

DE SOTO

City Publication

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KANSAS

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CITY MEETINGS

City Council Meetings

First and Third Thursdays @ 7pm

City Planning Commission

Fourth Tuesdays @ 6pm

Municipal Court

Second and Fourth Mondays @ 6pm

City Council and Planning Commission Agendas/
Minutes can be found on the City website:

www.desotoks.us/AgendaCenter

CONNECT WITH US



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DE SOTO

**SUMMER
SUNSET**

Concert Series

FRIDAYS @ 7PM
RIVERFEST PARK

JUNE 23
LOST WAX

JULY 21
SURFIN' USA & VINYL REVIVAL

AUGUST 18
ELTON JOHN EXPERIENCE

STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Rick Walker spoke before the De Soto Chamber of Commerce on April 13th, 2023, and delivered the State of the City address. These are the key takeaways.

When I took the office of Mayor in 2017, I promised the people of De Soto that I would dedicate myself to making our community a better place to work, live, and grow. I'm beyond lucky that De Soto is filled with people who strive for the same goal of improving quality of life every single day; through the work of my fellow City Councilmembers, City Staff, the Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council, our advisory boards, and - most importantly - the community members, De Soto is flourishing.



MAYOR RICK WALKER

TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY

As most of you probably know by now, Panasonic is building a \$4 billion electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility at the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, which is now called Astra Enterprise Park.

I am so proud that this opportunity will help bring back manufacturing jobs to the U.S. and revive the middle class in this region. This facility is also the catalyst for \$2.5 billion in annual economic impact in the region. For reference, the World Cup events in Kansas City will have an estimated economic impact of \$700 million, one time, and the NFL Draft at the end of April had an estimated impact of \$100 million, one time.

But, ultimately, nothing is more important than who you invite into your home, and Panasonic could not be a better fit for our community. Like us, they value community and strong schools, and they're invested in increasing opportunities for everyone who lives here.

OUR ROOTS ARE IMPORTANT

As we look toward new opportunities, it's important we remember our roots. De Soto was built around the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant. Many families - including my wife's - moved to the area for jobs at Sunflower. But when the plant closed down, so did opportunity. That's why we're excited to see that area revived again in the form of Astra Enterprise Park.

At the same time, we know that maintaining our small-town feel is important to residents. In fact, we conducted the first-ever, city-wide survey so that as we manage our growth, we understand what matters to you.

As Mayor, and a lifelong resident, I was happy to see that 85 percent of you would recommend De Soto as a place to live and 86 percent of you would recommend it as a place to raise a family.

We know that increasing opportunities like the ones at Astra & Flint Commerce Center means De Soto will become an even greater place to live and raise children.

MISSION STATEMENT

"The City of De Soto delivers big adventure and lifelong opportunities to its residents. Civic pride, inclusiveness, and collaboration are hallmarks of our welcoming city where responsible growth is a goal, and government is responsive, accountable, and works in the best interest of the people."

COMMITTED TO SMART GROWTH

We are in a fortunate position that we can be selective about the types of industries we attract. That's why we're focused on those that bring well-paying jobs and minimal long-term disruption for residents. We continue to see interest in logistics & distribution, food processing, and advanced manufacturing.

De Soto has the opportunity to become a job hub in the region and the next economic engine for the area. We're building the foundations for a new, sustainable, and lasting growth environment that won't be vulnerable to the whims of a single industry or endeavor.

Smart growth also means collaborating with our regional partners. The entire region has a lot to gain from the success of upcoming development in De Soto, and we understand there will be challenges. So, De Soto is collaborating with federal, state, regional, and local officials, along with other agencies to provide the services needed to support the upscaled labor force and business activities. Focus areas for this regional collaboration include Housing, Transit, Workforce Development, and Child Care.

And we will do this all while maintaining the character and essence of what makes us De Soto. We need not lose our identity, closeness, connection to one another, or community charm. We can have the best of both worlds, just as we did decades ago.

HOW WE'RE PREPARING

These are lofty aspirations, but ones we know are worth vigorous pursuit. And with the help of our community and regional partners, we look to enthusiastically lead efforts on multiple fronts to address the challenges that lie ahead.

Transportation & Infrastructure Improvements

First, we're laser focused on delivering on obligations needed to support the Panasonic project and set ourselves up for further growth and development. These projects include:

- **\$60 MM** in local road improvements. The City is working closely with KDOT to reconstruct 4.5 miles of 103rd Street and Lexington Avenue to a 4-lane divided boulevard. Simultaneously, Flint is reconstructing 1 mile of Edgerton Road to a 3-lane section
- **\$38 MM** expansion to De Soto's water treatment facility
- **\$26 MM** expansion to De Soto's sewer treatment facility
- **\$9 MM** for the construction of a new 2-million-gallon water tower adjacent to the Panasonic site
- **\$12 MM** for a new Fire Station, to be located on the Astra Enterprise property

Public Engagement

The Panasonic announcement and other potential development in De Soto are of a pace and scale such that they've already

begun to significantly impact our community. Overall, residents, employees, and business owners are excited and enthusiastic about the possibility of renewed activities, but also apprehensive about the immediate and long-term changes to our pace of life and small-town character.

We understand that accurate and timely public communications will be essential in the coming months, so we have launched a robust public information campaign and a re-visioning process for the city. Branded "Designing De Soto," this effort aims to engage stakeholders from all facets of the community to help define a reset of our vision, values, and mission. This will culminate in a new Strategic Plan for De Soto, which will in turn inform revisions to our economic development strategy, business plan, and City organizational plan.

Internal Organizational Growth & Policy Considerations

Increased business and economic activities will quickly translate to a need for increased City services. We've begun making preparations for additional staffing positions in the building inspections, administrative, and utility departments at City Hall. We are also moving forward with the renovation of the top floor of City Hall, which will double the space available for administrative and inspections staff.

In addition, it is expected that the results of our community engagement and strategic planning efforts will bring about the need to revise our Economic Incentives policies and zoning ordinances.

NEW DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Since the Governor's Panasonic announcement in July, there has been unprecedented development interest in De Soto. The City Planning department and EDC are currently receiving legitimate development inquiries from a variety of projects, including convenience stores, travel plazas, hotels, RV parks, restaurants, and entertainment venues. Most notable is the immediate interest in multi-family housing, with nearly 1,300 apartment units currently in our planning pipeline.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to onshore manufacturing, uplift the middle class, move the needle on poverty, and create a community with a small-town feel but with lots of opportunity. We want to improve the quality of life for all in De Soto through transformative economic development that supports the expansion of educational and recreational resources in our city.

Our community stands to benefit greatly from the growth that is now on our doorstep. With the help of engaged and enthusiastic community members and visionary leadership, let us embrace the changes ahead with optimism and determination while always remembering the values that make our city our home.

OTTAWA STREET BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Contractors are still *on track* to complete the Ottawa Street Bridge Reconstruction Project by summer - mid to late May, weather permitting. In April, contractors laid the first and second layers of asphalt on both sides of the new curb. The next steps are to lay the surface coat, seal the road, backfill behind the curbs, and grade for the 8-foot-wide sidewalk.

Prior to construction, this two-lane stretch of road was approximately 24 feet in total width with no shoulder or sidewalk; this reconstruction project is widening the road to 32 feet (two 11-foot travel lanes and two 5-foot bike lanes).

These improvements will provide better multimodal access to the park and the many events hosted there each year.

CONTAIN THE RAIN

Contain the Rain is a City of De Soto & Johnson County Stormwater Management Program that encourages homeowners and businesses to find information on sustainable landscape solutions and make improvements on their properties to improve stormwater quality.



CITY PAVES WAY FOR UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR FARM

De Soto could be home to the state's largest solar farm. The City Council has approved a zoning regulation that will allow for a Utility-Scale Solar Facility (USSF) at Astra Enterprise Park. The special permit paves the way for a 3,000-acre project site that could house a USSF capable of generating 600 - 800 megawatts.

"A utility-scale solar facility of this scale would be a significant green energy boost to the local and regional power capacity needed to support future jobs, businesses, and homes in De Soto," said Mike Brungardt, De Soto City Administrator.

Where is the project site?

It spans north to south from 119th Street to 143rd Street and east to west from Stringtown Road to Evening Star Road.

Why was that site selected?

A USSF in that area would pose a minimal impact to residents; it's not adjacent to any current or planned residences, isn't served by utilities, and, importantly, will be buffered by about 2,000 acres of passive-use parkland owned by Johnson County Parks and Recreation.

What requirements are included in the ordinance?

Any future solar project would have to meet stringent requirements on a range of factors, including visual, glare, environmental, and noise impact. Developers would also have to meet requirements around traffic and construction, fire, and light safety. The Planning Commission spent nine months drafting these recommendations based on other local government best practices.

Why are we interested in supporting solar energy?

Energy demands are high, and solar would allow for a safe, environmentally friendly, and affordable option. Compared to fossil fuels, solar-powered energy produces lower levels of gas emissions and pollutants. It also uses less water.



OTTAWA STREET BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
| NORTH OF RAILROAD TRACKS

Funded by a \$3,000 grant from Johnson County, Contain the Rain is a first come, first served reimbursement program for De Soto residents who install sustainable landscape solutions. You may be eligible for up to 50% reimbursement of materials and installation costs by planting native trees, installing pollinators and native plants, planting rain gardens, and adding rain barrels.

Prior to any work being done, the homeowner must submit an application to the Contain the Rain program describing the project. All applications must be received no later than November 1st, 2023. Projects requiring vegetation must be installed and documentation must be received by November 15, 2023.

For De Soto-specific information and to apply for reimbursement, visit containtherainjoco.com/application.html

If you have questions, please contact Brandon Mills, Assistant City Administrator, at 913-586-5250 or bmills@desotoks.us.

DE SOTO

KANSAS

MAYOR Rick Walker 913-375-7729 Cell

City Hall Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:30pm

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mike Brungardt, P.E. 913-586-5253 Direct

CITY ATTORNEY

Patrick G. Reavey 913-586-5299 Direct 816-474- 6300 Office

CITY CLERK / ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Brandon Mills 913-586-5250

CITY BUILDING OFFICIAL

Cameron Maughmer 913-210-9186 Cell

CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR

Dale Hamilton 913-274-8259 Cell

CITY CODES & CIP INSPECTOR

Walter Gardenhire 913-586-5263 Direct 913-940-8552 Cell

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Whitney Lange 913-586-5255

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Lori Murdock 913-636-2679 Cell

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Danny Lane 913-634-9150 Cell

Kevin Ritter 913-208-5352 Cell

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Bonnie Bennett 913-586- 5262

CITY PLANNER

Brad Weisenburger 913-586-5286 Direct

MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK

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AQUATICS & RECREATION MANAGER

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RECREATION PROGRAMMER

Makenna Jennings 913-586-5282

PLANNING COMMISSION

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Martin Juarez 913-426-8539

STREET & FLEET & FOREMAN

Jim Briggs 913-908-6099 Cell

UTILITIES 913-583-1182 Mayte Diaz x112, Erika Carrillo x122

WATER/SEWER SUPERINTENDENT

Doug Smith 913-238- 0434

Wastewater Plant 913-585-9956

MUNICIPAL COURT 913-586-5290

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sara Ritter Director 913-583-1585 office 913-238-2206 cell

ANIMAL CONTROL Johnson County Sheriff 913-782- 0720

JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Non-emergency 913-782-0720 emergency 9-1-1

NORTHWEST CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICT

Non-emergency 913-583-3886

HONEY CREEK SANITATION

Randy Weldon 785-423-1809 Cell

DE SOTO PARKS & RECREATION

www.desotoks.us/151/Parks-Recreation

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

- **In-person:** De Soto City Hall 32905 West 84th St.
- **Online:** <https://bit.ly/DeSotoParksActivities>
- **Mail In:** PO Box C, De Soto, KS 66018
- **After Hours Drop Box:** 32905 West 84th Street

2023 AQUATIC CENTER ACTIVITIES

Swim Lessons



Fee: \$35 | *All morning classes at this time*

- **Session #1:** June 5-15, 2023
- **Session #2:** June 19-June 29, 2023
- **Session #3:** July 10-20, 2023
- **Session #4:** July 24-August 3, 2023

Parent must be in the water with child for the Parent Tot level.

Dolphin Swim Team



Fee: \$85

- **Parent Meeting:** Wednesday, May 17th
- **First Practice:** Tuesday, May 30th
- **First Swim Meet:** Friday, June 9th
- **Last Swim Meet:** Friday, June 30th

Dolphin Swim Academy



Fee: \$45

- **Parent Meeting:** Wednesday, June 28th
- **Academy Starts:** Tuesday, July 11th
- **Academy Dates:** July 11 - 27, 7:00am - 8:00am

2023 SUMMER & FALL ADULT ACTIVITIES

Adult Yoga



Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Date Options:

- **Tuesdays:** May 2 - May 23, June 6-27, August 1-29
- **Thursdays:** May 4 - May 25, June 8-29, August 3-31

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball



Fee: \$120 per team

Registration Deadline: Friday, September 8th

Begins: September 18th

2023 YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Toddler Time



Date/Time: Every Wednesday from 8:30am-10:30am

Location: Community Center | Fee: \$1

Youth Soccer



Ages: 4 thru 8th grade | Fee: \$35

Registration Deadline: Friday, July 14th

Youth Volleyball



Ages: 3rd thru 6th grade | Fee: \$40

Registration Deadline: July 14th

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- De Soto Aquatic Center
 - Managers
 - Lifeguard
 - Concessions and Front Desk
- Officials (Soccer/Basketball)
- Umpires (Baseball/Softball)
- Fitness Instructors

For more information, please contact Justin Huslig at jhuslig@desotoks.us