

Desoto

CITY OF DESOTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

WEEKLY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

DESOTO COUNTS! CENSUS RALLY THIS SATURDAY!

The DeSoto Census Complete Count Committee and the DeSoto Police Department would like to invite you to join them for an event happening this Saturday, September 26 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the DeSoto Police Department. The DeSoto Counts! Census Rally will feature DPD's very own "Wonder Woman." Participants will drive through and receive free Census swag and individually wrapped sweet treats. Thank you to everyone who has completed the census survey, and as a reminder to those who have not done so yet, you still have time to complete it!



DESOTO COUNTS! CENSUS 2020

The deadline for the 2020 Census is September 30. 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 **73.1%**, which is higher than the State average of **62.0%**, and the nationwide rate of **66.3%**. The 2020 Census is still available online for completion. Enumerators have started making home visits to those who have not completed the Census form.

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

POLICE CHIEF CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF FUEGO CHURCH



On Sunday, September 20, Police Chief Costa and Reserve Officer Lupe Valdez, attended the 10-year anniversary of the Fuego Church of DeSoto. This ceremony was held at the Southwestern Assemblies of God University's Sheaffer Center in Waxahachie. The event's guest speaker was Pastor Wilfredo "Choco" De Jesus, the Assemblies of God General Treasurer, from Chicago, Illinois.

TXDOT REHABILITATION PROJECT- BELTLINE RD.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently began work to rehabilitate Belt Line Road between Hampton Road and Polk Street. The project scope consists of removing two inches of existing asphalt pavement and re-paving with two inches of new asphalt. Removal of existing asphalt is complete, and re-paving is in progress. Based on the availability of asphalt material, the contractor plans to re-pave one lane per night. Once the new pavement is in place, the road will be re-stripped to delineate lanes.

As part of the same rehabilitation project, TxDOT is also removing and replacing select concrete pavement panels along Belt Line Road between Hampton Road and Whitewater Trail. TxDOT-Dallas District owns and maintains Belt Line Road. TxDOT performs periodic conditions assessments for its roadway assets. Sections of pavement are identified for rehabilitation based on condition assessment results and available funding. The project is being managed by the TxDOT Southwest Maintenance Office, which is based in Cedar Hill. **TxDOT estimates the project will be complete by early October.**

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

WINTERGREEN RD. REALIGNMENT PROJECT



The Wintergreen Road intersection realignment project located at the DeSoto-Duncanville-Cedar Hill city limit will soon enter its second phase of construction. The project is a multi-agency collaboration, with the City of DeSoto, City of Cedar Hill, City of Duncanville, and Dallas County as project partners. Dallas County is overseeing the project construction. The on-going Phase 1 construction will build the new Wintergreen roadway extension. Phase 2 construction will expand approximately 600 feet of Duncanville Road to four lanes, beginning at the Main Street intersection and continuing south to the Windmill Hill Preserve. Upon completion of Phase 1 construction in early October, Duncanville Road will be closed and traffic will be re-routed to the new Wintergreen Road pavement. Access to the Windmill Hill Preserve parking lot on Duncanville Road will be suspended during Phase 2 construction. The estimated duration for the parking lot closure is October 2020 through March 2021. As an alternative, park patrons may use the smaller parking lot, located on Wintergreen Road approximately 1,500 feet west of Primrose Lane. **All construction is estimated to be substantially complete in late spring 2021.**

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Beginning October 1, Ellis Davis Field House will offer drive-through flu shots at no cost to Dallas County residents. COVID-19 testing continues to be provided at the Ellis Davis Field House and Walmart on Beltline Road. Walmart offers appointment-only drive-through testing, 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 have been 863 DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 1,398 individual positive cases.

The Red Cross will be conducting a blood drive on October 2, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Civic Center Pecan Room. For an appointment, please visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code "CityofDeSoto" or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

FIRE DEPARTMENT ENTRANCE EXAMS



The Fire Department will be conducting entrance exams for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic on Saturday, October 17 at DeSoto West Middle School. Applicants who receive a minimum score of 70 percent will be invited to take the physical agility (PA) test at the DeSoto Fire Training Academy. After successful completion of the examination and PA testing, an eligibility list will be established and will remain in effect for twelve months or until exhausted. Preference may be granted to currently certified police officers. To date, 168 applications have been submitted. The application deadline is October 2.

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The pre-application period for the City of DeSoto's residential and business assistance program closed on September 14. NDC will begin contacting applicants via email on September 25. Contacted applicants will have two weeks from the date of notification to submit a full application. The final pre-application numbers are below.

TOTAL RESIDENTIAL PRE-APPLICATIONS

679

COMPLETION RATE 76%

DeSoto Residential Grant Stats

- African-American – 89%
- Caucasian – 4%
- Asian-American – <1%
- Latinx – 8%
- Disabled – 8%

TOTAL BUSINESS GRANT PRE-APPLICATIONS

346

COMPLETION RATE 66%

DeSoto Business Grant Stats

- Woman-owned: 64%
- African American-owned: 84%
- Asian-American-owned: 7%
- Latinx-owned: 2%



The CARES Act

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATES

WALKING FOR AWARENESS

October 5th – October 23rd

Register at the **CONTROL BOOTH – BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2020**

Walk to Win a Gift Card and a Custom Parks & Rec Hoodie

Support **Breast Cancer Awareness**

or **STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Register and receive a **Breast Cancer** or **Domestic Violence Awareness** wrist band or lapel pin for participating.

The **two members** who accumulate the most steps in the **two-week period** will be announced as our **WINNERS**.

Steps can only be counted when using the following: **Treadmill, Elliptical, Incumbent Bicycles** or the **Walking Track**

Steps can only be calculated with a **DeSoto Parks and Recreation issued pedometer**

Contest **begins at 8am on October 5, 2020** and **ends at 8pm on October 23, 2020**.

A **WINNER** and **RUNNER-UP** will be announced on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020**.

Texas winds
musical outreach

Melodic Memories

Violin & Piano

DRIVE IN CONCERT

08 OCT 11AM

DESOTO SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER
(PARKING LOT)
204 LION STREET | DESOTO, TX 75115

**** RESTROOMS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ****

ALL NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL SAFE AND SANITARY GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED.

Icons: MASK ON EVENT, SAFE DISTANCE 6FT

celebrating **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15

Painting with a bit of a Twist

AGES 5-12

26 | SEP
03 | OCT
10 | OCT

11AM - 12:30PM

DESOTO AMPHITHEATER
211 E. PLEASANT RUN DESOTO, TX 75115

\$15 PER SESSION

Icons: MASK ON EVENT, SAFE DISTANCE 6FT

PAINTINGWITHABITOFATWIST.EVENTBRITE.COM

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

ECONOMIC RECOVERY ADVISORY TASK FORCE

The DeSoto Economic Recovery Advisory Task Force (DERATF) is stepping up its efforts to provide DeSoto's homebound seniors and other residents with targeted information broadcasts, live when possible, on a weekly basis. The City Council Chambers has been turned into a makeshift broadcast studio with live interviews conducted every Thursday at 9:00 am. Live interviews will be broadcast on Facebook Live and then rebroadcast on social media platforms and the City of DeSoto cable channel. This week's broadcast included Communications Manager Matt Smith interviewing Cameron Kainerstorfer of the DeSoto Public Library about how DPL is providing information and assistance for seniors and other residents in advance of the upcoming election.

In the weeks to come, the broadcast will include speaking with Tonya Warren of Public Utilities about the \$325,000 in COVID-19 related water and sewer relief provided by the DeSoto City Council to businesses and residents. Additional updates and information about the water and sewer system will be provided, including how Aqua Hawk can make a big difference in residents' billing and water usage.

DeSoto Fire Rescue and DeSoto Police will also participate in a broadcast with valuable advice for seniors. The Texas Winds will also perform live for DeSoto seniors and other online viewers.

DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover. Experience. Play.

DERATF
CITY OF DESOTO
ECONOMIC RECOVERY
ADVISORY TASK FORCE

DeSoto Parks and the City of DeSoto's Economic Recovery Advisory Task Force (DERATF) are working together to help coordinate services for our Seniors during the COVID-19 Pandemic and to provide them with information about helpful resources during these difficult times.

DERATF was founded in April 2020 when DeSoto Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan assigned City Manager Brandon Wright to create an Economic Recovery Advisory Task Force operated by senior city managers and local business and civic leaders to work together on new ways to fight COVID-19 in the community with a special emphasis on addressing economic impacts.

Since many of DeSoto's Seniors are homebound or have limited mobility due to the Pandemic, we are working to bring them helpful information via the City of DeSoto's cable tv channels (Spectrum Channel 16 and AT&T Uverse Channel 99) and online platforms.

COMING SOON

Texas Winds Texas Winds Musical Outreach parking lot concert at the DeSoto Senior Activity Center coming October 8, 2020, at 11:00 AM

Be sure to check all of our media platforms every Thursday at 11:00 AM for senior programming

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

DeSoto Steppers
Watch for the DeSoto Steppers during our Thursday broadcasts

- Ask the Dr. Coronavirus and Older Adult Patients
Dr. Ike 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 voting info please contact the DeSoto Library at 972-230-9661 or visit their website.

DeSoto Public Library
For any questions call D. McGhee 972-230-5826

ETC INSTITUTE - 2020 RESIDENT SURVEY

DeSoto's First Community Survey since the mid 2000's is entering a new phase. Survey Provider ETC received a very strong response to both the random and non-random online portion of the survey. The collection period formally ended on September 21 at 5:00 pm, and the work of analyzing and compiling data has now started.

According to ETC, DeSoto's response rates for both the random survey group and the volunteer responses were excellent. ETC typically expects to collect 300 responses from randomly selected households to secure a statistically accurate data baseline. DeSoto surpassed that level with 315 responses within a shorter timeline. The voluntary online portion of the survey returned one of the biggest responses that ETC has seen for a survey like this. Slightly more than 300 residents responded to the voluntary response survey that was available through the City's website. The voluntary survey group's results will be presented to City staff in aggregate form for review and consideration while the statistically accurate randomly selected household data will be presented in the official results presented by ETC.

Staff anticipates that the full details of the survey will be available for distribution to the City Council in October and shared publicly soon thereafter.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

City staff are finalizing the development of key initiatives to be provided in the Strategic Plan this week. This process involves identifying responsible parties, funding requirements, and key outcomes to reach those goals established within the Strategic Plan. These results will be shared with the consultant next week for inclusion in the final draft. 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.

WEEKLY EVENTS & MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020

25

DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION - FOURTH FRIDAY CONCERT

Kenya C. and O.T. & The Funk Connection at 8:00 pm Virtual Concert

26

DESOTO COUNTS! CENSUS 2020 RALLY

Drive-Thru at DeSoto Police Department 2:00 - 5:00 pm

29

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING (ELECTION)

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

06

LATIN HERITAGE FESTIVAL CONCERT

Cable Channel 16, Facebook Live and City's website at 10:00 am



BLM EXHIBIT AT CITY HALL

The Black Lives Matter Art Exhibit will remain on display in the City Hall Atrium through September 30. The Arts Commission filmed a video with the artists whose work is represented in the exhibit. This video will be used as a "Virtual Art Show." The video is now available on the BLM Art Exhibit. [webpage: https://www.artsdesoto.com/exhibit](https://www.artsdesoto.com/exhibit)

WEEKLY EVENTS & MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020

CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE FROM SEPTEMBER 15—OCTOBER 15

Virtual Concert featuring
Havana NRG on Sat,
September 19, at 7:00p.m.

 @Desotorec

 @Desotocity

 @Desotopard



Painting with a Bit of a Twist

Ages 5-12

Every Saturday

September 26—October 17

11:00am—12:30pm

At the Amphitheater
Sign-Up via Eventbrite
(space is limited)

**FUN FACT
WEDNESDAY**

Learn interesting facts
about the

Hispanic Culture via
FACEBOOK @Desotorec

ENJOY

CULTURAL TREATS

EVERY FRIDAY

THROUGH OCTOBER 9TH

MEMBERS

10AM—12PM and 5PM—7PM

Recognition of Local Hispanic

Businesses every Thursday

via **FACEBOOK @Desotorec**

