

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Are You Prepared for Severe Weather Season?

As spring approaches, we are faced with the threat of severe weather. During a severe weather incident, such as a tornado or flood, preparation will make all the difference. The City encourages all residents to 1.) stay informed of approaching severe weather, 2.) learn how to understand weather warnings, and 3.) have a disaster supply kit and communications plan with them and their family.

The City's CodeRed Emergency Notification System is a good way to stay informed. Go to the City's homepage and follow the CodeRed link to sign up to receive voice, email or text messages. The system will allow the City to send you informational messages and emergency alerts from the National Weather Service about situations as they occur. Alerts can be received on multiple devices such as home phone, work phone, mobile phone, text messages, and e-mail. Similar early warning messages were found to have saved lives in the tornado that hit Nashville recently.

Understanding weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service such as watches or warnings can sometimes be confusing. A watch means conditions are right for dangerous weather. A warning means that the dangerous weather is threatening the area. For severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and flash floods, a warning means the event is occurring and you should take shelter immediately.

It takes time to recover from large scale emergencies. Planning and preparation will make a huge difference. City services will respond to high priority, life threatening incidents first. You may need to relocate or evacuate with little or no notice. Having a pre-prepared kit with survival basics such as flashlights, a change of clothes, food and water (including for pets), and first-aid supplies will be vitally important.

Additional suggestions to have in an emergency preparedness kit include:

- Batteries, portable devices, radios, vehicle cell phone charger
- Prescription medications
- Back-up power for medical devices or extra portable medical oxygen cylinders
- Plastic tarps and tape or stapler
- Insurance policies and other important documents and contact information

The City's Outdoor Warning Siren System may be activated for any kind of emergency – not just severe weather. People often have the misconception that the sirens are meant to be heard indoors. However, the siren system is intended to alert people who are outdoors. You may not hear the siren inside or in noisy areas.

When you hear the Outdoor Warning Siren System, you should immediately go inside, seek shelter in the lowest level, most interior space of your home or office and tune to local news or radio for additional information.

The Outdoor Warning Siren System consists of strategically placed sirens that activate for one or more of the following conditions:

- A tornado warning issued by the National Weather Service that may affect the city
- Trained storm spotters have reported a tornado that is in or has the potential to affect the community
- Destructive winds in excess of 70 mph sustained wind
- Reports of hail larger than 1.25 in diameter or larger
- *Other emergencies as directed by appropriate officials.*



For additional emergency preparedness information, go to www.knowwhat2do.com, www.ready.gov or our City webpage.

City Calendar

March

17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
19 Board & Commission Banquet 6 pm
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
24 P&Z Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
30 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

April

2 Library Board Mtg. - Library 6:30 pm
4 Candidate Forum - City Hall - 10 am
6 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
7 City Council Mtg. City Hall - 7pm
9 Library Board Meeting - Library 6:30 pm
10 City Facilities Closed - Good Friday
14 P&Z Mtg. City Hall - 7pm
21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
25 HHW Event - Pump Station - 9 am-noon
27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
28 P&Z Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm



GREAT DAYS OF SERVICE, a cooperative effort between area churches and community volunteers, is looking for homes in DeSoto that need painting and/or basic repairs. Eligible projects include exterior home repairs and painting, mowing and tree trimming, window repair, installation of wheel chair ramps and other minor aesthetic repairs. These homes must be owner occupied and the homeowner should be elderly, disabled or financially challenged. The work will be done between June 6 and 13. If you or someone you know can benefit from this program, please contact Linda Harris at linda.s.harris@tx.rr.com to request an application for service no later than May 1, 2020.

Municipal Election, Saturday, May 2, 2020

The City of DeSoto will hold a Municipal General Election on May 2, 2020. Here are the candidates:

Place 2

jean Green-Frazier
Kay Brown-Patrick
Pierette Parker

Place 4

Andre' Byrd, Sr.

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 901 N. Polk Street, Ste. 100, classroom 104. Here is the schedule:

Weekdays April 20 - April 24
Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm
April 25 (Saturday) 8 am - 5 pm
April 26 (Sunday) 1 pm - 6 pm
April 27 & April 28 7 am - 7 pm

Prior to Election Day, May 2nd, Dallas County Elections Department will provide locations of DeSoto's Vote Centers. As a reminder, the Vote Centers allow voters to vote conveniently during early voting **and** on election day no matter where you are in

Dallas County. You can take advantage of any Vote Center or polling place (in Dallas County) on Election Day no matter where you live, work or go to school.

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. You must register by April 2, 2020 in order to vote in the May 2, 2020 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, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, on Saturday, April 4, 2020 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 Election information.



To **anonymously** submit information on potential City policy violation or unethical or fraudulent behavior, please visit:

www.DeSotoTexas.gov/hotline

You can also call our automated phone hotline **24** hours a day, **7** days a week.

Anonymous
855.858.3344

BKD INTEGRA
REPORT

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear DeSoto Residents:

Once a decade, America comes together to count everyone living in the United States through a program called the United States Census.

The City of DeSoto is committed to having every person counted once, only once, and in the right place. Collection of this information will help decide where new schools, hospitals, and fire stations are needed. The information is also used to develop programs to reduce traffic congestion, provide job training and plan for health care needs of the elderly. It can also change the boundaries of congressional districts and impact our representation in Washington, D.C.

United States Census Day, this year, is April 1, 2020. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home as of April 1st.

I am excited about the new technologies for responding to the Census survey (online, by phone or by mail), the availability of educational videos; print and video information guides in 59 different languages including American Sign Language, braille and large print; expanded media opportunities; and, above all, the enhanced IT safeguards and privacy protections.

Even with all of the new enhancements, we cannot be successful without your help. I encourage you to share this critical information with your family, your neighbors, and urge everyone, especially those in hard-to-count households, to respond to the Census. Watch your mailbox for the 2020 Census form. For more information on the United States Census, visit www.census.gov.

On behalf of the City of DeSoto and the DeSoto City Council, we appreciate your support. DeSoto Counts in 2020!

Sincerely,

Curtistene S. McCowan,
Mayor

DeSoto Counts!
CENSUS
2020



Are Your House Numbers Easily Seen?

Seconds count during an emergency response. Please make sure your house numbers can be easily seen by police or fire personnel. They should be displayed on the front of the residence under the eave. It's fine to have them printed on your curb as well, but parked cars can hide the numbers from view. House numbers must also be on the rear of your residence above your



garage door. Emergency vehicles dispatched to your house will find you much faster with numbers in the front and rear of your home. The numbers need to be at least three inches tall, as referenced in the sign regulation ordinance 3.1000, and can be purchased at any local hardware store. They should also be of a color that has a high contrast with the house color, increasing their visibility.

If you have further questions regarding this ordinance, please contact the Code Enforcement office at 469.658.3075.

Please check the City's website at www.desototexas.gov or social media platforms for the most current information on special events and meetings.

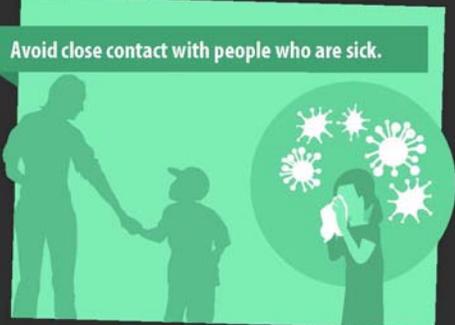
A Message from the City of DeSoto Regarding COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS Impact

Given the rapidly changing situation concerning Coronavirus, and the informed actions nationally, statewide and locally to reduce the chance that this illness will spread to our residents, presently scheduled public events are subject to cancellation, rescheduling, or change of venue with limited notice for the foreseeable future. The public will be informed of such changes via multiple channels including our website and social media platforms.



STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.**

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.**

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**

- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.**




For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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