

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

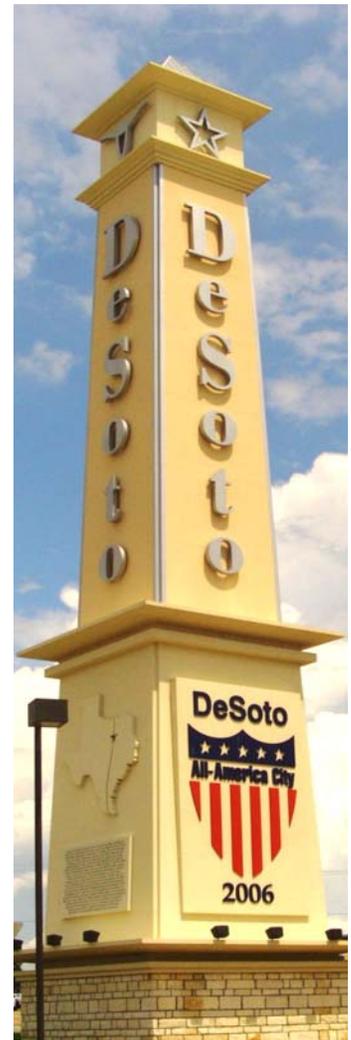
A Message From Mayor Carl Sherman

When citizens succeed and triumph in the world, so does our All-America City. We are all reflections of one people striving to create a more productive, agile and innovative city focused on building a healthier, robust and sustainable community. We demonstrate that by celebrating the successes of individuals like DeSoto resident and Olympian boxer, Errol Spence, Jr. Spence was the last hope for a medal for Team USA Boxing this summer in London and remained as the last man standing representing the most successful team in U.S. Olympic boxing history. While a medal was not achieved this year by Team USA Boxing, the City of DeSoto stands to recognize and applaud a champion among us, Errol Spence, Jr. Next stop - E.J. goes pro! Your community is behind you all the way.



One People. One Vision. One All-America City. Team DeSoto!

Carl O. Sherman, Sr.
Mayor



Voter Information for the November General Election

The DeSoto Library Assembly Hall, located in the lobby of the DeSoto Public Library at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, will be the location for early voting for the General Election. Here is the schedule for early voting:

- Mon. Oct. 22 - Fri. Oct. 26 8 am to 5 pm
- Sat. Oct. 27 7 am to 7 pm
- Sun. Oct. 28 1 pm to 6 pm
- Mon. Oct. 29 - Fri. Nov. 2 7 am to 7 pm

Voting on Election Day, November 6th, will take place in your precinct. The last day to register to vote in the General Election is Tuesday, October 9, 2012. Tuesday, October 30, 2012 is the last day to receive an application for Ballot by Mail. Consult the Dallas County Elections website for specific precinct information or to verify your voter registration status at www.dallascountyvotes.org.

City Calendar

October

1 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
1 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 City Council Mtg. Canceled for NNO
4 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
22 Early voting begins - Library Assembly Hall

November

2 Early voting ends
5 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
6 General Election Day
8 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
8 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
8 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
8 Adopt-a-Street Banquet - Civic Ctr. 7 pm
10 Library Craft Fair
12 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 Thanksgiving Holiday - city facilities closed
23 Thanksgiving Holiday - city facilities closed
26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm



DeSoto's new Fire Chief, Jerry Duffield, was sworn in by his son, John, during a recent City Council Meeting. Chief Duffield comes to DeSoto with more than 25 years of experience with the City of Farmers Branch.

Council Approves FY2012-13 Operating Budget

The DeSoto City Council approved the FY2012-13 Municipal Operating Budget during their September 18, 2012 meeting. The new budget keeps the City's tax rate constant at \$.7574 per hundred dollars of property valuation.

This budget was built assuming a growth rate in property values of 0% due to ongoing depressed economic conditions. However, service levels were maintained and in some cases increased. Additionally, City employees will receive a salary increase for the first time in almost three years, due in part to the restructuring of debt incurred from past capital improvement projects resulting in a more than 10% decrease in interest and sinking fund payments.

The FY2012-13 Municipal Operating Budget provides:

- A salary increase for City staff
- The addition of part-time staff in the Parks & Recreation Department to maintain sports fields and provide additional staffing for Moseley Pool
- The addition of one full time and one part time Code Enforcement Officer
- Reinstatement of a full time position in the Library that was eliminated when grant funds ended in 2011

- The purchase of benefit enrollment software in the Human Resources Department
- The addition of an Information Technology Manager at the Southwest Regional Communications Center and an additional part-time Customer Service Representative at the Regional Jail
- The addition of a Court Marshal in the Municipal Court funded in part by the Court Security Fund allowing the Municipal Court Police Officer to return to the Police Department

"Throughout FY2011 and FY2012, there was a plethora of notable achievements made throughout the organization to enhance the overall experience of internal and external customers," said Dr. Tarron Richardson, DeSoto City Manager. "Some of these accomplishments would not have been made possible if it were not for the exceptional hires made in several departments. Coupled with our tenured personnel, the City will be in phenomenal shape for the near future and beyond," said Dr. Richardson.

New Water and Sewer Rates Take Effect October 1st

Due to long-term debt incurred for infrastructure improvements, the City's water rates will increase effective October 1, 2012. DeSoto uses a three-tier rate structure, which encourages conservation by charging those who use less a lower 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 volume rate per 1,000 gallons of usage is:

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

The City of DeSoto purchases treated water from Dallas Water Utilities and our sewer is processed by the Trinity River Authority. The volume rate for sewer will change from \$5.12 to \$5.63 per 1,000 gallons. The base rate for sewer remains the same at \$6.51.

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

Do you need to get your gift shopping done?
Or even buy yourself a little something.
Then Join us for the

**Harvest
Craft Fair
& Market**

Saturday, November 10, 2012
9 am to 3 pm
at the DeSoto Public Library breezeway.

This event is a fundraiser for
and sponsored by the
**Friends of the
DeSoto Public Library**

For an Exhibitor Application
or more information contact us at
www.desototexas.gov/friends
972.230.9662

The Blue Cow Coffee Co.
Will be open!
Offering lattes, cappuccinos,
paninis, sandwiches, salads and
cold beverages for you to
purchase and enjoy!

Enter to win!
One of three gift
baskets
to be given
away!






What's New at the DeSoto Public Library?

October Computer Classes

Classes will be taught on Tuesday evenings from 6 pm to 7:30 pm in the Library's Venable Training Room.

October 16th - Computer Basics

Register on or after October 9th

October 23rd Basic Word I - (create and print documents, edit and print documents, edit, move, copy and format text) – Register on or after October 16th

October 30th - Basic Word II - (toolbar, shortcuts, workbooks & worksheets) – Register on or after October 23rd

November 6th - Internet Basics

Register on or after October 30th

Registrations for each class can only be made the week before the class. Participants must bring their valid DeSoto Public Library card and a flash drive to the classes. Because space is limited, registration is required. Please call the Information Desk, 972.230.9661 to register. If you find you cannot attend a class after you've registered, please call the library to cancel your registration.

Special Halloween Craft for Kids

The DeSoto Public Library invites you to join us on Wednesday, October 31st from 5 to 6pm for the Art of Halloween Mask Decorating. Just in time for trick or treating, children of all ages are welcome to create their own fun or spooky masks. Older children can shape and style their own paper mache masks. No registration is required...just come and have fun! Please call the Children's Information Desk at 972.230.9666 for more information.

The library is located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the DeSoto Town Center Complex. Free parking is available in the nearby garage.

Did You Know...

That bagging your trash is required by city ordinance? City of DeSoto Ordinance, Article 13.800 Garbage, Trash and Refuse, Section 13.807 Containers states: "Residential customers shall utilize a plastic refuse bag that is designed and sold for the purpose of placing garbage, trash, or refuse in it for disposal." All trash must be placed in a 20 to 30 gallon plastic refuse bag, with at least a 2-mil strength/thickness rating. It is fine to place bagged trash in a can or container. Trash must be out by 7 am on your regular trash day, however, please refrain from putting it out the night before to avoid having animals scatter it through the alley.

Bagging garbage can have a huge impact on the appearance of a neighborhood. When garbage is placed loose in cans or other containers, this

causes problems for our solid waste contractor, Republic Waste. Workers must pick up the can and dump it in the truck rather than grabbing a bag and tossing it in. When emptying the cans, garbage that is not bagged can miss the truck and be scattered along the alley or street. Please help us keep our alleys and streets free of blowing garbage by following this simple ordinance. If you have any questions regarding your trash service, please call 972.230.9600.



ART PRESENTS

CROWNS
by REGINA TAYLOR

OCT. 26-NOV. 18, 2012
MATINEE: \$20 | EVENING: \$25 | PREVIEW: \$12
Tickets: 972.572.0998 or aareptheater.com

THE CORNER THEATRE

Is a member of your family coming home from the military soon? If so, please let us say *Welcome Home.*

The City of DeSoto would like to recognize, celebrate, and thank our soldiers for their service. If you have a family member or friend returning home to DeSoto from military service, please let us know. We would like to recognize their service on our electronic message board (pictured below) which is located in the median on Pleasant Run Road. Please call Community Relations Manager, Kathy Jones, at 972.230.9648 and give her the name of your soldier. Thank you!!



Fire Prevention Week: Is Your Family Prepared?

Protect Your Family From a Fire Emergency

Create your free Safety Profile for 9-1-1

You can include:

- All household members including pictures
- Bedroom locations
- Utility shut off information
- Home access information
- Pet information

Your private Safety Profile is delivered to 9-1-1 only when you make an emergency call

Give the Fire Department and First Responders the information they need to help you.

5 Fire Safety Tips to Help Protect Your Family:

- 1: Cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Make sure to stay alert and keep a fire extinguisher close by when cooking or grilling.
- 2: Regularly check the function and batteries in your smoke alarms. Alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries.
- 3: Make sure to check the wiring and plugs on portable heating devices. Never leave them on while you are not at home. Half of all home heating fires occur in December - February.
- 4: Map out an escape plan for your family. Fire can spread rapidly through a home, leaving you as little as two minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds.
- 5: Do not leave burning candles unattended or under the attention of a child. Candles can cause both home fires - and home fire deaths.