

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

DeSoto's COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program Is Providing Much Needed Funding for Local Businesses

The City of DeSoto recently announced a Second Round of funding opportunities for the City's Small Business Grant Program with assistance from the DeSoto Economic Recovery Advisory Task Force's Business Subcommittee which will be providing support to businesses receiving CARES Act funds.

During Round One, 88 applications were submitted and 52 DeSoto small businesses were approved to receive a combined \$210,000 in grant funding that will be awarded once all required final documentation is received. Once those 52 businesses qualified for funding, the Small Business Grant Program had a remaining balance of approximately \$157,000 that will be used to assist another 31 DeSoto small businesses with the second round.

"DeSoto wants to use every tool that we can think of to help our small businesses recover from the harm that the COVID-19 pandemic has done in our community. Leveraging and providing funding so that our vital small businesses can get back on their feet is one of the ways that government can really make a difference," stated DeSoto Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan.

In late April Mayor McCowan charged new City Manager Brandon Wright with assembling a Economic Recovery task force composed of local business and civic leaders. Task force members worked hand in hand with DeSoto government managers to create and implement steps that would take the fight to COVID-19 and help the impacted businesses to recover and move forward.

In a relatively short period of time, the City of DeSoto's Economic Recovery Advisory Task Force generated the following results:

- Conducted business/marketing outreach and

facilitated the application process for DeSoto's Small Business Grant Program.

- Provided 22,000 masks for distribution via the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce, at events at DC3 Church, and during two peaceful demonstrations following the tragic killing of George Floyd.
- Provided 1,250 reusable facemasks to DeSoto ISD students participating in the school lunch program.
- Donated several cases of bottled water to DeSoto ISD's district athletic program as a substitute for higher risk reusable water containers.
- Partnered with the Dallas Behavior Medical Center to produce educational videos and provide COVID-19 support to students, staff, and parents.
- Held a mask and hand sanitizer giveaway for several thousand DeSoto residents.
- Produced a "DeSoto Together" COVID-19 resource document for DeSoto residents distributed in person, online, and on local STAR Transit shuttle buses.

"I appreciate the diligent efforts of councilmembers, staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to process grant applications and get these much needed funds distributed to our small businesses negatively affected by COVID-19," said Mayor McCowan.



City Calendar

August

3 Arts Commission virtual - 6 pm
3 Park Board Meeting - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 City Council Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm
6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
11 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm
18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
24 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Civic Ctr. -7 pm
28 Fourth Friday Virtual Concert - 8 pm

September

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
3 Library Board Meeting 7 pm
7 City Facilities Closed - Labor Day
12 Virtual Latin Concert
14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm
19 Document Shredding Event - Service Ctr.
21 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 7 pm
25 O.T. & Funk Connection - virtual concert
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall 9 am
29 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall 6 pm



Our annual Household Hazardous Waste Event has been rescheduled. Bring your Household Hazardous Waste to the DeSoto Pump Station located at 620 S. Westmoreland Rd. from 7 am to 11 am on Saturday, August 22, 2020. 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.

Virtual Town Hall Meetings To Discuss A Proposed Rental Registration Ordinance

The DeSoto City Council is considering the adoption of a Rental Registration Ordinance that will be applicable to all single family and duplex rental properties located within DeSoto. The proposed effective date of this ordinance is January 1, 2021.

There will be three opportunities to attend a virtual public information meeting regarding the proposed ordinance and the implementation process. The public is encouraged to attend one of these meetings in order to receive detailed information on the proposed ordinance and how it may affect properties in DeSoto. This is also your opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

Due to the pandemic, several virtual public meetings will be held in order to give everyone, who is interested, the opportunity to participate. Virtual meetings are limited to 135 participants so you must register for your preferred meeting in order to be guaranteed a spot. Here is a list of the virtual meeting dates:

- Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm (Register by Monday, August 3, 2020)
- Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm (Register by Monday, August 10, 2020)
- Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 6:30 pm (Register by Monday, August 17, 2020)

To register to attend one of these meetings, please send an email to RRProgram@desototexas.gov including your full name and two (2) meeting date choices (a primary and secondary choice). A meeting link will be emailed to you directly. If you have a specific question, please include it with your email registration so that we can be sure to address it in the presentation.



A Message from DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee:

DeSoto's monthly in-person Benefit Forums are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. But we will continue providing information to our Veterans **VIRTUALLY** so please watch for our Virtual Veterans Benefit Forums on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 am on the City of DeSoto Facebook Page @desototx, on the city's website at www.desototexas.gov and on Government Channel 16 for Spectrum Cable subscribers and 99 for AT&T U-verse subscribers. We also have access to knowledgeable professionals and would be happy to assist you in connecting with them for assistance. Just give us a call at 972.230.9648 and we will do our best to connect you to someone who can help.



Document Shredding Event - Rescheduled to September 19, 2020 9am to 12pm

The City of DeSoto is pleased to announce that our Annual Spring Document Shredding Event that was canceled due the COVID-19 Pandemic has been rescheduled and will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2020. Here are the details:

DOCUMENT SHREDDING

A mobile document shredding unit will be on-site at the DeSoto Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road. DeSoto residents can bring personal household documents for shredding and disposal at no cost. (Commercial documents will not be accepted.) Please follow the guidelines below:

- Place all documents in boxes.
- Do not bring documents loose in bags; they must be placed in boxes ready for shredding.
- Do not tape the lid on the boxes.
- No more than 5 boxes per resident will be accepted.

You will be able to watch your documents being shredded. The empty boxes will be returned to you for recycling. Once the event is over, any documents left at the location unattended will be considered illegally dumped. IF RAIN OCCURS DURING THE EVENT, THE COLLECTION SITE WILL BE CLOSED FOR SAFETY REASONS.

The Annual Document Shredding event will take place at the DeSoto Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road on Saturday, September 19, 2020, from 9 am to 12 pm, or until the trucks are full. Proof of DeSoto residency is required for participation. For more information, please call 972.230.9648.



Deputy City Manager Isom Cameron (right) recently presented DeSoto's first COVID-19 Small Business Grant check to Cedric Walton (left) of Solo Bladze.

Please Be Aware of these Code Enforcement Rules

High Grass and Weeds

City Ordinances require that weeds and grass be kept below twelve inches in height. As the owner or occupant of the property, you are required to maintain the property from the street in the front to the middle of the alley in the back (or the property line). This includes the front, back, side yards, the right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the curb) and the alley and easement.

Junk Vehicles

City ordinance also requires that property be maintained free of any junk motor vehicles. A junk motor vehicle is any vehicle that is inoperative and remains inoperative for more than 45 days or is inoperative and does not have a current registration sticker or inspection sticker. A junk motor vehicle is also any vehicle which is wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled or discarded. These vehicles may not be visible anywhere in the public view, public right-of-way, street or any other private property.

Parking On Unimproved Surfaces

City ordinance requires that all vehicles must be parked on improved surfaces. No vehicle should be parked in the front or side yard of a residence at any time, except on a driveway or on an improved surface such as reinforced concrete. Additionally, parking in the alley is prohibited at all times so as to not interfere with the free and uninterrupted movement of traffic.

DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION PRESENTS:

FOURTH FRIDAY MUSIC SERIES LIVESTREAM



8.28 • 8:00 PM

FUNKY KNUCKLES

 [artsdesoto.com](https://www.facebook.com/artsdesoto.com)

Latino Heritage Festival



HAVANA NRG

Virtual Concert

- SAVE THE DATE -

SEPTEMBER 12th

#VIRTUALDESOTOLATINOHERITAGEFEST2020

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IG@DESOTOPARD

