

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Paint The Town Purple For Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The DeSoto Domestic Violence Advisory Commission invites you to join us as we Paint DeSoto Purple in the month of October to bring awareness to the problem of domestic violence.

Domestic violence continues to be the highest reported crime in the City of DeSoto! During this pandemic, incidents have increased as isolation often traps victims with their abuser. In observation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October, the DeSoto Domestic Violence Advisory Commission (DVAC) requests your assistance in bringing awareness and resources to help eradicate this heinous crime.

Purple is the universal color for domestic violence, and we want to see it displayed all over DeSoto from October 1st through 31st. We're asking you to display purple ribbons and lights at your homes throughout the month of October. Feel free to let your imagination flow in adding purple décor, ribbons or lights to your home and encouraging your neighbors to participate. Please email DVAC@DeSotoTexas.gov to let us know that you will participate and we will try to get by to take photos. Feel free to share your own photos on the DVAC Facebook page.

Then, we invite you to wear purple on Friday, October 23rd, when DVAC will partner with the DeSoto Arts Commission's Fourth Friday concert series with "Rise Up - A Domestic Violence Awareness Event" featuring the incomparable Martha Burks. This Virtual Concert will begin at 7 pm via Facebook Live, Instagram, and on the ArtsDeSoto.com website. There are a vast number of avenues that domestic violence survivors can take to not just begin their healing journey, but also continue down that healing path with a clear focused mind and a strong heart. One of those avenues is listening to music. Join us and invite other to hear Ms. Burks' renditions of inspirational songs and remember, ***if you see something, say something!***

We hope you will share the hotline number 1.800.799.7233 for information on shelter and other assistance. The DeSoto Police Department also has a victims advocate who can be reached locally at 469.658.3012 for help.



Join the virtual Fourth Friday
Rise Up Awareness Concert

featuring
Martha Burks

Friday, October 23 at 7 p.m. on the DeSoto Arts Commission and Domestic Violence Advisory Commission Facebook pages
(DeSoto Arts Commission partnership)


WEAR PURPLE ALL DAY!



City Calendar

October

5 Arts Commission virtual - 6 pm
5 Park Board Meeting - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm
8 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm
17 Veterans Benefit Forum cable - 10 am
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
23 Domestic Violence Awareness Concert
26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

November

2 Arts Commission virtual - 6 pm
3 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm
5 Library Board Meeting 7 pm
7 Veterans Appreciation Activities
9 Veterans Affairs Mtg. virtual - 6 pm
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - virtual 6 pm
11 Veterans Day - video release
16 Topical Work Session virtual - 6pm
17 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm
29 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - virtual 6 pm
26 City Facilities Closed Thanksgiving
27 City Facilities Closed Thanksgiving
30 DEDC Board Mtg. - virtual 9 am

A Message From Utility Billing:

The City of DeSoto Water Department will resume service disconnections for nonpayment beginning October 7th. If you have an unpaid balance, payments may be made using Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or check on our website at www.desototexas.gov, or on our automated payment system at 1.855.748.6063. If alternate payment arrangements are needed, please contact the City of DeSoto at 972.230.9627 as soon as possible.

Thank you

Important Information Regarding The Upcoming General Municipal Election

On November 3, 2020, the City of DeSoto will hold a General Election to elect a City Councilmember for Place 2 and a City Councilmember for Place 4. The candidates are as follows:

Candidates for Councilmember Place 2

jean Green-Frazier
Kay Brown-Patrick

Candidate for Councilmember Place 4

Andre Byrd, Sr.



In addition to the General Election, the City will hold a Special Election to consider the following Propositions:

Proposition A: The authorization for the abolition of the sales and use tax within the City of DeSoto for the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises pursuant to Section 504.251, Texas Local Government Code, as amended currently at the rate of 0.375 percent; and the adoption, in the place of such abolished tax, of local sales and use tax in the City of DeSoto at a rate of 0.375 percent to be used for the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises and all other public purposes pursuant to Section 505.251, Texas Local Government Code; all of which would result in no net increase in the sales and use tax collected by the City of DeSoto.

Additional information: *A 0.375% local sales tax is currently collected in DeSoto to fund economic development programs that support primary job creation, known as a Type A sales tax. The City of DeSoto is asking voters to expand the list of economic development programs that can be funded with this local Type B sales tax to include primary job creation as well as projects considered to be community development initiatives such as land, buildings, equipment, facilities, expenditures, and improvements for professional and amateur sports facilities, park facilities and events, entertainment and tourist facilities as authorized by the Texas Local Government Code. The expanded use sales tax is known as a Type B sales tax.*

Proposition B: Shall Article II: Section 1 of the City Charter be amended to provide for the Mayor receiving compensation in the amount of \$1,250.00 monthly and Council Members receiving compensation in the amount of \$1,000 monthly for their duties effective January 1, 2021 and further requiring the Council to adopt in the Council Rules and Procedures a minimum attendance policy for such compensation.

Additional information: *Annual financial impact is as follows:*

Mayor	\$20,000.00
City Council	\$90,000.00
Total Wages:	\$110,000.00
Employer Share SS/MEDI	\$4,975.00
Workers Comp	\$254.00
Total Cost:	\$115,229.00

Continued on Page 3

General Municipal Election Information (contd.)

Continued from Page 2

Proposition C: Shall Article II; Section 7 of the City Charter be amended to provide for the selection of the Mayor Pro Tem from among six (6) Councilmembers shall occur at the first regular meeting following either the general city election or run-off election if such occurs.

Early Voting by personal appearance will begin on October 13, 2020 through October 30, 2020 and be conducted at Disciple Central Community Church (DC3) located at 901 North Polk Street, Suite 101, DeSoto, Texas 75115.

On Election Day (November 3, 2020), the following Vote Center locations are available in DeSoto (visit www.dallascountyvotes.org for all other Dallas County locations):

Faith Bible Church – 1437 W. Pleasant Run Road (Gym)
Ruby Young Elementary – 707 Young Blvd. (Gym)
DC3 – 901 N. Polk Street, Suite 101 (Classroom 104)
The Meadows Elementary – 1016 The Meadows Parkway (Gym)
Cockrell Hill Elementary – 425 S. Cockrell Hill Road (Gym)
DeSoto High School – 600 Eagle Drive (Gym)
Belt Line Conference Center – 200 E. Belt Line Road (Conference Room)

The deadline to register and be eligible to vote in the November 3, 2020 election is October 5, 2020. Voter registration applications can be obtained at the Action Center in City Hall, the Library and the Recreation Center. You can also complete the application online by visiting the Secretary of State's website at: <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrapp/index.asp>. For more information regarding the upcoming municipal election, please call the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646.

celebrating
HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15

Painting
with a bit of a
Twist

AGES
5-12

26 | SEP
03 | OCT
10 | OCT

11AM - 12:30PM

MASK OF EVENT

SAFE DISTANCE
6FT

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS
PAINTINGWITHABITOFATWIST.EVENTBRITE.COM

DESOTO AMPHITHEATER
211 E. PLEASANT RUN DESOTO, TX 75115

\$15
PER SESSION

Town Hall Meeting

The City of DeSoto will host a virtual Town Hall Meeting to provide information and answer questions regarding Propositions A, B, and C, on the ballot for DeSoto's November 3rd Municipal General Election. (See Proposition descriptions on page 2 and 3.)

The virtual meeting will take place on:

- Thursday, October 8 from 6 to 7pm

The public is invited to view this meeting to receive information on what each Proposition covers and what they mean for DeSoto voters.

The meeting will be broadcast live on the City's Cable Channel 16 for Spectrum Subscribers and 99 for AT&T U-verse Subscribers. It will also be available for viewing on the City's Facebook Live page @desototx and the City's website. Look for a link to join the Zoom meeting on the homepage of the City's website at www.desototexas.gov.

If you have any questions, please call the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646.

DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee Invites You To Help Us Make Veterans Day Special For Those Who Have Served Our Country

DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee is working hard to create memories by planning activities designed to honor our local Veterans this Veterans Day.

On November 7, 2020, the Veterans Affairs Committee will partner with the DeSoto Food Pantry to offer free food boxes to veterans aged 65 and older. The DeSoto Food Pantry is located in Hampton Road Baptist Church, 400 N. Hampton Road. While the Pantry is currently closed on Saturdays for normal operations due to COVID-19 restrictions, with the help of the Veterans Affairs Committee they will open on Saturday November 7th for this special drive-thru food distribution. Veterans will be asked to drive thru the parking lot at Hampton Road Baptist Church and stay in their vehicle as volunteers from DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee, wearing masks and gloves, place a food box in the vehicle. Veterans wishing to pick up a food box should call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 to reserve one.

The Veterans Committee is also working on a project to honor our World War II and Korean War Veterans. If you or a family member or friend is a veteran and a part of the "Greatest Generation", please give us a call at 972.230.9648. We have a special recognition in mind for them.

In this age of COVID-19 everything is virtual including our recognition of Veterans Day. The Veterans Affairs Committee is in the process of compiling a video which will be a tribute to our Veterans and we need your help. We would like to ask all Veterans or family members of Veterans to grab your cell phone and record a short video (30 seconds or less) answering the question "***What Veterans Day Means To Me***". Be sure to include your name, rank, branch of service, and time and location of service. Once you have this video, text it to 972.978.2352 or email it to Kathy.jones@desototexas.gov no later than October 30, 2020. We will compile all these videos into a tribute to our local Veterans.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY!

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 Forum on Saturday, October 17, 2020 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. Jesse Hampton with the Disabled American Veterans organization will answer your questions on filing claims with the VA.

If you have questions, we have access to knowledgeable professionals and would be happy to help you connect 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.

