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Please visit to get updated information about Coronavirus in our area.

## The 2020 North Texas Fair and Rodeo Rescheduled

October 16th through October 24th, 2020



**DENTON COUNTY, TX** - After diligent planning and consideration for the safety of our patrons, the North Texas Fair and Rodeo has made, what we feel is, the most responsible decision. Due to the volatile COVID-19 situation and its impact on the community's health and safety, the 2020 North Texas Fair and Rodeo has been postponed to October 16- 24, 2020. The well-being of our fairgoers, volunteers, participants and community is always our highest priority in the production of the annual North Texas Fair and Rodeo. After recent surges in COVID-19 cases in the North Texas area, we felt that rescheduling our fair and rodeo was the prudent choice. "I cannot express how proud I am of our Board of Directors for reaching this carefully thought-out decision. The safety of all our fair patrons, as well as approximately 1,000



volunteers is always a top priority," said Executive Director, Glenn Carlton. "Moving the 2020 North Texas Fair and Rodeo to October will not only allow us to have our fair in cooler weather, but we are looking forward to this event being a big part of the healing process for this community. I am excited to see that this event can still happen." We are committed to doing our part in working to improve community health and reduce the spread of the virus. We are avid about producing nine nights of cutting

Continued on A4

## Mystery Seeds from China

Janet Laminack



**DENTON COUNTY, TX** - Like emails from Nigerian royalty, you don't want to open unusual packages from China right now. Well, it's ok if you open the packages, just don't plant the seeds.

For some reason unsolicited packages of seeds are being mailed to people around the country. We have had at least one package arrive in Denton County already.

This may not seem like that big of a deal and your curiosity may really want to stick these in the ground and see what we

get. They could be an invasive species. Some other invasive species that we are stuck with now and wish we'd never laid eyes on include fire ants, kudzu vine, the "murder" hornet, crape myrtle bark scale, privet and zebra mussels.

An invasive is defined as a non-native organism that causes economic and or environmental harm to the new area. Not all non-native species are invasive. And native species are not considered

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#### METRO A2



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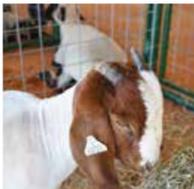
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#### EDUCATION A5



Changes for 4-H Families This Fall

#### COMMUNITY A6



New Organizational Chart Highlights City Responsiveness

#### SPIRITUAL A7



Area Church Directory

## DCPH Provides COVID-19 Recommendations to Denton County School Districts

**Denton County, TX** - Denton County Public Health (DCPH) Director Dr. Matt Richardson and DCPH Health Authority Dr. Marty Buchanan issued recommendations to independent school districts within Denton County on Monday, July 27, 2020, to provide guidance on the upcoming school year. These recommendations allow local district boards to make district-wide decisions while COVID-19 health and safety precautions remain prioritized.

In light of continued high community transmission of COVID-19 in Denton County, and in addition to the available scientific knowledge of transmission across Texas and the United States, DCPH is making the following countywide recommendations to school officials:

1. Delay face-to-face instruction until September 8th
- The following exceptions may be necessary, and should require continual use of facial coverings and physical distancing:
  - § On-site virtual instruction

Continued on A3

## Update from Denton County Judge Andy Eads



**DENTON COUNTY, TX** - On July 27, 2020, our Denton County Health

Department issued a recommendation to Denton County superintendents, suggesting they consider delaying in-person instruction on campuses until Sept. 8. This was a recommendation only and not a mandate. While some in the public have asked us to close schools to in-person instruction, our county attorneys have correctly advised us that counties did not have the power to mandate countywide

school closures. On July 28, 2020, attorney General Ken Paxton issued an AG opinion stating state law does not allow local health authorities to order the closure of schools as a preemptive measure to curb the spread of the disease. Later that day, the Texas Education Agency stated school districts could risk losing state funding if they closed schools solely

Continued on A3

## Tax Relief for Homeowners a Priority for Denton County Commissioners Court

The Final Column from the Desk of Hugh Coleman



**DENTON COUNTY, TX** - Tax relief for homeowners has been a priority as we continue to review our Denton County budgets each year. Not only have we kept the county's portion of property taxes low among taxing entities in Denton County, we also decreased the county's tax rate to the lowest since 1986 at \$0.225278 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

On June 30, the Denton County

Commissioners Court approved a residence homestead exemption of up to 1 percent or \$5,000, whichever is greater to all homeowners of the county. This means that the taxable value of your homestead will be lowered by these amounts, thus reducing your county property taxes. This exemption is applicable to the current year's property tax bill, which you will see this fall.

In 2019, we approved a tax limitation for properties receiving an over 65 or disabled person exemption. The Over 65 Exemption the county offers is \$55,000 and the Disabled Person Exemption is \$15,000. Homeowners can be eligible for one or the other, but not both.

The Denton Central Appraisal

Continued on A7

## Denton City Council Extends Order Regarding Face Coverings

Direction Also Provided to Resume Utility Disconnections, Fraud Utility Assistance, Stephanie Yates

**DENTON, TX** - On Tuesday, July 28, the Denton City Council voted to extend the health and safety requirements for certain commercial and nonprofit entities in the City of Denton. Entities that provide goods or services directly to the public must continue to implement and post their Health and Safety Policy, as defined

by the order, through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 31, or until otherwise terminated, extended, or modified by the Council.

The Health and Safety Policy must, at minimum, require that all employees and visitors to the entity's business premises or other

Continued on A4



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## Celina Police Department Announces Two Promotions, City Names First Female Sergeant



CELINA, TX - The Celina Police Department has announced the promotion of two individuals, providing citizens and visitors with the immeasurable benefit of the combined decade-and-a-half experience the pair brings to their new positions.

Police Chief Tony Griggs has announced the promotion of Cortnie Webb to Sergeant and Chris Armstrong to Detective, effective immediately.

Generally, municipal law enforcement agencies assign their inductees as Patrol Officers. With experience and the appropriate testing and interviews, Patrol Officers can be promoted to Detective. When ready for additional responsibility including supervision, the next step is Sergeant. This is followed by Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, then Chief. Some larger agencies include the rank of Corporal between Detective and Sergeant.

Webb, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Texas Women's University, brings six years of progressive experience to her new position. She spent a combined three-and-a-half years as a Patrol Officer in Sherman and Celina, and almost three years as a Detective in Celina.

In her new role, she will be responsible for reviewing patrol

assignments, incident reports, arrests, and other material for accuracy, completeness, and timeliness. She will monitor and mentor officers under her supervision and assist in the implementation of the Police Department's Community Policing philosophy.

She earned the department's Servant Leadership Award twice and has been recognized with a Certificate of Merit. She has attained the state's Advanced Peace Officer certification.

Armstrong spent three years as a Celina Patrol Officer prior to his recent elevation to Detective. His new position will involve the processing of cases and evidence, as well as filing worked cases with the District Attorney when appropriate. He will devote time and energy in the thorough investigation of crimes committed in Celina and, when required, will assist in the prosecution of offenders.

The new Detective has completed two years of college and has also attained the Advanced Peace Officer certification from the state of Texas. A member of the Celina Police Association, Armstrong, who counts on 10 years of law enforcement experience, has been honored with selection as Celina Police Officer of the Year in the recent past.

"Our police force is stronger with the promotion of these two individuals," says Chief Griggs. "Our priority is to ensure that we have personnel who are not only properly prepared but also fully committed to ensuring that Celina is a safe and secure City, partnering hand-in-hand with the community we serve."

## McKinney Earns AAA Ratings from Moody's and Standard & Poor's, Aa1 Water and Wastewater Rating

McKINNEY, TX - The City of McKinney has again received the highest ratings issued from two major credit rating agencies for its general obligation (GO) bonds. The city earned ratings of AAA from Moody's and AAA from Standard & Poor's. The city also earned a rating of Aa1 from Moody's for its water and wastewater utilities system.

Standard & Poor's assigned its AAA long-term rating to the city's series 2020 general obligation (GO) bonds and affirmed its AAA rating on the city's existing GO bonds and certificates of obligation.

"Because of the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic, we are pleased that S&P and Moody's have affirmed our AAA ratings," said City Manager Paul Grimes.

"Our City Council remains committed to their goal of a fiscally sound government and these low interest rates allow us to save taxpayers money while delivering the high-quality services and facilities required by our growing city despite the challenges we are facing right now due to COVID-19."

Moody's said the rating reflects the city's large tax base with elevated wealth levels that continues to expand due to rapid population growth. The AAA also reflects strong fiscal management and long-term forecasting that has led to stable financial performance and very strong reserve levels.

McKinney received a rating of AA+ with an outlook of stable from Standard & Poor's for its water and wastewater utilities system.

## Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau Commits to GBAC STAR Cleanliness Accreditation Program

Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau Commits to GBAC STAR Cleanliness Accreditation Program

Sophia Stoller

GRAPEVINE, TX - The Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau, today, announced that businesses across the Grapevine community are joining forces to pursue accreditation for their facilities through the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) STAR accreditation program. Grapevine's City Council approved 27 tourism-related businesses, which include hotels, city operated meeting facilities and specific attractions to participate in the performance-based GBAC STAR accreditation program that implements the industry's highest standards for cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention.

The industry's only outbreak prevention, response and recovery accreditation, GBAC STAR helps

organizations establish protocols and procedures, offers expert-led training and assesses a facility's preparedness for biorisk situations. The program ensures facilities use best practices to limit future outbreaks, empowers cleaning staff members to do their jobs safely and effectively, and gives consumers a greater peace of mind when active in the community.

"We are thrilled to champion this opportunity and become the only destination to seek accreditation for all hotels, city operated meeting facilities and specific attractions within Grapevine's geo-political boundaries," said Paul W. McCullum, Executive Director of the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"There are a variety of events that we are excited to promote this fall and winter and

believe that this accreditation will help our residents and visitors feel more comfortable and safe while enjoying these classic events with friends and family members."

"We are pleased to collaborate with the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau on GBAC STAR to ensure its Grapevine venues are clean, safe and healthy for visitors and residents alike," states GBAC Executive Director, Party Olinger. "We applaud the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau's foresight and investment in the entire Grapevine community to provide the industry's highest standards for cleaning, disinfection and infection disease prevention at their venues."

For accreditation criteria, please visit GBAC.org. To learn more about the accreditation process, please check out GBAC's informational video.

'Mystery Seeds from China...' continued from front page

invasive even if you think they are taking over, they are referred to as "aggressive."

From our experience with previous invasive species, it's clear that we need to be on high alert and not allow these seeds to impact our environment or agriculture. If you receive such

a package, please report it to USDA-APHIS by email: carol.m.motloch@usda.gov. Please include your name and contact information and package description (sending a photo is ideal.)

Our local county resident who received a package heard

back from USDA to put the seeds in a Ziploc-type bag and save them for now. Do not put them in the trash!

If you need more information, as always, give us a call or send an email at Master.Gardener@dentoncounty.com or 940-349-2892.



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# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

## Prosper Launches Campaign to Fight Spreading of Virus



**PROSPER, TX** - In an effort to encourage residents and visitors to practice the actions and habits that experts agree can have an impact on slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Town of Prosper's communication and marketing specialists have developed a series of social media posts with specific related messages.

"The graphic posts are reminders of what we should be doing to stay healthy," says Executive Director of Community Services Robyn Battle. "If these reminders help people think of wearing their mask, washing their hands, and remaining safely apart from each other, then

we've met our objective." In her position, Battle serves as the Town's Public Information Officer as well as supervisor of several large departments. She was the Town's first PIO, a post she held while also serving as Town Secretary. She serves as the chair for the Town's Communications Team, made up of employees from various departments who meet regularly to shape and execute communication campaigns.

Recently, Battle asked the team to develop a campaign in support of the fight against the spread of the coronavirus disease. The team collectively settled on a series of three social media posts which will be rotated periodically on the Town's social media sites.

The three posts include one on wearing masks, one on hand-washing, and one on social distancing. All three are tied together by the overarching primary tagline of "Protect Prosper." The individual posts each carry a secondary tagline relating to one of the three recommendations.

The Town's logo adds an official flavor to the campaign. Sharing and forwarding of the posts is encouraged, but because the Town's logo appears on the posts, any use outside of normal channels and purposes requires the specific approval of the Town's Communications Department.

## Coronavirus Scams

*What do they look like, how do you respond, and how do you avoid them?*

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - By now you probably have received a phone call, email, or even a text message offering assistance or money to help during this Coronavirus pandemic. Did it seem too good to be true? That's because it was.

Unfortunately, scammers are taking advantage of this global health crisis to exploit Americans' charitable nature as well as their need for assistance.

To help Americans during this difficult time, Congress authorized direct payments from the IRS to taxpayers to provide an immediate hand-out. Congress also eased requirements on financial institutions to make it easier for banks to help their customers pay their bills and afford other necessary expenses. While these programs are administered by the federal government, many scammers are impersonating government officials or websites to trick individuals into giving up personal information.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), since January, there have been over 125,000 consumer complaints filed related to this Coronavirus. Nearly 65,000 of these claims were fraud adding up to \$80 million in financial loss. In Texas, there have been over 6,400 complaints with 3,600 fraud-related cases resulting in \$3.2 million lost.

Many of these scams appear to be legitimate. You should be wary of any unsolicited offers.

Here are some examples of common schemes:

Investment opportunities for the stock of publicly traded companies that will cure this Coronavirus

Work from home schemes that guarantee to make you rich

Organizations posing as charities

Organizations offering a vaccine or other cures

Fake Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization websites or emails requesting you click a link for information on this Coronavirus

Entities offering financial aid that are not the federal government or your financial institution

Online sellers offering in-demand goods like cleaning products and masks

Robocalls offering advice or products

The best way to avoid falling prey to a scam is to ignore it. Do not click any links sent to you, do not answer robocalls, and never reveal any personal information to anyone whose identity you have not verified.

How do you protect yourself?

The FTC maintains a website on scam alerts where you can see the latest information and sign up for email notices. Also, you can file a complaint with the FTC. To learn more about this Coronavirus go directly to the CDC. You are able to verify investment opportunities by visiting the Securities and Exchange Commission. The FTC also maintains a list of legitimate charities. If

you have any further questions or concerns about a potential scam or feel you have been a victim of a scam please contact my office at 940-497-5031 or visit my website.

What is Congress doing to stop scammers?

When a consumer has been scammed, one of their biggest concerns is the violation of their privacy. It is highly unlikely a scammer will take the time to follow any federal privacy law. That said, it is important to require any entity that collects personal information to clarify how they collect and process this data. This will bring transparency and accountability to the use and protection of consumer data.

Just last week, the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, which I chaired during the 114th Congress, held a hearing to discuss how the pandemic is affecting consumers. I spoke with a witness about the advances of machine learning contributing to this Coronavirus research as well as how we can safely reopen our communities.

Highlighted by this unprecedented time, it is imperative that consumers and patients know how their data is being accessed and used. Congress must resume negotiating to secure a federal privacy law. Not only will this give Americans better peace of mind, but it will help limit the ability of scammers getting their hands on your information.

*'Update from Denton County Judge...' continued from front page*

based on closure orders issued by local health officials.

This recommendation was made considering many factors - from the ongoing rise in positive COVID-19 cases to the need to help keep our children and their families as well as teachers and administrators as safe as possible with the community spread of this virus.

While this was an independent recommendation made by the Denton County Health Department, and the Denton County Commissioners Court were not involved in the recommendation, we have kept in touch with our school administrators since early March.

As we have talked, we have come to realize the challenges they face in balancing safety with the need for in-school instruction.

The impact of keeping students home from school reaches into family lives as parents balance work with assisting their children with school studies. It is a difficult balancing act for everyone.

Our role is a supportive one as the ultimate decisions rest with the local school boards

and the Texas Education Agency. Our Denton County Health Department keeps close tabs on how COVID-19 is spreading in our communities and whether circumstances for large gatherings - in public or in schools - is in the best interests of everyone.

The sole purpose of their recommendation is to give superintendents and our elected school boards the information with which to make decisions in the best interests of their students, teachers and parents.

Earlier this year as graduations loomed near, we offered an alternative as school administrators were meeting to discuss what options would be available during this pandemic.

I was able to reach out to the Texas Motor Speedway to see if they would be willing to consider hosting graduations in a manner in which students and parents could celebrate a major milestone while maintaining their safety.

Many of you watched your children cross the outdoor stage to receive their diplomas while you sat inside your cars or stepped outside to stand

near vehicles, looking at the large screens as your graduate stepped forward.

I was one of those parents, watching our son cross the stage to graduate from Marcus High School. It was a moment I will cherish forever.

That was the reason behind the suggestion - to give all graduates and their families a moment they will never forget.

We are all facing challenges as we navigate a new normal during this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. No suggestion or recommendation is popular with everyone. We realize that.

However, our ultimate goal is to find a way to keep moving forward while still staying safe.

That mission continues to drive all of us - from business and community leaders to county officials and others.

I hope we will all find a way to come together and find solutions to the challenges we face.

It is in these moments of collaborative effort that we create new ties to bind us as a community of one to ensure a better future for all.

*'DCPH County...' continued from front page*

in compliance with their approved start dates, prior to Tuesday, September 8th to meet TEA requirements.

3. School administrators, teachers, and staff may return to school campuses to provide virtual learning instructional activities, provide food distribution including free and reduced lunch services and to perform administrative duties, as consistent with TEA guidelines.

4. Schools should create, maintain, and provide a safety protocol/plan for resuming in-person instruction on or after Tuesday, September 8th to the school boards and disseminate the plan to parents and stakeholders two weeks prior to

re-opening campuses, per ISD approved calendars.

"We continue to utilize the latest information available to us locally and through the scientific community in order to provide recommendations to best protect all community members in Denton County," stated Dr. Buchanan. "School district boards remain the decision makers in determining their school calendars, methods of education provision, and daily education operations."

"We remain in continued communication with superintendents throughout Denton County as we navigate this unprecedented time due to COVID-19," Dr. Richardson

stated. "These recommendations are due to growing case counts, growing positivity rates, and the likely disease transmission that occurs days before symptoms occur. We take these and other factors into consideration when making this recommendation."

These recommendations comply with the intent of Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order, as well as guidance for school districts provided by the Texas Education Agency. A copy of the letter of recommendations submitted by DCPH to superintendents and school boards in Denton County follows this press release.

## ICYMI: Texas' Only Physician in Congress - Republican Michael Burgess - Defends Fauci as 'Thorough,' 'Respected'

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - With the news of rising COVID-19 case rates in Texas, Congressman Michael C. Burgess (R-TX), Republican leader of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, spoke with Tom Benning of the Dallas Morning News to discuss the latest news surrounding the country's and Texas' response.

Burgess, by contrast, said that

the coronavirus has "embarrassed a lot of us with things that we thought - they turned out not to be correct." He described Fauci as among those who've admitted early models were off and then revised recommendations as "more data becomes available."

"That's not a reason to be critical of someone," said Burgess, who identified COVID-19 as a real threat earlier than most law-

makers. "It's someone who's being, in my mind, knowledgeable and thorough and recognizing that the situation on the ground may change."

He added: "I don't think it's particularly useful to be critical of someone who is working in this space and doing the very best they can to try to help the country through a very, very tough infectious disease problem."



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# HOME & GARDEN

## As I Strolled Through My Neighborhood This Morning

Janet Laminack



**DENTON COUNTY, TX-** On my morning stroll, I noticed that many of the neighborhood trees have polka-dotted leaves. What is that? Why is it happening? When should we freak out? Thus, I decided to write about things to worry about and things to not worry about (probably).

Every year, the joy of gardening includes disease or insects attacking your tree. As I mentioned in an earlier column (you are collecting them all, right?) everything was just perfect for oak leaf blister to show up in all the live oaks. This caused deformity of the leaves, but otherwise not a big deal.

With all the rain we have received, we have several fungi having a big time splashing around on leaves. These fungal pathogens manifest as spots on leaves, a powdery look, or even odd shaped blotches. If you have a healthy tree, these diseases aren't anything to worry about too much. If you did get a very severe case, there are fungicides available to use. One way to keep your tree healthier is to avoid watering the leaves of trees. Watch where those sprinklers hit, the spores of the fungus literally bounce around with water. Best practice also recommends to remove fallen leaves and branches so there is not a safe harbor for overwintering. Be careful with fertilization, lush growth is more appealing to both disease and insects.

If every year you seem to have the same spots, a preventative fungicide in the spring might be helpful. However as I've mentioned, if conditions hit just right, you probably can't prevent it nor should you fret over it.

It's not unusual to have insect damage on trees. They've gotta make a living, too. Most of the time, they come do a little snacking (maybe not even noticeable) and either they move on or get eaten by something else. Make sure you aren't killing the beneficial insects that are there to eat the bad guys. Also, keep in mind that butterflies and moths come from leaf-chewing caterpillars. Caterpillars cause damage, but aren't they so pretty when they grow up?

I know you are thinking, but what can I worry about? Here are a few things.

Look at your trees and the way the trunk goes into the ground. If it looks like a telephone pole going straight into the ground, that's a problem. Trees need the root flares exposed. If you have mulch (proud of you for having mulch) around your trees, make sure it is NOT touching the trunk of the tree. It may be fashionable to create these monstrous volcanoes of mulch around the tree but it is absolutely devastating for the tree. Don't do it.

What's your lawn look like? If you have lush vibrant green St Augustine or even Bermuda grass, you may be over watering the trees. Or watering them too shallow and frequently. Our native post oaks are the fussiest trees around. Nothing makes them happy, really. They don't live well with disturbance around the roots or overwatering. If you have post oaks in your landscape and they are thriving as is your lawn....don't change a thing. It's working, it doesn't make sense but don't fix what ain't broke.

If you can reach any limbs of your tree, look at the very newest growth. The new growth will be on a little branch that may look a different color or be less woody. That little branch of new growth is how much your tree has grown this season. If you see several inches, you've got a robust tree. If it is stubby or less than two inches, you may have a stressed tree. This is not a hard and fast rule, trees grow at different speeds. But, it can be an indicator of health and vigor.

Speaking of reaching limbs, I venture a guess that most trees are not pruned correctly. Trees don't need to be pruned, so you can take that off your annual to-do list. Young trees can be pruned in order to establish a good structure. If limbs are crossing or broken or dead, they need to be removed. What I see though, are mature trees with no limbs except at the top. We call it lion's tail. This particular style of tree trimming is especially

bad for Bradford pears. They already have a bad branching structure with narrow crotch angles which are weak. Surely you have noticed that when we get wind or hail, somebody's gonna get a split pear tree. Part of the tree splits off and what do we do? We cut it off and leave the rest of the tree in even worse condition. Maybe we even limb it up more to "take the weight off" or some nonsense.

On my neighborhood walk, there are several pear trees that I do not walk under or near. Seriously, getting killed by a falling tree branch cannot be the way I go. But, if I do, you have my permission to make all the dark humor jokes you want about it, I'll be sad to miss out on them. Anyway, we have created these trees that are top heavy so often when we get a lot of rain or wind, they can topple over.

I understand that you want to remove a few branches because your kid is getting taller and complaining about it when they mow. (I don't think that's a kid's chore anymore. Lucky generation.) So, take some branches off. Start at the bottom and remove one or two. But do not remove every horizontal branch on your tree. You want to create a triangular looking tree but with just a little more trunk showing. You do not want to have a long, scrawny trunk with a poof of branches at the top. Unless it's a palm tree. That's how palm trees should look. Not oak trees.

Also trees have a life span. Some have shorter ones than others (looking at your Bradford pear). Sometimes there is nothing to be done other than make the tree comfortable and start looking for a replacement. When you get this opportunity, select trees that like our area, how about some natives? But, some insects and diseases are very, very bad and fatal. Typically, these insects or disease are host specific. Think: oak wilt, emerald ash borer, rose rosette virus...and we need to be on the lookout for them. Worry level panic.

Overall, trees want to thrive and we want to help you help them. Give us a call or an email at 940-349-2892 or master.gardener@dentoncounty.com. Check out Aggie Horticulture's Gardening 101 videos <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fblive/> to learn more about succulents and vegetables and all sorts of topics.

## Garden Tour Cancelled for 2020

**DENTON COUNTY, TX-** The Denton County Master Gardener Association regrets to announce that its 2020 Garden Tour has been cancelled due to the pandemic. The 2020 tour had been scheduled for October 10, 2020. We hope to see you live at next year's garden tour in the spring of 2021. Please watch for news of our upcoming virtual Fall Garden Fest.

'Denton City Council...' continued from front page

facilities wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth when in an area or while performing an activity that will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public. The policy must also be posted conspicuously at or near all entrances of the commercial or nonprofit entity in clear view of any employees or members of the public entering the premises.

The Order also incorporated the state requirement that outdoor gatherings in excess of 10 people are prohibited unless specifically permitted by Gubernatorial Executive Order GA-28, authorized by the mayor, or otherwise permitted by a subsequent state order.

Additionally, the council provided direction that utility disconnections for nonpayment may occur, beginning the first week of August. There are currently funds available to residents in need of assistance to pay their utility bill. To get connected to assistance and to avoid a disconnection of utility service, customers who have an outstanding balance should call Customer Service at (940) 349-8700.

Requirements under the Order regarding face coverings, resources and FAQs, and additional information for businesses are available online at [www.cityofdenton.com/facecoverings](http://www.cityofdenton.com/facecoverings).

Visit [www.cityofdenton.com](http://www.cityofdenton.com) for more news and to stay updated.

'The 2020 North Texas Fair...' continued from front page

edge country music, first-class rodeos, livestock shows, and attractions for all. However, our commitment to youth, agriculture, and community, has led us to postpone the fun until a safer time. "I could not agree more with Glenn about our number one priority being the health and safety of all the people involved with our fair and rodeo," said North Texas State Fair Association President, Carl Anderson. "Having said that, if we can put on an event this year with the number

one priority being the health and safety of our people, in whatever form or fashion that looks like, I believe we owe it to the community to try to do so. The young people involved with their livestock projects need and deserve a time and a place to compete." The North Texas Fair and Rodeo has a COVID-19 plan in place, but will continue to revise this plan in order to adapt to changes during this time of uncertainty. We assure you that the health and safety of

all parties is our biggest concern at this time.

About the North Texas State Fair Association: We are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization with the mission of promoting youth, agriculture, and community. Our annual North Texas Fair and Rodeo has been our largest fundraiser for the last 91 years. This event along with our partnerships allows us to donate around \$500,000 annually in scholarships, livestock projects, and facility usage. For more information, please visit [www.ntfair.com](http://www.ntfair.com).

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# EDUCATION

## Changes for 4-H Families This Fall

Zach Davis



makes regarding opening will have a trickle-down effect on 4-H participation. Like schools, our office is looking at holding virtual contests and education, outdoor events that allow safety considerations, and anything that we can do to provide a safe activity for youth and their families. We know participation in 4-H helps kids develop into adults and regardless of where we are with Covid-19 we will continue to encourage involvement. The way our contest is held could see some change, but I think giving families opportunities to work together on a common goal is needed now more than ever.

Currently, our state agency of Texas A&M AgriLife extension is on hold in the second wave or our reopening. We have staff at our offices but anyone with a potential risk is working from home. Currently, we are only allowed to hold meetings of 10 people or less with social distancing practices being observed. We do have the option to submit a preparedness plan to hold a larger program but many things are being held with some virtual component.

**DENTON COUNTY, TX-** Last month I wrote about 4-H families being optimistic about future livestock shows being held. That optimism took a little bit of a hit on July 7th when word came out that the State Fair of Texas Board of Directors decided to cancel the fair for 2020. This hasn't happened since 1945! As a professional that has to consider the health of participants at my programs, I understand the fair's decision.

The general public might have missed some valuable information in the State Fair of Texas's statement, but I promise 4-H and FFA families didn't. State Fair staff is working on a modified livestock show schedule that will provide families with the opportunity to show in a safe environment.

While details of the modified schedule are still to come, just knowing that the State Fair is considering this option gives families a glimmer of hope. A Facebook live video posted on July 8th provided some communication from fair staff on show changes. As I write this week's article the video has 32 thousand views and 243 shares on Facebook. Families are interested in their possible participation. Large shows like the State Fair of Texas that are held each year are a highlight for families that look forward to the opportunity to compete.

In addition to the fair, school district decisions will greatly affect 4-H members. In Denton County, we have curriculum enrichment in schools, after school clubs, and community clubs. The decisions each district

## Denton ISD Trustees Change 2020-21 Academic Calendar

**DENTON ISD, TX—** The Board of School Trustees met in a Special Called Meeting on Friday, July 10 and approved revisions to the Academic Calendar including the first day of instruction for students to Wednesday, Aug. 26, a two week change from the previously approved date. The start date for teachers will remain the week of August 4.

The proposed calendar moves all "Teacher Workdays" to the front of the academic calendar for preparation and keeps all major and national holidays intact. The last day of instruction for students remains Thursday, May 27.

"By pushing the official start

date to August 26, we will have our staff on-hand to practice all safety protocols and build even greater expectations for student learning," said Jamie Wilson, superintendent of schools. "Our staff is very adept at face-to-face instruction, which is what we want more than anything, having a few extra days is essential as we ensure safety protocols are in place for the comfort level of our families and staff."

On July 7, the Texas Education Agency released guidelines to all Texas schools which recommended to districts that campuses re-open with face-to-face learning.

The district recently received the results of a staff/employee survey and reviewed the results of a parent survey at the June 23 Regular Trustees Meeting. Both surveys indicated that more than 70 percent of respondents wish to return to face-to-face instruction with new safety and wellness protocols as recommended by the Texas Education Agency and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

As COVID-19 cases increase in Denton County, the district will work closely with the Texas Education Agency and state/local health experts before launching in-person instruction this fall.

## Parents Switch to Homeschool Following TEA Release of COVID-19 Back-To-School Guidelines

Stephen Howsley

**AUSTIN, TX-** Many Texas parents who are concerned about sending children back to school in August are switching to homeschooling.

Following the release of the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) school reopening guidelines on July 7, Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) saw an immediate increase in calls and emails from new families, with parents asking how they can start homeschooling.

On July 7, the TEA announced that public schools would be reopening for the fall semester beginning in August. Concern from parents over the health risks and logistical problems involved with returning to public schools during the pandemic may lead to historically high numbers of families choosing to homeschool.

Over the last 20 years in Texas, homeschooling has

increased an average of seven percent each year. In 2018, nearly 25,000 students withdrew from public school to homeschool in Texas.

Before the pandemic, the leading reason for homeschooling cited by parents was concern about safety and the environment at public schools. This concern may only increase because of new risks created from COVID-19.

Under the TEA's new guidelines, students over age 10 will be required to wear masks at school. Parents could be required to choose between either online or in-person instruction. They would not be allowed to switch their student from one to the other for a six-week grading period.

The potential for their children's school to be shut down partially during the school year if coronavirus case

numbers rise is also a concern for parents. A poll from Real Clear Opinion Research in May showed that 40 percent of parents indicate they may switch to virtual school or homeschooling.

Schools in the Houston area have reported that as many as 50 percent of their parents may not be sending their children back to the school campus.

THSC has developed an online tool to assist families who choose to withdraw from the public school system, as well as a first steps to homeschooling packet that families can use to get started.

With so many homeschool resources currently available, families have options for structure and consistency in their children's education despite the current upheaval in the public education system.

## Denton Public Library Gives Free Library Cards to Denton ISD Students

**DENTON, TX-** The Denton Public Library Books2Go Program Provides Students with Online Tutoring, Studying, and Research Resources DENTON, TX, July 15, 2020 –The Denton Public Library (DPL) announced the new Books2Go program to provide free library cards to Denton ISD students. The Books2Go program allows students to use online tutoring assistance, studying resources, an extended resource library, and access books, movies, and activities for entertainment. To enroll in the program, parents or legal guardians will need to opt-in when registering their children for the 2020-2021 school year. The Books2Go program is a partnership between the Denton Public Library and Denton ISD. "We are incredibly excited to of-

fer Books2Go to students," said Jennifer Bekker, City of Denton Director of Libraries. "This past school year has been different from anything students have experienced before, so being able to provide this resource to them now is more important than ever." With their Books2Go accounts, students may: Check out up to three items at a time (including books, movies, DiscoveryKits, mobile wi-fi hotspots, and more); Place up to three item holds at a time; Use the library public computers; Download ebooks and digital audiobooks; and Access most of Denton Public Library online resources including: Brainfuse, which offers daily live tutoring for students third grade to college; Ebsco Explora, which offers research resources for homework and

reports; and Pronunciator—a language learning tool that provides lessons in 80 languages. In addition, Books2Go accounts use students' existing Denton ISD I. D. number, students will only need to bring or remember their student I.D. to use DPL resources. If students already have an account with DPL, they will not need a Books2Go account. Parents or legal guardians who register a student for a Books2Go account do not have to submit an application to DPL. The application process consists of opting into a Books2Go account as part of the Denton ISD Snap registration. For more information, including frequently asked questions, visit the Denton Public Library website at <https://bit.ly/DPLBooks2Go>.



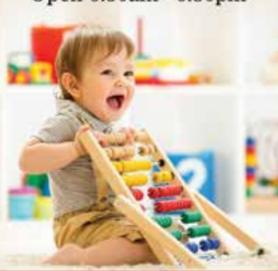
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# COMMUNITY

## New Organizational Chart Highlights City Responsiveness

*Engineering Director Elevated to New Cabinet Position*

Kim Brawner



**CELINA, TX-** As the City of Celina continues its steady rate of expansive growth and forward progress, officials are ensuring that the City's staff structure keeps consistent pace by creating an organizational alignment designed to be responsive, agile, and adaptable. "Responding to the service demands from our residents, visitors, business owners, development partners, and other stakeholders means that our organization has to be receptive, responsive, and flexible," says City Manager Jason Laumer. "That means that our organizational structure must work to facilitate those attributes, driving decision-making horizontally across the organization rather than vertically." Flattening the

organization to achieve agility and responsiveness is among the reasons the City has rolled out a new organizational chart that drives decision-making, responsibility, and accountability outward. The new lineup provides the City Manager with an executive management cabinet of five individuals, each with specific responsibilities within the organization. Assistant City Manager Karla Stovall has overall responsibility for internal services such as Finance, Human Resources, Utility Billing, Information Technology, Marketing and Communications, and Municipal Court. When required, she also steps in as acting City Manager. Police Chief Tony Griggs and Fire Chief Mark Metdker oversee their respective public safety services and Dusty McAfee manages the Development Services function. Rounding out the executive management group is Kimberly Brawner, newly named as Executive Director of Public Services. The recently-created position assigns Brawner responsibility over

Engineering, Public Works, Parks, and the Celina Public Library. In all, she provides direction and leadership to over 50 employees. Additionally, a portion of her time will be devoted to assisting the City Manager in implementing the critically important Celina City Council Strategic Goals. Prior to her new assignment, Brawner was Director of Engineering for the City. In addition to Celina, she has over her 18-year municipal government career, worked for the Cities of Lubbock, Carrollton, Frisco, and the Town of Little Elm. She also worked as a transportation engineer in the private sector for eight years. A member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and American Society of Civil Engineers, she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Engineering from Texas Tech University. She is a Professional Transportation Operations Engineer and a Certified Flood Plain Manager. "Kim brings a wealth of experience to the new position, and we're very fortunate to have her on the team," said Laumer.

## TEA Provides Additional Guidance, Connected Learning, Face-To-Face Still Options



**DENTON ISD, TX-** Following updated guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on Friday, July 17, Denton ISD will continue planning efforts to begin instruction for students on Wednesday, Aug. 26, regardless of the delivery method. TEA announced that local districts could lengthen the time frame they will allow local districts to begin school online for the 2020-21 year to four weeks.

The agency added that a school district could extend its exclusively virtual learning start for an additional

four weeks, for a total of eight weeks, with approval from its school board and a TEA waiver. TEA also mandated that school leaders must still offer in-person classes to any students who do not have computers and reliable internet access at home.

"We understand that our families want to make the best decision for their child, and we want to support them with options as we work to provide a safe and healthy learning environment," said Dr. Jamie Wilson, superintendent of schools. "Whether we can start face-to-face or virtually, we need our families to complete the registration process so we can have an accurate picture of what both will look like for next year."

Currently, Denton ISD is hosting online registration for families, and have asked that parents designate whether they plan for their student to return to campus for face-to-face instruction

or Connected Learning, the district's virtual learning platform. Should the district change these plans, that will be directly communicated to families and staff.

The district will continue to collaborate with the Denton County leaders, including the Denton County Health Department, before making any decision to only offer virtual learning for all students.

On Friday, July 10, the Board of Trustees voted to move the start date for students back two weeks to provide extra time for staff training and the implementation of additional health/safety protocols.

Denton ISD and other Texas school districts are awaiting guidance from the University Interscholastic League regarding any possible changes to the start of extracurricular activities, including sports and fine arts.

For more information visit [www.dentonisd.org/backtoschool](http://www.dentonisd.org/backtoschool)

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Cross Oaks Elementary School,  
600 Liberty Blvd, Cross Roads, TX 76227  
469.708.7654  
www.trilogy.church

### Cowboy Country Chapel

603 Morrison  
Pilot Point, TX 76258

### Baha'i Faith

**Baha'i Faith in Aubrey**  
800-22-UNITE or 972-632-6904  
www.bahai.org and www.bahai.us

### Baptist

#### Antioch Baptist Church

Hwy 428 & Hwy 2931  
Aubrey, Texas 76227

#### Bethel Baptist Church

210 E. Main Street  
Pilot Point, Texas 76258  
903-429-3661

#### Calvary Baptist Church

Corner of 125 N. Jefferson & Walcott St., Pilot Point  
www.calvarypilotpoint.com

#### Cowboy Church of Cooper Creek

3000 Rock Hill Rd.  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
972-841-3331  
http://www.cowboychurchofcoopercreek.org/

#### Cross Fellowship Church

Meets at Savannah Elementary  
1101 Cotton Exchange Dr  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
www.crossfellowship380.com

#### CrossRidge Church

1701 Walker Lane  
(Across From Little Elm High School)  
www.crossridgeonline.org  
972-292-1953

#### First Rock Fellowship

201 N. Cherry Street, Aubrey  
www.firstrockfellowship.org

### First Baptist of Krugerville

Hwy. 377 South, Krugerville  
www.fbckrugerville.com

### Green Valley Baptist Church

9901 FM 428 in Aubrey

### Living Word Baptist Church

2315 FM 720 West  
Little Elm, TX 75068  
(469) 362-9010  
www.livingwordbaptist.net

### Midway Baptist Church

Hwy. 377 North of Aubrey  
940-365-9312  
www.midwaychurch.org

### Mustang Baptist Church

Corner of I-385 & Mustang Rd. in Aubrey

### New Hope Baptist Church

Highway 377, South, Aubrey  
www.newhopeaubrey.com

### Prestonwood Baptist Church

1001 West Prosper Trail, Prosper, TX  
972-798-6700

### Providence Village Church

Providence Elementary  
1000 FM 2931  
Aubrey TX 76227  
www.providencevillagechurch.com

### Rhea's Mill Baptist Church

5733 North Custer Rd., McKinney  
972-562-2947  
www.rheasmill.org

### Catholic

#### St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

4000 West University Dr.  
Prosper, TX 75078  
469-287-7624  
www.saintmartindp.org

#### St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

925 N. Charcut St., Pilot Point, TX 76258  
940-686-2088  
www.stthomaspilotpoint.org

#### St. Sophia Ukrainian Catholic Church

5600 North Colony Boulevard  
The Colony, Texas 75056  
(972) 370-4700  
www.stsophiakrainian.cc

### Christian First Christian Church in Aubrey

410 N. Main St.  
rtaccsw.org/pages/minisite\_fc Aubrey\_home

### Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**First Christian Church**  
410 N. Main St. in Aubrey

### First Christian Church of Denton

1203 Fulton Street  
Denton, Texas 76210  
www.fcddenton.org

### Grace Christian Church

Baker Elementary School  
Prosper ISD (Heatherwood Subdivision)  
www.graceprosper.org

### Church of Christ

**Aubrey Church of Christ**  
910 S. Hwy. 377

### Lake Dallas Church of Christ

504 Carlisle Dr.  
Lake Dallas, TX 75065  
940-497-5510

### Rock Hill Church of Christ

9426 Rock Hill Road  
Frisco, Texas  
972-347-1919

### Episcopal St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Prosper, TX 75078  
972-347-9700  
www.stpaulsprosper.org

### Lutheran Rejoice Lutheran Church (ELCA)

12000 Independence Pkwy, Frisco, Texas 75035  
972-569-8185  
www.RejoiceLutheran.com

### Methodist

#### Aubrey First United Methodist

113 West Plum, Aubrey  
www.aubreyfumc.com

#### Bethel Methodist Church of Denton County

3126 FM 2931, Aubrey Texas  
409-543-8444  
www.betheldenton.com

### Button Memorial United Methodist Church

101 W. Eldorado Pkwy., Little Elm, TX. 75068  
www.bmunmc.org, 972-292-1465

### Cross Way United Methodist

14632 Fishtrap Road, Aubrey, Texas 76227  
www.crosswayumc.org

### First United Methodist Church

217 S. Church St.  
Pilot Point, TX 76258  
(940) 686-2338

### Harvest Bible Fellowship, CMC

3121 FM 2931  
church.netministries.org/ch30630

### New Leaf Church at Children's Lighthouse

3100 Woodlake Pkwy, Little Elm, Texas  
972 325-8939, www.newleafnow.org

### Oak Grove United Methodist

4725 FM 720 W.  
(940) 365-3027  
www.oakgroveunitedmethodist.org

### Prosper United Methodist Church

205 S. Church St., Prosper  
www.prosperumc.org, 972-347-2372

### Mormon

#### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

8801 Martop Road, Aubrey Texas 76227  
www.churchofjesuschrist.org

### Non-Denominational

#### The Alabaster Box Ministries

1728 Flamingo Dr., Little Elm, TX 75068  
817-262-9640

#### Bold Cross Cowboy Church

Sunday "Church in the Dirt"  
3612 FM 1385, Aubrey, TX 76227

#### The Bridge Church

4582 Fishtrap Road, Denton, TX, 76208.  
findthebridge.com,(940)735-2080

#### Grace Point Nazarene Church

611 East Liberty  
Pilot Point, Texas  
780-518-6132

#### Circle of Love Fellowship Church

16611 FM 428 W., Celina, TX 75009  
972-816-6445

Sponsored by PointBank-Free Listing includes: Church Name, Address, Phone Number and Website. To include your church, please contact 380News at email us at admin@380News.com.

### City of Transformation Church

Lakeside Manor Theater  
902 W. Eldorado Pkwy, Little Elm, TX 75068  
469-247-1863  
www.cityoftransformation.org

### Covenant Church

**Cross Roads Campus**  
8690 Liberty Road  
Cross Roads, TX 76227  
940-365-1395  
www.covenantcrossroads.org

### Covenant Word Ministries Church

1501 Bluebird Dr.  
(Paloma Creek South Clubhouse)  
Little Elm, TX 75068  
www.covenantwordministrieschurch.org

### Faith Assembly Church

700 N. Harmon Road, Aubrey, TX 76227  
(940) 365-9360  
aubreyfaithassembly.weebly.com

### Gateway Church

7125 Legacy Drive  
Frisco, 75034  
Frs.GatewayPeople.com  
469.238.1000

### Grace Village Community Church

5325-B Highway 377  
Krugerville, TX 76227  
www.gracevillagechurch.org

### Lighthouse Christian Fellowship

4331 E. Prosper Tr.  
Prosper, TX 75078  
972-562-2500  
www.lighthousecbx.com

### New Leaf Church

meets at Children's Lighthouse  
3100 Woodlake Pkwy, Little Elm  
www.newleafnow.org  
972 325-8939

### North Texas Trinity Cowboy Church

9901 FM 1164  
Sanger, TX. 76266  
www.northtexascowboy.org

### The Summit Church

910 S Hwy 377, Aubrey, TX 76227  
www.oursummitchurch.com  
940-453-4152

### Relate Church

1400 FM 424  
Cross Roads, TX, 76227  
www.irelatechurch.com

### Restoration Cowboy Church

910 South Hwy 377  
Aubrey, Texas 76227  
Restorationcowboychurch.org  
940-343-5377

### Ridin' for the Brand Cowboy Church

5926 FM 455  
Sanger, Texas 76266  
www.ridinforthebrand.org  
940-458-3078

### Rock Creek Church

rockcreekchurch  
469-815-5353  
2860 Fishtrap Rd, Prosper, TX 75078  
Worship Times 9 & 11 am

### Savannah Life Fellowship

1440 FM 2931, Suites B, D & E  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-453-3953  
www.savannahlifechurch.com

### Unity Spiritual Center of Denton

6071 New Hope Road  
Krugerville, TX 76227  
214-453-0218  
www.unitydenton.com

### Tabernacle Church

601 South Church Street  
Prosper, Texas 75087  
Phone: 940-300-5310  
www.tabernacle-church.com

### Orthodox Churches

#### St. Maximus Orthodox Church

2026 W. Oak Street  
Denton, TX 76201

#### Pentecostal Cornerstone Church of Aubrey

7850 FM 2931, Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-365-2238  
www.ccaubrey.com

#### Seventh-day Adventist Pilot Point Seventh-day Adventist

990 W. Walcott Rd.  
Pilot Point, TX 76258  
214-454-9610

#### Denton First Seventh Day Adventist Church

11010 Hwy 377  
Pilot Point TX 76258  
Tel: 940 484 4889  
dentonfirst22.adventistchurchconnect.org



## JESUS LOVES YOU WE DO TOO



'Tax Relief...' continued from front page

District, a separate entity from Denton County and not governed by Commissioners Court, is where homeowners must go to apply for any of the above exemptions. Find out more information at www.dentoncad.com or contact the appraisal district office at 940-349-3800.

### Regional road and bridge updates

**FM 2181 North-South** – A \$37.6 million project to widen FM 2181 from two lanes to a six-lane divided roadway from the Denton/Corinth city limits to Lillian Miller Parkway is expected to be complete in November 2021. Activities expected include City of Denton water lines, storm water drainage lines and culverts; lime treatment subgrade; concrete removal; SW3P activities; barricades; general clean up.

**U.S. 380/U.S. 377** – (Loop 288 to U.S. 377) –Frontier is splicing; anticipate completion by mid-July. Low bidder is Ragle Construction, Inc. with a low bid of \$21,269,536.66, at 33.15% over the engineer's estimate. There are 800 working days and 39 months of barricades. Awaiting project award and work authorization.

**U.S. 380 East** – (U.S. 377 to Collin County line) – Utility coordination meeting held virtually on June 23, 2020.

**U.S. 377 North** –TNP submitted draft ICI (Indirect and Cumulative Impacts) report on June 19, 2020. Stakeholder meetings with Pilot Point, Pilot Point and Krugerville were to be held on July 23, 2020. Comments on the 95% schematic submittal received from TxDOT. TNP has addressed comments and is working toward submittal of final schematic before end of July 2020.

**U.S. 380 Feasibility Study** –NCTCOG and TxDOT met on June 2, 2020, to discuss. NCTCOG is updating model to run different alignments for integrated corridor.

**FM 428** –Project is from Loop 288 to West Sherman Drive/proposed outer loop. TxDOT has completed negotiations with HDR to initiate efforts on the FM 428 feasibility study. Awaiting execution of supplemental work authorization.

**FM 1385** – Let date for project has been scheduled for June 2024. The 30% schematic was submitted to TxDOT for review

on July 7, 2020. TxDOT is reviewing schematic. Virtual public meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2020.

**FM 2931** – Let date for project has been scheduled for June 2024. The 30% schematic was submitted to TxDOT for review on June 26, 2020. TxDOT District is reviewing schematic. Virtual public meeting was held on July 7, 2020. Meeting materials are posted on Virtual Public Meeting for FM 2931 Improvements | Keep It Moving Dallas

Virtual Public Meeting for **FM 2931 Improvements** | Keep It Moving Dallas and will remain available online through the comment period deadline of July 22, 2020.

**FM 455** – From west of FM 2450 to east of Marion Road; the project is slated to have 100% plans ready in September 2020 with a January 2022 let date. Consultant held a Traffic Control Plan meeting with TXDOT in early July and is working on requested revisions. Upon completion of TCP revisions, the 95% plan submittal will take place. Anticipate submittal of 95% plan set in September 2020

and the final plan set in December 2020. A utility coordination meeting was held on June 23:

- **Bolivar Water:** Has preliminary plans and is awaiting reimbursement agreement.
  - **CenturyLink:** Anticipate completion of plans in August 2020.
  - **CoServ Electric:** Plans for the east side of the project have been completed.
  - **Nortex:** Awaiting plans.
  - **Sanger Electric:** Currently designing plans.
  - **Sanger Water/Wastewater:** City council to approve bonds for relocations. Plans are being designed.
  - **Suddenlink:** Awaiting plans.
- I-35 at FM 455** – Estimated cost of reconstruction of approximately 4,500 feet of I-35 over FM 455 is projected at \$27,231,547 with a let date of August 2022. Consultant held a Traffic Control meeting with TxDOT in early July and is working on requested revisions. Upon completion of TCP revisions, the 95% plan submittal will take place. Anticipate submittal of the 95% plan set in September 2020 and the final plan set in December 2020. CenturyLink anticipates completion of relocation plans in August 2020.

**I-35 North (Segments 1 and 2)** – The project from U.S. 377 to FM 3002 is projected to cost \$573,740,000 with a ready to let date of October 2022 and a let date of December 2022. TxDOT has reviewed plan set and provided comments to consultant. Consultant is addressing comments. The 60% plan set is expected for review at the end of November 2020.

**I-35E/Mayhill** – This \$62.2 million project to reconstruct the interchange at Mayhill and I-35E is projected to begin in June 2022. The 95% plans are underway and are expected by the end of July 2020; the 95% plan set will incorporate traffic and final survey. Additional Level A SUE north of Mayhill and south of Loop 288 is underway and is expected to be

complete by the end of July 2020. Utility coordination meeting to be held on July 21, 2020.

**I-35/35E/35W Merge** – Pavement design conference held on June 25, 2020, and pavement design report has been prepared for District approval. Level B SUE for -090 is complete.

**I-35E/US 77/Dallas Drive Interim Improvements** – The estimated \$50 million project will involve interim improvements to northbound I-35E exit to Dallas Drive, I-35E service road and southbound lanes of Dallas Drive. TxDOT is reviewing possibility of design and construction to address safety concerns at I-35E exit to Dallas Drive, the northbound I-35E service road where it crosses the northbound exit ramp, and the southbound lanes of Dallas Drive.

**I-35E/Dobbs/Lake Sharon** – This \$30 million project involves reconstruction of the interchange and existing frontage roads. TxDOT and consultant are in the process of scoping and preparing a project schedule.

### County road and bridge updates

**Arvin Hill Road Project US 377 to Red Mesa** – Realigned Arvin Hill at US 377 is open. New Hope to US 377 scheduled completion September 2020.

**U.S. 377/Stewart/Arvin Hill Intersection Improvements** – Drainage structures under construction scheduled completion November 2020.

**Rockhill Road/Arvin Hill Road Project Red Mesa to UP RR** – Revisions to 100% plans for USACE comments underway. Utility relocation coordination ongoing.

**Sam Bass Road Project - FM 455 North of Nance Road** – Asphalt paving has started, drainage structures completed. Estimated completion November 2020.

**Pecan Valley Road Culvert Replacement** – Project delayed. Scheduled completion August 2020.

**Hackberry Creek Park Road Project** – Construction request and mitigation plan submitted to USACE.

**Lois Road West Culvert Replacement** – Survey and Engineering study ongoing.

**Indian Trail Improvements** – Engineering underway. Estimate 100% plans and bid package October 2020.

**Mayhill Road** – Construction completed in July 2020. Field inspection completed on June 30, 2020. Walk-throughs have been completed. On July 9, 2020, contractor completed work. City re-inspected project on July 10, 2020. Final acceptance paperwork is underway.

**Dallas North Tollway, Extension 4B** – 100% plans are expected in July 2020. Consultant is completing revisions requested by NTTA and anticipated submittal of final plan set to NTTA in mid-July 2020. NTTA anticipated advertising the project on July 17, 2020.

**Lake Sharon Extension** – Current activities include finishing headwalls on the creek crossing culverts and import of fill material. Upon completion of grading work, contractor will begin preparation for paving and project completion. Water is 95% complete; wastewater is 100% complete; drainage is 95% complete; and grading is 50% complete.

**Shady Shores Road** –An estimated \$10 million in STBG funds have been allocated for this project. TxDOT has drafted a funding agreement. Consultant submitted professional services agreement for preliminary engineering and environmental studies efforts. Anticipate commissioners court consideration of same in July 2020.

Denton County Precinct One Commissioner Hugh Coleman can be reached at (940) 349-2810. The main office is located at 1175 Union Hill Road in Sanger. He is also available by appointment only at the Steven E. Copeland Government Center at 1400 FM 424, Suite 139 in Cross Roads or the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square at 110 W. Hickory St., Suite 323 in Denton.



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