

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

DESOTO WELCOMES M. RENÉE JOHNSON AS INTERIM CITY MANAGER Longtime DeSoto Parks Chief Will Fill-In Following Tarron Richardson's Departure

By Matt Smith, Communications Manager

Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan and the DeSoto City Council have selected M. Reneé Johnson to serve as the City of DeSoto's Interim City Manager. Johnson has been serving as the City of DeSoto's Managing Director of Parks & Recreation and will fill the vacancy being created by the departure of long time City Manager Dr. Tarron J. Richardson, who is moving to Charlottesville, Virginia, to be their next City Manager.

"Anyone who knows Reneé is aware that she is a dynamic and creative person who knows how to get things done in the most efficient and impressive way," noted Mayor McCowan. "Her appointment as Interim City Manager is great news for the people of DeSoto, and Reneé and the entire DeSoto team are committed to managing City business with a spirit of excellence."

M. Reneé Johnson has spent nearly three decades leading parks and recreational operations in four different cities including Dallas. Johnson came to DeSoto in 2007 and during her tenure here has managed and leveraged her resources efficiently to allow for the expansion of cultural events, educational enrichment programs, community partnerships, targeted teen recreation, increased volunteerism, and placing a major emphasis on programs and activities for seniors. In 2016, Johnson led DeSoto's Parks and Recreation Department to the coveted accreditation recognition for excellence from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).



"I've served as a director in DeSoto City Government since 2007, and in that time have built some very solid relationships with all of our main stakeholders and, of course, DeSoto's senior management team," noted incoming Interim-City Manager Reneé Johnson. "We've accomplished a tremendous amount by working as a team on DeSoto's behalf and we look forward to continuing to work as a team to make a difference in our great city, block by block and day by day!"

Johnson replaces Dr. Tarron Richardson, who served as DeSoto's City Manager since 2011. He is credited with implementing a major financial overhaul of City Government while strengthening DeSoto's municipal work force and taking the lead on numerous successful economic development projects.

"DeSoto has been most fortunate to have Dr. Richardson as our City Manager for all these years and we wish him our best in his new role as the City Manager of Charlottesville." Mayor McCowan added "While he has set the bar high for his replacement, we are confident that as Interim City Manager, Reneé Johnson will continue to move our city forward and maintain the growth and positive momentum that DeSoto residents and visitors have come to expect."



City Calendar

May

2 National Day of Prayer - City Hall 7 am
 2 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
 2 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
 2 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
 4 Election Day
 4 Document Shredding - Service Ctr. 9 am
 4 Mother Son Dance - Civic Ctr. 7 pm
 6 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:00 pm
 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
 18 HOA Involvement Workshop City Hall 9a
 21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
 20 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
 24 Our Music Concert - Corner Theatre 7pm
 27 City Offices & Facilities - Memorial Day
 28 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Civic Ctr. -7 pm

June

1 Crawfish Fest Amphitheater—6-10 pm
 3 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
 3 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
 4 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
 6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
 6 KDB Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
 6 Historical Foundation Mtg.— 6 pm
 6 Mayor's Quarterly - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
 11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm
 15 Juneteenth - Cedar Hill 5 - 10 pm
 18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
 24 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
 28 Free Concert - Amphitheater 8 pm

Important Information About the Upcoming Municipal Runoff Election

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

Mayor Place 1 -
Curtistene S. McCowan

Place 3 -
Nicole Raphael

Place 4
Andre' Byrd, Sr.

Place 5 - Runoff
Marikay Dewberry
Dinah Marks

DeSoto's City Charter requires that a candidate must receive 51% of the votes to be declared the winner in any municipal election. No candidate in the race for **Place 5** received 51% of the vote in the May 4th election. As a result, the City of DeSoto will hold a Runoff Election for **Council Place 5** on June 8, 2019 at the Belt Line Conference Center located at 200 E. Belt Line Road, DeSoto, Texas, from 7am until 7pm.

Early Voting for this election will take place May 28 through June 4, 2019 at



Disciple Central Community Church (DC3), located at 901 North Polk Street #101, DeSoto, Texas, during the following times:

May 28-June 4, 2019 – No voting on Mon., May 27th - Memorial Day Holiday.
 May 28 – May 31 (Tues. – Fri.) 8am – 5pm
 June 1 (Sat.) 8am to 5pm
 June 2 (Sun.) 1-6pm.
 June 3 & 4 (Mon. & Tues.) 7am – 7pm

Candidates for this election are (in alphabetical order):

Marikay Dewberry
Dinah Marks

For more information, please go to www.desototexas.gov and scroll over the Government tab then select Election Information or call the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646.



The City of DeSoto bids former City Manager Dr. Tarron Richardson a fond farewell on May 3rd as he leaves to become City Manager of Charlottesville, VA. Pictured from left, Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan, Dr. Tarron Richardson, Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Proctor and Councilmember Dick North. Good luck in Charlottesville, Dr. Richardson. DeSoto will miss you!

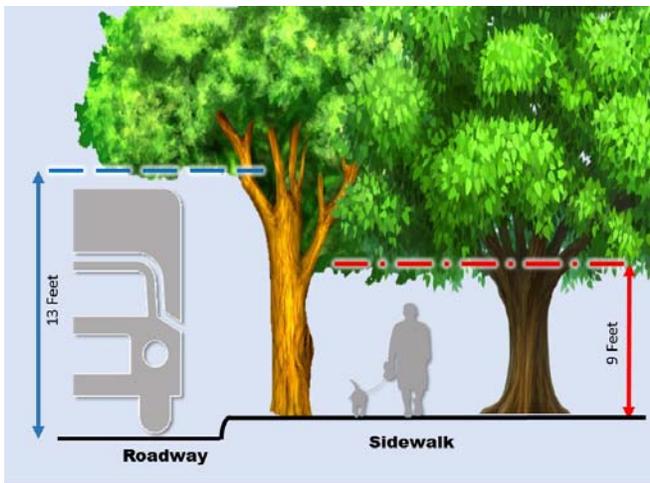
DeSoto Police Use A High-Tech Tool To Catch Suspect In Home Invasion Of A Senior

DeSoto Police were able to make effective use of SUAS (Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems) "drone" technology in early May to capture a fleeing suspect in the home invasion, robbery and assault of senior DeSoto resident.

The senior was robbed at gunpoint and assaulted in his home before the suspect fled on foot. DeSoto Police responded quickly, but saw that a nearby wooded area could provide the suspect with numerous hiding places and opportunities to evade capture. Rather than risk losing him, they turned to "High Tech" to see if they could spot the suspect from the sky. They were able to deploy a SUAS police drone that allowed the operator to spot the suspect changing his clothes in one of the heavily wooded areas near the victim's home in an apparent attempt to avoid being identified. The officer operating the drone was then able to direct officers deployed on the ground to the suspect's exact location. Officers quickly took the suspect into custody. Fortunately the senior victim was not seriously injured and officers were able to recover the property that was stolen during the home invasion.

According to a May 2018 study from the Center for the Study of the Drone, at least 910 state and local police, sheriff, fire/EMS, and public safety agencies have acquired and used drones in recent years and more than two-thirds of those users are law enforcement agencies. DeSoto Police first began to utilize of drone technology in 2018 and follows strict established guidelines and protocols. All operators are police officers specially trained in public safety use of drones and follow all applicable state and federal law.

Under the direction and leadership of DeSoto Police Chief Joseph Costa, the DeSoto Police Department has become a leader in the use of this technology and regularly is asked by other law enforcement agencies across the State of Texas for assistance in starting their own programs



Did you know that... it is unlawful for any owner, occupant or person in charge of adjacent property to allow the branches of any tree to extend over into a public street or alley at a height less than fourteen and one-half (14 1/2) feet. It is also unlawful to allow the branches of any shrubbery or similar vegetation to extend over into adjacent property or over a sidewalk blocking or hindering pedestrian access.

Free Water Conservation Class: Grow Your Own Vegetables
Thursday, June 6, 2018
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm



"Lettuce" talk about vegetables! Whether you're trying to eat healthier, want to know where your food comes from, or just love the idea of growing delicious vine-ripened vegetables at home, this class is for you. Learn proper soil preparation, garden design and layouts, disease and insect identification, as well as the proper planting times for getting the most production out of your favorite vegetables in the challenging climate of North Texas. This workshop takes place at the Jim Baugh Government Center (DeSoto City Hall) in the City Council Chambers located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. To attend, please contact the City of DeSoto Public Utilities Department at 972.230.5724.



Bring your unneeded drugs to the drop box located in the lobby of the DeSoto Jail at 714 E. Belt Line Rd. for safe disposal.

FREE CONCERT

The Legends of Funky Town

DE SOTO ARTS COMMISSION

FOURTH

MUSIC SERIES

fridays

Friday, June 28, 2019 8 pm
DeSoto Town Center
Outdoor Amphitheater

The DeSoto Arts Commission is moving the Fourth Friday Concert Series outdoors under the stars for the Summer on Friday, June 28, 2019 at 8 pm. Grab your lawn chairs and join us in welcoming The Legends of Funky Town to the DeSoto Outdoor Amphitheater in Town Center behind the Library. This band takes their audience on a trip back in time with their awesome medleys. Led by their Music Director and Writer/Producer Mr. Elroy Jackson, The Legends boast a diverse genre that includes R&B, Jazz, Blues, and incredible original material.

Concessions will be available for purchase. For more information call 972.230.9648.

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@desotopard

DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover. Experience. Play!

DeSoto

CRAWFISH FEST

2019

JUNE 1ST

6PM - 10PM

FREE EVENT

Willie Clayton

Fat Daddy

DESOTO AMPHITHEATER
211 E. PLEASANT RUN RD.

LIVE MUSIC · FOOD · DRINKS

superior healthplan | 77& | Cane's | Bank of DeSoto | 77& |

JUNETEENTH
Celebration

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS **CON FUNK SHUN**

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 5-10 PM

VALLEY RIDGE PARK **FREE**
2850 PARKRIDGE DR. CEDAR HILL, TX 75104 **ADMISSION**

The City of Cedar Hill and Best Southwest cities join together for an evening of community celebration, great music, and arts. Enjoy local vendors, a kid's stage and game area, crafts, food vendors, storytelling, special presentations, musical performances and much more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT CEDARHILLTX.COM/JUNETEENTH

CEDAR HILL
WHERE OPPORTUNITIES GROW NATURALLY

Duncanville
City of Champions

CITY OF DE SOTO
BOLDNESS FOR EXCELLENCE

Lancaster