

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

DeSoto Swears in Judge Scott E. Kurth and Creates a New Court Services Department

“It is not only important that the process is fair, but that it appears to be fair,” said DeSoto’s new, full-time Presiding Judge Scott E. Kurth, after taking the oath of office in an investiture ceremony held on November 8, 2013, in the DeSoto City Council Chambers. Attendees included Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, the Presiding Judge of the 303rd Judicial District Court of Dallas County, the Honorable Denise Garcia, Mayor Pro Tem Patricia Ledbetter, Councilmember James Zander, and Councilmember Dick North. The investiture ceremony of Judge Kurth was presided over by DeSoto City Manager Tarron Richardson, PhD, who noted that the creation of the new Court Services Department within the governmental structure of DeSoto was “. . . a significant step forward for DeSoto to ensuring the City’s commitment to truth and justice for all is maintained.”

Judge Kurth expressed his gratitude for the support of the City Council, the City Manager, and the citizens of DeSoto, who he said, “. . . have embraced me and my family with their love and support for over 18 years,” referring to his service as an Associate Judge and Magistrate for DeSoto since 1995. During his tenure, Judge Kurth has been responsible for all of the jail arraignments, search and arrest warrants not just for DeSoto, but Cedar Hill and Lancaster, who partner with DeSoto in the housing of prisoners and the staffing of the Tri-Cities Jail at 714 E. Beltline Road, DeSoto, Texas.



DeSoto’s Presiding Judge Scott E. Kurth (right) was sworn in by the Presiding Judge of the 303rd Judicial District Court of Dallas County, the Honorable Denise Garcia (left) as Judge Kurth’s wife, Debbie, holds the Bible during the Investiture Ceremony on November 8, 2013.



City Calendar

December

2 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
5 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
5 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
6 Holiday Tree Lighting - City Hall - 7:30 pm
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
15 Holiday Parade - Hampton Rd. - 5:30 pm
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - canceled
24 Christmas Eve - City Facilities Closed
25 Christmas Day - City Facilities Closed

January

1 New Year's Day - City Facilities Closed
6 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
6 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
9 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
9 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
28 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm

Holiday Trash Schedule and Tree Recycling

There will be no recycling service on Christmas Day or New Year's Day and trash service will also be effected. Regular Wednesday, recycling will move to Thursday, regular Thursday trash collection will shift to Friday and Friday trash will be collected on Saturday for both weeks. The normal trash schedule will resume on Monday, January 6, 2014.

The City's solid waste contractor, Republic Waste, will be collecting live Christmas trees for recycling on Thursday, January 2nd and on Thursday, January 9th. 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

Are You Receiving A Senior Citizens' Discount On Your Monthly Utility Bill?

If you are 65 years of age or older, you may request a discount on your monthly water bill. To receive the discount, you will need to complete a Senior Citizen Discount Application and provide a copy of your driver's license. The form can be found on the city website at <http://www.desototexas.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/383>. It can also be picked up in person at the Utility Billing office located in City Hall at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road or the application can be mailed to you upon request.

The water account must be in the name of the person requesting the discount. That person does need to currently reside at the property for which the discount is being requested. Once the application is completed, either fax the information to 972.230.5795 or return it to the Utility Billing office. For more information, please contact the Utility Billing office during business hours at 972.230.9627 and press 7 to speak with a customer service representative.

For more information on Holiday activities, schedules and closings check out the City of DeSoto website at www.desototexas.gov and like us on Facebook.

DeSoto Swears in Judge Scott E. Kurth and Creates a New Court Services Department

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Judge Kurth has actually been working full-time in the newly created Court Services Department as the Presiding Judge and Director since October 1, 2013. He has outlined an ambitious agenda for his first year that includes, among other things, transitioning the Court to a paperless system that improves efficiency, cuts costs, and greatly decreases the time and effort necessary to process cases. To this end, the Court staff has nearly completed the scanning of all existing case files and will trade newly emptied filing cabinets for much needed work space. All new cases are digitally created, which has resulted in a savings in supplies and space. This enables the Clerks of the court to access the files on their computers instead of endlessly moving back and forth from their desks

to one of the many filing cabinets that once housed the Court's case files. Additionally, the DeSoto Marshal's Office has been reconstituted by the City Council and a new full-time Marshal will began work on November 25, 2013, to reduce the large number of outstanding warrants issued by the Court over the past several years. Judge Kurth asserts that serving the outstanding warrants is essential to reinforce the validity of the Court's orders.

In his closing remarks at his investiture ceremony, Judge Kurth said that his work as the Presiding Judge will emulate the finest character traits of DeSoto's residents that he has witnessed in his over 18 years of experience in DeSoto: "faith, love, compassion, grace, and mercy."

Court Services Department Offers Additional Services

PAY TRAFFIC CITATIONS ONLINE!

Avoid taking time from work and family by using the new online payment system recently opened by the DeSoto Municipal Court. The process is very easy and user friendly. Simply go to www.desototexas.gov and click on the "Online Bill Pay" button and follow the instructions. This new system will permit defendants to pay their current citations and even pay outstanding warrants.

GOT WARRANTS? COME TALK TO JUDGE KURTH!

DeSoto's a new full-time Judge, Scott E. Kurth, is generally available daily in the court offices from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Judge Kurth is encouraging any person with outstanding warrants to come and talk with him about resolving their warrants. He has promised that no one with warrants will be arrested when they come to the court to talk with the Judge about resolving them.



DeSoto Receives 2013 Excellence in Programming Award

On November 8th, the DeSoto Parks & Recreation Department received the 2013 Excellence in Programming Award from Texas Recreation and Parks Society for DeSoto's Annual Fro Fest. The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding, on-going program that has been offered for two or more years. Fro Fest is a joint venture sponsored by the DeSoto Parks & Recreation Department and Nappiology, Inc. which celebrates African American culture, women, natural hair and the health of the mind, body and spirit. The event has drawn more than 1,200 participants annually who enjoy a series of

experiences including a 5K walk, nutrition classes, health, wellness, and exercise demonstrations, national speakers, and a fashion, jewelry and hair expo.

Pictured above receiving the award are from left: TRAPS President, Brad Griggs, Chris Glover, DeSoto Recreation Manager, M. Renee Johnson, Managing Director of the Parks & Recreation Department, April Roberts, President of the DeSoto Park Board, Special Event Coordinator, Carolyn Campbell, DeSoto Mayor Pro Tem, Patricia Ledbetter and a TRAPS representative.

Storytime with Mrs. Claus at the Library

Children of all ages are invited to enjoy storytime with Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 14th from 2 pm to 3:30 pm in the DeSoto Public Library. Immediately following storytime with Mrs. Claus, kids can make holiday crafts and play games with the DeSoto Teen Spot Board. This program is free and open to the public. Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child in need.

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.

H1N1 Flu Information

Dallas County Health and Human Services and participating cities, including DeSoto, are working to educate the public about the flu and are asking citizens to take proactive steps to protect themselves by practicing the following:

- Wash hands with soap and water frequently.
- Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid others who appear sick.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes and nose. This is a common transmission mode for flu.

CROSSOVER ARTS THEATRE PRESENTS:

EBONY SCROOGE

A HOLIDAY MUSICAL

DECEMBER 6-23, 2013
DESOTO CORNER THEATRE
211 EAST PLEASANT RUN RD.



a Holiday Musical by CrossOver Arts Theatre | ARTSDESOTO.com

DeSoto Parks & Recreation Dept. Invites you to join them for The Christmas Tree Lighting At Town Center on Friday, December 6th Join us in the Courtyard at Town Center at 7:30 p.m. Event includes performances by the Golden Voices Choir, Hampton RBC Choir, NIA Kids, & CrossOver Arts Theatre. Kids activities provided by FunTime Live.



Presented by Communities for Kidz (A Texas non-profit organization)



LIVE

Police Officer On Site
Fun Safe Supervised Entertainment!

FRIDAYS!
1st-6th Grades!
7-10:30pm

Celebrate Birthdays With Us!
Call for details!

\$10 Admission

DECEMBER
PARENTS! DROP YOUR KIDS OFF WITH US WHILE YOU SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS!

Friday, Dec. 6
Reindeer Ring Toss!
FREEZE DANCE
SNOWMAN RELAYS
DESOTO CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CEREMONY!
BE HERE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A \$25 OR \$50 GIFT CARD!

Friday, Dec. 13
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT!
SNOWBALL RACE
BALLOON TOSS WITH CASH!
Reindeer Ring Toss!

Friday, Dec. 20
Tacky Christmas Sweater Nite!
SNOWFLAKE EATING CONTEST!
FREEZE DANCE
Tackiest sweater wins FREE Tickets or FREE Passes to FNL!
FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

CLOSED DECEMBER 27TH AND JANUARY 3RD FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
SEE YA JANUARY 10TH!



FUNTIMELIVE.COM 214-986-4326 FACEBOOK.COM/FTLDESOTO



Sunday, December 15th
5:30 pm

Parade begins at 200 E. Belt Line and will turn north on Hampton Road and continue north, ending at DeSoto Town Center. To participate or for more info, please call the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce at 972.224.3565.

JOY —OF EVERY— LONGING HEART

A Christmas Worship Experience

Presented by the Hampton Road Baptist Church Worship Choir and Praise Band
Free Event - Public Invited
Saturday & Sunday
December 14th & 15th 6pm

DeSoto Amphitheater
211 East Pleasant Run
(Located at DeSoto Civic Center)
At DeSoto Town Center