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www.ci.desoto.tx.us
972.230.9600

City Lights DeSoto, Texas

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department



DeSoto Water Utilities Has A New Procedure For Processing Your Checks

Effective December 1, 2010, when you provide a check as payment for your monthly utility bill through the mail or in our drop box, you authorize DeSoto Water Utilities either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions regarding this new procedure:

Q. What happens when my check is converted to an electronic transaction?

A. We use information on the check and “convert” the check to an electronic transaction based on that information. Electronic transactions are more efficiently processed than paper checks, and that helps keep our costs low.

Q. Why isn't the check listed on my bank statement?

A. Since your payment is processed as an electronic transaction, it may be listed in the section of your bank statement with other electronic debits. The description of the electronic debit includes information to help you easily identify your payment. Bank statements typically include only the serial number, paid date, and amount for checks. Since converted items are electronic debits, you may be able to see the payee and a transaction description in your statement.

Q. May I get my original check back?

A. No. For your protection we destroy the original check. We want the original check presented for payment only once, through an ACH debit.

Q. Does this mean you debit my account each month, and I don't have to write a check to pay my bill?

A. No, this is not a recurring debit program. We need your check to initiate each payment. You still control the timing of a payment by paying with a check. We do offer bank drafting, which requires you to complete a bank draft application and provide a voided check. If you choose to have your water payment automatically drafted from your checking account, this will only occur ten days before the due date. The bank draft applications are available at the Utility Billing Department in City Hall located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

Q. What authority allows you to convert my check?

A. Pursuant to regulatory rules (NACHA and Regulation E), we notified you of our intention to clear your check electronically by posting a notice at the point of sale and providing you with a copy of the notice in this newsletter.

Q. May I place a stop payment on a converted check?

A. Yes, as with any stop payment, however, you should place the stop payment with your financial institution as quickly as possible. Fees and charges may apply.

If you have any questions regarding this new procedure, please call DeSoto Water Utilities at 972.230.9632.



Want to lower your sewer charges?

Take a look at the brochure enclosed with your utility bill on winter averaging. It explains how controlling your water usage during the winter months can reduce your sewer charges. You can also call DeSoto Water Utilities at 972.230.9627 for more information.

Did You Know.....

That the City of DeSoto has a program to remove unsafe structures? This program seeks to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of our community by identifying substandard buildings or structures that pose aesthetic harm or are a fire or injury hazard. Many times these structures also attract vermin and insects. The Texas Local Government Code gives the city the authority to order the repair, removal or demolition of a substandard structure. Once the legal process has been completed and demolition is ordered, the City of DeSoto's Code Enforcement Department will move to have the structure demolished at the owner's expense. Recently, two such structures have been removed. The first structure was located at 214 S. Hampton Road and the second at 1400 Hubert Drive pictured below.

If you have questions about a substandard building or structure in your neighborhood, please call the Code Enforcement Department at 469.658.3075.



1400 Hubert Dr. before the demolition.



1400 Hubert Dr. after the demolition.

Thanks to the efforts of DeSoto Fire Rescue and the CERT Program, DeSoto was recently named a **StormReady Community**. StormReady is a nationwide program that helps communities better protect their citizens during severe weather from tornadoes to flooding. The program encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations. StormReady provides emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations. To be eligible, DeSoto had to establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center, have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings to alert the public, have a system that monitors local weather conditions, promote the importance of public readiness and develop a formal hazardous weather plan that includes training severe weather spotters and emergency exercises. Watch for StormReady Road Signs similar to the one in this picture which was recently presented to the City Council. Pictured here left to right, Don Dewberry, CERT, Mark Fox, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service, DeSoto Mayor Carl Sherman and Fire Chief, Fred Hart.

CITY CALENDAR

November

- 1 Park Development Corp. Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 1 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 2 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 4 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Library Advisory Board Meeting - Library Conference Room-7p.m.
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 16 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 19 Joseph Vincelli Holiday Concert - Corner Theatre - 8 p.m.
- 22 DEDC Board Meeting - City Hall - noon
- 23 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 25 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices and Facilities closed
- 26 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices and Facilities closed

December

- 2 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 2 Library Advisory Board Meeting - Library Conf. Room - 7 p.m.
- 4 Holly Jolly Christmas Parade - Hampton Rd. - 6 p.m.
- 6 Park Development Corp. Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 6 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 7 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 7 Tree Lighting Ceremony - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 20 DEDC Board Meeting - City Hall - noon
- 21 City Council Meeting - (cancelled due to holiday)
- 23 Christmas Holiday - City Offices and Facilities closed
- 24 Christmas Holiday - City Offices and Facilities closed
- 25 Christmas Holiday - City Offices and Facilities closed
- 28 Planning & Zoning Meeting - (cancelled due to holiday)
- 29 CDC Kwanzaa Celebration - Civic Center 7 p.m.
- 31 New Year's Day Holiday - City Offices and Facilities closed





DeSoto Economic Development Corporation 2010 News Update

The DeSoto Economic Development Corporation is working hard, in this tough economy, to spur economic development and bring jobs to DeSoto. Here's a list of successes in 2010:

- Marten Transport purchased nineteen acres on the corner of Wintergreen Road and Polk Street. Construction is underway on an \$8.4 million, 35,000 square foot facility which will house their driver's training program. Marten Transport specializes in transporting food and other consumer packaged goods that require a time and temperature-sensitive or insulated environment. This new facility will bring more than 300 jobs to DeSoto and will train an average of thirty new drivers each week.
- Way Construction will build a 5,900 square foot building in Eagle Industrial Park and create thirty new jobs.
- ZEP Manufacturing is adding sixteen new jobs as a result of a significant transfer of equipment to their DeSoto facility from another location.
- Acumen Enterprises, provides general construction and mechanical, electrical and plumbing services. Acumen purchased an existing building on Falcon Drive and

retrofitted it making a \$550,000 investment. They will bring thirty new jobs to DeSoto during their first year of operation.

- Quality Medical Care and Nena Med Spa are continuing plans to open in Fountain Village.
- DEDC worked with retailers in 2010 to fill DeSoto Town Center and is pleased to welcome Jokes and Jazz, Wing Stop, Diva's Fashions and Raw Cuts.

The mission of the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation is to plan, promote, finance, and create opportunities for the attraction, growth, and retention of enterprises that enhance the tax base, quality of life, and level of employment for the citizens of DeSoto.

The DEDC board and staff work diligently to attract new industrial, commercial and retail businesses to our community. Although residential property values in DeSoto have dropped, commercial property values increased 1.45% in the fiscal year, 2010. This is the third year in a row that the city has experienced an increase in commercial property value.

For more information about DeSoto Economic Development Corporation, visit www.dedc.org or call 972.230.9611.

The Nixdorf family from Hamburg, Germany dropped in to see the DeSoto City Manager recently. They are pictured here from left - Tobias Nixdorf, Ute Nixdorf and Ewald Zimmer-Nixdorf with City Manager, Jim Baugh. The Nixdorf's were residents of DeSoto back in the 1990's and were employed by the Superconducting Supercollider. Tobias, was born during their time in DeSoto.

They moved back to Germany in 1994 after the Supercollider project was terminated. Their son, Tobias, has no memory of his time in our city, so his parents brought him to see his birthplace. When the Town Center complex was brand new, commemorative bricks were sold to support the construction of a clock tower. During their time in DeSoto, the Nixdorf's purchased one of those bricks for their older son, Robert and they enjoyed finding it again at the base of the new Clock Tower at Town Center.

"We are amazed at how DeSoto has grown and changed," said Ute Nixdorf.



It's a Holly, Jolly Christmas Parade, December 4th 6 p.m.

Planning is underway for DeSoto's 38th Annual Holiday Parade of Lights which is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th at 6 p. m. The theme is *A Holly, Jolly Christmas*. Line up will take place behind the DeSoto ISD Administration Building at 200 E. Belt Line Road and the parade will travel west on Belt Line turning north on Hampton Road and continuing north on Hampton ending at DeSoto Town Center.

The DeSoto Lion's Club, 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.ci.desoto.tx.us 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 November 19, 2010. Help us kick-off the Holiday Season with another great parade!!



The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to enjoy the sounds of the holidays with jazz saxophonist:

Joseph Vincelli
Friday, November 19th 8 p.m.
DeSoto Corner Theatre,
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.



Tickets \$10. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 972.230.9648.



photo by www.barbosastudios.com

Hey Teens, Make Sure To Get A Recreation Center Membership Card So You Can Take Part In All The Activities

The DeSoto Parks and Leisure Services Department would like to invite kids who are DeSoto residents to take part in the special youth activities planned during the Thanksgiving Holidays. In order to do that, you need a DeSoto Recreation Center Membership Card. Here's how to get one:

- Bring a photo I.D. and two forms showing proof of residency such as a valid driver's license and a current utility bill, lease or voter's registration card.
- Youth under the age of 18 must have their parent or legal guardian present to purchase membership.
- Pay the \$10 Membership fee by cash or check (payable to the City of DeSoto).
- Memberships are good for one year and entitle you to use the basketball gyms and game area.
- Memberships are non-transferable and non-refundable.

The DeSoto Recreation Center is open Monday through Thursday, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fridays 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 6:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. **The Recreation Center will be closed on November 25, 2010 to observe the Thanksgiving Holiday. The center will be open on Friday, November 26, 2010 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will resume their normal schedule on Saturday, November 27, 2010.**

The DeSoto Public Library will observe special hours during Thanksgiving Week, November 22-28th as follows:

Library Hours:

Monday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday	Closed
Friday	Closed
Saturday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

Library Computer Lab Hours

Monday	8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Tuesday	8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the DeSoto Public Library, please call 972.230-9661.