

# DeSoto City Lights

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

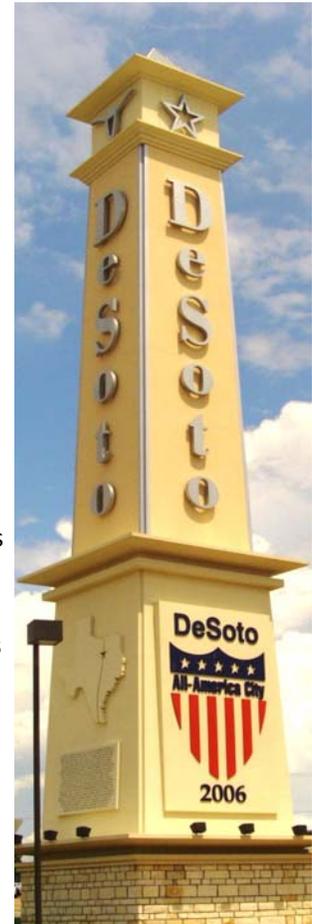
## **DESOTO PARKS & RECREATION RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS REGIONAL AWARD FOR 4TH OF JULY PROMOTION**

The City of DeSoto received some great news recently. The prestigious Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS,) presented their coveted “Promotional Award” to the CAPRA Accredited DeSoto Parks & Recreation Department for their digital marketing campaign promoting the City’s joint 4th of July Celebration with the City of Lancaster that leveraged more than 11,000 in attendance.

Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan applauded the news. “We are thrilled to see that our efforts to get out the good word about our spectacular 4th of July event with Lancaster has been recognized by TRAPS, one of the most respected parks organizations in the nation, as being the best of all promotional efforts. That, combined with our CAPRA accreditation which has only been bestowed on 176 park systems in the country, should reassure everyone that DeSoto’s parks, recreational facilities, and events are the best around and that we are working hard every day to ensure that they remain the best!”

The Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) is a nonprofit educational and professional organization founded 77 years ago to advance the profession of parks, recreation, and leisure services in Texas.

The DeSoto’s Parks and Recreation Department secured their first-ever CAPRA accreditation in 2016 under the leadership of Parks Managing Director M. Renee Johnson who is currently serving as the City of DeSoto’s Interim City Manager. CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation agencies and is considered confirmation of the agency’s overall high level of operation, management, and service to the community.



Presents...

**The Annual Tree Lighting  
at DeSoto Town Center**

**Tuesday,  
December 3, 2019  
6:30pm**



## City Calendar

### November

18 Veterans Com. Mtg. - City Hall 6:30 pm  
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
22 4th Friday Concert-Corner Theatre 8 pm  
25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm  
27 & 28 City Facilities Closed - Thanksgiving

### December

2 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6pm  
2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm  
3 Tree Lighting - Town Center - 6:30 pm  
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
5 Mayors Quarterly Mtg. - 6:30 pm  
5 Historical Foundation Mtg. - 6 pm  
5 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm  
16 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall 9 am  
16 Veterans Com. Mtg. - City Hall -6:30 pm  
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Canceled  
24 City offices closed - Christmas Eve  
25 City offices closed - Christmas Day  
27 4th Friday Concert-Corner Theatre -8pm



### IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

**4 out of 5 car seats are used improperly...could your child's seat be one of them?**

Find out at the **FREE CAR SEAT INSPECTION** sponsored by SAFE KIDS of Greater Dallas and the DeSoto Environmental Health Department.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH  
8:30 AM TO 12 NOON  
Amber Terrace Elementary  
221 Amber Lane, DeSoto**

Car seats will be checked by a certified car seat technician for:

- Proper installation
- Proper fit for your child
- Safety recalls

Please call 214.456.2059 to schedule your appointment. The child, current car seat, and vehicle must be present the day of the appointment.

## ***BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS BY BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Celebrates 15 Years of Community Unity and Healing*** by Matt Smith, Communications Manager

On Thursday, October 3, 2019, the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Program, which brings members of the city's diverse communities to the dinner table to find common ground and build understanding, assembled in DeSoto's Corner Theatre to formally celebrate 15 years of dialogue and unity.

When the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program started in January 2004, DeSoto was in the midst of a major demographic shift. DeSoto's African-American population was growing rapidly and was beginning to numerically overtake the longtime white population. City leaders at that time felt that there was a need for improved dialogue between new and longtime residents and decided to develop a program based on one that was meeting with success in Dallas. And so, on Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday, January 19, 2004 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue held its inaugural dinner event.

"DeSoto is a wonderful example of how residents of extremely diverse backgrounds can gather together at the same table, break bread together, and celebrate their common humanity," declared DeSoto Mayor Curtistene S. McCowan. "For the last 15 years, DeSoto has been living proof that the factors that unite us are much stronger and more plentiful than those that divide us."



Mayor McCowan was on hand for the most recent dinner event which embraced the stated "Together, We Will" theme building on the One DeSoto We Rise Together rally that was



held in May. The DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Program hosted the dinner event to garner community support for our school district and municipal government in the face of negative news reports. Dinner participants were asked to make personal "I Will" statements describing what they would do to make DeSoto a better place such as "I Will

volunteer at my neighborhood school," "I Will model excellence everyday" and "I Will stand for DeSoto".

For more information about DeSoto Dining and Dialogue visit [www.desotodd.org](http://www.desotodd.org).



### ***Did You Know?***

Oversized vehicles may not be parked or stored in any residential neighborhood. An overweight vehicle means a truck tractor (cab), semi-trailer, trailer with a rated capacity in excess of 17,500 GVWR or higher such as flatbed trucks, vehicles with mounted equipment, mechanical or hydraulic devices designed to assist in loading or unloading freight or the transporting of other vehicles. Recreational vehicles and travel trailers may be parked in residential neighborhoods, but must be parked on private property on an improved surface. Recreational vehicles must not be parked as to cause a visibility obstruction to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. All vehicles parked on the street must be moved every 24 hours.

## A Message from Code Enforcement

On October 15, 2019, DeSoto City Council passed and approved Ordinance No. 2180-19. The Ordinance amends Chapter 4 of the DeSoto Code of Ordinances entitled "Business Regulations" by adding a new Article 4.2000 entitled "Short-Term Rentals." The purpose of the new article is to establish regulations for the use of residential dwelling units as short-term rentals in order to ensure the protection of the health and safety of the occupants of short-term rental properties and to protect the integrity of the neighborhoods in which these properties are located. The new ordinance takes effect January 1, 2020.

Section 4.2003 requires the operator of any short-term rental located within the City of DeSoto, Texas to obtain a short-term rental permit. An operator must submit an application to the City of DeSoto that contains the following information:

- Name, address, email and telephone number of the owner and operator of the short-term rental unit;
- Name, address, email and 24-hour contact telephone number of the operator or any designated agent;
- Name, mailing and physical address of the short-term rental;
- Number of sleeping rooms in the short-term rental;



- A sketch floor plan of the dwelling with dimensional room layout; and
- Site plan/survey of the property indicated and maximum number of vehicles legally allowed.

Current owners and operators of short-term rentals in DeSoto are being notified by mail of the regulations. The new ordinance requires that any existing short-term rental has sixty (60) days from the adoption of the ordinance to complete the required registration and obtain the short-term rental permit. Failure to do so is a violation of the new ordinance, which is a Class C misdemeanor offense punishable upon conviction by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per offense, and each remaining day in violation constitutes a separate offense.

The short-term rental application can be found on the City of DeSoto website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov), or can be picked up at the Code Enforcement Department located at 714 E. Belt Line Road, DeSoto, Texas 75115. Questions should be directed to Charles Humphrey at 469.658.3076 or Carmen Humble at 469.658.3075.

## Holiday Trash Schedule

Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day are three of the five holidays observed by the City of DeSoto's solid waste contractor, Republic Waste. There will be no trash service on these holidays.

On a holiday, regular service shifts by one day. For example there will be no trash service on Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 28th. Regular Thursday service moves to Friday that week and the Friday collection will be made on Saturday. The regular schedule resumes on Monday, December 2, 2019.

In observance of the Christmas Holiday, there will be no solid waste service on Wednesday, December 25th. Regular recycling will be collected on Thursday, December 26th, Thursday collections will move to Friday, December 27th, and Friday's trash service shifts to Saturday, December 28th. Similarly, there will be no trash service on Wednesday January 1st in observance of New Year's Day moving regular recycling collection to Thursday, January 2nd and Thursday collections to Friday, January 3rd. Regular Friday collections will be made on Saturday January 4th and the normal cycle resumes on Monday, January 6, 2020. If you'd like to receive electronic reminders about changes in our trash service, download the free Recycle Coach app from the app store.

DeSoto's Mayor, Curtistene McCowan, welcomed numerous dignitaries to our 2019 Vet Fest Veterans Appreciation Event including Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Texas State Representative Carl Sherman Sr., members of the DeSoto City Council, multiple City officials, and most importantly, all of our distinguished Veterans.



"While it is always the right time to give thanks to our military Veterans for their sacrifices to keep us safe and free, events such as Vets Fest allow us to honor them in a grand way and to add emphasis to DeSoto's deep gratitude," said Mayor McCowan. "Speaking on behalf of the City of DeSoto, I want all of our Veterans to know that we hold them in our highest regard and that they will always have DeSoto's undying love, respect, and appreciation!"

One of the distinguished Veterans who was honored at Saturday's ceremony was former DeSoto City Councilmember and US Marine (Retired) Richard "Dick" North who was presented with DeSoto's "Soldier On Award" for his deep commitment to both his country and his community. "Dick North has distinguished himself not only in the service of his country but in the helpful and selfless role that he continued to play for so many years right here in our own DeSoto community," noted Mayor McCowan who added "We can think of no one in DeSoto who is any more deserving of this honor than our dear friend and esteemed former colleague, Dick North."

47TH  
**HOMETOWN**  
*Holiday*  
CELEBRATION  
DECEMBER 7TH | 10AM

PARADE WILL BEGIN AT WINTERGREEN RD. AND HAMPTON RD. AND WILL CONCLUDE AT DESOTO TOWN CENTER

DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION  
**FOURTH**  
MUSIC SERIES  
*fridays*

PRESENTED BY THE DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION

**O.T. & The Funk  
Connection**  
Friday, December 27th  
8PM

RSVP AT  
**ARTSDESOTO.COM**

**DeSoto Corner Theatre**

The DeSoto Arts Commission's next Fourth Friday Concert takes place on Friday December 27, 2019 at 8 pm. This free concert features O.T. & The Funk Connection, a high-energy jazz band known for their dynamic concepts and crowd pleasing performances. Specializing in smooth jazz and funk, these talented performers have shared the stage with Kirk Whalum, Will Downing, Spyro Gyra, Wayman Tisdale, KEM and Morris Day the Time, just to name a few. They will put on a great show!

Bring your holiday guests and join us at The DeSoto Corner Theatre for an evening of great, free entertainment. For more information, call 972.230.9648.

DeSoto Public Library  
Presents:  
*A Season of Giving*

**Saturday:  
December 7th  
11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

DeSoto Public Library  
Friendly Service. Empowering futures.

- \* Snacks with Santa & Free Santa Photos
- \* Holiday Musical & Dramatic Performances
- \* "Make-It-Take It" Gifts & Crafts
- \* In partnership with the Salvation Army

**Holiday Palooza 2019**



DeSoto Fire Rescue will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls aged 2-12 benefiting families in the DeSoto area. Donations are accepted at all DeSoto fire stations and the Fire Administration office in City Hall until December 13th.