

# DeSoto City Lights

*A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department*

## ***City of DeSoto Will Host Planning for the Future Symposium on Saturday, February 3, 2018***

DeSoto Mayor, the Honorable Curtistene McCowan, is partnering with the Honorable Ingrid Warren, Dallas County Probate Court Number Two Judge, to host a special community information symposium called Planning for the Future on Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 10 am to noon in the City Council Chambers at the Jim Baugh Government Center. The free symposium is designed to provide valuable information and questions regarding wills, trusts and estate planning.

Panel 1 features attorneys who work in the field of estate planning including:



**Shawna L. Brown** is Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law and draws on years of experience in estate tax planning and related areas.



**Craig Gant, Sr. Esq.** is the managing partner for a small law firm which focuses on probate and estate planning.



**Glynis Redwine** founded the Redwine Law Firm, PLLC to serve small businesses and individuals looking for estate planning and probate counsel after long career working as a corporate counsel for two major corporations.

Panel 2 will focus on Financial Management and features these industry professionals:



**Dave Folz**, Trust Counselor is an experienced trustee and former head of the trust department for a regional bank, he now works as a consultant to families, CPAs attorneys and trustees. He seeks to demystify and simplify the roles for trustees and help them have a positive impact on the multi-generational transfer of wealth.



**Dusty Wallace**, with Lee Financial, a fee based financial advisory firm, offers a unique skill set with her Certified Financial Planning certificate and law degree.

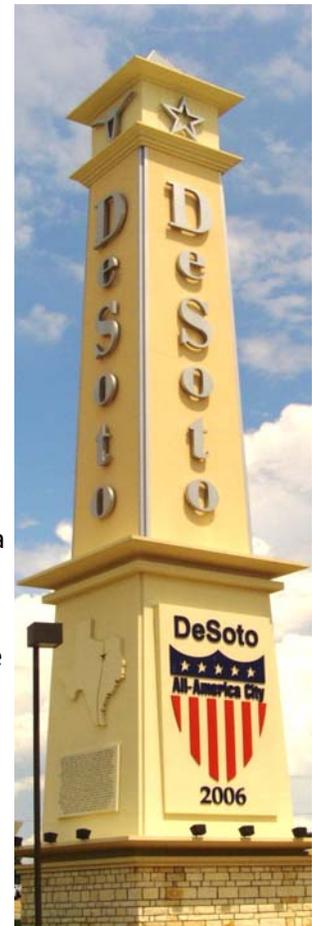


**Jerome Caulk** is a Financial Adviser with Ameriprise Financial. He provides personalized money management estate planning for individuals.



**Barbara Dickson** is a recently retired equity manager and strategist known for her wealth of experience advising her clients on investment decisions. She is a member of Dallas Society of Financial Analysts, the CFA Institute and the Dallas Chapter of the Society of Pension Professionals.

**(cont. on page 3)**



## City Calendar

### December

2 Holly-Palooza - Library - 10 am - 3 pm  
4 Arts Commission Mtg. Canceled  
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
8 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  
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
25 City Facilities Closed - Christmas Holiday  
26 City Facilities Closed - Christmas Holiday

### January

2 City Council Mtg. Canceled  
4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
4 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
4 Historical Foundation Mtg.- 6 pm  
8 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm  
9 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm  
13 Dining & Dialogue Event 6:30 pm  
15 City Facilities Closed for MLK Holiday  
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Civic Ctr. -7 pm  
26 Linny Nance Concert - Corner Theatre

### Daddy Daughter Dance

The 24th Annual Daddy and Daughter Dance is a memorable evening of dancing and elegance. This formal affair is a sophisticated and stylish night where Dads make Daughter's dreams come true. It takes place on Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at the DeSoto Civic Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Regular Admission is \$35 per couple and \$15 for each additional daughter. Reserved seating in a special area is available for \$50 per couple and \$25 for each additional daughter. Tickets go on sale January 5, 2018 and must be purchased in advance at the DeSoto Recreation Center. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For more information call 972.230.9651.

## DeSoto's Information Technology Department Receives Digital Cities Award for Second Year In A Row

For the second year in a row, DeSoto has won the prestigious Digital Cities Award for cities with a population under 75,000. The Center for Digital Government (CDG) presents the award to ten cities across the nation in the under 75,000 population category.

"This is exciting news! Congratulations to the IT Department on again winning such a prestigious award," said DeSoto Mayor Curtistene McCowan. "The City of DeSoto recognizes the importance of innovation in every aspect of how we conduct business in order to deliver more efficient and high quality service to our citizens."

DeSoto earned this award in part for working to be a mobile-first community. For several years the City has prefaced any software or system purchase with the question, "Is it mobile-friendly?" As a result, nearly every department can boast of being as mobile as possible, for internal business as well as citizen services. These new projects have been implemented in 2017:

- A trash/recycling app was deployed, allowing residents to access their personalized pickup schedule, set reminders for themselves, and get information and tips about recycling.
- The Parks and Recreation Department offers mobile access to class schedules and the ability for citizens to enroll in classes via a mobile device.
- The Municipal Court also supports mobility, allowing for mobile payment of fines and offering "e-court," where defendants can meet with a judge via their mobile device without physically going to court.
- The court also texts reminders to defendants, including reminders of a due date for a payment plan, reminders for defendants who are three days out from a court date, and those whose cases are about to be issued a warrant.

- An Apple Volume Purchasing Program was added to the city's Enterprise

Mobility Management system to help improve remote management of the city's mobile devices.

DeSoto excels in sharing services with other local jurisdictions, collaborating on an animal shelter, 911 dispatch center and a jail. The City also shares employees, including the emergency management coordinator, who coordinates disaster preparation for four cities. During the last year, DeSoto's IT staff and fire department developed a simulated regional training



program called Flame Sim. The program allows firefighters from three cities to train together and develop standardized operating procedures.

"This year's leading digital cities are leveraging technology to connect disadvantaged citizens with critical information and services, promote citizen inclusion in important government processes and share government data with the public," said Teri Takai, executive director of the Center for Digital Government. "Thanks to the efforts of these innovative cities, citizens can now meaningfully interact with city government more easily than in any other time in history. Congratulations to the winners!"

"Our IT Department has done an exemplary job of navigating the technological advancements in each unit and on a system-wide basis", said Mayor McCowan. "I commend them on their professionalism and expertise in providing the technical assistance to the city council, administration and staff, as we work together to raise the bar on performance internally and externally. Thank you, IT Department, on a job well done!"

## City of DeSoto Will Hold a Regular Municipal Election on May 5, 2018

The City of DeSoto will hold a Regular Election on Saturday, May 5, 2018. The following places will be voted on in this election:

- Councilmember Place 6 (unexpired term)
- Councilmember Place 7 (unexpired term)

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.

Candidate Filing Information Packets can be requested by sending an email to the City Secretary at [kmorris@desototexas.gov](mailto: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 beginning January 3, 2018.



Filing for a place on the ballot will take place from January 17, 2018 through February 16, 2018 between the hours of 9 am and 12 noon and from 1 pm to 4 pm in the City Secretary's office. On February 16, 2018, the office will close promptly at 5 pm and no filing will be accepted after that time.

Please visit the City of DeSoto website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) for updates on the municipal election.

## Shining a Light on the Issue of Domestic Violence in DeSoto

Nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have suffered from domestic violence by an intimate partner. The physical and emotional scars of domestic violence can cast a long shadow. Residents are invited to attend the next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner event which is designed to examine the problem and its impact on the DeSoto community. You'll hear from a clinician who works with local victims and perpetrators, a DeSoto Police officer who will present the law enforcement perspective and the CEO of Brighter Tomorrows who will discuss the need for safe housing. You will also have a chance to discuss the issue with your neighbors.

If you'd like to participate in an important conversation on the problem of domestic violence in DeSoto, please take this as a personal invitation to attend our next free DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner event on:

**Saturday, January 13, 2018  
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

**at the newly renovated DeSoto Corner Theatre located in DeSoto Town Center**

Adults who live or work in DeSoto and care about our community are invited to attend. Resident high school students are also encouraged to attend with their parents. Students will receive five hours of Community Service Credit for their participation in the discussion.

Space at this free dinner event is limited to the first 100 guests who register at [www.desotodd.org](http://www.desotodd.org). For more information or to register by phone, please call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648. The deadline to register is January 8<sup>th</sup>.



## "Planning for the Future Symposium" continued from page 1

"If you or your loved ones have not created/updated a will or trust or set a plan in place to make your wishes known in the event of your death, this FREE workshop is for you," said Mayor McCowan.

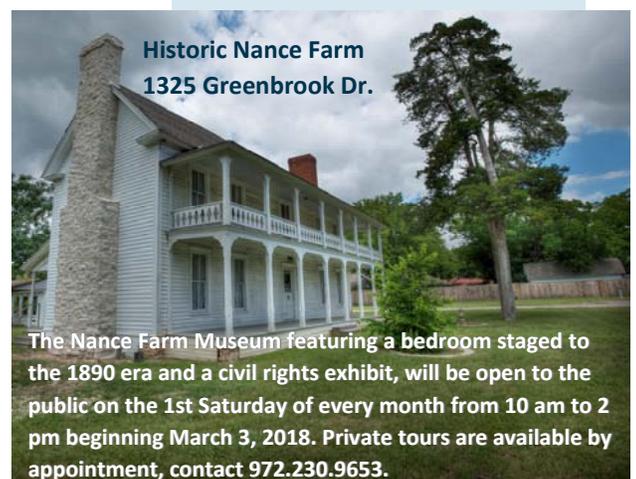
Estate planning is the process of managing your assets and determining how your assets will be distributed after your death.

"The City of DeSoto is excited about partnering with Judge Ingrid Warren who has graciously assisted our team in bringing a distinguished group of panelists who will share information to assist our residents and friends in determining which estate-planning tools are the best fit for their families." said the Mayor.

The panelist will provide tips on how to get started. Those attending the symposium will also have the opportunity to browse vendor booths during the intermission and speak one on one with professionals.

"Please don't miss the opportunity to receive this valuable information – FREE," urged Mayor McCowan.

To attend please register at <https://cityofdesoto.eventbrite.com> or by calling 972.230.9648.



**Historic Nance Farm  
1325 Greenbrook Dr.**

The Nance Farm Museum featuring a bedroom staged to the 1890 era and a civil rights exhibit, will be open to the public on the 1st Saturday of every month from 10 am to 2 pm beginning March 3, 2018. Private tours are available by appointment, contact 972.230.9653.



Featuring Linny Nance  
and Network the Band

**FREE CONCERT**  
**Friday, January 26, 2018 7 PM**  
at the newly renovated  
**Corner Theatre**  
**211 E. Pleasant Run Road**

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The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to join us at the newly renovated Corner Theatre in DeSoto Town Center on Friday, January 26th as we kick-off another year of great arts activities. The event begins at 7 pm with a free appetizer reception and meet and greet with the organizations who have received arts grant funding from the City of DeSoto. At 7:30 pm, these grant recipients will provide a short preview of the activities they have planned in 2018.

Linny Nance and Network the Band will take the stage at 8pm for a full concert. Born into a family rich in music, Linny Nance took up piano at 8 years old and trumpet at 11. Music has always given Linny's creativity and passion a way around cerebral palsy. He began his professional career with Little Joe Blue. Since then, he has shared the stage and/or studio with a variety of other talented acts. Linny has played all over Europe, Japan, Canada, and the Caribbean. His performance credits include the Montreux Jazz Festival, the Jazzhaus, the Montreal Jazz festival. Last but not least, Linny Nance leads his own band, Network who will be joining him for this performance. They are a group of sensational musicians and vocalist who bring incredible energy and talent to the event. This event is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. Please RSVP by calling 972.230.9648.

**PRE-K ROUNDUP**

**Saturday, January 20**  
**8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Amber Terrace Discovery & Design  
Register online: [desotoisd.org](http://desotoisd.org)

