

# DeSoto City Lights

*A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department*

## ***New Water and Sewer Rates Take Effect October 1st***

On September 18, 2018, the City Council approved a 5% increase in the water base and volume rates and a 5% increase in the sewer base and volume rates. The approved rates will allow the Department of Public Utilities to cover increased operational costs, maintain current service levels for our water and wastewater customers and continue infrastructure improvement activities for the water and wastewater systems. Below are the approved water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2019:

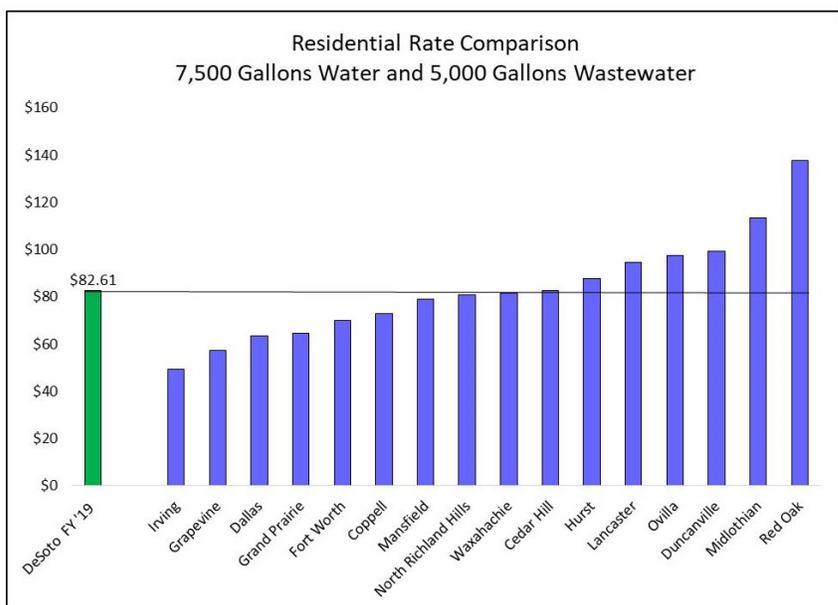
<b>Water Base Rate</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>
¾-inch meter	\$ 8.93	\$ 9.38	5%
1-inch meter	\$16.97	\$17.82	5%
Water Volume Rate	\$ 3.10	\$ 3.26	5%
Sewer Base Rate	\$ 9.97	\$10.47	5%
Sewer Volume Rate	\$ 9.91	\$10.41	5%

Customers will see the new water and sewer rates reflected in their December utility bills. The water base rates listed above are for meter sizes typically associated with residential water accounts. Commercial and industrial water accounts may have larger water meters. For a full listing of meter sizes and corresponding base rates, please visit the Department of Public Utilities’ webpage at <http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/463/WaterSewer-Rates>.

### ***How Do DeSoto’s Water and Sewer Rates Compare to Other Cities in the DFW Area?***

The average consumption for City of DeSoto residential utility customers is 7,500 gallons of water and 5,000 gallons of sewer (wastewater) per month. Therefore, based on the new rates, the average monthly charge for water and sewer will be \$82.61, not including garbage, drainage or recycling costs. As you can see from the chart below, this is equal to or below most of our immediate neighboring cities. While DeSoto’s average bill may be slightly higher than those of cities like Irving, Grapevine, Coppell, Dallas, Grand Prairie and Fort Worth, it is important to understand that those cities have much larger populations and a greater distribution of residential, commercial and industrial customers, over which to spread the costs associated with providing water and sewer service.

If you have any questions regarding your water or sewer service, please call 972.230.9627.



## City Calendar

### November

6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 6 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 6 Historical Foundation Mtg.- 6 pm  
 5 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6pm  
 5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm  
 10 Vet Fest - Civic Ctr. 10 am  
 13 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm  
 20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 22 Thanksgiving - City Facilities Closed  
 23 Thanksgiving - City Facilities Closed  
 26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm

### December

3 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6pm  
 3 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm  
 5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 6 Historical Foundation Mtg. - 6 pm  
 6 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm  
 18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 17 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall 9 am  
 24 City offices closed - Christmas Eve  
 25 City offices closed - Christmas Day  
 25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Canceled  
 28 Fourth Friday Concert - Corner Theatre  
 7 pm



The City of DeSoto will hold a Special Election to fill an unexpired term for Place 2 on Tuesday, November 6,

2018. The candidates for this election are:

- Kay Brown-Patrick
- Patricia Ledbetter

Early voting begins on Monday, October 22, 2018 and ends Friday, November 2, 2018. Early Voting will take place at Disciple Central Community Church located at 901 North Polk Street. The dates and hours are as follows:

- Mon.-Fri., Oct. 22-26 7am - 7pm
- Sat., Oct. 27 7am - 7pm
- Sun., Oct. 28 1pm - 6pm
- Mon.-Fri., Oct. 29-Nov. 2 7am - 7pm

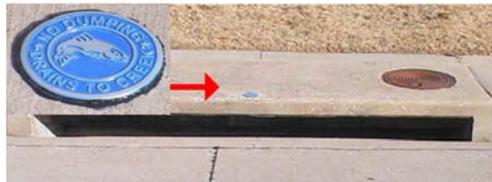
On Election Day, November 6th, voting will be held by precinct only at various DeSoto locations.

For more information, please contact Dallas County Elections at 214.819.6300 or the City Secretary's Office at 972.230.9646 or [kmorris@desototexas.gov](mailto:kmorris@desototexas.gov).

## Help Us Keep Storm Drains Flowing and Creeks Unpolluted

In order to keep our creeks safe from pollutants and our storm drains flowing, the City has established a program called the Storm Drain Inlet Marker Program which requires that all storm drain inlets, similar to the one pictured below, contain a marker that notifies residents that the marked storm drain flows to the creek. This is important information because it is intended to stop illicit discharge or dumping of pollutants such as paints, varnishes, solvents, oil and other automotive fluids, non-hazardous liquid/solid wastes, yard wastes and grass clippings, garbage, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, any other hazardous substances, sewage, animal wastes, construction materials and noxious or offensive matter of any kind, into a marked storm drain inlet that flows to the creek.

City representatives are marking storm drain inlets that flow to the creeks and placing door hangers, like the one pictured here, on homes in the area to educate the public on the consequences of this form of illegal dumping.



# NO DUMPING

The storm drain outlets in your neighborhood now have a decal applied with the message "NO DUMPING-DRAINS TO CREEK". Volunteer organizations, interested in community projects are helping to make a difference to protect our local environment. The message is important for several reasons: Storm water drain lines are located throughout the city. They serve to carry off rain water from urban streets, parking lots, construction sites, neighborhoods and agricultural lands. This water's final destination is our creeks and rivers. Too often, such things as trash, grass clippings, hazardous waste, and oil are carelessly dumped into the storm water lines. This not only causes pollution to our creeks and rivers, but results in clogging of the storm drains, which leads to street flooding.

To prevent storm water pollution from occurring in your neighborhood, DO NOT DUMP:

☒ TRASH	☒ MOTOR OIL
☒ PESTICIDES	☒ ANTIFREEZE
☒ SOLVENTS / PAINTS	☒ GRASS CLIPPINGS

ILLEGAL DUMPING SUBJECT TO FINE

For more information on storm water pollution or how your organization can participate in the City's Storm Drain Labeling Program contact the City of DeSoto.

HELP KEEP OUR STORM WATER LINES FREE OF DEBRIS.

STORM WATER HOT LINE  
972-274-2489

# SAVE the DATE

DeSoto Parks & Recreation  
Discover, Experience, Play!

[@desotorec](https://www.facebook.com/desotorec) • [@desotopard](https://www.instagram.com/desotopard) • 972.230.9650

Save the date for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Hometown Holiday Parade and Celebration scheduled for Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. We are excited to announce that the DeSoto High School Band, the Cedar Hill High School Band and the Carter High School bands will all be participating in this year's parade which will take place along Eagle Drive concluding at Zeiger Park. A host of holiday activities for the whole family are planned in the park. Watch the City's website for more information.

For parade entries and sponsorship opportunities, please call 972.230.9655 or email [specialevents@desototexas.gov](mailto:specialevents@desototexas.gov).

## Calling All Veterans - Join Us for Vet Fest on November 10th at the DeSoto Civic Center from 9 am to Noon

Each year, the City of DeSoto hosts an event to honor the contributions and sacrifice of our military veterans and their families on the Saturday closest to Veterans Day. This year, on November 10, 2018 from 9 am to noon, we will again recognize our veterans with a event called Vet Fest which includes a special appreciation ceremony featuring keynote speaker, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. The ceremony will take place at 10 am in the DeSoto Civic Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. We invite all veterans and their families to attend this important event for our community.

In addition to the appreciation ceremony, we will have representatives from the Dallas VA Medical Center providing free blood pressure checks and flu shots for

veterans along with the following:

- VBA Representative
- Benefits Area Representative
- Mental Health Representative
- Appointment Scheduling Rep.
- Vocational Rehab
- Satellite Location/Services
- Veterans Texas Commission & Veterans Entrepreneur Program and more

We invite local businesses and organizations who offer special services or discounts to veterans to participate in **Vet Fest** with a vendor booth. The City of DeSoto would also like to invite local businesses who are looking to hire veterans to set up a booth at **Vet Fest**. Applications are currently being accepted for vendors or employers. For more information, please call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.

US CONGRESSWOMAN EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON & DESOTO MAYOR CURTISTENE MCCOWAN PRESENT

# Vet Fest

SATURDAY NOV 10

DeSoto Civic Center  
211 E. Pleasant Run, DeSoto, 75115  
In the Pecan Rooms

9:00AM - NOON

CONGRESSWOMAN EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

MAYOR CURTISTENE MCCOWAN

Ceremony at 10 am

- Veterans for hire job opportunities
- Vendors offering service for Veterans
- Veterans benefit representative
- Free flu shots and blood pressure checks

**A FREE EVENT**

Sponsored by the City of DeSoto. For More info, visit:  
[www.DeSotoTexas.gov](http://www.DeSotoTexas.gov)

## What's New at the DeSoto Public Library?

Every Thursday morning the DeSoto Public Library offers Storytime for Toddlers at 10:30 am and Storytime for Preschoolers at 11:30 am. Each early literacy class focuses on pre-reading skills and school readiness, with age appropriate books, songs, and other fun activities. Toddler Story Time includes group play time and Pre-School Story Time features Otis, the puppet and crafts. For groups larger than 10, please call ahead to reserve your spot. Recommended for ages 0-6. For more information call the DeSoto Public Library at 972.230.9666 or visit the library website at [www.desotolibrary.info](http://www.desotolibrary.info).

Are you an entrepreneur or small business owner seeking business advice or need help developing a business plan? A SCORE Certified Mentor is now available at the DeSoto Public Library every Friday from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Please call 214-987-9491 to schedule an appointment.

Terry Toomey, MBA  
Certified Mentor  
214-987-9491  
terry.toomey@scorevolunteer.org

DeSoto Public Library  
Friendly Service. Empowered Futures.

## A Message From Code Enforcement

City Ordinances require that weeds and grass be kept below twelve inches in height. As the owner or occupant of the property, you are required to maintain the property from the street in the front to the middle of the alley in the back (or the property line). This includes the front, back, side yards, the right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the curb) and the alley and easement. Grass clippings must not be blown into or left on streets or sidewalks.

If you have any questions or would like to report a code violation, please call the City of DeSoto Code Enforcement Department at 469.658.3076.

Howard E. Scott & the Low Riders



Regina Belle



The Dazz Band



Thank you, DeSoto, for your support of the DeSoto Arts Live event on September 29th. We had rain early in the day that caused us to cancel our outdoor activities, but the show must go on! With the help and cooperation of DeSoto ISD, we were able to move our concerts indoors to the Fred Nickels auditorium at DeSoto High School. Thank you DeSoto ISD! As you can see from the pictures, we had a great show.

