January, 2008



City Lights DeSoto, Texas



A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

City Joins Trammell Crow's High Street Residential to Begin Construction of the Town Center Project

The City of DeSoto and Trammell Crow's High Street Residential were joined on December 11, 2007 by elected officials and local dignitaries in breaking ground for the Town Center Mixed-Use Development, a multi-use project designed to revitalize DeSoto's main artery, the Hampton Road Corridor. The project is a public/private partnership between the City of DeSoto and High Street Residential.

The Town Center Development will offer a pedestrian-oriented, urban village environment in a suburban community. Nearly 38,000 square feet of retail space, 136 residential apartment units, office space and other amenities will be complemented by a centrally located, elevated garage. The new construction will integrate with and complement DeSoto's existing municipal center which includes City Hall, the civic center, library, an outdoor amphitheater, access to the Roy Orr Trail, an indoor performing arts center and the fitness and recreation facility.

"The DeSoto Town Center will create a sense of place and a new identity for our city," said DeSoto Mayor Bobby Waddle. "Our citizens will enjoy the convenience of gathering, living and working here in an appealing environment few suburbs can offer."

"In this visionary project, DeSoto's progressive leaders are a role model for other communities to follow," said Art Lomenick, managing director for High Street

Residential/Trammell Crow Company. "We are pleased to work with the City of DeSoto to reinvent development patterns and set the tone for future development throughout the city."

"We pride ourselves on involving our citizens in every aspect of a project," said Jim Baugh, DeSoto City Manager. "We encouraged their input and worked with our partners – High Street and RTKL – to incorporate as much of their input as we could into the overall plan."

To develop the project vision, the City of DeSoto commissioned a study by RTKL consultants in 2005, that included a series of public meetings to gather considerable input from the city's residents, businesses and property

owners along Hampton Road. The study identified the Hampton Road-Pleasant Run intersection as the best place to begin redevelopment efforts.

"We are pleased the City of DeSoto recognized High Street Residential's leadership and extensive experience across the U.S. in pedestrian-

oriented, multi-modal projects and selected us as its Town Center Developer," said Kim McCormick, vice president of development and project manager for High Street Residential. "We look forward to seeing this project become a reality."

Site preparation begins January 7, 2008 and the construction is expected to take approximately 13 months. Commercial space and multi-family housing is expected to be completed by early 2009. Commercial leasing is underway and being handled by David Copeland with CB Richard Ellis at 972.458.4960.



Pictured from left to right, Kim McCormick, vice president of development for Trammell Crow, Art Lomenick, managing director for High Street Residential/Trammell Crow Company, DeSoto councilmembers Virgil Helm, Carl Williams, and Denise Valentine, Mayor Bobby Waddell, Mayor Pro Tem Thelma Clardy, councilmember Carl Sherman, former Mayor Michael Hurtt and councilmember Sandy Respess.

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Do You Feel Safe In Your Home?

Feeling safe in our homes and businesses is of paramount importance to all of us. Here are some suggestions to enhance that peace of mind and the feeling of being secure:

- Install good locks on all exterior doors and windows.
- Have plenty of exterior lights including motion detector lights.
- Use interior lights on timers when you are not at home.
- Install an alarm system with sensors on all exterior doors and windows. Consider having smoke detectors, heat detectors and carbon monoxide detectors connected to your alarm panel as well. Placing sensors on gun cabinets and safe closets can also enhance your feeling of security.

If it makes sense to have an alarm system, then it should make sense to have it monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by your local 911 emergency center. Alarm monitoring is now being offered as a fee based service by the City of DeSoto for \$25 per month. No long-term contract is required.

There is a cost associated with having your monitored system reprogrammed to be monitored by DeSoto's 911 Call Center. As a result, the City will waive the first three months of their monitoring fee to help offset any cost you may incur to have your system reprogrammed.

There is no faster response to your alarm system than the response provided by your City. For more information on the City of DeSoto Alarm Monitoring Program, please contact 972.230.5248.

Arts Grant Program Provides Funding for New Theater Company

The City Council, following a recommendation from the DeSoto Arts Commission, is pleased to offer an arts grant to the African-American Repertory Theater who will serve as the new resident theater company at the DeSoto Corner Theater. The founders of this new theater company, Irma P. Hall, Regina Washington, and Vince McGill, all appeared in "A Raisin in the Sun" on the Corner Theater stage last February. The African-American Repertory Theater will produce staged readings in February (see article on page 4) and May followed by full productions in September and November of 2008, and March of 2009. The theater will also provide opportunities for education in the theater arts by offering workshops on acting and theater, as well as, central African-American history and historical figures. Watch this publication for information on season tickets.

Arts grants were also awarded to Fruit of the Soul Artisans for a Juneteenth production and the International Museum of Cultures who will bring a traveling exhibit to DeSoto City Hall. The DeSoto Art League received funding for the 10th anniversary of their Annual Art Show and Concerned DeSoto Citizens received support for their Gospel Concert scheduled for February 17, 2008, just to name a few. (continued on page 4)

CITY CALENDAR

January

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- City offices and facilities closed for New Year's Day Holiday
- City Council Meeting cancelled due to New Year's Day Holiday
- 3 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 3 Library Advisory Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Library
- 7 Park Development Corp. Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 7 Youth Sports Town Discussion Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 8 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 10 Adopt-a-street Banquet 7 p.m. Civic Center
- 14 Arts Commission Mtg. 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 15 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 17 Mayor's Quarterly Mtg. With HOAs 7 p.m. Civic Center
- 21 City offices and facilities closed MLK Holiday
- 21 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner Event
- 22 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 28 DeSoto Economic Development Corp. Mtg. noon City Hall

February

- 4 Park Development Corp. Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 5 City Council Meeting cancelled
- 7 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 7 Library Advisory Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Library
- 9 Daddy & Daughter Valentine Dance 6 p.m. Civic Center
- Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 19 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 25 DeSoto Economic Development Corp. Mtg. noon City Hall
- 26 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg.

New Rules for Animal Ordinance

Changes to the City's Animal Ordinance which impose fines for dogs found to be "running at large" went into effect in DeSoto on October 1, 2007. Those changes are intended to require citizens to take responsibility for their animals.

Specifically, animal owners can receive a citation if their pet is found to be "running at large" which means that the dog is found outside a place other than the enclosure in which the dog is being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own. Changes to the Ordinance impose fines for those who receive a citation for "running at large." The cost to clear that citation will be a minimum of \$100 for the first offense, a minimum of \$200 for the second offense, a minimum of \$500 for the third offense and a minimum of \$1,000 for all subsequent convictions with a maximum fine of \$2,000.

If your dog is taken to the Tri-City Animal Shelter by Animal Control Officers, you will be required to pay a \$30 micro chipping fee in addition to other costs associated with the dog being impounded before the animal will be returned to you. If you have any questions regarding a citation issued by the City of DeSoto, please call the Municipal Court at 972.230.9674.

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What to Expect When You Come to Town Center During Construction

Town Center Project developer, Trammell Crow's High Street Residential has moved their construction trailer to Town Center and will begin construction on the project January 7, 2008. As a result, the west parking lot between the existing Town Center facilities and Hampton Road will not be accessible to the public along with the front entrances to the Corner Theatre, the Recreation Center, Civic Center and Library.

In anticipation, the city has constructed a new parking lot, accessible from Pleasant Run Road on the east side of City Hall. This will serve as the main parking area for the entire complex during construction.

From the east parking area, you can reach City Hall through the Main City Hall entrance. New signage has been ordered to make access easy from this area. Handicap parking is available next to the building and the Main City Hall doors provide handicap access to the offices in City Hall.



Inside new signage has been added to direct you easily through the building.



If you are visiting the Recreation Center, Corner Theatre, Civic Center or Library, please use the north entrance from the east parking lot. This entrance is located near the racquet ball courts and is also ADA accessible.



Once inside you only need look up and follow the new signage to your destination.

The Library's existing book return will also not be usable during construction. A shiny new book drop has been installed on the north side of the Library and can be accessed from a new asphalt drive added on northbound Hampton Road.



There is major inconvenience with any construction project of this magnitude. "We know this is obviously very disruptive for our city," said Jim Baugh, City Manager. "City staff is working hard to minimize the disruption and we will do our best to see that it goes as smoothly as possible."

For more information and a construction schedule for the Town Center Project, please check out the city's website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us.



Is your New Year's Resolution to get in shape by starting a fitness program? If so, come by the Fitness Center in the DeSoto Recreation Center. New equipment has just been added. Individual memberships are just \$20 per month. For more information call 972.230.9655.



DeSoto now has a professional basketball team to boast about. The Texas Tycoons are a Professional ABA Basketball team and will be playing their 2008 home season at the DeSoto

Recreation Center every Saturday at 7 p.m. The first home game of 2008 will be played on Saturday, January 12 featuring DeSoto Youth Basketball Association Night and will be followed by events such as Honorary DeSoto High School Player Night (Jan. 19) and DYBA Girls Night (Jan. 26). For more information please call 214.774.1124 or email Dawn Mann at dmann@breakofdaydesign.com. Please visit the Official Website of the Texas Tycoons at www.txtycoons.com.

Parkerville Road Construction Update

Roadway construction is typically an inconvenience for residents and businesses, but this year's summer rain storms made for an even more difficult time for residents along Parkerville Road. With the stormy weather behind us, good progress is being made.

The Parkerville Road construction project is expected to be complete by early summer, 2008 although paving should be finished by late spring. XIT Construction, the contractor, has worked to complete the entire west side of the roadway prior to the beginning of the year and will immediately start on the east side. Once complete, work will begin on the sidewalks,, retaining walls and landscaping. Sidewalks will be meandering walkways from Franklin Street going west and straight sidewalks in the commercial area. The walkways will be six-feet wide. Parkerville Road Construction hotline—972.331.2293.

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Saturday, February 9th DeSoto Civic Center

6 to 9 p.m.

Come and join the fun at the 14th Annual Daddy/Daughter Valentine Dance. This year's theme is Beauty and the Beast. Young ladies are invited to bring their father or favorite guy to dance the night away. The cost for this special evening is \$30 per couple (\$15 for each additional child) and includes music, dancing, light refreshments and a 5X7 photograph to remember the evening. For an added touch of elegance, all young ladies will walk the "red carpet" just like the stars at the Oscars. The red carpet event and pictures begin at 6 p.m. followed by the dance from 7 to 9 p.m. Space is limited. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will go on sale beginning January 21st. No tickets will be sold at the door. To purchase tickets or for more information, please call Parks & Leisure Services at 972.230.9650.

DeSoto Senior Activity Center *presents.....*

2008 Travel Show

The DeSoto Senior Activity Center has been offering exciting travel opportunities to people age 55 + for years and the tradition continues! Everyone is invited to attend the 2008 Travel Show at 2 p.m. Wednesday afternoon, February 13th. This year's show highlight is a ten day international trip of a lifetime to Italy featuring Rome, the Coliseum, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, Florence, Venice, San Gimignano, Murano Island, Como and San Marino. A list of other overnight tours including a holiday trip to Branson planned for this year will also be reviewed. The 2008 Travel Show will be held at the DeSoto Senior Activity Center located at 204 Lion Street, DeSoto. Texas. For more information call 972.230.5825. RSVP is not required but would be appreciated.



The DeSoto Senior Center invites you to attend their

January Dance
Featuring Music by

Sid & the Wheels
Saturday, January 26, 2008
From 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tickets are \$4 at the door
DeSoto Senior Activity Center

DeSoto Senior Activity Center 204 Lion Street - 972.230.5825

Would you, or someone you know, like to receive an e-mail notification when new information is posted to the city's website? It's easy, just sign up for *Notify Me* on DeSoto's website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us. You can register to receive a notice when the latest version of the CityLights Newsletter is added or each time a new City Council Meeting agenda is posted on the website or to receive the newest job postings. Just click on *Notify Me* and follow the prompts.

Cont. from page 2 The Arts Commission was overwhelmed with the response to their call for grant applications. Requests totaling more than \$95,000 were received but the budgeted funding was \$24,750. With tough decisions to make, the Arts Commission was able to recommend funding of nine different projects who met the grant criteria.

Coming Attractions at:



The DeSoto Arts Commission is pleased to introduce DeSoto's new resident theater company, the African-American Repertory Theater, presenting their first season in the Corner Theater.

Staged Readings of *The Meeting* and *A Woman Called Truth* on Saturday, February 9th at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 10th at 3 p.m.

In celebration of Black History Month, the African-American Repertory Theater will present staged readings of *The Meeting* by Jeff Stetson and *A Woman Called Truth* by Sandra Fenichel Asher. *The Meeting* depicts the supposed meeting of two of the most important men of modern times; Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "An exciting and provocative play......an unforgettable evening of drama" – NY Post. The second reading, *A Woman Called Truth* celebrates the life of Sojourner Truth. This award winning play combines her actual words with authentic slave songs and spirituals of the time. You will not want to miss these two powerful works, presented together. Performances are at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 9th and at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 10th at the DeSoto Corner Theatre located in DeSoto Town Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. The tickets will be \$10 for both performances. Purchase your tickets in advance at www.aareptheater.com beginning January 15th or at the box office one hour prior to each show.

The construction of the Town Center project will eliminate access to the Corner Theatre as well as other facilities at Town Center from the west parking area during 2008. However, the show must go on!!! Parking for Corner Theatre patrons will be in the newly completed east parking lot off Pleasant Run Road. You will enter the facility on the east side of the Recreation Center near the racquet ball courts and take the first hallway to the left to the new entrance to the Corner Theatre.