

March, 2011



www.ci.desoto.tx.us
972.230.9600

City Lights DeSoto, Texas

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department



Mayor Carl Sherman Organizes Project Create Community

Project Create Community was formed at the invitation of Mayor Carl Sherman to develop a diverse DeSoto through revitalization, growth, and community involvement. A diverse group of people who live or work in DeSoto make up the Project Create Community Committee. Through partnerships with community organizations and businesses, Project Create Community strives to enhance the perception of DeSoto to potential new businesses, residents, and visitors.

"I'm especially proud of the work that Project Create Community is doing to attract and maintain diversity among our younger population," said Mayor Carl Sherman.

"Their work will be appreciated more in the years to come, as our older population moves on," said Mayor Sherman. "We are an All-America City and I believe our demographics should resemble the mixture and diversity that America has from the world."

The Project Create Community Committee has been meeting weekly for the past several months to plan activities that will begin to make their vision a reality. Their first event, Tuggin' of the Greens, takes place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 19th at DeSoto Town Center. They invite you to join them in celebrating St. Patty's Day with a Tug of War Championship for children and adults. Start forming your teams now for fun and prizes!! If you don't wish to compete, please bring your family and enjoy music, food, vendors and children's activities. For more information contact projectcreatecommunity@gmail.com.



DeSoto Police Will Host the 2011 Texas Police Games June 15-19th

The DeSoto Police Department will play host to approximately 1,800 visitors the week of June 15-19, 2011 during the Texas Police Games. The goal of the Texas Police Games is to promote fitness, camaraderie and friendly but fierce competition amongst officers.

During the Games, the DeSoto Police Department will organize and host more than 25 different sporting events including softball, basketball, tennis, flag football, weight lifting, golf, track and field and shooting sports. The events will take place in DeSoto, utilizing many of our school and park facilities, and surrounding areas.

The Texas Police Games are organized competitive events that enable commissioned police officers the opportunity to compete with fellow officers from the State of Texas as well as on a nationwide level. The Games are conducted annually and are open to all sworn peace officers, local, state and federal, who meet the specific requirements as defined and outlined in Article 2.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, the by-laws of the Texas Police Athletic Federation, and who are primarily engaged in law enforcement activities which center on criminal apprehension and detention.



This is a huge undertaking for our DeSoto Police Department and we will need the support of the community to make it a success. There are expenses involved in putting on the games. If your organization would like to sponsor an event or make a donation please contact DeSoto Police Officer, Cindy Mendez at 469.658.3055. For detailed information on the Games, including on-line registration, please check the web site at www.texaspolicegames.org.

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-ml strength/thickness rating. It is fine to place bagged trash in a can or container. Trash must be out by 7 a.m. 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. 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.



Do You Need A Helping Hand? Great Days of Service Can Help!

"Great Days of Service," a cooperative effort between the City of DeSoto, area churches and community volunteers, is looking for homes in DeSoto that need painting and/or basic repairs. Eligible projects include fence repair/replacement, mowing and tree trimming, exterior painting, window repair, installation of wheel chair ramps and other minor aesthetic repairs. . These homes must be owner occupied and the homeowner should be elderly, disabled or financially challenged. The work will be done by volunteers during the week of June 8th through 11th, 2011 but applications for service must be received by April 1st to be considered. If you know of someone who can benefit from this program, please contact Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689 to request an application for service.



CITY CAENDAR

March

- 1 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 3 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - Library Conference Room-7 p.m.
- 3 DAC Literary Café - Civic Center - 6:30 p.m. (see ad on pg. 4)
- 6&7 Broadway Our Way - Corner Theatre - 7 p.m. (see ad on pg. 4)
- 7 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 7 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 8 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 22 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 24 Board & Commission Banquet - Blue Bonnet Rooms - 6:30 p.m.
- 28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
- 31 Special Work Session to discuss CIP - City Hall - 6 p.m.

April

- 1 *To Be Young, Gifted and Black* opens in Corner Theatre
- 2 Sanitation Town Hall Meeting - City Hall - 9 a.m.
- 4 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 5 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 7 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - Library Conf. Room - 7 p.m.
- 9 CDC Candidate Forum - City Hall - 10 a.m.
- 11 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 12 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 16 E-recycling & Shredding Event - Service Ctr. - 9 a.m.
- 16 DeSoto's Got Talent - Auditions - City Hall - 9 a.m.
- 16 Easter Egg Hunt - DeSoto Senior Center - noon
- 19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
- 26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 30 DeSoto's Got Talent - Corner Theatre - 7 p.m.

Are You Interested In Filing To Run For A Place On The DeSoto City Council?

We are already gearing up for the May 14, 2011 General Election, for which, two positions will be on the ballot – Councilmember Place 2 and Councilmember Place 4. For more information, you may visit our website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us and click "City Hall" and "2011 Election Information" (direct link to page: <http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/election>). For persons interested in becoming a candidate for either of these positions, you may request a Candidate Guide beginning Friday, February 4th (the request is located on the "2011 Election Information" page on the website). Applications for a position on the ballot will be accepted beginning Monday, February 14th at 8:30 a.m. through Monday, March 14th at 5:00 p.m. Early voting for the May Election begins May 2nd. For additional information, please contact the Office of the City Secretary at LHallmark@ci.desoto.tx.us or by phoning 972.230.9664.

Do You Feel Safe In Your Home?

Feeling safe in our homes and businesses is of paramount importance to all of us. Here are some suggestions to enhance that peace of mind and the feeling of being secure:

- Install good locks on all exterior doors and windows.
- Have plenty of exterior lights including motion detector lights.
- Use interior lights on timers when you are not at home.
- Install an alarm system with sensors on all exterior doors and windows. Consider having smoke detectors, heat detectors and carbon monoxide detectors connected to your alarm panel as well. Placing sensors on gun cabinets and safe closets can also enhance your feeling of security.

If it makes sense to have an alarm system, then it should make sense to have it monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by your local 911 emergency center. Alarm monitoring is now being offered as a fee based service by the City of DeSoto's 911 Call Center for \$25 per month and \$35 a month for a fully cellular system. No long-term contract is required.

There is a cost associated with having your monitored system reprogrammed to be monitored by DeSoto's 911 Call Center. As a result, the city offers a \$75 credit toward future monthly monitoring fees to help offset costs you may incur to have your system reprogrammed.

There is no faster response to your alarm system than the response provided by your city. For more information on the City of DeSoto Alarm Monitoring Program, please contact 972.230.5248 or go to www.swrcc.net/alarm.



What Are My Choices?

Transportation choices allow flexibility in our daily routines and keep us connected. Whether you are heading to work, to shop, catching a flight, or transporting kids or your elderly parents, shouldn't you have a choice in transportation options?

DeSoto is concerned about the mobility of its citizens and is committed to providing the best to its citizens.

The City is currently conducting a study to consider the feasibility of providing public transportation options for its residents. This study will explore options that have been successfully used in communities similar to DeSoto.

Please visit our website for more details about the study. It serves as a method for keeping you informed, and also collects information about your daily travel routines along with your opinions about transportation.

www.desototransit.com

The Joint DeSoto City and ISD Tax Office Will Soon Close

School Districts and municipalities all over the country are searching for ways to cut costs while maintaining service for our customers and DeSoto is no exception. As a cost saving measure, the DeSoto Independent School District made the decision to move their tax collection to the Dallas County Tax Office. Since the overhead for the local office was shared by both entities, the DeSoto City Council has also decided to utilize Dallas County's Tax Office. As a result, the Joint Tax Office located on Belt Line will close effective March 14, 2011. Using Dallas County to collect property taxes will save the City of DeSoto approximately \$27,000 annually beginning in FY 2012.

We regret losing our local office but there are positive aspects to using Dallas County to collect taxes. Tax customers will be able to pay using credit cards. Payments can still be made in person at the Dallas County Tax satellite office located at 100 E. Wheatland Rd. (corner of Wheatland and Main) in Duncanville. The Duncanville office offers extended hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

You may also mail payments to:

John R. Ames
 Dallas County Tax Assessor-Collector
 500 Elm Street
 Dallas TX 75202-3304

If you have any questions regarding your tax statement, please call 214.653.7811.

Kids! Enjoy Spring Break at the DeSoto Public Library

Are you looking for ways to keep your kids busy during Spring Break? Bring them to the DeSoto Public Library during the week of March 14th through 18th for the following:

Mon. March 14th 1 p.m. – “Watch a Movie” for all ages

Tues. March 15th 11 a.m. – “Make a Day/Night Clock” for ages 7 to 11. Craft designed to teach kids about Daylight Savings Time. Reservations required.

Wed. March 16th 3 p.m. - “Tie Dye Craft for Teens” bring a white t-shirt and enjoy the fun of tie dying. Reservations required.

Thurs. March 17th 3 p.m. - “Jewelry Making” for ages 5 to 10. Kids can custom design either a bracelet or necklace. Reservations required.

Fri. March 18th 1 p.m. - “Watch a Movie” for all ages

All programs are free and open to the public. Please call the library at 972.230.9666 to make reservations or for more information. The library is located in Town Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Free parking is available in the nearby parking garage.

The City of DeSoto website is currently undergoing a facelift. Check out www.ci.desoto.tx.us in the coming weeks to see what's going on at the City. Also, follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

The
PREMIERE
destination
for the
ARTS
in the
BEST
SOUTHWEST.

DeSoto Arts Calendar 2011

- >> To Be Young, Gifted and Black by AART | Apr. 1st-17th
 - >> DeSoto's Got Talent | Apr. 30th
 - >> Salsa Dance Showcase & Class | May 7th
 - >> Woman from the Town by AART | May 27th – June 12th
 - >> Beehive – the 60's Musical | July 1st – 31st
 - >> DeSoto Indie Film Festival | August 5th-7th
- www.desotoartscommission.com



Project Create Community invites you to:
Tuggin' of the Greens
Sat. Mar. 19
10 to 2pm
DeSoto Town Center

Got Talent?? Audition for *DESOTO'S GOT TALENT* sponsored by the DeSoto Arts Commission

Got Talent? Do you, sing, dance, or tell jokes? Do you have a hidden talent you are ready to share with the world? Are you good enough to win \$1,000?

If so, come out and audition for the 8th Annual *DESOTO'S GOT TALENT* (formerly DeSoto Star Search) Competition. *DESOTO'S GOT TALENT* is a "just for fun" talent show sponsored each year by the DeSoto Arts Commission. This year's show is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the Corner Theatre at DeSoto Town Center.

In order to be a part of the show, you must audition. The DeSoto Arts Commission is holding open auditions on Saturday, April 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are seeking singers, dancers, musicians and other talented performers aged 8 to 108 for the competition. A \$5 audition fee per act will be charged to those who audition with the proceeds to be used as prize money for the winner. First place winners will be chosen in the following age groups; kids aged 8-11, tweens aged 12-14, teens aged 15-18, adults and seniors over 55. These winners will compete for the overall prize of \$1,000.

20 acts will be chosen from all who audition to perform at the *DESOTO'S*

GOT TALENT show on April 30th. First place winners in each age category will receive a trophy and the chance to perform at city events throughout the year.

Auditions are open to groups as well as individuals, however, an appointment is required. Each contestant will have five minutes to impress the judges with their talent. To reserve an audition time or for more information on *DESOTO'S GOT TALENT*, please call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.



ART AFRICAN AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER PRESENTS

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www.aareptheater.com

by Lorraine Hansberry

DIRECTED BY SHARON BENGE

APRIL 1-17, 2011

FRIDAY & SATURDAY @ 7:30 PM, \$20
SATURDAY & SUNDAY @ 2:30 PM, \$15

THE CORNER THEATRE
CITY OF DESOTO, TEXAS

211 E. Pleasant Run | DeSoto, TX 75115

A Message from DeSoto Animal Control

A micro-chip speaks for your pet, should it be lost or stolen. Ask your Veterinarian or the staff at Tri-City Animal Shelter about having your pet or livestock micro-chipped, today.

DeSoto partners with the cities of Cedar Hill and Duncanville to operate the Tri-City Animal Shelter which is located at 1150 E. Pleasant Run Road. If you have any questions regarding micro-chipping for your pet, please call them at 972.291.5335.

