

DESOTO RANCH HOA

Volume 1, Issue 2

Mar—May 2016

Special points of interest:

- City Codes
- Open Carry Law

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Texas Open Carry Handgun Law

As you may have heard (or even seen), in the State of Texas, we are now allowed to openly carry our handguns, if you are licensed to do so. We've listed a few points to remember:

Definition: Open carry refers to the act of carrying a handgun (generally) that is in plain view in a holster. There is no concealment garment such as a t-shirt or vest that is covering the firearm. Unconcealed handguns, loaded or unloaded, must be carried in a shoulder or belt holster

Public Buildings:

- *****Open carry is still prohibited in city and government buildings where a city meeting is taking place.*** (COURTS)**
- New Law however, limits the scope of the governmental meeting prohibition by restricting it to the specific room or rooms in which the meeting is being held, and to public meetings for which notice is required under the Open Meetings Act.
- (Sign must be visible outside of specific rooms)

School Campuses:

- Starting Aug. 1, 2016, institutions of higher education and private/independent schools have the ability to allow a concealed handgun on campus. (SB 11)
- Open carrying of handguns is still prohibited at these locations.
- Citizens will be able to carry a concealed handgun but not an open carry on college campuses. That still means no elementary schools, middle schools or high schools.
- Authorizes an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education in this state to establish rules, regulation, or other provisions concerning the storage of handguns in dormitories or other residential facilities that are owned or leased and operated by the institution and located on the campus of the institution. Post a sign under Penal Code Sect. 30.06 with respect to any portion of the premises on which license holders may not carry.

Businesses:

- Business owners and employers will still have the authority to ban weapons on their property and work place using the proper legal signage.
- The state is very specific about how these signs are worded. (Signs must be block letters that are at least 1 inch in height, written in both English and Spanish, and must be visible and posted at each public entrance to be legally binding. BOTH 30.07 & 30.06 SIGNS MUST BE POSTED if you DO NOT want CONCEAL carry and OPEN carry on your premises)

For more information, please click the link below

<http://www.desototexas.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11019>

Community Corner...



- Yard of the Month is back!!! Let's start getting those yards together guys! The season is from Apr to Oct. Each winner will receive an award email notification and also be featured in the next quarterly newsletter
- Unfortunately, Happy Hour has been discontinued due to very low community turnout. If you have ideas that would be more desirable, let us know!
- Cars in the street...Some of our streets are getting harder and harder to pass due to the large amount of vehicles parked on the streets. We've actually had a hit & run as well. If you can, please park cars in your driveway.
- Would you like to be a part of a committee? If so, please email desotoranchhomeowner@hotmail.com
- Desoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event: April 2nd @6::30 pm Topic—Race Relations in Your Neighborhood ~ RSVP at www.desitidd.org or call 972-230-9648

Have You Noticed the Bushes?

Earlier last year, we noticed that the bushes surrounding most of the community was infected by a parasite.. This wasn't isolated to our neighborhood only. Other communities were affected as well. We contacted our landscape vendor and they agreed to apply three treatments to the m. We did notice that the bushes were getting better, but now it appears the parasite has returned.

We have asked a representative from the vendor (SITE) to come out and be available to answer any questions the community may have so please, if you have questions regarding the bushes surrounding the community, please come to the Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th at 6:30 pm.

Nextdoor

We are having great activity on Nextdoor. Way more than when we were on Facebook! Why don't you join us!

People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Advertising their garage sales
- Giving away free stuff
- Finding out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Learning about activities going on in the community and DeSoto



Our mission is to use the power of technology to build a stronger and safer neighborhood.

Hope sent an invitation to the homeowners in which we have emails. You can help by asking your neighbors to either go to

www.fsresidential.com

and create a user account that will attach your email or send your email directly to desotoranch-homeowner@hotmail.com.

We hope to see you on the page!

Did You Know...

- You need a permit to have a garage sale? When you do, your address is listed on the City of Desoto's website on Thursday afternoons—[click here for more information](#)
- Trash is collected every Monday and Thursday - [click here for more information](#)
- Recycling is collected on Wednesdays— In addition, Republic Waste Services provides 96 gallon recycling containers @2.75/month that shows on your water bill—call the Action Center @972-230-9600
- The City of Desoto has exercise programs for all ages—[click here for more information](#)
- The City of Desoto Parks & Recreation Easter Egg-Stravaganza on March 19th @Ziegler Park. Egg hung begin at 11am—[click here](#)
- Kids Fishing Day at Briarwood Park, April 23rd 9a - 12p, Registration fee \$5 Remember that all exterior upgrades will need to be approved by the City and the Board prior to starting work—[click here](#)
- There's an Annual Mother/Son dance that will happen on May 7th...[click here](#)
- The City of Desoto is hosting the Best Southwest Everything Teen Expo 2016 on April 2nd from 11a to 3pm at Desoto Town Center...[click here](#)

What is the proper way to prune a crepe myrtle?



In late winter and early spring many of your neighbors will get out their tools and proceed to butcher their crepe myrtles. They do this because they believe that cutting them back is the proper way to maintain the tree and that it will help produce extra blooms in the summer. I wouldn't judge your neighbors too harshly though, they aren't killers, just misinformed. And their punishment is an ugly tree.

The proper way to maintain a crepe myrtle is to treat it like any other large tree and prune and trim as needed. You wouldn't top off an oak tree at 20 feet each year. Yet many of your neighbors are hacking their crepe myrtles so they end up at about 6 feet tall. A few years back, I even saw a guy use a circular saw to proudly cut through his crepe myrtle limbs that were 3 inches thick.

When you butcher your crepe myrtles in this way, all you are doing is creating big, ugly knots on the trunks of the tree (you can see a picture on our blog.) And then come summer, the few extra blooms you get will droop on spindly limbs that are too weak to hold the flowers weight.

The way to proper maintain a crepe myrtle:

- Trim off any limbs rubbing against each other or rubbing on your roof or fence.
- If you must trim more, try not to trim anything larger than a pencil.

If you want to see good crepe myrtle pruning I recommend a trip to the beautiful [Dallas Arboretum](#). Their crepe myrtles are used during their tour for the blind because of the beautiful sculpted feel of their untrimmed trunks.

If you have any lawn or landscape questions give us a call at [972.495.6995](tel:972.495.6995) or email Ken@VillageGreen-Inc.com. I love to answer your questions and often can share the information for our Quick Tip series that helps all Village Green customers.

Desoto Ranch Community Updates



****Note**** - Any interests or correspondence can be sent to : desotoranchhomeowner@hotmail.com or if it is something that can be helpful to the community, post it on [Nextdoor](#)

- Movie in the Park—due to low turnout, this event has been canceled
- Still looking for volunteers on committees
- Advertise with us! It 's free!
- Let's keep our community beautiful. If you see something, let us know
- When you're repairing anything on your property, be mindful to clean up anything that may damage tires, such as, nails in the alley from repairing your fence
- Remember that all exterior upgrades will need to be approved by the City and the Board prior to starting work

City of Desoto Corner

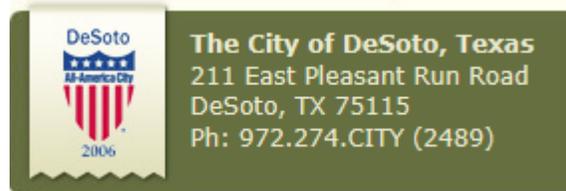
DeSoto Community Links

[Helpful City Numbers](#)

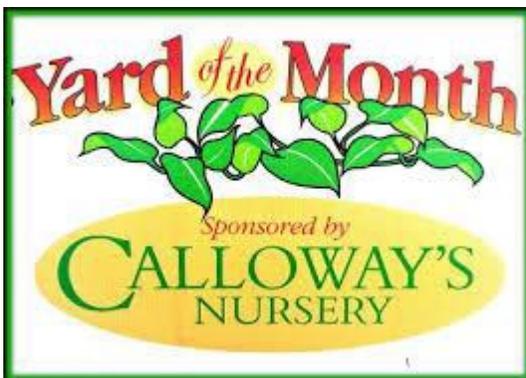
[DeSoto Chamber of Commerce](#)

[DeSoto Economic Development Corporation](#)

[DeSoto Dining and Dialogue](#)



- [City-wide Announcements](#)
- [DeSoto Calendar of Events](#)



YOUR HOUSE COULD BE POSTED

HERE!!!!

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**Remember to send your
email address to:
desotoranchhomeowner
@hotmail.com**

Your HOA Board:

Hope Stevens, President
Billie Johnson, Vice-President
Yolanda Norman, Secretary

Who We Are

The Desoto Ranch Community consists of 250 lots. Annual HOA dues provide maintenance of our children's park, landscaping of three (3) entrances, all trees and bush perimeter, retention pond, vendor management, neighborhood socials and homeowner recognitions just to name a few things.

All of our homes have rear garages, so we take opportunities to come together to support being a community. We take time to get to know more than just the neighbor on each side, but those up the street and around the corner.

We welcome any and all suggestions that will make our community the preferred community in DeSoto so please don't hesitate to contact any member of the board.

Alert!!!

Please. take note : 3 or 4 guys may visit your home claiming they are from water company, to install shower caps, to save water. Or they will claim they are from Electricity company to change energy-saving electric bulbs for free as part of government lay down program. They have been spotted in so many areas. Please. do NOT let them in. They are Robbers, robbing people at gun-point. Please alert all your contacts, as you may save lives. Make sure doors are locked at all times and Please do not open door to strangers. Please forward immediately to save lives n property!!!

Our Community Sponsors

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