

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

DESOTO: BE PREPARED FOR SEVERE WEATHER

By Matt Smith, DeSoto Communications Manager

The City of DeSoto is prepared for severe weather season and continues to test our outdoor warning sirens on the first Wednesday of each month when weather conditions are clear and calm. We also advise all of our residents to know what to do when severe weather, such as tornadoes, strikes.

Even though the incidence of tornadoes is greater from mid-March through May, the deadly tornadoes that struck our area in December of 2015 serve as a painful reminder that these killer storms can happen at any time. That's why we strongly encourage all of our residents to pay close attention to the weather forecast and to sign up for DeSoto's **CODE RED** emergency notifications at www.desototexas.gov/codered. Code Red emergency notifications send you automated alerts at all hours once the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning, severe thunderstorm warning, or flash flood warning. But you will need to sign up first!

When you receive a **CODE RED** warning concerning tornadoes, or know that a tornado is headed your way, please take the following actions without delay:

- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of your home, such as a bathroom, closet or room without windows. Cover yourself with a mattress or cushions. In office buildings, go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.
- If you are in a mobile home, get out and take shelter in a nearby building. If no shelter is available, lie flat in a ditch or ravine.
- A car will not provide safety in a tornado so do not stay in your vehicle or try to outrun it. Get out and lie flat in a ditch or a ravine. If a building is nearby, take shelter inside. The bulk of the fatalities in the 2015 Garland tornado occurred in vehicles caught in the path of the storm.
- Schools have designated shelter areas usually located in interior hallways on the lowest floor. Avoid auditoriums, gyms and areas with wide, free-span roofs.
- In a shopping center, stay away from exterior glass

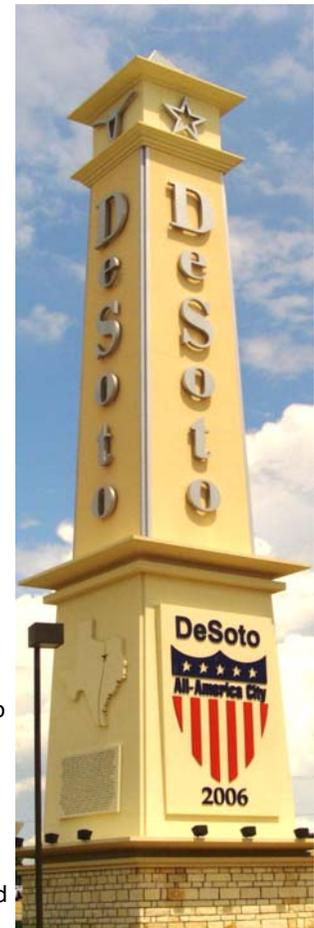
windows and walls.

- If you are in open country, take cover in a low spot away from trees.
- Be aware of the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning. A Tornado Watch means tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar, so you will need to seek shelter immediately!

The City of DeSoto has outdoor warning sirens that are activated when a tornado is sighted in DeSoto, Cedar Hill or Duncanville. These sirens warn individuals outdoors to seek immediate shelter inside, but can not often be heard indoors. So if you hear an outdoor siren and are certain it is not a test, seek indoor shelter immediately. Once you are in a safe location, tune to your local radio or television station for emergency information.

Even though outdoor warning sirens are a valuable public safety tool, it is very important to have other reliable sources to receive weather alerts. The City of DeSoto's Office of Emergency Management recommends having a NOAA weather radio in your home and monitoring local radio or television stations for emergency information. And, of course, we strongly encourage everyone to sign up for **CODE RED**.

In closing, we live in a wonderful part of the nation which, unfortunately, is subject to severe weather from time to time. And while we can't control severe weather, we can take action in advance to help minimize its impact on our lives. Being prepared might take a little work upfront, but it can help save your life and property, and often provide you with enough advance warning to help save others. So let's do what we need to do now to keep our future bright and safe. Be careful out there DeSoto!



City Calendar

March

4 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:00 pm
 4 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr.—6:30 pm
 5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm
 7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
 7 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
 7 Mayor's Quarterly Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:30pm
 7 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
 12 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm
 19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
 21 Board & Commission Banquet
 22 Zydeco Concert Corner Theatre - 7pm
 25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
 26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Civic Ctr. -7 pm
 30 Veterans Town Hall City Hall 10am-1pm

April

1 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
 1 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
 2 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
 4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
 4 KDB Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
 4 Historical Foundation Mtg.— 6 pm
 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm
 13 Candidate Forum - City Hall 10 am
 13 DeSoto Living Festival East Middle Sch.
 16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
 17 DeSoto Works! Job Fair - DC3 2 - 6 pm
 19 City Offices & Facilities Closed
 22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
 25 Inside Gospel - Corner Theatre 7 pm
 25 Public Safety Town Hall-City Hall - 7 pm
 27 Teen Expo - Town Center - 10 am - 3 pm
 27 Briarwood Fishing Day - 9 am - noon

Water University Class - Top 100 Plants for North Texas

Are you a "Native Texan" or a transplant? Plants can be native or transplants too! Create a lush and vibrant landscape with our favorite "Top 100" native and adapted plants, ideal for your North Texas land-scape. In this free class, scheduled for April 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the City Council Chambers at DeSoto City Hall, you'll also learn proper soil preparation, proper planting, how to choose the right plant for the right place and tips to keep your plants beautiful and healthy year-round.

To attend, please contact:



Adrienne Sands, City of DeSoto Public Utilities at 972.230.5724.

Important Information About the Upcoming Municipal General and Special Elections

The City of DeSoto will hold a Municipal General and Special Election on May 4, 2019. Here are the candidates:

Mayor Place 1 -
 Curtistene S. McCowan
 Rachel L. Proctor
 Byron D. Sanders

Place 3 -
 Nicole Raphiel
 Al Moten, Jr.

***Place 4**
 Andre' Byrd, Sr.
 Sabrina Mathis
 *Special election to fill an unexpired term.

Place 5
 Marikay Dewberry
 Kenneth Watts
 Dinah Marks

All members of the City Council run by place but are elected at large. This means that they must reside in the district for which they are seeking election. However, all registered voters who live anywhere in DeSoto may cast ballots for that position. The Mayor may reside anywhere within the city limits and is also elected at large. If you would like more information on the City Council districts, a map is available on the City's website at www.desototexas.gov under the Government tab at the top of the page.

The location for early voting is Disciple Central Community Church (DC3) located at 900 N. Polk Street, Ste. 100. Here is the schedule:

Weekdays April 22 - April 26
 Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm
 April 27 (Saturday) 8 am - 5 pm
 April 28 (Sunday) 1 pm - 6 pm
 April 29 - April 30 7 am - 7 pm

On Election Day, May 4, voting takes place at the DeSoto ISD Belt Line Conference Center located at 200 E. Belt Line Road from 7 am to 7 pm.

If you are not a registered voter in

Dallas County, please go to www.dallascountyvotes.org for an application. Applications are also available at the DeSoto Public Library and the staff will provide assistance in getting your application submitted to Dallas County in a timely manner. You must register by April 4, 2019 in order to vote in the May 4, 2019 election.



Concerned DeSoto Citizens will host a Meet the Candidates Forum at

the Jim Baugh Government Center/ DeSoto City Hall in the City Council Chambers on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 10 am to noon. DeSoto voters are encouraged to attend this event and meet the candidates for City Council and the DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees. The Meet the Candidates Forum will be broadcast live and will be available for download on-demand after the event on the City website at www.desototexas.gov under the Government tab and DeSoto Cable TV. The forum will also be broadcast live on Spectrum Cable TV Channel 16 and AT&T Uverse Channel 99 and rebroadcast daily at 2 pm and 9 pm until election day.

For more information on the upcoming election, visit our website at www.desototexas.gov, scroll down and follow the link to Municipal General and Special Election information.



DeSoto's Annual Document Shredding and Electronics Recycling Event is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2019 at the DeSoto Service Center from 9 am to noon. Watch the next edition of this newsletter for more information.



DeSoto Police Department
has joined Neighbors by Ring!



Neighbors by Ring

Neighbors by Ring is the new Neighborhood Watch that sends real-time crime and safety notifications directly to your phone.

Join the DeSoto Police Department on the Neighbors App by visiting download.ring.com/desoto or text dpd to 555888 to download the FREE app today!



Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

We're excited to announce that the **DeSoto Police Department** has joined "Neighbors" by Ring! The Neighbors app is a digital neighborhood watch right on your phone where you can get real-time crime and safety alerts from your neighbors and law enforcement. DeSoto Police will be using "Neighbors" to monitor crime in your area and send you updates on key crime & safety incidents so you can stay informed. By working together, we can all make DeSoto a safer community. Download the free app today!



**The New
Neighborhood Watch**

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play




**SAFELY DISPOSE OF
HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS
WASTE**

Bring your Household Hazardous Waste to our annual disposal event scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 9 am to noon at the DeSoto Pump Station, 620 S. Westmoreland Road. This event is for DeSoto residents only, proof of residency is required. Only residential household hazardous waste will be accepted, commercial waste or electronics are not allowed. Due to limited space, those who would like to participate must register prior to the event by calling 972.230.9600 or appearing at the Action Center in DeSoto City Hall to request a voucher.



Calling All Job Seekers!!!

**DESOTO WORKS
JOB FAIR**

Wednesday, April 17 | 2pm – 6pm

DISCIPLE CENTRAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
901 N. POLK ST. #101, DESOTO, TX 75113

Looking for a job? Looking to switch careers? Attend the DeSoto Works! Job Fair on Wednesday, April 17 from 2pm – 6pm. With over 60 employers present, find your next opportunity.

To pre-register sign-up online: www.desotoworksspring2019.eventbrite.com. Childcare is available. For more information e-mail prosperity@dc3online.org.



A Message From Keep DeSoto Beautiful and DeSoto Code Enforcement...

An amendment to the City's Garbage, Trash and Refuse Ordinance specifies a timeframe for when trash and recyclables can be placed at the curb for pickup. In order to minimize wildlife disturbing the refuse or other elements coming in contact with plastic bags or containers, residential refuse and recyclables shall not be placed at the curb before 6 pm the day before collection day.

"This amendment addresses problems resulting from trash being put out at the curb or in the alley for pick-up a day or more prior to the actual collection time," said Tracie Hlavinka, DeSoto Deputy City Manager. "When trash is allowed to sit on the curb, it attracts animals who tear into the bags and scatter it."

To guarantee your trash is not missed by Republic Services, please have your trash and recyclables at the curb or placed in the alley no later than 7 am on the day of collection.



DeSoto's Code Enforcement Department would like to remind residents that all garbage must be placed in a plastic refuse bag for garbage pick up. All garbage must be bagged to avoid having loose garbage scattered when the containers are being emptied into the truck. Residential customers shall utilize a plastic refuse bag that is designed and sold for the purpose of placing garbage, trash, or refuse in it for disposal. If your trash is not bagged, the solid waste contractor will tag the container and leave the trash to be bagged for removal. Habitual offenders of the Garbage, Trash and Refuse Ordinance will be fined.

For more information on the Garbage, Trash and Refuse Ordinance, please go to www.desototexas.gov.

MAR R.J. & ZYDECO SMOOVE
FROM LAFAYETTE, LA
MARCH 22 AT 7PM
DESOTO CORNER THEATER

APR INSIDE GOSPEL featuring CHADNEY CHRISTIE, EJ FIELDS JR. + REGGIE STRONG
APRIL 26 AT 7PM
DESOTO CORNER THEATER

MAY OUR MUSIC presented by Lyric Stage
MAY 24 AT 7PM
DESOTO CORNER THEATER

THE MECCA OF ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT IN SOUTHERN DALLAS

All concerts are FREE to the public. Visit our website to RSVP. **ARTSDESOTO.COM**

ARTS DESOTO 2019 FOURTH FRIDAY MUSIC SERIES

AGES 9 AND UNDER
PRE-REGISTER ONLINE AT DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/REGISTER

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

EGG HUNT BEGINS AT 11AM

ZEIGER PARK
400 EAGLE DRIVE

FREE EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019

KIDS' FISHING DAY

Briarwood Park | 1625 W. Beltline Road, DeSoto, TX
Pre-register online at desototexas.gov/register
Ages 16 and under

★ \$5 PER CHILD

4.27
9a-12p