

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner, A Message from Councilmember, Rachel Proctor



Whew! It has truly been a busy but productive last few months for me since my swearing in this past March! I can hardly believe that I have been in office nearly six months at the time of this writing. It has been an amazing journey so far and I am honored to be able to serve the city that has given so much to me. As I began to write this, I think back to how the city has changed and developed since my family and I moved here some 20 years ago. I was a shy and very timid third grader attending Northside Elementary School. It seems like it was only yesterday. But as the old saying goes: *Time does bring about a change!* And that's where those of you who are reading this come in!

Along with my duties for City Council, I was recently selected as one of two council members who were afforded the privilege of serving on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Some of you reading this may be asking '*Exactly what is the Comprehensive Plan?*'

Well, the Comprehensive Plan plays a vital role in shaping the future of our All-America City. The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in April of 2003. It establishes guidelines for our city to follow for future growth. The development of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan was a coordinated effort of the citizens of DeSoto, the City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, DeSoto Economic Development Corporation, Chamber of Commerce, City Staff, and a consultant team. Through careful planning and guidance, the development of the remaining undeveloped land in DeSoto offers the opportunity to achieve the type of community and quality of life the citizens of DeSoto deserve.

The major sections in the 2003 Plan include the following:

- Existing and Future Land Use
- Form Analysis
- Transportation
- Urban Design
- Goals and Objectives
- Streetscape Guidelines
- Vision Projects

The committee has been charged with the task of making revisions to the current plan. However, we cannot accomplish all that we need to without working together. *We need your help!* The committee meets on a monthly basis and meetings are open to residents. We encourage you to attend at least one. Our July Town Hall meetings were successful! If all goes according to schedule, we plan to have an additional Town Hall Meeting in the spring of 2014. We received an abundance of constructive input from residents in our July meetings and we want to keep the momentum going! *We need your continued input!* Smart growth in our city will not come merely by chance. It will come as a result of us working together toward a common goal.

Continued on Page Two



Have you ever wanted to know how the DeSoto Police Department works behind the scenes? If so, the DeSoto Citizens Police Academy is for you. They will start a new eight-week session on September 17, 2013. To register or for more information call Officer Cindy Tyndall at 469.658.3055.

Look on page 3 for information on a job fair for Dallas Behavioral Healthcare hosted by City of DeSoto in September.

City Calendar

August

1 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
1 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
1 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
1 FY2014 Budget Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm
2 FY2014 Budget Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
2 Outdoor Movie - Amphitheater - 8:30 pm
3 FY2014 Budget Mtg. - City Hall - 8 am
5 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
5 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
6 DeSoto Night Out
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm

September

2 Labor Day - City offices closed
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
5 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
5 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
9 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
9 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
9 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
15 Fiesta Latino DeSoto - Amphitheater 3-7
16 Golf Challenge - Thorntree - 9 am
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
28 DeSoto Dining & Dialogue Dinner Event

Would You Like to Attend the Next DeSoto Civic Academy?

The DeSoto Civic Academy is looking for participants for their next eleven week sessions beginning August 15th. Each weekly session is 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 972.230.9643.

Mosquito Dunks Available for DeSoto Residents

The City of DeSoto is partnering with the Dallas County Health and Human Services Department to address the problem of treating the breeding sites of mosquitos who carry the West Nile Virus. Dallas County HHS has provided the City with an ample supply of Summit Mosquito Dunks to distribute to residents. DeSoto residents can pick up these "dunks", free of charge, at the City of DeSoto Action Center located in City Hall at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Residents will receive a pack of 2 per person while supplies last.

These mosquito dunks float on the surface of water and will keep working

for 30 days or longer. While floating, they release long-term mosquito larvacide at the water's surface where it is eaten by growing mosquito larvae. One dunk can treat up to 100 sq. ft. of stagnant water. Mosquitos that carry WNV breed in places where stagnant water accumulates such as drainage ditches, stagnant swimming pools, bird baths, plant containers and old tires.

Contact the DeSoto Health Department if you have WNV questions at 972.230.9600, or visit the DCHHS website at:

<http://www.dallascounty.org/department/hhs/home.html>.

Photographers!!!



The DeSoto Art League, in conjunction with the DeSoto Arts Commission, will host a juried photo contest and show that will be on display in the Atrium of the Jim Baugh Government Center during October. Cash prizes will be awarded to Best In Show, and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention winners in two categories - COLOR photos and BLACK & WHITE photos. The registration fee is \$5 per entry for the adult division and \$3 for the junior division. All photos must be framed. To request an application, please call 972.230.9648 or email kathy.jones@desototexas.gov.

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So if you have not already had the opportunity to take the online survey to give your input for the Comprehensive Plan, you can do so by visiting the city's website at www.desototexas.gov or you can take the survey at the *Self-Service Station Kiosk* located in City Hall. You can also view and download a full copy of the current Comprehensive Plan on the city's website. Please view the site to get more information on what the Comprehensive Plan is and what it does for our community. Let's all play a part in continuing to make the place we call home, *the best that it can be!!*

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is SUCCESS."

- Henry Ford

Rachel L. Proctor
City Council - Place 4

California-based Hospital Corporation Opens Facilities in Austin, Houston, San Antonio and DeSoto

Dallas Behavioral Healthcare Hospital in DeSoto aims to Hire DeSoto Residents

A new behavioral health treatment option is opening at 800 Kirnwood Drive, in DeSoto in September, 2013. The facility named, Dallas Behavioral Healthcare Hospital, is a member of Signature Healthcare Services based in Corona, California. This 116-bed acute behavioral-care hospital will offer a wide range of mental healthcare options for adults, adolescents and seniors. The hospital will employ approximately 350 employees.

“We are excited about the opening of the new hospital in DeSoto and appreciate the hospital’s executive management team’s enthusiastic backing of Project 2300,” stated DeSoto Mayor Carl Sherman. Project 2300, a jobs initiative launched by Mayor Sherman in 2010 to help create and attract 2,300 fair wage jobs for people who live in DeSoto, has made a significant impact in lowering the unemployment rate in DeSoto.

“I believe the key reason that this jobs plan has been successful can be summed up in one word — collaboration,” said Sherman. “Strong collaboration and support from city leaders and the private sector has been paramount to achieving a reduction in our unemployment rate from over 8% to around 6%,” insisted Sherman.

Dallas Behavioral Healthcare Hospital prides itself in offering a safe environment staffed by caring and highly trained professionals; an atmosphere that promotes stabilization and healing. Therefore, they are working with Mayor Carl Sherman, City staff, the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce to offer residents the opportunity to work for the facility. A career fair will be hosted

at the DeSoto Civic Center during the week of September 9th to allow DeSoto residents the first opportunity to apply for open positions.

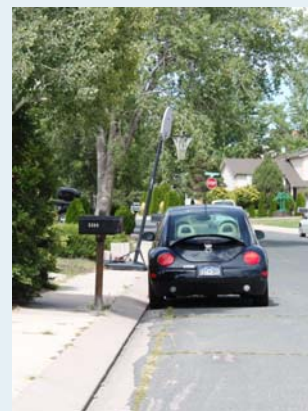
Dallas Behavioral Health Care Hospital will be seeking to fill the following positions:

- H&P Physicians
- Medical Director
- Psychiatrists
- Chief Nursing Officer
- Registered Nurses
- Nursing Supervisors
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Mental Health Technicians
- Social Workers/Licensed Therapists
- Case Managers
- Recreational Therapist
- Scheduler
- Director of Performance Improvement/Risk Management
- Dietary Aides
- Social Services Director
- Executive Assistant
- Receptionist
- Housekeepers
- Director of Human Resources
- HIM Director
- Director of Outpatient Services
- Business Development Director
- Community Liaisons
- Business Office Manager
- Director of Utilization Review
- Assessment & Referral Director
- Dietitian
- Cooks
- Coder
- A/P Payroll

Watch the City of DeSoto website at www.desototexas.gov for specific information on the job fair. To learn more about the positions available, please visit and/or send resumes to www.Desoto.careers@aurorabehavioral.com.

Did You Know....

That City Ordinance prohibits parking upon any public street or alley between the hours of 7:00 am and 6:00 pm within ten (10) feet of a postal receptacle (mailbox) or a grouping of postal receptacles, except a United States Postal Service vehicle, and except on Sundays and federal holidays. Parking is also prohibited upon any public street within twenty (20) feet of the entrance or exit to an alley, and on the side of a street opposite the entrance or exit to an alley within twenty (20) feet of the entrance or exit between the hours of 7:00 am and 6:00 pm, except on Sundays.



Mayor Sherman (center) poses with Shelley Plemons, (left) Vice President of Business Development and Kathie Green, (right) Director of Corporate Contacts for Dallas Behavioral Healthcare Hospitals following a meeting to discuss a job fair the city will be hosting for the new facility slated to open in DeSoto this fall. (See article at left.)

Vendor opportunities available.
Call 972.230.9648 for more information.

Free EVENT!

CAPOEIRA
MOISES RUIZS MARIACHI
BANDAN KORO DRUMMERS
& MORE!

Fiesta Latino DESOTO

DESOTO LATIN FESTIVAL

featuring **HAVANA NRG** 6pm

DeSoto Town Center Plaza & Outdoor Amphitheater
211 E. Pleasant Run Road
(behind the Library)

09.15
two thousand and thirteen
3-7PM

artsdesoto.com

The DeSoto Public Utility Department Urges Customers to Use Water Wisely This Month

Although several North Texas Cities have enacted permanent water restrictions, the City of DeSoto is asking its citizens to voluntarily conserve water. Residents are being asked to use water wisely by watering lawns during the cooler hours of the day between 5:00 am to 9:00 am and 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, 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. DeSoto is not at the point of implementing a mandatory water plan and mandatory restrictions can be avoided by following these common sense water conservation measures. If you have questions regarding your water service, please call DeSoto's Public Utility office at 972.230.9627.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE.

DESOTO CITY MANAGER'S CORPORATE **GOLF CHALLENGE**
MONDAY, SEPT. 16th | WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV

INVEST in DESOTO'S YOUTH.

Register Now to Attend the Next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner Event on September 21st

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 a personal invitation to attend our next free dinner event on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. The topic of discussion will be "The Future of Education in DeSoto" and the event will feature an appearance by School and City officials who will be available to answer your questions.

NOT JUST ANOTHER TOURNAMENT...

We're proud to announce the 3rd 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!

Sept. 16th at Thorntree County Club

JOIN *the* CHALLENGE
REGISTER NOW

DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/GOLF



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 and discuss items of interest at private dinner events. To attend, go to the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue website at www.desotodd.org and register or call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648. Your registration must be received by September 9, 2013.