

# DeSoto City Lights

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

## **VETS GAIN VALUABLE INFO AT DESOTO TOWN HALL & BENEFITS**

### **FAIR DeSoto Event Gives Veterans Shortcuts For Securing Better Services**

By Matt Smith, Communications Manager

DFW area Veterans who attended DeSoto's Town Hall Meeting and Benefits Fair on Saturday, March 30, 2019, likely expected to get some helpful information. But they probably didn't count on getting the large volume of candid, no-nonsense advice that was provided to them by our Town Hall panelists.

"I've been coming to these things for years but today I actually learned something!" said proud former U.S. Marine and 25-year DeSoto Police Veteran Officer Stacey Battle. "They knew first-hand the many challenges that Veterans face and gave us some really straightforward guidance that was very much appreciated."

DeSoto Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan, who opened and closed the Veterans Town Hall discussion, also came away with the feeling that the event went above and beyond for our Veterans. Said Mayor McCowan, "I'm extremely proud of DeSoto's Veterans and the sacrifices that they have made to keep us safe and free. I want them to understand DeSoto's commitment to honor them, respect them and serve them. I'm also proud of the job that our panelists and supporting organizations did to provide them with the types of information that can really make a difference in their lives."

VA Clinical Psychologist Rodney C. Teague, PHD pointed out that the Dallas/North Texas VA's Mental Health Division has more than 600 employees standing by to serve our Vets and that they serve over 30,000 unique individual Veterans on an annual basis. Said Teague, "We've got every type of service that you could possibly want or need from an institutional mental health standpoint. Everything from acute psychiatric care to partial hospitalization, to residential programs for homelessness and substance abuse, to all kinds of outpatient services, to comprehensive homeless services, to specialty services for military sexual trauma and transitioning Veterans. The list goes on and on!"

The Town Hall Meeting also featured the forthright insights of two senior Dallas County judges who render Veteran related judgements every day. Judge Margaret Jones-Johnson said the courts make an effort to divert Veterans from being sent to jail and also ensure that Veterans in this jurisdiction get the help they need, even if they are only passing through the DFW area.

Judge Dominique Collins, who runs Dallas County's Veterans Court, thoroughly understands the hurdles that many Veterans face. She spent 12 years on active duty and noted that seven of those months were spent "in the sand" during the first Gulf War. She posed a rhetorical question to Vets in the audience asking if they knew why there were so many Veterans in the State of Texas? Judge Collins promptly replied, "It's because they treat us well here. We've got the Veterans Land Board here and part of our lottery tickets go to help the Veterans. Texas treats its Veterans well, so we have a whole lot here and with all those Veterans comes all the stuff that comes with them." Judge Collins is also committed to helping Veterans in need of assistance. She invites them to her office located in the Frank Crowley Courts Building every Tuesday at 2pm where her staff helps Vets navigate the system. If you would like to connect with any of our panelist, please call 972.230.9648



## City Calendar

### April

1 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6 pm  
 1 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 2 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 4 KDB Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 4 Historical Foundation Mtg.- 6 pm  
 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm  
 13 Easter Egg Hunt - Zeiger Park - 11 am  
 13 Candidate Forum - City Hall 10 am  
 13 DeSoto Living Festival East Middle Sch.  
 16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 17 DeSoto Works! Job Fair - DC3 2-6 pm  
 19 City Offices & Facilities Closed  
 22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 25 Inside Gospel - Corner Theatre 7 pm  
 25 Public Safety Town Hall-City Hall - 7 pm  
 27 Teen Expo - Town Center - 10 am - 3 pm  
 27 Briarwood Fishing Day - 9 am - noon

### May

2 National Day of Prayer - City Hall 7 am  
 2 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 2 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 2 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm  
 4 Election Day  
 4 Document Shredding - Service Ctr. 9 am  
 4 Mother Son Dance - Civic Ctr. 7 pm  
 6 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:00 pm  
 6 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr.—6:30 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  
 20 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 24 Our Music Concert - Corner Theatre 7pm  
 27 City Offices & Facilities - Memorial Day  
 28 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Civic Ctr. -7 pm

Join Mayor McCowan for:

**THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019**

7 am - DeSoto City Council Chambers

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. JOHN 13:34

Join us as we pray for our city, state and nation.



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG #LOVE1ANOTHER

Coffee and light refreshments served.

**Public Safety Town Hall Meeting  
 Thursday, April 25th 6:30 pm  
 DeSoto City Council Chambers**

Mayor McCowan and Police Chief Costa invite you to attend to receive an update on public safety in DeSoto and provide input at this important meeting.



## Important Information About the Upcoming Municipal General and Special Elections

The City of DeSoto will hold a Municipal General and Special Election on May 4, 2019. Here are the candidates:

### Mayor Place 1 -

Curtistene S. McCowan  
 Rachel L. Proctor  
 Byron D. Sanders

### Place 3 -

Nicole Raphiel  
 Al Moten, Jr.

### \*Place 4

Andre' Byrd, Sr.  
 Sabrina Mathis  
 \*Special election to fill an unexpired term.

### Place 5

Marikay Dewberry  
 Kenneth Watts  
 Dinah Marks

All members of the City Council run by place but are elected at large. This means that they must reside in the district for which they are seeking election. However, all registered voters who live anywhere in DeSoto may cast ballots for that position. The Mayor may reside anywhere within the city limits and is also elected at large. If you would like more information on the City Council districts, a map is available on the City's website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) under the Government tab at the top of the page.

The location for early voting is Disciple Central Community Church (DC3)

located at 900 N. Polk Street. Here is the schedule:

Weekdays April 22 - April 26  
 Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm  
 April 27 (Saturday) 8 am - 5 pm  
 April 28 (Sunday) 1 pm - 6 pm  
 April 29 - April 30 7 am - 7pm

On Election Day, May 4, voting takes place at the DeSoto ISD Belt Line Conference Center located at 200 E. Belt Line Road from 7 am to 7 pm.

Concerned DeSoto Citizens hosted a Meet the Candidates Forum at the Jim Baugh Government Center/DeSoto City Hall in the City Council Chambers on Saturday, April 13, 2019. The Meet the Candidates Forum was broadcast live and is available for download on-demand on the City website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) under the



Government tab and DeSoto Cable TV. The forum will also be broadcast daily on Spectrum Cable TV Channel 16 and AT&T Uverse Channel 99 at 2 pm and 9 pm until election day. DeSoto

voters are encouraged to view this video to see the candidates for Mayor, City Council and the DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees.

For more information on the upcoming election, visit our website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov), scroll down and follow the link to Municipal General and Special Election information.

### Do You Need A Helping Hand? Great Days of Service Can Help!!

"Great Days of Service," a cooperative effort between area churches and community volunteers, is looking for homes in DeSoto that need painting and/or basic repairs. Qualifying homes must be owner occupied and the homeowner should be elderly, disabled or financially challenged. Eligible projects include exterior home repairs and painting, mowing and tree trimming, window repair, installation of wheel chair ramps and other minor aesthetic repairs. The work will be done between June 8th and 15th. If you or someone you know can benefit from this program, please contact Linda Harris at [linda.s.harris@tx.rr.com](mailto:linda.s.harris@tx.rr.com) to request an application for service no later than May 10, 2019.

## Annual Document Shredding and E-Recycling Event

### DOCUMENT SHREDDING

DeSoto residents can bring documents to the DeSoto Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road for shredding on Saturday, **May 4, 2019**. There will be a mobile document shredding unit on-site from 9 am to 12 pm, (or until the trucks are full) to shred your personal household documents at no cost. **IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, THE COLLECTION SITE WILL BE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY FOR SAFETY REASONS.** This event is for DeSoto residents only. Participants will be required to show proof of residency, such as a drivers' license or utility bill, at the gate.

To participate, please follow the guidelines below:

- Place all documents in file boxes.
- Do not bring documents loose in bags; they must be placed in boxes ready for shredding.
- **Commercial documents will not be accepted.**
- Do not tape the lid on top of the file boxes.
- Bring no more than **5 boxes per resident**.
- You will be able to watch your documents being shredded.

Boxes will be returned to residents for recycling. Once the event is over, any documents left at the location unattended or shredded will be considered illegally dumped.

### ELECTRONICS WASTE COLLECTION

The e-recycling event will also take place at the DeSoto Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road on **Saturday, May 4, 2019**, from 9 am to 12 pm, or until the trailer is full. All items are collected FREE of charge.

The City of DeSoto is partnering with Goodwill Industries of Dallas to divert computers and related electronics donated during this event from area landfills and provides consumer education on the importance of environmentally-responsible computer disposal.

Accepted Items Include:

- Computers
- Speakers
- Hard Drives
- Monitors
- Gaming Systems
- Printers
- Webcams
- Cell Phones
- Cords & Cables
- Ink & Toner
- Keyboards

**NO TV'S PLEASE**



Join us for the fourteenth annual HOA Involvement Workshop on Saturday, May 18, 2019 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. CAI will be presenting Session A: Conducting Efficient Meetings/Guidance for Board Members and Session B: Developing Election Procedures.

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](mailto:nbond@desototexas.gov).

# KIDS' FISHING DAY

★  
\$5  
PER CHILD

Briarwood Park | 1625 W. Beltline Road, DeSoto, TX  
Pre-register online at [desototexas.gov/register](http://desototexas.gov/register)  
Ages 16 and under

4.27  
9a-12p



**AUDITION FOR**

**SUMMER Stage**  
with the DeSoto Arts Commission

For more information or to register for an audition time, go to [www.ArtsDeSoto.com](http://www.ArtsDeSoto.com).

In conjunction with Lyric Stage, The DeSoto Arts Commission is offering an audition-based FREE musical theater camp for 8th to 12th graders, limited to 20 students. Auditions are on April 28th at the DeSoto Town Center.

*Auditions*



*Mother & Son*  
DANCE

- 14TH ANNUAL EVENT -  
**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019**

**7PM** | VIP ADMISSION \$50/COUPLE  
GENERAL ADMISSION \$35/COUPLE  
FOR MORE INFO CALL 972.230.9650  
- [WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/REGISTER](http://WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/REGISTER) -

DESOTO CIVIC CENTER  
211 E. PLEASANT RUN RD. | DESOTO, TX



**LYRIC STAGE**

DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION  
**FOURTH** Fridays  
MUSIC SERIES

**OUR MUSIC**  
PRESENTED BY LYRIC STAGE

**05/24**

**7:00PM**

CORNER THEATER

[ARTSDESOTO.COM](http://ARTSDESOTO.COM)