

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

BIG DAY FOR DESOTO AT NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COG AWARD CEREMONY Grow DeSoto Market Place Wins Award/Mayor McCowan Receives Recognition

Story by Matt Smith, City of DeSoto - Communications Manager

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), an association of North Texas governments that assists with regional planning efforts, provided the City of DeSoto with some wonderful news on Friday, June 14, 2019.

NCTCOG awarded their “Celebrating Leadership in Development Excellence (CLIDE) Award” to the Grow DeSoto Market Place for exemplifying one or more of their Principles of Development Excellence. They also declared that Grow DeSoto serves as an example of Development Excellence in the North Central Texas Region.

The Grow DeSoto Market Place is the product of a public-private partnership between the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation (DeSoto EDC), the City of DeSoto, the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce, Options Real Estate, and The Industry Hub. This partnership is credited with successfully transforming a shuttered hardware store into a thriving facility that now serves as DeSoto’s small business incubator. Grow DeSoto, which celebrated its grand opening in October 2018, provides shoppers in DeSoto and the region with a wide variety of unique retail shops, services, restaurants, and a full-service fitness and rehabilitation center.

“The Grow DeSoto Market Place symbolizes the creative rebirth of our small business community and serves as an example to many other cities that the closure of old businesses in a community can present bold new opportunities that can ultimately make a positive difference within a city!” stated DeSoto Mayor Curtistene McCowan.

Mayor McCowan, who presently serves on The North Central Texas Council of Governments Board of Directors, also received some great news from NCTCOG. She has been selected to serve as the board’s Secretary-Treasurer for 2019-2020. Said Mayor McCowan, “I am honored to play an even bigger role in this great organization which has helped to change the face of the North Texas region for the better!”

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) identifies themselves as a voluntary association of, by and for local governments, established to assist in regional planning. To learn more about NCTCOG, go to www.nctcog.org. And for more information about the Grow DeSoto Market Place visit www.growdesoto.org.



Pictured above from Left to Right: DEDC Board Member and former DeSoto Mayor Bobby G. Waddle, Options Real Estate COO Lena Liles, Options Real Estate President and Duncanville City Council Member Monte Anderson, DeSoto Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan, former DeSoto Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Proctor, Grow DeSoto Incubator Consultant Terry Toomey, DeSoto Deputy City Manager Letitia Shelton and DEDC Chief Executive Officer Joe D. Newman.

City Calendar

July

1 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
1 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
2 City Council Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm
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. - canceled
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's Municipal Court Offers Several Ways to Resolve Outstanding Warrants

Persons who have received traffic citations from the DeSoto Police Department have the option to resolve those citations through a video conference court appearance, Municipal Court Manager Jeremy Leonard announced recently. "This initiative makes it far more convenient for defendants to resolve their traffic citations with the DeSoto Municipal Court."



DeSoto's Municipal Court Judge Scott Kurth holds an E-Court docket each day at 11 am (except for the 4th Wednesday of the month). The process is very user friendly: simply go to the Court's website at www.desototexas.gov/court and click on **VIDEO CONFERENCE THE JUDGE** for instructions on how E-Court works and what options are available to you on E-Court.

When you are ready to meet with the Judge using E-Court, you will go to <https://zoom.us/join> where you will be asked to download the "zoom" app. Once the app is downloaded to your pc or mobile device, you will type in the meeting ID **582-661-129** that will immediately establish a video conference with Judge Kurth.

YOU CAN ALSO COME IN PERSON TO TALK TO THE JUDGE ABOUT YOUR WARRANTS

You can also see Judge Kurth in person every business day beginning at 10:30 am. If you have a new citation or old warrants out of the DeSoto Municipal Court, come and discuss them with Judge Kurth. He has an open docket every business day (i.e. Monday through Friday) beginning at 10:30 am. Be smart and avoid jail on your warrants! Judge Kurth will not have anyone arrested on traffic warrants inside the Town Center. Take advantage of this opportunity to work out a plan to resolve your warrants and avoid the inconvenience and embarrassment of being arrested.

METHODS OF PAYING TRAFFIC CITATIONS

You can pay your citations in person at the Municipal Court Window on Monday through Friday from 8 am until 5 pm. You can also make a payment by phone by calling TrafficPayment.com at **800.444.1187** or going online to www.trafficpayment.com. If you have loved ones in jail and want to have them released by paying their fines and costs, you can call GovPayNet at **888.604.7888** and make payment of the amount owing.

The DeSoto Municipal Court is located in the Jim Baugh Government Center (DeSoto City Hall), in DeSoto Town Center at 211. E. Pleasant Run Road. For more information, please call the Municipal Court Clerk at **972.230.9676**.

Did You Know? ...

That the City's Garbage, Trash and Refuse Ordinance specifies a timeframe for when trash and recyclables can be placed at the curb for pickup? In order to minimize wildlife disturbing the refuse or other elements coming in contact with plastic bags or containers, residential refuse and recyclables shall not be placed at the curb **before 6 pm the day before collection day.**

"This item in the ordinance addresses problems resulting from trash being put out at the curb or in the alley for pick-up a day or more prior to the actual collection time," said Charles Humphrey, Code Enforcement Manager. "When trash is allowed to sit on the curb, it attracts animals who tear into the bags and scatter it."

To guarantee your trash is not missed by Republic Services, please have your trash and recyclables in the alley or, if you don't have an alley, placed at the curb no later than 7 am on the day of collection. All residents who live west of Hampton Road have their trash collected on Tuesdays and Fridays. Those living east of Hampton Road have their trash collected on Mondays and Thursdays. All recycle bins, throughout the City, are emptied on Wednesdays.

DeSoto's Code Enforcement Department would like to remind residents that all garbage must be placed in a plastic refuse bag for garbage pick up. This picture shows some garbage in bags and some loose

garbage in the container. All garbage must be bagged to avoid having loose garbage scattered when the containers are being emptied into the truck. The Ordinance stipulates that residential customers shall utilize a plastic refuse bag that is designed and sold for the purpose of placing garbage, trash, or refuse in it for disposal. If your trash is not bagged, the solid waste contractor will tag the container and leave the trash to be bagged for removal. Habitual offenders of the Garbage, Trash and Refuse Ordinance will be fined. Trash and recycling bags are available for purchase at the Utility Billing window in City Hall. Trash bags are \$9.56 for a roll of 50 and recycle bags are \$6.65 for a roll of 50 bags.

For more information on the Garbage, Trash and Refuse Ordinance, please go to www.desototexas.gov.



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 municipal government, 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. 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

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.



IN THE SPIRIT ENTERTAINMENT FOUNDATION PRESENTS






#WEWOKE

Saturday August 3rd, 2019 | Sunday August 4th, 2019
8:00PM **2:30PM**

Located at the Corner Theatre
 211 E. PLEASANT RUN RD. DESOTO, TX 75114

Special Performance By
 Legendary Comedian
SD SHUCKEY DUCKEY
 Quack Quack



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DeSotoArtsLive.com

Save the Date



headline performance
RUBEN STUDDARD

DeSoto Town Center

**Saturday,
 September 28, 2019**

CITY OF DESOTO
 DESOTO ARTS LIVE!
 FESTIVAL


 DeSotoArtsLive.com

Natural Change Band

Friday, August 23, 2019
 DeSoto's Outdoor Amphitheater
 at Town Center behind the Library

DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION



FOURTH **8 pm**
MUSIC SERIES
fridays

The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to our August 23, 2019 Fourth Friday Concert featuring a special performance by Natural Change Band. Natural Change Band offers some of the best in Smooth Jazz and R&B around and is a DeSoto favorite. Bringing that sizzle to the group's unique sound on sax is Paul Rogers. Byron Fuller keeps the heartbeat of the band going on the drums. Tony Blaire is the keyboardist and lead vocalist for the band and Robb Abbs rounds out the group's sound on guitar, bringing sheer electricity induced solos and showmanship to the stage. Grab your lawn chairs and join us at the Outdoor Amphitheater at 8 pm for an evening of great entertainment. Concessions will be available for purchase.