



State of the City 2018



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Have you seen our new website?

On December 14, we launched an updated website with improved usability and mobile adaptability. If you haven't explored it, make sure to visit at www.deerparktx.gov.

Strategic Plan - 2017 Updates



Look for these symbols throughout this publication to see the progress made on several efforts in the City's five-year Strategic Plan.

Gold medals are for strategies that have been either completed or are in the final stages of completion. Silver medals are for areas where we have made significant progress. Bronze medals represent areas where some action has been taken.

Why State of the City matters

A Word from Mayor Jerry Mouton

A year like 2017 has a way of making you grateful for what you have. At the beginning of the year, we were preparing to celebrate our 125th Anniversary as a city, and even though we did that, the year became about much more.

Hurricane Harvey had a massive impact on the Houston area, but Deer Park came together as a community to recover more quickly than many of our surrounding neighbors. While much of that was due to years of infrastructure improvements secured by previous City Councils, we also have our dedicated administrators and staff to thank for how fast we were back on our feet.

Beyond Harvey, we as a City had an unprecedented amount of projects being completed throughout the year, from roadway improvements, to our new City Hall and Animal Shelter facilities, to a range of Type B sales tax-funded projects that will greatly impact our quality of life.

Finally, we spent the year celebrating our 125th Anniversary, with special events throughout the year that would not have been possible without our strong partnerships with the Deer Park Independent School District, the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce and Shell Deer Park.

Through it all, every single one of our departments worked together to support each other and this City, and that is what I am most grateful for. We are a constantly growing and changing organization that is always facing new challenges, but the thing that remains the same is the willingness of our staff to meet and surpass any and all expectations. I am so proud of this City for how we came through 2017, but I am also proud of the standard of excellence that we have promised – and continue to provide – our community.



Deer Park City Council - April 2017.



Type B Projects



Spencerview Athletic Complex - Completed 2017!

Roscoe has been to the new baseball facility - have you? Make sure to stop by and see the additional field, new concession stand and restroom facility, updated lighting and new bleachers!

New year, new Type B projects underway - Dedicated Soccer and Softball facilities under construction

As of early 2018, four Type B sales tax-funded projects are moving forward in Deer Park. Construction began on the Maxwell Adult Center and the Dow Park Pavilion in 2017, and January 2018 saw the commencement of the Girls Softball Complex Renovations and construction of a brand new Soccer Complex.

The Deer Park Community Development Corporation (DPCDC) supervises all Type B projects.

"The Spencerview Athletic Complex was completed during 2017, and there are now several other projects in process as we begin 2018," DPCDC President TJ Haight said. "I know the community is anxious to see these projects completed, and I feel like they will get rolling fairly quickly."

Softball, Soccer Complexes to include new amenities

According to Parks and Recreation Director Charlie Sandberg, the Girls Softball Complex and the new Soccer Complex – both being completed by Houston firm Halff Associates – will offer additional fields, parking and other amenities for citizens.

"We are proud to announce the construction of a dedicated Girls Softball Complex at the current site of the Youth Sports Complex," Sandberg said. "Throughout the project, which our contractor has estimated will take seven months to complete, the existing soccer and softball fields will be leveled and replaced with six new softball fields, as well as many other improved amenities."

"The construction of a new soccer complex, to be located at the intersection of East Boulevard and Thirteenth Street, is another we will begin in 2018."

"We are very appreciative of the leadership of the City Council, City administration and the Community Development Corporation on these and our other Type B projects, and we are excited to see them completed for our community."

Sandberg said the Girls Softball Complex Renovation project will result in more fields, an improved concession stand, updated restrooms, additional parking and much more.

"The current Youth Sports Complex has four softball fields, but when renovations are completed, the Girls Softball Complex will have six total fields - including four lighted fields - for our teams to use," he said. "We hope the additional two fields will bring new tournaments to the Deer Park area. The complex will also include a batting cage that can accommodate up to four players at once, where the current batting cage can fit only two players."

The complex will also feature a new concession stand, new restrooms, updated energy-efficient lighting, and more than twice the amount of parking available currently.

"With all the new amenities we are bringing in, we are more than doubling the capacity of the complex as a whole," Sandberg said. Sandberg said Phase I of the Soccer Complex construction will result in a 35.8-acre complex featuring a wide range of amenities and six playing fields.

"Currently, soccer groups in Deer Park utilize the Youth Sports Complex, which includes only four fields," Sandberg said. "The new Soccer Complex will include four lighted fields with energy-efficient lighting and two additional practice fields."

"The complex will also have a restroom facility, concession stand and a shade structure – it will be very open and great for league and tournament play."

Sandberg also wished to acknowledge the project committees, which included DPCDC members, Parks and Recreation staff members and league representatives, who provided critical input regarding the amenities to be included at each location.

Landscaping changes

The softball project will require the removal of 12 trees on or around X Street, while the soccer complex will require trees to be cut down along East Boulevard and Thirteenth Street.

"After construction is complete on both projects, our department will evaluate planting new trees to replace the ones being removed," said Tiffany McGallian, Park Operations Coordinator.

Follow the projects!

Want to keep track of our Type B projects, including the Dow Park Pavilion and the Maxwell Adult Center? It's easy! Citizens may visit the City of Deer Park website – www.deerparktx.gov – to get construction updates, watch timelapse videos and view photos of the ongoing renovations. Updates will also be available on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page, www.facebook.com/deerparktx.parksandrecreation.

Deer Park Police Department/CCPD



Deer Park Police Department Firing Range and Training Facility - Take a look!

The Deer Park Police Department Firing Range and Training Facility, which was the cornerstone for the initial onset of the Crime Control Prevention District (CCPD), is almost ready for use by DPPD. The project consists of a 2,100 square foot classroom and building as well as a ten lane overhead baffled shooting range. The range includes a bullet trap that catches and contains the lead when shot.

The City is very excited about the impending completion of this state-of-the-art outdoor firing range and the many benefits it will afford the Deer Park Police Department, including convenient, on-site training and certifications. We would like to thank the citizens for their continued support of this and other vital projects funded through CCPD.

High-water vehicles: CCPD investment pays off during Hurricane Harvey



One of the key focuses of Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) has been purchasing and equipping essential fleet for the Deer Park Police Department, including high-water vehicles. This investment proved invaluable during Hurricane Harvey, when – over a three-day period – the four high-water vehicles equipped through CCPD were utilized for roughly 99 hours.

“During the hurricane, we were able to utilize our Tahoes until the water would rise – then, we’d have to rely on our high-water vehicles to respond to calls,” DPPD Captain Wade Conner said. “We used the vehicles for rescue purposes and to reach calls for service. The officers who utilize the vehicles are trained in using winches, which pull vehicles out of the water, as well as chainsaws. These skillsets came in handy during the flooding.” Conner said the department received 262 calls for service from August 26-28, and the high-water vehicles played an integral role in response. “Because we had the high-water vehicles, we were able to respond to every call for service we received during the storm,” he said. “They were a huge benefit for us.”

A Word from DPPD Chief Greg Grigg: Preparing the department following domestic terror attacks

I am honored to provide an important update on the many ways the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) continued to benefit our department in 2017.

In addition to continuing to support the salaries of key personnel and other major purchases, this funding has also allowed our department to further prepare for live shooter or terrorist events. After the July 2016 domestic terror attack that killed five Dallas officers, it was imperative that officers around the country begin to equip themselves for these increasing threats. Current soft body armor worn by officers offers a lot of protection but are ineffective when facing a high-powered rifle or armor piercing ammunition.

Due to the availability of CCPD funds, the Deer Park Police Department was able to purchase the first of two installments of rifle vests for the officers. Currently, all officers who are responsible for responding to immediate threats have a vest assigned to them through a vest share program. After the second installment, all uniformed officers will have an assigned rifle rated vest. These vests are heavier and more rigid than the officers’ normal soft body armor and not intended for everyday use but are immediately available should a situation arise.

Protecting those who risk their lives to protect others is essential to minimizing the impact of domestic terror.



Deer Park Fire Department/FCPEMSD



BIG NEWS: Fire Control District supports purchase of new Ladder Truck

Check out the Deer Park Fire Department's new Pierce Velocity PUC Ascendant 107-foot ladder truck!

The truck was purchased with funding from the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District.

"We are very grateful to the City and to the Fire Control Board for their continued support of our department and for key purchases such as this new ladder truck," Fire Chief Don Davis said. "With their support, our department will also be able to purchase additional equipment for the truck, including air packs, tools and more."

According to the DPFDF Facebook page, "The Ascendant 107' provides the necessary reach without compromising on water flow and capacity, performance, and safety, all on a single rear axle."

City and Fire Control District support additional EMS staffing

The City of Deer Park has placed significant priority on the health, safety and welfare of citizens by continually increasing the number of budgeted full-time and part-time paramedics. Since fiscal year 2008-09, these critical staff increases, supported in part by funding from the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District (FCPEMSD) Board, have allowed the City to respond to increasing call volumes and rely less and less on mutual aid from neighboring first responders.

"Prior to the 2008-09 fiscal year, we relied on a base of volunteer paramedics for our emergency medical services," said Robert Hemminger, Director of Emergency Services. "That year, in order to provide more consistent coverage for the medical needs of our community, we integrated four full-time paramedic positions into our General Fund. That number has increased over time, with staff members also supported with funding from Fire Control!"

As of fiscal year 2017-18, a total of 24 paramedics, including full-time and part-time employees as well as two EMS Captains, are supported by a combination of the City funding and FCPEMSD funding. According to EMS Captain Andrew Smith, the staff increases of the last few years have allowed the City to staff additional full-time ambulances and move to a four-shift schedule.

"Our annual call volume has increased from 1,670 calls in 2011 to 2,844 calls in 2017," Smith said. "These additional paramedics have allowed us to continue to meet the demand of the community with decreasing mutual aid, meaning we're covering our calls with less assistance from other cities."



Fire Marshal's Office teaches record number of students about fire safety

During 2017, the Deer Park Fire Marshal's Office conducted many outreach efforts in order to teach young children, adults and seniors about fire safety.

According to Fire Marshal Buddy Rice, the office reached a grand total of 4,555 students through elementary schools and day cares in the Deer Park area, not to mention 274 adults.

As well, the office participated in another successful Fire Prevention Parade, which included 62 firetrucks and drew an attendance of approximately 3,400 citizens.

"Our goal throughout the year is to reach as much of the community as possible to educate them about fire prevention,

fire safety and having an escape plan," Rice said. "We also spend a lot of time educating people about smoke alarms and the importance of replacing them every 10 years.

"I would always encourage local families to explore online resources together, develop a family plan and make sure kids know what to do in the event of a fire."

Additional accomplishment

In 2017, Rice graduated from the Fire Executive Management Training Program at the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMITE) located on the campus of Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Public Works Projects

Wastewater Treatment Plant, Phase II: \$16.4 million project to improve plant efficiency, flow and treatment

This aerial photo of the Wastewater Treatment Plant shows the future location of several major features to be added during Phase II.

- ★ The red star indicates the placement of a new, 100-foot clarifier.
- ★ The yellow star marks the location of a new electrical building and an underground lift station. The current admin building directly below it will be demolished in Phase II.
- ★ The blue star marks the location of the new admin building - a new maintenance building will be built next to it.



According to Public Works Director Bill Pedersen, Phase II of the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion began in July 2017 – the project is expected to last 840 days, with the anticipated completion date in November 2019. This phase – carrying a cost of \$16.4 million – will focus on improving flow and treatment during high flows. In this phase, a new lift station, grit removal system, high-speed blowers, diffusers, a 100-foot clarifier, a clarifier splitter box, a new electrical building, a new administrative building and a new maintenance building will be added to the site.



Busy year for Public Works - Check out brief project recaps below

Street reconstruction

In November 2015, the City received \$7.5 million from the sale of Series 2015 Certificates of Obligation, of which \$4.7 million was allocated for street reconstruction projects.

These funds, along with additional Capital Improvement Funds, will support a street replacement project to begin in 2018.

In January, City Council approved a \$5.1 million contract to D & W Contractors - who will begin work by the end of the first quarter of 2018 - with funding from the Series 2015 Certificates and the City's CIP funding.

The streets included in the project are W. 9th Street, W. 12th Street, Amherst, Brown Lane, and all streets in the Ridgeway Subdivisions.

Storm Sewer rehabilitation

During 2017, the Public Works Department contracted with Fuquay, Inc. to complete a study of Deer Park's storm sewer infrastructure, assessing the system's corrugated metal pipe and grading it based on required repairs. After compiling a list of required rehabilitations, the project was broken up into four phases or "basins," and the department began work on Phase I. This \$240,000 effort was completed in 2017, and with Phase II (\$230,000) beginning in 2018. According to Assistant Public Works Director Brent Costlow, Phases I and II represent the highest priority rehabilitations.

Waterline rehabilitation

During 2017, the Deer Park Public Works Department completed waterline rehabilitation on Kingsdale Drive, Estate Drive, Hillshire Drive and Stephanie Drive. In the process, 2" waterlines were replaced with 6" lines utilizing trenchless technology, and the 6" lines allowed for the installation of fire hydrants not compatible with 2" lines.

What is pipe bursting?



Public Works Projects

Public Works Department to begin two pipe bursting efforts in early 2018



Pipe bursting is a method of replacing buried pipelines – such as water lines - without the need for a traditional construction trench. The process involves pulling a new pipe through an existing pipe using expansion tools powered by hydraulic generators. According to Assistant Public Works Director Brent Costlow, projects completed using pipe bursting reduce the overall cost by 35-40% on average.

The Public Works Department will kick off two pipe bursting projects during the first quarter of 2018.

The first will replace an existing 4" water line in Dow Park with a 6" line, creating a loop to City Hall to prevent water outages to the new building.

The second project is the last phase of a seven-year outreach participation agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for sanitary sewer overflow projects.

The \$1.7 million project will rehabilitate 22,000 linear feet of 8" and 10" sanitary sewer line as well as 42 manholes. Additionally, five new manholes will be installed.

The project area will include Meadows Village, Greenway Plaza and Deer Meadows Section 3.

The previous phases of the TCEQ effort addressed sanitary sewer overflow projects in the Boston, Dutch, Cedar and Elm Street area; the South Pasadena Plaza subdivision; the Spencer View subdivision; the College Park and Heritage subdivisions; Deer Park Terrace subdivision; and the Shell City subdivision.

Want to watch projects come to life? Visit the City website!

Ever wanted to watch the construction of a City project from the beginning, or get updates about major efforts?

The City website has an exciting page you might enjoy! Just navigate to the Public Works page, scroll over Community Services and select "Current Public Works Projects."

The page features time-lapse videos of the construction of the new City Hall building, as well as the Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center! The videos are updated periodically, so check back to see progress!

Annual Permit and Inspections Reports - 2017



55 New residential construction permits
Valued at \$14,446,837



15 New commercial construction permits
Valued at \$9,944,908

**Year End Totals: 2,419 total new permits/renewals
Valued at \$37,799,602**

**Total Building, Electrical, Plumbing and HVAC
Inspections: 3,855**

New water and sewer maintenance building includes a back-up Emergency Operations Center



In 2017, a new water and sewer maintenance building located in the Public Works annex (4100 Luella) was completed. The building, designed to withstand 250 mile per hour winds, will also function as a back-up Emergency Operations Center and will be utilized by City staff as a classroom to complete necessary certifications and licenses.

According to Public Works Director Bill Pedersen, the back-up EOC includes the necessary technical resources to effectively respond to various emergencies, including a projector, flat screen televisions and internet connectivity.



The EOC staff will utilize the new back-up building for a meeting in the coming months!

As seen in the image below, the back-up EOC is a building within a building. The structure is designed to withstand 250 mph winds!



Hurricane Harvey

Sanitation Division goes above and beyond during Hurricane Harvey response

During and after Hurricane Harvey, which hit the Texas coast in late August, the City of Deer Park's Sanitation Division – led by Sanitation Supervisor Ben Alexander – went above and beyond in more ways than one to serve our citizens. According to Alexander, the staff – who worked between 12 and 14 hours each day – collected a total of 4,393 tons of garbage following the August storm. Two staff members, Alex Aragon and Charles Whiting, did so while managing flood damage in their own homes.

"I can't speak highly enough of my staff – they worked day in and day out on those trucks," Alexander said. "I'm proud to say that by October 18, we had cleared the entire city of storm debris. It's amazing to be able to say that, compared to some other cities who are still dealing with Harvey."

Huge amounts of debris

In the days after Hurricane Harvey hit, Alexander and a crew of 10 employees began assessing damage and picking up flood debris. At that point, as transportation to the City's usual landfills was impossible due to flooding, administration designated a temporary dump site in order to have a site to move flood debris and – by that Friday – curbside garbage.

"We determined that the Adult Softball Field on Pasadena Boulevard would work as a temporary dump site, so we went through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and began taking trash there," Alexander said. "Over a week and a half, we took 1,600 tons to the dump site.

"To put that in perspective, my guys collect up to 91 tons of garbage on a given day, with some days lighter than others. That



The City of Deer Park Sanitation Division collected a total of 4,393 tons of garbage following Hurricane Harvey, transporting 1,600 tons to a temporary dump site at the Adult Softball Field.

week, we were collecting about 121 tons of garbage every day, from sun up to sun down."

Managing collection in-house

Alexander said members of the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments assisted with collection, even though their typical job duties did not include debris collection.

"I have to give kudos to the other City employees that stepped in and helped us out," Alexander said.

Among his own staff, Alexander said his employees truly went above and beyond.

"Charles Whiting got two feet of water in his house and still came to work every day, while also trying to get his house back in order. He never complained, and he never let it affect his job," he said.

"Alex Aragon, who was one of my initial 10 staff members I had with me that week, also got water in his house. Alex operates our grappler crane, and he was here the morning after the storm and worked every day, 12 to 14 hours.

"I didn't know until two weeks later that Alex had even been impacted by the storm. I could tell some mornings he was tired, but I had no idea he was staying up half the night dealing with flood damage."

Water Treatment Plant staff prepare facility, employees for challenges of Hurricane Harvey

The Surface Water Treatment Plant staff, including Water Plant Supervisor Nicholas Cook, took actions before and during Hurricane Harvey to serve not only the community of Deer Park but also a neighboring municipality.

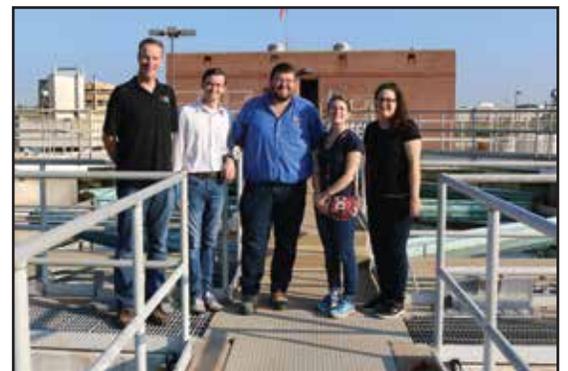
According to Cook, preparations prior to the storm included storing an ample amount of water in case of emergency, and preparing the building and staff itself for the days ahead.

"Before Harvey made landfall, we had six million gallons of water in storage – in the event the plant went down, that would be about a day and a half of water for Deer Park," Cook said. "As well, since we're a 24/7 facility, we made arrangements for our operators.

"We boarded up our building, bought food and supplies in the event an operator couldn't leave the facility, and set up a relief structure in case someone couldn't travel to the plant."

During the storm, Cook said the operators on duty monitored the water system, ultimately determining that a plant shutdown was necessary on Saturday morning, August 26.

"On Saturday, we reached a point where additional water would have overflowed our storage tanks, which would have impacted the storm water system and contributed to the flooding," Cook said. "In light of that, we turned off the plant, went off the water we had stored for approximately eight hours, and re-started the plant later that day."



On October 12, Cook led a small editorial team from "Water and Wastes Digest" magazine on a tour of the Surface Water Treatment Plant, discussing the impact of Hurricane Harvey and how staff prepared the plant.

The full interview is available for viewing on the Water and Wastes Digest Facebook page as well as on the Deer Park Public Works Facebook page, www.facebook.com/deerpark-tx.publicworks.

Hurricane Harvey



City employee battles chest-deep water, electricity to prevent residential flooding to hundreds of homes

During Hurricane Harvey, the Deer Park Public Works Department – with valued assistance from Shell Deer Park – took swift and effective action to prevent massive residential flooding in Deer Park.

On the evening of Monday, August 28, two stormwater detention ponds off of P Street were close to exceeding their banks. At that point, Michael DeWeese – Lift Station Maintenance Technician III – began a night of hour-by-hour response that required walking into chest-deep water and battling up to 240 volts of electricity.

“Around 5:30 or 6PM that night, my supervisor (Tom Fuller) got the call that the retention ponds along P Street were full, and I was sent to check the lift station operating at the location,” DeWeese said. “As I pulled up from the East Boulevard side, I knew it was going to be risky, and with my electrical background, I also knew there was no way around getting wet.”

“I had to be cautious, because most pumps run with 230-240 volts, and that level of voltage can not only shock you but jump out and bite you.”

DeWeese approached the lift station – walking through water that reached the middle of his chest - and opened the front panel to find that one of the pumps was working but the other pump needed to be reset.

“With the water as high as it was, I knew I had to get the other pump running again, so I turned off the switch and opened the panel to reset it,” he said. “When it closed, it shot sparks over my

shoulder, and I had to duck over to the other side to get out of the way.”

At that point, DeWeese successfully reset the pump and the full lift station was back online. From there, the Water and Sewer Department focused on the problem of the full detention ponds. “Luckily, the City had two six-inch pumps available to deploy in the neighborhood close to the ponds, and Shell Deer Park was able to provide a third pump,” DeWeese said. “With all three pumps working at once, we got the water out of the nearby manholes and pushed it downhill, out of the neighborhood.”

After the hurricane, DeWeese said he heard from family and community members – including friends from his church who lived in the area – that they knew the situation would be resolved because the City was handling it. He said that was a very humbling feeling.

“We truly appreciate the hard work our entire Water and Sewer Maintenance staff puts forth during day-to-day operations and emergency incidents like Hurricane Harvey,” Assistant Public Works Director Brent Costlow said. “We would especially like to thank Mr. DeWeese for going far above and beyond and preventing massive flooding in hundreds of Deer Park homes.”



Top left, Mike DeWeese stands at the lift station at the P Street detention pond. Bottom right, Public Works staff - with an additional pump from Shell Deer Park - pump water downhill, preventing residential flooding.

The impact of drainage improvements: Comparing Hurricane Harvey’s impact to previous rain events



Tropical Storm
Allison



23 inches of rain
Approximately 600
homes impacted

Hurricane
Harvey



47 inches of rain
Approximately 282
homes impacted

Just looking at the numbers, it’s clear how much of an impact the drainage projects completed within the City of Deer Park - including those identified in the Master Drainage Plan of 2009 - have had on our community.

Efforts including the Patrick’s Bayou Detention Basin project and the P Street Detention Pond rehabilitation project have increased our ability to reduce the impact of major flooding events, and our work is ongoing.

According to Brent Costlow, Assistant Public Works Director, following Harvey, staff talked with residents to find out how much impact they received from the storm. They used that information to identify areas in need of drainage improvements in the coming years.

With that information, Public Works is currently identifying possible projects in order to systematically alleviate citywide concerns for high water. The efforts are expected to continue over several years.

Major Projects: City Hall, Animal Shelter

New City Hall

Construction of the new City Hall building is expected to be complete by the end of the first quarter of 2018, after which the staff at the current building will move into their new offices. From that point, work will continue with the demolition of the current City Hall building and the installation of additional parking and landscaping in the resulting space.

The full project is expected to be completed at the end of April 2018.

In the new City Hall building, the City Secretary's Office, Human Resources, Public Works, Permitting, Central Collections and Utility Billing will be housed on the first floor.

The offices on the second floor will include Administration, Engineering, Information Technology, Public Works administration, and Finance.



City Manager Jay Stokes and City Secretary Shannon Bennett tour the new City Hall building.



City Hall exterior and future City Council Chambers - January 19, 2018

Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center - Coming soon!



City Council member Rae Sinor at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility.



The new Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center is expected to be complete by the fourth quarter of 2018.

The 7,500 square foot facility will include 34 kennels for dogs, 21 cat cages, two cat rooms, a cat adoption area, a get-to-know room for dogs, and a get-to-know courtyard.

2017 Financial Achievements - A Word from City Manager Jay Stokes

During the last year, the City of Deer Park was recognized more than once for its financial stability, even in the face of one of the most devastating storms in recent history, Hurricane Harvey. We began and ended 2017 with a AAA-bond rating from Standard and Poor's, an elite financial status which only 31 out of 1,216 municipalities in Texas can now claim. This bond rating allowed us to issue certificates of obligation for major projects like the new Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, and several Type B sales tax-funded projects, at a very low rate of interest.

Significantly, we were also recognized by Standard and Poor's for maintaining our AAA-bond rating even after Hurricane Harvey had such an immense impact on our region, our business community and our citizens.

In November, we received a re-affirmation of our rating along with an assessment which stated, "We don't expect the estimated cleanup costs (of Hurricane Harvey) to result in any short- or long-term budgetary pressures such as increased operating expenditures (or) disruption of revenue. Strengths such as good management, very strong reserves and liquidity, and a strong economy lend support to credit stability and our assessment that Deer Park will maintain our rating of 'AAA' with a stable outlook."

We also achieved another incredible accolade following the storm. For the 30th consecutive year, the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

As stated in an August 2017 GFOA news release, "The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

With these achievements in mind, I would like to thank our Mayor, our City Council, our administrative team, our Finance Director Donna Todd and our Finance Department staff for all of their dedication toward maintaining our financial standing. It is no small task to manage a multi-million dollar budget that impacts the daily lives of our residents, and I am proud to thank all involved for their hard work and impressive results.



Mayor Jerry Mouton, City Manager Jay Stokes, Finance Director Donna Todd and Assistant City Manager Gary Jackson stand together during the October 3 City Council meeting. During the meeting, the Mayor recognized the outstanding work of the Finance Department.

Financial Achievements

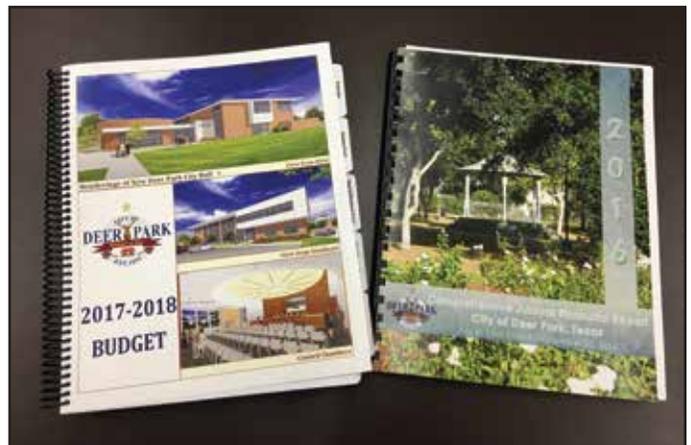
By the Numbers: FY 2017-18 Budget

Citizens are always encouraged to visit the City website to learn more about the annual budget, but here is a quick summary of this year's expenditures...

Expenditures/ Expenses

General Fund (55%)	\$42,503,051
Special Revenue Funds (3%)	\$1,975,718
Debt Service Fund (9%)	\$7,018,928
Storm Water Fund (<1%)	\$337,500
Water/Sewer Fund (14%)	\$10,958,161
Capital Improvements Fund (8%)	\$6,506,253
Golf Course Lease Fund (<1%)	\$176,000
CCPD (2%)	\$1,442,096
FCPEMSD (5%)	\$3,810,343
Community Development Corporation (3%)	\$2,700,900
Chapter 380 (Tax Abatement) (1%)	\$400,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES \$77,828,950



Pictured are the 2017-2018 Annual Budget and the 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). These and other current financial documents are available digitally on the City website.

When was the last time you visited the Finance Department's page on the City website?

If you want to learn more about the City of Deer Park, the Finance Department's page is a great place to start.

On the page, you can find the budget for the current and previous fiscal years, as well as a graphical summary outlining the City's revenues and expenditures. This page also contains the 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the reports for previous fiscal years. These two documents provide critical insight into the City's departments, our major projects and our goals for the year.

Visitors to the page can also find information about local and county tax rates, purchasing information, including bid opportunities, and direct links to the Utility Department, also known as Central Collections.

Library/Information Technology

Deer Park Public Library's "Featured Friday" events draw growing crowds, incredible speakers!

If you're not attending the Deer Park Public Library's "Featured Friday" events, you're missing out!

The monthly adult programs have drawn an increasingly large crowd to the library's meeting room, with exciting subject matter, dynamic speakers and something for attendees of all ages.

"When we started the 'Featured Friday' programs in 2015, our goal was to touch on a variety of interests, including history, sports, space, music, nature and even ghosts," said Library Director Rebecca Pool. "The programs we've put on throughout 2017, from historical explorations of Deer Park founder Simeon West and the Russian Imperial Romanov family, to insight from retired NASA scientists and stories from the International Space Station, were truly amazing. There was such a variety - the most emotion-



The Deer Park Public Library's Featured Friday programs have welcomed historians, authors, regional celebrities, astronauts and former NASA scientists!

ally moving program for me was when Susan Phillips, oldest daughter of Houston's sport legend Bum Phillips, took the audience back to the days of 'Luv Ya Blue.'"

Pool said the Library has also achieved its second goal behind the "Featured Friday" programs - pulling new people into the events.

"Our attendance has continued to rise since 2015 - both our average attendance each year and our total number of attendees have increased from 2016 to 2017," Pool said. "In 2017, we had a total of 540 people attend 'Featured Friday' events, up from 379 in 2016. I'm starting to hear from a lot of patrons, 'I always look forward to seeing what you'll come up with next,' and that's what we wanted."

Looking ahead to 2018, Pool said "Featured Friday" programs will continue to represent a wide array of interests, speakers and subject matters.

"We tend to look at anniversaries as we plan our programs, and this year includes the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Galveston and the 200th anniversary of the publication of 'Frankenstein,'" she said.

"Check the Library Facebook page or stop by throughout the year for information on our upcoming programs!"



One of this year's programs, "The Fall of the Romanovs," drew a full house to the Library's meeting room.

Information Technology moves forward on key project: The Network Ring

The City of Deer Park's Network Ring Project, which began in fiscal year 2013-14 and was completed in 2017, will provide employees with a stronger connection to the city's digital network as well as to the internet. The project will greatly improve resiliency, increase productivity and save money.

The "ring" project is so named because the network is configured much like a connect-the-dots circle including many nodes or locations throughout the city. By configuring the network as a circle or ring, there is redundancy built into the design because each node or location has two entry points. If a route becomes unavailable, an alternate route is available by design.

Although resilience was the focus for the project implementation, the Network Ring Project also has other advantages. The upgraded design provides much more bandwidth capacity over the previously leased lines. Within the previous design, leased network circuits

were slow and shared amongst multiple sites, which compounded the problem. The new design has a much faster connection. For example, downloading a large file that took minutes will now take seconds, increasing productivity for users at each location. Because of the physical range of the network, even the most remote sites will be able to connect at high speeds. Also, because there is no third party vendor, the city is much more agile to improve technology as it becomes available.

With a return on investment of just over three years and an expected lifecycle of at least seven years, the savings are quite considerable. In addition to substantial savings, escalating fees and the potential for discontinuation of service are no longer a problem. This kind of control will allow the city to survive a range of technological changes and thrive well into the future.



The Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget includes funding for several Year 3 technology initiatives identified in the five-year 2015 Strategic Technology Master Plan, including the Network Ring!

125th Celebration/Mini-Murals

Have you seen our mini-murals?



If you haven't seen our three mini-murals, drive by today! The murals are located at the intersections of Center St. and 8th, East Boulevard and X St., and Pasadena Boulevard and Luella!

The City of Deer Park has started a new beautification initiative – the installation of mini-murals on city-owned traffic signal control cabinets!

In an effort to bring a program similar to the City of Tyler's "Beauty and the Box" program to Deer Park, Mayor Jerry Mouton and his wife, Tammie, worked with City administrators and staff to develop the initial set of three wraps.

"We are so excited to present these mini-murals to our residents," Mrs. Mouton said. "When we learned about the City of Tyler's program at a recent conference, we thought a program like this would be a great opportunity to beautify the city and recognize some of the things that define us as a community."

The initial designs include:

An animal-themed wrap at the intersection of Pasadena and Luella, spotlighting the future location of the Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center (adjacent to the current facility);

A Deer Park Independent School District wrap (located at Center and 8th); and

A wrap featuring the City's 125th anniversary logo and a photo of the gateway monument taken by City employee Greg Holleman (located at East and X).

125th Anniversary Celebration a year-long success - thanks to the entire community!

On behalf of Mayor Jerry Mouton and the Deer Park City Council, we would like to thank everyone who made our yearlong 125th Anniversary Celebration such a success – including, of course, our fantastic 125th Anniversary Committee!

Throughout the year, the committee – established in September 2016 as a small group of representatives from the City, the Deer Park Independent School District, the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce and the Deer Park community – grew into a hugely impactful organization.

Throughout the year, the committee organized and participated in a range of events, including Featured Friday presentations at the Deer Park Public Library, special booths at holiday events and even a play written for the celebration entitled "An Evening with Simeon West." The play, which was performed live on April 5 and 6, 2017, featured a cast of the City's elected officials, administrators and staff members, as well as Deer Park Chamber of Commerce members and staff.

In July, the City welcomed five great-great-grandchildren of Deer Park's founder, Simeon West. The group, who traveled from Illinois, took part in several community gatherings and were given keys to the City during a presentation at the annual Fourth Fest celebration.

With the dedicated partnership of Shell Deer Park, the committee was able to put on one of the most successful public events in the City's history – the 125th Celebration Concert. The event included live performances by Country music superstar Raelynn and Shell's 7 Mile Perimeter band, the "Shell Experience," which highlighted the history of Shell Deer Park and the City as a whole, six Houston-area food trucks and lots of family activities!

The year concluded with a special City Council presentation at Patrick's Cabin on December 19, the day before the official



anniversary on December 20, 2017. On that afternoon, representatives from the Historical Committee, the 125th Committee and other honored guests gathered to view the George Moffit Patrick Centennial Marker and its accompanying storybook/plaque, as well as a black granite marker commemorating Deer Park's founder, Simeon West.

The 125th anniversary was a huge success, but it would not have been so without you – the citizens and business owners who participated and assisted with publicity. We would like to thank everyone who put up a flyer promoting the 125th Concert, shared information about the year of events online, or came out to celebrate with us.

One last time – Happy Birthday, Deer Park!

Wayfinding/Business updates

2017 Economic Development - The Year of the Restaurants

The year 2017 showed that Deer Park continues to be a thriving community, welcoming 218 enterprising home-based businesses and 71 new storefront businesses, which brought approximately 1,000 new employees to our city.

Here are some of Deer Park's business community highlights for 2017:

Industrial Company Relocations:

- USA DeBusk (pictured) relocated its corporate headquarters from Pasadena to Deer Park, bringing 350 employees.
- Dow Chemical relocated their local offices to a new, 76,000 square foot building in Deerwood Glen Business Park near Railroad Avenue.
- Brown & Root relocated 45 employees from a former downtown location to 4440 Highway 225 in Deerwood Glen Business Park.
- The Lubrizol Corp. broke ground on a new polyisobutylene (PIB) unit in conjunction with Daelim Industrial. The new unit will be located adjacent to the existing Deer Park facility.
- Montrose Environmental relocated their offices from Pasadena to 314 Deerwood Glen Drive, bringing their 40 new employees to the new 40,000 square foot building.
- CS Unitec relocated their Houston office to 4330 Center St.
- Vac One Services moved their headquarters location from Houston to 5114 Railroad Avenue in Deer Park.
- Power Tool Service relocated from Houston to 1207 Georgia Ave., bringing 15 employees to Deer Park.

Retail Relocations:

- Merle Norman moved to 2504 Center Street.
- Somethin Sweet relocated their bakery to 118 Dixie Dr.
- LifeStyle Financial Advisors relocated to 102 W. Pasadena.
- Credeur's Cajun Cookin' moved from Pasadena to 6915 Spencer Highway, near the corner of Spencer and Glenwood Drive.
- AT&T Mobile relocated from La Porte to 9315 Spencer Highway.
- Lessons with Austin relocated from Pasadena to Deer Park at 4514 Center Street.
- Nitro Cycles moved from Baytown to 9515 Spencer Highway.



USA DeBusk ribbon cutting for its relocated corporate headquarters on December 14, 2017.

New Restaurants in 2017:

- Chipotle Mexican Grill at 8035 Spencer Highway
- Pho Central Vietnamese noodle restaurant - 8011 Spencer Highway
- Deer Park Sushi at 3811 Center Street
- Bush's Chicken at 8055 Spencer Highway
- YoYo's Chinese at 9315 Spencer Highway
- MOD Pizza at 9315 Spencer Highway
- Otsuka Noodle & Bar at 8035 Spencer Highway
- Vega's Mexican Restaurant at 3709 Center Street
- Donald's Donuts at 803 Center Street
- Snow House at 8361 Spencer Highway

Notable New Businesses:

- Planet Fitness opened at 3601 Center Street.
- Bows and Beaus Children's Boutique opened at 4134 Center Street.
- Heavenly Couture Boutique opened at 5010 Luella.
- Lovely Lash Glam Bar opened at 4910 Luella.
- Deer Park graduate Terry Webb opened Bay Cam Plumbing.
- Troy Wilburn re-opened T-Roy's Music Academy at 2605 Center Street.
- HD Supply constructed a new 16,000 square foot building at 1234 Underwood.
- Honest-1 Auto Care opened at 4840 Center Street.
- Legacy Community Health opened at 3430 Center Street.



Have you seen our new wayfinding signage? Phase II is underway!

In 2017, the Parks and Recreation Department worked with National Sign Plazas (NSP) to complete Phase I of a multi-million dollar wayfinding signage project.

Throughout the year, monument signs and primary signs (pictured) were placed around the community, highlighting major City facilities, parks and athletic complexes with the goal of making them easier to find for residents and visitors alike.

Before beginning Phase II, Parks and Recreation staff - with assistance from City Council member Sherry Garrison, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Georgette Ford, Assistant City Manager Gary Jackson and PR/Marketing Specialist Kristin Edwards - reviewed the signage designs to ensure consistency between Phases I and II.

The group also worked with NSP to finalize a monument sign design update to make the signage system more defensible against damage.

Be on the lookout for signs being installed throughout 2018 as part of Phase II, and visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page - www.facebook.com/deerparktx.parksandrecreation - for up-to-date photos and information.

Historical Committee/Art Park



Year of monumental achievements for Historical Committee

The Historical Committee had a very busy year in 2017, with many accomplishments related to the 125th Anniversary Celebration and other significant milestones. In partnership with Dow Chemical and the Texas Historical Commission, the Historical Committee oversaw the movement of a Centennial Marker originally placed at the home of George Moffit Patrick from its location at Dow Chemical (formerly Rohm and Haas) to Heritage Park. This new placement will allow the marker, as well as an accompanying Storybook Plaque, to be available for public viewing.

The committee also played a critical role in the year-long 125th Anniversary Celebration, hosting five great-great-grandchildren

of the City's founder, Simeon West, during a special trip to Deer Park in July. They also worked with the 125th Anniversary Committee to develop and produce a commemorative granite marker and a granite bench. Additionally, they worked with members of the Maxwell Center to design and make a quilt honoring West. Finally, the committee purchased five new display cabinets, which was assisted by a donation from the Deer Park Rotary Club. The cabinets will house historical artifacts including a set of eight newly-received letters from the University of California-Berkeley written by West. The letters are almost transcribed and will soon be on display at the Municipal Court and Theater Building.

Banner year for the Art Park Players

Sold-out shows and incredible productions are nothing new for the Art Park Players, but 2018 is shaping up to be the biggest year for the program yet.

Make sure to get your tickets for the next two productions coming up this season, and make sure to visit the Parks and Recreation website to keep up with theater activities year-round!



The Parks and Recreation Department's Art Park Players had a tremendous 2017 with sold-out shows and the success of "An Evening with Simeon West," a special production written and produced in honor of the City's 125th Anniversary.

According to Susan Mele, Artistic Managing Supervisor for the Art Park Players, this year is also shaping up to be an exciting one, both because the theater will have the opportunity to perform the highly-coveted "Chicago," and since Deer Park will host the 2018 Texas Nonprofit Theatres (TNT) conference.

"Never in the history of TNT has our city received the bid to hold the conference, and we are so excited for the opportunity to show off our beautiful city and bring a lot of people here who have never been to Deer Park," Mele said. "I'm also thrilled to announce that we

will co-host next year's conference with the City of Baytown, which means we will be welcoming hundreds of visitors for two years in a row."

After the successes of 2017 and early 2018, Mele said there will be plenty for the Art Park Players to showcase during the conference. "During 2017, our marketing presence dramatically increased – the Art Park Players were featured on 'Great Day Houston,' Fox News and in major media outlets like the Houston Chronicle and Houston Press," she said. "We also succeeded in obtaining 501(c)3 status for the Friends of the Art Park Players, a board of directors in charge of fundraising and assisting the theater in special activities. "This status will have a positive, long-term impact on our program as it opens the door for more grants and sources of support."

In Appreciation of our Partners: A Word of Thanks from Mayor Jerry Mouton

Throughout 2017, our strong relationships with neighboring cities, industry partners and other governmental bodies proved invaluable. Hurricane Harvey served as a prime example of how important it is for us to work together in our service to the public. Among the citizens, businesses, civic organizations and faith-based groups that stepped up and assisted in our response to and recovery from the disaster, I must especially thank Shell Deer Park. When hundreds of Deer Park homes were on the brink of flooding, Shell stepped in and provided an additional piece of equipment, which allowed us to prevent catastrophic damage. Our partners within Harris County also offered us significant support. In particular, I would like to thank the Harris County

Flood Control District for their year-round project assistance, and Harris County Precinct 2 for successfully completing improvements on Ivy Avenue and Durant Avenue. As always, I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Congressman Brian Babin; Senator Larry Taylor; the Cities of Houston, Pasadena, La Porte, Baytown, Seabrook, Morgan's Point, Taylor Lake Village, Shoreacres, El Lago, Nassau Bay; the Houston-Galveston Area Council; the Port of Houston; the Economic Alliance – Houston Port Region; the Houston-Galveston Area Local Development Corporation; and San Jacinto College. Finally, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our industry partners, including Dow Chemical, Lubrizol and many more.



City Council, City staff, volunteers given "Challenge Coins" in honor of service during Hurricane Harvey

