

# DeSoto City Lights

*A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department*

## ***DeSoto Firefighters Receive Life Saving Award***

A group of DeSoto firefighters were recognized at a recent City Council meeting for their efforts in saving the life of Tim McDarby who had experienced a heart attack.

DeSoto Fire Rescue was recently awarded \$243,000 through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighter's Grant. These funds allowed them to purchase new equipment including four Life Pak Cardiac Monitors and four Lucas 2 Chest Compression Devices. The very first emergency call that was received following installation and training on use of the new equipment was for Mr. McDarby. Firefighter/paramedics immediately employed the new equipment upon arriving on scene, ultimately reviving Mr. McDarby.

"If we don't get a patient back within a couple of minutes, the outcome is usually not good," said DeSoto Fire Captain Bryan Southard, during his presentation to the City Council. "The Lucas device allows us to continue compressions indefinitely and Mr. McDarby was revived after nineteen minutes, suffering no long-term deficits."

During the award presentation, Mr. McDarby told the City Council his doctor said "I don't know how you made it, but here you are!" Mr. McDarby and his family and friends pictured here were obviously very appreciative and happy to take part in presenting the Life Saving Awards. Those honored include; Firefighter Alvin Skelton, Firefighter Kennedy Mullens, Firefighter Brandon Kennedy, Firefighter Weston White and Captain Bryan Whitacre.

The Lucas devices have been installed on all four of DeSoto's ambulances allowing existing equipment to be moved to the fire apparatus. Since all DeSoto Fire personnel serve in the dual capacity of firefighter and certified paramedic, the installation of cardiac monitors to our fire apparatus upgrades them to Paramedic Engine status. This allows the personnel on an engine to provide the same cardiac monitoring as the ambulances. Transport to the hospital continues to be accomplished by ambulances.

The Lucas devices have been shown to substantially increase survivability in a cardiac event. "They replace manual compressions allowing safer and more efficient use of manpower," said DeSoto Fire Chief Jerry Duffield.



## City Calendar

### February

2 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 2 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 2 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm  
 2 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm  
 4 Daddy/Daughter Dance Civic Ctr. 7pm  
 6 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6pm  
 6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 14 Planning & Zoning Mtg.—Canceled  
 21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 24 Dallas Black Dance Theater - DHS 7pm  
 25 Heart to Serve Event - Civic Ctr. 11am  
 27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

### March

2 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 2 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 2 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm  
 6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 6 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm  
 7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 14 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm  
 21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 24 Drea Randle Concert - Civic Ctr. 7:30 pm  
 25 HOA Involvement Event- City Hall 9 am  
 27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 28 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm

### A Message from Code Enforcement

Please maintain property free of any junk motor vehicles. A junk motor vehicle is any vehicle that is inoperative and remains inoperative for more than 45 days or is inoperative and does not have a current registration sticker or inspection sticker. A junk motor vehicle is also any vehicle which is wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled or discarded. These vehicles may not be visible anywhere in the public view, public right-of-way, street or any other private property.



## Connecting The Community With Valuable Resources

"I think it's so important that our residents have easy access to information regarding social services and resources available to them in our area," said DeSoto Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Proctor. "Many valuable resources out there often go unused, not because there isn't a need for them but because the people that need them aren't aware they exist. That's why we, as a City, put forth the effort to bring awareness to the Texas 2-1-1 program."



Texas 2-1-1 is a valuable database that houses information for community resources ranging from assistance with health care and disability, employment, education, legal issues, housing, crisis counseling, transportation needs, and much more.

The City has launched a new page on our website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) that links to the 2-1-1 Texas program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Just click on E-Services at the top of the City's homepage and look for the Community Resources link.

2-1-1 Texas is committed to helping Texas citizens connect with the services they need. Whether by phone or internet, the goal is to present accurate, well-organized and easy-to-find information from state and local health and human services programs.

In addition to their website, 2-1-1 Texas operates a free, anonymous, social services hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year that can be reached by dialing 2-1-1 or 877-541-7905.

"I also want to urge social service providers and non-profit organizations in DeSoto to register with 2-1-1 Texas so our residents can be referred to services in their local area," said Proctor.

Information on how to register your non-profit community or social service organization with 2-1-1 Texas is posted on the City's website. Just click on the Community Resources page under E-Services on the homepage.

"I'm excited to know that such a simple solution exists to meet a myriad of needs for our community," said Mayor Pro Tem Proctor.

**DeSoto Living! Festival**  
 SAT. APR 1st // 10-4  
 at DeSoto East Middle School

- wellness zone** Sponsored by METHODIST CHARLTON MEDICAL CENTER
- kids zone** Sponsored by DESOTO ISD
- pet zone** Sponsored by ACCESS SELF-STORAGE
- market place** Sponsored by DESOTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
- safe zone** Sponsored by REUNION CAPITAL OF TEXAS
- green zone** Sponsored by ONCOR
- DeSoto Live!** Sponsored by BANK OF DESOTO
- DeSoto Drives** Sponsored by ATKINSON TOYOTA

vendor booths + sponsorships available call 972.224.3565

Logos at the bottom include: Chamber of Commerce, Bank of Desoto, Federal Grocers, Access Self Storage and Truck Rental, DeSoto ISD, Methodist Health System, RTX, EDC, and ONCOR.

## *The 2017 Best Southwest Everything Teen Expo Will Be Bigger and Better Than Ever Before!!*

Plans are underway for the Best Southwest Everything Teen Expo 2017 and it's going to be bigger and better than before. The Teen Expo will be held on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 3 pm at the DeSoto Civic Center, located in DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road.

We're expecting over 1,500 teens ages 13 to 18 to participate in this year's free community event that will enrich the lives of teens by connecting them with community resources, services, and support. Teens will learn about valuable resources, services and programs especially designed for them. They will connect and build positive relationships with professionals in their community through fun and engaging interactions. This event is planned and organized largely by teens from DeSoto, Cedar Hill, Lancaster and Duncanville.



The Everything Teen Expo is a one day event that will feature workshops, motivational speakers, entertainment, giveaways and more. WFAA's Meteorologist, Greg Fields will make a special appearance at the event and provide insight into the weather profession. He will also speak to teens on "Making Right Choices" at the Expo.

Other exhibitors include: UT Dallas, Barnes & Noble book store, Perot Museum, Girls Inc., MB2B (Mentoring Brother to Brother), Mary Kay Cosmetics, Modeltude Agency, Growing N2U, and Bridging the Gap - The Owens Foundations. These are just some of the businesses and organizations who have officially signed up and there will be more to come. We have also invited some of the top schools in the DFW area to showcase their teen organizations and students. Teens may register to attend this event at [www.desototexas.gov/everythingteenexpo](http://www.desototexas.gov/everythingteenexpo). For more information, contact Ms. Marq Runnels, DeSoto Public Library Teen Volunteer Coordinator, at 972.230.9663.



## **Calling All HOA Members!**

Join us for the twelfth annual HOA Involvement Workshop on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9 am to noon at DeSoto City Hall. Information is a key element in effective neighborhood involvement and this workshop is designed to provide representatives of DeSoto's neighborhood and homeowners' associations with the information they need to make their neighborhood a better, safer place to live. Members of all registered DeSoto HOA's are encouraged to take part whether your association is new or well-established. To attend the workshop or for more information, please call 972.230.9643 or email [nbond@desototexas.gov](mailto:nbond@desototexas.gov).



### **APRIL RECYCLING EVENT**

**April 8, 2017**

**9 am to 12 pm**

**DeSoto Service Center,  
809 W. Spinner Rd.**

### **Document Shredding & E-Recycling**

Event ends at noon or when trucks are full. Proof of DeSoto residency is required. Call the Action Center at 972.230.9600 for details on items accepted.



The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to join us for the next free concert in our Fourth Friday Music Series, An Evening of Gospel with Drea Randle. This free concert will take place at 7:30 pm on Friday, March 24th in the Blue Bonnet Rooms in the DeSoto Civic Center.

Drea Randle has sung with the greatest and performed before the multitudes. Often compared to both Fantasia Barrino and Kim Burrell, Drea was first introduced to the industry through the Prince of Gospel himself, John P. Kee. For four years, she traveled as a lead vocalist for Kee and appeared on his highly successful "Stand", "Strength", and various Christmas albums. Even though Drea was creating a buzz, it was not until the release of the "Strength" album that Drea's name would become a mainstay in the gospel industry. In 1999, Drea released her first album through Verity Records entitled "Ooo-Wee". The project was produced by non-other than Kee. The album birthed such hits as "Ooo-Wee", "Difference", and of course, the funky

composition "Bounce Back". The success of her album resulted in her charting on Billboard and selling over 30,000 units.

In 2003, Bishop T.D. Jakes invited Drea to be a lead vocalist on the T.D. Jakes & The Potter's House "A Wing and A Prayer" Album where she lead the sassy and ever-popular tune "It's Already Done". This song garnered Drea her first national television appearance on the B.E.T. Celebration of Gospel. Following that opportunity, she was featured on the The Potters House of Denver album leading "The Best Days of My Life".

Please register to attend this free concert at <https://marchfourthfridayconcert.eventbrite.com> or by calling 972-230-9648.

# DeSoto ISD CORNER

**TWO STUDENTS EARN ALL-STATE CHOIR**  
DeSoto High School added two All-State Choir Members - Brayla Cook (Jr) & Juliana Simonfalvi (Fr) in January. Brayla made the All-State Mixed Choir and Juliana made the All-State Treble Choir. DHS had five students total qualify for the competition, and one also qualified for the band competition. Samuel Orta, qualified for Area in both band and choir. Byron Hanspard, Jr. and Montavion McKinney qualified for choir.

**CHOIR LONDON TOUR**  
The A Cappella Choir is preparing for their London Tour in March. About 25 students and chaperones will sing at various locations, tour London's landmarks, and enjoy a memorable experience!

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- March 13-17 – Spring Break
- April 3-5, May 1-3 – Pre-K and Kinder Roundup, Civic Center
- April 22, 6 p.m. – Education Foundation Gala
- April 22, 8 a.m. – Male Leadership Symposium, DHS
- May 5, 5:30 p.m. – Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony, DHS
- May 30, 7 p.m. - DHS Graduation at Eagle Stadium
- June 1 - Last Day of School







