

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

DESOTO JOINS “IT’S TIME TEXAS COMMUNITY CHALLENGE” Mayor Pledges City’s Commitment to 8-Week Texas Wide Health Effort

The City of DeSoto is thrilled to announce our participation in the 2020 “It’s Time Texas Community Challenge” which will take place between January 6th and March 1st. This Community Challenge is a statewide competition aimed at inspiring people, organizations, and cities across Texas to choose healthy activities in support of a healthier community. The participating communities will work to encourage residents, businesses, and organizations within their areas to sign up on behalf of that community so that they can collectively accrue points for every healthy action. After eight weeks, the community that accumulates the most points in their size category will receive a cash prize that they can put toward a community health project.

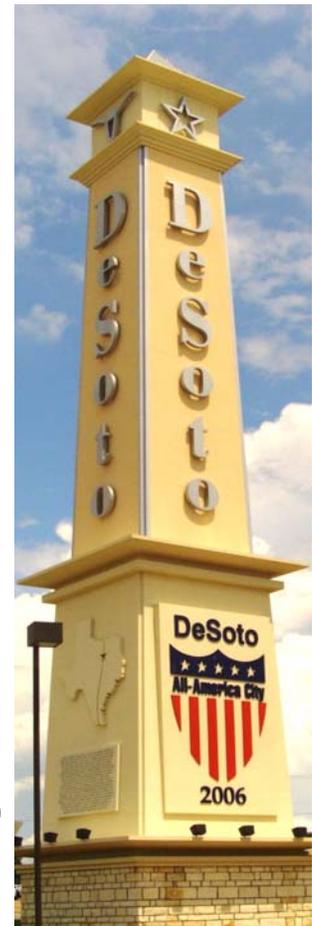
The initial push to secure DeSoto’s participation in the “It’s Time Texas Community Challenge” came from the DeSoto City Council which included the initiative in their official business plan. On Thursday, December 5, 2019, Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan signed the ITT’s “Mayor Pledge” formally committing DeSoto to this statewide competition.

“Changing lifestyles and making healthier, more active choices isn’t easy, but it’s a challenge that DeSoto is ready and willing to take on,” declared Mayor McCowan. “Committing to a healthier 2020 is a goal that will benefit every single DeSoto resident and I want to encourage all to sign up and work with Team DeSoto to improve our collective health and show our fellow Texans just how strong our community can be!”

Here’s how DeSoto residents can get involved:

- **Make the Commitment:** It’s free and easy to sign up at ittcommunitychallenge.com
- **Track Your Activities:** Submit your healthy activities to earn points for your community and prizes for yourself
- **Share the Journey:** Use #CommunityChallenge to connect on social media and encourage others in our community to get involved

Participation is free and all DeSoto residents who sign up will earn 500 points for our community. DeSoto residents who are interested in registering or who would like further information should use the following webpage as their starting point: <https://ittcommunitychallenge.com>.



DeSoto Parks & Recreation
DISCOVER YOUR COMMUNITY

JANUARY 6 THROUGH MARCH 1

IT'S TIME TEXAS ALL-AMERICA CITY COMMUNITY CHALLENGE
Presented by **H-E-B**

2020
ITTCOMMUNITYCHALLENGE.COM

JOIN THE FREE, 8-WEEK CHALLENGE & HELP YOUR COMMUNITY WIN!

MAKE THE COMMITMENT
It's free and easy to sign up at ittcommunitychallenge.com

WEEKLY PRIZE GIVEAWAYS!

TRACK YOUR ACTIVITIES
Submit healthy actions to earn points for your community and prizes for yourself

FOLLOW THE COMPETITION
Check your inbox for prize giveaways, community rankings, stories and inspiration

SHARE THE JOURNEY
Use #communitychallenge to connect on social media and encourage others to get involved

DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover Your Community

CITY OF DESOTO
SOARING FOR EXCELLENCE

IT'S TIME TEXAS
TEXAS IS BEST WHEN TEXANS ARE HEALTHY

H-E-B
Helping Here.

SNAP
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP. To receive assistance purchasing healthy foods, sign up for SNAP benefits at yourteasbenefits.com.

City Calendar

December

16 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall 9 am
16 Veterans Affairs. Mtg. City Hall -6:30pm
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Canceled
24 City offices closed - Christmas Eve
25 City offices closed - Christmas Day
27 4th Friday Concert-Corner Theatre -8pm

January

1 City offices closed—New Year's Day
6 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6pm
6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
9 Historical Foundation Mtg. - 6 pm
9 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
9 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm
18 Veterans Benefit Fair - Library 10a -1pm
20 City Offices closed - MLK Holiday
21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
24 4th Friday Concert-Corner Theatre -8pm
27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

Holiday Trash Schedule

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are two of the five holidays observed by the City of DeSoto's solid waste contractor, Republic Waste. There will be no trash service on these holidays.

On a holiday, regular service shifts by one day. For example there will be no trash service on Christmas Day, December 25th. Regular recycling will be collected on Thursday, December 26th, Thursday collections will move to Friday, December 27th, and Friday's trash service shifts to Saturday, December 28th. Similarly, there will be no trash service on Wednesday January 1st in observance of New Year's Day moving regular recycling collection to Thursday, January 2nd and Thursday collections to Friday, January 3rd. Regular Friday collections will be made on Saturday January 4th and the normal cycle resumes on Monday, January 6, 2020.

DESOTO WINS 4TH CONSECUTIVE DIGITAL CITIES AWARD Continued Tech Innovation Keeps DeSoto Among Tops Cities in the Nation

by Matt Smith, Communications Manager

The City of DeSoto has won its fourth consecutive Digital Cities Award from the Center for Digital Government (CDG) by placing in the top ten of all participating US Cities with a population of fewer than 75,000. The California based Center for Digital Government (CDG) is considered to be America's foremost expert when it comes to recognizing technological excellence by local governments and each year their Digital Cities Award singles out the best cities in the USA for using technology in an innovative manner to make government operations run more efficiently.

"I am absolutely thrilled to learn that the Center for Digital Government has awarded the City of DeSoto with a fourth straight Digital Cities Award for our innovative use of technology to make government operations run more effectively and efficiently," said DeSoto Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan. "Receiving this coveted designation for four consecutive years shows me that DeSoto has earned our place among the best in the nation and we will continue to incorporate new technology and innovation into our operations so that we can continue to be recognized as being among the best of the best!"

Specifically, here is what Digital Cities has to say about DeSoto's 2019 recognition:

9th, CITY OF DESOTO, TEXAS (via Govtech.com)

"DeSoto, Texas placing ninth in this year's survey, has distinguished itself by continuing to invest in innovative solutions for court and law enforcement procedures, as well as continuing its focus on improved cybersecurity. In particular, the city has continued to expand its innovative "e-court" video arraignment program, which allows defendants to communicate with the judge over video chat. This year, the court also began allowing the public to communicate with staff using Web chat and text to mitigate issues, sign paperwork, ask questions and set up payment plans.

At the same time, the city has also expanded various IT initiatives to aid local police - including installation of facial recognition technology in the jail, with an attached cloud-based shared database. Upgrades to cruiser dash cams were made that allow for more efficient video uploads and searches, as well as longer retention. The city also recently joined the Amazon Ring network, a digital doorbell and neighborhood watch app that connects residents with police for local notifications and alerts.

Additionally, the city made significant efforts this year to bolster its cybersecurity posture, hiring a new network security administrator who will be responsible for internal security. At the direction of the administrator, the city also hired a third-party vendor to help expand the existing employee security training program, including the inclusion of a phishing campaign assessment. The city has also adopted a vulnerability scanning tool that will be a consistent feature of its vulnerability management program. Looking to the future, the city also hopes to improve staff identity management through the purchase of a multi-factor authentication feature and is in the process of developing a cyberincident response plan."

About the Center for Digital Government:

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute focused on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. CDG is a division of e.Republic, the nation's only media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government and education. To learn

more visit their website at <https://www.govtech.com/cdg/about>.



What Can Residents Do To Prevent Storm Water Pollution?

We can all work together to reduce and prevent storm water pollution. Some activities are federal government responsibilities. Others are best handled by your community, such by developing zoning or erosion control ordinances. Individual residents can also play an important role by changing certain everyday habits.

For example:

- Select native and adapted plants for your landscape. These plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides to thrive, making your yard a Texas SmartScape.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions. Never apply lawn chemicals before a rain event.
- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves, grass clippings and debris out of street gutters and storm drains. Never blow grass clippings into the storm drain. Outlets blocked by excessive debris, such as leaves and grass clippings, could lead to street flooding. Compost or mulch lawn debris instead.
- Dispose of used motor oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly, not in storm drains. The City of DeSoto participates in the Dallas County Household Hazardous Waste Program and DeSoto residents are encouraged to contact the Home Chemical Collection Center at 214.553.1765 for information on proper disposal of household chemicals.
- Deck the halls, not the creeks. By recycling litter and disposing of trash properly, you can help keep it out of the waterways.
- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street where they go down storm drains and can eventually reach local streams and lakes.
- Control soil erosion on your property. Plant ground cover and stabilize erosion-prone areas. This can be done by using mulch for soil stabilization.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash facility. Washing cars on driveways or streets will result in the cleaning products flowing directly into the storm drain and into a nearby stream, lake, or river. Washing your car on your lawn allows the soil to remove some of the pollutants. Using a commercial car wash facility will ensure that the water and pollutants go to a water treatment facility before entering local water bodies.

Learn to recognize what types of discharges to the storm drain system are allowed and those that are not allowed. Report any signs of illegal discharge to your municipal storm water management service by calling 972.230.9600.

Important Information Regarding the 2020 Municipal Election

The City of DeSoto will hold a Regular Election on Saturday, May 2, 2020. The following places will be voted on in this election:

- Councilmember Place 2
- Councilmember Place 4

DeSoto residents who are interested in filing for one of these city council seats must live within the bounds of the district to be eligible. However, all candidates are elected at large. Candidate Filing Information Packets can be requested by sending an email to the City Secretary at kmorris@desototexas.gov. Please include your name, address, email address and contact phone number. Packets can also be picked up in the City Secretary's office during regular business hours beginning January 6, 2020.

Filing for a place on the ballot will take place from January 15, 2020 through February 14, 2020 between the hours of 9 am and 12 noon and from 1 pm to 4 pm in the City Secretary's office. On February 14, 2020, the office will close promptly at 5 pm and no filing will be accepted after that time.

Please visit the City of DeSoto website at www.desototexas.gov for updates on the municipal election.

A Message from DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee:

The DeSoto Veteran Affairs Committee would like to offer their thanks to the following local businesses who have agreed to participate in the Veteran Friendly Business Program by offering all Veterans a special discount for their patronage:



Acapulco's Restaurant
American Trophies
Big Al's Cellular Repair
Edylicious
Crystal Cleaners
Friend's Place

Ovilla Nutrition
Mother's Basket

For more information on the Veteran Friendly Business Program, call 972.230.9648.



The DeSoto Veterans Affairs Committee and DeSoto Public Library are partnering with North Texas VA Outreach Services to bring VA representatives to DeSoto on a monthly basis. If you need help with applying for benefits, have been denied benefits or just have questions, please come to the DeSoto Public Library on Saturday, January 18, 2020 between the hours of 10 am and 1 pm to receive answers. Appointments are not necessary but to avoid a lengthy wait, please call 972.230.9648 to request a specific appointment time. Thank you for your service.

ARTSDESOTO.COM

FOURTH FRIDAY MUSIC SERIES
POWERED BY THE DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION

LINNY NANCE & NETWORK

January 24th 8 PM

DESOTO CORNER THEATRE
DESOTO TOWN CENTER | 211 E. PLEASANT RUN RD. | DESOTO



Live Christmas Tree Recycling

The City's solid waste contractor, Republic Waste, will be collecting live Christmas trees for recycling on January 3rd and 4th and on January 9th and 10th. Place your tree on the curb in front of your home for recycling. Trees placed in the alley will go the landfill. Be sure to remove all decorations and lights for recycling. Trees with flocking or artificial trees cannot be recycled. Place them with your regular trash for pick up. If you have any questions regarding your trash service or tree pickup, please call the City of DeSoto Action Center at 972.230.9600.



EVERYONE COUNTS!

IN DESOTO

CENSUS 2020



Properly Dispose of Fats, Oils And Grease From Cooking

The Department of Public Utilities would like to remind customers to properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) from cooking to prevent unnecessary headaches for everyone. When FOG is poured down the drain it can cause blockages in household plumbing and public wastewater systems. Therefore, please dispose of FOG properly by putting them in the garbage and not down your household drains.



And the best way to prevent plumbing headaches year-round is to properly dispose of cooled FOG by placing them in disposable containers and putting those containers in the trash. Another tip to reduce the possibility of blockages is to scrape solid food waste (left behind from cooking with FOG) into the trash. Even the smallest amount of FOG builds up over time and can create wastewater backups into homes and causing sanitary sewer overflows in the community. Some examples of FOG are cooking oil, salad dressing, gravy, meats, butter, cheese, soups, broth, bacon residue, etc. For more information on preventing blockages caused by FOG, please visit <http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/158/Sewer-Backups>.

By taking the extra step of properly disposing of FOG in the trash, customers can protect their homes, their wallets, and our environment.

DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Presents: *26th Annual*

Daddy Daughter DANCE

A Night With A Princess

FEBRUARY 1, 2020 | 6:30PM - 9:30PM
DESOTO CIVIC CENTER | 211 E. PLEASANT RUN RD. | 972-230-9655
DANCING ✦ FOOD ✦ ELEGANCE ✦ GIVEAWAYS

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION - DECEMBER 12 - 17
GENERAL SEATING \$40 PER COUPLE | VIP SEATING \$55 PER COUPLE
\$20 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL GUEST | \$27.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL GUEST

REGULAR REGISTRATION - DECEMBER 18 - JANUARY 31
GENERAL SEATING \$45 PER COUPLE | VIP SEATING \$60 PER COUPLE
\$22.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL GUEST | \$30 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL GUEST

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/REGISTER
OR PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE DESOTO RECREATION CENTER
Space is limited. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

