

# DeSoto City Lights

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

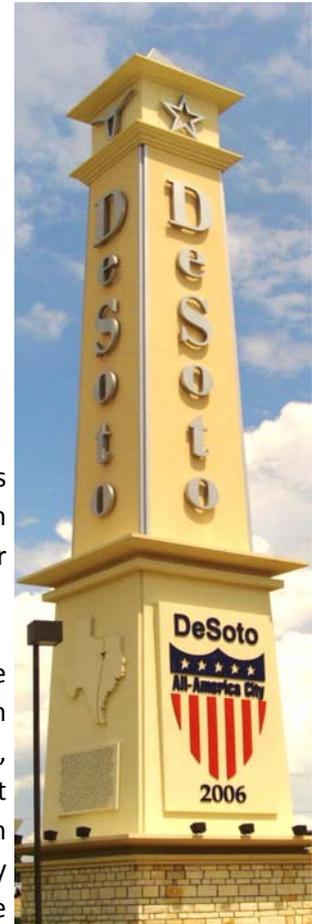
## Finishing Better Than We Started By Carl Sherman, Mayor

In the 10 years that I have had the fortune, blessing, and distinction of serving as an elected voice for the great people of DeSoto, the City has initiated wave upon wave of changes as it relates to our approach to economic development, to our fiscal policy and yes, even to our over-all City's culture.

Over the last few years, we experienced significant growth within every single revenue category. Beginning with the City's core revenue line item – ad valorem tax which increase from approximately \$21.6 million to the current \$23.3 million, to hotel occupancy tax revenue which increased from \$575,000 to a robust \$840,000, leading all Best Southwest Cities. Perhaps the most significant indication of a local vibrant economy is our sales tax revenue which grew by approximately 40% from \$7.4 million to the current \$10.2 million. The grand total market value in the City of DeSoto surpassed the \$3 billion milestone to a whopping \$3.3 billion market value. While the growth and change in our City has been transformative to our municipality's bottom line, I believe the most important change and progress has occurred in the job market. In the City of DeSoto the unemployment rate has gone from 9.7% in 2010 to the current low of 5%. DeSoto is the center of the job market in the Best Southwest with approximately 28,000 jobs within the city limits. Given these strong employment numbers in the All-America City of DeSoto, it's not surprising that our workforce population is larger than 7 out of the 11 other cities in the Best Southwest. Simply put, DeSoto's job market is extremely healthy and has brought home the money for local residents.

That said, the future for DeSoto is bright. While I could spend hours outlining many areas of growth and change, as well as areas of concern, I must conclude with the most important item being a special thanks to the many contributors of our bullish results. I want to acknowledge and thank Dr. Tarron Richardson, City Manager, for his steadfast focus on results and the improvement of the City. Thank you to the many City staff and community volunteers who work tirelessly to make the City a better place to work, live, and play. I want to thank

*Continued on Page 2*



## City Calendar

### April

2 DeSoto Dining & Dialogue - 6:30 pm  
4 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6pm  
4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
7 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm  
7 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
9 Candidate Forum - City Hall - 10 am  
12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm  
16 Recycling Event-Service Ctr.- 9 am  
16 Von Miller Day - DHS Football Field 1 pm  
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
22 Free Concert Roger Boykin Corner 8 pm  
23 HHW Event Pump Station - 9 am  
25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

### May

2 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr.- 6 pm  
2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
5 National Day of Prayer - City Hall - 7 am  
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
5 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
5 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm  
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm  
11 DPD Senior Symposium - Civic Ctr. 9 am  
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm  
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
30 Memorial Day - City Offices Closed

### 2016 Teen Summer Volunteer Program

The DeSoto Public Library is looking for teens ages 13 to 18 who would like a meaningful volunteer experience this summer by being a book buddy and reading to small children, assisting with the Summer Reading Club, becoming a Teen Techie, assisting with teen programs and activities or shelving library materials. To participate in this opportunity to give back to your community:

- Visit [www.desototexas.gov/library](http://www.desototexas.gov/library) to complete the 2016 Teen Summer Volunteer Application online or pick-up an application from the Information Desk in the DeSoto Public Library

Applications will be accepted through May 28, 2016. For more information call Marq Runnels at 972.230.9663



Jessie Williams of the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office pictured on the first row right, attended a recent City Council meeting to present a plaque recognizing the efforts of City of DeSoto and DeSoto Fire Rescue personnel who were instrumental in qualifying the City for the coveted Insurance Service Office Fire Rating 1X. The ISO Fire Suppression Rating grades water distribution, fire department equipment and manpower, and fire alarm facilities in determining the rating. In addition to Fire Chief Duffield and his staff, personnel representing the Public Utilities Department, Development Services and Southwest Regional Communications were recognized for their contributions to the new rating. "The Class 1 rating represents a cumulative score and evaluation of DeSoto's fire service, water system, and emergency dispatch," said DeSoto Fire Chief Jerry Duffield. "This team effort reflects on the dedication and determination of the leadership and personnel in these departments, as well as city-wide, to give the citizens of DeSoto the most effective and efficient service."



*The DeSoto Police Department  
Presents:*

The 19th Annual Senior Symposium  
and Health Fair on  
**Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 9am**  
At the DeSoto Civic Center  
211 E. Pleasant Run Road  
In DeSoto Town Center

The DeSoto Police Department is working together with seniors to enrich their lives and improve their community. This no cost symposium is intended to provide valuable information and access to resources for our senior community. Residents of DeSoto age 55 and older are eligible to attend but must register. Please call Officer Sherman Williams or Mark Howard at 469-658-3055 to register.

### Finishing Better Than We Started By Carl Sherman, Mayor *(continued from page 1)*

my family, especially my wife Michelle, without whom I would not have been able to serve the DeSoto community every day with a full heart. Thank you to my current and former City Councilmembers who made a series of deliberate decisions for the results outlined above to become a reality. And finally, thank you to the awesome residents of the All-America City of DeSoto for electing me, supporting me, and keeping me focused on our collective best.



Join us at DeSoto City Hall for the National Day of Prayer Observance as we pray for our city, state and nation. The service begins at 7 am in the City Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

## ***City Upgrades CodeRED System To Begin Offering Weather Warning Messages to Subscribers***

The City of DeSoto recently updated it's account with Emergency Communications Network, providers of the CodeRED high-speed notification solution and the CodeRED Weather Warning service. The CodeRED system provides city officials the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire city.

This system allows us to telephone all or targeted areas of the city in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action (such as a boil-water notice, missing child or evacuation notices). With the upgrades to the system, those registered will also receive automated alerts when you are in the direct path of severe weather.

Notifications will now be sent out moments after a severe thunderstorm warning, tornado warning or flash flood warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. Only citizens in the immediate impact area will be alerted.

You will know the call is from CodeRED Weather Warning when you see the telephone number 800.566.9780 in your caller ID. If

you would like to hear the last message delivered to your phone, simply dial the number back.

In order to receive these alerts you must opt-in. Register your landline and mobile telephone numbers and email address by going to the City of DeSoto website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov), clicking on E-Services in the top center of the homepage and then clicking on CodeRED on the left hand side. Your contact information will remain private and will only be used for severe weather and other city alerts.

For more information on DeSoto's CodeRED system, please call Fire Administration at 972.230.9680.

**CODERED**  
**weather**  
**WARNING**

Download the FREE CodeRED Mobile Alert app to begin receiving CodeRED notifications directly on your smartphone.

## ***Important Information on the Upcoming Municipal Election***

The City of DeSoto will hold a Municipal General and Special Election on May 7, 2016. Here are the candidates:

**Mayor Place 1** - Curtistene S. McCowan – (unopposed)

**Place 3** - Kristine Clark  
Deshaundra “Lockhart” Jones

**Place 5** - Marikay Dewberry  
Richard (Dick) North

**\*Place 6** - Candice Quarles  
Dustin M. Dauenhauer

\*Special election to fill an unexpired term.

All members of the City Council run by place but are elected at large. This means that they must reside in the district for which they are seeking election. However, all registered voters who live anywhere in DeSoto may cast ballots for that position. The Mayor may reside anywhere within the city limits and is also elected at large. If you would like more information on the City Council districts, a map is available on the City's website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) under the Government tab at the top of the page.

The new, permanent location for early voting is Disciple Central Community Church (DC3) located at 901 N. Polk Street. Here is the schedule:

Weekdays April 25 - 29	8 am - 5 pm
April 30 (Saturday)	8 am - 5 pm
May 1 (Sunday)	1 pm - 6 pm
May 2 and 3	7 am - 7 pm

On Election Day, May 7th, voting takes place at the DeSoto ISD Belt Line Conference Center located at 200 E. Belt Line Road from 7 am to 7 pm. For more information on the DeSoto Municipal Election, please call the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646.

7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CITY OF DESOTO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

# ★ MUSIC IN THE PARK SERIES ★

ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE!



NO COOLERS PLEASE



**Don Diego**  
Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 P.M.  
Town Center Amphitheater  
211 E Pleasant Run Rd  
DeSoto, Texas 75115

Don Diego is a contemporary jazz fusion saxophonist, vocalist and keyboard player who mixes instrumental covers of modern and classic R&B with rap and pop vocals.



**R. L. Griffin**  
Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 P.M.  
Town Center Amphitheater  
211 E Pleasant Run Rd  
DeSoto, Texas 75115

R.L. Griffin is a major figure on the Dallas Blues scene. Not only is he a fine entertainer and recording star, but he owns the R.L.'s Blues Palace #2. He is also a Disc Jockey on KKDA 730 AM where he spins classic blues and R&B tunes.



**IvorY JeaN Band**  
Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 P.M.  
Town Center Amphitheater  
211 E Pleasant Run Rd  
DeSoto, Texas 75115

IvorY JeaN spins across all genres of music and encompasses an eclectic musical style that offers something for everyone. Offering tunes from the musical genres of soul, jazz, funk, pop, and R&B, IvorY JeaN can rock any crowd.



**Taylor Pace - May 27th 8pm**

On Friday, May 27th at 8pm, the DeSoto Arts Commission kicks off their DeSoto Arts Live 4th Friday concert series with a special free performance by Taylor Pace in the Outdoor Amphitheater at Town Center. American R&B/Soul artist, Taylor Pace is a multi-instrumentalist who has deep roots in many genres. After graduating from Howard University in 2008, Taylor became the keyboardist for Grammy Nominated R&B Superstar Mario and recorded a song on Mario's 3rd album Go, which was released on the European version of the album.



**Crawfish Festival ★**  
Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 - 10:00 P.M.  
Town Center Amphitheater  
211 E Pleasant Run Rd  
DeSoto, Texas 75115

Come and enjoy tons of delicious spicy crawfish, great food, live music, vendors and games. Revel in the best Zydeco bands and enjoy the infectious rhythms of the Bayou. This will be a friendly, relaxed and fun community event.