

# DeSoto City Lights

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

## A Message From Mayor Pro Tem Denise Valentine



### ***DeSoto, What Do You Want To be When You Grow Up?***

It is the holiday season. Families unite, catch up over meals, play games, and go shopping. My youngest daughter came home to visit from college. Not only was it good to see her, but also to see her friends, DeSoto High School Alumni, who were also visiting from college. I found myself asking repeatedly: When are you graduating? What are your plans after school? What career are you preparing for? All the answers were good; no GREAT! "I'm graduating next month and hoping to work where I had my summer internship." "I'm studying for the MCAT so I can get into Medical School." "I'm planning to be a Physician Assistant." "I am joining Teach America." As families gathered across this All America City, the question was asked time after time, *What do you want to be when you grow up?* I am asking you the same question about the entity we know as our home, the City of DeSoto. *What do you want to be when you grow up?*

Why do we need to grow up? The income which fuels city government services comes from taxes. Currently our tax base is derived primarily from residential property taxes, followed by business property tax, and sales tax, in that order. The painful truth is our property values over the last three to four years spiraled downward, particularly residential property values. Even as we start to see stabilization, values are increasing slowly. What business can continue to provide the same quality of service with less income? Yet that is the expectation. What can we do differently in the future?

A vision is where you want to go, not where you are. A vision describes who or what you want to be when you grow up. Your City Council has mulled over this question many times. Our vision statement for the City reads: *DeSoto is an All-America City, rich in history, where people come to live, work, and play in a prosperous, attractive, culturally-inclusive community that is a destination for arts, family entertainment and sports.* Wow, take a moment and swallow that mouthful!

The last phrase of the vision says we want to be a "destination". We want to entice visitors and provide attractions which allow visitors to enjoy spending money while they are here. The DeSoto Arts Commission has a variety of cultural arts programming in the Corner Theater and other facilities at Town Center in the coming year. DeSoto Parks and Recreation is bringing multiple basketball, baseball, and BMX tournaments to our facilities and parks. In order for DeSoto to REALLY be a destination, we need to think bigger, better, and outside the box. My vision is to increase our taxable income by increasing the number of visitors to our city. This would increase the sales tax and business property tax portion of the equation and lessen the burden on residential property tax. I envision a convention center, event center, restaurant and family entertainment district, and semi professional baseball. I welcome the opportunity to share details of my vision. More importantly, what do YOU see? Share your vision through email to [dvalentine@desototexas.gov](mailto:dvalentine@desototexas.gov).

P.S. Congratulations to DeSoto U Eagles Football Team!!! (DeSoto High School) I will be there cheering you all the way to the state championship!

**Denise Valentine**  
**Mayor Pro Tem, DeSoto 972-230-3366 ofc or 972-979-3595 cell**



## City Calendar

### December

3 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm  
3 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
3 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall 6pm  
4 City Council Mtg.—City Hall - 7pm  
6 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm  
6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
6 Friends of the Library - Library - 6pm  
7 Tree Lights at Town Center - 7 pm  
11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm  
11 Special City Council Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm  
15 DeSoto Christmas Parade - 2pm  
17 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
18 City Council Mtg. - cancelled  
24 Christmas Eve - city facilities closed  
25 Christmas Day - city facilities closed  
27 Kwanzaa - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm

### January

1 City Council Mtg. - cancelled  
1 City facilities closed for New Year's Day  
3 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm  
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
3 Friends of the Library - Library - 6pm  
7 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm  
7 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
7 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm  
8 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
21 MLK Holiday - City offices closed  
22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
26 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner  
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

Is there a fire hydrant gushing water in your neighborhood like the one below? This is an intentional flushing of the city's water system done on a routine basis to remove sediment from the lines and keep the distribution system refreshed. This process may cause discoloration of the water for homes in the immediate vicinity. If you experience this, clear the pipes in your home by running all water faucets for a minute or two.



## Did You Know...?

That you can interact with your city while on the go?

DeSoto offers multiple ways for you to get information and even submit a service request right from your smart phone. If you visit our website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) from your phone you will automatically see a mobile version of the page. If you choose Watch Meetings Online under the e-services heading, you will find podcasts of past City Council and Planning and Zoning meetings both in MP3 and MP4 formats. Or go to Notify Me and sign up for text or e-mail alerts on the topics of your own choosing, including events in the Corner Theater, holiday trash schedules, newsletter postings and much more!

If you have an iPhone or Android, you can download an app that will allow you to submit a service request to the city in seconds. If you want to report a pothole, high grass or some other code violation you see, simply take a picture of the violation, choose the topic from a dropdown list, and hit submit. The issue and its location will automatically be entered into the city's work order system and forwarded to the correct department for action. In the iTunes store or the Android market, simply search for GORquest and download

the app. Other web enabled mobile devices, such as Blackberry, can browse the city website and use the mobile version of GORquest to submit requests. This app should not be used for emergencies or events in progress that require immediate response. For non-emergency events that require immediate attention, residents should call 972.223.6111. In the event of an emergency, residents should dial 9-1-1.

In addition, the Police Department offers an iPhone app called TIP411 for anonymously reporting crime tips. In the iTunes store, search for DeSotoPD to download it. And if you don't have a smart phone, you can still anonymously submit a crime tip by texting keyword *DESOTO* and your tip to 847411 (tip411). If you don't like to text, there is also a form online to submit crime tips, which is available through the city's website and the city's Facebook page.

You can also follow us on Facebook or Twitter to receive news and updates instantly, [www.facebook.com/desototx](http://www.facebook.com/desototx) and [www.twitter.com/desototx](http://www.twitter.com/desototx), or go to [www.youtube.com.com/desotocity](http://www.youtube.com.com/desotocity) to watch community videos.

### LEGAL NOTICE

The City of DeSoto public water system #0570006 failed to collect the required number of bacteriological samples for coliform monitoring of the water distribution system during June 2012. This monitoring is required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's "Drinking Water Standards" and the federal "Safe Drinking Water Act" Public Law 95-523.

Bacteriological samples are used to monitor water quality and indicate if the water is free of coliform bacteria. Our water system is required to submit 50 bacteriological samples each month. Failure to collect all required bacteriological samples is a violation of the monitoring requirements and we are required to notify you of this violation.

If you have any questions regarding this violation, you may contact Allan McDonald, Water Superintendent for the City of DeSoto, at 972.230.5725.

## Mayor Sherman and Kohl's Management "Walk the Halls" at DeSoto ISD

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, DeSoto Mayor Carl Sherman and Councilwoman, Patricia Ledbetter visited Ruby Young Elementary and DeSoto High School with representatives from the new Kohl's E-Distribution Center as a part of the Mayor's Walk the Halls Program. This program is intended to demonstrate staunch support for our schools by the city and business community.

"There's no better way to remove any barriers between city and school than to walk into a classroom with an investigative eye, zooming in on catching the best students applying themselves at any given moment," said Mayor Sherman. "This up close and in person contact with our young citizens provides an excellent opportunity and venue to connect what they are doing in the classroom with the overall assessed property value in this All-America City."

Kohl's Senior Human Resources Manager Brandon Handy, Operations Manager Michael Lockett and Vice-President of Distribution Reginald Davis joined Mayor Sherman and Councilwoman Ledbetter on the tour of the two campuses. Joined by Assistant

Superintendent Gabrielle Polk and Principal Becky Sheppard at Ruby Young Elementary, the guests visited with students in the lunchroom, classrooms, computer lab and hallways. Kohl's Reginald Davis even had the opportunity to read a book to one fourth grade class.

At DeSoto High School, the group was joined by Assistant Superintendent JoAnn Green-Rucker and Principal Thurston Lamb. They toured the new wing of the school, learned about the academy concept and heard about the development of the future associate's degree program at DHS.

"I have appealed to our local corporate citizens to join me in walking the halls of our schools and investing in them," said Mayor Sherman. "Kohl's accepted the challenge and has committed to make a \$500 donation in each school they visit."

"We are talking with other companies about joining this ongoing campaign of bold transformational development in DeSoto as one people riding on the same bus," Mayor Sherman commented. "Wal-Mart has committed to "Walk the Halls" with me in December," he said.



Mayor Sherman "Walks the Halls" with (from right) Brandon Handy, Michael Lockett and Reginald Davis of Kohl's E-Distribution Center and Thurston Lamb, Principal of DeSoto High School.

## Around the Library

### The Literacy Station

**Multi Academic ProgramS** (M.A.P.S.) presents "The Literacy Station," a learning enrichment program, at the DeSoto Public Library on December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 1 pm. M.A.P.S. is a hands-on, activities based, program for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders to build reading and vocabulary skills through literacy stations, fun activities, games and more! This free program is open to the public.

For more information about the program, please call the Children's Information Desk at 972.230.9666.

### Storytime with Mrs. Claus at the Library

Children ages three to ten are invited to enjoy storytime with Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 15 at 11 am in the DeSoto Public Library. There will be a special performance by the DeSoto Teen Spot Council. Immediately following storytime with Mrs. Claus, kids can enjoy a holiday movie. This program is free and open to the public.

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, please call the library at 972.230.9666.

**Ebony Scrooge** CROSSOVER ARTS PRESENTS:  
 By D.M.Larson  
 Music by Jon Raveneau  
 By Special Arrangement  
 with FreeDrama.net

Reviews: Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM ; Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 PM  
 Evening Shows: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> | 7:00 PM  
 Matinee: December 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 PM  
 Evenings: December 28<sup>th</sup> | 10:00 AM  
 \$10 - Adults | \$5 - Seniors/Students

Advance Tickets at Blue Cow Coffee Company  
 Order Online at ShowTix4u.com

DeSoto Corner Theater  
 211 Pleasant Run Rd. | DeSoto, TX 75115  
 desotoartscommission.com | 972-230-9250



DeSoto Parks & Recreation Dept. Invites you to join them for The Christmas Tree Lighting At Town Center on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Join us in the Courtyard at Town Center at 7 p.m.



For more information on Holiday activities, schedules and closings check out the City of DeSoto website at: [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov).

### Holiday Trash Schedule and Tree Recycling

There will be no trash service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Regular Tuesday pickup will shift to Wednesday, recycling will move to Thursday, regular Thursday service will shift to Friday and Friday trash will be collected on Saturday for both weeks. The normal trash schedule will resume on Monday, January 7, 2013.

The City's solid waste contractor, Republic Waste will be collecting live Christmas trees for recycling on Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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. If you have questions regarding your trash service, please call the City of DeSoto Action Center at 972.230.9600.

### DeSoto's 40th Annual Home Town Holiday Parade is Saturday, December 15th at 2pm on Hampton Road

The DeSoto Chamber and City of DeSoto invite you to join us for DeSoto's 40th Annual Home Town Holiday Parade scheduled for Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. The theme is *A Snoopy & the Gang Christmas*. Line up will take place beginning at 12:30 pm on Seahawk and Kestrel Drive in the Eagle Industrial Park. At 2 pm the parade will step off onto Hampton Road and travel southbound on Hampton to Pleasant Run Road ending at DeSoto Town Center.

During and after the parade, the Chamber invites you to join them in the DeSoto Civic Center for a Holiday Market and Santa's Workshop from 1:30 to 6 pm. Bring the kids for face painting, crafts, Santa photos and a special screening of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at 5:30 pm. While the kids are busy, parents can work on their holiday shopping list in the Holiday Market. For more information on the Holiday Market and Santa's Workshop, please call the DeSoto Chamber at 972.224.3565.

### Parents Night Out!

Parents, enjoy a night out while your kids are having the time of their lives with us at Fun Time Live!

Live DJ		Concessions
Sports		Prizes
Games		Friends
Inflatables		Wii Games

Fun Time Live provides fun, safe, supervised environment for kids in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade from 7-11pm Friday nights for only \$10! That's only \$2.50 an hour! An off duty Police Officer is on site for every event for your child's safety!

For more information:  
 214-492-9279  
 FunTimeLive.com – Facebook.com/FTLDesoto  
 Desoto Recreation Center  
 211 East Pleasant Run Road

  

Concerned DeSoto Citizens (CDC) in partnership with the City of DeSoto invite you to



**Thursday, December 27, 2012**  
 7:00 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Rooms at DeSoto Town Center  
 Admission is by donations of canned goods or cash/check to the DeSoto Food Pantry  
 RSVP by December 24<sup>th</sup> to CDC  
 at 972-230-1384 or [concerneddesotocitizens@yahoo.com](mailto:concerneddesotocitizens@yahoo.com)