

CITY OF DESOTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

WEEKLY UPDATE

August 7, 2020

Projects of Community Interest

Change in Solid Waste Pick-up on the Tuesday/Friday Route | Due to the significant residential growth in the city, Republic Services is increasing the number of routes on Tuesday/Friday to support the additional development effective Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Service days will remain the same. With the adjustment to routes, individual collection times may vary. Residents are reminded to please have their bagged garbage out by 7:00 am for collection. The Monday/Thursday route will not be impacted.

2020 CENSUS | DeSoto's Complete Count Committee met on August 6th. They continue to work on spreading the word about the census in English and Spanish. They are planning to pass out baggies of goodies containing census material at DeSoto ISD's Back to School Drive-Thru on August 15, 2020. They are also encouraging people to snap photos of themselves or others holding an "I Count" poster or record a 3 second video stating "I Count". These photos and videos will be produced into a "short

video” that will be used to promote the 2020 Census on DeSoto social media.

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 69.0%. Texas has an average of 58.1%, and the nationwide rate is 63.1%. The 2020 Census still be 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 to 1:00 PM. Ellis Davis testing center is open under the direction of PD/FD and Parkland Hospital staff. As of today, there are 665 DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 1,002 individual positive cases.

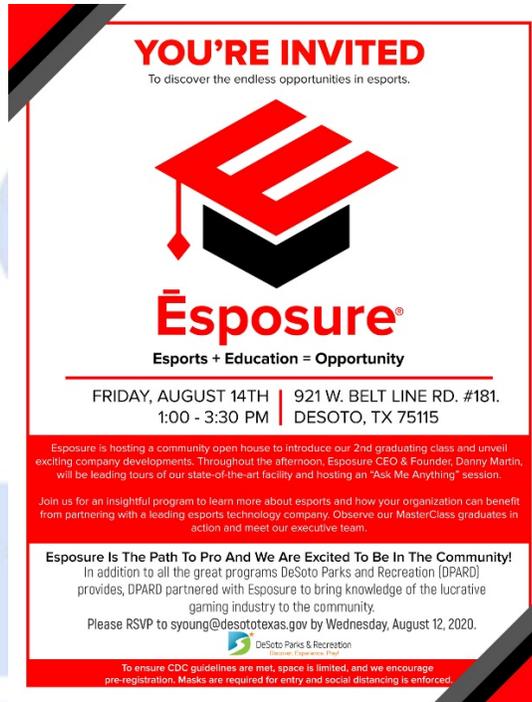
MEADOW CREEK PARK | On Thursday, August 6th, Hearst Productions began filming a documentary on Mr. RuQuan Brown at Meadow Creek Park. Mr. Brown grew up in DeSoto prior to moving to Washington, D.C. where he recently graduated and will be attending Harvard University on a football scholarship. RuQuan also has a clothing company that donates a portion of proceeds to ending gun violence. Click [here for more information.](#)



PARK MAINTENANCE UPDATE | The Park Maintenance team is committed to the beautification of median flower beds throughout the city. The pictures below show improvements at the intersections of Westmoreland and Danieldale as well as Westmoreland and Wintergreen.



Virtual Summer Camp Program | The Parks and Recreation Department partnered with Geeklets Esports to provide a customized online educational platform that covered management, production and competition. Ten students will graduate on August 14, 2020.



SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM | Staff continues the process of contacting the 52 businesses who received pre-approval on Round 1 to request final submission of all required documentation. The checks for those small businesses who received funding during Round 1 are currently being dispersed.

41 applications have been received and are being considered for Round 2 funding which closed on July 31.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT | Our annual Household Hazardous Waste Event has been rescheduled. Household Hazardous Waste can be brought to the DeSoto Pump Station located at 620 S. Westmoreland Rd. from 7 AM to 11 AM on Saturday, August 22, 2020. 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, 2020 from 9 AM to noon at the Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road. Only household documents will be accepted for shredding. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer E-recycling at this event because Goodwill Services, our E-recycling partner, is not conducting E-recycling events at this time due to effects of the Pandemic.

Project Updates

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 first Public Meeting took place on August 6th. All 135 spots were filled. Property owners were very engaged in the discussion asking questions and making recommendations for City Council to consider during the implementation process.

Those interested in participating in the remaining two meetings are asked to register in advance to attend the virtual meetings by

sending their names and choice of 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 notified us on July 28th that DeSoto’s Resident Survey has been dropped off at their post office in Kansas and that it will begin arriving at randomly selected DeSoto households in approximately 10 days.

Communications staff are developing on an online posting to raise awareness about the survey and to let residents know to watch their mailboxes. Because it is intended to be a statistically accurate random sampling, not all residents will receive an actual survey in the mail. Those who are not randomly selected for the survey will 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.

Weekly Events & Meetings

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| August 7 – City Council Summer Retreat (Virtual Video Conference) | August 17 City Council Topical Work Session 6 PM (Virtual Conference) |
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| August 8 – City Council Summer Retreat (Continued) (Video Conference) | August 18 City Council Work Session & Meeting 5:30 PM (Virtual Conference) |
| August 10 – Virtual Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting 6 pm | 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 Economic Development Corporation Regular Board Meeting – 9 AM to 2 PM. (Video Meeting) www.gotomeetings.com |
| August 15 Virtual Veterans Benefit Forum 10 AM to 11 AM | August 28 Fourth Friday Virtual Concert with The Funky Knuckles Band 8 PM |

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 |

CHRIS GLOVER FORMALLY CHOSEN TO LEAD DESOTO PARKS & RECREATION | After conducting a thorough national search to find a permanent Parks & Recreation Managing Director, the City of DeSoto concluded that Chris Glover, who has been serving as interim director, is to be their permanent choice.

Glover, a 20-year veteran of DeSoto’s Parks System, has served twice in the interim role during his career in DeSoto. Mr. Glover has been

serving as Interim Parks and Rec Director since May of 2020 when previous Director M. Reneé Johnson left DeSoto to become an Assistant Director for the Dallas Parks Department.

"I am honored to be named to the post of Managing Director of DeSoto Parks & Recreation and would like to thank the City Manager, Mayor, and City Council for the confidence that they have shown in me," said Chris Glover. "I have been proud to be a part of this great community and look forward to continuing to provide DeSoto's residents with the very best recreational opportunities possible."

Glover's hiring was praised by City Manager Brandon Wright who observed, "I have seen Chris take on some daunting challenges and each time he has thoroughly impressed me with his leadership, his innovative solutions, and the poise that he has shown while handling some very tough assignments. Chris was truly the best person for the job!"

DeSoto Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan echoed Wright's sentiments adding, "Those of us who have known Chris over the years have always been impressed by his positive attitude, strong work ethic, and dedication to the well-being of the people of DeSoto. His selection to lead DeSoto's parks system into the future is excellent news for our great city!"

Chris Glover joined DeSoto Parks & Recreation in January of 2000 as a Recreation Manager but quickly took on responsibilities far beyond the scope of that position. Chris exercised oversight for several major construction projects including the Grimes Baseball Complex, Moseley Aquatics Park, Meadow Creek Football Complex, Zeiger Softball Complex, and DeSoto's Recreation and Senior centers. Under his leadership, the Parks & Recreation Department significantly contributed to the economic development of DeSoto through hosting youth tournaments which generated an estimated five million dollars annually to the city's economy. Chris was also instrumental in assisting the department's efforts to secure a coveted CAPRA accreditation through the National Recreation and Parks Society. DeSoto Parks &

Recreation is one of only 171 parks and recreation agencies in the United States to possess this designation.

Chris received his Bachelor of Arts Degree for the University of North Texas and is a resident of DeSoto.

