

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

CITY OF DESOTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

WEEKLY UPDATE

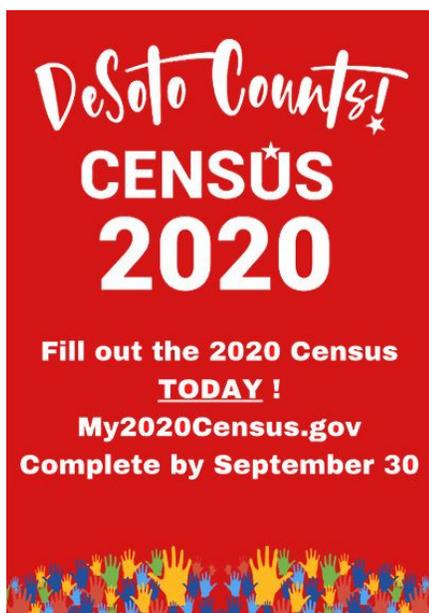
FY 2021 BUDGET AND TAX RATE PROGRESS

The DeSoto Council will conduct a second round of public hearings on the FY 2021 Budget and proposed tax rate on Tuesday, September 15. At the same meeting, the City Council will consider approval of the budget, the tax rate, and the FY 2021 Business Plan. Some highlights of the proposed FY 2021 Budget include:

- Maintains the same tax rate of \$0.701554 per \$100 of taxable valuation.
- Focuses on City Council priorities as presented in the FY 2021 Business Plan.
- Provides \$11 million in funding for street projects, \$4.5 million for the first year of Moseley Pool improvements, and \$2 million of initial funding to design a natatorium and recreation center at Meadow Creek Park.

As presented during the first public hearing, General Fund revenues are increasing by 2.27% and expenditures are increasing by 2.56% over the current fiscal year.

DESOTO COUNTS! CENSUS 2020



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 a response rate of 70.4%, which is higher than the State average of 60.1%, and the nationwide rate of 64.7%. The 2020 Census is still available online for completion. Enumerators have started making home visits to those who have not completed the Census form in the coming weeks.

CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

COVID-19 testing continues to be provided at the Ellis Davis Field House and Walmart on Beltline Road. Walmart's drive-through testing will be closed this weekend in observance of Labor Day, but will resume regular hours beginning Tuesday and will be open daily from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Ellis Davis Field House testing center is open Monday through Saturday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM under the direction of DeSoto PD/FD and Parkland Hospital staff. To date, there are 779 DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 1,291 individual positive cases.

Judge Jenkins has relaxed the criteria at testing sites 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. Charlton Methodist and DC3 Church have discontinued COVID-19 testing.

LIBRARY SERVICES SURVEY

In recent Library Services survey results conducted in person and online, 95% of participants ranked the DeSoto Library as Excellent or Good. Additionally, 88% ranked Library Services since the pandemic as Extra Valuable or Valuable. Overall, the Library had 2,264 page views on the website in the month of August. Mango Languages, which provides language conducted 922 sessions last month. The Library facilitated 9,511 print jobs and 2,557 scanned items, most of which are related to employment searches.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT CANCELED

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Document Shredding Event scheduled on September 19 has been cancelled for the safety of workers, volunteers, and the general public. While substantial progress has been made to reduce the spread of COVID-19, its continued affect and the amount of close contact produced by this event requires that safety for all involved be considered first. The City will look to reschedule the event for Spring 2021.

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The City of DeSoto is currently offering two grant programs to provide financial assistance to eligible DeSoto residents and businesses affected by COVID-19

TOTAL RESIDENTIAL PRE-APPLICATIONS

517

DeSoto Residential Grant Stats

- African-American – 89.32%
- Caucasian – 4.13%
- Asian-American – >1%
- Latinx – 7.77%
- Disabled – 7.04%
- Other – 4.13%

TOTAL BUSINESS GRANT PRE-APPLICATIONS

234

DeSoto Business Grant Stats

- Woman-owned: 65.06%
- African American-owned: 84.94%
- Asian-American-owned: 5.42%
- Latinx-owned: 1.81%
- Immigrant-owned: 3.01%
- Other minority-owned: 7.83%



PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

YOUTH SPORTS VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

The DeSoto Parks & Recreation Department is spotlighting youth sport volunteer Nancy Savala. Mrs. Savala currently serves as the president of DeSoto Soccer Association (DSA). She has been president of DSA for over two years. Please join us in thanking Mrs. Savala for her contribution as a volunteer.

“I love making an impact in the lives of our youth! I tell my girls that we are a family and that through our journey it is not the outcome that is important, but the way they handle adversity that will ultimately make a difference.”



PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

In collaboration with DeSoto Economic Recovery Advisory Task Force, the Senior Center staff is expanding virtual programming opportunities to assist seniors with programming that specifically addresses their needs during the pandemic.

The City of DeSoto and the DeSoto Parks and Recreation present:

DERATF

DeSoto Economic Recovery Advisory Task Force

Established at the direction of the city manager, to help address the unique needs of our seniors in DeSoto.



Discover, Experience, Play!



D. E. R. A. T. F.

This group promotes coordination among existing senior service providers in DeSoto; improves awareness among seniors of available resources to assist them; and develops recommendations to address challenges, housing concerns, and healthcare resources.

To ensure seniors' needs are being met, the task force will also work with service providers to promote efficiencies and new partnerships that address local needs. The group will also proactively reach out to seniors for their thoughts and ideas to help better serve them.

COMING SOON

Be sure to check all of our media platforms

www.desototexas.gov
www.youtube.com/desotocity
www.facebook.com/desotorec

Spectrum Channel 16 and AT&T Uverse Channel 99



DeSoto Steppers' Facebook Page
You can follow our very own, DeSoto Steppers every Friday afternoon and dance along on our Facebook/YouTube channels!!!

For voting info please contact the DeSoto Library at 972-230-9661 or visit their website.



- **Ask the Dr. Coronavirus and Older Adult Patients**
Dr. Iko Onuji (Quality Care Health Clinics)
- **Virtual Cooking demos**
- **Inspirational Messages**
- **Informational talks with Chief Costa, and Chief Duffield**
- **Yoga with Fran**
- **Mindful Meditation with HeyyHealer**

And more to come!
For any questions call
D. McGhee 972-230-5826

MOSELEY POOL

Staff will be running the pumps and troubleshooting mechanical issues at Moseley Pool over the next two weeks. The intent is to ensure the pumps stay active during closure.



ETC INSTITUTE - RESIDENT SURVEY

DeSoto's Community Survey provider ETC reports that a large number of completed surveys were received on Monday, and that DeSoto is nearing the necessary threshold to ensure data accuracy. Given the positive response rate, the online survey for all residents may be available as early as next Friday, September 11. Information regarding the online survey will be shared on all City platforms when ETC reports that the City's required response rate has been satisfied.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

City staff and the strategic planning consultant are working to develop DeSoto's first 5-year strategic plan. Staff met on September 3 to continue the process of identifying initiatives to be accomplished. A second staff meeting will be held September 10 to finalize initiatives. 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 Topical Work Session.

RENTAL REGISTRATION

A summary report of public responses received during the three Rental Registration public meetings has been provided to the City Council in advance of the September 14 Topical Work Session.

WEEKLY EVENTS & MEETINGS

08

PLANNING & ZONING

Virtual Meeting at 6:00 PM

11

RIBBON CUTTING DESOTO RANCH NATURE TRAIL

Start time 9:30 AM

14

TOPICAL WORK SESSION

Start time 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY



City Offices will be closed

Monday, September 7, 2020

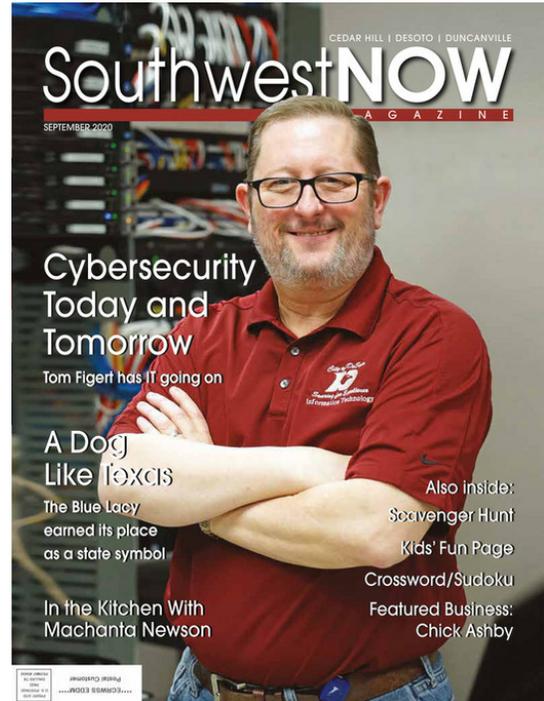
in observance of the

Labor Day Holiday

RECOGNITIONS

Tom Figert, Managing Director of Information Technology, is featured in the September 2020 edition of Southwest Now Magazine as the man who has led DeSoto's very successful IT team through some extremely challenging times. Here is a link to the current edition of Southwest Now: <https://nowmagazines.com/clickbooks/southwest-now-current-edition/>

Thank you to Tom and the IT Department for keeping us online and connected!



NEW HIRES

Andrew Marquez

- STATUS: FULL-TIME
- DEPT: DEVEP. SERVICES
- POSITION: CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR

Kristoff Bauer, Deputy City Manager

The Deputy City Manager position in the City Manager's Office has been filled! We are pleased to announce that Kristoff Bauer has accepted the job here in DeSoto. Kristoff has a Juris Doctorate degree and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington. He has worked with the City of Fayetteville, NC; Jacksonville, NC; Billings MT; and Shoreline, WA. He will be a great addition to the team! His start date is Monday, September 21.