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## **A Weekly Wrap Up of All Things Addison!**

**September 4, 2020**

**Council Update**

**COVID-19 Update**



On Wednesday, September 1, Dallas County lowered its COVID Risk Level from red, "Stay Home Stay Safe" to orange, "Extreme Caution" for the first time since May. This decision follows a decrease in hospital and ICU admissions over the past two weeks. People over 65 or in a high-risk group should still avoid in-person activities.

Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Dr. Philip Huang also said people should continue to observe the precautions that have helped lower the infection rate in the county and that lowering the risk level wasn't a cue to relax precautions. You can read more in this [Dallas Morning News](#) story.

To date, Addison has had a total of 292 confirmed COVID-19 cases and no deaths according to Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS). DCHHS releases new numbers every Tuesday and Friday and [reports can be found on their website here](#).

As a reminder, the [Executive Order](#) issued by Governor Greg Abbott on July 2 requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces remains in effect. Please continue to also follow these preventative measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).

For more Addison COVID-19 updates, please visit [www.addisontexas.net/covid19](http://www.addisontexas.net/covid19).

## Town Offices Closed September 7 for Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, Town offices will be closed on Monday, September 7. If you need assistance over the holiday, please call the non-emergency public safety number at 972-450-7156.

Trash and recycling collection will still be collected as usual.

The Athletic Club will also be closed on September 7, but the outside pool will be open from 12pm - 7pm.

## Council Holds First Public Hearing on Tax Rate and Budget

At a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 1, the City Council held the first of two public hearings on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 tax rate and budget. At the August Budget Work Sessions, Council gave direction to staff to use a tax rate for FY 2021 of \$0.616878 per \$100 of valuation, which was slightly higher than the tax rate proposed in the [City Manager's proposed budget](#). The rate of \$0.616878 per \$100 of valuation is higher than last year's adopted rate of \$0.583500 per \$100 of valuation, but does not exceed the no-new-revenue tax rate, which is the tax rate that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the Town from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year. A calculation of Addison's no-new-revenue tax rate, voter-approval tax rate, and de minimus rate was published in the *Dallas Morning News* on August 29, 2020, but is also available on the [Town's website here](#).

Due to an increase in the number of property tax value protests and operational disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dallas County Appraisal District (DCAD) was unable to provide a final certified tax roll before the City Manager was required to submit his budget to Council on July 31. DCAD instead provided the Town with a certified estimate, which was far below actual anticipated values so the Town used an internal estimate of values to calculate the proposed tax rate. Addison received the certified tax values from DCAD on August 20 and they totaled \$4,925,943,024, which is just over \$62 million more than the Town's internal estimate.

In addition, since the proposed budget was submitted to Council, the Town also learned that health care insurance rates will not increase next year. The proposed budget anticipated a 5% increase.

Based on the new information regarding health care costs and the fact that taxable values were higher than estimated, Council discussed and directed staff to lower the tax rate from \$0.616878 per \$100 of assessed value to \$0.608676 per \$100 of assessed value at the September 1 meeting.

The average taxable home value in Addison is \$335,597, which would generate a tax bill of \$2,043 at a tax rate of \$0.608676 per \$100 of assessed value. Last year, the average taxable home value was \$329,891 which generated a tax bill of \$1,925. The average taxpayer would pay about \$118 more in property taxes than last year at the rate discussed by Council at the September 1 meeting. Individual taxes may increase or decrease depending on the change in the taxable value of your property.

A property owner's total property tax bill is impacted by the tax rates and exemptions adopted by other taxing entities such as the Dallas County, the Dallas Independent School District, the Dallas County Community College District, and Parkland Hospital. Taxes paid by Addison homeowners to the city equal approximately 24% of their total tax bill.

You can [watch the Council's discussion tax rate discussion here](#) and [read the presentation here](#). You can [watch the Council's budget discussion here](#) and [read the presentation here](#).

## Council Approves Agreement with the Texas Coalition for Affordable Power for Wholesale Energy and Service Agreement with GEXA Energy

In 2002, the State's electric deregulation legislation authorized the creation of electric aggregation groups to consolidate city electric procurements and thereby negotiate beneficial pricing. The Texas Coalition for Affordable Power (TCAP) now aggregates the electric needs of 165 members, including the Town of Addison.

In previous TCAP contracts, the aggregation group signed contracts for up to five years with one generator. The challenge was always when to lock-in for the next contract term. Electric costs are directly tied to present and future natural gas costs in the commodities futures markets. A weather event like a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico or international tensions in the Middle East can affect oil and natural gas prices and make finalizing an electric deal at the wrong time significantly more expensive.

With the hope of reducing future electric costs, TCAP studied past natural gas cost trends to explore ways to take advantage of trends in the natural gas futures market. This led to a new contracting proposal that TCAP termed its "Strategic Hedging Program" (SHP). The goal of the SHP is to look ahead for advantageous future natural gas costs and over time award shorter-term electric supply contracts to up to five highly qualified generators rather than just award the contract to a single vendor for many years at one point in time. Not only does this provide the lowest pricing in the market, but it helps the Town avoid certain expenses resulting from long-term contracts. Addison currently pays 3.684 cents per kilowatt hour and hopes this program will bring that cost down over time.

At its August 25 meeting, the City Council approved a professional services contract with TCAP to participate in the SHP. You can [watch the Council's SHP discussion here](#).

In a related item, Council also approved a Commercial Electric Service Agreement (CESA) between the Town and GEXA Energy, the current Retail Electric Provider of TCAP to begin after January 1, 2023. GEXA schedules the purchased electricity on the ERCOT grid to meet member demands, bills member cities, settles the market at ERCOT, assists with new individual account establishment and account termination, and interfaces with Addison's Transmission and Distribution Company, ONCOR electric.

You can [watch Council's GEXA discussion here](#).

## Upcoming Public Hearing

The following Public Hearings will take place during the September 8 Council Meeting at the Addison TreeHouse, 14681 Midway Road. The agenda [will be posted here](#) three days prior to the meeting.

Fiscal Year Tax Rate and Budget. The Addison City Council will hold its second public hearings on the [City Manager's proposed 2021 budget and tax rate](#).

Case 1817-Z/UDR Fiori. Public hearing on a recommendation regarding an ordinance changing the zoning on a 4.40-acre property located at 3990 Vitruvian Way, which is currently zoned PD, Planned Development, through Ordinance O07-034, as previously amended by ordinances O13-026, O16-017, and O19-06, by changing the density of the residential development.

As a reminder, Addison City Council Meetings are now being held in person at the Addison TreeHouse at 14681 Midway Road. Meetings will be open to the public, but masks are required and social distancing must be observed. Opportunities for public comment will be available in person, but will also still take place virtually during the meeting's public comment period and specified Public Hearings. Members of the public who would like to participate remotely should:

- Email the last four digits of the telephone number you will be dialing in on, as well as the item you would like to speak about, to City Secretary Irma Parker at [iparker@addisontx.gov](mailto:iparker@addisontx.gov).
- At the appointed meeting start time, call this toll-free dial-in number: 877-853-5247
- When prompted, enter Meeting ID 409 327 0683#,
- Select # when prompted to enter a participant ID
- You will be placed in a waiting room. When it is your time to address Council, you will be placed in the meeting by the meeting administrator. Please remember that normal rules for public comment apply: Please state your name and address. You will be allowed three minutes to speak and Council isn't permitted to respond during this time.

Please note that if you are viewing a meeting via a live streaming process, there will be a delay in the video since video takes time to transmit over the Internet to your device. You can also email comments to the City Secretary at [iparker@addisontx.gov](mailto:iparker@addisontx.gov) by 3pm on the day of the meeting and they will be read into the record.

The meeting on Tuesday, September 8 begins at 6:30pm and the agenda will be posted [here](#) three days prior.

## Around Addison

### Oncor Tower Replacement Update

The rain this week has slowed construction of the Oncor Tower Replacement project at Redding Trail, but the project is still on schedule. A full schedule is listed below:

August 10 – October 30: Install foundations and Line Construction

- A reduced portion of the Redding Trail Dog Park will open for use. Closures for construction required.
- The trail will be closed to the public.

November 1 – 30: Clean-up & Restoration

- Oncor will clean-up and repair damage to the landscape and irrigation.
- Addison parks crews will install the pedestrian light poles and replacement vegetation.
- The trail is closed out of precaution for safety. Please do not access the trail corridor. We will notify you when the trail re-opens in November.

[This map](#) shows alternative trail and sidewalk routes that can be used. Thank you for your patience during this project.

### Don't Miss Doggie Splash Days



Doggie Splash Days are back this year at the Athletic Club, but will look a little different than how it was in the past. In order to allow for social distancing, the Club is offering several opportunities for your furry friend to swim, but each session is limited to 10 spaces.

Please register at the Athletic Club front desk to reserve your spot. The fee is \$5 per dog, you can only register for one date, and proof of updated shots is required. Masks (for the owners!) are required.

Tuesday, 9/8 from 4pm - 5pm  
Wednesday, 9/9 from 4pm - 5pm  
Thursday, 9/10 from 4pm - 5pm  
Saturday, 9/12 from 10am - 11am  
Saturday, 9/12 from 11am - 12pm

If you have any questions, please contact the Addison Athletic Club at [athleticclub@addisontx.gov](mailto:athleticclub@addisontx.gov) or 972-450-7048.

### 2020 Census Deadline Extended



There's still time to be counted in the 2020 Census. The deadline to submit your response has been extended to September 30 due to the pandemic. Completing the Census is

quick, easy, and important! While you are practicing social distancing at home, please take a few minutes to fill out your Census. Once you receive your invitation, you can respond by mail, telephone, or online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov).

## How to Stay Informed

Addison shares information with the community in a number of different ways. Here are some ways you can stay updated on the latest news:

### Website:

- [www.addisontexas.net](https://www.addisontexas.net): Find alerts and updates on the homepage and department specific updates on department pages
- [www.addisontexas.net/covid19](https://www.addisontexas.net/covid19): Find specific COVID-19 updates and resources

### Social Media:

- [Addison Facebook](#)
- [Visit Addison Facebook](#)
- [Addison Twitter](#)
- [Visit Addison Twitter](#)
- [NextDoor](#)

**Addison Weekly Digital Newsletter:** Emails are sent weekly, or more frequently as needed.

If you have specific questions, please contact Addison's Marketing Department at [marketing@addisontx.gov](mailto:marketing@addisontx.gov).

## Follow CDC Social Distancing Guidelines

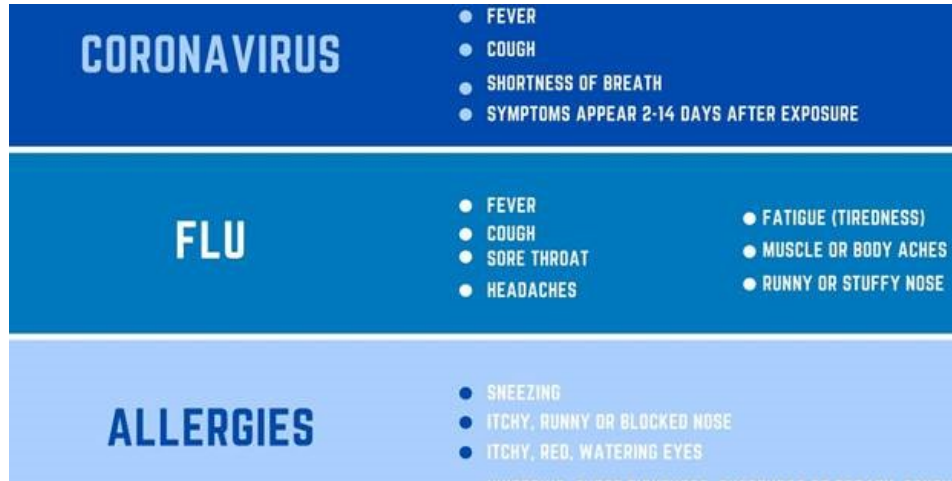


The Town of Addison is taking action to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We would like to encourage everyone to join us. The CDC has encouraged the community to practice social distancing, but also to follow these steps to minimize the spread of any disease:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).

Below are some symptoms to be aware of:



If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Dallas County directly at 972-692-2780 (Hours: 9am - 3:30pm, Monday - Friday).

For additional resources, visit the [Town's website here](#).

### Important Numbers and Websites

**Town Hall:**  
972-450-7000

**Non-emergency Police Dispatch:**  
972-450-7156

**Missed Trash:**  
972-392-9300, Option 2

[Request Bulk Trash Pickup](#)

**Athletic Club:**  
972-450-7048

[Addison Website](#)

Sign up for [Addison Alerts](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[List of Restaurants](#)

[Addison News](#)

[Community Crime Map](#)

[Watch City Council Meetings](#)

[Addison's PEG Channel](#)  
(channel 99 for AT&T subscribers,  
channel 16 for Spectrum subscribers)

[Register your Security Alarm](#)

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*This newsletter is produced by the Town of Addison Marketing and Communications Department. Please direct any comments to [marketing@addisontx.gov](mailto:marketing@addisontx.gov). Click [here](#) to subscribe!*

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