

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

STAR Transit Will Provide Public Transportation Options for DeSoto Residents

The City of DeSoto launched a new grant-funded Transportation Program for low-to moderate-income DeSoto residents on January 1, 2018. This program provides \$100 monthly for use with Yellow Cab to residents who have qualified for the program based on their income. At this point, all available funding for Phase I of that program has been allocated and there are no more slots available this year. The program currently has several people on a waiting list and applications received during the remainder of 2018 will be placed on the waiting list as well. Grant funding for Phase II of the Transportation Program, which will benefit elderly and disabled persons in DeSoto, is currently pending approval by the North Texas Council of Governments.

In an attempt to address the need for public transportation in DeSoto, the City Council recently approved a contract with STAR Transit to provide alternatives to the grant-funded programs mentioned above. STAR Transit provides Demand Response and Fixed Route service including Job Access, and Reverse Commute Transportation. Beginning April 23, 2018, STAR Transit will offer DeSoto Fixed Route 501 which will operate Monday through Friday 4:45 am to 9:36 am and 2:45 pm to 7:36 pm. This route is open to anyone and rides are free until June 1, 2018. After that date, the fare goes to \$1 per boarding. Look for the temporary bus stop signs around DeSoto that will mark the Fixed Route 501.

If you are interested in learning more about their routes and service areas, how to qualify for reduced or free fare, or would like to schedule an on-demand ride, give STAR Transit a call to speak with one of their friendly scheduling agents who are available during normal business hours (8 am to 4 pm) at 877. 631.5278. Se Habla Español.

"I am excited the City of DeSoto is offering this transportation option for all DeSoto residents," said Curtistene McCowan, Mayor of DeSoto. The overarching goal of this new pilot program is to provide our citizens another important service to improve their quality of life.

"I am proud our City leadership has listened to both the citizens and business leaders and recognized the need for transportation services that provide access to jobs, school, medical appointments, social events and for numerous other purposes," said Mayor McCowan. "Enjoy the ride."



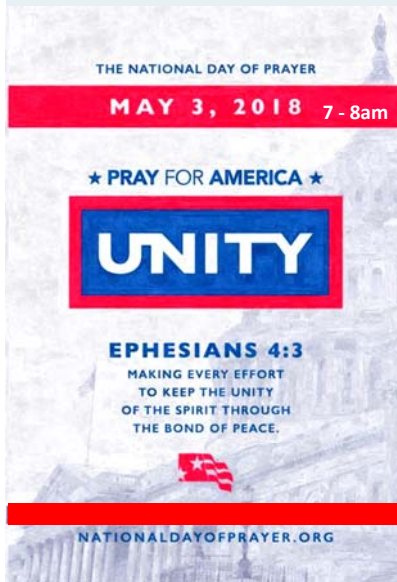
City Calendar

April

2 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6pm
2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
5 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
5 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm
14 Candidate Forum - City Hall - 10 am
14 HHW Event - Pump Station 9 am
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
21 Recycling Event-Service Ctr.- 9 am
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm
27 Classical Concert - Corner Theatre 7 pm
28 Everything Teen Event- Library

May

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 Historical Foundation Mtg.- 6 pm
5 HOA Involvement Workshop 9 am
5 Mother/Son Dance - Civic Ctr. 7 pm
7 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
7 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
15 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- canceled
19 Summer of Soul Party
22 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
25 Free Concert Poetry & Jazz - 7pm
28 City Offices Closed for Memorial Day



Mayor McCowan and local pastors invite the community to attend our annual National Day of Prayer Service on May 3rd at 7 am at DeSoto City Hall, 211 E. Pleasant Road. Please join us as we pray for our City, State, and Nation.

A Message from Code Enforcement

Did you know... that the fence on your property should be maintained at all times? It is unlawful to allow your fence to lean or to have missing, loose or broken slats or panels. The fence is not allowed to have any symbols, writings or other graffiti except for signs which pertain to the address or occupancy of the property. It is prohibited to have barbed wire, hog wire, or chicken wire or to have an electric fence.

If you have a swimming pool, a fence, structure or gate is required to completely surround the swimming pool to prevent small children from inadvertently wandering into the pool. This fence, structure or gate shall not be lower than (6) six feet in height, and not have any openings that will allow a four-inch diameter sphere to pass through; and all gates should have a self-closing and self-latching device designed to keep gates closed and locked at all times. A permit is required to build any fence on your property and can be obtained from Building Inspection at City Hall, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. or by calling (972) 230-9610.



Municipal Election Update

The DeSoto City Council approved an Ordinance at their March 6, 2018 meeting to accept the Certification of Unopposed candidates and declared unopposed candidates for Councilmember Place 6, Candice Quarles and Councilmember Place 7, Kenzie Moore III elected to office. As a result, the municipal election called for May 5, 2018 will be canceled. However, the City of DeSoto will hold a special election on May 5, 2018 to consider amendments to the City's Home Rule Charter. These Propositions will appear on the ballot:

Proposition A ballot language shall read:

Shall Article II, Section 5 and Section 16 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to authorize the City Council to fill by appointment a vacancy in the office of Mayor or councilmember when less than one year remains on the term of the office vacated as allowed by State law.

_____ For _____ Against

Proposition B ballot language shall read:

Shall Article II, Section 5 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to clarify that 5 members of the City Council constitute a quorum for purposes of voting on any matter, however, 4 members of the City Council constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting a meeting for discussion when no action is being taken by the City Council.

_____ For _____ Against

Proposition C ballot language shall read:

Shall Article VII, Section 14 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to conform with provisions of State law.

_____ For _____ Against

Proposition D ballot language shall read:

Shall Article VIII, Section 1 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to eliminate language regarding limits on bond projects and such issuance shall conform to State law.

_____ For _____ Against

Proposition E ballot language shall read:

Shall Article XII, Section 13 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to eliminate language requiring that each Councilmember and the Mayor appoint 3 members to the Citizens Charter Review Commission but still require the Citizens Charter Review Commission to consist of 21 members appointed by the City Council.

_____ For _____ Against

Proposition F ballot language shall read:

Shall Article XII, Section 13 of the DeSoto City Charter be Amended to correct typographical errors.

_____ For _____ Against

Early Voting and voting on Election Day, May 5th, will take place at Disciple Central Community Church located at 901 North Polk Street, DeSoto, Texas. The Early Voting schedule is as follows:

Monday, April 23 through Friday, April 27, 2018 (8 am until 5 pm)

Saturday, April 28, 2018 (8 am until 5 pm)

Sunday, April 29, 2018 (1 pm until 6 pm)

Monday, April 30, 2018 through Tuesday, May 1, 2018 (7 am until 7 pm)

If you have any questions, please contact the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646.

Free Mosquito Dunks for DeSoto Residents

The City of DeSoto is partnering with the Dallas County Health and Human Services Department to provide free Mosquito Dunks. DeSoto residents may drop by the City of DeSoto Action Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run and pick them up while supplies last (limit one package per household). Mosquito Dunks are placed in water sources where mosquitoes breed and work to kill the larvae before they hatch into breeding mosquitoes. Mosquito Dunks are completely organic and safe for the environment. Call the Action Center at 972.230.9600 for more information.



To **anonymously** submit information on potential City policy violation or unethical or fraudulent behavior, please visit:

www.DeSotoTexas.gov/hotline

You can also call our automated phone hotline **24** hours a day, **7** days a week.

Anonymous
855.858.3344

BKD INTEGRA
REPORT

DeSoto Parks & Recreation Director, Renee Johnson (pictured below at left) presented the DFW Park Directors Mentor Award for 2018 to Dr. Tarron J. Richardson, DeSoto City Manager (center) at a recent City Council meeting. The award recognizes Dr. Richardson for his ongoing efforts to support and encourage his staff, college interns and local DeSoto High School students through the Junior Civic Academy to pursue careers in local government. Mayor McCowan (right) congratulated Dr. Richardson for his leadership and vision.



Calling All HOA Representatives:

Join us for the thirteenth annual HOA Involvement Workshop on Saturday, May 5, 2018 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.

A highlight of the event will be a special presentation by Community Associations Institute (CAI). CAI provides information, education and resources to the homeowner volunteers who govern communities and the professionals who support them. The DeSoto Fire Department will also be on hand to offer tips for neighborhood fire safety and the DeSoto Library will provide information on the many programs they have available for residents as a part of their "Sharing Community Resources" presentation.

Members of all DeSoto HOA's and interested residents are encouraged to take part whether your association is new or well-established. The HOA Involvement Workshop is free and light refreshments will be provided.

To attend the workshop or for more information, please call 972.230.9643 or email nbond@desototexas.gov.



THE DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION

BENEATH THE STARS

SUMMER MUSIC & POETRY NIGHT

DESOTO TOWN CENTER AMPHITHEATER
211 E. PLEASANT RUN ROAD | DESOTO

05/25
SEVEN NINE

2018 POET CHARITY CHALLENGE
Poets are competing for a shot to win \$250 for their favorite charity AND a chance to open for our headliner for DeSoto Arts Live 2018!

MUSIC BY: DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND & SPOKEN WORD BY:

ADRIAN BUTLER & LESLIE POLK
PRINCETON MARCELLIS

FRIDAY, MAY 25 | 7-9
ArtsDesoto.com




DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover, Experience, Play!

13th Annual

MOTHER SON Dance

MAY 5TH • 6 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

DESOTO CIVIC CENTER | 211 E. PLEASANT RUN RD.
GENERAL ADMISSION \$35 PER COUPLE | VIP ADMISSION \$50 PER COUPLE
Tickets are available for additional children - Gen Admission \$17/50 child and VIP Admission \$25/child
PURCHASE TICKETS AT DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/REGISTER



DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover, Experience, Play!

ATKINSON TOYOTA
I-20 at Hampton Rd.
PRESENTS

Cherrelle

SIZZLING SUMMER of SOUL Party

MAY 19 8:00 P.M. to MIDNIGHT

ALL WHITE Affire

LIVE MUSIC // DRINKS // FOOD

TICKETS \$50/PERSON | PURCHASE ONLINE AT DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/REGISTER
HOME 2 SUITES by HILTON | 1300 E. CENTRE PARK BLVD., DESOTO, TX 75115

DESOTO

