

# DeSoto City Lights

## DESOTO CITY MANAGER MAKES THE GRADE: Brandon Wright Receives Prestigious ICMA Credentialed Manager Designation For Impressive Track Record In City Management

The Washington DC-based International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has awarded City of DeSoto City Manager Brandon Wright the designation of "Credentialed Manager." It's a recognition shared by only 1,300 local government management professionals worldwide who have taken part in the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

The ICMA credential is a prestigious designation for government managers. To qualify, a member must have accrued significant experience in local government as a senior management executive; earned a specialized degree, preferably in public administration or a related field; and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

"One of the most important ways for me to serve DeSoto effectively is to put integrity, process, and best practices at the center of working with the City Council, the public, and our dedicated staff" observed Mr. Wright. "This recognition by ICMA is a significant personal achievement as I continue to make sure that I am doing all that I can to provide residents the highest standard of government services."



"This is a win-win recognition for both Brandon and for the City of DeSoto," declared DeSoto Mayor Rachel Proctor. "For Brandon It's a great achievement to be recognized by many of his national peers as one of the best around, but it is also a significant step forward for DeSoto in terms of the quality of managers that we have been able to attract. DeSoto's future is a bright one and much of the reason is the exemplary leadership that Brandon has been able to provide."

Wright has served for more than 16 years as a senior manager in local government. Prior to his appointment in 2020 as City Manager for the City of DeSoto, TX, Brandon Wright served as Chief Financial Officer/Assistant City Administrator for the City of Davenport, IA. He also previously worked for two municipal governments in suburban Chicago.



# CITY CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
- 1 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 2 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
- 4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 4 KDB Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg.— City Hall – 6 pm
- 15 Topical Work Session - City Hall - 6 pm
- 16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
- 23 P&Z Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
- 25 Thanksgiving Holiday - offices closed
- 26 Thanksgiving Holiday - offices closed

## DECEMBER

- 2 Library Board Meeting Library 7 pm
- 2 KDB Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
- 6 Park Board Meeting - Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
- 6 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm
- 7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
- 7 Tree Lighting - Town Center Plaza 6 pm
- 14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm
- 18 Holiday Activities - Town Center Plaza
- 20 DeSoto Dev. Board Mtg. - City Hall- 9 am
- 21 City Council Mtg. Canceled
- 27 DeSoto Dev. Board Mtg. - City Hall- 9 am
- 28 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm

## CITY OF DESOTO PARTNERS WITH ISD ON SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM

The DeSoto Independent School District is identifying and registering students to participate in the tutoring program they developed in response to the City making up to \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds available. That program will serve 1,050 DeSoto third through fifth graders whose performance has been impacted by the COVID pandemic.

# REGISTER WITH NOTIFY ME TO RECEIVE PLANNING & ZONING MEETING NOTICES & MUCH MORE

Are you interested in receiving email notices of important meetings and other activities taking place at City of DeSoto? Sign-up for the convenience of receiving meeting notices through Notify Me on the City's website. Subscribe to Notify Me to stay current on projects going before the Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council. Notify Me allows you to register to receive email notifications on various topics such as information about upcoming meetings and agendas as well as many other City activities and events.

Notify Me is an email subscription list available through the City of DeSoto website that features over 30 departmental lists to choose from including City Council meeting agendas, Planning & Zoning Meeting agendas, the City Manager's Weekly Report, the City Lights newsletter and much more. City Departments issue electronic updates and notifications through this service to anyone who subscribes by providing their email through Notify Me. Subscribing is easy, just follow these steps:

- First, visit the Notify Me webpage on the City of DeSoto website at: <https://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/list.aspx>
- Type in your email address in the box and select Sign In
- If you want to receive text messages, enter your phone number and select save
- To subscribe, click the envelope symbol next to the List Name
- You can subscribe to as many lists as you like
- You will start receiving notifications when departments issue an update through Notify Me

If you would like more information on signing up for Notify Me, please call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.

## DESOTO CITY TUTORING

Grades 3-5

Sponsored by the City of DeSoto  
Facilitated by DeSoto ISD






DeSoto ISD, in partnership with the City of DeSoto, is committed to providing essential tutoring opportunities to its school community and residents.

All 3rd-5th grade students living in DeSoto City are able to receive tutoring services on DeSoto ISD campuses. Schedules vary by campus, please see schedules below.

<b>Ruby Young Personalized STEAM Academy</b> Monday- Thursday 4:20-5:20 PM	<b>Katherine Johnson Technology Magnet Academy</b> Tuesday & Thursday 4:00-6:00 PM	<b>The Meadows Elementary</b> Monday & Wednesday Grades 3-4 ONLY Tuesday & Thursday Grade 5 ONLY 3:45-5:45 PM	<b>Frank D. Moates Elementary</b> Monday & Tuesday Grades 3-4 ONLY Wednesday & Thursday Grade 5 ONLY 4:10-5:40 PM
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## Apply Now!



**Scan QR code to reserve your seat now!**

- Transportation provided
- Spots are limited
- Proof of residency and academic need will be requested in the application

# Keep DeSoto Clean - Fall Trash Pickup

On a recent Saturday, residents from across DeSoto spent the early morning hours donating their time and labor to help two great causes. The Keep DeSoto Clean Citywide Clean-up effort attracted civic-minded volunteers and Adopt-a-Street program participants to multiple locations to pick up litter and make a visible difference in the cleanliness and appearance of our city.



Volunteers with the DeSoto Citizens Police Academy Alumni Assoc. (DCPAAA) joined other volunteers to pick up trash during the fall Clean-up Event.

On the same day, Mayor Rachel Proctor led an effort to promote Breast Cancer Awareness while also collecting trash. Mayor Proctor served as Honorary Chair for the 6,000 Sisters, 6,000 Steps for Hope Virtual Breast Cancer Walk that not only raised money for a fantastic cause but her group also contributed to the Citywide Clean-up effort. The walk was technically a "virtual" one with participants counting steps taken throughout the day; however, those "virtual" steps produced tangible results as the



Mayor led a team of close to a dozen City of DeSoto officials who picked-up and bagged litter as they walked along the Roy Orr Trail and portions of Pleasant Run Road.



## HOA's Can Apply Now for a Neighborhood Grant for Entry Way Beautification

First created in 2003, the Neighborhood Grant Program assists associations and neighborhood groups with beautification and renovation projects. This program is a matching grant program, which creates a partnership between the neighborhood and the City to accomplish common goals. It is intended to strengthen and improve neighborhood associations, improve the appearance of city neighborhoods and cement the relationship between local HOAs and the City government.

The first round of these grants is primarily intended for entry way beautification. As a result, many of DeSoto's neighborhoods use grant funds for Holiday Decorations for their neighborhood entrances as they compete for the Light Up DeSoto Mayor's Award.

Applications for the first round of Neighborhood Grants are currently being accepted. Please contact Becky Lewis, in the City Manager's office to request an application or for more information by calling 972.230.9643.

**STORY TIME** @ THE DESOTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

**WEDNESDAYS** @ 10:30 TODDLER TIME

**THURSDAYS** @ 10:30 PRE-SCHOOL LITERACY CLASSES

# Free Food Distribution For Veterans & Military Families in Need at the DeSoto Food Pantry 400 N. Hampton Road

DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee is partnering with the DeSoto Food Pantry to offer free food boxes to veterans and military families. Call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 to reserve your food box.



## FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

— WE SALUTE YOU, —  
**VETERAN!**



Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021  
10am to noon

### CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS ORDINANCE FOR IMPACT FEES

In response to the City's Business Plan Goal to develop an Impact Fee Policy that has developers paying to expand identified infrastructure on new development, the City conducted a study which consisted of two phases to determine feasibility. On April 6, 2021, the City Council approved the adoption of the Land Use Assumptions (LUA) and Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) under which an impact fee may be imposed for water, wastewater, and roadway facilities within the City limits. The Impact Fee study was concluded in July 2021, and on September 21, 2021 the City Council unanimously approved an ordinance adopting impact fees for water, wastewater, and roadway facilities in accordance with Chapter 395, Texas Local Government Code.

### CITY COUNCIL APPROVES AN INCREASE IN THE SANITATION RATE

The City Council recently voted to approve an increase in the sanitation rate for FY 2022. Effective October 1, 2021, the new sanitation rate will be \$24.33 per month, which represents a 4% increase over the previous year.

The new sanitation rate will allow the City of DeSoto to cover the cost of providing sanitation services to our residents including:

- Twice weekly solid waste collection
- Once a week recycling collection
- Bulk waste pick up
- Brush pick-up
- Street sweeping
- Litter crew for collection along the city's major thoroughfares