

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Southwest Regional Communications Center Implements Automatic Vehicle Locator System

Southwest Regional Communications Center (SWRCC) is the 911 Call Center for the cities of DeSoto, Cedar Hill and Duncanville. This regional cooperative effort has been in place for more than 15 years and has proved to be a very cost efficient and effective way to dispatch emergency calls for service.

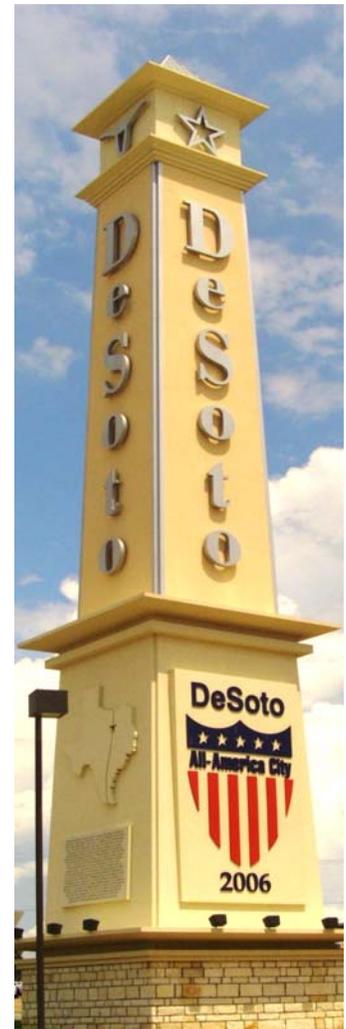
In a continuing effort to provide the best service possible to citizens, the DeSoto, Cedar Hill and Duncanville Fire Departments have been working on an initiative with SWRCC, to create a “boundary-less” fire zone that covers all three cities and ultimately shrinks routing and response times. The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software used by SWRCC includes a program called Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL). AVL can automatically determine and transmit the geographic location of a vehicle in the system. In this case, it is being used to track the location of fire apparatus.

In simple terms, the AVL works like this; when dispatch receives a call for service, it is “pinged” on a map with XY coordinates. The AVL system is embedded in each fire apparatus and it also contains the XY coordinates of that apparatus’ location. The system maps and selects the closer appropriate unit to the incident location and that unit is dispatched to respond to the call for help. The selection is complex because the AVL software also calculates the nature of the call, distance, speed limits, school zones, and intersections as well as the unit’s availability. As a result, an emergency call from a residence in Cedar Hill may be answered by fire apparatus from DeSoto if that piece of equipment is determined by AVL to be the closer unit to the location.

“Any time effectiveness and efficiency can be increased, it’s a good thing,” said DeSoto Fire Chief, Jerry Duffield. “SWRCC is one of the first agencies in the Metroplex to dispatch for multiple cities and continues to be on the cutting edge. The addition of the AVL system takes that to the next level saving money and lives,” said Chief Duffield.

The AVL system is used for both fire and medical calls.

“I believe this approach is innovative and the fire and emergency communication management personnel for all three cities are excited to shorten response times and utilize this tool as a more efficient way to get help to our communities in the tri city area,” said Karima Dash, Managing Director of the Southwest Regional Communications Center.



City Calendar

May

3 Concert - Corner Theatre 3 pm
4 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6pm
4 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
7 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
7 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
10 Concert - Corner Theatre 3pm
12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall -7 pm
14 Don Diego Concert Amphitheater 7 pm
16 R.L. Griffin Concert Senior Ctr. 7 pm
18 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
21 Linny Nance Concert - Amphitheater 7pm
25 City Offices & Facilities Closed
26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
30 Community Dev. Block Grant Mtg. -City Hall - 5 pm

June

1 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
1 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
1 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
4 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
4 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
7 Creekfest - Outdoor Amphitheater 5pm
9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall -7 pm
10 Kick-off Library Summer Reading Club
16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm

Do you need a helping hand? Great Days of Service Can Help!

Great Days of Service, a cooperative effort between the City of DeSoto, area churches and community volunteers, is looking for a few homes in DeSoto that need painting and/or minor repairs. To qualify for the program, these homes must be owner occupied and the homeowner should be elderly, disabled or financially challenged. The work will be done by volunteers during the week of June 22nd through 27th but applications for service must be received by May 15, 2015. If you know of someone who can benefit from this program, please contact the City of DeSoto at 972.230.9643 to request an application for service.

DeSoto's First Unsung Heroes is June Averitte



Kimberly Wilson, pictured above on the left, answered Cpl. Nick's (center) plea to the public to nominate an Unsung Hero. She nominated her neighbor, Mrs. June Averitte (right). In her words, "Mrs. Averitte is a phenomenal and stoic caregiver. When I moved to DeSoto in 1997, she was the first one to welcome me to the neighborhood. She is like a second mother to me. I was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Mrs. Averitte brought food and checked on me often once I was discharged from the hospital. She also cared for me when I was recovering from eye surgery. In addition to being a caring neighbor and housewife, Mrs. Averitte travels to Tulsa, Oklahoma to care for her special needs granddaughter. I could not ask for a better neighbor. She watches my home when I'm out of town and I do the same for her. I always give her and her husband a gift card at Christmas time as a token of my gratitude. I am very fortunate to have them as neighbors. Mrs. Averitte also volunteers at the DeSoto Senior Center where she teaches a knitting class. Mrs. Averitte's tireless efforts are worthy of this recognition."

DeSoto Police are happy to recognize Mrs. June Averitte as our first Unsung Hero. See the video of Cpl. Nick's interview with Ms. Wilson and Mrs. Averitte on the City of DeSoto YouTube page at desotocity (a link to the City's YouTube channel is located on the City website at www.desototexas.gov in the bottom right hand corner of the homepage). The video will also play on DeSoto Cable Channel 16 for Time Warner subscribers and on AT&T Channel 99 daily at 1pm and 6pm. To nominate your Unsung Hero send an email to Cpl. Nick at nbristow@desototexas.gov.

MAY 7 • 2015

Lord, hear Our Cry

Mayor Carl Sherman invites you to attend DeSoto's National Day of Prayer Service at DeSoto City Hall 7am. Please join us as we pray for our City, State, and Nation.

"Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day." — 1 Kings 8:28

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

It's Severe Weather and Tornado Season

Texas averages 125 tornadoes every year - more than any other state. Oklahoma comes in second with an average of 57 per year. Twisters can occur at any time of year but spring and summer are considered tornado season in Texas. While tornadoes can happen at any time of day, they are most likely to occur between 3 and 9 pm. So when your afternoon talk show or evening sitcom is interrupted for a tornado watch or warning, please take notice.

When a Tornado Watch or Warning Has Been Issued, Look out For:

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Wall cloud/Supercell (a heavy, lowering cloud that is rain-free and may begin to rotate)
- Large hail
- Loud roar; similar to a freight train

Caution:

- Some tornadoes appear as a visible funnel extending only partially to the ground. Look for signs of debris below the visible funnel.
 - Tornadoes can be obscured by rain or nearby low-hanging clouds.
- SOURCE: Nature's Most Violent Storms, A Preparedness Guide, USDC, NOAA, NWS**

Tornado Safety Tips:

Designate a shelter area in your home or place of business and go there during severe weather when warning sirens sound.

- DeSoto, Duncanville and Cedar Hill have early warning systems consisting of outdoor sirens strategically located throughout the area. These sirens can be activated simultaneously for an area-wide weather warning or individually or in small groups for localized emergencies

including:

- ⇒ The National Weather Services issues a Tornado Warning
- ⇒ The National Weather Services issues a Severe Thunderstorm Warning with the phrase "Destructive winds in excess of 70 mph are likely with this storm"
- ⇒ Trained storm spotters have reported a tornado that is in or has the potential to affect the community
- ⇒ Reported hail of 1.25" in diameter or larger or 1 inch for areas or events where large numbers of people are outdoors
- When sirens sound, take cover. If an underground shelter is not available, choose an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor. Note: Lower-level interior bathrooms provide the best protection if no basement is available. The plumbing provides additional sturdiness to the walls.
- Stay away from windows.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car - leave it immediately and seek shelter in a sturdy building.
- Mobile homes should always be abandoned during severe weather. If no shelter is available, get out of vehicles and find the most low-lying area (ditch, ravine, etc.) lay flat on your stomach and cover your head with your hands.
- Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible. Remain alert for signs of an approaching tornado and watch for flying debris.



DeSoto Public Library Is Looking For Teen Volunteers!

Teens ages 13 to 18 are encouraged to apply for the DeSoto Public Library's seven week Teen Summer Volunteer Program (TSVP). The program provides confidence building volunteer experience, practical job skills, customer and public service experience, and an introduction to possible careers in libraries. Volunteer duties include shelving materials, assisting with Summer Reading Club activities, becoming a Book Buddy (reading with children ages 4 – 11), being a Teen Techie who assists customers in the library's computer lab, or assisting with Teen Summer Programs. It's also a great way to earn community service hours.

The TSVP begins Monday, June 15, 2015. Interested teens may apply beginning April 15th through May 26th either on the library's webpage, www.desototexas.gov/library, or by picking up a paper application at the library during regular business hours. Applicants will be interviewed, and if selected, must attend an orientation session. For more information, please contact Ms. Marq Runnels at 972.230.9663.

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Event

May 9, 2015 9 am to noon
Westmoreland Pump Station
620 N. Westmoreland

This event is for DeSoto residents only, proof of residency is required. Only residential household hazardous waste will be accepted, commercial waste or electronics are not allowed. Due to limited space, those who would like to participate must register prior to the event. Residents may sign up beginning April 9th by calling the Action Center at 972.230.9600.



"Should smoking be banned in DeSoto?" and let us know what you think.
desototexas.gov/engagedesoto.



Free Outdoor Concert Series
 sponsored by
DeSoto Parks & Recreation



Don Diego
 Thursday, May 14th
 7:00 P.M.
 Town Center Ampitheater
 Contemporary jazz fusion
 saxophonist



R. L. Griffin
 Saturday, May 16th
 7:00 P.M.
 Town Center Ampitheater
 Blues performer



**Candy Williams with Rob Holbert
 and Linny Nance and the Band**
 Thursday, May 21st
 7:00 P.M.
 Town Center Ampitheater
 Soul/jazz singer songwriter.



CREEKFEST ★
 Saturday, June 6th
 4:00 - 10:00 P.M.
 Town Center Ampitheater
 Bring you lawn chair and get a good seat in the Amphitheater for a full evening of entertainment, food, vendors booths and fun. Admission is free.

BLUE CANDLELIGHT MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS:



**LEENA
 CONQUEST
 TRIO**

05/03
 3pm
 uptown
 downtown
 desoto
 concert series



**DEMARRE
 MCGILL**
 with BAYA KAKOUBERI

05/10
 3pm

All performances take place at the DeSoto Corner Theatre located in DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Tickets for all performances are just \$10 and available at the door or at Artsdesoto.com.



**STOCTON
 HELBING
 TRIO**

05/24
 3pm

ARTSDESOTO.com | DeSoto Corner Theater



desototexas.gov/parks
facebook.com/desotorec

10th ANNUAL CITY OF DESOTO
 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**MOTHER & SON
 DANCE**

May 2, 2015
 Saturday 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 DeSoto Town Center
 211 E. Pleasant Run Road
 PRE-ORDER TICKETS:
 No tickets sold at the door
 \$30 per couple
 \$15 for each additional son
 CONTACT:
 Carolyn Campbell - 972.230.9651
ccampbell@desototexas.gov



★ Come out to enjoy a lovely evening of music, dancing, light refreshments and receive a 5x7 photograph to remember the evening.

THE DESOTO POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

The 18th Annual Senior Symposium and Health Fair



Working together with seniors to enrich their lives and improve their community.

Tuesday May 12, 2015 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

DESOTO TOWN CENTER

211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, Texas 75115

Residents of DeSoto age 55 and older are eligible to attend but **must register**. This **no cost** symposium includes valuable information and resources for our senior community. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be provided.

Name: _____ Send Registration to:
 Address: _____ DeSoto Police Department
 City: _____ 714 E Belt Line Road
 Phone: _____ DeSoto, Texas 75115
 Email: _____

Send Attn: to or contact Officer Sherman Williams or Mark Howard 469-658-3055

Or email swilliams@desototexas.gov or mhoward@desototexas.gov

Please return your completed registration form NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2015