



February, 2017
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DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Mayor McCowan Invites the Community to attend Heart To Serve Event on Saturday, February 25th from 11 am to 2 pm

DeSoto is a diverse community, rich in culture, steeped in a vibrant history and a deep rooted heart for service.

In a time when it seems the world is ever shifting and dividing, we have been reminded of the things that make DeSoto a great place to live and raise a family, work, play, and serve. We want to do our part to cultivate a community fit not just for you, but for your children and their children, and we know that such a goal can only be accomplished if we come together, and work together.

A Heart to Serve is an event that is created to educate, empower and unite the citizens of our community. It is a celebration of who we are and our heritage. It is a commitment to investing who we can become when we work together in unity, focused on the forward trajectory of our community.

"My vision is that DeSoto, more than any other city, will become that special place where citizens are inspired to use their God-given talents to make a difference wherever they are and whatever position they're in," said Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan. "My prayer is that our upcoming Heart to Serve event will inspire and energize more of our citizens -- of all ages -- to get involved and, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, 'be the change that you wish to see in the world.' Through this kind of transformational engagement, our All America City will soar to new heights!"

Join Mayor McCowan as she celebrates her birthday at the first annual community event for Heart To Serve on Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 11 am to 2 pm in the DeSoto Civic Center. Bring your family for an afternoon of interactive learning and lively conversation among neighbors, friends and community leaders. The event features hands-on activities and breakout sessions

designed to help you learn more about your community and the people in it and how you can commit to being a part of creating solutions for generations to come.

Heart to Serve is a free event and DeSoto

families are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be provided and seating is limited. Please register your attendance by going to <https://desotohearttoserve.eventbrite.com> or calling 972.230.9648.



City Calendar

January

2 Park Board Mtg. - canceled
2 City facilities closed New Year's Holiday
3 City Council Mtg. - canceled
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
5 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
9 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm
16 MLK Holiday - city facilities closed
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
27 Free Concert in Civic Ctr.- 6 - 9 pm
30 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

February

2 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
2 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
2 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
4 Daddy/Daughter Dance Civic Ctr. 7pm
6 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6pm
6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm
21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
24 Dallas Black Dance Theater - DHS 7pm
25 Heart to Serve Event - Civic Ctr. 11am
27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

23rd Annual Daddy Daughter Dance - Feb. 4th

The Annual Daddy and Daughter Dance is a memorable evening of dancing and elegance. This formal affair is a sophisticated and stylish night where Dads make Daughter's dreams come true. It takes place on Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 7 to 9 pm at the DeSoto Civic Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Regular admission is \$30 per couple and \$15 for each additional daughter. Reserved seating in a special area is available for \$50 per couple and \$25 for each additional daughter. Advance tickets are currently on sale in the DeSoto Recreation Center. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For more information call 972.230.9651.

A Message from DeSoto's Street Department

As we move into winter, DeSoto will likely experience an ice or snow event. Prior to an event when sleet and snow is expected to occur, the Street Department will apply brine mix on the pavements at major intersections and on bridges. When sleeting or icing begins, the Street Department will sand the major intersections first, on the Hampton Road, Cockrell Hill Road, Pleasant Run Road, Polk Street, Wintergreen Road, Parkerville Road and Belt Line Road corridors. Next, they will sand the bridges and major roads with steep grades. For events

unless it is needed to assist with access for an emergency vehicle. Special requests for sanding are not accepted.

As a resident, there are things that you can do to help.

- If possible, stay at home.
- If you have to leave home, be alert and drive with caution, remembering snow and ice create slick road conditions.
- Maintain safe distances between vehicles, decrease your driving speed and allow additional time to stop.



lasting longer than two days, major roads such as Cockrell Hill, Hampton and Belt Line may be sanded the entire length (as resources permit). Belt Line Road is considered a State Highway and the Texas Department of Transportation will also sand it. I-35E and the frontage road will be sanded by the Texas Department of Transportation.

It is the policy of the City of DeSoto not to sand residential streets or alleys

- Do not pass sand spreader trucks or the plow truck. Park vehicles off of roadways if possible. Be mindful of driving on streets without curbs, you may slide into side drainage ditches.
- Mailboxes may be damaged. If they are damaged by City equipment, the City will replace the mailbox. Otherwise replacement will be the homeowner's

Free Tax Help at the DeSoto Public Library provided by AARP

Every Wednesday from 11 am to 3 pm beginning February 1, 2017 through April 12, 2017, volunteers from the AARP Tax-Aide service will be in the DeSoto Public Library assisting seniors with their tax returns. AARP does not take appointments and their tax help is first come, first served. Please bring last year's tax return, your Social Security card, and any records needed for filing your 2016 tax return with you. If you have a complicated situation, AARP requests that you see a professional tax preparer for assistance. The DeSoto Public Library is pleased to offer space for this important service provided by AARP. For more information, please call 972.230.9661.

City of DeSoto Will Hold a Regular Municipal Election on May 6, 2017

The City of DeSoto will hold a Regular Election on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The following places will be voted on in this election:

- Councilmember Place 2
- Councilmember Place 4

DeSoto residents who are interested in filing for one of these city council seats must live within the bounds of the district to be eligible. However, all candidates are elected at large.

Candidate Filing Information Packets can be requested by sending an email to the City Secretary at kmorris@desototexas.gov. Please include your name, address, email address and contact phone



number. Packets can also be picked up in the City Secretary's office during regular business hours.

Filing for a place on the ballot will take place from January 18, 2017 through February 17, 2017 between the hours of 9 am and 12 noon and from 1 pm to 4 pm in the City Secretary's office. On February 17, 2017, the office will close promptly at 5 pm and no filing will be accepted after that time.

Please visit the City of DeSoto website at www.desototexas.gov for updates on the municipal election.



A full renovation of the Control Booth area in the Recreation Center pictures here was completed in December. The new Control Booth is much more open providing a better work space for the Recreation Center staff and improved service to our customers. Stop by and check it out!



Got History?

Do you have historical Civil Rights Era or DeSoto memorabilia, dated between 1850 and the present?

The DeSoto, Texas Historical Foundation Board is soliciting donations and loans for historical artifacts and other memorabilia that relate directly to the Civil Rights Era and/or to DeSoto history. Because the museum exhibits will be specific, donations must be in good condition, dated between 1850 and the present era, and are subject to approval by the Historical Foundation Board Donations Ad Hoc Committee.

Loaned or donated materials will be utilized for two future museum exhibits: one exhibit at historic Nance Farm, and one exhibit at the Old Red Museum in Dallas. These exhibits will include historic pieces from the Civil Rights Era and artifacts specifically related to the DeSoto community. We are very excited about this opportunity to tell The DeSoto Story and need your help!

To further inquire about how to donate or loan historical artifacts, email NanceFarmDonations@DeSotoTexas.gov.



DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATER

FEBRUARY 24, 2017 | 7:00PM

FRED NICKELS AUDITORIUM

600 EAGLE DR. DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL

\$10: PRESALE
\$15: AT THE DOOR
\$5: STUDENTS + SENIORS

artsdesoto.com or call 972.230.9648 for tickets

FEATURING THE



DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL A CAPPELLA CHOIR

Texas State Senator Royce West (pictured at right) recognized the DeSoto High School Boys and Girls Track teams, Boys Basketball and Varsity Football team for winning State Championships in 2016 at the Ultimate Tailgate Takeover on January 7th. Pictured from left, Boys Basketball Coach Chris Dyer, Girls Track Coach June Villers, Senator West, DHS Athletic Director Larry Davis, Boys Track Coach and Assistant Football Coach Donald Miller and Varsity Football Coach Todd Peterman.



"It's a great day to be an Eagle", said Mayor McCowan as she recognized the 2016 State Champion DeSoto Eagles Football Team along with members of the Boys and Girls Track Teams and the Boys Basketball team who also won State Championships in 2016 at the Ultimate Tailgate Takeover.