



November, 2014  
www.desototexas.gov

# DeSoto City Lights

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

## Council Corner A Message from Mayor Carl O. Sherman



On November 8th, the All-America City of DeSoto will pause again for the third year, before the official day marked by the national as Veterans Day, to honor our local veterans for their selfless sacrifice and service to protect our freedoms.

We encourage local businesses to salute all our veterans by providing them with special discounts on meals, services and/or products beginning Saturday, November 8th through Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11th.

We hope all veterans and their families will join us on Saturday, November 8th at 9 am at the Jim Baugh Government Center located in DeSoto Town Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, as we recognize the real heroes. Let us be mindful that America will remain the land of the free as long as it is the home of the brave.

May the Lord of heaven and earth keep us all safe. May God bless all the men and women who wear the most patriotic uniform.

Sincerely,

Carl O. Sherman  
Mayor



**Veterans Appreciation Event**  
**Saturday, November 8th**  
**9am to noon**  
**Jim Baugh Government Ctr.**  
**211 E. Pleasant Run Road**

Veterans and their families are invited to join Mayor Carl Sherman for a special appreciation event intended to honor their service to our nation. For more information, please call 972-230-9648.

### **Veterans, active duty military and their loved ones**

DeSoto's Poetry In Progress group wants your poems about your experience with the military. Please read about our VetPoets Project at [VetPoets.org](http://VetPoets.org). Submit poems on this website or at the DeSoto Public Library then come to the DeSoto Veterans Appreciation Day, Saturday November 8 to read the poems or hear them read.



## City Calendar

### October

2 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 2 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 2 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm  
 4 5K Walk & Roll 9am Roy Orr Trail  
 6 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm  
 6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 6 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr.- 6 pm  
 7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall-7 pm  
 19 Classical Concert - Corner Theatre 3 pm  
 21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 26 Jazz Concert - Corner Theatre - 3 pm  
 27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 28 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall - 7pm

### 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

### Voting in the General Election

Early voting for the DeSoto bond referendum, Dallas County, State and Federal elections will take place at DeSoto Library Assembly Hall located in DeSoto Town Center on the following schedule:

Monday, Oct. 20th -- Friday, Oct. 24th  
 8 am to 5 pm  
 Saturday, Oct. 25th 7 am to 7 pm  
 Sunday, Oct. 26th 1 pm to 6 pm  
 Monday, Oct. 27th -- Friday, Oct. 31st  
 7 am to 7 pm

Voting on the General Election Day, November 4th will take place by precinct in DeSoto City Hall. If you have questions about voting, please contact the Dallas County Election Department at [www.dallascountyvotes.org](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org).

## New Water and Sewer Rates Will Be Reflected on Utility Bills Beginning November 1, 2014.

The City of DeSoto purchases treated water from Dallas Water Utilities. Due to long-term debt incurred for infrastructure improvements, our water rate will increase by 1.5% effective October 1, 2014.. The base rate for 1,000 gallons used for a ¾ inch meter, the most common residential meter size, will be \$8.05. 1 inch meters will be charged a base rate of \$15.30.

The City uses a three-tier water rate structure, which encourages conservation by charging those who use less water a smaller rate. The structure also allows those who choose to use more water, the ability to do so with the understanding that they will pay more. The rate structure is based on usage and low volume users will see a smaller increase in their monthly bills than high volume users. The water volume

rates for all usage above the first 1,000 gallons listed below remain the same at:

• 1,001 – 15,000	\$3.10
• 15,001 – 30,000	\$3.85
• 30,001 and above	\$4.60

The City of DeSoto's sewer is processed by the Trinity River Authority. Due to contractual obligations, the City's base rate and volume rate will each increase by 15%. The new sewer volume and base rates are:

Sewer Base Rate - \$7.49 for the first 1,000 gallons  
 Sewer Volume Rate - \$7.44 for all usage above the first 1,000 gallons

If you have questions regarding your water/sewer service, please call the Utility Billing Department at 972.230.9627.

DeSoto Parks & Recreation  
 Discover, Experience, Play!

# 42 ANNUAL HOMETOWN HOLIDAY PARADE

Deck your floats in all things that remind you of a Charlie Brown Christmas with you and your loved ones. The parade will begin at Seahawk Drive and conclude at the DeSoto Town Center.

## Saturday, December 6, 2014 @ 5:30PM

Applications for parade participation are available by calling 972.230.9655 or go to [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov)

JOIN US AT THE TOWN CENTER FOR REFRESHMENTS AND A MOVIE SCREENING OF "A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS"

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

### Food For Fees At The DeSoto Public Library

Do you owe fees for overdue items at the DeSoto Public Library? Would you like to clear those fees and do a good deed at the same time? During the Food For Fees drive which runs November 1, 2014 through January 2 2015, pay off your fees with food, household, personal, and pet food items. Each item donated will reduce your library fees by \$1.00. **Items will only be accepted for fees on overdue materials**, not for replacement fees for lost or damaged items.

The DeSoto Food Pantry or the Tri City Animal Shelter and Adoption Center will use these donations to provide assistance to local families and animals in need. You don't have to have fees in order to donate items – the library will gratefully accept donations from all customers!

#### **Acceptable items must be unopened, non-perishable, undamaged, unexpired, and labeled items including:**

**canned items:** soup, fruits, vegetables, meats (chicken, Spam, Vienna Sausages, NO tuna), pasta, cat/kitten food, puppy/dog food (especially cans with pop tops)  
**boxed items:** pasta, rice, cereal (12 oz. boxes or larger), baking mixes  
**household/personal items:** laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant (men's and women's)

The library cannot accept items in glass containers, candy, or home baked/canned items.

The library has partnered with the DeSoto Food Pantry in past years and is excited to partner with the Tri City Animal and Adoption Center this year. The library is planning programs in partnership with these organizations to advertise the importance of all of these services to the DeSoto and area communities.

### Prepare Today for Tomorrow's Job Workshop at the DeSoto Public Library

Meet Ms. Kimesha Coleman, founder of *A Friend In Deed*, on Thursday, November 13th from 10 am to 1pm at the DeSoto Public Library and learn how to identify your skills and abilities, gain tips on how to market your skills, and discuss strategies on how to match your skills to the job you're seeking. Ms. Coleman created 'A Friend In Deed' to help individuals through education, empowerment, and self-discovery to find their true selves and life purpose. For more information about this program and its services, please visit its website, [www.afriendindeed.com](http://www.afriendindeed.com) or email Ms. Coleman at [info@afriendindeed.com](mailto:info@afriendindeed.com).

This program is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

### Library Day is November 8, 2014!

The Quilters will be hosting a book sale and fundraising event on Saturday, November 8th from 9 am to 2 pm in the plaza between the DeSoto Public Library and Civic Center. Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase a 60" flat screen television for the library's lobby. We need your help to ensure its success!

Crafters, home business owners, or small business owners are invited to participate, promote your business, and raise money for the library, all at the same time. Booth space starts at \$25, and electricity for your booth is available for an additional \$5. Set up time starts at 7:30 am on Library Day. Exhibitor applications can be picked up at the library or [www.desototexas.gov/friends](http://www.desototexas.gov/friends).

The 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, call 972.230.9661.

## Did You Know??

That if an ambulance is called for a medical emergency, there is a cost to the patient for that service, even if the patient is not transported to the hospital?

A fee of \$125 is charged on all ambulance calls where the patient is not transported to the hospital, except for the following reasons:

- Persons that have been involved in a motor vehicle accident
- Calls made by a third party caller

As a resident of DeSoto, Duncanville or Cedar Hill, you receive a discounted rate when utilizing the City of DeSoto ambulance services:

- BLS (Basic Life Support) - \$825 – where medically necessary, the use of supplies and basic treatment not requiring advanced skills or interventions
- ALS1 – (Advanced Life Support) \$1,050 – Medically necessary paramedic interventions that include at least one ALS intervention (i.e. oxygen, IV, nebulizer inhalation, etc.)
- ALS2 - (Advanced Life Support) \$1,200 – Medically necessary paramedic interventions including chest decompression, surgical airway, three or more IV medications, etc.

A mileage charge of \$15 per mile from the scene to the final destination of delivery also applies.

We are happy to note that these rates have been constant since 2011 and there will not be a rate increase in FY2015. If you have questions regarding a fee for ambulance service, please call 972.230.9628

### 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.

## The Golden Voices Choir Fills the DeSoto Senior Activity Center With Music

If you have been to the DeSoto Senior Activity on a Tuesday morning between 9 and 10 am, you've heard beautiful gospel songs performed by the Golden Voices Choir as they rehearse. The piano keys render melodies from the fingers of four pianist (Edna Baptise, Glenda Baylor, Katy McClelland, and Birdie Smith) who alternate between the piano, organ, and directing on various songs. The drummer and lead guitarist add their special blend of music and rhythm to complete the sound. To watch the choir leaders during rehearsal is a work of art as they direct the choir, teach lyrics and harmony, and achieve the sound quality desired.

The Golden Voices Choir is the vision of founder, Christopher Tidline, who recruited five singers from the "regulars" at the Senior Activity Center back in January 2010. Those five are still singing in the choir today. Their ranks quickly grew to fifteen members and their first public performance was at the DeSoto's Got Talent show in 2011. Today, 41 members ranging in ages from 50 to 103 comprise the choir whose purpose is to be a cheerful uplift to participants. It also provides an outlet for participants to use their talents in voice and musical instruments and serves as a social venue for developing lasting friendships. All participants volunteer their time and talents. The dedication of everyone is an uplifting and rewarding experience. Participating members consider the choir to be a family and ministry. The members support and comfort each other in various ways throughout the year and gladly surprise audiences with the quality of sound and their enthusiastic, energetic and melodious songs of praise.

The Golden Voices Choir has been the entertainment of choice since 2011 for the DeSoto Senior Activity Center performing for all special occasions including Thanksgiving, Christmas, Black History Month,

Valentines Day, Easter, Mother's and Father's Day, and Independence Day celebrations. Their musical selections reflect the occasion. Having the Golden Voices perform for special occasions and gatherings has saved the Senior Activity Center who previously paid outside groups for entertainment. Their repertoire of songs includes the music of artists like Edward Hawkins' "Oh Happy Day", Olivia Branch Walker's "Brand New Life", Andre Crouch's "The Blood Will Never Lose It's Power", and Hezekiah Walker's "Every Praise" and "Mississippi Mass Choir's "Lord, You're the Landlord".

Everyone who comes through the doors of the DeSoto Senior Activity Center is considered a possible choir member by Chris Tidline because he is constantly recruiting people. "When you tell Chris you can't sing," said Glenda Baylor, "He smiles and tells you what a beautiful voice you have and ushers you to the choir!" Tidline makes it very clear that everyone is welcome who wants to sing or play an instrument and works to keep their numbers growing while enhancing the quality and diversify the music.



If you are aged 55 and older and like to sing or play an instrument, the Golden Voices invite you to join them every Tuesday morning at the DeSoto Senior Activity Center. For more information, please call 972-230-5825.



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](http://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](http://www.desototexas.gov)