

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

A Message From Mayor Carl Sherman

Freedom Isn't Free. I encourage everyone to keep this in mind during the month of November as we honor our veterans.

I believe God has blessed us with an abundance of freedom in our country. The scriptures say, "faith without works is dead." That said, I believe that everything we have today is the result of the sacrifices made by many of our neighbors who have served in our military, often being called to the battle lines of war. War is the ultimate sacrifice. Simply put, freedom is never free. Our soldiers along with their families should be saluted and honored for their unselfish sacrifice and service to this great country of ours. We have our way of life, our unfettered economy, and many opportunities because of the freedom the men and women of the military have fought, lost limbs, and died in foreign lands to protect. And I for one am very grateful and believe we can do more as an All-America city to salute the heroes of our community. Therefore, as your Mayor, I am honored to proclaim and declare November 10, 2012 as Veteran's Appreciation Day in DeSoto, Texas USA.

On Saturday, November 10th, the City will host a special Veteran's Appreciation event at City Hall from 9 am to noon. This event is designed to acknowledge the sacrifice made by veterans and their families with an Appreciation Ceremony at 10 am in the City Council Chambers featuring remarks by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. There will also be representatives from Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Advocate Group, the VA North Texas Healthcare System and others available to help veterans take advantage of benefits they are entitled to receive as a result of their service.

Help us pay tribute to our veterans and their families for their works and sacrifices as we bestow them with all the benefits and honor they are due.

One People. One Vision. One All-America City.

Carl O. Sherman, Sr.
Mayor



Mayor Carl Sherman and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson are pictured above discussing the upcoming Veterans Appreciation Day. "We are all excited to see all of the veterans dressed in their respective uniforms."

City Calendar

November

2 Early voting ends
5 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
6 General Election Day
8 KDB Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 pm
8 Library Board Mtg. - Library - 7 pm
8 Friends of the Library - Library - 6 pm
8 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
8 Adopt-a-Street Banquet - Civic Ctr. 7 pm
10 Library Craft Fair
10 Veteran's Appreciation Event - City Hall
9am - noon
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
15 Mayor's Quarterly Mtg. w/HOA reps.
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 Thanksgiving Holiday - city facilities closed
23 Thanksgiving Holiday - city facilities

December

3 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
3 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 City Council Mtg.—City Hall - 7pm
6 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
6 Friends of the Library - Library - 6pm
7 Tree Lights at Town Center - 7 pm
11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
15 DeSoto Christmas Parade - 2pm
18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
24 Christmas Eve - city facilities closed
25 Christmas Day - city facilities closed

Is a member of your family coming home from the military soon? If so, please let us say *Welcome Home*.

The City of DeSoto would like to recognize, celebrate, and thank our soldiers for their service. If you have a family member or friend returning home to DeSoto from military service, please let us know. We would like to recognize their service on our electronic message board located in the median on Pleasant Run Road. Please call Community Relations Manager, Kathy Jones, at 972.230.9648 and give her the name of your soldier.

Want to Lower Your Sewer Charges?

Reduce your water usage from November to March!

Each year, residential monthly water consumption is measured and averaged to establish the maximum sewer charge for each customer. Sewer averages are calculated annually for residential customers. The water consumption shown on your previous December, January, February and March billings is used to calculate your sewer average. The highest two month's consumption of the December through March billings are discarded and the average of the remaining two months is used to establish the maximum monthly sewer charge that will be used from April through the following March. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions regarding sewer charges:

Q: Why do you use the winter billing months for averaging?

A: Traditionally, the four lowest water consumption months for residential customers are billed in December, January, February and March. The primary reason for this is that residential customers are not watering their lawns during this time frame, so water usage is mainly inside the house. The majority of the water used during winter months is entering the sanitary sewer.

Q: Why do you average only two of the four winter months?

A: Lawn sprinkling, filling a swimming pool, holiday entertaining or having a toilet leak can all increase a monthly bill. Being able to discard the largest of these bills prior to averaging the remaining two months gives a more representative measure of water flowing into the sewer system.

Q: What is sewer?

A: Sewer or wastewater is the used water that goes down the drains inside our houses and businesses. The most common sources

of domestic sewer are toilets, sinks, bathtubs/showers, and washing machines.

Q: Once I have my average, does this mean I will be charged this same amount for sewer every month?

A: The average winter usage is a maximum sewer volume charge. For example, if your average winter usage is five thousand gallons and you use fifteen thousand gallons of water in a month, you will be billed for only five thousand gallons of sewer in that month. But if you use four thousand gallons of water in a month, you will be billed for four thousand gallons of sewer in that month. For residential customers, sewer



consumption will never be higher than water consumption.

Q: Once I have my average, will it ever change?

A: Your new average will be recalculated automatically each year when we average your December through March bills. It could go up, go down or stay the same from year to year. It depends on how much water you use during the winter months.

Q: What is my average if I am a new customer and do not have the winter months' history?

A: Each year, we average all residential customers' consumption to establish a city average. Every residential customer who does not have a full December, January, February and March billing will receive the city average until they have the history to establish their own winter average the following year.

Practicing water conservation, especially during the winter months, will also save you money year round. If you have questions about your Utility Bill, please call the Utility Billing Department at 972.230.9627.

Dallas Regional Chamber applauds DeSoto for Kohl's E-Commerce Distribution Center!

On Wednesday, October 10th, The Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce recognized DeSoto's Kohl's E-Commerce Distribution Center with the **2012 Dallas Regional Momentum Award** for the Corporate Facility Location. The award was accepted by Kohl's Senior Vice President, Tim McLarty.

The Dallas Regional Momentum Awards

recognize companies that have experienced significant job growth and fostered positive economic momentum in the Dallas region. The Momentum Awards, featuring our Community Catalyst Award, are sponsored by Citibank N.A. and Holmes Murphy & Associates. Historically, this premiere business event draws an audience of 600 key regional and national corporate and legislative leaders.

Business leaders from companies across the region representing the Chamber's Board and Blueprint for Prosperity Investors were in attendance to recognize these successes.

The DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors nominated Kohl's for this award. "It is projects such as the Kohl's E-Commerce

Distribution Center that make the Metroplex a better place to work and live," said DeSoto City Councilmember and former DEDC Board Chair, Curtistene McCowan. "We are so happy to have them in DeSoto."



Representing DeSoto and Kohl's at the Dallas Regional Momentum Awards luncheon were from left, Scott Fleming Executive Director of the DEDC, Tim McLarty, Sr. Vice President for Kohl's, City Councilmember, Curtistene McCowan, City Manager Tarron Richardson, Ph.D., Jeff Bryant Director of Business Development with DEDC and Tracie Hlavinka, Assistant to the City Manager for City of DeSoto.

Food for Fines Drive

Do you owe fines at the DeSoto Public Library? Do you have Library books that you haven't returned in years? Would you like to clear those fines and do a good deed at the same time? During Food for Fines Week, **pay off your fines with food instead of cash!** For every can of food donated, the Library will reduce your library fines by \$1. That's right! **One food item represents \$1 in fines.**

Bring your food donations to the Circulation Desk. Up to \$20 in overdue fines will be waived for donations from the following list of acceptable items:

- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Boxed pasta or rice
- Canned meat, fish, or poultry
- Boxed cereal (12 oz. or more) or baking mix
- Canned soup, peanut butter, or jelly

All donated food will be given to the DeSoto Food Pantry to provide assistance to local families in need. The Food for Fines program will be conducted Monday, November 12 through Saturday, November 17, 2012. Patrons without fines are also encouraged to bring canned donations to the Library.

The DeSoto Food Pantry is in need of canned soup which is an item that they can no longer get from the North Texas Food Bank.

Only non-perishable, undamaged, unexpired, labeled items will be accepted. No glass containers, candy, home baked, or home canned goods will be accepted.

Food will be accepted for fines on returned materials only, not for replacement fees of lost or damaged items. If lost materials are returned however, patrons may pay the fine with food items.

For more information please call the Circulation Desk at 972-230-9665.

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS

ART PRESENTS

CROWNS
by REGINA TAYLOR

OCT. 26-NOV. 18, 2012
MATINEE: \$20 | EVENING: \$25 | PREVIEW: \$12 (OCT. 25)
Tickets: 972.572.0998 or aareptheater.com

THE CORNER THEATRE

DeSoto's 40th Annual Home Town Holiday Parade is Scheduled for Saturday, December 15th at 2pm

Planning is underway for DeSoto's 40th Annual Home Town Holiday Parade scheduled for Saturday, December 15th at 2 pm. The theme is *A Snoopy & the Gang Christmas*. Line up will take place beginning at 12:30 pm on Seahawk and Kestrel Drive in the Eagle Industrial Park. Line up is on a first come, first served basis so be there early to get a good spot. Equestrian units will be directed toward the end of the parade for the safety of the walkers. At 2 pm the parade will step off onto Hampton Road and travel southbound on Hampton to Pleasant Run Road ending at DeSoto Town Center.



The DeSoto Chamber of Commerce and City are partnering to host the parade but we need your participation to make it a success. Parade applications can be downloaded from the city's website at www.desototexas.gov or by calling the DeSoto Chamber at 972.224.3565. We invite churches, scouts, youth sports teams, school groups and anyone who

loves a parade to submit an application and start making plans to participate. The deadline for early bird (free) registration is December 1st. There is a \$25 fee for applications received after that date. Help us kick-off the Holiday Season with another great parade!!

The DeSoto Chamber of Commerce Will Also Host a Holiday Market at the Civic Center on

Once the parade ends, the Chamber invites you to join them in the DeSoto Civic Center for a Holiday Market and Santa's Workshop from 4 to 6 pm. Bring the kids for face painting, crafts, Santa photos and a special screening of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at 5:30 pm. While the kids are busy, parents can work on their holiday shopping list in the Holiday Market. Vendors space is still available. Chamber members can reserve a space for \$35, non members are \$50. For more information on the Holiday Market and Santa's Workshop, please call the DeSoto Chamber at 972.224.3565.

DeSoto Parks & Recreation Dept.
Invites you to join them for
The Christmas Tree Lighting
At Town Center on
Friday, December 7th

Join us in the Courtyard at
Town Center at 7 p.m.