

DeSoto News Flash

For the Week of September
8th through September
11th, 2009



Opens for business
August 15, 2009
in the foyer of the
DeSoto Public Library
Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily
Menu Includes:

Drip coffee, lattes, teas, sodas,
juice drinks, blended drinks,
homemade soups, Panini and deli
sandwiches, stuffed pretzels and
breakfast burritos.

The DeSoto Arts Commission Presents:

Tom Braxton - In Concert

Friday, September 18th 8 p.m.

DeSoto Corner Theatre
Tickets \$10

Saxophonist Tom Braxton is a
versatile instrumentalist, a
charismatic performer, and a
gifted composer whose
distinct, melodic sound thrills
audiences of all ages and
leaves them wanting more.

For tickets call, 972.230.9648.



DeSoto Star Search Talent Show

Saturday, Sept. 12th 7:30 p.m.

DeSoto Corner Theatre

Come see top talent from around the Metroplex compete for cash prizes in DeSoto's own "just for fun" talent show. Tickets are \$10, call 972 230-9648 for more information.

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WAL★MART

September 12, 2009

DeSoto Wal-Mart

Noon - 4:00 pm

VIVA

2009

DESOTO



Sarah & Anthony

**Games, Face painting
Balloons**

**This is an afternoon of music,
dance, food and family fun**

**Prize give a-ways
during the event**



**Denise & Valerie
Davila**

**Other local artist performances
during the day**

**Javier Solis
Folklorico Dance Group
and more...**

**Raymond Macias
Unique Promotions Inc.**



**Salsa dance couple
Omar & Diana**



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Friday, September 11th is the Deadline to Apply for a City Board or Commission

Are you looking for a way to become an active participant in our All-America City? Serving on a Board or Commission is a great way to become involved in DeSoto.

Each year, the City has vacancies on their standing boards and commission caused by term limits. The City Council is looking for volunteers who would be interested in filling these vacancies. To qualify you must be a resident of DeSoto for at least one year prior to your appointment, and remain in the City during your tenure. Currently, the DeSoto City Council is looking for volunteers who would be interested in filling open positions on the following boards or commissions:

- Arts Commission – 2 vacancies
- Building & Standards Commission – 1 regular and 1 alternate vacancy
- Library board—1 vacancy
- DeSoto, Texas Historical Foundation – 1 vacancy
- Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board – 2 vacancies
- Park Development Corp. Board – 1 vacancy
- Planning & Zoning Commission—1 vacancy
- Tri-City Animal Shelter Board – 1 vacancy
- Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vacancy (alternate position)

All Board and Commission appointments are made by the City Council through an interview process. However, there are two boards whose members are appointed by City Council by place. Interviews are held annually, although other interview sessions may be scheduled as openings occur. Applications are accepted year-round.

Here's a short overview of each of our Boards and Commissions.

The **Arts Commission**, established in 1997, is comprised of seven members who serve a two year term. The Arts Commission administers the annual Arts Grant funding process by reviewing applications from prospective grantees and making recommendations to the City Council for funding. The Arts Commission also assists in planning various cultural activities for the benefit of DeSoto citizens and meets on an as-needed basis.

The **Building and Standards Commission**, established in 1993, is comprised of five members and four alternates who serve a two year term. They serve as an advisory commission for hearing cases regarding discrepancies in building codes interpretation and meet on an as-needed basis.

The **Civil Service Commission**, established in 1988 when DeSoto adopted Civil Service rules, is comprised of three members appointed by the City Manager to serve three year terms. The City Council confirms these appointments. The Civil Service Commission meets on an as-needed basis to discuss

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issues pertaining to Police and Fire personnel.

The **DeSoto Economic Development Corporation** – or DEDC, established in 1988, is comprised of five members who serve a three year term. The DEDC, a 4a sales tax corporation, manages a budget of funds received from the 3/8 cent sales tax collected in DeSoto, promotes quality development within the City of DeSoto and meets the fourth Monday of each month in the City Council conference room. To serve on the DEDC Board of Directors, eligible candidates should have a minimum of one of the following qualifications: serve, or have served as Chief Executive Officer of a company; serve, or have served, in a position of executive management of a company; serve, or have served, in a professional capacity; and have experience equivalent to any of the previously listed qualifications and be bondable.

The **DeSoto, Texas Historical Foundation**, is our newest board and meets on an as-needed basis. It was established in 2007 when the city repurchased Nance Farm. Comprised of seven members appointed by City Council place and two ex-officio members serving three year terms, the historical foundation is charged with cataloging, archiving, preserving, displaying to the public written or published material, artifacts and other physical items associated with or related to Nance Farm – an historical landmark, one of the oldest residences in southern Dallas County. The historical foundation is also responsible for educating the public on DeSoto's history, researching Nance Farm and other historical sites within the City limits, applying for grants and other funding and soliciting charitable donations and gifts for the preservation and maintenance of Nance Farm or other landmark properties or memorial facilities in DeSoto.

The **Keep DeSoto Beautiful Corporation**, or KDB, was established in 1999 and is comprised of seven members appointed by City Council place for two year terms. There are also four student members selected by the board to serve for the school year. Board members meet the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Information Technology Conference Room at City Hall. KDB 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 conservation of resources through recycling; awards Property of the Month designation to a property that exemplifies the mission and goals of KDB. Along with their mascot, the KD Bee, this board visits DeSoto schools to help educate young people about the importance of recycling and helping to keep our community a clean and beautiful place to live.

The **Library Advisory Board**, established in 1972, is comprised of seven members serving two year terms. This board supports and promotes the need for good public library services to the DeSoto community, helps reconcile contradictory viewpoints and serves as a channel for citizen expression in library matters. Board members may serve as representatives to various local, regional, and state library organizations. The Library Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Library Conference Room.

The **Park Development Corporation Board**, established in 1972, is comprised of seven members serving two year terms, who meet the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Parks & Leisure Services conference room at the Civic Center. This board oversees funds earmarked for the use of improving and developing DeSoto's parks through the 4B sales tax proceeds; oversees Parks and Recreation master planning; and may raise funds through the issuance of bonds, notes, or other debt instruments, and matching funds from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

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The **Planning and Zoning Commission**, established in 1959, has the distinction of being DeSoto's longest standing Board or Commission. It is comprised of seven members serving three year terms and meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. This commission reviews zoning applications; reviews all subdivision plats within the city limits; makes recommendations to the City Council regarding zoning applications such as planned developments, specific use permits, plats and straight zoning. They also make recommendations to the City Council regarding other development policy or ordinances, such as changes to the comprehensive plan, subdivision and zoning ordinances.

The **Tri-City Animal Shelter Advisory Board** is comprised of nine members, three each from the participating cities of DeSoto, Duncanville, and Cedar Hill, serving three year terms and meets on an as needed basis approximately once each quarter. They serve in an advisory capacity to City Council in matters pertaining to the animal shelter; review basic policies, procedures, and problem areas as requested by shelter staff; recommend facility fees; and assist staff in determining proper recommendations concerning capital improvements and maintenance requirements such as construction of the new building opening in August, 2009.

The **Zoning Board of Adjustment**, or ZBOA, was established in 1960 and is comprised of five members and four alternates, serving a two year term. The ZBOA meets on an as needed basis to consider requests for variances and appeals to interpretations made by administrative officials.

Information regarding Boards and Commissions and the application process can be found on our web site at www.ci.desoto.tx.us. Just click on City Hall and then Citizen Boards and Commissions. Once there, you will find information on how to submit an application. Also, please feel free to contact the Office of the City Secretary should you have any questions at 972-230-9664. The deadline to receive completed applications is Friday, September 11, 2009.

Free Computer Classes at the DeSoto Public Library

The DeSoto Public Library is offering free computer classes during September. Here's the list of courses:

September 16th - 6 to 7 p.m. - Basic Computer Information

September 23rd - 6 to 7 p.m.- Setting Up Email Accounts

September 30th - 6 to 7 p.m. - Basic Internet Searching

Students must bring their valid DeSoto Public Library card with them to participating in the class. The class is limited to 10 students, so please call the Library at 972.230.9661 to register or for more information.