

# DeSoto City Lights

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

## **DESOTO ROLLS OUT \$2.25 MILLION IN COVID-19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES HARDEST HIT BY THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

By Matt Smith, Communications Manager

As part of an ongoing effort to provide support to residents and businesses hardest hit during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, the City of DeSoto rolled out two new programs on Monday, August 24, 2020, designed to provide both sectors with a combined \$2.25 million in Coronavirus relief funds via the CARES Act.

The DeSoto Residential Assistance Grant Program will provide more than \$1.5 million in grants to residents who qualify based on income and allowable expenses and are able to document specific financial impact due to COVID-19. Participating residents will be able to qualify for a capped total of up to \$8,000 in combined expenses over a period of three months including up to \$6,000 for living expenses such as rent, mortgage, and utilities and up to \$3,600 for childcare costs for those looking for or returning to work. Grant funds will be provided directly to the landlord, mortgage company, utilities provider, and/or child care provider.

The DeSoto Business Assistance Grant Program will provide approximately \$700,000 in assistance to qualifying businesses impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic covering up to three months of expenses with a maximum of \$20,000 per business. To qualify, businesses will need to be located in DeSoto, employ less than 100 workers, have less than \$10 million in annual revenues and be able to document a 25% reduction in sales or revenues since March 15, 2020, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic or certify that their business was subject to at least a two week mandatory closure. DeSoto has also added a grant provision allowing qualifying home businesses to receive up to \$2,500 in grant funding. These grant funds will be provided directly to the landlord, mortgage company, or utilities provider unless it is a home-based business.

The application period runs from Monday, August 24, 2020, through Monday, September 14, 2020 at 5 pm. The initial application will be made via an online survey to determine eligibility. Eligible applicants will be selected for funding by a random lottery process.

“This is one of the most user-friendly grants programs that I have seen and it all starts out with a simple online survey that doesn’t require any advance preparation or paperwork,” noted DeSoto City Manager Brandon Wright. “Not only are there fewer Federal funding restrictions than we saw with our earlier grants but our partner in this process, the non-profit organization NDC, has extensive experience with administering these types of grants and their expertise should simplify and speed along the process.”

DeSoto residents and businesses seeking more information about these two new grant programs can call the City of DeSoto Residential and Business Grant Program Line at 972.230.7313 or email us at [CARESGrant@desototexas.gov](mailto:CARESGrant@desototexas.gov). Assistance will be provided during the application periods Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm. You can also visit the NDC program website at <https://ndconline.org/ntxsmallbiz/city-of-desoto/> or email them with application questions at [ntxsmallbiz@ndconline.org](mailto:ntxsmallbiz@ndconline.org).



## City Calendar

### September

1 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm  
3 Library Board Meeting 7 pm  
7 City Facilities Closed - Labor Day  
12 Virtual Latin Concert  
14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - virtual 6 pm  
19 Document Shredding Event - Service Ctr.  
19 Virtual Latin Concert 7pm  
21 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 7 pm  
25 O.T. & Funk Connection - virtual concert  
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - virtual 9 am  
29 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - virtual 6 pm

### October

5 Arts Commission virtual - 6 pm  
5 Park Board Meeting - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm  
8 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm  
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm  
23 Domestic Violence Awareness Concert  
26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Civic Ctr. -7 pm

#### A Message from DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee:

DeSoto's monthly in-person Benefit Forums are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. But we will continue providing information to our Veterans **VIRTUALLY** so please watch for our Virtual Veterans Benefit Forums on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 am on the City of DeSoto Facebook Page @desototx, on the city's website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) and on Government Channel 16 for Spectrum Cable subscribers and 99 for AT&T U-verse subscribers. We also have access to knowledgeable professionals and would be happy to assist you in connecting with them for assistance. Just give us a call at 972.230.9648 and we will do our best to connect you to someone who can help.

## Important Information Regarding the Upcoming General Municipal Election

On November 3, 2020, the City of DeSoto will hold a General Election to elect a City Councilmember for Place 2 and a City Councilmember for Place 4. The candidates are as follows:

#### Candidates for Councilmember Place 2

Jean Green-Frazier  
Kay Brown-Patrick

#### Candidate for Councilmember Place 4

Andre Byrd, Sr.

In addition to the General Election, the City will hold a Special Election to consider the following Propositions:

**Proposition A:** The authorization for the abolition of the sales and use tax within the City of DeSoto for the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises pursuant to Section 504.251, Texas Local Government Code, as amended currently at the rate of 0.375 percent; and the adoption, in the place of such abolished tax, of local sales and use tax in the City of DeSoto at a rate of 0.375 percent to be used for the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises and all other public purposes pursuant to Section 505.251, Texas Local Government Code; all of which would result in no net increase in the sales and use tax collected by the City of DeSoto.

**Additional information:** *A 0.375% local sales tax is currently collected in DeSoto to fund economic development programs that support primary job creation, known as a Type A sales tax. The City of DeSoto is asking voters to expand the list of economic development programs that can be funded with this local Type B sales tax to include primary job creation as well as projects considered to be community development initiatives such as land, buildings, equipment, facilities, expenditures, and improvements for professional and amateur sports facilities, park facilities and events, entertainment and tourist facilities as authorized by the Texas Local Government Code. The expanded use sales tax is known as a Type B sales tax.*

**Proposition B:** Shall Article II: Section 1 of the City Charter be amended to provide for the Mayor receiving compensation in the amount of \$1,250.00 monthly and Council Members receiving compensation in the amount of \$1,000 monthly for their duties effective January 1, 2021 and further requiring the Council to adopt in the Council Rules and Procedures a minimum attendance policy for such compensation.

**Additional information:** *Annual financial impact is as follows:*

Mayor	\$20,000.00
City Council	\$90,000.00
Total Wages:	\$110,000.00
Employer Share SS/MEDI	\$4,975.00
Workers Comp	\$254.00
Total Cost:	\$115,229.00

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## General Municipal Election Information (contd.)

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**Proposition C:** Shall Article II; Section 7 of the City Charter be amended to provide for the selection of the Mayor Pro Tem from among six (6) Councilmembers shall occur at the first regular meeting following either the general city election or run-off election if such occurs.

Early Voting by personal appearance will begin on October 13, 2020 through October 30, 2020 and be conducted at Disciple Central Community Church (DC3) located at 901 North Polk Street, Suite 101, DeSoto, Texas 75115.

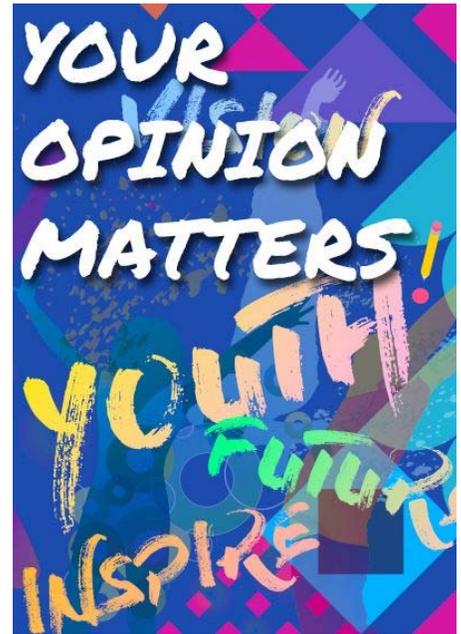
On Election Day (November 3, 2020), the following Vote Center locations are available in DeSoto (visit [www.dallascountyvotes.org](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org) for all other Dallas County locations):

Faith Bible Church – 1437 W. Pleasant Run Road (Gym)  
Ruby Young Elementary – 707 Young Blvd. (Gym)  
DC3 – 901 N. Polk Street, Suite 101 (Classroom 104)  
The Meadows Elementary – 1016 The Meadows Parkway (Gym)  
Cockrell Hill Elementary – 425 S. Cockrell Hill Road (Gym)  
DeSoto High School – 600 Eagle Drive (Gym)  
Belt Line Conference Center – 200 E. Belt Line Road (Conference Room)

The deadline to register and be eligible to vote in the November 3, 2020 election is October 5, 2020. Voter registration applications can be obtained at the Action Center in City Hall, the Library and the Recreation Center. You can also complete the application online by visiting the Secretary of State's website at: <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrapp/index.asp>. For more information regarding the upcoming municipal election, please call the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646.



After seeing an uptick of trash and litter around the City and in her neighborhood, Elma Goodwin brought forward the idea of creating a volunteer group to help with trash pickup. Her neighbors agreed and the SCE (Silver Creek Estates) Trash Avengers were born. This group has more than 20 volunteers who have committed to pick up trash in their neighborhood and they challenge other local HOAs and neighborhood groups to do the same.



**TEENS - YOUR OPINION IS NEEDED** - please follow the below link to complete the brief survey and a chance to win \$50

<https://desoto-youth-survey-2020.questionpro.com/>

**Parents of youth ages 9 - 14** - we need your child's opinion - please assist them in completing the below brief survey and a chance to win \$50

<https://desoto-youth-survey-2020.questionpro.com/>

## Document Shredding Event Scheduled for Saturday, September 19th

The City of DeSoto is pleased to announce that our Annual Spring Document Shredding Event that was canceled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic has been rescheduled and will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2020. Here are the details:

### DOCUMENT SHREDDING

A mobile document shredding unit will be on-site at the DeSoto Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road. DeSoto residents can bring personal household documents for shredding and disposal at no cost. (Commercial documents will not be accepted.) Please follow the guidelines below:

- Place all documents in boxes.
- Do not bring documents loose in bags; they must be placed in boxes ready for shredding.
- Do not tape the lid on the boxes.
- No more than 5 boxes per resident will be accepted.

You will be able to watch your documents being shredded. The empty boxes will be returned to you for recycling. Once the event is over, any documents left at the location unattended will be considered illegally dumped. IF RAIN OCCURS DURING THE EVENT, THE COLLECTION SITE WILL BE CLOSED FOR SAFETY REASONS.

The Annual Document Shredding event will take place at the DeSoto Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road on Saturday, September 19, 2020, from 9 am to 12 pm, or until the trucks are full. Proof of DeSoto residency is required for participation. For more information, please call 972.230.9648.

There will be no solid waste (trash) collection on Labor Day, Monday, September 7th. Regular Monday trash will be collected on Tuesday, September 8th, regular Tuesday trash will be collected on Wednesday September 9th, recycling will shift to Thursday, September 10th, Thursday's trash will be collected on Friday, September 11th and Friday's trash will be collected on Saturday, September 12th. The regular schedule will resume on Monday, September 14th.

**TWO VIRTUAL CONCERTS FOR THE CITY OF DESOTO**

**4TH ANNUAL Latino Heritage VIRTUAL CONCERT**  
WITH: HAVANA NRG BAND  
SEP 19 | 7PM  
LIVE ON @DESOTOREC

DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION PRESENTS:  
**FOURTH FRIDAY MUSIC SERIES LIVESTREAM**  
SEP 25 8:00 PM  
**O.J. + THE FUNK CONNECTION FT. KENYA C**  
 artsdesoto.com

DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION  
**FOURTH FRIDAY**