

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Did you know...

That DeSoto Fire Rescue operates a fire training academy for individuals interested in a career in the fire service? The DeSoto Fire Training Academy is a Texas Commission on Fire Protection-approved course which, upon completion, will enable an individual to better meet or exceed the necessary qualifications of employment with many fire departments.

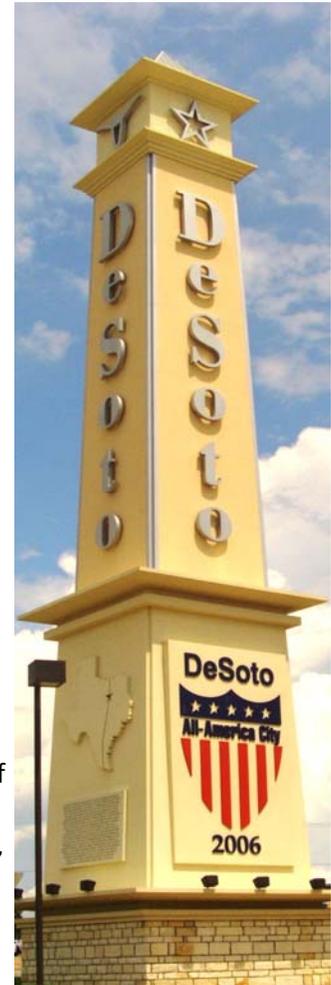
The DeSoto Fire Training Academy has graduated more than 1,000 students since its inception in 1980. Many are now working as firefighters and paramedics in departments all over North Texas. The sixteen-week firefighter training program is offered three times each year and provides over 500 hours of training in all facets of firefighting. The academy also offers an EMT program, which takes place five times a year, offering three weeks of classroom instruction, one week of hospital rotation, and one week of ambulance ride outs.

The DeSoto Fire Training Academy recently graduated its 54th firefighter training class. The Valedictorian, Christa Jones, finished with a 99.75 average while maintaining perfect attendance. Christa entered the EMT training program in June.

“Christa's grade point average was the highest in the history of the DeSoto Fire Academy,” said DeSoto Fire Rescue Chief Jerry Duffield. “She was physically fit, demonstrated a great attitude, and was an ideal student and classmate. She is an example of the quality young men and women in the Southern Dallas County area that DeSoto Fire Rescue and other regional departments should be pursuing for careers in the fire service,” said Chief Duffield.

Christa is a graduate of Lancaster High School and attended Baylor University and Sam Houston State University, studying Biology. She attended the fire academy on the Brody Fleming Scholarship. This scholarship was established by Fleming's family as a legacy to their late son, who attended the DeSoto Fire Academy in 2009 and went on to work for the Plano Fire Department.

If you are interested in a career in the fire service, please consider choosing the DeSoto Fire Training Academy. Eligible participants must have a high school diploma or GED and a clean driving record. The next session of the fire training school begins on July 13, 2015 and the next EMT class begins September 8, 2015. For more information about the DeSoto Fire Training Academy go to www.firetrainingcenter.com or call 972.223.6858.



Fire school Valedictorian Christa Jones (left), with Joy Bradley, (right) mother of Brody Fleming. Christa attended the fire academy on the Brody Fleming Scholarship.

City Calendar

July

2 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
2 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
2 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
3 City offices closed July 4th Holiday
4 Fireworks - Meadow Creek Park 6pm
6 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6pm
6 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
9 Veterans Affairs Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6pm
10 Outdoor Movie-Amphitheater 8:30 pm
14 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm
17 Outdoor Movie-Amphitheater 8:30 pm
21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
23 Mayor's Quarterly Mtg. City Hall 6:30pm
24 Council Budget Workshop City Hall 6pm
24 Outdoor Movie-Amphitheater 8:30 pm
27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
28 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
30 City Council Budget Mtg. City Hall 6 pm

August

3 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
3 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
3 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
6 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
6 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
6 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall -7 pm
13 Veterans Affairs Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6pm
18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
24 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm

The DeSoto Public Library Summer Reading Program starts Monday, June 15. Here's the schedule:

- Mondays June 15 – July 27 preschool crafts for ages 3 to 6
- Tuesdays June 16 – July 21 Tech Titans activities for ages 7 – 12
- Wednesdays June 17 – July 22 Superhero training, Spy Academy, and Become an Olympian for ages 7 –12
- Thursdays June 18 – July 23 Comic Book Club for ages 8 – 14
- Tues/Wed July 28 & 29 Makey Makey for ages 7 – 12

These crafts and programs are free. Registration will be required for each craft and program. For more information, please call the library at 972.230.9666.

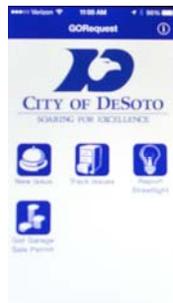
A Message from Code Enforcement

City Ordinances require that weeds and grass be kept below twelve inches in height, and that trimmings are not allowed to accumulate in any gutter, street, sidewalk, alley or any other public or private property. The owner or occupant of the property is required to maintain the property from the street in the front to the middle of the alley in the back (or the property line). This includes the front, back and side yards, the right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the curb), and the alley and easement (the area behind the property).

It is unlawful for any owner, occupant or person in charge of adjacent property to allow the branches of any tree to extend over into a public street or alley at a height less than fourteen and one-half (14 1/2) feet. It is also unlawful to allow the branches of any shrubbery or similar vegetation to extend over into adjacent property or over a sidewalk blocking or hindering pedestrian access.



DeSoto Code Enforcement officers encourage you to be their “eyes and ears” in the community and report high weeds and other Code violations in your



neighborhood. A quick and easy way to do this is to go to the “Service Request” section on the homepage of the City’s website at www.desototexas.gov and fill in the information. If you are using an iPhone or Android, download the free GORequest app, take a photo of the Code violation, and quickly upload it to the Service Request system. You can also report an issue by calling the Code Enforcement Office at 469.658.3075.

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 that may carry the West Nile Virus. Dallas County HHS has provided the City with an ample supply of 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 Jim Baugh Government Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Residents will receive a pack of two 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 Environmental Health Specialist if you have WNV questions at 972.230.9600, or visit the DCHHS website at:

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



DeSoto Public Library

Summer Activities for Teens

Free and open to the public

June - July 2015
Ages 13 - 18

- **Wednesday, June 17** Teen Cupcake Wars Decorating Competition 3:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, June 24** Money Matters & Mad City Money (City Credit Union) 3:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 1** "Frozen" in July 1:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 8** Teen Project Runway Competition (Tissue Edition) 3:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 15** Teen Iron Chef Competition 3:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 22** Teen Open Mic 3:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 29** "Soda Pop Tops" Art 3:00 p.m.

Express Yourself Creative Writing Contest June 10 - July 18

"The Book was Better" Book Club - featuring Paper Towns
Mondays June 15 - July 13 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Leadership & Accountability Mentoring Program for Teen Boys ages 13 - 16
Tuesdays June 16 - July 21 3:00 p.m.

Smart Money Teen Financial Workshop Series
Thursdays June 18 - Aug 6 3:00 p.m.

Create with Makey Makey for Teens
Fridays June 19, July 3 & 17 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Snap Circuits for Teens @ Your Library
Fridays June 26, July 10 & 24 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

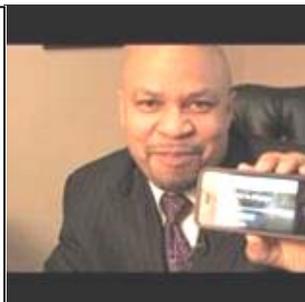
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 972.230.9661. SPACE IS LIMITED.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND BEGINS JUNE 1, 2015.

DeSoto Chamber of Commerce Provides Community Calendar on their VisitDeSotoTexas.com Website

Have you been looking for one calendar that would list all the events taking place in DeSoto on a certain day? If so, the DeSoto Chamber's new tourism website, www.visitdesototexas.com, could be just what you are looking for. This website is a part of the DeSoto Chamber website and provide visitors to DeSoto and residents with information on all that our city has to offer. It contains a Community Calendar that will have DeSoto Chamber, City of DeSoto and DeSoto ISD sponsored events listed. This calendar is also available to community groups and individuals to add

information about your events. Is your civic organization, club or PTA group sponsoring an event that is open to the community? If so, go to www.visitdesototexas.com, a site operated by the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce, click on events and then calendar and enter your event information. After a quick review by Chamber staff to maintain publishing standards, your event will be posted for viewing by the public.

If you have any questions regarding the Community Calendar, please call 972.230.9648.



"What would it take for you to visit the DeSoto Public Library?"

Talk to us at desototexas.gov/engagedesoto. We're listening.

Notice of Citizen Commentary Period for the Community Development Block Grant Program

The City of DeSoto participates in the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Block Grant Program and is required to prepare and submit a Consolidated Plan, Annual Action, and Analysis of Impediment Plan for HUD approval in order to receive this grant funding. The City is encouraging citizen input regarding these documents.

During this 30-day citizen commentary period, electronic copies of the draft Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice are available online at www.desototexas.gov. Paper copies are available for review in the atrium of the Jim Baugh Government Center (DeSoto City Hall) and in the DeSoto Public Library, located at 211 East Pleasant Run Road in DeSoto. Citizens are encouraged to review these documents and offer comments from June 1 through June 30, 2015. Comments may also be submitted on paper or by emailing FairHousing@desototexas.gov.

A public hearing will be conducted during the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2015, beginning at 7:00 pm. Immediately following the public hearing, the City Council will consider approval of HUD grant-related documents. The City Council Meeting will take place in the Council Chambers, in the Jim Baugh Government Center (DeSoto City Hall), located at 211 East Pleasant Run Road in DeSoto, Texas.

BIG HERO 6
JULY 17
8:30 pm

ANNIE
JULY 10
8:30 pm

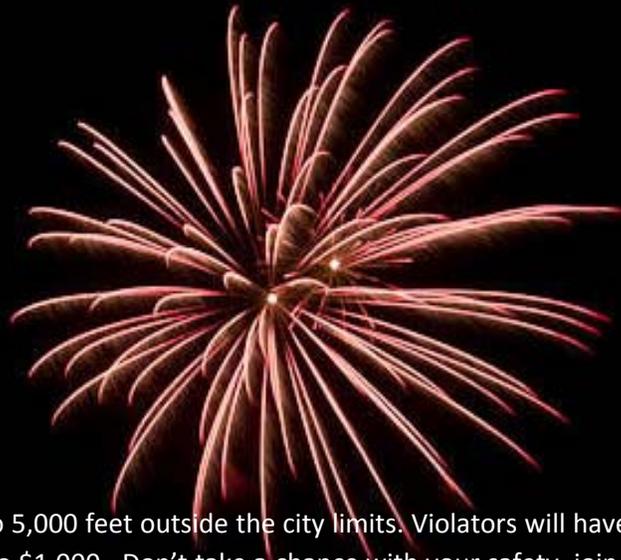
STEPS OF FAITH
JULY 24
8:30 pm

DeSoto
MOVIES
IN THE PARK

artsdesoto.com

The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to join us for our free Movies In The Park Series at the Outdoor Amphitheater in DeSoto Town Center behind the Library. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic baskets, concessions will also be available for purchase. For more information, please call 972.230.9648.

Fireworks
are
Illegal



Fireworks are illegal in City of DeSoto and up to 5,000 feet outside the city limits. Violators will have the fireworks confiscated and will be issued a citation of up to \$1,000. Don't take a chance with your safety, join us at Meadow Creek Park, located at 1400 Uhl Road in DeSoto for the annual Fireworks to Music show sponsored by the Cities of DeSoto and Lancaster. This is a free, fun event for the whole family with children's activities, food, vendors and lots of free entertainment provided by Con Funk Shun and the IvorY JeaN Band. Con Funk Shun is a star-quality attraction delivering a superb, high-energy show with electrifying choreography, glistening six-part vocal harmonies, and a dash of humor. They are, unquestionably, among the heroes of funk with romantic ballads and dance-party hits galore. For more information, please call 972.230.9651.

FREE CONCERT



DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover, Experience, Play!

FIREWORKS TO MUSIC

FOURTH OF JULY

July 4th at 5:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Con Funk Shun

IvorY JeaN Band



Meadowcreek Park | 1440 Uhl Rd. | 972-230-9655