

CITY OF DESOTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

WEEKLY UPDATE

August 28, 2020

Projects of Community Interest

Library Restrooms Renovation | Work will begin next week on the renovation of the restrooms in the Library. The men's and women's restrooms in the lobby area and the Youth Services Area children's restroom will undergo a complete renovation including new lighting, floors, and toilet fixtures. This renovation project will also address ADA compliance for these spaces.

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.

2020 CENSUS |

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 70.4%. Texas has an average of 60.1%, and the nationwide rate is 64.7%. 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 747 DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 1,235 individual positive cases. Judge Jenkins has relaxed the criteria for testing and is encouraging Dallas County residents to take advantage of the testing. Ellis Davis Field House will be designated as the public testing site for Dallas County school teachers and students.

RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

As of 10 am on August 28th, here are the stats for the preapplication.

Business Assistance Program

- Total pre-applications: 170
- Completion rate: 66% (most common disqualification – Business not located in City of DeSoto)
- Business size:
 - Sole proprietor – 37%
 - 1-5 employees – 48%
 - More than 5 employees – 15%
- Receipt of PPP/EIDL – 50% of businesses received some amount of PPP/EIDL funding
- Demographics of business owners:
 - Woman owned: 65%
 - African-American owned: 86%
 - Caucasian owned: 5%
 - Asian-American owned: 3%
 - Latinx owned: 2%

Residential Assistance Program

- Total pre-applications: 378
- Completion rate: 75% (most common disqualification – would not be able to provide proof of negative financial impact)
- Assistance needed:
 - Rent: 49%
 - Mortgage: 49%
 - Telephone: 41%
 - Internet: 50%
 - Gas: 36%
 - Electric: 75%
 - Childcare: 13%
- Household demographics: (At least one member of the household identifies as the following):
 - African-American: 91%
 - Caucasian: 3%
 - Asian-American: <1%
 - Latinx: 8%
 - Disabled: 7%

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Park Maintenance - Staff completed landscaping the area in between the Library and parking garage. It is such a beautiful walkway between the garage and library.



The trees were trimmed at the Police Station.



Parks and Recreation - The Zumba classes have resumed. They meet Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6pm and 7pm. The maximum class size is 10 in order to promote social distancing. A Face cover / mask is required.



All-America City

Special Events:



The Latino Concert was taped on August 16, 2020, at the Amphitheater. The concert celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15) will be released via social

media on September 19, from 7:00pm -8:00pm. Entertainment performance is provided by Havana NRG.

[Click here to view a 20 sec. video.](#)

ARTS COMMISSION FOURTH FRIDAY CONCERT

View at ArtsDeSoto.com



SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE |

ROUND 1 – 90 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 3 Applications submitted after the deadline and were not accepted
- 13 Applications are still in the review process
- 15 Applications were initially denied, but were found to have been denied for inconsistent reasons and were forwarded to Round 2 for reconsideration
- 39 Applications remain denied
- 20 Applications have been approved for grant awards, thus far

ROUND 2 – 42 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 15 Applications were forwarded from Round 1 because they were denied for inconsistent reasons in the Round 1 phase

- 7 Applications were denied because they are home-based businesses and therefore do not qualify for this program
- 1 Application was denied, because of a PPP loan, which was sufficient to pay employee salaries
- 4 Applications were submitted by the applicant, but they also applied for Round 1; in these cases, the Round 1 file was closed and the Round 2 file is being considered
- 15 Applications are still in the review process

DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT – September 19, 2020

Shredding Event that was canceled due to 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 the effects of the Pandemic.

Project Updates

CITIZEN SURVEY UPDATE | DeSoto's Community Survey to gather resident input and feedback on our programs and services is moving along exceptionally well. Survey provider ETC reported to us that we are halfway to meeting our initial goals. We already have about 150 completed and verified surveys in house and expect that responses will continue to come in, though at a slower rate. ETC will eventually begin additional follow-ups with respondents selected as a part of the random sample. We've also

discussed with them the process of making the survey available to all online. They felt that we are not yet at that point, but we will keep monitoring progress and coordinating the next steps with ETC.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE | The Strategic Planning Consultant is working on the final draft of the plan. Staff is working on a letter from Mayor McCowan that will be included in the plan. Staff will meet on September 2, 2020 to continue the process. It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan document will be complete in early October and will be the subject of discussion for the October 19, 2020 Topical Worksession.

Weekly Events & Meetings

August 28 Fourth Friday Virtual Concert with The Funky Knuckles Band 8pm	September 3 Mayor’s Quarterly 360 Virtual Meeting 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
August 31 Town Hall Meeting to Discuss CARES Act Business Grant Program – 6 pm to 7 pm	September 8, Planning & Zoning Virtual Meeting 6 pm
August 31 DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Regular Board Meeting – 9 am to 2 pm. (Video Meeting) www.gotomeetings.com	September 11, Ribbon Cutting DeSoto Ranch Nature Trail 9:30
August 31 Ribbon Cutting Methodist Transitional Care Center 10:30 am	September 14 Topical Worksession 6 pm

September 1 City Council Virtual Meeting 6pm	September 19 Document Shredding Event, Service Center 9 am to 12 pm
	September 19 Latin Heritage Festival Virtual Concert with Havana NRG 6 pm

New Hires, Promotions & Recognitions

NEW HIRES

New Hires-Regular	Date of Hire	Department	Position
Garduno, Kimberly	08.25.2020	Administration	Assistant to the City Manager

We have filled the Assistant to the City Manager position in the City Manager’s Office. We had many fantastic applicants, and we are pleased to announce that Kimberly Garduno, currently a Senior Management Analyst with the City of Mesquite, has accepted the job here in DeSoto. She has a Master’s Degree in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas and will be a great addition to our team. She brings experience in grants, working with EDC’s, and completing special projects.

Interviews with the Deputy City Manager Candidates were conducted on Thursday, August 25th.