

DeSoto News Flash

Week of August 4th through
August 8th, 2008

Would You Like To Be A Guest At The Next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner?

If so, we invite you to join us!! It's easy, just go to the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue website at desotodininganddialogue.org and fill out the guest registration form before September 8, 2008. Once you are assigned to a dinner table, all you have to do is agree to attend the dinner and engage in the discussion. You'll receive an invitation with the location of your dinner table in mid-September.

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals of all ages including high school students who live or work in DeSoto, the opportunity to get to know one another at dinner events with 8 to 10 participants. These dinners are held



twice a year in private homes, churches or restaurants all over town on the same night. The discussion is lead by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community.

This program is primarily successful because families are willing to open their homes and host, at their own expense, a dinner for a diverse group of citizens. 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 which means that we need committed citizens like you to participate in the program as guests. Join us in building a strong community. For more information on DeSoto Dining and Dialogue, please call Kathy (Maples) Jones at 972.230-9648.

The DeSoto Arts Commission is Looking for Non-profit Theater and Performing Groups to Apply for Arts Grants

If you enjoyed a performance presented by the African American Repertory Theater in the Corner Theatre, the Juneteenth Evening of Storytelling or the DeSoto Art League Juried Art Shows in City Hall, you enjoyed programs funded by DeSoto's Cultural Arts Grants Program. These are just a few of the arts opportunities made available to DeSoto residents by this program. We are currently accepting applications for projects scheduled for the 2009 calendar year.

The City of DeSoto will offer \$20,000 in grants to fund arts programming in our city. These funds are derived from the Municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax and state law mandates that a portion of these funds may be awarded as Cultural Arts Grants. This assistance is intended to enhance the quality of life and promote a healthy economic climate in DeSoto by serving as a vehicle for leveraging public and private funds and for developing markets for artists and arts organizations.

Since the Town Center mixed-use development will be opening in the summer of 2009, the City Council has asked the Arts Commission to focus on identifying quality family-friendly live theater and musical performances for DeSoto's Corner Theatre. With its location next door to the Recreation Center, the Corner Theatre will become a focal point for entertainment in the Town Center Development. "It is our hope that people will come to the new Town Center, enjoy a nice dinner, walk across the street to take in a great show at the Corner Theatre and end the evening with dessert at another restaurant in the development," said Denise Valentine, DeSoto City Councilmember.

The Cultural Arts Grant Program is coordinated by the DeSoto Arts Commission and each year in late summer they put out the call for projects seeking funding. To be eligible, you must be an active nonprofit arts organization who can demonstrate sound artistic direction and financial management. Community involvement is also strongly considered. Funded activities must take place within the city limits of DeSoto and this year we are specifically looking for programming for the Corner Theatre. Applications are accepted from August 1st until September 30th. Qualifying nonprofit arts organizations can request funding for their projects as well as an in-kind grant for use of the Corner Theatre.

Application forms are available at DeSoto City Hall, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the Community Relations Department and may also be downloaded from the city's website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us. To request a grant application packet or for more information on the City of DeSoto's Cultural Arts Grant Program, please call Kathy (Maples) Jones at 972.230.9648.

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 **DESOTO FITNESS CENTER**

FREE FITNESS MEMBERSHIP

FITNESS PLAN 1
Sign up for a 2 months membership and receive a one month's membership for FREE.

FITNESS PLAN 2
Sign up a new member to the fitness center and you will receive a FREE month's membership.

You can only choose one fitness plan.

INFO: 972.230.9655
www.ci.desoto.tx.us

PROMOTION PERIOD
August 5 - September 30

HOURS

M-TH: 5:00am - 9:30pm
FRI: 5:00am - 6:00pm
SAT: 6:45am - 6:00pm
SUN: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

EQUIPMENT

- Life Fitness Treadmills
- Cybex Weight Equipment
- Hammer Strength Equipment
- True Fitness Elliptical Trainers
- Expresso Fitness Bike
- Arc Trainer
- Jacobs Ladder
- Free weight area

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 5th National Night Out
- Aug. 14th Board & Commission Fair - City Hall Atrium 7 - 8 p.m.
- Aug. 30th Youth Fishing Day at Briarwood Park - 9 a.m. to noon
- Sept. 1st Labor Day Holiday - No trash pick-up - Regular Monday service moves to Tuesday, Tuesday moves to Wednesday, Recycling moves to Thursday, Thursday pick-up moves to Friday and regular Friday pick-up moves to Saturday.
- Sept. 4 - 28 "A Soldier's Play" by Charles Fuller at the Corner Theatre. Call the African American Repertory Theater at 972.572.0998 for tickets.
- Sept. 13th VIVA DeSoto at Elerson Park, call 972.230.9651 for info.
- Oct. 4th Toad Holler Creekfest - Roberts Park, call 972.230.9651 for info.