

DeSoto City Lights

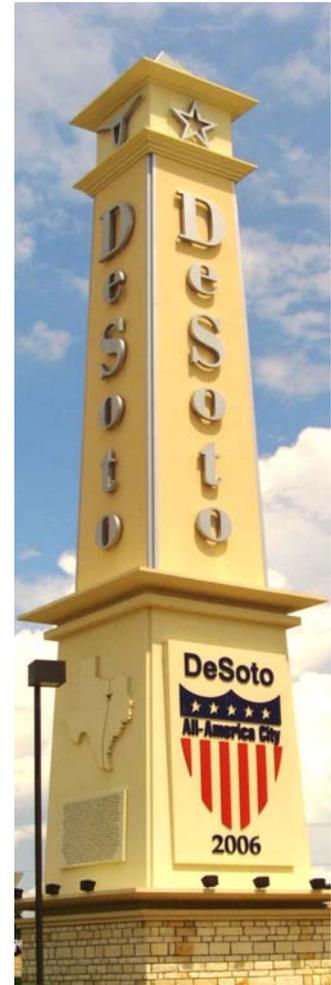
A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

DeSoto Is a Veteran Friendly City

For the last three years, the City of DeSoto has hosted an event to honor the contributions and sacrifice of our military veterans and their families on the Saturday prior to Veterans Day. This year, on November 7, 2015 at 9 am, we will again recognize our veterans with a special appreciation ceremony featuring keynote speaker, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, if her schedule permits. The ceremony will take place in the City Council Chambers in DeSoto City Hall. Immediately following the ceremony, events will move to the plaza and outdoor amphitheater at Town Center behind the DeSoto Public Library for **Vet Fest**, a street festival designed to show our veterans how much we care.

We are in the process of identifying local businesses and organizations who offer special services or discounts to veterans to participate in **Vet Fest** with a vendor booth. The City of DeSoto would also like to invite local businesses who are looking to hire veterans to set up a booth at **Vet Fest**. In addition to the vendor booths, the Veterans Administration is sending their mobile information unit along with a mobile unit that provides services for homeless veterans to **Vet Fest**. We will also have food vendors, children's activities and lots of free entertainment until 3pm. Applications are currently being accepted for vendors or employers. For more information, please call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.

DeSoto is a Veteran Friendly City and as such, we want to do all we can to recognize those who sacrificed all for our nation. The City's Veterans Appreciation Committee would like to ask for your help. We would like to create a tribute to our local veterans and are asking that friends and family members submit pictures of your favorite vet, in uniform, if possible. This photo will not be returned as it will become a permanent part of the tribute. Please send your photos along with a brief description of your veteran including, name, rank, area and history of service to Kathy Jones at kathy.jones@desototexas.gov or by dropping off the photo and information in one of the brightly colored boxes in the City Hall Atrium and located at businesses around our city.



DeSoto Fire Rescue and the City of DeSoto recognized the contributions of Pastor Bob Simmons on his retirement at a recent City Council Meeting. Pastor Bob served as the Chaplain for DeSoto Fire Rescue in addition to his duties as pastor of the Dallas First Church of the Nazarene. Pictured here are Pastor Bob Simmons, left and DeSoto Fire Rescue Chief Jerry Duffield, right.

City Calendar

August

3 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
3 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
3 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
6 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
6 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
6 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
20 Veterans Affairs Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6pm
24 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm

September

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
3 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
7 City offices closed Labor Day Holiday
8 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall - 7 pm
14 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm
14 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
14 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
12 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner
17 Veterans Affairs Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6pm
22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

Labor Day Trash Schedule

Labor Day is one of the five holidays observed by Republic Waste, the City's solid waste contractor. As a result, there will be no regular trash service on Monday, September 7, 2015. Regular Monday customers will have their trash collected on Tuesday that week and regular Tuesday collection will take place on Wednesday. Recycling will be collected on Thursday. Thursday solid waste collection will move to Friday and regular Friday customers will have their solid waste collected on Saturday. The normal schedule will resume on Monday, September 14, 2015. If you have any questions about your trash service, please call the Action Center at 972.230.9600.

Dallas County Health and Human Services Dept. Continues Spraying Program for West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes

Dallas County Health and Human Service has been and will continue to conduct ground spraying throughout the summer in DeSoto when positive mosquito traps are found in our city. When a positive trap is identified, DCHHS moves quickly, usually within 12 hours, to spray the affected area. They notify the City of DeSoto's Environmental Health Specialist when they plan to spray in DeSoto and the City immediately puts the information out to local media and posts it on our website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

If you would like to receive an email or text message about the spraying as soon as the information is made available to the City, please go to the City website at www.desototexas.gov, click on "Notify Me" on the left hand side of the home page and register for the notification list called "Mosquito spraying by DCHHS" by providing your email address and/or telephone number.

Residents can also help reduce exposure to mosquitoes by using the **4D's**:

- **DEET All Day, Every Day:** Whenever you're outside, use insect repellents that contain DEET or other EPA approved repellents and follow instructions.
- **Dress:** Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.
- **Drain:** Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace.
- **Dusk & Dawn:** Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

Standing water can be treated with EPA-approved larvicides called "dunks". The City of DeSoto has a supply of these dunks that are available, free of charge, for DeSoto residents at the Action Center in City Hall. These mosquito dunks float on the surface of water and will keep working for 30 days or longer. While floating, they release long-term mosquito larvicide at the water's surface where it is eaten by growing mosquito larvae. One dunk can treat up to 100 square feet of stagnant water. Mosquitos that carry WNV breed in places where stagnant water accumulates such as drainage ditches, stagnant swimming pools, bird baths, plant containers and old tires. Contact the DeSoto Environmental Health Specialist if you have WNV questions at 972.230.9600, or visit the DCHHS website at:

<http://www.dallascounty.org/department/hhs/home.html>.



BEE BRANCH BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The final phase of the reconstruction of Bee Branch Bridge, located on Pleasant Run Road just west of Cockrell Hill Road continues. The existing bridge is being replaced with a four lane, divided concrete bridge. The new bridge is elevated approximately eight feet higher than the existing bridge in order to eliminate the "ski slope" effect of the hill located immediately east of the bridge. The City is also widening Pleasant Run Road between the bridge and Cockrell Hill Road to a four lane, divided concrete road. If you have any questions, please call the City's Development Services office at 972.230.9609.



This year's National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2015 from 7 to 9 pm. Crime watch groups, homeowners associations and neighborhood groups are encouraged to come outside their homes that evening and join together for a show of community support. Make plans now for your neighborhood block party or event on National Night Out. To schedule a

police or city official visit or for more information, call Officer Sherman Williams at 469.658.3055.

August in Texas can be steamy to say the least. Some cities in Texas have elected to celebrate National Night Out on the first Tuesday in October when the weather is much cooler. If that sounds good to you, the DeSoto Police agree and will host a special crime prevention event for the whole community on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 from 7 to 9 pm at the DeSoto Civic Center. Watch this newsletter for more information on that event.

Join Our Team



Check out the Careers tab on the City website at www.desototexas.gov for more information.



The newest members of the DeSoto Police force made their debut at the recent July 4th Fireworks event. Pictured above are two, new mounted police officers who will be working future special events, football games, parades and other activities where large crowds gather.

Would You Like to Attend the Next DeSoto Civic Academy?

The DeSoto Civic Academy is looking for participants for their next eleven week sessions beginning August 20th. Each weekly session is hosted by a different City department or group. Classes are designed to allow participants to experience, first hand, how our City operates.

In the first session, participants will hear from City Management about their duties and responsibilities. You'll visit the Police Department to tour their facilities including the jail. DeSoto Fire Rescue will treat you to some great firehouse burgers while they provide an overview of fire safety. During the class hosted by Development Services, participants can operate the street sweeper and see their heavy equipment. Finance will discuss how the City budget is built and the final class is a mock City Council meeting where class participants play the parts of Mayor, Councilmembers, citizens and staff.

The Civic Academy is a great way to meet your City employees face to face and experience what it takes to keep all the services and programs running smoothly. If you have considered applying for a City board or commission but felt you didn't know enough about City operations to make an informed decision, the Civic Academy will allow you to become familiar with City services and processes. The academy is free and includes dinner at each class. To attend or for more information, call 972.230.9643.

BIG HERO 6
JULY 17
8:30 pm

ANNIE
JULY 10
8:30 pm

STEPS OF FAITH
JULY 24
8:30 pm

DeSoto
MOVIES
IN THE PARK

artsdesoto.com

The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to join us for our free Movies In The Park Series at the Outdoor Amphitheater in DeSoto Town Center behind the Library. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic baskets. Credit Union of Texas will provide free popcorn and bottled water. Other concessions will be available for purchase. For more information, please call 972.230.9648.

“Connecting Neighbors!”

Do you feel connected to the DeSoto Community?
If you'd like to participate in this important community conversation, please take this as a personal invitation to attend our next free DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner event on September 12, 2015. Adults who live or work in DeSoto and care about our community are encouraged to attend. Resident high school students and their parents are also welcome to attend. We offer five hours of Community Service Credit for students who attend because their input is vital to the program. As a guest, all you have to do is attend and join in on the discussion. Repeat guests are also welcome. Please register your attendance at www.desotodd.org.

Dinner Discussion Topic:
Race Relations – A Community Conversation
 The DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program was organized as a means to have a community conversation about race. The DeSoto community offers beautiful homes, rolling hills, great neighborhoods and diverse people. However, like most American cities, DeSoto is at risk of succumbing to the cultural and racial divide that often separates us. Thus in 2004, DeSoto Dining and Dialogue was created specifically to address race by bringing together individuals to discuss this issue on a personal level. In fact, this program was a key reason that our City received the All-America City award. At our next dinner, we will broaden the discussion to include our police department, faith community and school district. Representatives from these areas will lead a targeted discussion on race relations in DeSoto, and we invite you to attend. This event will be:
Saturday, September 12, 2015
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
 For more information and to register go to: www.desotodd.org or call Kathy Jones at 972-230-9648
 The deadline to register to attend the free dinner event is August 28th!

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals of all ages, who live or work in DeSoto, the opportunity to get to know one another at private dinner events. These dinners are held twice a year in private homes around DeSoto. The discussion is led by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community. DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is primarily successful because families are willing to host a dinner for a diverse group of citizens in their homes at their own expense. Facilitators and other volunteers willingly give of their time and expertise because they believe in the program. However, we need continuing community participation to keep the program strong. Join us in building a strong community. Please feel free to forward this invitation to anyone who lives and/or works in DeSoto!

Uptown/Downtown/DeSoto Concert Series Resumes on Sundays in September and October

The DeSoto Arts Commission is proud to announce that the Uptown/Downtown/DeSoto Concert series resumes this fall. This series features great jazz concerts on even numbered Sundays and classical performances on odd numbered Sunday. All concerts take place at 3pm in the DeSoto Corner Theatre located in DeSoto Town Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. For more information, check out the DeSoto Arts Commission website at ArtsDeSoto.com. Here's the line-up:

- Sept. 13th Avant Chamber Ballet
- Sept. 20th Jazz with W. T. Greer, III
- Sept. 27th Demarre McGill, flute & Steven Harlos, piano
- Oct. 4th Open Classics (classical music reimagined as jazz)
- Oct. 11th Czech Virtuoso duo, Felix Slovacek Jr., clarinet & Viacheslav Grokhovski Fr. Piano
- Oct. 18th Big Band Jazz with Matt Tolentino
- Oct. 25th Gary Levinson, violin & Baya Kakouberi, piano

Tickets to all concerts are just \$10 and available at the door or at www.ArtsDeSoto.com.