

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

DESOTO CONTINUES TO BUILD RECOGNITION FOR TOP ACCOUNTING PRACTICES by Matt Smith, Communications Manager

In 2019 the City of DeSoto received two high profile financial recognitions from one of the most respected government finance organizations in the nation. And it wasn't the first time that this has happened.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recently announced that DeSoto has received their Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) issued for the fiscal year ended 2018. Earlier this summer the GFOA selected the City of DeSoto to receive their Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This marks the 27th straight year that DeSoto has won GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and the 33rd straight year that they've won the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

"We take our financial stewardship of taxpayer dollars very seriously, and want our residents to know that these two awards from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) confirm that DeSoto's accounting practices are extremely accurate, transparent, and among the best of any government bodies in the nation!" stated DeSoto Mayor Curtistene McCowan.

The GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was established in 1945 to encourage state and local governments to exceed traditional budget reporting standards and to produce comprehensive annual financial reports that embrace both transparency and full financial disclosure. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award was created in 1984 as a way to inspire governments to produce top quality budget documents that meet the strict guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting.

"DeSoto has maintained a constant conservative philosophy when it comes to managing finances and government operations, and this recognition is reflective of that long-standing philosophy!" noted Interim DeSoto City Manager M. Renee Johnson. "The DeSoto City Council has been able to lower the residential and business tax rate for the past five years."

Founded in 1906, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), represents more than 20,000 public finance officials throughout the United States and Canada. Their members include federal, state, local, and provincial finance officials who are the most intimately involved in the budget process for their respective government bodies. To learn more visit <https://www.gfoa.org>.



City Calendar

January

18 Veterans Benefit Fair - Library 10a –1pm
20 City Offices closed - MLK Holiday
21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
24 4th Friday Concert-Corner Theatre -8pm
27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
28 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm
30 Public Mtg. Chattey Rd. City Hall 6:30pm

February

3 Arts Commission Mtg.—Civic Ctr. 6 pm
3 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
4 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
11 Planning & Zoning Mtg.-City Hall - 7pm
13 Library Board Mtg.—Library—6pm
13 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6pm
17 Veterans Affairs. Mtg. City Hall -6:30pm
18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
24 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall 9 am
25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Canceled
28 Dallas Black Dance Theater-DHS-7pm

Chattey Road Reconstruction Project Scheduled To Begin Soon

Reconstruction of Chattey Road from Belt Line Road to Pleasant Run Road is expected to begin soon following an extended period of project delivery activities. The project is included in the City of DeSoto's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Currently, Chattey Road is a two-lane asphalt roadway located within a residential community. In addition to with vehicle traffic, there is pedestrian school traffic along Chattey Road and there are no sidewalks increasing the need for a full reconstruction of the roadway. The construction cost is \$6.1M. The construction contractor is Texas Standard Construction, Ltd. Construction will begin this Spring and is expected to last for approximately fifteen months.

The project includes: replacing the asphalt pavement with concrete pavement, new sidewalks, drainage improvements, water and sewer line upgrades, landscaping and street lighting. The current lane configuration will remain the same with one northbound lane and one southbound lane.

The delay in the construction start for Chattey Road has been due to completion of relocations for the franchise utilities that exist within the Chattey Road right of way. These relocations are substantially complete.

Residents whose properties have direct driveway access from Chattey Road will have access at all times. In the event that access has to be restricted, the City will coordinate with the affected homeowners.

Please, maintain safe speeds through the construction work zone and observe all warning signs. Protecting the safety of motorists, construction workers and City personnel is the top priority. Should any detours be necessary, the City will communicate this information to the public in advance.

Construction inherently causes inconveniences. The City will try to minimize inconveniences to the extent possible and will provide regular updates on construction status and key milestones through this newsletter, the City website and social media platforms.

For more information, please call 972.230.7309.

Public Safety

TOWNHALL MEETING

February 20, 2020 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Jim Baugh Government Center
DeSoto City Hall

Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan **Police Chief Joe Costa**

JOIN US FOR THIS COMMUNITY EVENT

211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, TX 75115

The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.

We're making sure that **however you choose to respond**—online, by phone, or by mail—that **the census is accessible**. You'll receive an invitation to respond **beginning in mid-March**. You choose how you want to respond.



You can respond **online** in English or in 12 additional languages. The online questionnaire is accessible, following the latest web accessibility guidelines. We'll also have a video in **American Sign Language** available to guide you through responding online.



You can respond by **phone** in English or in 12 additional languages. You can also respond in English by **TDD** at 844-467-2020.



By mid-April, we'll mail a **paper questionnaire** to every household that hasn't already responded. (Some households will receive a paper questionnaire along with the first invitation in March.)

We'll have **braille and large print guides** available online to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire.



If necessary, you can respond **in person** beginning in mid-May. Census takers will visit all households that have not yet responded.

We'll have census takers available who can communicate in **American Sign Language** and additional languages. When the census taker visits to help you respond, you can request that another census taker who communicates in American Sign Language returns, if you prefer.

If you prefer, you may also choose to have another member of your household interact with the census taker.

Responding is important. A complete count helps ensure that services like Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and public transportation can support those who need them.

Responding is safe. All of the information you share with us is protected by law and cannot be used against you.

Responding is accessible. We're doing everything we can to ensure the ways to respond are accessible for everyone.

Any questions? Please visit 2020census.gov. This website is 508 compliant and accessible to people of all abilities.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States[®]
Census
2020

Important Information Regarding the 2020 Municipal Election

The City of DeSoto will hold a Regular Election on Saturday, May 2, 2020. The following places will be voted on in this election:

Councilmember Place 2
Councilmember Place 4

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. 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 takes place from January 15, 2020 through February 14, 2020 between the hours of 9 am and 12 noon and from 1 pm to 4 pm in the City Secretary's office. On February 14, 2020, the office will close promptly at 5 pm and no filing information will be accepted after that time.

Please visit the City of DeSoto website at www.desototexas.gov for updates on the municipal election.

**IT'S
TIME
TEXAS**
Jan. 6 - March 1

DeSoto residents register and start logging your workouts at <https://ittcommunitychallenge.com>.



DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee is partnering with North Texas VA Outreach Services and the DAV to bring VA representatives to DeSoto on a monthly basis. If you need help with applying for benefits, have been denied benefits or just have questions, please attend our Veterans Benefit Forum.

For more information, please call 972-230-9648

Grow DeSoto Market Place
324 E. Belt Line Road • DeSoto, TX
February 15, 2020 • 10 am to 1 pm

ARTSDESOTO.COM

FOURTH FRIDAY MUSIC SERIES

POWERED BY THE
DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION

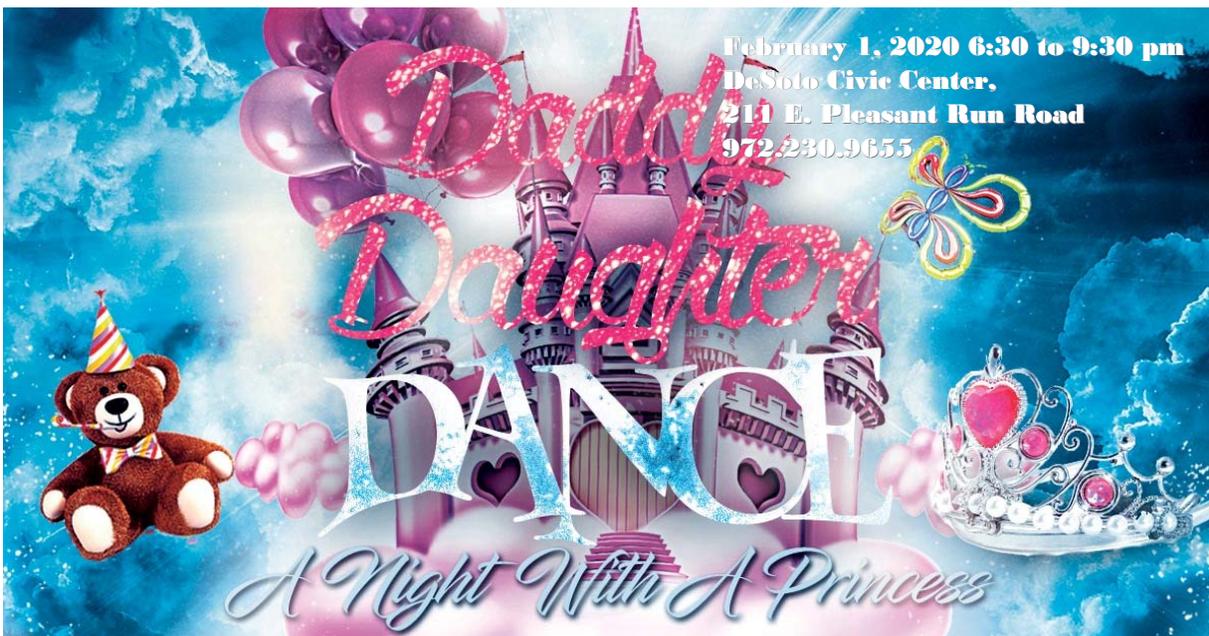
DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

02/28
7PM

FRED NICHOLS AUDITORIUM
DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL | 600 EAGLE DRIVE | DESOTO



For the February Fourth Friday concert/event, the DeSoto Arts Commission is pleased to present the Dallas Black Dance Theatre on Friday, February 28, 2020 at 7 pm at the DeSoto High School - Fred Nickels Auditorium, located at 600 Eagle Drive. Before the historic dance company takes the stage, there will also be a special performance by the DeSoto High School A Capella Choir. This outstanding evening of entertainment is underwritten by the DeSoto Arts Commission, City of DeSoto and DeSoto ISD and, as a result, we can offer special pricing. General Admission tickets are just \$10 each. All students and seniors 55+ may attend the performance for just \$5 per person. Tickets are available for purchase online at ArtsDeSoto.com or by calling 972.230.9648.



General seating is \$40 per couple, \$20 for each additional guest. VIP seating is \$55 per couple and \$27.50 for each additional guest. Purchase tickets online at DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/REGISTER or at the Recreation Center or by calling 972.230.9655 for more information.