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City Lights DeSoto, Texas

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department



Council Corner - A Departing Message from Mayor Bobby Waddle



After nine years on the DeSoto City Council and serving the last three years as Mayor, it's time for me to return to my family and ranching endeavors. It has been a great honor to serve the city that was settled by my ancestors more than 160 years ago. We have come a very long way and we have a bright future ahead of us.

As I look back at our accomplishments over the last nine years, I am struck by the sheer volume of projects that have

been completed. Here's a brief list:

- In 2003, we passed a \$32 million bond referendum which allowed us to remodel our Senior Center, reconstruct Central Fire Station, install sidewalks connecting neighborhoods with schools and parks, widen Parkerville Road from Polk to I-35, renovate our Civic and Recreation Centers, upgrade neighborhood parks, install picnic pavilions at Ernie Roberts Park, install new light poles on Hampton Road and construct our vision project, the Monument Tower at I-35 and Pleasant Run Road. These projects are all now complete and many of them came in under budget.
- In 2006, DeSoto was named an All-America City by the National Civic League, which recognizes cities who identify challenges and work collaboratively to achieve results. We owe this award to our coalition of more than 50 neighborhood associations and the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program which was organized in 2003 to begin to address issues of cultural diversity in our community. The DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program is unique to our city and sets us apart as a community of people who care about our neighbors and work together for the good of all. If you haven't attended a DDD dinner, I encourage you to do so.
- The DeSoto Town Center Mixed-Use Development, a public-private partnership between the City of DeSoto and the Trammell Crow Corporation, started as a suggestion by a consultant as a way to revitalize the declining retail corridor along Hampton Road. Now it is a reality. Today more than 90% of the 136 residential units are occupied and the retail outlets on the Pleasant Run side of the complex are all spoken for. I look forward to seeing this revitalization spread along Hampton Road to other areas sparking redevelopment of the whole corridor.
- I was also extremely pleased that the City of DeSoto was able to purchase Nance Farm out of foreclosure and set plans in motion to restore it. Preserving our history has always been

a priority for me and Nance Farm is one of only a few homes, built in the mid-1800's in North Texas, that sits on its original site. I look forward to seeing Nance Farm fully restored and open to the public for future generations.

- Our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) continues to improve DeSoto with the widening of Cockrell Hill Road, addition of a sidewalk along Westmoreland Road, and the use of Community Development Block Grant funds to rebuild infrastructure. A new plan for FY 2011 - 2015, recently approved by the City Council, will allow us to repair deteriorating alleys, widen Chattey Road, and participate with Dallas County to reconstruct arterials.
- I am very proud of our partnerships with other cities such as the Southwest Regional Communications Center, the Tri-City Animal Shelter, and Regional Jail which have resulted in significant cost savings and improved services for all partner cities. I was also extremely proud and honored to have been able to participate in hosting the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (Vietnam Wall) in DeSoto last April along with the cities and chambers of Duncanville, Cedar Hill, and Lancaster. This event was a moving tribute to our veterans, a great learning experience for students, and an exceptional example of teamwork and cooperation. It also resulted in positive media exposure and recognition for our region.

As I move on, I want to commend and recognize the DeSoto City Council, our City Manager Jim Baugh, and city staff as they strive to keep DeSoto an All-America City. I encourage both to continue to be visionary in their planning for the future of DeSoto and the region in spite of tough economic times.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank the citizens for your involvement in our community and encourage you to continue your commitment to it. The city offers many ways to be involved. I urge you to attend a Civic Academy, volunteer to serve on a city board or commission, or be active in your local neighborhood association. I salute all those dedicated and hard working citizens who make things happen in DeSoto creating the great city we are proud to live in and call home.

God bless you, and yours and God bless America.

Respectfully,

**Bobby G. Waddle,
Mayor**

Upcoming Activities at the DeSoto Public Library

Are you looking for ways to keep the kids occupied as school draws to a close? The DeSoto Public Library has a full summer of activities to keep children and teens engaged and learning. Here's a list of upcoming activities:

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Jacco Valarde

The Children's Department will have a children's program Wednesday, May 5th at 10:30 a.m. in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Jacco Valarde is a Latin American Ethnic Music Performer who will help children discover the magic and the rhythms of the music of the Aztecs, Incas, and Mayans. Jacco brings the captivating and mysterious sounds of a variety of instruments such as the bamboo pan pipe, an unusual guitar made from the shell of an armadillo, and a high-pitched rattle made from goat hooves.

Spring Storytime Party

The DeSoto Public Library will celebrate its last storytime on Wednesday, May 12th, at 10:30 a.m. with special stories, crafts and cupcakes. Storytime will not be held during the summer.

Summer Reading Club Kick-off Party

Sign-up for the DeSoto Public Library Summer Reading Club begins with a party on Wednesday, June 9th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Town Center. Bring the kids to the Kick-Off Party and enjoy fun activities including the Balloon Artist, Face Painting, the Rolling Studio Bus, a Bounce House, and Pony Rides. For more information on the Summer Reading Club, call 972.230.9666.

DeSoto Public Library Summer Reading Club

This program begins with the Kick-Off Party on June 9th and continues through Friday, July 30th. As a part of the Summer Reading Club, children and teens can read their favorite books, make fun crafts, enjoy our summer programs and activities, and win prizes.

Teen Volunteers Wanted for the Summer

The DeSoto Public Library is looking for teen volunteers who are at least 15 years old for its Teen Summer Volunteer Program (TSVP). The eight-week Teen Summer Volunteer Program provides teens with confidence-building volunteer experience, practical job skills, customer and public service experience and an introduction to possible careers in libraries. Teens can volunteer at the library by assisting at the check out desk, shelving library materials, assisting with the Summer Reading Club, or tutoring children ages 6-9 in reading. Teens can also join our Teen Techie Program that assists other teens in learning a variety of new computer technologies as well as assisting library users in the library's computer room. The TSVP begins June 14th. The deadline to apply for the program is May 21st. Teens may complete an application and return it to the check out desk at the library or apply online at www.ci.desoto.tx.us/library. For more information, call Marq Runnels at 972.230.9663.

CITY CALENDAR

May

- 1 Mother/Son Dance - Civic Center - 7 - 9 p.m. call 972.230.9651 for tickets
- 3 Arts Commission Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Park Development Corp. Meeting - Recreation Center - 6:30 p.m.
- 4 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 6 National Day of Prayer Observance - City Hall 7 a.m.
- 6 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Library Advisory Board Meeting - Library Conference Room - 7 p.m.
- 8 Municipal Election Day — voting in Library Assembly Hall - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 11 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 14 Police Memorial - DeSoto Police Building 714 E. Belt Line Rd. - 9 a.m.
- 15 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner Event call 972.230.9648 for info.
- 18 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 20 Free Concert featuring Don Diego - Outdoor Amphitheater - 7 p.m.
- 24 DEDC Board Meeting - City Hall - noon
- 25 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 27 Youth Dodge Ball Tournament - Recreation Center - 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- 29-31 Sneak Peak - Moseley Pool
- 31 Memorial Day Holiday - City Offices and most facilities closed

June

- 1 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 3 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Library Advisory Board Meeting - Library Conference Room - 7 p.m.
- 4 Moseley Pool opens for Summer Season - 2 p.m.
- 7 Arts Commission Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Park Development Corp. Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 12 Creekfest - Urban Challenge - Town Center 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- 15 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 19 BSW Juneteenth Celebration - Armstrong Park - Duncanville - 4 to 10 p.m.
- 22 Planning & Zoning Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 23 Great Days of Service
- 28 DEDC Board Meeting - City Hall - noon
- 29 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 30 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament - Rec. Center - 7 - 9 p.m.

Special Hours for Memorial Day

City Hall and most city facilities will close on Monday, May 31, 2010 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. However, these facilities will be open on that day:

- The Library Computer Room will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Moseley Pool, located at 1300 Honor Drive, will be open for Sneak Peak Weekend from Saturday, May 29th through Monday May 31st. Moseley Pool opens for full summer operations on Friday, June 4th.

There will be no interruption in the normal trash collection service on Monday, May 31st. Republic Waste (Duncan) will make their normal collections that day.

Join Us for the Grand Re-Opening of the Outdoor Amphitheater at Town Center and Free Music In The Park Concert Series

There is nothing like settling into a lawn chair or spreading a blanket on the hill to listen to music in the great outdoors and the DeSoto Parks & Leisure Services Department has planned a concert series that will allow you to do just that. The Outdoor Amphitheater at Town Center has a new shade cover and DeSoto PALS will celebrate its grand re-opening with a free outdoor concert on Thursday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m. featuring Will Ritchie & Band and Don Diego.

"This concert is the first one in our Spring/Fall 2010 Music in the Park Concert Series, and we are beyond excited," according to Carolyn Campbell, Special Events Coordinator.

The Music in the Park Concert Series offers free entertainment in our newly covered amphitheater which is located behind the Civic Center on the banks of Ten Mile Creek. Several free performances are planned featuring talented local and regional artist. The concerts feature something for everyone, offering a variety of musical taste for the spirited and the soulful.



So come, sit under the stars, and turn your mind over to the music. This upcoming season promises to be something special. We hope you enjoy the Thursday night Music in the Park Concert Series as we bring you smooth Jazz, Country, Celtic, R & B and good old fashioned Blues.

MUSIC IN THE PARK CONCERT SCHEDULE

- May 20 - 6:30 p.m. Will Ritchie & Band and Don Diego**
(Spoken Word, R & B)
- June 12 - 2 - 10 p.m. Creekfest - 5 Second Rule, Fingerprints**
(Celtic, Jazz - see full schedule on page 4)
- Sept 16 - 6:30 p.m. Denise & Valeria Davila, Inner City All Stars**
(Mariachi, Brass, Jazz & Funk)
- October 7 - 6:30 p.m. Joe King and Natural Change Band**
(Country, Smooth Jazz)

For more information on the Music In The Park Concert Series, please call Carolyn Campbell at 972.230.9651.

Are you looking for summer activities for yourself or your child? Check out PALS Online on the City of DeSoto website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us. You'll find a full range of recreational opportunities for preschoolers to senior citizens. For more information on summer activities at the DeSoto Recreation Center, please call 972.230.9655.

City Hires Consultant for Entertainment Venue Feasibility Study

For some time now, the City Council has discussed opportunities for making DeSoto a destination for arts and entertainment. As a result, they placed the following item in their 2010 Work Plan:

Develop an economic feasibility study for a regional attraction entertainment venue in DeSoto.

- A. Request for Qualifications in the first quarter of 2010
- B. Present findings of feasibility study in third quarter of 2010

The Projects Group has been hired by the city to perform the entertainment venue feasibility study. They have met with members of the City Council, DeSoto Arts Commission and members of the local arts community, the DeSoto Chamber and Economic Development Corporation and others to begin the process of collecting public input on the feasibility of an entertainment venue in DeSoto.

Their next step is to gauge public interest in an Entertainment Venue for DeSoto. The Projects Group would like you to submit your answers to the following questions at DeSoto_Venue_Survey@yahoo.com either by scanning your responses and e-mailing them or just typing them into an email. Your answers will remain anonymous.

1. What is your interest level in performing arts/visual arts? (please circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Low High
2. How many live performances have you attended in the past year? _____
3. Have you attended a performance in the Corner Theatre in the past year? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, how many _____
4. Do you perceive the City of DeSoto to be lacking a proper sized Multi-Purpose Event Center?
Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure _____
5. What is your interest level regarding a new performing arts center in DeSoto (please circle)
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Low High
6. If you were to attend a local/regional art show or performance, where would it be?

7. How far do you typically travel to attend a live performance (live music, dance, theater, etc)? Please answer in travel time. _____
8. Of venues that you currently frequent, what are some of your favorite attributes, (i.e. location, ease of access, acoustic quality, size, pre or post show dining and entertainment).

9. Please provide any additional comments, feedback or questions. _____

These questions will also be available on the city's homepage under News & Events at www.ci.desoto.tx.us. You will be able to submit your answers directly to the Projects Group here. Thank you for your input. If you have any questions, please call the City of DeSoto at 972.230.9643.



The weather is warming up, all the construction at DeSoto Town Center is complete, the Amphitheater has a brand new shade cover, and Creekfest is back! Join us at DeSoto Town Center for Creekfest on Saturday, June 12, 2010 from 2 to 10 p.m. This free, street festival includes 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 (see below). While Urban Challenge contestants race around DeSoto, there will be free entertainment on the stage of our Outdoor Amphitheater, located behind the Civic Center. We'll also have food and vendor booths, and living history demonstrations by the Buffalo Soldiers. DeSoto Art League invites you to view their Juried Spring Art Show on display in DeSoto City Hall featuring the work of more than 100 Texas artists.

Some Art League members will also host a 'plein aire' paint around demonstration which means that you can watch as they "paint in the air" throughout the day. Hampton Road Baptist Church is sponsoring the children's activities and will have two bounce houses, face painting, and games for kids.

You'll want to bring a lawn chair and get a good spot to enjoy a full day of free entertainment (see complete list below) headlined by local group, **5 Second Rule**, featuring DeSoto resident, Paul Dryer on lead guitar at 6:30 p.m. They will be followed by the cool jazz sounds of **Fingerprints** sponsored by the DeSoto Arts Commission at 8:00 p.m.

Some vendor opportunities are still available. For more information, please call Carolyn Campbell at 972.230.9651.



Desotourbanchallenge.com



Fingerprints will perform at 8 p.m. on the Amphitheater Stage during Creekfest.

Creekfest Entertainment Schedule

- 2:15 pm - Nia Kids
- 2:30 pm - A. Lebelle
- 3:00 pm - Dallas Tap Dazzlers
- 4:00 pm - IBOC Sons of God
- 5:00 pm - Inner City All Stars
- 6:30 pm - 5 Second Rule
- 8:00 pm - Fingerprints

Do you like solving puzzles?? Are you a fan of scavenger hunts? Do you know your way around DeSoto? Then the DeSoto Urban Challenge is for you!! This new event, sponsored by the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce, will take place on June 12th during Creekfest. The DeSoto Urban Challenge is similar to CBS's Amazing Race. It will host 150 two-person teams who work together to solve twelve crazy challenges scattered throughout DeSoto. To register or for more information, check out their website at <http://desotourbanchallenge.com> or call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.

More Upcoming Events:

- BSW Juneteenth Celebration - June 19th - Armstrong Park in Duncanville.
- Lancaster will host the July 4th Joint Fireworks Show at Veterans Park.

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