March, 2010



City Lights DeSoto, Texas



www.ci.desoto.tx.us 972.230.9600

A publication of the City of DeSoto's Community Relations Department

Council Corner, A Message from Carl Williams, Place 7



Another Request

On at least two prior occasions in this newsletter, I have requested or suggested increased citizen involvement in the governmental process in our city. You have responded admirably. I and my Council colleagues are particularly appreciative of your recent participation in the governmental process.

I am referring to your individual attendance and participation in the Town Hall Meeting on Public Transportation in DeSoto and the engagement of your HOAs in recent Planning and Zoning cases. The research and presentation of relevant information was invaluable in helping us reach a unanimous decision on each of the Planning and Zoning cases.

Providing us with your likes, dislikes and alternatives regarding a transit system in DeSoto will, in my opinion, provide us with direction in determining the cost/benefit of <u>any</u> type of transit system in DeSoto that we, the taxpayers, will have to pay for. For this, I thank you.

There is another extremely important issue that I would like you to consider and provide your valuable input. That issue is

The DeSoto Chamber of Commerce, Governmental Affairs Committee would like to recognize March as

City Council Appreciation Month

The Desoto Chamber of Commerce invites the community to join them in recognizing current and former members of the Desoto City Council for their outstanding leadership and vision for the luture making Desoto a great place to live, work, and play.

the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Over the past six years, you have been interested enough in your city to provide input into the CIP by completing and returning the CIP "input" cards which were recently mailed to all DeSoto homes. The information you provide from these cards will be presented to the City Council at its annual CIP work sessions. The projects currently under consideration have emerged from the City Council's discussion of projects suggested by you over the past several years. I urge you to take this opportunity to voice your opinion on the proposed projects that are listed on the "input" cards. Your input and opinions are vital to us as we make decisions for DeSoto's future.

Carl Williams, City Council - Place 7

Special Earth Month Activities in April

Household Hazardous Waste Event

Saturday, April 10, 2010 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. DeSoto Pump Station - 620 N. Westmoreland Rd.

If you have household hazardous waste that cannot be discarded along with the regular trash such as paint, oil, fertilizer, acid, gasoline, or pesticides, you can bring it to the event with a voucher. Vouchers can be obtained from the City of DeSoto Action Center located in City Hall or by calling 972. 230.9600. We have a limited number of vouchers available. Only DeSoto residents will be allowed to participate and you will be asked to show proof of residency in order to obtain your voucher.

Document Shredding/Recycling Event

Saturday, April 24, 2010 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. DeSoto Service Center - 809 W. Spinner Road

Avoid identity theft by bringing your discarded household documents for shredding to the annual document shredding event. You can also recycle old electronics for a small fee at this event. For more information, please call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689.

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You Can Get E-Audiobooks at the DeSoto Public Library

The DeSoto Public Library offers books in electronic (e-book) format, which can be played/read on a PC, iPod, or MP3 player. The library has offered this format since 2006. To access the catalog of e-audiobooks and download them to a player, please go to the library's webpage on the City of DeSoto website,

www.ci.desoto.tx.us/library, or www.ci.desoto.tx.us and click on Departments, then click on Library. There is a link to the e-audiobooks catalog on the library webpage.

Users must come into the library to set up an e-audiobook account, just like coming into the library to get a library card. Once an e-audiobook account has been set up, users can search and download titles from any Internet



accessible computer. Users can search the e-audiobook catalog by author, title, subject, or full-text. The "show details" part of the record will tell users if the title can be downloaded to a PC, iPOD, or MP3 player. Topics covered in the e-audiobook catalog include: fiction, biography, business, health and medicine, sports, and travel.

The DeSoto Public Library is located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the DeSoto Town Center. For more information about downloadable e-audiobooks, please call the library's Information Desk at 972.230.9661.

Need to Get Organized? The Library Can Help.

Back by popular demand, Tiffany Powell, "Ms. Organization" and owner of Drops of Design (www.dropsofdesign.com, dropsofdesign@gmail.com), will present a series of workshops at the DeSoto Public Library to teach participants to say goodbye to the stress, pressure, and frustration that comes from being disorganized. Ms. Powell will share plans to organize out-of-control spaces throughout the house which will create even more storage space. The workshops will be held each Saturdays from Feb. 27 – April 3, from 10:30 11:30 a.m. The schedule is as follows:

Mar. 6 - Kitchen cabinets, countertops, and cookbooks

Mar. 13 - Laundry Rooms

Mar. 20 - Bathrooms

Mar. 27 - Mudrooms

Apr. 3 - Kids' rooms

Call the library's Information Desk at 972.230.9661 to register. The DeSoto Public Library is located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the DeSoto Town Center Complex.

CITY CALENDAR

March

- 1 Arts Commission Meeting 6:30 p.m. City hall
- 1 Park Development Corp. Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Recreation Center
- 2 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 4 Council Work Session to discuss Public Transportation in DeSoto
- 4 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 4 Library Advisory Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Library Conference Room
- 6 Town Hall Mtg. 9 a.m. City Hall FY2011-15 CIP Discussion
- 8 Last Day to File for Mayor or City Council
- 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 p.m.
- 11 Board & Commission Appreciation Banquet 6:30 p.m. Civic Center
- 13 Town Hall Mtg. to discuss public usage of Nance Farm 9 a.m. City Hall
- 13 Jazz Concert with Keith Anderson 8 p.m. Corner Theatre
- 16 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 22 DEDC Board Meeting noon City Hall
- 23 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 25 City Council FY2011 Budget Mtg. 6 p.m. City Hall

April

- 1 Special Council Mtg. to discuss CIP 6 p.m. City Hall
- 5 Arts Commission Meeting 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 5 Park Development Corp. Meeting 6:30 p.m. PALS Conference Room
- 6 City Council Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 8 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 8 Library Advisory Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Library Conference Room
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 20 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 26 DEDC Board Meeting noon City Hall
- 27 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall



The DeSoto Complete Count Committee for the 2010 Census would like to remind you to watch your mail during the month of March for the envelop pictured at left. It contains your 2010 Census Questionnaire. With only 10 questions, it is one of the shortest questionnaires in history. It only takes about 10 minutes to complete and it's confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

The success of the 2010 Census is in our hands. Please join us in making a difference by participating in the 2010 Census.

DeSoto Complete Count Committee Gayla Burton, Chair

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Important Information Regarding the Upcoming City Election

The next DeSoto General Election is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2010. The following council positions will appear on the ballot:

Mayor - Place 1, Councilmember - Place 3 Councilmember - Place 5

At the regular City Council Meeting on February 16, 2010, the City Council called a Special Election scheduled for May 8, 2010 to fill vacancies in the following places:

Councilmember - Place 6
Councilmember - Place 7

If you are interested in running for any of these positions on the City Council, please visit the City Secretary page of our web site at www.ci.desoto.tx.us to access a City Council Candidate Guide, which contains all the information needed to file.

Applications for a place on the City of DeSoto General Election ballot will be accepted Monday, February 8th through Monday,

March 8th between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the Office of the City Secretary at City Hall.

Applicants for City Council must meet the following qualifications as outlined in the DeSoto City Charter, Article II, City Council, Section 3:

- U.S. Citizen at least 18 years of age,
- · Registered qualified voter of the State of Texas,
- Shall have resided for at least one year next preceding the election at which he/she is a candidate within the Councilrepresented district to which he/she seeks election, except for the Mayor, who may be a resident of any district in the City. Councilmembers are elected "at large" by voters of the entire city,
- Candidates shall not be in arrears in the payment of any taxes or other liability due the City.

For more information, please call DeSoto City Secretary, Laura Hallmark at 972.230.9664.

April is National 9-1-1 Education Month

Southwest Regional Communication Center, the 9-1-1 call center for DeSoto as well as Cedar Hill, Duncanville would like to announce that the month of April has been set aside as *National 9-1-1 Education Month*. This month is designated to encourage educators, parents, public officials, and telecommunications industry leaders to join the national effort to educate all Americans on the importance and proper use of the 9-1-1 system.

It's important that you know how to help 9-1-1 help you. In an emergency, seconds matter, so being knowledgeable and prepared can make all the difference.

Know WHEN to call 9-1-1. 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. You should dial 9-1-1 if someone is hurt or in danger, or if you are in immediate need of police, fire or medical assistance. If you aren't sure if your situation is an emergency, you should err on the side of safety and call 9-1-1 and let the expert who answers your call make the decision on which agency is appropriate to respond.

Know WHERE you are. This is probably the most important information you can provide as a 9-1-1 caller, so try to be aware of your surroundings. Make a real effort to be as detailed as possible. If you're outside and don't know the actual street address, try to find landmarks or cross streets. If you are inside a large building or one with multiple levels, you can help emergency personnel by letting them know which floor you are on, which apartment you are in, etc.

Stay calm. When you are on the phone with 9-1-1, you are their eyes and ears. If you are crying or yelling, it can be hard for the 9-1-1 operator to understand you. If you are able to stay calm and answer all of the 9-1-1 operator's questions, the faster they can get the right services to your location.

Why do dispatchers ask so many questions?

This is a very frequently asked question. The 9-1-1 Dispatchers are trained to ask various questions that will assure a timely and accurate response to all emergency and service related calls. They

are trained to ask questions that will determine the exact nature of the call and that will enable them to provide the responding units with the information they need to properly handle the call and to assure their safety when responding and on the scene. Remember, the dispatchers work on a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and while they are questioning you, they are also entering the information you are providing to responding officers, paramedics or firefighters while they are on their way to the scene. Certain questions must also be asked to provide emergency assistance until responding units can arrive.

While your location is probably the most important information you provide as a 9-1-1 caller, dispatchers may also ask:

- What
- Who
- Why
- When
- (maybe) Where

Callers need to be patient, answer all questions, and understand that the questions are being asked for a reason.

9-1-1 is so much more than a phone number. For the public, it's a lifeline and an assurance that someone qualified will be there when they need help. But it's not just answering that call – it's assuring a timely response by knowing who to send, helping the responders get there, and passing along good information to make sure they can work safely and go home at the end of the shift.

For additional information on 9-1-1 and public safety issues for the cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville, please call our non emergency number at 972-223-6111 or visit our website at swrcc.net.

Help us make 9-1-1 work for you!

The DeSoto Arts Commission Presents:

Keith Anderson - In Concert

Saturday, March 13th 8 p.m.

DeSoto Corner Theatre - Tickets \$10

Saxophonist Keith Anderson has performed with Roy Hargrove, Erykah Badu, Bobby Lyle, and Kirk Franklin and was called "the newest of the Texas Tenors" by Cab Calloway. He has recorded with Al Jaereau and Kanye West on his "College Dropout" CD. The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to join us for a great evening of jazz featuring Keith Anderson at the DeSoto Corner Theatre located in Town Center. For tickets call, 972.230.9648.

DeSoto Recreation Center Teen Calendar

Domino Tournament

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 6 - 8p.m. For Ages 13 to 17 Fee: Recreation ID or \$5 guest pass Location: Youth Room

Guitar Hero III Video Game Tournament

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 7 - 9p.m.
Fee: \$5 to enter
For Ages 13 to 17
Location: Youth Room
Winner receives \$25 gift card to GameStop

Dodge Ball Tournament

Wednesday, May 27, 2010 7 - 9p.m. Fee: Recreation ID or \$5 guest pass For Ages 13 to 17 Location: Gym 1

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Wednesday, June 30, 2010 7 - 8:30 p.m. Fee: Recreation ID or \$5 guest pass For Ages 13 to 17 Location: Gym 1

Slam Dunk Competition

Wednesday, July 28, 2010 7 - 8:30 p.m. Fee: \$10 to enter For Ages 15 to 17 Location: Gym 1 Winner receives \$25 gift card to Wal-mart

Hip Hop Trivia

Wednesday, August 25, 2010 7 to 8:30 p.m.

No Fee
For Ages 13 to 17
Location: Youth Room
Winner receives a \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart

For more information, call the DeSoto Recreation Center at 972.230.9655.





Creekfest is Back!!

Now that the construction at Town Center is complete and the new shade cover has been installed on the Outdoor Amphitheater, its time to bring back Creekfest!! This great community event is back on the calendar and scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2010 from 2 to 10 p.m. at DeSoto Town Center. The event will include lots of food, children's activities and great entertainment with a new twist.

The DeSoto Urban Challenge sponsored by the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce will take place on the same day. The DeSoto Urban Challenge is similar to CBS's Amazing Race and will host 75 two-person teams who work together to solve 12 crazy challenges scattered throughout our city. Registration takes place at the Blue Cow Coffee Shop at 2 p.m. Check out their website at http://desotourbanchallenge.com for more information.

While Urban Challenge contestants race around DeSoto, there will be free

entertainment on the stage of our Outdoor Amphitheater at Town Center along with food and vendor booths and children's activities. You'll want to bring a lawn chair and get a good spot to enjoy local group 5 Second Rule featuring DeSoto resident, Paul Dryer on lead guitar at 6 p.m. followed by the cool jazz sounds of Fingerprints at 7:30 p.m.

If you'd like vendor information for Creekfest, please call Carolyn Campbell at 972.230.9651.



Jazz lovers, make plans to see Fingerprints sponsored by the DeSoto Arts Commission at Creekfest, Saturday, June 12th at 7:30 p.m.