

# DeSoto City Lights

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

## **Council Approves Early Start For New City Manager**

Although city hall is closed as a part of the coordinated effort to combat the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), city government remains working behind the scenes to deliver essential services and to keep DeSoto moving forward.

On March 26th, the DeSoto City Council held a special meeting via Telephone Conference to approve an amendment to the employment agreement with incoming City Manager Brandon Wright. The amendment permitted him to begin his new job two and one-half weeks ahead of schedule and allowed Interim City Manager Reneé Johnson to return to her previous post as Director of DeSoto Parks & Recreation.



Brandon Wright has more than fourteen years of local government experience and served as the City of Davenport, Iowa's chief financial officer and assistant city manager before coming to DeSoto. He was Davenport's, finance director from 2012 to 2016, and budget manager from 2010 to 2012. Wright also worked in local government in Illinois where he was budget analyst for the City of Aurora. Brandon holds a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University and a bachelor's degree in communications from Brigham Young University. He graduated from Harvard University's State and Local Government Executive Program and is a certified public finance officer.



“DeSoto’s new City Manager, Brandon Wright, is assuming his post at one of the most challenging times in our history. We greatly appreciate his willingness to join the fight earlier than anticipated and stepping in to help move our city forward,” noted Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan. “On behalf of the Council, I want to offer my sincere gratitude to Reneé Johnson, who took the reigns as our interim City Manager and who served tirelessly through some very difficult times. I predict that DeSoto’s parks and facilities will become even bigger venues once the current crisis has passed, so it will be great to have Reneé in place to make sure that everything is perfect for the return of our residents.”



Mayor McCowan expresses her appreciation of Methodist Charlton President Fran Laukaitis and all the healthcare heroes with “Dear Hero” signs that will be posted at employee entrances to the hospital.

## City Calendar

### May

2 Bulk Waste Event - Grimes Park 9-1pm  
4 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6pm\*  
4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm\*  
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6pm\*  
7 Library Board Mtg.- Library - 7 pm\*  
12 P&Z Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm\*  
16 Military Families Appreciation 11am-1pm - Town Center  
16 Bulk Waste Event - Grimes Park 9-1pm  
18 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am\*  
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm\*  
25 Memorial Day Holiday  
25 Memorial Day Remembrance - Nance Farm Monument - 10 am  
26 P&Z Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm\*

\*Meeting will be held virtually, check online agenda posting for instructions on joining the meeting or call 972.230.9643 for more information.

### How Can I Get a Building Permit?

The Planning Department is currently still taking zoning and plat applications. The main entry into the lobby of City Hall in the Jim Baugh Government Center is open from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. A table inside the main entrance is available as an area to pick up application forms and drop off completed ones. Applications can also be downloaded from the City website. Contact the Planning and Zoning Department directly via email to Edlyn Vatthauer, AICP, Planning & Zoning Manager at [evatthauer@desototexas.gov](mailto:evatthauer@desototexas.gov) or by calling 972.230.9626.

## Municipal Election Postponed to November 3rd

The COVID-19 Pandemic is affecting all aspects of our lives and the Municipal Election is no exception. At a Special Meeting on March 26th, the DeSoto City Council approved an ordinance postponing the May 2nd General Election and moving it to the Uniform Election Day on November 3, 2020.

The candidate filings for the purpose of electing a City Councilmember for Place 2 and Place 4 will not be reopened as a result of moving the election to November 3rd. Here are the candidates:



#### Place 2

jean Green-Frazier  
Kay Brown-Patrick  
Pierette Parker

#### Place 4

Andre' Byrd, Sr.

For more information on Municipal elections, contact the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9464.

## DESOTO BULKY WASTE DROPOFF EVENT

Saturday, May 16, 2020 – 9AM to 1PM

Grimes Park -enter at 500 E. Centre Park Blvd. Road

Even though the collection of bulky waste items has been temporarily halted citywide, the City of DeSoto has made arrangements with waste hauler, Republic Services, to allow DeSoto Residents to haul and drop off their bulky waste items on Saturday May 16th from 9am-1pm, at a designated collection point inside Grimes Park. Items can only be dropped off during the actual event and due to limited personnel, residents will need to be able to unload what they drop-off. DeSoto residency is required and a valid drivers license and/or utility bill showing current address will be needed for confirmation.

**ALLOWED ITEMS:** Couches, furniture, mattresses, appliances, hot water heaters, plumbing fixtures, lawn mowers, carpet, vinyl flooring, drywall, paneling (limited amounts only, no contractors allowed). Refrigerators must have refrigerant already removed.

**ITEMS NOT ALLOWED INCLUDE:** Household garbage, commercial garbage, medical waste, yard waste such as dirt, rocks, leaves, grass, and brush. Tires and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) such as batteries, fluorescent lights bulbs, solvents, paint, pesticides, herbicides, automotive fluids, cleaning chemicals, dead animals, and electronic waste.

If you have questions about this event, please call the Action Center at 972.274.CITY (2489).

### A Message from DeSoto's Municipal Court...

While City Hall is closed to the public, persons who have received traffic citations from the DeSoto Police Department can resolve those citations through a video conference court appearance. Judge Kurth holds an E-Court docket each day at 10 am (except on Wednesdays). The process is very user friendly: simply follow this link [www.desototexas.gov/court](http://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, please go to [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.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. Following the E-Court appearance, the clerk of the Municipal Court will email a link to the defendant. When the defendant clicks on this link, it will route to the judgment that has been prepared for the defendant to sign. Once the defendant signs the judgment using their mouse or finger (on touchscreens), the document is automatically routed back to the court where it will be filed on the defendant's case. The defendant is also emailed a final copy of the signed judgment for their records. If you have a question regarding E-Court, please call 972.230.9676.



**Bulk Waste Collection is Currently Suspended**

**Options for Paying Your Utility Bill**

Even though the Utility Billing window is currently closed to the public, we are still providing service to our customers. Utility payments can be made online, via the automated phone number, by mail or by placing a check or money order in the night drop box. Water utility customers can also dial 972.230.9627 to speak with a Utility Billing representative during normal business hours for general water account information.

**Water Bill Payment Options:**

**Pay Online at:**  
[www.desototexas.gov/billpay](http://www.desototexas.gov/billpay)  
 using credit/debit cards or e-check. You will need your thirteen-digit utility account number and eight-digit PIN number. Both of these numbers are found on your water bill.

**Pay by Phone:** 855.748.6063 using credit/debit cards or e-check. You will need your thirteen-digit utility account number and eight-digit PIN number. Both of these numbers are found on your water bill.

**Pay Electronically** using online bill pay through your personal banking center.

Your utility account number is required on all payments.

**Pay by Mail:**  
 DeSoto Water Utilities  
 P. O. Box 550  
 DeSoto, TX 75123-0550

**Place a Check or Money Order in the Night Deposit Box** located in the east parking area at Town Center in the round-about. The drop box is marked WATER/COURT and is next to the U.S. Postal box.

**New water service requests** for residential properties are accepted through [www.2TurnItOn.com](http://www.2TurnItOn.com), America's Utility Connection Service. Businesses will need to call the Utility Billing Office at 972.230.9627 for new service. To cancel service (Residential and Business), contact the Utility Billing Office.

Our water is safe to drink. If you have questions about your water quality, please contact the Public Utilities Department via GoRequest on the City of DeSoto website at [www.desototexas.gov/831/Service-Request](http://www.desototexas.gov/831/Service-Request) or by calling 972.230.9627.

Republic Services, the city's solid waste contractor, has suspended bulk waste collection due to the potential safety risk from the COVID-19 Pandemic to waste haulers and solid waste workers lifting bulky items (i.e. furniture, large appliances, etc.). This suspension will allow them focus on collecting the heavier volume of waste generated during this shelter in place period.



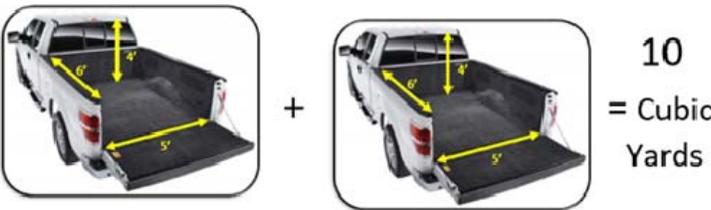
We would also like to remind residents to comply with the City Ordinance that requires all solid waste to be placed in bags and

sealed for collection. Please do not dispose of loose trash in garbage cans, crates or boxes.

**Let's work together to keep things safe!** If you have any questions regarding your trash service, please call the Action Center at 972.274.CITY.



Republic Services will continue brush pickup service as normal, but to assist in the removal of brush from our neighborhoods, they ask that our residents limit their brush content to only the most necessary trimming on their property. Additionally, we would like residents to limit the amount of brush placed out to no more than ten cubic yards per week. Please see the diagram at right that offers a visual indication of ten cubic yards. It is the equivalent of two standard pickup beds six feet long, five feet wide and four feet tall.





# DeSoto Public Library

*Friendly Service, Empowered Futures.*

## COVID-19 UPDATE:

The DeSoto Public Library and Computer Lab will be closed effective Tuesday, March 17th, 2020 and remain closed until further notice.

Library staff will be on site answering phones and responding to customer emails:

Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 6 PM  
Saturday: 12 noon - 5 PM

For any questions, or further assistance, please call (972) 230-9656.

We are very grateful for your support and patience during this time.

Storytime is going online! [www.desototexas.gov/110/Library](http://www.desototexas.gov/110/Library)



Join us online, as the Youth Services Team continues to bring children's activities and programs in a virtual format. You can look forward to posted "Storytime Anytime" videos on YouTube, special "LIVE" streamed story times on Thursdays at 10:30 am, DIY craft videos for kids, recorded parent teaching tips for early literacy, and more. Follow our Facebook page to watch the Thursday morning story times. Be sure to also check out our Storytime Anytime page, where you can watch some of our own YouTube videos. These can also be found by using the YouTube for Kids app.

### Looking for a little help with school at home?

The library has what you need, thanks to an extensive collection of online homeschool resources to help children and teens learn while at home. Content includes fundamentals for homeschooling, science, math, special needs such as early learning, and more.



**Do you need Business Resources?** To help small business owners and entrepreneurs in the community, the library has a new Business Focus area, highlighting different resources that support small businesses during the COVID-19 Pandemic. One of the highlights is a guide that helps with many of the small business provisions in the CARES Act that was passed by Congress on March 27th. This Business

Focus area will have the most updated information on new resources as it becomes available.

### Curbside Pick-up

Simply call 972.230.9665 or visit our library catalog to request items. After you receive a notification, drive to the library located in DeSoto Town Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Park near the outside book-drop on the north entrance (facing Ten Mile Creek). Call the number when you arrive, and we will bring your books out to you! Note that for your protection and that of our staff, we will maintain the appropriate social distancing measures.

**We're closed but you can still borrow our materials!!**

**CURBSIDE PICK-UP SERVICES**



Monday - Friday:  
10 AM - 5 PM

[www.desototexas.gov/110/Library](http://www.desototexas.gov/110/Library)

Please check the City's website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) or social media platforms for the most current information on special events and meetings.