

CITY OF DESOTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

WEEKLY UPDATE

July 31, 2020

Projects of Community Interest

2020 CENSUS | The City continues to encourage residents to complete their 2020 Census forms to ensure that an accurate resident count is conducted. The recent count shows that DeSoto has the highest response rate state wide and nationally with 68.6%. Texas has an average of 57.7%, and the nationwide rate is 62.7%. The 2020 Census still available online for completion. Enumerators will begin making home visits to those who have not completed the Census form in the coming weeks.

CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 | The American Airline Center mobile testing units were relocated to the University of Dallas. Walmart continues to offer drive-through testing daily from 7:00 AM through 9:00 AM. DC3 Church will remain open for testing every Wednesday from 9:00 AM through 12:00 PM. Methodist Charlton drive-through testing is by appointment only Monday through Friday 9:00 AM through 1:00 PM. Ellis Davis testing center is open under the direction of PD/FD and Parkland Hospital staff. As of today, there

are 581 DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 861 individual positive cases.

It is with great sadness that the Parks & Recreation Department announce the passing of one of our team members, Ms. Debbie Walker. Debbie's personality serving as a volunteer and an employee contributed to the home away from home atmosphere at the Senior Center. She will be missed by many. Please keep her family, friends, and co-workers in your prayers. The Memorial Service is scheduled on Monday, August 3 at 1:00 PM at Little Bethel Memorial Park in Duncanville.

ALPINE PARK TRAIL EXTENSION | The construction of the Alpine Park trail extension is complete. Adding signage is the final phase of this project. Signage is scheduled to be installed in September.



COCKRELL HILL PRUNING | Staff completed pruning of trees on Cockrell Hill between Parkerville and Beltline this past week. Below is a picture showing the amount of overgrowth removed.



DESOTO RANCH NATURE TRAIL | The construction of the trail is complete. The grand opening is in the process of being scheduled.



SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM | Staff is contacting the 52 pre-approved businesses to request final submission of all required documentation in order to provide funding. A second round of applications will be accepted July 20 through July 31. Notices were posted through the City's website, social media platforms, email lists, and news release to advise businesses of the second-round grant opportunity. The City has funding for approximately 31

additional businesses in this program. The second round of check deliveries occurred this week with another five DeSoto small businesses receiving funding.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT | Desoto's annual Household Hazardous Waste Event has been rescheduled. Residents can bring household hazardous waste to the DeSoto Pump Station located at 620 S. Westmoreland Road from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 22. This event is for DeSoto residents only; proof of residency is required. Only residential household hazardous waste will be accepted; commercial waste or electronics are not allowed. Due to limited space, those who would like to participate must register prior to the event by calling (972) 230-9600 or appearing at the Action Center in DeSoto City Hall to request a voucher.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT | The Annual Spring Document Shredding Event that was canceled due the COVID-19 Pandemic has been rescheduled and will take place on Saturday, September 19. A mobile document shredding unit will be on-site at the DeSoto Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road on September 19 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. DeSoto residents can bring personal household documents for shredding and disposal at no cost; commercial documents will not be accepted. Proof of DeSoto residency is required for participation.

Residents must adhere to the guidelines below:

- Place all documents in boxes.
- Do not bring documents loose in bags; they must be placed in boxes ready for shredding.
- Do not tape the lid on the boxes.
- No more than 5 boxes per resident will be accepted.

Residents will be able to watch their documents being shredded and the empty boxes will be returned to them for recycling. Once the event is over, any documents left at the location unattended will be considered illegally dumped. If inclement weather occurs, the collection site will be closed for safety reasons.

Project Updates

REAL ESTATE UPDATE | Previously, the City of DeSoto agreed to sell the property at 501 N. Hampton Road to the DEDC, which would in turn sell the property to Aim Center for Health and Wellness for the construction of a medical facility. Closing on the property was scheduled for June 22. However, in March, Dr. Howard Anderson, owner of Aim Center, informed the City that he is unable to proceed with the project at this time due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, since no closing has taken place, the City and the DEDC have agreed to cancel the purchase sale agreement.

RENTAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE | Due to COVID-19 restrictions, staff cancelled the in-person public rental registration meeting previously scheduled for July 16. In order to accommodate virtual sessions, the Development Services Department will host three virtual meetings for the public on August 6, 13, and 20. The virtual meetings are limited to 135 participants. The August 6 meeting has approximately seven spots still available. Participants are asked to register in advance to attend the virtual meetings by sending their names and choice of two virtual meeting dates to RRProgram@desototexas.gov. The ordinance is anticipated to be considered at a September City Council Meeting with an

enforcement date of April 2021.

CITIZEN SURVEY UPDATE | The ETC Institute has notified the City that the Resident Survey has been dropped off at the post office in Kansas and that it will begin arriving at randomly selected DeSoto households in approximately 10 days.

Communications staff are developing an online posting to raise awareness about the survey and to let residents know to watch their mailboxes. Because it is a random sampling, not all residents will receive an actual survey in the mail. Those who are not randomly selected for the survey will still have an opportunity to take the survey when it is posted online for the general public towards the end of the survey process.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE | The Strategic Planning Steering Committee, which includes the City Council and other staff participants, has completed all four required planning sessions and now the consultant will move forward to finalize the draft strategic plan for Council review.

Upcoming Work Session Time Schedule

1. REVIEW OF MASTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS | **6:00 PM TO 6:05 PM**
2. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS | **6:05 PM TO 6:10 PM**
3. DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2020-2024 CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN AND 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN | **6:10 PM TO 6:35 PM**
4. DISCUSSION OF ZONING CASE Z-1422-20; AN AMENDMENT TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT 160 (PD-160) | **6:35 PM TO 6:50 PM**

Weekly Events & Meetings

August 4 Regular City Council Meeting 6 PM (Video Conference)	August 15 Virtual Veterans Benefit Forum 10 AM to 11 AM
August 6 Rental Registration Public Meeting 6:30 PM (Video Conference)	August 17 City Council Topical Work Session 6 PM (Virtual Conference)
August 7 City Council Summer Retreat 7:30 AM to 5 PM (Video Conference)	August 18 City Council Work Session & Meeting 5:30 PM (Virtual Conference)
August 8 City Council Summer Retreat (Continued) (Video Conference)	August 20 Rental Registration Public Meeting 6:30 PM (Video Conference)
August 11 Planning & Zoning Meeting 6 PM (Video Conference)	August 22 Household Hazardous Waste Event 7 AM to 11 AM (Westmoreland Pump Station)
August 13 Rental Registration Public Meeting 6:30 PM (Video Conference)	August 27 DeSoto EDC Regular Board Meeting - 9 AM to 2 PM (Video Meeting)

New Hires, Promotions & Recognitions

NEW HIRES

NAME	START MONTH	DEPARTMENT	POSITION
Brown, Teddie L.	July	Parks & Recreation	Van Driver
Williams, Damian S.	July	Utilities	Operations Coordinator

