

Barrow, Jason

From: Siddiqi, Omar
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Parks and Rec
Subject: Weekly Update

Parks & Recreation

Weekly Update

9.27.22

Upcoming Meetings

Work Session of the City Council on **Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.** in the City Council Work Session Room followed by a Regular Meeting at **6:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers.

Upcoming Events

Día De Los Muertos Celebration – The Parks and Recreation Department will host a Día De Los Muertos Celebration on October 15, starting at 10 a.m. at the MLK Jr. Recreation Center. The celebration will feature keynote speaker Dr. Valerie Martinez-Ebers, who is a Distinguished Research Professor of Political Science and Director of the Latina/o and Mexican American Studies Program at the University of North Texas. This event will also feature various vendors, resources, and raffles. Staff contact: Cheylon Brown, Parks and Recreation

Community Tree Giveaway – The 24th Annual Community Tree Giveaway is set to take place Saturday, October 22, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Denton Landfill. The Community Tree Giveaway is Keep Denton Beautiful (KDB)'s largest and longest-running tree distribution effort with 700 trees planned for distribution to Denton residents this year. To receive a tree, Denton residents must register online beginning Tuesday, October 4 at 10 a.m. Registration is limited to a first come, first served basis, with a maximum of one tree per household. Registration will close once all spots are filled. A total of 700 trees will be distributed, with seven different species offered, all of which are drought-tolerant, and native or well-adapted for Denton soils and climate. Available tree species include Brandywine Maple, Loblolly Pine, Mexican Sycamore, Purpleblow Maple, Roughleaf Dogwood, Sweetgum, and Texas Redbud. Information about the available tree species, tree planting and care resources for this year's giveaway are available online. Staff contact: Autumn Natalie, Parks and Recreation

General Info & Updates

Mexican Independence Day at ALH – American Legion Hall Senior Center hosted their first Hispanic Heritage Month event on September 16 from noon to 2 p.m. Vendors included Don Panchos, Hearts for Homes, Mack Dental, Opening Doors International Services, Inc., Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) Energy Services, and YSM Photography. Food was provided by Don Panchos and sponsored by Ruth Esparza. Door prizes were donated by Ralph Martinez and photography was donated by YSM Photography. Participants enjoyed the history of Mexican Independence Day, authentic Mexican food, and great fellowship. Staff contact: Omar Siddiqi, Parks and Recreation

Denton Teen Council – On, Tuesday, September 13, Denton Parks and Rec hosted the first meeting of the Denton Teen Council and offered 16 Denton teens acceptance to the program. In this initial meeting, teens and program staff were provided the opportunity to get to know one another by participating in an icebreaker and trivia night.

We will get down to business at our next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 11. We will begin to identify and plan our annual fundraiser, teen program or event, and schedule of volunteer activities to service the community. Staff contact: Megan Thomas, Parks and Recreation

Park(ing) Day 2022 Event – On Friday, September 16, City staff from the Planning and the Parks and Recreation Department participated in the Park(ing) Day Event held on the square. Park(ing) Day is a global initiative focused on bringing awareness to the importance of urban parks and green space in our communities through the transformation of curbside parking spaces into “parklets.” Visitors to the City’s Parklet were able to provide feedback on the Pecan Creek and Briarcliff proposed master plans, play games, and enjoy a seat in the shade surrounded by trees and plants. Staff Contact: Nikki Sassenus, Parks and Recreation



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration – Every year from September 15 to October 15, Americans celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month by appreciating the community's history, heritage, and contributions of the ancestors of American residents who came from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and South and Central America. The MLK Jr. Recreation Center hosted the 2nd Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on September 17, from 10 a.m. to noon. The theme was “Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation.” The keynote speaker was Lilyan Prado, a bilingual specialist with Denton ISD. Musical entertainment featured a keyboard solo by Caleb Herreda from Sunnyside Music Denton. Volunteers from Women of Gold and Denton North Church provided arts and crafts and monitored the obstacle course for youth. There were 91 people were in attendance and 37 volunteers. Sponsors for the event included Habitat for Humanity of Denton County, door prizes were provided by BagzGirl Designs, and photography by Alexandra Martinez. Staff contact: Cheylon Brown, Parks and Recreation

Dementia-Friendly Nature Walks – The Dementia-Friendly Nature Walk program resumed its Fall season on Wednesday, September 21. Rotating through four of Denton’s parks, these nature walks provide those living with dementia and their caregivers an active and sensory-stimulating respite in their week. Texas Master Naturalists lead the walks and provide knowledge about native plants, trees, and wildlife to participants. Nature walks are held every Wednesday, 10-11 a.m. through November 9. Staff contact: Megan Thomas, Parks and Recreation

Adult Archery Program – Denia Recreation center will debut the Adult Archery Program on Sunday, September 24, at 10 a.m. The program provides participants ages 18-49 a basic course on the fundamentals of archery and will be offered quarterly. Staff contact: Megan Thomas, Parks and Recreation

Denton Black Film Festival Screening at ALH Senior Center – The Denton Black Film Festival and the Southeast Denton Neighborhood Association will host a film screening of the award-winning documentary *Alice Street* to be followed by a panel discussion on Monday, September 26, beginning at 6 p.m. *Alice Street* tells the story of the friendship of two artists in Oakland, California that developed as the pair worked on a large four-story mural to represent the lived experiences of their respective communities – Chinese American and Afro Diasporic – within the context of a community continually threatened by gentrification.

The film will be screened at the American Legion Hall Senior Center (629 Lakey Street) beginning at 6 p.m. with panelists' discussion following. Panelists include Rev. Logan from the Ministerial Alliance; Colette Johnson, the current president of the Southeast Denton Neighborhood Association; Gerard Hudspeth, Denton Mayor; Donald McDade, Denton Planning and Zoning Commission; and Spencer Wilkinson, the director of the documentary. Staff contact: Cheylon Brown, Parks and Recreation

Fall Twilight Tunes Series – The Fall Twilight Tunes Series will begin on Thursday, September 29, and continue Thursday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. through October 27. The Fall Twilight Tunes Series is organized by the Denton Main Street Association, a 501(c) 6 non-profit member organization that works in cooperation with the City's Economic Development Department. This series showcases local musicians, artists, and performers while also increasing downtown foot traffic to local businesses. In the past, this series has been held at the Denton County Courthouse Lawn. However, to activate the newly updated Wolff's Park (108 Industrial Street) and show support to businesses on and around Industrial Street, the Denton Main Street Association is partnering with Parks and Recreation to move venues to the new park for the smaller Fall Twilight Tunes Series. This free series features four local artists, musicians, and performers. Attendees are invited to enjoy a night out listening to live music while picnicking in the park with food and drinks brought from home or purchased from one of the many downtown eateries. Event organizers anticipate 500 to 750 attendees at each event. Staff contact: Nikki Sassenus, Parks and Recreation

TxDOT and Union Pacific Cleanup – On September 14, Mayor Hudspeth requested an update and an estimated project completion date for cleanup near Fort Worth Drive and I-35, where a Union Pacific Railroad was located. Multiple parties with TxDOT, Union, Pacific, and City Staff worked together to coordinate a safe cleanup with flagging and safety monitoring. With coordinated efforts, the area was cleared on September 21 and September 22. As of September 23, a new individual experiencing homelessness was located in this area and Community Services' outreach team has been notified to follow up. Staff contacts: Dani Shaw, Community Services; Gary Packan, Parks and Recreation; and Becky Diviney, Capital Projects

Location of Benches and Tables in the Parks System – On September 15, Mayor Pro Tem Beck inquired if a map existed that identified locations for benches and picnic tables throughout the parks system. Park assets such as benches and tables are located throughout parks for residents to enjoy, but their locations have not been systematically mapped and cataloged via a GIS-based asset management system. Staff contact: Gary Packan, Parks and Recreation

North Lakes Park Airfield and Dog Park Parking Lot – On September 19, Council Member McGee inquired as to whether the road to the North Lakes Park Airfield and Dog Park parking lot was going to be paved. As the new tennis center is under construction, a new parking lot south of the pro shop is being developed that includes a portion of the road into the gravel parking lot that provides service to the recycling center, airfield, and dog park. The entire access road and parking lot will not be paved as part of this project. Currently, no formal plan exists nor is funding available for the design and paving of the rest of the parking area. Staff Contact: Gary Packan, Parks and Recreation

Leash Optional Dog Park – On September 20, Council Member Byrd asked for clarification on a “leash optional” dog park. The City has two dog parks, North Lakes Dog Park and Wiggly Field Dog Park located in Lake Forest Park. Both facilities have playpens for leash-free play, however patrons are more than welcome to keep their dogs leashed should they choose. There are also multiple pens so owners may choose another less occupied pen to play in on leash should they not feel comfortable with other off-leash dogs. Staff contact: Nikki Sassenus, Parks and Recreation

Omar Siddiqi
Mgmt. Analyst
City of Denton Parks and Recreation

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