

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner, A Message from Mayor Carl Sherman



DeSoto - Open for Business

Embracing a new, evolving downtown vision!

The evolution of the City of DeSoto over the past fifteen years has been, to say the least, dramatic and sustainable. Our vision to create a renaissance in development aimed at enhancing DeSoto's local economy and improving quality of life while at the same time developing a downtown has been our constant focus for more than a decade.

The steps to creating a more robust economy and downtown began with bold and visionary leaders who identified that DeSoto lacked a sense of place. DeSoto, the largest city in the Best Southwest, is known for our pristine neighborhoods. With more Homeowners Associations than any city in the Dallas area, DeSoto has clearly established a strong sense of community. Nevertheless, without a downtown we have failed to build a sense of place. That said, a downtown is a city's identity and a glimpse into a city's heart – a center of population where people connect in the marketplace.

Back to the future.....

A lofty goal was set for DeSoto to become a more vibrant town. To that end, we are embracing a bold and aggressive economic development strategy in the commercial district while also welcoming a mixed-development strategy of projects that include retail, residential, and office uses concentrated along Hampton Road.

Change for the good...

We are very pleased to report that this year, DeSoto was recognized as the eleventh best small city in the state of Texas by the Journal of Cities. It is clear that our efforts to strengthen our local economy and quality of life are translating into real value in the market place. Despite a challenging overall economy, our take-charge performance in new economic development over the last four years and a steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life have enabled the City of DeSoto to produce the best sales tax revenue in our history. While we anticipated solid gains, no one expected that



City Calendar

June

- 1 Classical Concert - Corner Theatre 3pm
- 2 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
- 2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 2 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
- 3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 4 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 4 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
- 7 Soul Sistah Expo Civic Ctr. - 10 - 2 pm
- 7 Creekfest - Amphitheater 4 - 10 pm
- 8 Jazz Concert Corner Theatre - 3 pm
- 10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 14 Juneteenth Celebration - Duncanville
- 17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
- 24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm

July

- 1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 3 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6pm
- 3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 4 July 4th Holiday - City facilities closed
- 7 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
- 7 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 7 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm
- 8 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - 7pm
- 28 DEDC Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

972.230.9651 desototexas.gov/parks [facebook.com/desotorc](https://www.facebook.com/desotorc)

FEATURING

EVELYN CHAMPAGNE KING

Creekfest

Sat. June 7th
4 to 10 pm

FREE!

DeSoto Amphitheater @ Town Center 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

★ LANCASTER COMMUNITY PARK ★

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION **FRIDAY JULY 4TH 6:00 PM**

FIREWORKS! GAMES! VENDORS! FOOD! LIVE MUSIC!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 972-218-3700
OR VISIT WWW.LANCASTER-TX.COM

★  **FREE EVENT**  ★

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Council Corner, A Message from Mayor Carl Sherman, Sr.

this month the City of DeSoto would shatter all previous monthly sales tax revenues in recorded history. According to documented previous postings from the State Comptroller's office, the City of DeSoto posted \$991,302.36 in sales tax revenue, which is an approximate 25% increase over May 2013 records.

I am convinced that these stellar results come from hard work. Therefore, I would like to congratulate the many entrepreneurs, business leaders, and their employees that performed the hard work to produce these solid gains!

We expect to carry this momentum into fiscal year 2015, as we continue to position the City for smart growth by attracting new corporate businesses, quality retail, and high end residential developments concentrated in and around the proposed future downtown area. This new proposed downtown area, identified over a decade ago, was driven by citizen input. It is located specifically along the Hampton Road corridor starting at Ten Mile Creek, the location of the proposed new suburban river walk, and ending just south of Belt Line Road.

The past couple of years have seen a tremendous amount of positive activity. The City's financial strength was solidified with an improvement in our bond rating to AA from Wall Street's Fitch agency*, solid economic development gains of over \$120 million in new commercial construction, and robust new housing permits keeping DeSoto in the number one position for new housing starts in the Best Southwest. Simply put, more people are choosing to move to the All-America City than any other city around DeSoto. That said, I am bullish on our future and feel very encouraged. With additional investments in needed infrastructure and other significant capital improvement items included in the City's updated plan, we are poised for continuous growth. Through a pending bond referendum coming before our neighbors soon, we will decide the priorities of our future development and growth potential. The City Council reasoned that November of this year is the right time to present the citizens with a bond referendum that includes a well-publicized set of propositions shaped by citizen input from earlier town hall meetings. Citizen input has been productive in what has been perhaps one of the most transparent CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) drafting efforts. Certainly, this tradition of gathering citizen input began years ago and we will work hard to improve the process by expanding our forms of communication. As we are getting closer to the date in which you will decide; please mark your calendars to VOTE in the bond election set to take place on November 4, 2014.

Our best days are ahead...

I know we are all eager to see more ground breaking development, and we understand that true success built on quality will always require further bold commitment from all equity stakeholders, both private and public. The time for compromising on quality and capitulating to outside developers has officially ended. We, the citizens, are in charge of designing our future city.

To that end, I believe a clear vision, aggressive code enforcement, higher standards, a stronger partnership with economic development, an energizing strategy of using entertainment as a catalyzing force to set DeSoto apart from our surrounding cities and an unfettered determination to create a thriving downtown market place, will give birth to a renaissance in DeSoto! **DeSoto - Open For Business!**

Sincerely,



Carl Sherman, Sr., Mayor

*Fitch Global Rating Agency, dedicated to providing value beyond the rating through objective and balanced credit opinion, research and data.

Utility Billing Department Announces New Procedure

Currently, customers whose water service has been disconnected for non-payment can contact night service after close of business (7 pm on Thursdays or after 5 pm on all other business days) to have service restored without making a payment. Beginning July 1, 2014, this option will no longer exist. If a payment has not been received in the office before close of business, water service will not be restored. The full payment for the delinquent balance must be received in the Utility Billing Office during business hours, or placed in the drop box by 7:30 am the following business day before a service technician will be dispatched to

the property. If the customer is not at home, an attempt will be made to restore service. In order to minimize flooding in the home if faucets have been left on, the service will be turned off and a tag will be left on the door if more than 10 gallons of water flows through the meter. The tag will indicate the service technician was unable to turn service due to running water. Night service will continue to be available until 10 pm for emergencies only.

Please direct questions regarding this new procedure to the Utility Billing Department by calling 972.230.9630.



"Mayor for a Day" DHS 11th Grader, Vicky Yeong on April 15th



"Mayor for a Day" Cockrell Hill 5th Grader, Jazmine Shaw on May 6th



"Mayor for a Day" East Middle School 8th Grader, Jada Starling on May 20th

City of DeSoto Participates in "Mayor for a Day" Program

Winners of the "Mayor for a Day" program were honored at recent City Council Meetings in April and May. DeSoto ISD implemented year two of the "Mayor for a Day" program with a district wide contest for 5th, 8th, and 11th graders who would like to serve as "Mayor For A Day". Cockrell Hill Elementary 5th grader, Jazmine Shaw, Jada Starling, an 8th grader at East Middle School and DHS 11th grader Vicky Yeong (pictured above) were selected to serve as "Mayors for a Day". Each student spent their special day shadowing Mayor, Carl Sherman. Each Tuesday, Mayor Sherman attends Dallas County Commissioner's Court and his "Mayors for a Day" accompanied him there. They were each recognized by Commissioner John Wiley Price with a Proclamation. Following Commissioner's Court, the Mayors attended lunch meetings at Thorntree Country Club and addressed students at their schools on the importance of the program. They also presided at the evening City Council meeting, calling the meeting order and working through the beginning of the agenda along side Mayor Sherman.

In order to be eligible to serve as "Mayor for a Day", students must have above average attendance and be on the A/B honor roll. They must also complete an application and provide a teacher recommendation and a recommendation from a member of the community along with an essay.

"The "Mayor for a Day" program has become an annual event for us," said DeSoto Mayor, Carl Sherman. "Students, if you will be a 5th, 8th or 11th grader next year and are interested in experiencing local government first hand by taking a walk in my shoes for a day, I encourage you to make application for the "Mayor For A Day" program through your school."

DeSoto Arts Commission - Cultural Arts Grant Program

If you have enjoyed a live theater performance presented by Crossover Arts or NIA Kids at the DeSoto Corner Theatre, a performance by Texas Winds Musical Outreach at a local nursing home or one of the Juried Visual Arts Shows sponsored by the DeSoto Art League on display in the City Hall Lobby, you have enjoyed programs funded by DeSoto's Cultural Arts Grants Program. These are just a few of the arts opportunities made available to DeSoto residents by this program. Applications for funding are currently being accepted for projects scheduled to take place during the 2015 fiscal year, October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

The Cultural Arts Grant Program is coordinated by the DeSoto Arts Commission. Each summer, they put out the call for projects seeking funding. To be eligible, you must be an active nonprofit arts organization or an individual working with a nonprofit organization who can demonstrate sound artistic direction and financial management. Community involvement is also strongly considered. Funded activities must take place within the city limits of DeSoto but you do not have to be based in DeSoto to apply. Examples of previously funded projects include professional and community theater, art shows, gospel concerts, dance performances and jazz concerts.

Applications are accepted from June 15th through July 30th each year. Qualifying nonprofit arts organizations can request funding for their projects. Application forms are available at www.artsdesoto.com or by calling the DeSoto Arts Commission liaison at 972.230.9648.



DeSoto Public Library

Free Teen Summer Programs 2014

June 11, 2014	"Destination Cretaceous" Fossil Presentation	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
June 18, 2014	Teen Theatre/Improv***	3:00 - 4:15 p.m.
June 25, 2014	Teen Money Matters and Mad City Money	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
July 2, 2014	Writing and Storytelling***	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
July 9, 2014	Literacy and Hip Hop	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
July 16, 2014	Capoeira: African/Brazilian Martial Arts***	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
July 23, 2014	"Cook It Up" Teen Nutritional Cooking Show	3:00—4:30 p.m.
July 30, 2014	WorldBeat: Cultures Through Rhythm	3:00—4:30 p.m.

***Must register at the Information Desk 972.230.9661



Football Cheerleading League

www.desototexas.gov/football

REGISTER TODAY!

Register for your favorite activity and start today!

We believe that in order to realize the true value of youth sports participation and to provide a safe, positive, fun and maintained environment for youth and their families to participate, we must raise the standards among the youth sports community.

Football and Cheer Organizations
Chargers | Colts | Falcons | Oilers | Panthers

Ages
4 - 12

Cost
\$40 DeSoto/Glenn Heights Residents

\$60 Non-Residents

Location
DeSoto Recreation Center

Hours of Operation

► Monday - Thursday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.

► Friday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.

► Saturday 6:45 a.m. - 6 p.m.

► Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.



211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. DeSoto, TX, 75115
972.230.9655 | youthsports@desototexas.gov



DeSoto Public Library
211 E. Pleasant Run Road
Call the Children's Librarian at
972.230.9666 for information.

Summer Reading Club 2014

FREE
Activities!
Read and Win
Prizes

- June 11, 2014 Summer Reading Kickoff
1-3pm (Face painting, Balloon art & more...)
- June 17, 2014 Diary of a Wimpy Kid activities
1pm — ages 7-12
- June 18, 2014 Dear Dumb Diary Movie
1pm — ages 7-12
- June 19, 2014 Junie B. Jones activities
1pm — ages 6-10
- June 24, 2014 Dork Diaries activities
1pm — ages 8-12
- June 25, 2014 Express Yourself Writing
with Esther Malone 1pm — ages 8-12
- June 26, 2014 Diary of a Wimpy Kid—
Hard Luck activities 1pm — ages 7-12
- June 27, 2014 Preschool Craft 1pm — ages 2-6