

# DeSoto City Lights

*A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department*

## ***How Do You See DeSoto? Is DeSoto A Safe Community?***

Mayor Curtistene McCowan, and Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Proctor are working with DeSoto Police Chief Joe Costa and City Manager Tarron Richardson, Ph.D. to gain information from our residents regarding police/community relations.

“Following the recent horrific killings of the five police officers in Dallas, the City Council and Administration initiated a series of community conversations to raise awareness about current community programs and events sponsored by the DeSoto Police Department,” said DeSoto Mayor Curtistene McCowan. “We wanted to provide opportunities for citizens to become engaged.”

A key strategy of these forums was to receive input from citizens on how our police could improve the process of building relationships and interactive partnerships in the community. In addition to the public meetings, an online citizens survey was created. This survey is intended to provide a broader segment of our population the opportunity to provide feedback.

As a City, we would like to know how you feel about safety and crime in your neighborhood, as well as in DeSoto in general. This includes places you shop, religious or public institutions, or a local business district. Your neighborhood is the general area around your house where you might perform routine tasks, such as shopping, going to the park, or visiting with neighbors.

“The citizens survey is an important tool to help us assess and strengthen community policing in our City,” commented Mayor McCowan. “We sincerely appreciate residents who have taken the time to complete and return the survey,” said Mayor McCowan. “If you have not, please do so today.”

To complete the online survey, please go to the City of DeSoto website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) and scroll down on the homepage to the News & Announcements section. You’ll see a link with the picture at right that will take you to the online survey.



## City Calendar

### September

1 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 1 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 1 Historical Foundation Mtg. - 6 pm  
 3 DeSoto Arts Live - Amphitheater 11a - 9p  
 5 Labor Day Holiday - City Facilities Closed  
 5 Park Board Mtg. - canceled  
 6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 10 Latino Heritage Fest Amphitheater 6pm  
 13 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - canceled  
 15 Adopt-a-Street Banquet - Civic Ctr.  
 17 DeSoto Coming Together City Hall 9am  
 20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 26 Submit Photos for Contest City Hall 12-5p  
 27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall - 7 pm

### October

3 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm  
 3 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 4 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 4 Texas Night Out - Town Center 7 pm  
 6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 6 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm  
 6 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 6 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm  
 11 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm  
 18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm  
 31 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am



“A Beary Special Celebration” is the theme for the DeSoto 2016 Hometown Holiday Parade scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd at 5 pm.

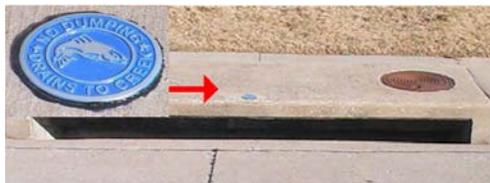
Now is the time to reach out to your church, scout troop, community group, HOA, business, or other organization to see if they would like to participate. Help us kick off the Holiday Season in DeSoto by going to [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) and downloading an application for this year’s parade. Act now, early bird registration ends November 11, 2016. For more information, please call Special Events Coordinator, Sade McCallan at 972.230.9652 or send an email to [smccallan@desototexas.gov](mailto:smccallan@desototexas.gov).

## Help Us Keep Storm Drains Flowing and Creeks Unpolluted

In order to keep our creeks safe from pollutants and our storm drains flowing, the City has established a program called the Storm Drain Inlet Marker Program which requires that all storm drain inlets, similar to the one pictured below, contain a marker that notifies residents that the marked storm drain flows to the creek. This is important information because it is intended to stop illicit discharge or dumping of pollutants such as paints, varnishes, solvents, oil and other automotive fluids, non-hazardous liquid/solid wastes, yard wastes and grass clippings, garbage, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, any other hazardous substances, sewage, animal wastes, construction materials and noxious or offensive matter of any kind, into a marked storm drain inlet that flows to the creek.

City representatives are marking storm drain inlets that flow to the creeks and placing door hangers, like the one pictured here, on homes in the area to educate the public on the consequences of this form of illegal dumping.

For more information regarding the program and prohibited discharge, please call the City’s Engineering Department at 972.230.9642.



The storm drain outlets in your neighborhood now have a decal applied with the message “NO DUMPING-DRAINS TO CREEK”. Volunteer organizations, interested in community projects are helping to make a difference to protect our local environment. The message is important for several reasons: Storm water drain lines are located throughout the city. They serve to carry off rain water from urban streets, parking lots, construction sites, neighborhoods and agricultural lands. This water’s final destination is our creeks and rivers. Too often, such things as trash, grass clippings, hazardous waste, and oil are carelessly dumped into the storm water lines. This not only causes pollution to our creeks and rivers, but results in clogging of the storm drains, which leads to street flooding.

To prevent storm water pollution from occurring in your neighborhood, DO NOT DUMP.

☒ TRASH	☒ MOTOR OIL
☒ PESTICIDES	☒ ANTIFREEZE
☒ SOLVENTS / PAINTS	☒ GRASS CLIPPINGS

**ILLEGAL DUMPING SUBJECT TO FINE**

For more information on storm water pollution or how your organization can participate in the City’s Storm Drain Labeling Program contact the City of DeSoto.

**HELP KEEP OUR STORM WATER LINES FREE OF DEBRIS.**

STORM WATER HOT LINE  
972-274-2489



### Meadow Creek Park Update

The City’s contractor has completed the clean up on the sports fields and all of the passive lawn areas at Meadow Creek Park that were impaled with debris from the December 2015 tornado. They are currently establishing grow-

back of the grass on all three sports fields. This process entails mowing, fertilizing, aerifying, and watering. The next phase of the project will involve repairing and replacing the lighting, fencing, roofing, scoreboards, goal post, press box, and other above ground items that were damaged by the tornado. Opening date for the park is scheduled for the fall of 2017.



**Calling All Veterans - Join Us for Vet Fest on November 12th at the DeSoto Civic Center from 10 am to 2 pm**

For the last four 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 closest to Veterans Day. This year, on November 12, 2016 from 10 am to 2 pm, we will again recognize our veterans with a event called Vet

Fest which includes a special appreciation ceremony featuring keynote speaker, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, if her schedule permits. The ceremony will take place at 11 am in the

DeSoto Civic Center. We will pay a special tribute to our Korean War Veterans and are inviting them to attend. If you have pictures or other Korean War artifacts or information that you would be willing to share with the community during this event, please call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.

We will have representatives from the Dallas VA Medical Center providing blood pressure checks and flu shots

for veterans along with the following:

- a. VBA Representative
- b. Benefits Area Representative
- c. Mental Health Representative
- d. Appointment Scheduling Rep.
- e. Vocational Rehab
- f. Satellite Location/Services
- g. Veterans Texas Commission & Veterans Entrepreneur Program
- h. Texas Land Board Assoc. & more

We invite 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 (pictured here) to **Vet Fest**. We will also have lots of giveaways and free entertainment until 2 pm. Applications are currently being accepted for vendors or employers. For more information, please call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.

**DeSoto Says . . . NO MORE**

DeSoto Domestic Violence Advisory Commission, DeSoto Police and Clergy, and DeSoto Police Victims Assistance are planning recognition events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month throughout October. The theme for the month is **DESOTO SAYS . . . NO MORE!** Resource information and material will be available throughout DeSoto intended to increase awareness and education of the impact of domestic and sexual violence on families and the community. Sunday, October 30th, will be dedicated to domestic violence recognition through the churches with materials and awareness items. Planned information awareness lunches and conversations will also be held around the community. For more information contact Victims Assistance at the DeSoto Police Department at 469.658.3012.



**Got History?**

*Do you have historical Civil Rights Era or DeSoto memorabilia, dated between 1850 and the present?*

The DeSoto, Texas Historical Foundation Board is soliciting donations and loans for historical artifacts and other memorabilia that relate directly to the Civil Rights Era and/or to DeSoto history. Because the museum exhibits will be specific, donations must be in good condition, dated between 1850 and the present era, and are subject to approval by the Historical Foundation Board Donations Ad Hoc Committee.

Loaned or donated materials will be utilized for two future museum exhibits: one exhibit at historic Nance Farm, and one exhibit at the Old Red Museum in Dallas. These exhibits will include historic pieces from the Civil Rights Era and artifacts specifically related to the DeSoto community. We are very excited about this opportunity to tell The DeSoto Story and need your help!

To further inquire about how to donate or loan historical artifacts, email

[NanceFarmDonations@DeSotoTexas.gov](mailto:NanceFarmDonations@DeSotoTexas.gov) .

## DeSoto Fire Rescue Receives Grant



DeSoto Fire Rescue was recently awarded \$243,000 through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighter's Grant. These funds allowed them to purchase new equipment including four Life Pak Cardiac Monitors and four Lucas 2 Chest Compression Devices (pictured here).

The Lucas Devices have been shown to substantially increase survivability in a cardiac event. "They replace manual compressions allowing safer and more efficient use of manpower," said DeSoto Fire Chief Jerry Duffield.

These new devices are being installed on all four of DeSoto's ambulances allowing existing equipment to be moved to the fire apparatus. Since all DeSoto Fire personnel serve in the dual capacity of firefighter and certified paramedic, the installation of cardiac monitors to our fire apparatus upgrades them to Paramedic Engine status. This allows the personal on an engine to provide the same cardiac monitoring as the ambulances. Transport to the hospital will continue to be accomplished by ambulances.

## New Sewer Rates Become Effective October 1st

In order to cover the increased cost of wastewater treatment services from the Trinity River Authority, maintain current service levels, and continue capital improvement activities for the wastewater system, the City of DeSoto is implementing the following rate changes for FY 2017:

Water Base Rate	\$8.50	\$8.50	No Change
Water Volume Rate	\$3.10	\$3.10	No Change
Sewer Base Rate	\$8.71	\$9.32	7.0%
Sewer Volume Rate	\$8.65	\$9.26	7.0%

Customers will see the new sewer base rate and volume rate reflected in their December utility bills. If you have any questions regarding your water or wastewater service, please call 972.230.9627.

**CALLING ALL RESIDENTS, HOA'S AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUPS**

**COME JOIN**

**THE DESOTO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**FOR**

**TEXAS NIGHT OUT**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016**

**CITY OF DESOTO TOWN CENTER AMPHITHEATRE**

**211 E. PLEASANT RUN RD.**

**7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM**

**FOOD, MUSIC, PERSONAL, HOME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARENESS DEMONSTRATIONS**

**DESOTO 4SEASONS CONCERTS & NAC-USA, TX**

**PRESENT**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUALS**

**WITH**

**THE ARLINGTON MASTER CHORALE**

**A TRIBUTE TO**

**OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2016 @ 7:30 P.M. DESOTO CITY HALL**

**JESTER HAIRSTON AND MOSES HOGAN**

**ADMISSION: \$15 / SENIORS & STUDENTS: \$8**

Purchase tickets online at [www.artsdesoto.com](http://www.artsdesoto.com)

DeSoto City Hall, 211 E. Pleasant Run, DeSoto, Texas

4Seasons Concerts: Artistic Director, Wieslaw Rentowski

Business Contact, Renie McClellan [reniemcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reniemcc@sbcglobal.net)

Partial Funding by the DeSoto Arts Commission