

# DeSoto City Lights

MUNICIPAL ELECTION - SATURDAY, MAY 1ST

The City of DeSoto will hold a Municipal General Election on May 1, 2021. Here are the candidates:

**City Council Place 6**

Versie Murchison  
Crystal Chism  
Entaune Tyson

**City Council Place 7**

Kenzie Moore, III  
Letitia Hughes



All members of the City Council run by place but are elected at large. This means that they must reside in the district for which they are seeking election. However, all registered voters who live anywhere in DeSoto may cast ballots for that position. The Mayor may reside anywhere within the City limits and is also elected at large. If you would like more information on the City Council districts, a map is available on the City's website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) under the Government tab at the top of the page.

**Important Municipal Election Dates:**

- Last day to register to vote - April 1st
- First day to early vote - April 19th
- Last day to receive an application for ballot by mail (ABBM) in the Dallas County office (not postmarked) - April 20th
- Last day to receive federal post card application (FPCA) - April 20th
- Last day to Early Vote - April 27th
- Election Day - May 1st
- Last day to receive ballots by mail is Election Day by 7 pm - May 1st

Early voting takes place from April 19th to April 27th at Disciple Central Community Church (DC3), located at 901 North Polk Street, DeSoto, Texas. DeSoto registered voters can also vote at any Dallas County Early voting location. Please check the City's website for a list of other Dallas County voting sites.

For more information on the upcoming election, visit our website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov), scroll down and follow the link to Municipal General Election information.

## CITY CALENDAR

### APRIL

1 Historical Foundation Mtg. virtual - 6pm  
4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
5 Arts Commission virtual - 6 pm  
5 Park Board Meeting - virtual - 6:30 pm  
6 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm  
12 Public Safety Town Hall - virtual 6 pm  
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- virtual -6 pm  
17 Veterans Benefit Forum virtual - 10 am  
19 Topical Work Session - virtual - 6 pm  
20 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm  
26 DeSoto Dev. Board Mtg. - virtual 9 am

### MAY

1 Municipal Election Day  
3 Park Board Meeting - virtual 6:30 pm  
3 Arts Commission Mtg. - virtual 6 pm  
4 City Council Mtg. - Virtual 6 pm  
6 Library Board Meeting virtual 7 pm  
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - virtual 6 pm  
15 Military Appreciation Event - 4:30 pm  
17 Topical Work Session - virtual 6 pm  
18 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm  
24 DeSoto Dev. Board Mtg. - virtual - 9 am

### DESOTO DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DeSoto recently rolled out a new program that provides mortgage assistance for income-eligible, first-time homebuyers. The DeSoto Down Payment Assistance Program can provide up to \$10,000 in assistance for first-time homebuyers who qualify based on HUD Income Limits per household size. The amount of assistance will be dependent on the sales price and loan amount from the lender.

Through this program, a financial subsidy is available in the form of closing costs and down payment assistance for DeSoto residents who purchase homes in the DeSoto city limits.

For more information contact [DownPaymentAssistance@desototexas.gov](mailto:DownPaymentAssistance@desototexas.gov) or refer to the Down Payment Assistance Program webpage under the COMMUNITY tab at [DeSoto, TX - Official Website | Official Website \(desototexas.gov\)](http://DeSoto, TX - Official Website | Official Website (desototexas.gov))

## DESOTO RECEIVES \$1.89 MILLION NEW DIRECTIONS GRANT FROM DALLAS COUNTY

The Dallas County Commissioners' Court recently approved a 2-year, \$1.89 million grant for the City of DeSoto as a part of the County's New Directions in Public Safety Grant program. This program was initiated in July 2020 following the tragic events involving the death of George Floyd and the need for policing reforms. Following a working group including community leaders and leaders from Dallas County cities, Dallas County offered a grant with the purpose of expanding the range of first-responders to public safety issues beyond law enforcement.

The City of DeSoto stepped forward at that same time creating the Crisis Assessment Resource Engagement (CARE) Team as an interdisciplinary approach to address mental health emergencies. The CARE Team includes a full-time clinical social worker, police officer, paramedic, and

victim's assistance coordinator and makes follow-up contact with mentally ill members of the community who have recently gone into crisis. This pilot program is being studied and reviewed to offer mental health crisis services on a regional level with the cities of Cedar Hill, Duncanville, Lancaster, and Glenn Heights.

The first year of funding provides for the hiring of a full-time CARE Team Manager to lead the development of a regional mental health services framework. The second-year funding follows through with support for positions necessary to fulfill the creation of that regional team. The DeSoto City Council recently approved an Interlocal Agreement that will be effective May 1 and will support the hiring of a regional program manager who will work to expand the program to neighboring communities.



*DeSoto City Manager Brandon Wright, Police Chief Joe Costa, and Lieutenant Melissa Franks attended the March 30th Dallas County Commissioner's Court meeting to accept the grant on behalf of the City of DeSoto.*



Bring your Household Hazardous Waste to our annual disposal event scheduled for Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 9 am to 12 noon at the DeSoto Pump Station, 620 N. Westmoreland Road. 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 in person at the Action Center in DeSoto City Hall.

## FEMA PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COVID-19 RELATED FUNERAL EXPENSES

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses retroactive to January 2020.

### To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States (including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia).
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. Citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

### FEMA will begin accepting applications in April. You will need:

- An official death certificate that shows:
  - \*The death is directly or indirectly attributed to COVID\_19
  - \* The death occurred in the United States (including the U.S. territories)
- Funeral expense documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes:
  - \* The applicant's name
  - \* The deceased person's name
  - \* Amount of funeral expenses
  - \* The dates the funeral expenses were incurred

FEMA IS Working to set up a dedicated toll-free number that can be used to apply for funeral assistance. In the interim, our Library staff are trained to help DeSoto residents access this resource and provide technical assistance with filling out the application. Residents interested in applying should call the Library Reference Desk at 972.230.9661 to begin the process.

## HIGH WEEDS AND GRASS

City Ordinances require that weeds and grass be kept below 12 inches in height. As the owner or occupant of the property, you are required to maintain the property from the street in the front to the middle of the alley in the back (or the property line). This includes the front, back, side yards, the right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the curb) and the alley and easement. If you have questions or would like to report a code violation, please call the Code Enforcement office at 469.658.3075.



## CULTURAL ARTS MASTER PLAN ACCEPTED BY COUNCIL

DeSoto's Cultural Arts Master Plan, "Imagine. DeSoto Tx," which is an important part of the City of DeSoto's Strategic Plan and the Council's Business Plan, was unanimously accepted by the DeSoto City Council at its January 5, 2021 meeting. This plan is the product of DeSoto Arts Commission members who worked independently with MJR Consultants to research local arts agencies, gather citizen input, and refine the data gathered for use in the plan.

"Thank you to the Arts Commission, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Raphiel who is their City Council's liaison, and to the City Council for all working together to give us 'Imagine. DeSoto Tx,' DeSoto's first-ever Cultural Arts Master Plan which identifies our cultural resources and provides ways to use them to enrich the lives of all of our residents," said DeSoto Mayor Rachel L. Proctor. "Review, approval, and implementation of our new Cultural Arts Master Plan are important goals of our City Council's Business Plan and we have also included this insightful plan in DeSoto's broader Strategic Plan, so we are well on the way to making its many valuable recommendations a reality here in DeSoto."

DeSoto Arts Commission Chair James Adams welcomed this strong support for the arts in DeSoto and commented, "Recent times have shown us that now more than ever, that arts and culture are vital to the quality of life. As public leaders in the DeSoto community, it is our responsibility to ensure access to creative, artistic, and cultural experiences of high quality to ALL our citizens."

If you would like to read DeSoto's Cultural Arts Master Plan visit: <https://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/2026/Community-Cultural-Arts-Master-Plan>



**SAT 01 MAY**

# MOTHER SON DANCE

JERSEYS AND JEANS

DANCING | GAMES | PAINTING WITH A TWIST | FOOD

EVENT TIMES // 4:30PM-6:30PM // 7:30PM-9:30PM

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
[WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/REGISTER](http://WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/REGISTER)

RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
\$20 PER PERSON	\$25 PER PERSON

\$15 OPTION FOR PARENT TO PAINT

30 MIN EARLY ARRIVAL FOR PHOTOS

DESOTO CIVIC CENTER // 211 E. PLEASANT RUN RD // DESOTO, TX

SAFE DISTANCE 6FT

MASK ON EVENT

# DESOTO MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

## SATURDAY MAY 15, 2021

### 4:30 – 5:30 PM

DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee will host an appreciation event for Veterans on Military Appreciation Day - May 15, 2021. In-N-Out Burger is joining us again this year to create a drive-thru in the south parking lot of DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, with their mobile cook-out trailer. They will offer free burger meals to the first 200 veterans and their families in their vehicles starting at 4:30pm. There will be special goodie bags for the kids. The DeSoto Veterans Affairs Committee wants to show appreciation and honor for your service, so load the family in your car, put on your masks and drive-thru the south parking lot for a special treat. Please call 972.978.2352 for more information.

The Keep DeSoto Clean Trash Pick-up Day was a huge success. More than 200 citizens (some pictured below) spent the morning of March 27th picking up trash throughout our community. Over 100 bags of waste, tires, kitchen sinks, and various construction materials were filled. Thank you for Keeping DeSoto Clean and Beautiful!!!

