

# DeSoto City Lights

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

## **DeSoto Celebrates First Year of STAR Transit Service**

STAR Transit is celebrating its one-year anniversary of providing public transportation in the City of DeSoto. In spring 2018, with the support of the DeSoto City Council and the North Central Texas Regional Transportation Council, STAR Transit began serving the City of DeSoto with demand response, curbside-to-curbside service as well as a commuter bus route.

“Mobility is one of the most critical factors to DeSoto’s continued success. The services that STAR Transit has provided over the past year are greatly appreciated and definitely help us to move forward,” said DeSoto Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan. “The service along DeSoto’s Route 501 not only makes it easier for our residents to run errands, or connect to other transportation hubs, but also the frequent stops at our industrial parks help many get to work or even seek out new employment opportunities.”

Route 501 serves the City of DeSoto, including area industrial parks with stops located at the Kohl’s e-Fulfillment Center and Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The route provides access to Methodist Charlton Medical Center and the UNT Dallas Station on the DART Rail Blue Line. This service also connects DeSoto to multiple cities located in the inland port area with transfer points at The Crossing Shopping Center and the UNT Dallas Station on the Hutchins Shuttle Route 401.

Omega Hawkins, STAR Transit Executive Director, said, “We are proud to be partnering with the City of DeSoto to provide our services to seniors, families and those wanting affordable, dependable transportation to their jobs. Public transportation is an important factor in a community’s quality of life. It supports job generation and sustainability. DeSoto’s path forward is definitely one of positive, managed growth,” Hawkins continued.

According to research data from the American Public Transportation Association, a total of 87% of the trips taken using public transit contributes positively to the local economy.

For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the City Council has opted to contract services for one Demand Response bus and one bus that operates bus route 501. Modifications to existing services are currently being considered for fiscal year 2019-2020 and beyond.

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 or visit [www.STARtransit.org](http://www.STARtransit.org).



or

## City Calendar

### July

1 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm  
1 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm  
2 City Council Mtg. canceled for holiday  
4 City Facilities Closed for July 4th Holiday  
4 Library Board Mtg. canceled  
4 KDB Mtg. canceled  
4 Historical Foundation Mtg. canceled  
9 Planning & Zoning Mtg.— City Hall - 7 pm  
16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
23 Planning & Zoning Mtg.—City Hall 7 pm  
25 & 26 City Council Budget Meetings  
26 Open Mic Night Amphitheater 8 pm

### August

5 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm  
5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
6 National Night Out  
8 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm  
8 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
8 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm  
15 Civic Academy begins  
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
23 Natural Change Concert Amphitheater 8 pm  
26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm



This year's National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2019 from 7 to 9 pm. Crime watch groups, homeowners associations and neighborhood groups are encouraged to come outside their homes that evening and join together for a show of community support. Make plans now for your neighborhood block party or event on National Night Out. To schedule a police or city official visit or for more information, call Officer Jessica Ryan, at 469.658.3055.

## DeSoto Public Utilities Offers Free Water Conservation Courses

The DeSoto Public Utilities Department has partnered with Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center to offer a series of water efficiency and landscape maintenance classes focused on techniques to conserve water and reduce monthly water bills. These classes are free of charge to DeSoto residents, but will require registration. Classes are limited to 75 attendees. You will want to sign up early to guarantee your seat. Here's the next class:



### Put the CARE Into Lawn Care

**Thursday, August 22, 2019 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

Did you fight the lawn and the lawn won?

Don't let it! This course will teach you proper maintenance techniques, efficient watering methods, at the same time simplifying fertilizer and pesticide application to reduce weed and disease issues. We'll help you create a lush and healthy lawn that will make your neighbors green with envy!



This workshop takes place at the Jim Baugh Government Center in the City Council Chambers located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. To attend, please register online at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) or by calling 972.230.5724.

## DESOTO FIRE CONDUCTS WATER RESCUE OF TEEN INJURED IN DUNCANVILLE

DeSoto Fire Rescue recently performed a rare Swift Water Response to rescue a teenager who was injured in a swimming accident in Ten Mile Creek in Duncanville's Harrington Park. The teen was injured after he and his friends jumped into the creek and he failed to see a ledge that was a few feet beneath him. The injured teen was unable to exit the creek and his friends pulled him onto the ledge until help arrived.

DeSoto Fire Rescue responded to the Duncanville incident because both fire departments share an Mutual Aid

Agreement and the DeSoto crew was closest to the scene. Once they got there, first responders realized that it would be necessary for one of their crew to swim across the creek to perform the rescue.

"DeSoto is big on training and preparedness, and we always have a trained Swift Water Technician assigned to every shift," noted DeSoto Fire Rescue Assistant Fire Chief Bryan Southard.

As our photo shows, the injured teen was safely guided across the creek and transported by the DeSoto Fire Rescue Crew to the nearest trauma center, Methodist Dallas Medical Center.



## High Weeds And Grass

City Ordinances require that weeds and grass be kept below 12 inches in height. As the owner or occupant of the property, you are required to maintain the property from the street in the front to the middle of the alley in the back (or the property line). This includes the front, back, side yards, the right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the curb) and the alley and easement. If you have questions or would like to report a code violation, please call the Code Enforcement office at 469.658.3075.



Our solid waste contractor, Republic Waste, will observe the Independence Day Holiday and there will be no solid waste collection on Thursday, July 4th. Regular Thursday customers will have their collection on Friday, July 5th and regular Friday customers will be collected on Saturday, July 6th. The normal schedule will resume on Monday, July 8th.

### Did You Know? ...

All businesses and residences equipped with an intrusion detection system are required by City Ordinance to have a permit which is available for purchase from the City of DeSoto Utility Billing window. Failure to obtain a permit can result in a fine of up to \$500 plus court costs. The annual cost for a business alarm is \$65 and residential permit is \$35.

Senior citizens 65+ are not charged the fee but must still obtain a permit. The fee will be waived once they have provided a copy of their driver's license showing proof of age. All permits must be renewed annually on the anniversary date of the issuance of the permit.

This permit allows you three false alarms in

a consecutive 12 month period before false alarm fees are assessed. A permit is required if your system is operational whether or not your system is monitored. Seniors are not exempt from any false alarm fees that occur over the first three that are free. Additional false alarms will be assessed escalating fines/fees starting at \$50 up to \$100 for each false alarm.

Operating an alarm system without a permit will subject the operator/owner to a citation for each occurrence. The permit application form is available on the City's website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov), and at the Utility Billing Department in City Hall located at, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto, TX 75115. If you would like more information on the alarm permit program, please call 469.658.3018.

## The Next Civic Academy Begins August 15th

The City of DeSoto invites you to participate in this year's Civic Academy, which is scheduled to begin in August.

The Civic Academy, a series of eleven educational sessions designed to teach DeSoto citizens about their local government, runs concurrently with the Junior Civic Academy. Participants will learn about DeSoto's history, tour City facilities, get a behind-the-scenes look at each department and the services offered, and experience first-hand the equipment used to provide these services. The Civic Academy also affords the opportunity to meet department heads one-on-one.

Any DeSoto resident, 16 or older, willing to commit the time necessary to complete this informative, interesting, and intense program is eligible to participate. The sessions are FREE and include all supplies and dinner for participants. The sessions will be held on eleven consecutive Thursday evenings from 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm beginning August 15, 2019.

To request an application to attend or for more information, please contact Nelda Bond at 972.230.9643 or email at [nbond@desototexas.gov](mailto:nbond@desototexas.gov). The Civic Academy is open to the first 25 DeSoto citizens who submit a completed application.



### APPLY NOW TO JOIN THE DESOTO JUNIOR CIVIC ACADEMY!

The DeSoto JCA is an 11-week program designed to expose high school juniors and seniors to the inner-workings of local government. Completion of this program offers benefits such as community service hour credit, internships in the municipal government and possible job opportunities after high school graduation. Parents are encouraged to attend too.

Join and learn about

- City Administration
- City Council
- Economic Development
- Finance & Budget
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Library
- Municipal Court
- Parks & Recreation
- Police, Fire Rescue & EMS
- Public Health
- Public Utilities
- Public Works
- Regional Dispatch 9-1-1

This is a great resume builder, and it teaches important interview and job skills.



Interested in a career in local government?  
Would you like to enhance your resume with an internship?

The Junior Civic Academy runs concurrently with the DeSoto Civic Academy. Parents are encouraged to attend with their teens.

APPLY BY JULY 12, 2019!  
[JCA@DESOTOTEXAS.GOV](mailto:JCA@DESOTOTEXAS.GOV)

BEGINS AUGUST 15, 2019

ONE SESSION PER WEEK – 5:45-8:30 P.M.  
SESSIONS ARE HOSTED AT DESOTO CITY HALL  
AND OTHER CITY FACILITIES. DINNER IS PROVIDED.





Are you looking for information about events and activities going on in DeSoto or planning an event and don't want to compete with other things going on at the same time? Check out Happening IN DeSoto on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DeSotoEvents>. This page is a collaboration between City of DeSoto, DeSoto Economic Development Corporation, DeSoto Chamber of Commerce and DeSoto ISD and is the place to go for information on events, activities, and meetings sponsored by these entities. For more information, please call 972.230.9648.



Are you an aspiring singer, poet or instrumentalist? The DeSoto Arts Commission is looking for performers for our Beneath the Stars Open Mic Night on July 26th. Go to [ArtsDeSoto.com](http://ArtsDeSoto.com) and fill out a performance application and upload an audio or video clip to be considered. The winner will perform prior to Ruben Studdard at DeSoto Arts Live on September 28, 2019.

We will need a great audience to cheer these performers on. So DeSoto, grab your lawn chairs and meet us at the Outdoor Amphitheater for an evening of great entertainment celebrating our local talent.

