



DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner, A Message from Richard North, City Council - Place 5



I'm proud to be a veteran and I'm proud of all those individuals and organizations who support our veterans.

The Patriot Guard is one such organization. This is a diverse group of riders from across the nation that have one thing in common besides motorcycles. They have an unwavering respect for those who risk their lives for America's freedoms and security. DeSoto residents,

Jerry and Janice Hall, are an integral part of this organization in North Texas. They escort fallen soldiers and their mourning families and shield them from interruptions created by protestors or other groups during a military funeral. Patriot Guard Riders are committed to providing sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families and their communities.

"My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." This quote by President John F. Kennedy, stands out when we hear of the deeds of The Patriot Guard Riders. I salute their efforts.

I would also like to recognize the efforts of local employers who are providing jobs for returning soldiers. DeSoto's Kohl's E-Distribution Center is making an effort to hire veterans. They held a job fair recently during DeSoto's Veterans' Appreciation Event.

Finally, I would like to encourage my fellow DeSoto residents to let me know if you have a family member or friend returning home from the service. We would like to recognize them on our electronic message boards around Town Center. Offering a simple "thank you for your service" is the least we can do to recognize the sacrifices of our military and their families. We can contribute by showing respect to our veterans upon their return to American shores. We can also contribute by exercising our voting rights. Please remember to vote in the upcoming elections. God Bless America!

Dick North City Councilmember, Place 5 214.500.0344



3rd Annual Library Teen Empowerment Summit and Career Fair

The DeSoto Public Library, in partnership with Mayor Carl O. Sherman, will host the Third Annual Teen Empowerment Summit and Career Fair March 12 through 14, 2014. Teens, aged 13 to 18, will attend seminars in work ethics, customer service, interview skills, resume writing, effective communication skills, professionalism and much more. This summit is intended to help teens polish their skills and be ready for summer employment. Registration begins February 1st at http://www.eventbrite.com/ e/2014-city-of-desoto-teensummit-tickets-2855429667. For more information call 214.916.1596.

City Calendar

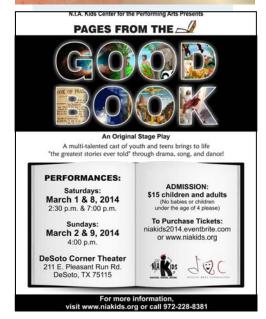
February

- 3 Poetry In Progress Civic Ctr. 5:45 pm
- 3 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
- 3 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
- 4 City Council Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
- $6\ \text{KDB}\ \text{Mtg.}$ Civic Ctr. $\ 6{:}30\ \text{pm}$
- $\,$ 6 Library Board Mtg. Library 7 pm
- 6 Friends of the Library Mtg. 6 pm
- 8 Daddy/Daughter Dance Civic Ctr. 7pm
- 11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
- 13 Mayor's Quarterly Mtg. City Hall 6:30pm
- 16 CDC Gospelfest -DHS Auditorium 4:30 pm
- 18 City Council Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
- 22 HOA Involvement Workshop
- 24 DEDC Board Mtg. City Hall 9 am
- 25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7pm

March

- 1 DeSoto Dining & Dialogue Dinner
- 3 Liverpool Legends DHS Auditorium 7 pm $\,$
- 3 Poetry In Progress Civic Ctr. 5:45 pm
- 3 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
- 4 City Council Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
- 6 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
- 6 Library Board Mtg. Library 7 pm
- 11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
- 16 Concert Corner Theatre 3 pm
- 18 City Council Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
- 25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
- 31 DEDC Mtg. City Hall 9 am





DeSoto Fire Fighters Receive Meritorious Service Award for Saving Family from Burning Home

Fire Engineer, Craig Kirk and Firefighter Brent Barkham where honored at a recent **DeSoto City Council** meeting with the Meritorious Service Award for rescuing a family from their burning home in October. The Meritorious Service Award is the highest honor awarded by DeSoto Fire Rescue. Kirk was recognized for the excellent degree of professionalism he displayed in managing the scene and carrying out his duties during the incident.

Barkham was at the front door of the residence in the process of ventilating the fire when he noticed someone in the burning structure. With total disregard for his safety, he entered the home and pulled the three family members to safety.



Mayor Pro Tem Ledbetter, (far right) and DeSoto Fire Chief Jerry Duffield recognize Fire Engineer Craig Kirk (center) for Meritorious Service as his wife looks on.



Mayor Pro Tem Ledbetter, far right and DeSoto Fire Chief Jerry Duffield recognize Fire Fighter, Brent Barkham (center) for Meritorious Service. Barkham's wife, daughter, father and brother were also present. Barkham comes from a family dedicated to the fire service, his father and brother both serve in Forney.

Chief Duffield commended Barkham for his selfless act and expressed pride in the actions of the entire team.

A Message from Code Enforcement

DeSoto Code Enforcement officers would like to remind residents that parking a vehicle on an unimproved surface is not permitted.

No vehicle should be parked in the front or side yards at any time, except on a driveway or on an improved surface such as reinforced concrete. Additionally, parking in the alley is prohibited at all times so as to not interfere with the free and uninterrupted movement of traffic.



The Street Department has a Policy for Sanding Streets During an Ice or Snow Event.

It has been a hard winter and it is not over yet. In the event that we experience another ice or snow event, the DeSoto Street Department would like to make residents aware of their policy for sanding streets.

As sleeting or icing begins, the Street
Department will sand the busiest
intersections first on the Hampton, Cockrell
Hill, Pleasant Run, and Belt Line Road
corridors; then they will sand the remaining
intersections; followed by bridges and
major roads with steep grades.

For ice events lasting longer than two days, major roads such as Cockrell Hill, Hampton, and Belt Line may be sanded the entire

length (as resources permit). Belt Line Road is a State Highway and the Texas Department of Transportation will also sand it.



Street closures may occur if streets are not passable and/or multiple accidents have occurred. Street closures will be coordinated with the Police Department. Particular attention will be paid to Belt Line, Cockrell Hill and Chattey Roads.

It is the policy of the City of DeSoto not to sand residential streets or alleys unless it is needed to assist with access for an emergency vehicle. Special requests for sanding are not accepted. As a resident, there are things that you can do to help as follows:

- If possible, stay at home.
- If you have to leave home, be alert and drive with caution, remembering snow and ice create slick road conditions. Maintain safe distances between vehicles, decrease your driving speed and allow additional time to stop.
- Do not pass sand spreader trucks or the plow truck.
- Park vehicles off of roadways if possible.
 - Be mindful of driving on streets with no curbs. You may slide into side drainage ditches.
 - Mailboxes may be damaged.
 If they are damaged by City

equipment, the City will replace the mailbox. Otherwise replacement will be the homeowner's responsibility.

 As a result of ice storms, we sometime experience downed trees and power lines. Trees on private property are the homeowner's responsibility. The City will only clear the street Right-of-Way. ONCOR will be contacted to address downed power lines.

With a little patience and luck, we can all make it through the next ice or snow event.

Calling All HOA Members!

Join us for the ninth annual HOA Involvement Workshop on Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 9 to 11:30 am at City Hall. Information is a key element in effective neighborhood involvement and this workshop is designed to provide representatives of DeSoto's neighborhood and homeowners' associations with the information they need to make their neighborhood a better, safer place to live. Topics include a discussion of boarding houses in DeSoto and a new branding and marketing program the City is embarking upon. Members of all registered DeSoto HOA's are encouraged to attend whether your association is new or well-established. To register or for more information, please call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689 or contact her by email at thlavinka@desototexas.gov.

Candidate Applications Are Now Being Accepted for the 2014 Municipal Election

We are already gearing up for the May 10, 2014 General Election, for which, two positions will be on the ballot as follows:

Councilmember Place 2 Councilmember Place 4

For more information on the upcoming election, visit our website at www.desototexas.gov and follow the link to election information. For persons interested in becoming a candidate for either of these positions, you may request a Candidate Guide in person at the City Secretary's Office located in City Hall at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road or by calling 972.230.9646. Applications for a position on the ballot will be accepted until February 28, 2014 at 5 pm.

All members of the City Council run by place but are elected at large. This means that they must reside in the district for which they are seeking election. However, all registered voters who live anywhere in DeSoto may cast ballots for that position. If you'd like more information on the city council districts, a map is available on the City's website at www.desototexas.gov under the Government tab at the top of the page.

If you are not a registered voter in Dallas County, please go to www.dallascountyvotes.org for an application. You must register by April 10, 2014 in order to vote in the May 10, 2014 election.



Got Warrants??? - Come Talk to the Judge

If you need help resolving a warrant, come talk to Judge Kurth about it. He is in the Municipal Court office at City Hall from 8:30 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. No one who comes to speak with the judge regarding a warrant will arrested. For more info call 972.230.9679.





"Connecting Neighbors!"

Do you feel connected to the DeSoto Community?

If you'd like to connect with your neighbors and find out what's going on in the community, please take this as a personal invitation to attend our next free DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner event on March 1, 2014. Adults who live or work in DeSoto and care about our community are encouraged to attend. Resident high school students and their parents are also welcome to attend. We offer five hours of Community Service Credit for students who attend because their input is vital to the program. As a quest, all you have to do is attend and join in on the discussion. Repeat guests are also welcome. Please register your attendance at www.desotodd.org.

Dinner Discussion Topic:

What makes a great community?

The DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program was instrumental in DeSoto receiving the All-America City Award in 2006 and it sets DeSoto apart from other cities. For our next dinner event, DDD is going "back to the basics" by focusing the discussion on the elements that make DeSoto a great community. We invite you to join with your friends and neighbors and share your thoughts on what makes DeSoto an All-America City, what brought you to DeSoto and what keeps you here. This is also an opportunity for you to share your personal vision for our city in the future. Please follow the link below and register to attend this important event!

Saturday, March 1, 2014 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

The deadline to register to attend the free dinner event is February 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 twice a year in private homes around DeSoto. The discussion is led 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 host a dinner for a diverse group of citizens in their homes 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 DeSoto!

The DeSoto Arts Commission Rolls Out the <u>Uptown/</u> <u>downtown/DeSoto</u> Concert Series in March

Sunday afternoons from March through June, an exciting music series will present great jazz and classical music in your DeSoto Corner Theatre. The DeSoto Arts Commission's live music series will feature the best musicians from throughout DFW, including international jazz performers and principals of the Dallas and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras.

"We are calling the series <u>Uptown/downtown</u> <u>DeSoto</u>," said Gregory Isaacs, DeSoto Arts Commission Member. "Uptown presents classical music and Downtown offers Jazz, R&B, Latin Jazz, and Big Band," said Isaacs. "DeSoto's taste in music is diverse and we want to offer something for everyone."

The series will kick off on March 16th at 3 pm in the DeSoto Corner Theatre with a performance by the 16 piece Brad Leali and Shelley Carrol Big Band, featuring singer Tatiana Mayfield. Both band leaders tour internationally with the Duke Ellington Orchestra and their band features that Duke Ellington Big Band sound. The Downtown Series will follow on even numbered Sundays with a variety of jazz performers including the Sandaga 813 Nightclub Band. On odd numbered Sundays, the Uptown Series will present a variety of classical performances featuring members of the Fort Worth and Dallas orchestras.

In a very special event, DeSoto will host the World Premiere of a new opera entitled *Undelivered* which tells the story of the speech that John F. Kennedy intended to deliver in Dallas. Through an unusual set of circumstances, it will be premiered in DeSoto, before its intended premiere in another DFW setting. This event will draw members of the classical music community from throughout North Texas to our Corner Theatre.

Check out the artsdesoto.com website for schedules and to purchase tickets or call 972.230.9648 for more information.