## DO Naus Flas For the Week of August 3rd



#### **DeSoto's African American Repertory Theater**

will open its new season with "Seven Guitars" by August Wilson. The play will run from Friday, August 7 through Sunday, August 30, with a special preview performance on Thursday, August 6.

This is Mr. Wilson's sixth installment of his exploration of the black experience in America, two of which have won Pulitzer Prizes. A winner of the New York Drama Critics Award for Best Play, "Seven Guitars" is a full length, part bawdy comedy, part dark elegy, and part mystery. "Seven Guitars" represents the 1940s entry in Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, a decade-by-decade anthology of African-American life in Pittsburgh during the twentieth century. Wilson would revisit the stories of some of these characters in King Hedley II, set in the 1980s.

"Seven Guitars" focuses on seven African American characters. The comedy recounts the fate of a Pittsburgh musician. Friends gather in the back yard of a Pittsburgh tenement in 1948 to mourn Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton, a sweet-talking blues guitarist and singer whose life was cut short before fulfilling his musical dreams and before his career had begun to soar. The action that follows is a flashback to the busy week leading up to the character's sudden and unnatural death.

"That's All Right," which was a song "Schoolboy" recorded in the prior year, has become a radio hit. He has been asked by record executives to return to Chicago to record more albums. Since the recording of the first album, Floyd has squandered the flat fee he received for recording; left his girlfriend, Vera, for another woman; was then left by her; pawned his guitar and then spent 90 days in jail after being arrested while walking home from his mother's funeral. After a year of trials and tribulations, Floyd is ready to right the wrongs of the previous year and return to Chicago with a new beginning in what's important in life.

through August 7th, 2009

The play's recurring theme is the African-American male's fight for his own humanity, self-understanding, and self-acceptance in the face of personal and societal ills. It is the continuing theatrical saga that explores hope, heartbreak and heritage.

For ticket information, please visit the AART website at www.aareptheater.com or call 972.572.0998. The AART produces engaging, culturally-diverse theater while educating the community on African-American history and the arts.

Tickets: www.aareptheater.com

"Displays a narrative sweep and almost biblical richness of language and character...Mr. Wilson writes so vividly that the play seems to have the narrative scope and depth of a novel."

- The New York Times.

"Impressive.....with wild, untamed elements of symbolic fantasy, and the language...is used with the specific riff like fluency and emotional impact of jazz."

- New York Post



# Have You Been Wondering When The City Street Sweeper Will Be In Your Neighborhood?

The City of DeSoto operates an Elgin Crosswind street sweeper with funding provided by the sanitation fund. The city is committed to sweeping all curbed one-mile grid streets such as Hampton Road once a week and all curbed residential streets once a month.

Have you ever wondered when the street sweeper will be in your neighborhood? If so, now you can go to homepage on the city's website for a link that will take you to the Street Sweeper page. There you'll find a city map which is marked with four quadrants. Information will be posted weekly indicating which quadrant will be swept that week.

The street sweeper is picking up an average of 24 cubic yards of debris from our streets every day. This program is designed to help our streets remain free from litter and debris while protecting and preserving our natural environment. It has proven to

increase the quality of water runoff into our tributaries and Ten Mile Creek because much of the polluting debris is removed before it can be washed down storm drains.

For more information on the city's street sweeping program, please call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689.





### Got Talent??

Got Talent? Do you, sing, dance, or tell jokes? Do you have a hidden talent you are ready to share with the world?

If so, come out and audition for the 7th Annual DeSoto Star Search Competition. DeSoto Star Search is a "just for fun" talent show sponsored each year by the DeSoto Arts Commission. This year's show is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Corner Theatre at DeSoto Town Center.

In order to be a part of the show, you must audition. The DeSoto Arts Commission is holding open auditions on Saturday, August 29th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are seeking singers, dancers, musicians and other talented performers aged 8 to 108 for the competition. First, second and third place winners will be chosen in the following age groups; kids aged 8-11, tweens aged 12-14, teens aged 15-18, adults and seniors over 55.

20 acts will be chosen from all who audition to perform at the DeSoto Star Search Show on September 12th. First place winners in each age category will receive \$100 and the chance to perform at city events throughout the year. A \$5 audition fee per act

will be charged to those who audition with the proceeds to be used as prize money for the winners.

Auditions are open to groups as well as individuals, however, an appointment is required. Each contestant will have five minutes to impress the judges with their talent. To reserve an audition time or for more information on DeSoto's 7th Annual Star Search, please call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.







#### Cedar Hill . Duncanville . DeSoto

## Grand Opening Saturday August 15, 2009

Join us at 1150 E. Pleasant Run Rd for the Grand Opening of the new animal shelter Festivities will be from 11am until 4pm

Bring your adopted pets for a fun-filled day of activities including:

- Miniature horse rides
- Award-winning Police
   K-9 unit demonstration
- Tours of the new facility
- Food & drinks
- Low-cost micro-chipping (\$20 with proof of current rabies vaccination)



Call (972) 291-5335 for more information or visit our website at www.oedarhilltx.com/animalshelter

### Save The Date

Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter Gala Celebrating the Grand Opening of the New Shelter



Date: September 13, 2009

Time: 2:00 - 6:00 PM

Place: Enchanted Memories

Duncanville, TX

Phone: 972-291-1198



### Blue Cow Coffee Company Opens August 15th In the Foyer of the DeSoto Public Library

"By mid-August, you'll be able to enjoy a great cup of coffee when you visit the DeSoto Public Library," according to Jim Baugh, DeSoto City Manager. Recently the City Council approved an agreement with Blue Cow Coffee Company to operate a coffee shop/bistro in the lobby area of the DeSoto Public Library.

"We have been working to enhance our services, foster a comfortable environment and improve the amenities offered by our library, said Lucile Dade, Managing Director of Library Services. "We've repainted and installed new carpet, we added the extended hours computer lab a couple of months ago and now we are partnering with the Blue Cow to offer coffee and bistro food to our patrons and the community," said Dade.

The Library Board and staff have been involved for some time now on a plan to transform our library into the Library of the 21st Century. One plan initiative was to make the library more of a community gathering place by offering a coffee shop with free Wi-Fi. Paul Courtaway's philosophy for operating the Blue Cow fit perfectly with that initiative.

"Blue Cow is not a franchise, it is an idea brought about by the times and by a true passion for great food and great coffee. It is a place of community, a place of gathering, and a place for fellowship for EVERYONE....not just the coffee house crowd," said Paul Courtaway, Blue Cow owner.

"Blue Cow will offer homemade from scratch, made-to-order food and the best coffees from around the world at an affordable price that is sensitive to the needs of all in these tough economic times, "said Courtaway. The menu will feature daily .99 cent drip coffee, teas, sodas, juice drinks, blended drinks, great food and daily specials including homemade soups, Panini and deli sandwiches, stuffed pretzels and breakfast burritos.

The Blue Cow will convert the existing kitchen in the Library Assembly Hall and a portion of the Library's lobby area into the bistro. They expect to open for business August 15th. Initially the hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. They plan to extend their hours to 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. once established.

"The Blue Cow will be physically located in our library but we hope that residents, employees and visitors to Town Center will patronize it," said Jim Baugh, City Manager. "This will be a great place to grab a cup of coffee after your morning workout in the Fitness Center or during intermission of a show in the Corner Theatre."

"We are excited that our family owned and family run business has the chance to come to DeSoto and be a part of a community that values family so much," said Blue Cow owner, Courtaway. "We look forward to showing everyone what truly great coffee, truly great passion for food and truly great service really means."