

Week of July 28tht through Aug. 1st, 2008

# Would You Like To Be A Part Of The Decision-Making Process In Your City?

The DeSoto City Council is looking for willing volunteers to fill current openings on the City's standing boards and commissions. As a result, we'll host a Board & Commission Fair on August 14, 2008 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. If you

have always wanted to be a part of the decisionmaking process in your city and have been a DeSoto resident for at least 12 consecutive months, we would like to invite you to attend this event. Representatives from each board or commission will be on hand to answer any questions and share their first hand experiences with you. Here's a brief overview of the duties for each board or commission:



- Composed of seven members serving two year terms
- Meets on 1st Monday of the month on an "as needed basis
- Commission reviews grant applications and makes recommendations to the City Council on requests for funding through the City's Arts Grants Program
- Produces the annual DeSoto Star Search Competition

#### **Building & Standards Commission**

- Composed of five members and four alternates serving two-year terms
- Meets at City Hall on an "as needed" basis
- Hears and decides appeals of orders, decisions and determinations
- Serves as an advisory commission to review and recommend ordinances to the City Council

#### **Civil Service Commission**

- Composed of three members serving two year terms
- Meets on an "as needed" basis
- Commissioners must have been a resident of DeSoto for more than three years
- Commissioners must be over the age of 25
- Commissioners may not have held a public office within the preceding three years
- Commission may investigate and report on all matters relating to the enforcement and effect of Chapter 143
  Texas Local Government Code
- Commission determines whether the Chapter and rules are being obeyed
- Commission may hear appeals to decisions made under Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code

#### **DeSoto Economic Development Corp. Board**

- Composed of five members serving three-year terms which expire on December 31
- Meets on the 4th Monday each month at noon at City Hall, special meetings may be called as needed
- Promotes quality development within the City of DeSoto
- Oversees funds earmarked to improve and develop DeSoto's commercial and industrial base
- The City Council shall consider an individual's experience, accomplishments, and educational background in appointing members to the Board. Each Director shall meet at least one (1) of the following four (4) qualifications:
- 1. Serve, or have served, as Chief Executive Officer of a Company; or
- 2. Serve, or have served, in a position of Executive Management of a Company; or



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- 3. Serve, or have served, in a professional capacity; or
- 4. Have experience equivalent to any of the above qualifications

In addition to these qualifications, each member must be bondable.

## **Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board**

- Composed of seven adult members and two student members serving two year terms
- Meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall
- Educates the public on litter control and prevention programs
- Initiates, plans and coordinates litter control and prevention programs
- Encourages the planting and preservation of trees, shrubs and flowers
- Promotes a safer, healthier and more beautiful community
- Stimulates interest and action toward conversation of resources through recycling

#### **Library Board**

- Composed of seven members serving two- year terms
- Meets the 1st Thursday of the month in the Library Assembly Hall
- Makes recommendations to City Council concerning Library policies and regulations
- May serve as representative to various local, regional and state library organizations and as lay representative to the Northeast Texas Library System

#### **Park Development Corporation Board**

- Composed of seven members serving two year terms
- Meets the 1st Monday of the month at City Hall
- Oversees funds earmarked for improving and developing DeSoto's parks using the proceeds from 4-B sales tax
- May raise funds through issuance of bonds, notes or other debt instruments, and secures matching funds from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

## **Planning & Zoning Commission**

- Composed of seven members serving three-year terms
- Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at City Hall, special meetings may be called as needed
- Recommends approval or disapproval of changes in the City's Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Master Plan, and Major Thoroughfare Plan
- Reviews and updates the City's Comprehensive Plan
- Serves as the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee to the City Council and provides Impact Fee Advisory

# **Tri-City Regional Animal Shelter Advisory Board**

- Composed of three members, one from each of the cities of DeSoto, Duncanville and Cedar Hill each serving three-year terms
- Meets on an as-needed basis
- Reviews and considers Shelter policies
- Makes recommendations and serves as an Advisory Board to the City Councils of the three cities

#### **Zoning Board of Adjustment**

- Composed of five members and four alternates serving two-year terms
- Meets when there is a case to be considered on the 3rd Thursday of the month
- Authorizes expansion or continuation of non-conforming structures and variances to the Zoning Ordinance under certain conditions
- Hears and decides appeals that allege error in an order, requirement, decision or determination by an administrative official

Applications will be available at the Board & Commission Fair on August 14th. They are also available in the City Secretary's Office in City Hall at Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road or may be downloaded from the city's website at <a href="www.ci.desoto.tx.us">www.ci.desoto.tx.us</a>. The deadline for submitting completed applications is Monday, August 25, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. The City Council will conduct interviews with all applicants. If you have any questions or need further information regarding serving as a volunteer on any of DeSoto's Boards or Commissions, please call the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646 or e-mail to <a href="mailto:lhallmark@ci.desoto.tx.us">lhallmark@ci.desoto.tx.us</a>.