DeSoto News Flash

For the Week of June 20th
through June 22nd, 2012

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DeSoto is partnering again with Lancaster as they host the annual Fireworks show. Make plans to be in Lancaster on July 4th!!

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Each year the DeSoto Public Library plans a full range of free activities for kids that promote reading and fun learning experiences over the summer. Here's what's scheduled this year:

Summer Reading Kick-off - June 6th 1 -3pm Library Assembly Hall
Bring the kids to enjoy the petting zoo, a bounce house, pony rides and fun with Hello Kitty and Sponge Bob.

Princess and the Pea Puppet Show by Sandy Shrout June 11th 11am -
Library Assembly Hall

Anime Club - For kids aged 10 to 14. Meets weekly from June 14th through July 26th. Club members enjoy an introduction to a new Anime Series accompanied by a craft, activity or Yu-gi-oh card battling.

Computer Classes – June 20 & 27 & July 11 School aged kids will experience the resources available through the library's webpage.

Summer Crafts - June 13, 20 & 27 & July 18 & 25 - 1pm Library Assembly Hall. Pre-school and school aged kids enjoy jewelry making, yarn lacing, paper plane making, macaroni art and basket weaving.

Beginners & Competitors Chess Clubs - June 11, 18, 25 and July 3, 9, 16, 23 in the Library Assembly Hall. Beginners aged 7 to 12 learn the basics of chess and those with a knowledge of pieces and moves will learn to compete.

M.A.P.S. (Multi-Academic Programs) Tutoring Program - June 11, 18,25 & July 2, 9, 16, 23 30 4:30 pm at 4:30 pm in the Children's Area.

For more information, please call 972.230.9666.

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The DeSoto Public Library Is Offering FREE Computer Classes!

Classes will be taught on Tuesday evenings from 6 pm. – 7:30 pm. in the Library's Venable Training Room.

July 10th — Computer Basics – **Register on or after July 3rd**

July 17th — Basic Word (create and print documents, edit, move, copy, and format text) **Register on or after July 10th**

July 24th — Basic Excel (toolbar, shortcuts, workbooks, & worksheets) **Register on or after July 17th**

July 31st — Internet Basics – **Register on or after July 24th**

Registrations for each class can only be made the week before each class. Participants must bring their valid DeSoto Public Library card and a flash drive to the classes. Because space is limited, registration is required. Please call the Information Desk, 972.230.9661 to register for these classes. If you find you cannot attend a class after you've registered, please call the library to cancel your registration.

The library is located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the DeSoto Town Center Complex. Free parking is available in the nearby garage.

Summer Book Buddies Program starts June 18th

The DeSoto Public Library will launch their Summer Book Buddies Program on June 18, 2012. This program matches children with a teen reading buddy with the goal of helping kids realize that reading is the key to their success. Each Monday from 10:15 am to 11:15 am, teen volunteers read with their buddies for 45 minutes and do enrichment activities for 15 minutes during the six week program. If you are interested in having your child participate, please register them by June 18th. Space is limited. The library is also seeking Early Childhood Development Programs to participate in the Summer Book Buddies Program. To register their participation or for more information, please call the Library at 972.230.9661.

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The Next Session of the DeSoto Civic Academy Begins in August

The DeSoto Civic Academy is looking for participants for their next session which begins in August. The academy includes eleven weekly sessions each hosted by a different City department or group. Each class is designed to allow participants to experience first hand how our City operates.

In the first session, participants will hear from City Management about their duties and responsibilities. Next you'll visit the Police Department to tour their facilities including the jail. These sessions are hands-on and participants will have the opportunity to operate a radar gun and walk through shoot/don't shoot scenarios. Development Service allows the group to operate the street sweeper and see their heavy equipment. Finance will show how the budget is built and the final class is a mock City Council meeting where class participants play the parts of Mayor, Councilmembers, citizens and staff.
The academy is free and includes dinner at each class. To attend or for more information, call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689.

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Now is the Time to Start Planning your Neighborhood Party for DESOTO NIGHT OUT!!

Since 1984, the first Tuesday in August of each year has been designated as a special community night out against crime. This special night involves citizens, City officials, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, and neighborhood organizations from communities throughout the United States and Canada. **The City of DeSoto has designated the first Tuesday in August as *DESOTO NIGHT OUT*. This special night is designed to:**

- Heighten crime prevention efforts and community awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police - community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and are fighting back.

On August 7th during **DESOTO NIGHT OUT** ask your neighbors to have their outdoor lights on, particularly during the hours of 7 to 9 p.m. This event encourages people to come out of their homes, apartments and condos to meet and become acquainted with their neighbors. **DESOTO Night Out** provides a great opportunity for HOAs, neighborhood associations and crime watch groups to organize and "take a bite out of crime" The DeSoto Police encourage you to plan:

- Block parties
- Cookouts
- Ice cream socials
- Visits from local police and City officials
- Contests, games
- Youth programs

For more information about organizing your Night Out event, go tohttp://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno. If you would like a visit from a City official during your event, please contact Officer Cindy Mendez at 469-658-3055 or cmendez@desototexas.gov with your event details.

We look forward to seeing you on August 7!