

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner, A Message From Patricia Ledbetter, City Councilmember Place 2

I recently took one of my best friends to Paris to the Eiffel Tower for her seventieth birthday and while there took her on a side trip to Versailles. We shared lunch in the wooded garden by the water pond in an old building which housed the glass makers from Venice. This building was recently converted to a restaurant. The garden area of Versailles was the model for the Washington Memorial in our nation's capital. If you read the history of that pool and garden area it required a vision. It took approximately 30,000 workers over several years, and cost many francs in 1682 to create a unique open space of more than 200,000 trees and fountains and wildlife for those that owned and visited one of the world's largest palaces. The benefit of which was a quality rejuvenation and view.

I loved being the American viewing it in 2012 as a common open space of nature. Americans have natural landmarks in their parks and trail systems. They promote leisure pursuits, healthy lifestyles and are a cultural resource. That train of thought brought me ultimately back to our All America City of DeSoto, where we too have unique areas for open space in the 10 parks, Windmill Hill Nature Trail and Roy Orr Trail, places of recreation and meditations of nature along Ten Mile Creek. This amounts to 566 acres and 3.6 miles of parks and trail systems. It too required a vision, workers, money and time with an understanding of the benefit to the community it served.

In DeSoto, the city council seeks advice and master planning from the Parks Development Corporation. This corporation, made up of seven members appointed by council, govern the 1/8th cent of funding derived from the 4B sales taxes returned to us from the State of Texas. The Parks Board can issue debt and match funds from Texas Parks and Wildlife; and, through their advice improve our parks and open spaces. The City of DeSoto strives to stay abreast of the trends and important requirements to a successful facility and park services.

This year, DeSoto's Parks and Recreation Department will begin a certification process with the National Recreation and Park Association's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This process helps us take a look at ourselves through someone else's eyes. While we think we are the best, the accreditation lets us know we are. It is a process that can improve program outcomes, guide us into the future, and help us keep up with changing demands. It asks:

- what the community needs are
- what are the trends
- is there a shift in demographics
- how to plan and budget successful outcomes

Cont. on page two



Sunday, September 9th at 6pm
Hampton Road Baptist Church
400 N. Hampton Road - DeSoto
EDUCT Fire and Police Departments invite the public to a special 9/11 memorial service featuring local honor guards, Pipes & Drums performances and comments from a 9/11 Survivor. NEVER FORGET!

City Calendar

September

3 Labor Day Holiday - city offices closed
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
6 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
8 LuNett Williams Concert - Corner Theatre
10 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
10 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
10 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
12 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
15 Latino Fiesta DeSoto - Plaza noon to 4pm
18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
24 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
29 DeSoto Dining & Dialogue Dinner

October

1 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
1 Arts Commission Mtg. - DHS - 6 pm
1 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
4 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
11 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
23 P&Z Mtg. 7pm City Hall

New Financial Transparency/ Open Government Page on City's website

The City of DeSoto evidenced a commitment to open government and financial transparency by unveiling a new webpage which consolidates the City's financial information in one location. The webpage includes links to the following:

- Current and past city budgets
- Comprehensive annual financial reports and monthly financial reports
- Check registers, budget charts
- Tax rates, contract information
- Meeting agendas
- Videos of live and archived City Council and P&Z meetings
- The City Charter
- Open record request information
- Public documents
- City ordinances

This page is located at www.desototexas.gov. Look for a link under the News & Events section on the homepage.

West Nile Update

Trucks provided by the Department of State Health Services provided three full rounds of fogging for West Nile mosquitoes on August 16, 18 and 18, 2012. DeSoto's Mayor, Carl Sherman and Environmental Health Specialist, Jimmy Stephens, authorized the fogging in line with recommendations from the DSHS and CDC that require three consecutive days of spraying to eliminate all stages of the mosquito life cycle and produce a 90% kill rate.

West Nile Mosquitoes can remain active into the fall. The best way to protect yourself from contracting West Nile Virus is not to provide a breeding source for mosquitos near your home. That can be accomplished by following these suggestions:

- Repair any leaking plumbing and outside faucets.
- Get rid of all standing water.
- Empty, remove, cover or turn upside down any receptacle/container that will

hold standing water (gutters, bottles, cans, tires, buckets, flower pots, etc.)

- Change water in pet dishes, wading pools, and birdbaths daily.
- Cover trash containers so they will not collect water.

Contrary to popular belief, creeks and green swimming pools are not likely harborage areas for mosquitoes. They prefer small containers out of the sun and wind. A three inch potted plant tray can produce hundreds of mosquito larvae.

The City of DeSoto will provide regular updates on the West Nile situation through our website at www.desototexas.gov and our City Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/desototx>. For more information about mosquito activities in Dallas County, call the DCHHS Environmental Health Division at 214 819-2115 or visit www.dallascounty.org. For specific information regarding DeSoto, please call Jimmy Stephens at City of DeSoto, 972.230.9600.

Cont. from page one - A Message from Patricia Ledbetter, City Councilmember Place 2

The steps for accreditation are: review what we have, have community buy-in, submit the application, organize a team, have a self assessment, expect a visiting team, attend a hearing and receive the accreditation. There are 150 standards in 10 categories. The outcome in best practices is the promise of quality and collaboration, better parks and healthier communities.

Please continue to keep in touch with the city and the Parks and Recreation Department, and make your suggestions and ideas known. We benefit when we visit our parks with our family reunions, play our sports games, and walk the nature trails. If you enjoy the movies at Moseley Pool or on the lawn, or attend concerts at the amphitheater and senior center, please let us know. Stay in touch with us by checking out the website for information on what is happening in our city and attend events throughout the year. The website is www.desototexas.gov. Encourage us by "liking" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/desototx#!/DeSotoRec.

Our parks and trails allow me to have a "Versailles" moment all year round. I trust that the value of what we have in our city will impact your lives and future with a healthy community. One of my favorite Presidents, Teddy Roosevelt said it well "*While my interest in nature has added very little to my sum of achievement, it has added immeasurably to my sum of enjoyment in life.*"

Patricia Ledbetter City Councilmember, Place 2

Would you like to serve on a City Board or Commission?

Would you like to be a part of the decision making process in your community? If so, why not apply to serve on one of the city's standing boards or commissions. All board and commission appointments are made by members of the City Council through an interview process. To be eligible to serve, applicants must be residents of the City of DeSoto for at least one year prior to their appointment and remain in the city during their tenure.

Applications are currently being accepted for the following:

- Building and Standards Commission
- DeSoto Economic Development Corporation
- Library Advisory Board
- Park Development Corporation

- Planning & Zoning
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

There are also vacancies on the following boards that are place-specific appointments and will not be appointed through the Council interview process:

- DeSoto Arts Commission
- DeSoto, Texas Historical Foundation
- Keep DeSoto Beautiful

Applications are also being accepted for these positions.

Applications are available on the city website at www.desototexas.gov or by calling the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9664. The deadline to receive completed applications is September 21, 2012.

What's New at the DeSoto Public Library?

September Computer Classes

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

Sept. 11th - Computer Basics – Register by Sept. 4

Sept. 18th - Basic Excel I (create and print documents, edit and print documents, edit, move, copy and format text) – Register by Sept. 11

Sept. 25th - Basic Excel II (toolbar, shortcuts, workbooks & worksheets – Register by Sept. 18th

Oct. 2nd - Internet Basics – Register by Sept. 25th

Participants must bring their valid DeSoto Public Library card and a flash drive to the classes. Space is limited and registration is required. Please call the Information Desk, 972.230.9661 to register.

Spanish Language Classes

The DeSoto Public Library is excited to offer Spanish language classes for adults, starting Tuesday, Sept. 4 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. This six week course is geared to help beginning Spanish learners to speak, read, and write in Spanish. Each class will be taught in English and Spanish. The required textbook is \$10 and can be purchased from the teacher at the first class. The Language Ladders Program was founded and will be taught by Erica Kennard, a librarian, former bilingual teacher, and former "Teacher of the Year" at two Dallas ISD schools.

Because the class size is limited to 20 persons, registration is required, and registration is for all six classes. Please call the library's Information Desk at 972.230.9661 to register.



"Connecting Neighbors!"

Do you know your neighbors?

Do you feel connected to the DeSoto Community? Have you ever attended a DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event? If your answer to any of these questions is no, please take this as personal invitation to attend our next free dinner event on September 29, 2012. We will discuss issues of special interest to newcomers to DeSoto and anyone wanting to know more about this special city we call home. Be a part of this informative discussion.

Topic: *The Future of Education in DeSoto*

Join us for dinner and discussion:

**Saturday, September 29, 2012
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

For more information and to register go to:

www.desotodd.org

**or call Kathy Jones at
972-230-9648**

Deadline to register is Sept. 17th!

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals of all ages, who live or work in DeSoto, the opportunity to get to know one another at private dinner events. These dinners are held three times a year in homes all over town. The discussion is lead by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community.

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is primarily successful because families are willing to open their homes and host a dinner for a diverse group of citizens at their own expense. Facilitators and other volunteers willingly give of their time and expertise because they believe in the program. However, we need continuing community participation to keep the program strong. Join us in building a strong community.

Please feel free to forward this invitation to anyone who lives and/or works in the City of DeSoto!

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Join us as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Fiesta Latino DeSoto on Saturday, September 15th from noon to 4pm at the DeSoto Corner Theatre and Plaza at Town Center

The sights and sounds of Mariachis, Ballet Folklorico Dancers, African and Latin Drummers and more will fill the DeSoto Corner Theatre on September 15th for Fiesta Latino DeSoto. The public is invited to browse vendor and food booths, receive information on the Dreamer Policy from local attorneys, and view an exhibit of photography by Pablo Esparza and sculpture by Tomas Butos. There will be a special performance by local favorites, Anthony & Sarah Garza and the Ballet Folklorico of Dallas. Bring your drums and join in the drum circle led by Bandan Koro. This family event is free. For more information call 972.230.9648.



CAPOEIRA
BALLET FOLKLORICO OF DALLAS
ANTHONY & SARAH GARCIA
MOISES RUIZ'S MARIACHI

Fiesta
Latino DESOTO

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15th 2012 NOON TO 4:00
AT THE DESOTO TOWN CENTER

Visit DESOTOARTSCOMMISSION.COM for details

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

DeSoto City Manager's Corporate
Golf Challenge

Benefiting
DeSoto Parks & Recreation
SUMMERTIME ON BELTLINE
Youth Program

To register, go to
DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/GOLF
or call
972.230.9649

9:00 am Shotgun Start

Thorntree Country Club
825. W. Wintergreen Rd., DeSoto




DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/GOLF | 972.230.9649

INVEST in DESOTO'S YOUTH.

NOT JUST ANOTHER TOURNAMENT...

We're proud to announce the 2nd Annual City Manager's Golf Challenge. Our goal is to keep young people safe during the hours when they are most likely to engage in risky behaviors.

Proceeds from the tournament will supplement DeSoto's Summertime on Beltline Program. This 8-week summer program provides a safe structured environment which engages youth in the following activities:

- A YOUTH CAREER CAMP
- VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENTS
- DANCE/ART/ENRICHMENT CLASSES
- YOUTH FITNESS/SPORTS
- PERFORMING ARTS
- SPANISH CLASSES
- SWIMMING CLASSES
- DRUG/PREVENTION PROGRAMS

- AWARENESS OF COMMUNITY PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

We look forward to having you as a sponsor or just playing in the event!

JOIN *the* CHALLENGE
REGISTER NOW

DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/GOLF


