

# DeSoto City Lights

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

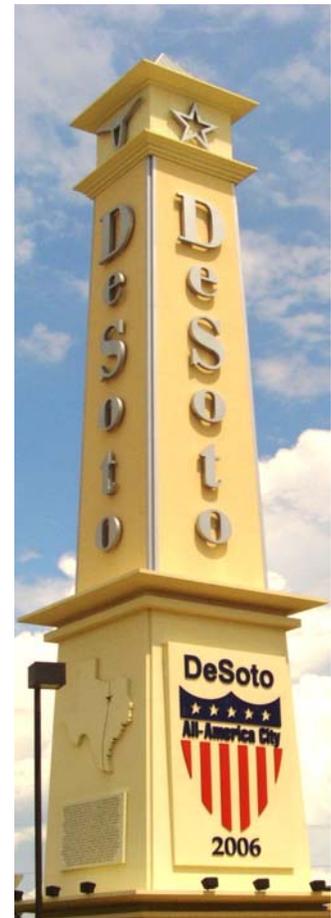
## FY2016 City of DeSoto Municipal Budget Calls for a Decrease in the Property Tax

The City of DeSoto has been overwhelmingly fortunate and successful in terms of its financial health. Over the past four (4) years, there has been a consistent tax rate of .7574 and two (2) bond rating upgrades from AA- to AA status. This was the first time in history that the City of DeSoto has received a AA bond rating from Fitch Ratings, Inc. and Standard & Poor's Financial Services, LLC. Achieving this new bond rating status was instrumental with the refinancing of existing debt. The multi-million dollar savings from these refunding opportunities considerably decreased future debt service payments.

Moreover, property value in the City of DeSoto continues to rise from an improved national economy. As a result of this increase in property value, the tax rate will be adjusted from .7574 to .7499. This new tax rate will be a reduction of .0075 from FY2015.

"Since my appointment to the position of City Manager in 2011, my Administration has been working tirelessly and with due diligence to improve the monetary situation of our community," said Tarron Richardson, PhD. The tax rate reduction and bond rating upgrades are just a few examples of the progress that has been made since 2011.

"As we move forward into FY2016 and beyond, the City of DeSoto will continue to implement a wealth of innovative practices in public finance to better manage its human and monetary resources" said Dr. Richardson. The success achieved over the years is attributed to our conservative approach toward budgeting and management of all public affairs."



## Public Hearing

Join us for the Public Hearings  
Prior to Adoption of the  
**City of DeSoto 2015 Comprehensive Plan**  
**At The Planning & Zoning Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 7 pm or**  
**At the City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 7 pm**  
At the Jim Baugh Government Center  
City Council Chambers  
211 E. Pleasant Run Road

The City's Comprehensive Plan is a document that is used to guide land use and development and outlines a shared vision of what residents and policy makers want the community to become. It undergoes periodic revision to allow it to keep pace with the community. The presentation of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan at these Public Hearings, is the culmination of a year long project to gather public input through Steering Committee meetings and other public meetings incorporating this input into the final plan. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to capture a vision of what DeSoto can become and is a long-range statement of the City's public policy. The public is invited to attend these meetings prior to adoption of the plan by the DeSoto City Council on September 15, 2015.

## City Calendar

### September

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 3 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm  
 3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 3 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm  
 7 City offices closed Labor Day Holiday  
 8 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm  
 14 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm  
 14 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 12 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner  
 17 Veterans Affairs Mtg. Library. - 6pm  
 22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm  
 28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

### October

1 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm  
 1 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 1 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 1 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm  
 5 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6pm  
 5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 13 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm  
 15 Veterans Affairs Mtg. Library. 6pm  
 20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 24 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm

### Labor Day Trash Schedule

Labor Day is one of the five holidays observed by Republic Waste, the City's solid waste contractor. As a result, there will be no regular trash service on Monday, September 7, 2015. Regular Monday customers will have their trash collected on Tuesday that week and regular Tuesday collection will take place on Wednesday. Recycling will be collected on Thursday. Thursday solid waste collection will move to Friday and regular Friday customers will have their solid waste collected on Saturday. The normal schedule will resume on Monday, September 14, 2015. If you have any questions about your trash service, please call the Action Center at 972.230.9600.

## A Message from Code Enforcement

The fence on your property should be maintained at all times. It is unlawful to allow your fence to lean or to have missing, loose or broken slats or panels. The fence is not allowed to have any symbols, writings or other graffiti except for signs which pertain to the address or occupancy of the property. It is prohibited to have barbed wire, hog wire, or chicken wire or to have an electric fence.



This fence, structure or gate shall:

- not be lower than (6) six feet in height, and not have any openings that will allow a four-inch diameter sphere to pass through;
- all gates should have a self-closing and self-latching device designed to keep gates closed and locked at all times.

A permit is required to build any fence on your property and can be obtained from the Building Inspection Department at City Hall, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. or by calling 972.230.9610. If you have any questions or would like to report a code violation in your neighborhood, please call 469.658.3075.

If you have a swimming pool, a fence, structure or gate is required to completely surround the swimming pool to prevent small children from inadvertently wandering into the pool.

DeSotoChamber.org

DESOTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# DeSoto Living!

2015  
A CELEBRATION OF LIFE + STYLE SOUTH OF THE TRINITY

september 24<sup>th</sup> 2015  
desoto town center

- live Demos
- fashion Show
- male + female Makeovers

tickets

10 | GENERAL ADMISSION

25 | VIP  
[hors d'oeuvres | beer | wine | massages]

vendor booths available  
contact the chamber for details at 972.224.3565



MUSIC BY  
**DEMARRE MCGILL**  
PRINCIPAL, DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



MUSIC BY  
**CALEB SEAN**



SPECIAL APPEARANCE + FOOD DEMO  
**CHEF GABBY MCBAY**  
ABC FAMILY'S JOB OR NO JOB



HOSTED BY  
**KARREN WHITNEY**  
SODALLAS.COM

## Race Relations - A Community Conversation

The DeSoto community offers beautiful homes, rolling hills, great neighborhoods and diverse people. However, like most American cities, DeSoto is at risk of succumbing to the cultural and racial divide that often separates us.

The DeSoto Dining and Dialogue (DDD) program was organized in 2004 as a means to have a community conversation about race, help neighbors get to know one another and foster friendships among residents. The program seeks to bring together a diverse group of individuals to discuss issues facing our community on a personal level. In fact, this program was a key reason why our City received the All-America City award in 2006.

DDD is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals of all ages, who live or work in DeSoto, the opportunity to get to know one another while having dinner and discussing topics of community interest. These dinner events are held twice a year in public facilities or private homes around DeSoto. The discussion is led by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit

thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community.

On September 12, 2015, the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program will host a special dinner event at 6:30 pm at the Seven Essential Elements Events Center located at 2012 N. Hampton Road. The discussion topic, "Race Relations - A Community Conversation" will focus on relations with our police department, faith community and school district. Representatives from these three areas will lead a targeted discussion on race relations around the country and how these interactions could impact DeSoto.

The public is invited to attend this free dinner event. However, you must register to attend at [www.desotodd.org](http://www.desotodd.org) or by calling Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.

The DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program would like to offer a special thank you to Seven Essential Elements Events Center for hosting the dinner at their beautiful facility. Make plans now to be a part of this important event for the DeSoto Community.

*The DeSoto Art League, in conjunction with the DeSoto Arts Commission, will host a juried photo contest and show that will be on display in the Atrium of the Jim Baugh Government Center (City Hall) during October, 2015. Cash prizes will be awarded to Best In Show, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. All photos must be 8 x 10" or larger and framed. To request an application or for more information, please call 972.230.9648 or email [kathy.jones@desototexas.gov](mailto:kathy.jones@desototexas.gov).*

### Photographers!!!



## Applications are Currently Available for DeSoto Cultural Arts Grants

If you have enjoyed a live theater performance, a classical or jazz concert at the DeSoto Corner Theatre, or one of the juried visual art shows on display in the City Hall Lobby, you have enjoyed programs funded by DeSoto's Cultural Arts Grants Program. These are just a few of the arts and entertainment opportunities made available to DeSoto residents by this program. Applications for funding are currently being accepted for projects scheduled to take place during the 2016 calendar year.

The Cultural Arts Grant Program is coordinated by the DeSoto Arts Commission. To be eligible for funding, you must be an active nonprofit arts organization or an individual affiliated with a nonprofit organization who can demonstrate sound artistic direction and financial management. Funded activities must take place within the city limits of DeSoto but your program does not have to be based in DeSoto to apply. Examples of previously funded projects include professional and community theater, visual art shows, gospel concerts, dance performances and classical and jazz concerts.

Applications are accepted from August 30th through September 30th each year. Application forms are available at [www.artsdesoto.com](http://www.artsdesoto.com) or by calling the DeSoto Arts Commission staff liaison at 972.230.9648.

Join us for an exciting series celebrating DeSoto's diverse taste in music, alternating each week from classical to jazz. There's something for everyone!

BLUE CANDLELIGHT MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS

**uptown  
downtown  
desoto**  
concert series

Baye Kakouberi

Felix Slovacek, clarinet

W.T. Greer

Damarre McGille, Flute  
Principal, Dallas Symphony Orchestra

Kate Cooper, Avant Chamber Ballet

**concert dates**

Sept. 13th	Avant Chamber Ballet [Katie Cooper + David Cooper]
Sept. 20th	Jazz w. W.T. Greer, III
Sept. 27th	Demarre McGille, flute + Steven Harlos, piano
Oct. 4th	Open Classics [classical music reimagined as jazz]
Oct. 11th	Czech Virtuoso duo, Felix Slovacek Jr., clarinet + Vacheslav Grokhovski Fr. piano
Oct. 18th	Big Band Jazz w. Matt Tolentino
Oct. 25th	Gary Levinson, violin + Baya Kakouberi, piano

concerts  
*Every Sunday*  
at 3:00 PM

artsdesoto.com



Mayor Sherman invites you to join us in the outdoor amphitheater and plaza at DeSoto Town Center on Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 10 am to 3 pm to honor our veterans at **Vet Fest**. The Veterans Administration is sending their mobile information unit along with a mobile unit that provides services for homeless veterans. We will also have food vendors, children's activities and lots of free entertainment until 3pm. Applications are currently being accepted for vendors or employers looking to hire veterans. For more information, please call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.