

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner A Message from Rachel Proctor, Councilmember Place 3



The holiday season is my favorite time of year! It's a great time to be with family and friends and celebrate the things that bring us close. I can remember growing up and each and every Christmas after dinner we would have a slice of my mom's "world famous" chocolate pie for dessert. Afterwards my parents would take us for ride around the city to look at Christmas lights. We did this every year like clockwork. As children, my siblings and I grew to expect that dessert and that ride around the community. It was a simple thing but it was our family tradition at that time.

I'm sure all of you have stories of family traditions like mine. And whether your traditions are big or small, it's important to always remember them. Our traditions are what tell our story and strengthen the bond of families and communities like ours here in DeSoto. They serve as reminders of the beautiful events that shape our lives. There's something about understanding your past and knowing you belong to something bigger than yourself that instills a sense of confidence within an individual.

The holidays just wouldn't be the holidays here in our city without these DeSoto traditions happening in the month of December. I know you won't want to miss these family friendly events, so mark your calendar!

- **Annual Parks and Recreation Department Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Friday, December 5th, 2014 at 7:30pm. This event will take place around the big Christmas Tree in the plaza at the DeSoto Civic Center, located in Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. Students from Northside Elementary and N.I.A. Kids will be performing on that evening! Join us for this FREE event.

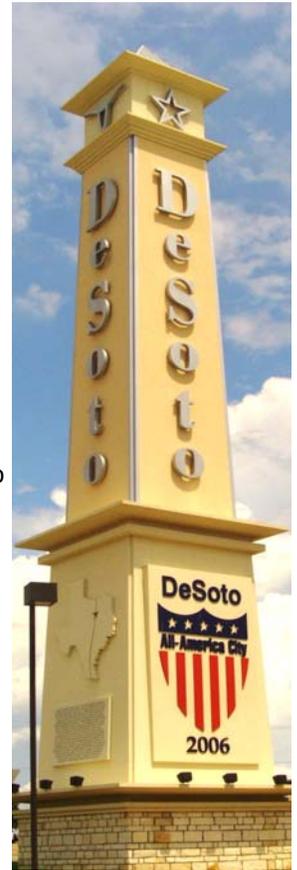
- **42nd Annual Hometown Holiday Parade**

Saturday, December 6th, 2014 at 5:30pm. The parade will begin at Seahawk Drive and travel south on Hampton Road ending at DeSoto Town Center. I'd like to encourage local churches, scout troops, and organizations to get an application to participate in the parade. Deck your floats out with anything that reminds you of Charlie Brown's Christmas and your favorite Holiday memories. Immediately following the parade, join us at the Outdoor Amphitheater behind the Library for refreshments and a free screening of "A Charlie Brown Christmas". For a parade application or more information contact Carolyn Campbell at ccampbell@desototexas.gov or 972.230.9651.

- **Light Up DeSoto!**

Please have your Christmas lights on during the weekend of December 13th and 14th. City Councilmembers will be driving the neighborhoods in their respective districts during that weekend to find the best home lighting display. Mayor Sherman will judge the commercial properties. The winning home in each district will have a sign placed in their yard designating them as a "Light Up DeSoto Award Winner". The winners will be announced and recognized at the DeSoto City Council Meeting on December 16th.

As the holidays approach, I hope that you create some fun family traditions for they will become the memories that will warm the hearts of you and your loved ones for years to come! And lastly, I hope you find yourself and your family being a part of one or all of these amazing events during the month of December. They are sure to create memories that will last a lifetime! These events will be a great way to connect to others in the community and reflect on the years of our city's rich history. And if we run into each other at one of the events, be sure to introduce yourself. I'd love to hear about your holiday family traditions. I'll be looking for you! Happy Holidays!



City Calendar

November

3 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
3 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm
4 City Council Mtg. - City Hall 7pm
6 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6pm
6 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
8 Veterans Appreciation Event 9 am
8 Library Day - 9 am to 2 pm
11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall- 7 pm
18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
24 DEDC Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - 7pm
27 Thanksgiving Holiday City offices closed
28 Thanksgiving Holiday City offices closed

December

1 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
1 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
1 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
4 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
5 Tree Lighting - Town Ctr. - 7:30 pm
6 Holiday Parade-Hampton Rd. 5:30 pm
14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall-7 pm
16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
23 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- canceled
25 Christmas Day - City facilities closed
26 City Facilities closed

Senior Citizen Discount on Utility Bills

If you are 65 years of age or older, you may request a discount on your monthly water bill. To receive the discount, you will need to complete a Senior Citizen Discount Application and provide a copy of your driver's license. The form can be found on the city website or picked up in person at the Utility Billing office located in City Hall at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road or the application can be mailed to you upon request.

The water account must be in the name of the person requesting the discount. That person does need to currently reside at the property for which the discount is being requested. For more information, please contact the Utility Billing office during business hours at 972.230.9627 and press 7 to speak with a customer service representative.

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: 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: 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: 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 save you money year round. If you have questions about your Utility Bill, please call the Utility Billing Department at 972.230.9627.

What's New at the DeSoto Public Library?

DeSoto Public Library's Teen Advisory Board Sponsors Senior Sock Drive!



Help the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) bring holiday cheer to the residents of the DeSoto

Nursing and Rehabilitation Center by donating a new pair of "fun" socks to warm the residents' hearts as well as their feet. TAB's goal is to collect 110 pairs of adult socks.

Please bring your donations to the Library's Check Out Desk by Friday, Dec. 5th.

Story Time for Babies and Preschoolers is back at the DeSoto Public Library!

Baby Story time, for little ones newborn to 2 years old, takes place at 10:30 am every Tuesday in the Children's Area. Preschool story time for children ages 3 to 6, takes place on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the

Children's area.

Start early to instill a love of reading in your kids. Babies will enjoy a fun time with nursery rhymes, finger plays, songs, stories, and other enriching reading activities. Pre-schoolers are welcome to enjoy special themed story times, sing-along songs, and arts 'n crafts. No registration is required. Both programs are free and open to the public.



The DeSoto Public Library is located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the DeSoto Town Center Complex. Free parking is available in the nearby parking garage. For more information, please call the Library at 972.230.9666.

DeSoto Parks and Recreation Receives Best of the Best Award

DeSoto Parks and Recreation recently received the National Excellence in Innovative Programming Award from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). NRPA presented the award to M. Renee Johnson, Managing Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of DeSoto and Recreation Manager, Chris Glover during the Best of the Best Ceremony at the 2014 NRPA Congress in Charlotte, NC.

The Excellence in Innovative Programming Award recognizes and honors an agency that demonstrates leadership through advanced, groundbreaking ideas in programming. The award highlights the efforts and impact an agency has made in promoting or increasing the awareness of the benefits of parks and recreation in their community.

The DeSoto Parks and Recreation Department was recognized for three innovative programs they created for the suburban community. The cutting edge programs promoted sustainable

healthy lifestyle habits for minority women and teen leadership development.

"The DeSoto Parks and Recreation staff works diligently all year long to provide exceptional fitness, recreation, health and wellness experiences for our residents," said DeSoto Mayor, Carl O. Sherman, Sr. "I'm very pleased to see them getting the recognition for their efforts that they so richly deserve."



Did You Know??

That Thanksgiving is one of five holidays observed by our solid waste contractor, Republic Waste, each year? There will be no trash collection on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27th. Customers with regular Thursday service will have their trash collected on Friday, November 28th. Regular Friday customers will be collected on Saturday, November 29th. The normal schedule will resume on Monday, December 1st.

Trash service will also be suspended on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Regular Thursday trash service will move to Friday and Friday trash will be collected on Saturday for both weeks. The normal trash schedule will resume on Monday, January 5, 2015.

Live Christmas Tree Recycling

The City's solid waste contractor, Republic Waste, will be collecting live Christmas trees for recycling on Wednesday, December 31st and on Wednesday, January 7th. Place trees on the curb in the front of your home for recycling. Trees placed in the alley will go to the landfill. Be sure to remove all decorations and lights for recycling. Also trees with flocking will go to the landfill.



If you have questions regarding your trash service, please call the City of DeSoto Action Center

New Office Hours for Utility Billing and Municipal Court

The payment window for these offices will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.



DeSoto Parks & Recreation
2014 ANNUAL
**Hometown
Holiday
Parade**

Deck your floats in all things Charlie Brown and celebrate the holidays with your loved ones at DeSoto's annual Holiday Parade!

Stay late and join us for a showing of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at the DeSoto Town Center after the parade!



Saturday
DECEMBER 6, 2014 // 5:30 PM
Parade begins at Seahawk Drive
Applications available at
www.DeSotoTexas.gov

The parade will begin at Seahawk Drive and travel south on Hampton Road concluding at the DeSoto Town Center.

Applications for parade participation are available by calling 972.230.9651, emailing ccampbell@desototexas.gov, or by going to www.desototexas.gov.

Join us at the Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center for refreshments and a free screening of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" immediately following the parade.

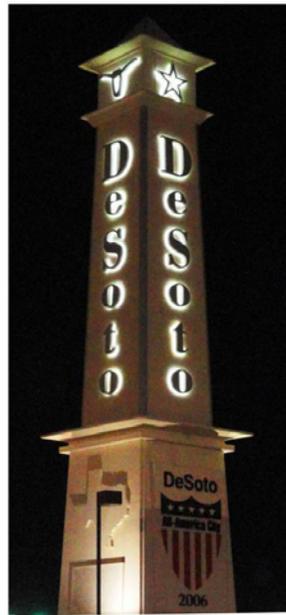



Kwanzaa
A Celebration of Family,
Community and Culture

Sunday December 21, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
DeSoto Civic Center Bluebonnet rooms
211 E. Pleasant Run Road

Admission is two canned goods per adult or donation to the DeSoto Food Pantry.
For ticket information visit www.cdcdesoto.org or call 972-230-4243

Order tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kwanzaa-2014-tickets-14207349565>



Coming to a City Atrium Near You!!!

PHOTO DESOTO

Coming in February, 2015, a spectacular photography show starring - "The City of DeSoto"

We are challenging local photographers to submit your best photo depicting "Life In DeSoto", the people, the places the magic of DeSoto. So grab your cameras and get out and Photo DeSoto!!

Entries will be accepted at DeSoto City Hall on January 28, 2015 from 9 am to 1pm and on January 29th from 1 to 5 pm. All photos must be taken of, in, and about DeSoto. Photos submitted in this exhibit will be on display in the Atrium of DeSoto City Hall during the month of February, 2015. Be on the lookout now for those special shots that exemplify why DeSoto is a great place to live, work and play.

The same rules in effect for the **Give Us Your Best Shot** contest will apply for this contest. Cash prizes will be awarded for Best In Show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and Honorable Mention. Contact Kathy Jones to enter or for further information at 972-230-9648.



Free Entry

The DeSoto Classical Music Concert Series and
Nat'l. Assoc. of Composers - Texas Chapter
present
CANDLES AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

- * South Dallas Concert Choir * DeSoto Dance Academy *
- Christ Episcopal Choir * Canterbury Choirs *
- *W.W. Samuell High School Choir *
- * St. Anne Episcopal Choir * Chamber Orchestra*

December 7, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.
Canterbury Episcopal School
1708 N. Westmoreland Rd., DeSoto, Texas

Tickets: www.saintannedesoto.org / 972-709-0691

Christmas Tree Level (Concert Only)
Adults : \$15 / Children (< 12): \$10

Santa Claus Level (Concert + Reception @)
Adults : \$30 / Children (< 12): \$15

www.desototexas.gov