

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

City Enters Into New Contract with Republic Waste for Sanitation Services

The City of DeSoto's contract for solid waste collection with Republic Services expires on May 31, 2012. A year ago, the City Council voted to accept proposals for this contract and city staff set about collecting input from residents regarding the type of solid waste services that were important to them. Public meetings were held and input was received through a blog on the city's website on preferences for sanitation services. Residents overwhelmingly said that they liked the current twice a week trash service and once weekly recycling and would be willing to pay a little more in order to maintain the street sweeper, median litter crew and the household hazardous waste, document shredding and e-recycling events that have been so popular. As a result, an RFP for sanitation services went out in October and four proposals were received.



Damage to our alleys caused by heavy solid waste collection trucks has been a problem for the last few years. With the new solid waste contract, Republic will begin using trucks that are smaller (pictured above) in the neighborhoods east of Hampton Road where the alleys are only eight feet wide.

After a lengthy evaluation process, the evaluation committee consisting of city staff, a local resident and an employee from a neighboring city recommended that the City Council enter into a new contract with

Republic Services. All current services will continue under the new contract. Customers will see an increase of approximately \$3.67 per household beginning in June. Customers will also have the option to use a 96 gallon recycle bin for an additional monthly cost of \$2.75. If you have questions regarding your sanitation services, please call the Action Center at 972.230.9600.



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it's what's going on

City Calendar

May

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
3 National Day of Prayer Serv. City Hall 7am
3 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
5 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner Event
5 Mother/Son Dance—Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
7 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
7 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
8 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
10 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
12 City Election Day
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
17 Don Diego Concert Amphitheater 6:30pm
18 Concert on Plaza at Town Ctr. - noon
21 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
22 Senior Symposium Civic Ctr. - 9 am
22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
27 Anthony Evans Concert Amphitheater
28 City Facilities closed for Memorial Day

June

4 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
7 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
9 SolJazz Festival - Eagle Stadium
12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
14 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
16 BSW Juneteenth Celebration Town Ctr.
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
30 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon

Special Pet Adoption Event in May at the Tri-City Animal Shelter

Throughout the month of May, Tri-City Animal Shelter is offering special events to promote pet adoption. On Saturday, May 5th from 10 am to 3 pm, bring the kids for free pony rides, a bounce house, balloon animals, snow cones and popcorn. On Saturday, May 12th, one lucky adopter will win a special prize and on Saturday, May 19th from 8 am to 2 pm come to the shelter for a huge Grrrrrage Sale. Every adopter during the month of May will receive a free \$10 Gift Card for PetCo. Tri-City Animal Shelter is located at 1150 E. Pleasant Run Road. For more information about pet adoption, please call 972.291.5335.

DeSoto Art League is accepting applications for their Annual Juried Art Show which is displayed in the lobby of City Hall each summer. For info go to <http://desotoartleague.com/>

Spring is Tornado Season

Tornadoes can occur at any time of the year in Texas, but they happen most often in spring and fall. Storms are most likely to strike in the late afternoon and early evening hours. City of DeSoto Emergency Management Officials urge citizens to monitor TV and radio broadcast for storm information, as well as NOAA weather radio.

The City of DeSoto activates our Outdoor Warning Sirens system to alert citizens that are outdoors to take cover inside a substantial structure. You may not hear the sirens when you are inside. That is why it is suggested that you purchase a NOAA weather radio for your home and or business. The sirens may be activated for the following severe weather conditions:

- Report of a funnel or tornado that is or will be threatening the citizens of DeSoto.
- The National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning or Severe Thunderstorm Warning with the phrase "Destructive winds in excess of 70 mph (or higher) are likely with this storm" for our immediate area.
- Trained storm spotters report a tornado in or near the City of DeSoto.
- Hail of 1.25 inches in diameter or greater is reported in or near the vicinity of the City of DeSoto.

The sirens will not be sounded for flooding or high water. The sirens are routinely tested on the first Wednesday of each

month at 2:00 pm in good weather. Please do not call 9-1-1 to ask why the sirens are sounding. If you are inside take cover in an interior hallway or closet avoiding windows.

The City of DeSoto also uses the Code Red Emergency Notification System - an ultra high-speed telephone communication service capable of dialing 50,000 phone numbers per hour. This system allows us to telephone all or targeted areas of the city to notify residents of an emergency situation that requires immediate action. For this program to be successful, we must have accurate contact information for each household and business. Please go to the City's website at www.desototexas.gov/codered click on the CodeRed icon and enter your name, address and up to two emergency phone numbers. This system will only be used for emergency purposes. All your information will remain completely private and will only be used to notify you of critical situations. For more information contact DeSoto Emergency Management at (972) 230-9680 or visit the Governor's Department of Emergency Management's Web site: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.



2012 Teen Summer Volunteer Program

Teens are you looking for a great summer experience while receiving community service hours at the same time? Sign up for the DeSoto Public Library Teen Summer Volunteer Program!

VISIT WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/LIBRARY
Deadline to register is May 26, 2012

Library Sponsors Teen Empowerment Summit

The DeSoto Public Library and the Library's Teen Spot Advisory Council invite local teens to participate in the 1st Annual City of DeSoto Teen Empowerment Summit at the DeSoto Public Library on Friday, June 8, 2012 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. The purpose of the summit is to inspire and empower youth to become their best as contributing members of society by providing them with opportunities to learn and practice leadership, citizenship and life skills.

Registration is free for this event and lunch will be provided. Interested youth wishing to participate must register at www.desototeensummit.eventbrite.com or www.desototexas.gov/library starting April 15, 2012. The deadline to register for this event is May 26, 2012.

For more information, contact Ms. Marq Runnels, DeSoto Public Library Teen Volunteer Coordinator at 972.230.9663 or via email at mrunnels@desototexas.gov.

New Police Chief is Sworn In

Joseph Costa was recently sworn in as DeSoto Chief of Police following the retirement of Chief Mike Brodnax. Costa most recently served as Chief Deputy with the Dallas County Sheriff's Department and came to Texas following his retirement from the Massachusetts State Police after 25 years of service.



The City conducted a nationwide search to fill this position. A field of five candidates interviewed with a selection committee made up of community leaders, city staff and DeSoto police officers. As Chief of Police, Costa will direct the day to day activities of budgeting and staffing all police actions in a department with 71 sworn officers. Additionally, the Chief is responsible for Code

Enforcement, Animal Control and a regional jail facility that serves DeSoto, Cedar Hill and Lancaster.

"We are excited to have Costa join our team," said City Manager, Tarron Richardson. "He's going to be a phenomenal asset to our community and brings with him many years of law enforcement experience."

DeSoto Police Senior Symposium - May 22, 2012

DeSoto Police Department is committed to working with senior citizens to help enrich their lives by sponsoring a free Safer Seniors Symposium and Health Fair on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 from 9 am to 12 noon at the DeSoto Civic Center. DeSoto residents, 55 years of age and older, are encouraged to attend this event to receive information about personal safety and home security, health, and information on avoiding scams or fraud targeting the senior population. To attend, please call Officer Cindy Mendez at 469.658.3055 to request an application.

DeSoto Chamber of Commerce Sponsors SolJazz Festival

The inaugural edition of the DeSoto SolJazz Festival will be held June 1st through 10th with the finale concert taking place Saturday, June 9th featuring Rachelle Farrell. Free SolJazz Spotlight Concerts will be held June 4th through 7th at noon in the Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center and will feature diverse artists with their own original style and music. Other events include a Celebrity & Partner Golf Tournament, a 5K Walk for Diabetes and a Comedy & Casino Night on Friday, June 8 that will set the stage for the spectacular SolJazz Concert Event on Saturday! The finale concert will be held at the beautiful DeSoto Eagle Stadium on Saturday, June 9, and will feature Rachelle Ferrell, Cameo, Pieces of A Dream, MC Lyte, and Doug E. Fresh. Community groups will have booths and there will be a health fair along with gift vendors and, food and beverage vendors. Please visit www.DeSotoSolJazzFest.com for more information and to purchase tickets!

RACHELLE FERRELL

GRANDMASTER DEE

CAMEO

MC LYTE

PIECES OF A DREAM

DeSoto SolJazz Festival

June 9, 2012

THE 2012 DESOTO SOLJAZZ MUSIC FESTIVAL

DESOTO EAGLE STADIUM

www.desotosoljazzfest.com

Where People, Music & Culture Become One.

ART PRESENTS

WARRIORS DON'T CRY

by MELBA PATILLO BEALS
Adapted for stage by Eisa Davis

DIRECTED BY VINCE MCGILL

MAY 25 - JUNE 10, 2012

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
7:30 PM, \$20

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
2:30 PM, \$15

THE CORNER THEATRE
CITY OF DESOTO, TEXAS
211 E. Pleasant Run
DeSoto, TX 75115

2012 Music in the Park SERIES

FREE CONCERT

don diego
at the DOUG BASKIN JAZZ TRIO
presented by DeSoto Parks & Leisure Services

LIVE @ DESOTO TOWN CENTER AMPHITHEATER | 211 E PLEASANT RUN RD
THURSDAY, MAY 17TH // 6:30PM

facebook.com/DesotoRec | www.desototx.gov/parks | 972-230-9651

Free concerts
With: Joe King
Andrea Dawson
Inner City All-Stars
Inspiration Band



SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH
DESOTO TOWN CENTER, 211
E. PLEASANT RUN ROAD
FOR INFO CALL
972.230.9651

Celebrate *Juneteenth* 2012
BEST SOUTHWEST JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
CEDAR HILL | DESOTO | DUNCANVILLE | LANCASTER

Nappiology presents FRO FEST from 1 to 6 pm in the DeSoto Civic Center for more info go to www.nappiology.net.

BIG ENOUGH

a FREE MEMORIAL DAY Concert
Celebrating Faith, Family & Freedom

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
SUNDAY, MAY 27th, 2012
3:00-8:30 -[after church!]
DeSoto Town Center Amphitheater
211 E. Pleasant Run Road
Located at DeSoto Town Center behind the Library

HOSTED BY:

VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

GAMES // VENDORS // FOOD TRUCKS // MUSIC // FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
www.DESOTOARTSCOMMISSION.com

ANTHONY EVANS
from 'The Voice' | 7:30

ETHAN KENT | 6:00

RACING GRAVITY | 5:00

MY HEART'S CRY | 4:00