

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

DeSoto Begins the Recovery Process from Recent Tornado

The destructive winds and rains of the tornado that recently hit our community demolished homes, ripped the roofs off some, uprooted trees and brought down power lines. While some members of the affected part of the community were blessed to have their homes and personal property spared, several DeSoto residents suffered crippling losses from the storm.

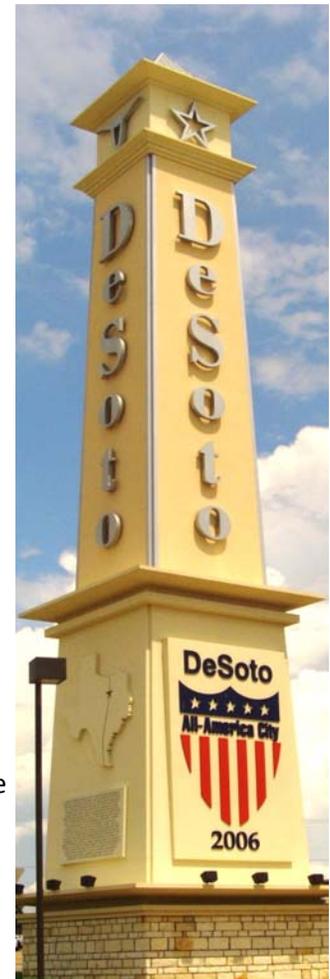
The clean-up is well underway and many dumpster loads of storm debris have already been removed from the affected area. During the initial cleanup phase it is important to remember that loose debris, storm/water damaged furniture, carpet, loose sheetrock and similar loose building material can be placed at your front curbside for removal by the City. Boom trucks cannot negotiate our alleys to pick-up debris placed there, so it is imperative that the debris be placed on the front curb.



A permit is required for the demolition of storm damaged roofs, exterior and interior walls, windows, doors, and similar construction materials associated with electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems. It is extremely important for homeowners to work hand in hand with their insurance company prior to submitting an application for a demolition permit and beginning demolition. Once the appropriate permit has been secured, the property owner should contact Republic Waste Services, the City's solid waste contractor, by calling 972.225.5252 to request the placement of an on-site dumpster and removal of the construction material

resulting from the demolition. The City will not remove or pay for the removal of construction materials associated with demolition activity.

A building permit is required prior to initiating any building and or reconstruction work, including roof and shingle replacement, after the initial clean-up and demolition work has occurred. For additional information, please contact the City of DeSoto Building Inspections Department at 972.230.9610.



City Calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Day - City facilities closed
- 4 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm
- 4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 7 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 7 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
- 12 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm
- 18 MLK Holiday - city facilities closed
- 19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
- 26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
- 30 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
- 31 Back to Art - City Hall - 4 to 7 pm

February

- 1 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6pm
- 1 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 2 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 4 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
- 4 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 6 Daddy Daughter Dance - Civic Ctr. 7 pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm
- 16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
- 23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm



The DeSoto Public Utilities Department would like your opinion...

Please go to www.desototexas.gov and follow the link in the News & Events section and take a short survey regarding water conservation classes that the DeSoto Public Utilities Department is considering offering.



Daddy Daughter Dance

Saturday, February 6th - 7 to 9 pm
 DeSoto Civic Center
 211 E. Pleasant Run Road
 \$30 per couple
 \$15 additional daughter
 For info call 972.230.9651



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson met with DeSoto Mayor Carl Sherman, DeSoto Fire Chief Jerry Duffield (standing) and other management staff to review DeSoto's emergency response to the December 26th tornado. Chief Duffield reported that "All search and rescue and emergency operations were complete within 90 minutes of the event."

City of DeSoto Will Hold a Regular Municipal Election on May 7, 2016

The City of DeSoto will hold a Regular Election on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

The following places will be voted on in this election:

- Mayor Place 1
- Councilmember Place 3
- Councilmember Place 5

DeSoto residents who are interested in filing for one of these city council seats must live within the bounds of the district to be eligible. However, all candidates are elected at large. Candidates for Mayor must live within the city limits of DeSoto.

Candidate Filing Information Packets can be requested by sending an email to the City Secretary at kmorris@desototexas.gov. Please include your name, address, email address and contact phone number. Packets can also be picked up in the City Secretary's office during regular business hours.

Filing for a place on the ballot will take place from January 20, 2016 through February 19, 2016 between the hours of 9 am and 12 noon and from 1 pm to 4 pm in the City Secretary's office. On February 19, 2016, the office will close promptly at 5 pm and no filing will be accepted after that time. Every election is determined by the citizens who vote. Make your voice heard by registering AND casting your vote.

- January 1, 2016 is the first day to receive an application for a ballot by mail from Dallas County elections.



- January 20, 2016 is the first day to file for a place on the DeSoto ballot.
- February 19, 2016 is the last day to file for a place on the DeSoto ballot.
- April 7, 2016 is the last day to register to vote in the May 7th election.
- April 25, 2016 is the first day of early voting.
- April 26, 2016 is the last date to receive an application for a mail-in ballot from Dallas County.
- April 26, 2016 is the last day to receive Federal Post Card Applications from Dallas County.

- May 3, 2016 is the last day of early voting.
- May 7, 2016 is election day.

You may obtain Voter Registration cards at the Action Center in City Hall, the Library and Recreation Center. Once you receive the application, carefully read the instructions on the form, fill it out, and mail it to the appropriate County Elections Department. It is important to know that to vote in any election, your application for voter registration must be postmarked or received in the County Voter's Registrar's Office at least 30 days prior to the election. Dallas County residents should mail their application to: Dallas County Elections, 2377 N. Stemmons Expressway, Suite 820, Dallas, Texas 75207. Please visit the City of DeSoto website at www.desototexas.gov for updates.

Coming Soon – A New Look For the City's Website

Final touches are being made to the City's website which has undergone a redesign to reflect a more modern look and improved functionality. The City of DeSoto is always planning for the future, and the new site will be responsive, meaning it will adjust for any size screen from a desk top computer to a mobile device. The layout of the page will change to fit when it senses a phone is being used to access the site while maintaining the look and functionality of the website. Fully 15% of the web traffic to the City's site is from a mobile device today, and the number continues to grow. Check out www.desototexas.gov and see our fresh new website!



A Message from Code Enforcement:

Parking vehicles on unimproved surfaces is prohibited by City Ordinance. No vehicle should be parked in the front or side yards at any time, except on a driveway or on an improved surface such as reinforced concrete. Additionally, parking in the alley is prohibited at all times so as to not interfere with the free and uninterrupted movement of traffic.

For more information on code enforcement issues, please call 469.658.3075.



*Connecting teens to community,
resources, services, and support.*

**Best Southwest Everything Teen Expo 2016
April 02, 2016 - DeSoto Town Center 11 am - 3 pm**

Teens, are you looking for valuable resources, services and programs especially designed for you? Want to connect and build positive relationships with professionals in your community through fun and engaging interactions? Then don't miss the upcoming Best Southwest Everything Teen Expo 2016 planned and organized largely by your peers. Teens from the Cities of DeSoto, Cedar Hill, Lancaster and Duncanville are busy planning this awesome event where you'll find information on things that interest you. This one day event will be hosted by Lady Jade of K104 Hip Hop and R&B radio and will feature workshops, motivational speakers, entertainment, giveaways and more. Teens are encouraged to register for this free event at www.desototexas.gov/everythingteenexpo. We are also looking for vendors for the Everything Teen Expo. If you would like to participate as a vendor, please contact Ms. Marq Runnels at 972.230.9663 or mrunnels@desototexas.gov.



The next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 6:30 pm. The discussion topic will be "Race Relations in Your Neighborhood." Please save the date on your calendar and considering hosting a dinner table in your home or participating as a guest. To RSVP to attend or for more information, go to www.desotodd.org or call 972.230.9648.

**DALLAS
BLACK
DANCE
THEATRE**

FRI. FEB. 19, 2016 | 7:00 PM
FRED NICKELS AUDITORIUM
600 EAGLE DR., DESOTO HIGH
SCHOOL

\$10 pre-sale
\$15 at the door
\$5 Students and Seniors 60+

TICKETS AT
artsdesoto.com
972-230-9648



photo by Brian Guillaux

sponsored by the DeSoto Arts Commission & DeSoto ISD