

# DeSoto City Lights

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

## **2020 Census - Everyone Counts!**

"The 2020 Census is your census, and its success depends on you. It's a once-in-a-decade chance to inform how billions of dollars in funding are allocated for critical public services like hospitals and health care clinics, schools and education programs, roads and bridges, and emergency response for the next 10 years," explained Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham. "Through advertising, public events, partnerships and digital and traditional media, we are embarking on a nationwide effort to let everyone in the country know about the upcoming 2020 Census and encourage them to respond online, by phone or by mail. We are extremely committed to reaching those people who are historically undercounted. "

DeSoto has a very active 2020 US Census Complete Count Committee and part of the reason is the dedicated members. The committee is led by Councilmember Nicole Raphiel.

"I can't begin to stress just how critical it is that every single DeSoto resident who is eligible to be counted, is counted," said Councilmember Raphiel. "Much of DeSoto's Federal funding is awarded on a per capita basis or for very specific populations such as children who live at or below the poverty level. So if we don't get an accurate count then we won't receive the funds that our residents entitled to."

It can also impact the boundaries of congressional districts based on population changes, so failure to properly track our population can impact our representation in Washington.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding:

- Online.
- By phone.
- By mail.

In mid-March, households will begin receiving official

Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census.



**DeSoto Counts!**  
**CENSUS**  
**2020**

## City Calendar

### February

15 Veterans Benefit Forum Grow DeSoto Market Place 10 am to 1pm  
18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm  
24 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall 9 am  
25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Canceled  
28 Dallas Black Dance Theater-DHS-7pm

### March

2 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm  
2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm  
3 City Council Mtg. City Hall - 7pm  
5 Mayor's Quarterly Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:30  
7 Arts Plan Listening Session Library 10am  
9 Veterans Mtg. - City Hall - 6pm  
10 P&Z Mtg. City Hall—7pm  
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm  
19 Board & Commission Banquet 6 pm  
21 Veterans Benefit Forum 10a –1pm  
24 P&Z Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
27 4th Friday Concert-Corner Theatre -8pm  
30 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

### A Message from Code Enforcement...

Oversized vehicles may not be parked or stored in any residential neighborhood. An overweight vehicle means a truck tractor, semi-trailer, trailer with a rated capacity in excess of 17,500 GVWR or higher such as flatbed trucks, vehicles with mounted equipment, mechanical or hydraulic devices designed to assist in loading or unloading freight or the transporting of other vehicles. Recreational vehicles and travel trailers may be parked in residential neighborhoods, but must be parked on private property on an improved surface. Recreational vehicles must not be parked as to cause a visibility obstruction to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. All vehicles parked on the street must be moved every 24 hours.

## Imagine DeSoto Community Arts Master Plan

Join us Saturday March 7, 2020 for the first in a series of community conversations to help develop an arts master plan for DeSoto.

Generally speaking, we give little importance to the arts in our everyday lives. We think of “art” as a luxury or something that we enjoy casually, traveling back to downtown Dallas or Fort Worth to take advantage of the performing and visual arts available in the metroplex.

These great neighboring cities are defined by their world-class museums, theaters, art galleries, monuments and public art. Children and young people benefit from access to arts learning connected to science, design and math. The arts give cities and neighborhoods a unique identity and shows its sense of pride, making them more attractive for investments and economic endeavors.



So, be a part of this process to Imagine DeSoto – and develop an Arts Master Plan for our community. Let's toss around some ideas - big and not so big, – that can lead to more arts activities and creative expression embedded into the future of our city.

Imagine DeSoto Community Conversation  
Saturday March 7, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

Multi-Purpose room-DeSoto Public Library

For more information go to [www.imaginedesoto.org](http://www.imaginedesoto.org) or call 972.230.9648.

**March 27, 2020 8pm**  
**DeSoto Corner Theatre**  
**DeSoto, TX 75115**

**Free Concert**  
**For Reservations go to**  
**ArtsDeSoto.com**

**Broadway Anthems**

The complex block features a collage of images. The central image is a large group photo of performers in black outfits. To the left, there's a smaller image of a band performing on stage with the text 'DE SOTO, ARTS COMMISSION' and 'FOURTH FRIDAYS MUSIC SERIES'. To the right, another smaller image shows a band performing. The bottom of the block has a black background with yellow text for the event details and the 'Broadway Anthems' logo.

## City Launches Free Online Water Conservation Tool For Customers

The City of DeSoto Public Utilities Department has launched a new water conservation and budgeting tool for customers. AquaHawk Alerting is a free online Web portal that enables DeSoto water customers to see their water usage and an estimate of their bill anytime during the billing cycle. After registering and providing up-to-date contact information, customers may opt to receive a text message, e-mail, or phone call alert if their consumption indicates a potential leak or abnormal usage.



AquaHawk helps customers save money and more efficiently manage water usage, by encouraging customers to set thresholds for usage (e.g., 5,000 gals.) or dollar amounts (\$150). If the consumption or bill is trending to exceed, or surpasses the threshold, AquaHawk will send an automatic alert which will allow the customer to modify usage or check for a possible leak.

“Our goal is to offer a better customer experience and the peace of mind that comes from knowing that the Public Utilities Department is working towards early identification and notification of potential water usage problems,” commented Isom Cameron, Deputy City Manager. “Customers will not be surprised by expensive and unexpected water bills since they can login anytime, see an estimate of what they’ve already spent, and view a projected end-of-period bill amount.”

The new web portal will provide our customers the information they need to use water more efficiently, save money, and prevent the property damage that can result when leaks run undetected.

Customers with multiple water accounts will have the ability to access all of their water accounts with a single user name and password. Customers can also provide access to other parties - property managers, caretakers, landscaping companies, etc.

– who might benefit from the information or want to receive alerts as well.

When water customers are traveling, AquaHawk enables users to

monitor unauthorized water use in their homes. Consumption, rainfall, and temperature data are displayed in easy-to-understand graphs that help pinpoint when an account may be using water inefficiently, such as watering landscape during or shortly after a rain event.

A link to the AquaHawk registration page is available on homepage of the City of DeSoto website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov). For more information, please call 972.230.9627.



**Grow DeSoto Market Place**  
324 E. Belt Line Road - DeSoto, TX  
March 21, 2020 - 10 am to 1 pm

DeSoto’s Veterans Affairs Committee is partnering with North Texas VA Outreach Services and the DAV 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 attend our free Veterans Benefit Forums that take place on the third Saturday of the month between 10 am and 1pm at the Grow DeSoto Market Place, 324 E. Belt Line Road. For more information, call 972.230.9648.

N.I.A. Kids Center for the Performing Arts Presents 

# BROWN SKIN GIRL

Stageplay Created by LaTara Thompkins | Written by Vanessa Lynn | Directed by Ashlee Smallwood

**PERFORMANCES**  
**MARCH 8, 2020 @ 3P & 7PM**

DeSoto Corner Theater  
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.  
DeSoto, TX 75115

An all female cast of “girls of color” breaks down the stereotypes and insecurities of females of color and empowers young women to walk in their truth!

**TICKETS: \$15 presale/\$20 at the door (Youth group of 10+ discount: \$12)**  
No babies/children under 5 admitted | Purchase tickets at [www.niakids.org](http://www.niakids.org).  
For more information, email [info@niakids.org](mailto:info@niakids.org) or call 972.322.5413

 NIA Kids Youth Service Organization  @niakids  nia\_kids\_talent

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

# FOURTH FRIDAY MUSIC SERIES

2020

POWERED BY THE  
DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION

**FEB 28 | 7PM**

DALLAS BLACK  
DANCE THEATER  
DeSoto HS Auditorium  
600 Eagle Drive

**MAR 27 | 8PM**

BROADWAY ANTHEMS  
PRESENTED BY  
MEADOWS SCHOOL FOR  
THE PERFORMING ARTS  
DeSoto Corner Theatre  
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

**APR 24 | 8PM**

A NIGHT OF  
GOSPEL  
DeSoto Corner Theatre  
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

**MAY 22 | 8PM**

JAZZ UNDER THE STARS WITH  
DESOTO HIGH  
SCHOOL JAZZ BAND  
DeSoto Outdoor Amphitheatre  
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

**JUNE 26 | 8PM**

NATURAL CHANGE BAND  
DeSoto Outdoor Amphitheatre  
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

RSVP FOR **FREE** ONLINE AT [ARTSDESOTO.COM](http://ARTSDESOTO.COM)