR



As we start a new year, it’s an ideal time to reflect on our past achievements and look forward to the future. In 2019, the Denton community and the City of Denton worked together to accomplish some truly amazing feats.

The City reconstructed 10.8 lane-miles of roads in 2019, and community support for improved transportation continues into 2020. In fact, safer city infrastructure will be a priority for years to come thanks to citizens authorizing \$154 million in bonds toward street improvements. The City also began crafting its 2020 Mobility Plan, which will address citywide transportation in the years ahead.

Alongside mobility, development remained a priority for the City in 2019. This can be seen in the adoption of the Denton Development Code, which features simplified processes and increased transparency for development projects. Our ability to manage an astounding amount of growth is one of the reasons Denton was named a Top 10 Boomtown by www.smartasset.com. In 2019, the City also celebrated Denton being named as a cultural district by the State of Texas, which highlights the heart of Denton’s unique cultural arts scene.

By reducing the city’s property tax rate, reducing solid waste rates, and maintaining all other utility rates, the City continued its focus on serving citizens while practicing effective financial management. Furthermore in 2019, the City launched a number of initiatives to enhance quality of life, public safety, the environment, and address homelessness.

Please join me, the City Council, and our City staff on Jan. 23 at our State of the City event as we celebrate these and other successes of 2019 and preview all that is to come in 2020.

DENTON CITY COUNCIL



- Chris Watts**, Mayor | Chris.Watts@cityofdenton.com
- Gerard Hudspeth**, District 1 | Gerard.Hudspeth@cityofdenton.com
- Keely G. Briggs**, District 2 | Keely.Briggs@cityofdenton.com
- Jesse Davis**, District 3 | Jesse.Davis@cityofdenton.com
- John Ryan**, District 4 | John.Ryan@cityofdenton.com
- Deb Armintor**, At Large Place 5 | Deb.Armintor@cityofdenton.com
- Paul Meltzer**, At Large Place 6 | Paul.Meltzer@cityofdenton.com

Not sure who your Council Member is?

Visit www.cityofdenton.com, click on the magnifying glass in the top right corner, and type “Find My Council Member” in the search bar.

PREPARE NOW FOR WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS

Chilly temperatures are here, serving as an important reminder to be ready for the hazards that can accompany winter weather. In the event of an emergency, the City of Denton has resources and plans in place to quickly respond. Are you prepared? Get started by reading key local information below, and for more resources, visit www.ready.gov.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

The City of Denton uses CodeRED to issue emergency notifications straight to your phone. CodeRED is a geographical-based system and uses street addresses to target specific areas. You can also opt in to receive weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Register for CodeRED or update your information at www.cityofdenton.com/codered.

Visit www.cityofdenton.com for important updates on City services. Also, follow the City on Facebook ([cityofdenton](https://www.facebook.com/cityofdenton)) and on Twitter ([@cityofdentontx](https://twitter.com/cityofdentontx)) to stay informed.

If there is a power outage, Denton Municipal Electric provides updates on Twitter ([@dmepower](https://twitter.com/dmepower)). An outage map is also available at www.dmepower.com. To sign up for outage text alerts for your home or business, call (940) 349-7650.

REPORT AN ISSUE

Call 911 if the issue you are reporting is a public safety emergency. The non-emergency number is (940) 349-8181.

Call (940) 349-7000 to report a utilities-related incident that requires immediate attention, such as downed electrical poles or wires, a water main break, a clogged or overflowing sewer main, or a leaking water meter or hydrant.

You can notify the City of non-immediate issues through Engage Denton. Download the mobile app on your smartphone, or submit a request online at www.engagedenton.com.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS

The Denton Independent School District will announce school closing decisions on the district's website, www.dentonisd.org, and social media. The district's main phone line—(940) 369-0000—will also report closings.

Area universities and colleges will report closings and delays on their respective websites. Schools will also report these to local television and radio stations. Make sure the school has your up-to-date contact information in case of an emergency.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

When the temperature is expected to fall below 32 degrees, daytime warming centers and other resources are available to anyone in need of shelter or assistance. For a list of public facilities, service providers, and emergency shelter locations, visit www.cityofdenton.com/communitydevelopment.

WINTER WEATHER CHECKLIST

- Create an emergency plan at www.ready.gov/plan.
- Sign up for CodeRED emergency notifications at www.cityofdenton.com.
- Check on family members or neighbors who may need assistance.
- Bring pets and plants inside.
- Cover exposed pipes and turn off sprinkler systems.
- Drip water and leave cabinets open to prevent freezing.
- Stock up on home essentials like water, non-perishable food, warm clothing, and batteries.
- Create a car emergency kit with items such as a flashlight, first-aid kit, blankets, and jumper cables.
- Check your tires and complete other car maintenance.
- Install and test batteries of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



CITY TO BEGIN REGISTRATION OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS

On Feb. 1, the City of Denton will begin registration of short-term rentals. Short-term rentals are defined as the renting of an entire residence for fewer than 30 days. These types of rentals are commonly found on websites such as Airbnb and VRBO. As popularity of short-term rentals grows, residents who have these types of rental properties will be required to register with the City and must follow certain regulations in the Denton Development Code.

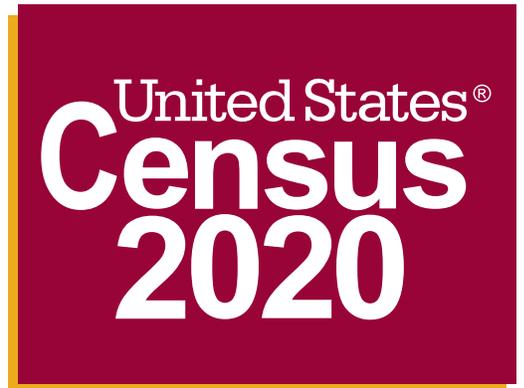
Regulations include limiting the amount of on-site advertisement, setting a limit on the number of occupants, providing required safety and contact information for guests, and notifying the neighbors near the property. Individuals who rent only a single room of their property, or rent for greater than 30 days, are exempt from these regulations required by the Denton Development Code.



For additional information, or to register your short-term rental, visit www.cityofdenton.com or contact Development Services at (940) 349-8360.

COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE FORMED AHEAD OF 2020 CENSUS

Mark your calendar for April 1, 2020! Known as "Census Day," this date is when the 2020 Census will officially open for residents to complete. Performed only once every 10 years, the Census counts every individual within the United States. The City of Denton, along with other community partners, has formed a Complete Count Committee to help spread the word about the Census and to encourage people throughout Denton to complete their Census form.



The Committee's mission is to encourage participation in the Census through outreach and education, particularly with historically hard-to-count groups such as students, renters, and immigrants. It consists of representatives from the City, our local universities, nonprofit service providers, and religious institutions.

WHY COMPLETE THE CENSUS ON APRIL 1, 2020?

1. It is a foundation of our democracy (it's in the Constitution).
2. It determines legislative districts and how you're represented in Austin and Washington, D.C.
3. It determines how hundreds of billions of federal funds are distributed.
4. It is the basis for population projections over the next decade.

These are just a sample of the benefits of a Complete Count in 2020.

The 2020 Census will offer residents a new feature—online submission. Participating in the Census will now be easier than ever as you can complete the Census from anywhere at any time. As we move closer to Census Day, the Committee looks forward to directly engaging the community on this and other details and sharing the importance of the 2020 Census.

If you would like to request that someone from the Complete Count Committee come and speak to your local group or organization about the 2020 Census, contact Ryan.Adams@cityofdenton.com.

For additional information about the United States Census and the Complete Count Committee, visit www.dentoncounts2020.com or the Census Bureau's 2020 Census website at www.2020census.gov.

START A CRIME WATCH IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Denton Police Department values community engagement. One simple way to get involved in your own neighborhood is by establishing a Neighborhood Crime Watch. Already in place across Denton, these are organized groups of residents who strive to reduce crime by informing law enforcement about any suspicious activities in the area.

Participation in this crime prevention program is free. When neighbors are committed to watching out for neighbors, residents can deter crime while also unifying their own communities. In addition to enhancing safety, a Neighborhood Crime Watch helps neighborhoods build relationships with Denton police officers.

The Denton Police Department guides residents through the process of establishing a Neighborhood Crime Watch. After the Police Department helps determine how many signs are needed in a neighborhood, the Traffic Operations Division will install the signs. These signs demonstrate a neighborhood's unified commitment to crime prevention by letting all visitors know that suspicious activity will be reported to the police.

If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Crime Watch, or would like more information about the program, contact Community Resource Officer Shane Kizer at (940) 349-7241 or Shane.Kizer@cityofdenton.com.



GET TO KNOW DENTON'S INDUSTRIAL PARK

If you have lived in Denton for a while, you may remember seeing nothing but crops and cattle in fields west of I-35. Over the last five years, however, this once rustic pastureland has been transformed into a modern industrial park and an economic engine for our community.

The nearly 1,000-acre Industrial Park is home to an array of businesses with the majority of development in the distribution and manufacturing sectors. Major retailers such as WinCo and Target operate advanced distribution facilities that help keep their retail stores' shelves filled, while manufacturers such as Peterbilt and Tetra Pak make products in Denton that can be found all over the world. Soon, United States Cold Storage and Tyson Frozen Foods will also join the Industrial Park, bringing even more distribution capacity, investment, and jobs to the city.



Why is Denton so attractive to these industries? Texas is centrally located, which allows businesses to deliver their products to either coast within two days, saving time and money. Denton is also strategically located at the I-35E and I-35W intersection and is in close proximity to both air and rail transportation facilities. These transportation options make delivering products across the country even easier.

Industrial businesses play an integral role in the Denton community because they make large capital investments in our growing city, which generates property tax revenues to support services like police, fire, libraries, and parks. These businesses also enhance our retail and commercial development, generate more employment opportunities for current residents, and provide a long-lasting boost to the local economy.

REC CENTER TO HOST COMMUNITY EVENTS IN HONOR OF MLK JR. AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The MLK Jr. Rec Center will host a number of community events in January and February in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and Black History Month. "We are positioned in the heart of the community and feel it's our responsibility and opportunity to honor that community through celebrating our heritage," said Bobby Givens, MLK Jr. Rec Center Manager.



On Monday, Jan. 20, the center will celebrate MLK Jr. Day. The day will begin at 11 a.m. with a friendly game of flag football at Fred Moore Park (500 S. Bradshaw St.). Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will hold a rally at 2 p.m. at the UNT University Union (1155 Union Circle Dr.) and march to Fred Moore Park. From there, the march will continue to MLK Jr. Rec Center, where a special program will begin around 3:30 p.m. and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"This is a day that we can reconnect with our community," Keanna Stallings, Recreation Coordinator, said. "There are many people who come back to the center for just this one event each year. It's a homecoming."

February is Black History Month, and the center will celebrate with a student art contest. Local artists, grades K-12, are invited to create a piece of art focusing on the theme, "Remembering our Past, Speaking Out for Our Future," through Feb. 7. Contest entries will be on display at the center throughout the month. Winners will be announced at a special event on Saturday, Feb. 22 where the center will also add Reginald Seastrunk to the Wall of Honor. Seastrunk was an educator and former employee at the MLK Jr. Rec Center. His dedication to the community was significant and will be remembered during this time.

For more information on these events, visit www.dentonparks.com.

MOBILE HOTSPOTS AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT AT DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Beginning in February, Denton Public Library is expanding its circulation materials to include mobile hotspots. These 4G hotspots will let library cardholders access the internet from anywhere, allowing them to freely work on homework, pay a bill, or apply for jobs.

Thirty hotspots will be available for checkout, with 10 being located at each of the three Denton Public Library locations—North Branch, South Branch, and Emily Fowler. Just like books, movies, and music, library patrons may borrow one hotspot for three weeks at a time. If the device isn't returned by the due date, it will be deactivated until it is returned.

Each hotspot connects to multiple WiFi enabled devices, so one hotspot can even connect a whole household to the internet. If all hotspots are checked out, patrons may also access the internet through the library's public computers or use the library's WiFi.

Hotspot checkout is just one way the Denton Public Library is increasing access to information and breaking down barriers for library cardholders. In 2019, the library launched fine-free late returns and automatic renewals and increased its ebook and audiobook collection from 18,000 titles to 125,000. To see all that the library has to offer, visit library.cityofdenton.com or stop by one of the three library branches.



FEATURED EVENTS

JAN. 8

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION FOR ADULTS

Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.
South Branch Library - 3228 Teasley Ln.
Saturday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.
Emily Fowler Central Library - 502 Oakland St.

Is volunteering one of your resolutions for 2020? Denton Public Library is always in need of dedicated volunteers. Join us at an orientation where you will learn all about volunteering at the library. Volunteers must pass a background check.

FEB. 1

SCOUT DAY 2020

Saturday, Feb. 1 from 1 to 3 p.m.
North Lakes Rec Center - 2001 W. Windsor Dr.

Enjoy hands-on activities for the whole family while learning how Denton conserves resources in this annual educational event. Being a Scout is not required. This year's theme is "Creating a Healthy Planet," and that includes taking care of ourselves and the environment. For all ages. Visit www.sustainabledenton.com to register.

FEB. 15

HONEY RUN 6: 5K, 10K, & 1-MILE WALK

Saturday, Feb. 15 from 8 to 11 a.m.
Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center
3310 Collins Rd.

Visit www.sustainabledenton.com to register for this popular annual event where you're invited to run with your honey or fly solo on the trails! This special event also features a honey tasting and beekeeping workshop. For all ages.

FEB. 23

LINDA MCNATT ANIMAL CARE & ADOPTION CENTER FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, Feb. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m.
3717 N. Elm St.

Join staff and volunteers at the animal shelter for a special community open house event celebrating five years of animal care and adoptions at this incredible Denton facility. For all ages.



Parks and Rec Events

Jan. 11 | North Lakes Group Ex Sampler

Sample popular group exercise for free.

Jan. 11 | Senior Center Open House

A great day for demos, discounts, and deals.

Jan. 20 | MLK Jr. Day Celebration

A community-wide march and celebration!

Feb. 4 | Career & College Fair

Explore your options!

Feb. 7 | Valentine Family Dance

A dance for the entire family.

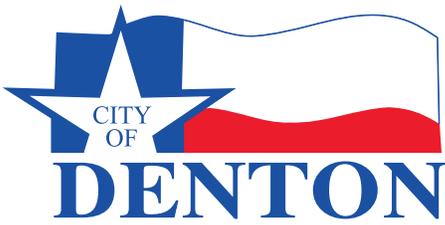
Feb. 8 | Adapted Rec Sweetheart Ball

A sweet Saturday dinner and dance party.

Feb. 22 | Black History Celebration

A community celebration at MLK Jr. Rec Center.





CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE

STAY UPDATED

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