

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

It's Springtime In Texas and Also Severe Weather Season. Please Follow These Tornado Safety Tips.

More tornadoes strike Texas than any other state. They can occur at any time of year, including winter as evidenced by the tornadoes that struck in December, 2015. However, tornadoes are most frequent from mid-March through May. The City of DeSoto Office of Emergency Management reminds you to pay close attention to weather reports and take the following precautions during periods of tornadic activity:

- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of your home, such as a bathroom, closet or room without windows. Cover yourself with a mattress or cushions. In an office building, go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.
- If you are in a mobile home, get out and take shelter in a nearby building. If no shelter is available, lie flat in a ditch or ravine.
- **Never stay inside a car!** Get out and lie flat in a ditch or a ravine. If a building is nearby, take shelter inside. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car. The fatalities that occurred in Garland during the 2015 tornado event were motorists or passengers in cars in the path of the storm.
- At school, follow plans and go to a designated shelter area, usually interior hallways on the lowest floor. Avoid auditoriums, gyms and areas with wide, free-span roofs.
- In a shopping center, move away from exterior glass walls.
- If you are in open country, take cover in a low spot away from trees.
- Remember there is a difference between a **Tornado Watch** and a **Tornado Warning**. A Tornado Watch means tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar, and you must **seek shelter immediately!**

The City of DeSoto has outdoor warning sirens that are activated when a tornado is sighted in DeSoto, Cedar Hill or Duncanville. Outdoor warning sirens are to warn individuals outdoors to seek immediate shelter inside. The

sirens may not be heard indoors since most outdoor sounds, including warning sirens, can not penetrate most buildings. When you hear the sirens, go indoors and seek shelter in the most interior room in your home or office. Once you are in a safe location, tune to your local radio or television station for emergency information.

Outdoor warning sirens are a valuable tool in helping to keep the public safe but they should not be the only way that you receive warnings about dangerous weather. The City of DeSoto's Office of Emergency Management suggests additional layers of protection against severe thunderstorms including having a NOAA weather radio in your home and monitoring local radio or television stations for emergency information. The City of DeSoto "upgraded" our Code Red Alert System in 2017 to allow you to receive phone notifications 24 hours a day based strictly on Doppler radar. The system provides warnings for tornados, flash floods or severe thunderstorms. This upgrade requires you to "opt in" and resubmit your information if you would like to receive these Doppler radar special alerts in addition to other emergency notifications previously sent out by the City's CodeRed system. If you haven't already signed up for the added notifications, go to the City's website at www.desototexas.gov, click on the CodeRed weather warning icon on the City's homepage and follow the directions. There is no charge for this service.

Whether you receive weather information through the local media, a NOAA weather radio in your home or on your cell phone, please heed the notification and act to protect yourself and your family by following these safety tips.



City Calendar

March

1 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
1 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
1 Historical Foundation Mtg.– 6 pm
5 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
5 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg.– canceled
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
23 Free Concert -Golden Voices Corner Theatre 7pm
24 Egg Hunt - Zeiger Park 11 am
26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
30 City Offices Closed for Good Friday

April

2 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6pm
2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
5 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
5 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm
14 Candidate Forum - City Hall - 10 am
14 HHW Event - Pump Station 9 am
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
21 Recycling Event-Service Ctr.- 9 am
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm
27 Classical Concert - Corner Theatre 7 pm
28 Everything Teen Event– Library
28 Briarwood Youth Fishing Day 9 am

Transportation Program Update

The City of DeSoto launched a new grant-funded Transportation Program for low-to moderate-income DeSoto residents on January 1, 2018. At this point, all available funding for Phase I of the program has been allocated and there are no more slots available this year. The program currently has several people on a waiting list and applications received during the remainder of 2018 will be placed on the waiting list as well. Grant funding for Phase II of the Transportation Program, which will benefit elderly and disabled persons in DeSoto, is pending. The City is also researching other transit service options. Watch this newsletter for future program updates or call 972.230.7350 for more information.

A Message from Code Enforcement

Did you know... that City ordinances require that weeds and grass be kept below twelve 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 any questions or would like to report a code violation, please call the City of DeSoto Code Enforcement Department at 469.658.3076.

Municipal Election Update

The DeSoto City Council approved an Ordinance at their March 6, 2018 meeting to accept the Certification of Unopposed candidates and declared unopposed candidates for Councilmember Place 6, Candice Quarles and Councilmember Place 7, Kenzie Moore III elected to office. As a result, the municipal election called for May 5, 2018 will be canceled. However, the City of DeSoto will hold a special election on May 5, 2018 to consider amendments to the City's Home Rule Charter. These Propositions will appear on the ballot:

Proposition A ballot language shall read:

Shall Article II, Section 5 and Section 16 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to authorize the City Council to fill by appointment a vacancy in the office of Mayor or councilmember when less than one year remains on the term of the office vacated as allowed by State law. _____ For _____ Against

Proposition B ballot language shall read:

Shall Article II, Section 5 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to clarify that 5 members of the City Council constitute a quorum for purposes of voting on any matter, however, 4 members of the City Council constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting a meeting for discussion when no action is being taken by the City Council. _____ For _____ Against

Proposition C ballot language shall read:

Shall Article VII, Section 14 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to conform with provisions of State law. _____ For _____ Against

Proposition D ballot language shall read:

Shall Article VIII, Section 1 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to eliminate language regarding limits on bond projects and such issuance shall conform to State law. _____ For _____ Against

Proposition E ballot language shall read:

Shall Article XII, Section 13 of the DeSoto City Charter be amended to eliminate language requiring that each Councilmember and the Mayor appoint 3 members to the Citizens Charter Review Commission but still require the Citizens Charter Review Commission to consist of 21 members appointed by the City Council. _____ For _____ Against

Proposition F ballot language shall read:

Shall Article XII, Section 13 of the DeSoto City Charter be Amended to correct typographical errors. _____ For _____ Against

Watch this newsletter for information on early voting and voting on election day. If you have any questions, please contact the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646.



FREE CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT

Friday, April 27, 2018 7pm

at the Comer Theatre, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, TX

The DeSoto Arts Commission is pleased to present a free classical music concert by Astraios Chamber Music featuring classical performances on flute, bassoon, trumpet and piano. They will do “text painting” in music for voice and piano which invites audience members to draw what they hear, the drawings are then collected and displayed later at a post-concert reception. Arnold’s Grand Fantasia will be performed highlighting the battle between flute and trumpet with the audience voting the winner. Astraios developed this program for Frisco and is now bringing it to DeSoto. Seating is limited, go to www.artsdesoto.com to make reservation or call 972.230.9648.



DeSoto Public Library

everything teen expo

Connecting teens to community resources, services, and support.

APR. 28TH | 10AM - 3PM

host **lady jade** with **K104** Hip Hop and R&B

Come build positive relationships with professionals through fun and engaging efforts provided by community organizations, workshops, motivational speakers & more!

REGISTER TODAY!

CALL US 972.230.9663

DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/EVERYTHINGTEENEXPO

DESOTO ISD

HALL OF HONOR

NOMINATIONS OPEN THROUGH MARCH 30

WWW.DESOTOISD.ORG/HALLOFHONOR



DeSoto Parks & Recreation

Presents... **Briarwood Youth Fishing Day**

Come out to the fishin' hole at Briarwood Park, 1625 W. Belt Line Road on Saturday, April 28, 2018

from 9 am to noon for our annual kid's fishing day. Kids, 16 and under, are welcome and must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is \$5 per person. Bring your own fishing gear. No fishing license is required. Applications are available at the Recreation Center or you can register at the event. Call 972.230.9651 for more information.

