

# CITY OF DESOTO

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

### WEEKLY UPDATE

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August 14, 2020

## Projects of Community Interest

**Public Hearings for Proposed Budget & Tax Rate** | The City Finance Department initially scheduled two Public hearings just for the proposed tax rate. With our proposed rate of (.701554) being lower than the 'no new revenue rate' of (.711897) and the 'voter approved tax rate' of (.746384) we are no longer required by the Tax Code law to hold two Public Hearings for the proposed tax rate.

We have scheduled a Public Hearing for September 1, 2020 for the proposed tax rate of (.701554) and the proposed FY2021 budget. Our final Public Hearing will be on September 15, 2020 to adopt the tax rate and the FY2021 Operating Budget.

**Change in Solid Waste Pick-up on the Tuesday/Friday Route** | Due to the significant residential growth in the city, Republic Services is increasing the number of routes on Tuesday/Friday to support the additional development. The route change became effective Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Service days will remain the same. However, with the adjustment to routes, individual collection times

may vary. Residents are reminded to please have their bagged garbage out by 7:00 am for collection. The Monday/Thursday route will not be impacted.

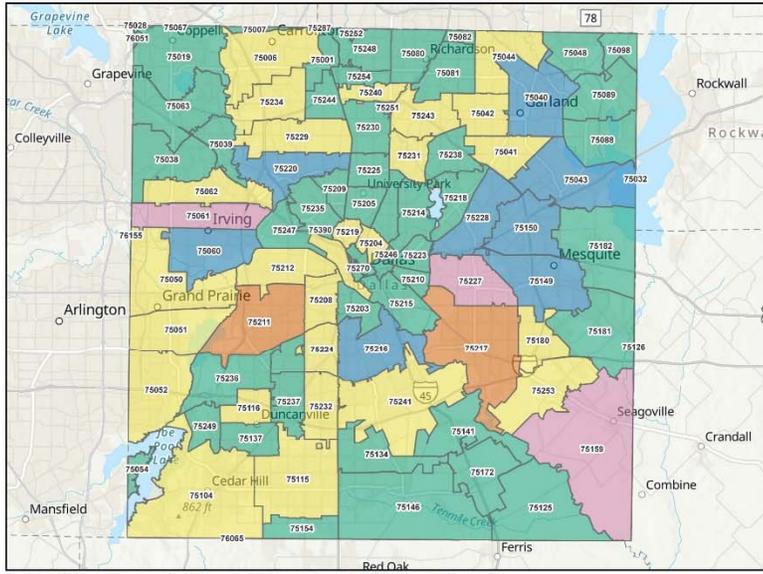
**2020 CENSUS** | DeSoto's Complete Count Committee met on August 6<sup>th</sup>. They continue to work on spreading the word about the census in English and Spanish. They were planning to pass out baggies of goodies containing census material at DeSoto ISD's Back to School Drive-Thru on August 15, 2020, however, that event has been postponed. They are also encouraging people to snap photos of themselves or others holding an "I Count" poster or record a 3 second video stating "I Count". These photos and videos will be produced into a "short video" that will be used to promote the 2020 Census on DeSoto social media.

The City continues to encourage residents to complete their 2020 Census forms to ensure that an accurate resident count is conducted. The recent count shows that DeSoto has the highest response rate statewide and nationally with 69.2%. Texas has an average of 58.6%, and the nationwide rate is 63.5%. The 2020 Census is still available online for completion. Enumerators will begin making home visits to those who have not completed the Census form in the coming weeks.

**CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19** | The American Airlines Center mobile testing units were relocated to the University of Dallas. Walmart continues to offer drive-through testing daily from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM. DC3 Church will remain open for testing every Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Methodist Charlton drive-through testing is by appointment only Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Ellis Davis testing center is open under the direction of PD/FD and

Parkland Hospital staff. As of today, there are 701 DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 1,063 individual positive cases.

### Confirmed COVID-19 Cases over Zip Codes as of 8/12/2020



**Cumulative COVID Cases**

Confirmed Cases :

- 1 - 528
- 529 - 1057
- 1058 - 1585
- 1586 - 2114
- 2115 - 2642

Total Cases: 55,787  
 New Reported Cases since 8/11 update: 234

<https://covid-analytics-pccinnovation.hub.arcgis.com/>

**NOTES:**

- [1] Reporting lag may be present. Please see the Dallas County Health & Human Services website for latest information.
- [2] 1673 confirmed cases not included on map due to partial address information.
- [3] All zip codes in Dallas county are present. Zip codes with no confirmed cases are labeled but not overlaid with legend color.



<https://pccinnovation.org/>



<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/>

**PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE**



The 53rd Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference is scheduled virtually on August 25 and 26, 2020 from 9 AM to 5 PM each day. Eight members from the Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board have registered to attend. They will have the opportunity to attend

sessions that are filled with innovative approaches to community beautification; waste reduction, and litter prevention. For additional information, please visit <http://ktb.org/conference>



Trees along Briarwood Park at Belt Line Road, on Barrows Place, and Polk Street were trimmed to the proper height and cut back to allow visibility for drivers and pedestrians to navigate through the city.



Staff continued aesthetic improvements to DeSoto Town Center this week. The vegetation in area between the Library and the parking garage has been removed and we are in the process of redesigning the landscaping.



Old vegetation was removed and mulch was added to beds on the north side of the Amphitheater increasing visibility from the Roy Orr Trail.



**SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM** | Staff continues the process of contacting the 52 businesses who received pre-approval on Round 1 to request final submission of all required documentation. The checks for those small businesses who received funding during Round 1 are currently being dispersed.

41 applications have been received and are being considered for Round 2 funding which closed on July 31.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT** | Our annual Household Hazardous Waste Event has been rescheduled to Saturday, August 22, 2020 from 7 AM to 11 AM at the DeSoto Pump Station located at 620 S. Westmoreland Rd. This event is for DeSoto residents only and proof of residency is required. Only residential household hazardous waste will be accepted; commercial waste or electronics are not allowed. Due to limited space, those who would like to participate must register prior to the event by calling 972-230-9600 or appearing at the Action Center in DeSoto City Hall to request a voucher.

**DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT** | The Annual Spring Document Shredding Event that was canceled due the COVID-19 Pandemic has been rescheduled and will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 9 AM to noon at the Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road. Only household documents will be accepted for shredding. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer E-recycling at this event because Goodwill Services, our E-recycling partner, is not conducting E-recycling events at this time due to effects of the Pandemic.

## Project Updates

**RENTAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE** | Due to COVID-19 restrictions, staff cancelled the in-person public rental registration meeting previously scheduled for July 16. In order to accommodate virtual sessions, the Development Services Department will host three virtual meetings for the public on August 6, 13, and 20. The virtual meetings are limited to 135 participants. The first Public Meeting took place on August 6<sup>th</sup> and the second meeting took place on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Property owners were very engaged in the discussion, asking numerous questions and providing recommendations for City Council to consider during the implementation process.

Those interested in participating in the remaining meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup> are asked to register in advance to attend the virtual meeting by sending their name and any questions to [RRProgram@desototexas.gov](mailto:RRProgram@desototexas.gov). Questions submitted by email will be answered during the presentation. The ordinance is anticipated to be considered at a September City Council Meeting with an enforcement date of April 2021.

**CITIZEN SURVEY UPDATE** | DeSoto Community Survey Provider, ETC Institute, has provided us with a status update for DeSoto's resident survey. The surveys were scheduled to begin arriving in DeSoto this week but have been delayed. ETC believes that the surveys have been held up as a result of some of the changes that the USPS is presently experiencing. ETC said that they have been in constant communication with their mailer and USPS to try to determine their exact location and to provide us with an ETA for their delivery. The

City of DeSoto previously posted the notice below on social media to residents about the upcoming survey and it will be reposted over the weekend. We will also put out a news release about the survey once we can confirm that it has been arriving at the homes of the randomly selected residents.



**THE CITY OF DeSOTO IS CONDUCTING A COMMUNITY SURVEY TO GATHER RESIDENT INPUT AND FEEDBACK ON OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE RANDOMLY SELECTED HOUSEHOLDS THAT RECEIVE THIS SURVEY PLEASE GIVE US A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS AND RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY TO US WITHIN 2-3 WEEKS. THE TIME YOU INVEST IN THIS SURVEY WILL HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND HELP US TO MAKE NUMEROUS DECISIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF DeSOTO.**

Because it is intended to be a statistically accurate random sampling, not all residents will receive an actual survey in the mail. Those who are not randomly selected will have an opportunity to take the survey when it is posted online for the general public toward the end of the survey process.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE** | The Strategic Planning Steering Committee, which includes the City Council and other staff participants, has completed all four required planning sessions and now the consultant will move forward to finalize the draft strategic plan for Council review.

## Monthly Veterans Benefit Forum

### 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 Forum on Saturday, August 15, 2020 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 will discuss:

- Assistance for Veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Accessing services through the VA online
- Frequently Asked Questions regarding why Veterans don't take advantage of their VA benefits
- Q&A from viewers

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.



**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARILYN HURTT** | The visitation for former Mayor Michael Hurtt's wife Marilyn will take place on Sunday, August 16, 2020, from 12 to 6PM at West-Hurtt Funeral Home located at Hampton Rd. DeSoto, TX 75115. The Funeral service will be held on Monday, August 7, 2020, at 11AM at Dallas First Church of the Nazarene, 825 N. Cockrell Hill Rd. - DeSoto, TX 75115.

In lieu of flowers, Marilyn has requested memorials or donations be made to the SPCA of Texas, phone number, 214-461-1831 or [spca@spca.org](mailto:spca@spca.org) or the charity of your choice.

## Weekly Events & Meetings

|  |   |
|--|---|
| August 13 Rental Registration Public Meeting 6:30 PM (Video Conference)    | August 22 Household Hazardous Waste Event 7 AM to 11 AM (Westmoreland Pump Station)   |
| August 15 Virtual Veterans Benefit Forum 10 AM to 11 AM                    | August 25 Planning & Zoning Meeting   |
| August 17 City Council Topical Work Session 6 PM (Virtual Conference)      | August 28 Fourth Friday Virtual Concert with The Funky Knuckles Band 8 PM   |
| August 18 City Council Work Session & Meeting 5:30 PM (Virtual Conference) | August 27 DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Regular Board Meeting – 9 AM to 2 PM. (Video Meeting)<br><a href="http://www.gotomeetings.com">www.gotomeetings.com</a> |
| August 20 Rental Registration Public Meeting 6:30 PM (Video Conference)    |   |

### TOPICAL WORKSESSION ITEMS | August 17, 2020

Discussion of youth engagement opportunities.  
Discussion of marijuana enforcement policies.

## New Hires, Promotions & Recognitions

### NEW HIRES

| NAME            | START MONTH | DEPARTMENT | POSITION               |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|------------------------|
| Jeremy Randolph | August      | Police     | Animal Control Officer |

During the General Assembly of the North Central Texas Council of Governments held on August 14<sup>th</sup>, Mayor McCowan was elected Vice President for 2020-2021.

In addition, our very own Chief Jerry Duffield and fire chiefs for Cedar Hill, Duncanville and Lancaster received the 2020 NCTCOG Cooperation Award.

