

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

You Can Now Resolve Traffic Citations Through a Video Conference Court Appearance

Persons who have received traffic citations from the DeSoto Police Department are now able to resolve those citations through a video conference court appearance, Municipal Court Manager Jeremy Leonard announced recently. "We have tested our system over the past several months and are ready to publicize this new initiative that will make it far more convenient for defendants to resolve their **traffic** citations with the DeSoto Municipal Court." Judge Kurth holds an E-Court docket each day at 11:00 am (except for the 4th Wednesday of the month). According to Leonard, the process is very user friendly: simply go to the Court's website at www.desototexas.gov/court and click on **VIDEO CONFERENCE THE JUDGE** for instructions on how E-Court works and what options are available to you on E-Court. When you are ready to meet with the Judge using E-Court, you will go to <https://zoom.us/join> where you will be asked to download the "zoom" app. Once the app is downloaded to your pc or mobile device, you will type in the meeting ID **582-661-129** that will immediately establish a video conference with Judge Kurth.

The enormous potential of this new program was seen during the testing period wherein 13% of all of the court's cases were resolved via the E-Court option. The expectation is for this number to grow significantly in the coming months because of the convenience and efficiency it offers citizens. Judge Kurth has had defendants video conference from South Dakota, California and Mississippi as well as Dallas, Carrollton and Houston. Many defendants have been able to resolve their cases without the need to take off work and physically come to the courthouse. The video conference can be done through any computer or mobile device that is equipped with a camera that has a built in microphone as well as speakers to hear what the Judge is saying back to you. Your device also will need access to a stable internet connection with the ability to send and receive emails.

Following the E-Court appearance, the clerks of the Municipal Court will email a link to the defendant. When the defendant clicks on this link, it will route them to the judgment that has been prepared for the defendant to sign. Once the defendant signs the judgment using their mouse or finger (on touchscreens), the document is automatically routed back to the court where it will be filed on the defendant's case. The defendant is also emailed a final copy of the signed judgment for their records. "The process is very smooth and efficient, and we are very excited to be among the very first Texas courts to offer this option to our citizens," said Leonard. Judge Kurth has already successfully employed video conferencing to speed up the process of getting arrest and search warrants signed and issued and to conduct the magistrate hearings at the Tri-City Jail in DeSoto. The Court's E-Court docket is the next phase in this important project to make access to the Municipal Court more convenient for citizens.



City Calendar

November

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 Historical Foundation Mtg. - 6 pm
7 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6pm
8 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
12 Vet Fest - Civic Center - 9am to 2pm
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
24 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Hall closed
25 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Hall closed
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
29 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall - 7 pm

December

1 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
1 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
1 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
1 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
3 Holiday Parade - 5 pm Hampton Road
5 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm
5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg.
19 DEDC Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
23 City Facilities Closed Christmas Holiday
26 City Facilities Closed Christmas Holiday

Senior Citizens Discounts

Senior Citizens, aged 65 and older, are eligible to receive a discount on their City of DeSoto utility bill. To receive the senior discount, request the application form in person at the Utility Billing window at DeSoto City Hall or download it from the City's website at www.desototexas.gov. You can print out the form and fax it to us with a copy of your driver's license or bring it in person to receive the following discounts on your utility bill:

- Water discount - \$3
- Sewer discount - \$3
- Brush collection discount - \$2.10
- Drainage discount - \$3.50

If you have questions, please call the Public Utility Billing Department at 972.230.9627 (press 7 to speak with a customer service representative), or stop by the Utility Billing window in DeSoto City Hall Monday through Friday between 8 am and 5 pm.

Infrastructure Renovation and Replacement Update

Each year, City of DeSoto sets aside funds for renovation and replacement of deteriorating water and waste water infrastructure. In recent months, work has been underway across the city to upgrade existing clay tile sewer lines and cast iron water lines that are between forty and fifty years old. These main lines have been replaced with Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipe. In addition, water service lines on the City side of the meters were replaced up to property lines and cleanouts were installed at the property line.



The following streets have had water and sewer infrastructure replaced:

- Holt Avenue
- Williams Avenue
- Hanna Circle
- Greenbriar Drive
- Greenbriar Circle
- E. Shockley Avenue



Westlake Drive and Pine Tree Lane had their sidewalks replaced due to settling that occurred following replacement of the water line a few years ago. The pavement on Holt, Williams, Hanna, Greenbriar and Shockley has also been reconstructed as a part of this project.

The project is substantially complete with the exception of outstanding punch list items. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Owens, DeSoto's City Engineer at 972.230.9672.



The 2016 class of the DeSoto Civic Academy received their graduation certificates at a recent City Council meeting. This group of DeSoto residents completed the eleven week course which provides them an up-close look at all City departments.

What's New at the DeSoto Public Library?

Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots and Roku Streaming Sticks With Netflix Are Now Available For Checkout At The Library

Mobile Wi-Fi streaming sticks and Roku streaming sticks with Netflix are easy-to-use, wireless devices that plug into an HDMI port on the back of your TV. The



Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots and Roku streaming sticks are available at the Library's Check-Out Desk and may be checked out for 14 days with no renewals. You must be 18 or older to check out. The devices require an HDMI capable TV and wireless internet access.



A DeSoto Library Card is needed to take advantage of these and other great things the Library has to offer. Library cards are free to residents of DeSoto and Cedar Hill, Tex-share cardholders and others. Call 972.230.9656 for more information.

A Message from the City of DeSoto Code Enforcement Office

Residents should be aware of their responsibility regarding overgrown trees on their property as follows:

OVERGROWN TREES

It is unlawful for any owner, occupant or person in charge of adjacent property to allow the branches of any tree to extend over into a public street or alley at a height less than fourteen and one-half (14 1/2) feet. It is also unlawful to allow the branches of any shrubbery or similar vegetation to extend over into adjacent property or over a sidewalk blocking or hindering pedestrian access. Failure to comply can result in a citation and fine.



When trimming trees, all limbs, brush, or trunks can be placed on the curb in front of your residence for pick-up. The cost for this service is included in your monthly City of DeSoto utility bill. It is

not necessary to bundle the brush or limbs. Republic Waste, our solid waste contractor, will pick-up the brush within seven days of its being placed at your front curb under normal circumstances.

DeSoto Code Enforcement officers encourage you to be their "eyes and ears" in the community and report overgrown brush, high weeds or other Code violations in your neighborhood.

A quick and easy way to do this is to go to the "Service Request" section on the homepage of the City's website at www.desototexas.gov and fill in the information. If you are using an iPhone or Android,

download the free GOREquest app, take a photo of the Code violation and upload it to the Service Request system. You can also report an issue by calling the Code Enforcement Office at 469.658.3075.

Did You Know???

That if an ambulance is called for a medical emergency, there is a cost to the patient for that service, even if the patient is not transported to the hospital?

A fee of \$125 is charged on all ambulance calls where the patient is not transported to the hospital, except for the following reasons:

- Persons that have been involved in a motor vehicle accident
- Calls made by a third party caller

As a resident of DeSoto, Duncanville or Cedar Hill, you receive a discounted rate when utilizing the City of DeSoto ambulance services:

- BLS (Basic Life Support) - \$825 – where medically necessary, the use of supplies and basic treatment not requiring advanced skills or interventions
- ALS1 – (Advanced Life Support) \$1,050 – Medically necessary paramedic interventions that include at least one ALS intervention (i.e. oxygen, IV, nebulizer inhalation, etc.)
- ALS2 - (Advanced Life Support) \$1,200 – Medically necessary paramedic interventions including chest decompression, surgical airway, three or more IV medications, etc.

A mileage charge of \$15 per mile from the scene to the final destination of delivery also applies.

We are happy to note that these rates have been constant since 2011 and there will not be a rate increase in FY2017. If you have questions regarding a fee for ambulance service, please call 972.230.9628.

44th Annual Hometown Holiday Parade

Presents

A Beary Special Celebration

December 3, 2016

5:00 PM

The parade route will begin at Seahawk Drive and Hampton Road and will conclude at the DeSoto Town Center 211 E. Pleasant Run Road



Marching Pride



DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover, Experience, Play!

DESOTO TOWN CENTER / 211 EAST PLEASANT RUN ROAD
DESOTO, TX 75115 / Ph: 972.230.9651 / Fax: 972.230.5796

desototexas.gov/parks

facebook.com/desotorec



LANGSTON
UNIVERSITY

Thank you to our Sponsors!

