

August, 2011



www.ci.desoto.tx.us  
972.230.9600

# City Lights DeSoto, Texas

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



## Council Corner: A Message On Water Conservation from Patricia Ledbetter, Councilmember, Place 2



During these consecutive 100 degree hot days water conservation is the topic of conversation. I could not help but think about my first understanding of the words conserve water. Growing up in rural north central Texas I had an education on water and its importance, when one year the Brazos River received an unusual quantity of water upstream, and it flooded downstream into the

Clear Fork. In rural Texas you had water wells and electric co-ops. Once the river water rose, you were cut off from electricity and therefore water. Drinking water was quickly retained in pots and pans, before the electric motor stopped on the water well. My concern at a young age then was not having water to drink, but how to wash my long blonde hair and take baths. I quickly learned there was a hierarchy of water use. One of which was not about my pretty little hair. I also learned that old adage *you never miss the water until the well runs dry*.

Extreme temperatures and lack of rain are resulting in widespread drought conditions in North Texas which have the potential to worsen as the summer goes on. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has encouraged all north Texas cities to begin to implement our drought contingency plan now.

The City of DeSoto encourages conservation through our water rates. In 2004, the DeSoto City Council adopted a three-tier rate structure for water customers intended to reward conservation efforts. Under this structure, water customers who consume less than 15,000 gallons per month pay the lowest water rate. Customers who use more than 15,001 gallons per month see a 50 cent increase in their rate per 1,000 gallons used. At 30,001 gallons of usage and above, the rate increases \$1 per 1,000 gallons over the base rate. This three-tier rate is intended to encourage the careful and considerate water user by rewarding modest usage with a lower rate. The structure also allows those who choose to use more water the ability to do so with the understanding

that they will pay more.

Residents are being asked to use water wisely by watering lawns during the cooler hours of the day between 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and only when needed. One inch of water every five to seven days is sufficient for most lawns. In addition, inspect all irrigations systems, make repairs as needed and limit the amount of water falling on paved surfaces. Please check the plumbing in your homes in order to identify leaks from areas such as: faucets, toilets and shower heads. Even a small drip can lead to an inflated water bill at the end of the month.

The addition of the Briarwood Elevated Storage tank a few years ago increased the City's water storage capacity to 18 million gallons. The City of DeSoto purchases water from Dallas Water Utilities at a rate of 14.5 million gallons per day. Our highest daily usage in recent weeks was 13.0 million gallons. Even with such high usage, we were able to fill storage tanks quickly. With adequate storage capacity, we can manage our water resources and costs by storing extra water on lower use days making it available for high use days. However, water conservation is a priority when we see so many 100 degree days in a row. We need to reduce usage during these periods to allow our storage tanks to refill.

Just as my parents had a hierarchy of water usage, the City of DeSoto has a water plan to protect the water we purchase from the City of Dallas so that we have what we need first, and then have extra for what is desirable for our lawns and lifestyle. Depending on the level of your needs, you pay at the level you use, if you use less you pay less, if you use more you pay more. DeSoto is not at the point of a mandatory water plan yet, and mandatory restrictions can be avoided by following these common sense water conservations measures. I encourage your voluntary usage restrictions during these hot days of summer and urge you to follow these suggestions, think about water conservation and have a reasonable usage level at your home.

**Patricia Ledbetter,  
City Council Place 2**

## City of DeSoto and JHP Architecture Receive NCTCOG CLIDE Award for the Town Center Mixed-Use Development

At their Annual General Assembly Meeting on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, the North Central Texas Council of Governments named the City of DeSoto and JHP Architecture recipients of a Celebrating Leadership in Development Excellence (CLIDE) Award for the mixed use development at DeSoto Town Center. The CLIDE Award Recognition Program, established in 2003, honors local projects and initiatives that are helping to ensure the region's prosperity into the future. These projects exemplify the mission of the Center of Development Excellence to promote quality growth in North Central Texas that enhances the built environment, reduces vehicle miles of travel, uses water and energy resources effectively and efficiently, and helps advance environmental stewardship in order to ensure continued economic vitality and provide the highest attainable quality for all residents.

The DeSoto Town Center was one of sixteen projects in North Central Texas recognized in the 2011 CLIDE Award Recognition Program. This award is given to projects that exemplify one or more of the "Principles of Development Excellence" established by the Center of Development Excellence in the categories of new development, redevelopment, special development, raising public awareness and public planning and policy. DeSoto Town Center was recognized by the CLIDE Award as a Redevelopment project because of its re-use of existing structures.

This facility was originally a strip shopping center which was converted into DeSoto's City Hall, Recreation



Center, Civic Center and Library in 1994. DeSoto Town Center is also the site of a mixed-use facility that contains approximately 38,000 square feet of office and retail space, 136 modern rental apartment units and a parking garage. This project is a public/private partnership between the City of DeSoto and High Street Residential™, a subsidiary of Trammell Crow Company.

"We are extremely honored to be recognized with a prestigious CLIDE AWARD for the DeSoto Town Center Project," said DeSoto City Manager, Tarron Richardson, Ph.D. "We would like to thank our partners in the project, JHP Architecture/Urban Design and Trammel Crow Highstreet Residential."

## CITY CALENDAR

### August

- 1 Poetry In Progress Mtg. - Library - 6 p.m.
- 1 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 2 DeSoto Night Out - 7 to 9 p.m. - City Council Mtg. canceled
- 4 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - Library Conf. Room - 7 p.m.
- 4 Special City Council Mtg. on FY2012 Budget - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 5 Special City Council Mtg. on FY2012 Budget - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 6 Special City Council Mtg. on FY2012 Budget - City Hall - 8 a.m.
- 8 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 11 DeSoto, TX Historical Foundation Mtg. - Admin. Conf. Rm. - 6 p.m.
- 12 Free Family Movie Toy Story 3 - Outdoor Amphitheater - 8:30 p.m.
- 13 Jazz & Spoken Word Concert - Corner Theatre - 7 p.m.
- 16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 18 Civic Academy Begins
- 22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
- 23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 25 DeSoto, TX Historical Foundation Mtg. - Admin. Conf. Rm. - 6 p.m.
- 27 Kid's Fishing Day at Briarwood Park - 9 a.m.

### September

- 4 Fireworks Show - Grimes Park
- 5 Labor Day Holiday - City offices closed - no trash service
- 6 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 8 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - Library Conference Room - 7 p.m.
- 8 DeSoto, TX Historical Foundation Mtg. - Admin. Conf. Rm. - 6 p.m.
- 8 Music In The Park-Gospel Night - Outdoor Amphitheater 6:30 pm
- 9 DeSoto Rocks, Battle of the Bands - Outdoor Amphitheater 5 p.m.
- 10 DDD Movie Night - Corner Theatre 7 p.m. 972.230.9648
- 12 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 19 City Manager's Golf Tournament - Thorntree CC - 9 a.m.
- 20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 22-24 DAC Independent Film Festival - 972.230.9648
- 22 Music In The Park-Country & Blues Night - Amphitheater 6:30 pm
- 26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
- 27 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.

## No Trash Service on Sept. 5th in Observance of Labor Day

Monday, September 5, 2011 is Labor Day. No trash will be collected. Regular Monday trash collection will move to Tuesday, September 7th, Tuesday service will move to Wednesday, September 8th, recycling will move to Thursday. Regular Thursday trash will be collected on Friday and Friday trash will be collected on Saturday, September 10th. The normal trash schedule will resume on Monday, September 12, 2011. If you have any questions regarding your solid waste collection service, please call the Action Center at 972.230.9600.



## Fireworks Show Scheduled for Labor Day Weekend

Our July 4th Fireworks show, which was postponed due to drought conditions, has been rescheduled for Labor Day Weekend. **Are you ready for some football?** Join us at Grimes Park, 501 E. Wintergreen Road, at 7 p.m.. Sunday, September 4th as the City partners with DeSoto ISD and our Youth Football leagues to host a huge Pep Rally in celebration of football time in DeSoto. Come out and meet DeSoto High School Football Coach Mathis and his Eagles and get them fired up for their big game at Cowboy Stadium on Labor Day. Free entertainment will be provided by DeSoto's favorite saxophonist, Don Diego, and the fireworks show will follow at dark. Meet us at Grimes Park on Sunday, September 4th to kick off Friday Night Lights with a bang! Call 972.230.9651 for more information.

## Construction Update

Development Services is currently working on Phase II of the Water/Wastewater Repair and Replacement (R&R) Project for 2012. This project includes the reconstruction of waterlines, sewer lines, streets and alleys in the Brookhollow Estates subdivision. Phase I is currently under construction. Phase II will include Valleyglen Drive (Hampton to Rock Creek), Highridge Drive (Hampton to Terrace), Bailey Drive (Hampton to Rock Creek) and Rock Creek Drive (Valleyglen to Bailey).

This project is scheduled to go out for bids in the fall of 2011 with construction starting in early 2012. If you have any questions about this project please call, Crystal Owens, City Engineer, at 972.230.9672.

## The Next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner is September 24th

Do you know your neighbors? Do you feel personally connected to the DeSoto community? Have you attended a DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event? If your answer to these questions is no, please consider this your personal invitation to attend the next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.



For the last seven years, DeSoto Dining and Dialogue has brought together people of various ages and backgrounds to discuss making DeSoto a more vibrant place for all. By connecting neighbors, the program seeks to build relationships among people from different backgrounds with the ultimate goal of sharing experiences and building a strong community; regardless of color, culture or class.

The purpose of DeSoto Dining and Dialogue (DDD) is to bring together a group of strangers who all have something in common. They all live or work in DeSoto and care about their community. DDD is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals the opportunity to get to know one another at dinner events with eight to ten participants. These dinners are held three times a year in private homes all over town on the same night. The discussion is lead by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community.

To keep the program strong, we need new guests to attend the next dinner on September 24, 2011. High School students are also welcome and can receive five hours of community service for attending. As a guest, your only obligation is to attend the dinner and participate in the discussion. Previous guests are also welcome to join us on September 24th. All you need to do it go to [desotodd.org](http://desotodd.org) and register or call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 to register by phone. We must receive your registration by September 11th to participate in this dinner. Make a commitment to build a strong community by attending DeSoto Dining and Dialogue.

Come out to the fishin' hole at Briarwood Park for the city's annual Kid's Fishin' Day on Saturday, August 27, 2011 from 9 a.m. to noon. Briarwood Park and Pond, located at 1625 W. Belt Line Road, will be generously stocked to increase the kid's

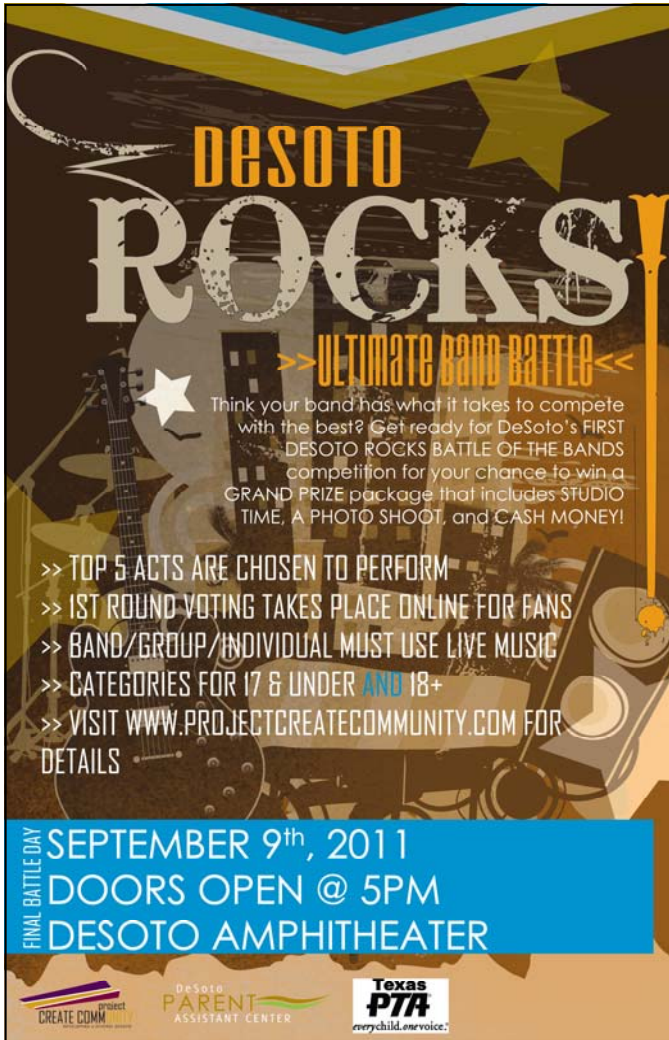
odds of a memorable fishing experience. Kids under 14 are welcome and must be accompanied by an adult. You can bring your own fishing gear. No fishing license is required. **If you don't have your own equipment, there will be a limited amount of fishing rods, bait and tackle available.** Volunteers will be on hand to assist you and your child in catching the fish. Registration is \$5 per child. Prizes will be awarded by age category for the largest fish caught. Applications will be available at the City of DeSoto, Parks & Leisure Services Department beginning August 11th or on-line at [www.ci.desoto.tx.us](http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us). You can also register at the event. For more information, call 972. 230.9651.



Look for storm drains in your neighborhood marked with this logo which indicates that this storm drain flows to the creek. These drains are meant for rain water only and are not connected to a water treatment facility. It is vital that grass clippings, fertilizers and other pollutants are not washed down these drains to prevent pollution of our creeks and rivers.







**DESOTO ROCKS**  
 >> **ULTIMATE BAND BATTLE** <<

Think your band has what it takes to compete with the best? Get ready for DeSoto's FIRST DESOTO ROCKS BATTLE OF THE BANDS competition for your chance to win a GRAND PRIZE package that includes STUDIO TIME, A PHOTO SHOOT, and CASH MONEY!

- >> TOP 5 ACTS ARE CHOSEN TO PERFORM
- >> 1ST ROUND VOTING TAKES PLACE ONLINE FOR FANS
- >> BAND/GROUP/INDIVIDUAL MUST USE LIVE MUSIC
- >> CATEGORIES FOR 17 & UNDER AND 18+
- >> VISIT [WWW.PROJECTCREATECOMMUNITY.COM](http://WWW.PROJECTCREATECOMMUNITY.COM) FOR DETAILS

**FINAL BATTLE DAY** SEPTEMBER 9th, 2011  
 DOORS OPEN @ 5PM  
 DESOTO AMPHITHEATER

Project CREATE COMMUNITY, DESOTO PARENT ASSISTANT CENTER, Texas PTA everychild.anevoice.



presents:

**Jazz & Spoken Word Event**  
 Saturday, August 13th 7pm  
 DeSoto Corner Theatre - \$5

Join us for an evening of cool jazz featuring the sultry sounds of LuNett Williams with Tovah, Aji, JLamb, Shane Blount & the TRUTH Band with Cameron Thompkins on sax and spoken word sponsored by Poetry In Progress. For tickets call 972.230.9648.

DESOTO INDEPENDENT FILM FEST  
 SEPT. 22, 23, 24  
**INDIEFEST**  
 972-230-9648

**Calling All Independent Filmmakers!!**

The DeSoto Arts Commission is hosting an Independent Film Festival. Cash prizes will be awarded for winning films in three categories:

**Shorts** (15 minutes or less), **Full Length** (not more than 120 minutes in length) and **Viewer's Choice**. Submissions must be received by August 22nd.

Please go to [www.desotoartscommission.com](http://www.desotoartscommission.com) for more information and application forms or call 972.230.9648. Watch this newsletter for more information on the public event to view these films which will take place on September 22nd, 23rd and 24th at DeSoto Town Center and the Corner Theatre.

Sponsored by DeSoto Parks & Leisure Services

**FREE Concerts!!**



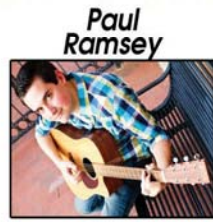
**Music in the Park**

**Starts at 6:30pm**  
 Concerts take place at the Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center (behind the Library) 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

Bring your lawn chairs!

**Sept 8th**

Gospel & Jazz Night



**Sept 22**

Country & Blues Night



For more information contact Carolyn Campbell (972) 230-9651



presents:

**Free Family Movie Night**  
 Friday, Aug. 12th  
 8:30 pm

DeSoto Town Center Outdoor Amphitheater (behind the Library)



Bring the kids and your lawn chairs! Snow cones, hot dogs and other snacks for sale.

(Movie provided by Swank Motion Pictures.)