July, 2010



City Lights DeSoto, Texas



www.ci.desoto.tx.us 972.230.9600

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Mixed-Use Zoning is the First Step In Revitalizing Hampton Road

In 2005 the City of DeSoto engaged the urban planning and architectural firm, RTKL and marketing and economic firm, Leland Consultants to create a redevelopment plan for that portion of Hampton Road from Ten Mile Creek in the north to the Post Office in the south. The study was completed and adopted by the City Council in late 2005.



This map indicates the three focus areas the RTKL study identified for catalyst projects. The first area is at Hampton and Pleasant Run. The second area is midway between Pleasant Run and Belt Line and the final area is on Hampton at Belt Line.

The study made a number of interesting suggestions about how the community could reinvent this portion of Hampton Road. One such suggestion was the identification of three focus areas along the corridor and within each area they identified a "catalyst project". Such a project would serve as the stimulus for further development in that area. Another suggestion was to create and implement mixed-use urban standards for this section of Hampton Road. These standards would provide the blue print for new and existing structures to follow as new building or remodeling takes place along the corridor.

Shortly after construction began on the first catalyst project at DeSoto Town Center, attention was focused on the task of adopting the urban mixed-use standards reflected in the Town Center project. The City began by communicating with business owners, or operators and interested citizens along the Hampton Road Corridor. Newsletters describing similar projects in other cities provided information and pictures of the type of design standards that might be adopted. Some of these standards included:

- Well landscaped sidewalks that are wide and inviting to pedestrians
- Attractive awnings on buildings
- Decorative benches and trash receptacles
- Attractive street lights
- Parking lots in the rear of businesses

Next, an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from local businesses was formed. This committee met with City staff and planning consultants from Freese and Nichols to review the background of the Hampton Corridor, analyze public input and discuss the elements of mixed-use development that support the vision articulated by the stakeholders.

A public meeting was held last summer to conduct a Visual Character Survey. Those attending the meeting were asked their preferences on aspects of mixed-use urban design for intersections, parking, walkways, building facades, and setbacks.

Planning consultants with Freese and Nichols have taken all the information gathered from the Visual Character Study, Advisory Committee meetings and other public meetings and condensed it into a draft Ordinance which would provide a Mixed-Use Zoning District designation for DeSoto. Once this draft ordinance is approved, the City Council can consider applying this zoning district along Hampton Road.

The Mixed-use Zoning draft Ordinance will be introduced to the public at a special Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 12, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at DeSoto City Hall. This meeting will also be televised on Time Warner Cable Channel 16 and will be available for viewing on the city's website. The general public, as well as Hampton Road businesses, are encouraged to attend this important meeting for the future vision of DeSoto and the Hampton Road Corridor. For more information on the proposed mixed-use zoning ordinance, please call Planning Manager, Edlyn Vathauer at 972.230.9624.

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Please Join us for a Town Hall Meeting to discuss

The Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan Tuesday, July 27, 2010 6:30 p.m. DeSoto Civic Center

The City of DeSoto Parks and Leisure Services Department invites you to attend a public presentation of the citywide Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan. This presentation will focus on the progress of updating the master plan to date and includes an inventory of existing facilities, a needs assessment, citizen survey results and preparation of an action plan outline. Citizen input is a vital component of the master planning process. We hope you'll make plans to attend this important meeting. For more information, call 972.230.9650.

Would You Like to Receive Your Utility Bill by E-Mail?

We are all looking for ways to reduce the amount of paper we use in our daily lives and the City's Utility Billing Department is no exception. The staff has received numerous requests from customers to who would like to receive their utility bill in the form of an e-mail rather than a paper document. They are currently developing a process to begin e-billing in August. Customers will have the option of receiving an e-bill only, an e-bill and a paper bill, or a paper bill only. Watch your utility bill for information on how to register to participate in this program and begin receiving e-bills.

Once you've enrolled in the e-bill program and are no longer receiving a paper bill, you may wonder how you will receive the City Lights Newsletter. You can sign-up with Notify Me on the city's website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us to receive an e-mail message or a text message each time a new edition of the City Lights newsletter is posted to the website. Just go to the city's home page and look for the blue Notify Me button on the left hand side. Click here and it will take you to a list of items for which you can receive an e-mail or text notification. This list include the City Lights Newsletter, information about trash collection, City job postings, activities in the Corner Theatre and much more. All you need to do is enter your e-mail address or phone number and click on the items you'd like to receive.

We appreciate your cooperation as we work to "go green". If you have any questions regarding your utility bill or any of the City's e-services, please call the Action Center at 972.230.9600.

CITY CALENDAR

July

- 1 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting City Hall 6:30 p.m
- 1 Library Advisory Board Meeting Library Conference Room-7p.m.
- 4 Joint Fireworks Show Lancaster Community Park 6 p.m.
- 5 July 4th Holiday City Offices and Facilities closed (no interruption of trash collection service)
- 6 City Council Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 12 Arts Commission Meeting City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Park Development Corp. Meeting Recreation Center 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Town Hall Meeting on Mixed-Use Zoning Districts -City Hall 7 p.m.
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 17 Evening of Jazz with Paul Rogers Corner Theatre 6:30 p.m.
- 20 City Council Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 22 FY2011 Budget Workshop City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 26 DEDC Board Meeting City Hall noon
- 27 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 27 Parks Master Plan Public Mtg. City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Slam Dunk Competition Recreation Center 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- 29 FY2011 Budget Workshop City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 30 FY2011 Budget Workshop City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 31 FY2011 Budget Workshop City Hall 6:30 p.m.

August

- 2 Arts Commission Meeting City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 2 Park Development Corp. Meeting City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 3 City Council Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 3 DeSoto Night Out
- 5 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Library Advisory Board Meeting Library Conf. Room 7 p.m.
- 10 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 17 City Council Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 21 Town Hall Meeting on Smoking Ban 9 a.m. City Hall
- 24 Planning & Zoning Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 25 Hip Hop Trivia Rec. Center 7 9 p.m.
- 28 Kid's Fishing Day at Briarwood Park 9 a.m.
- 28 DEDC Board Meeting City Hall noon

Holiday Trash Schedule

- The July 4th holiday will not effect trash service. The regular schedule will be observed on Monday, July 5th.
- Monday, Sept. 6th is Labor Day. No trash will be collected. Regular Monday service will move to Tuesday, Tuesday service will move to Wednesday, recycling will move to Thursday, Thursday trash will be collected on Friday and Friday trash will be collected on Saturday.

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Congratulations are in order for Don Dewberry (left) and Gordy VanSteenburg (right). The North Central Texas Council of Government's Department of Emergency Management recently presented the "Hot Stuff" Award to Don and Gordy for their outstanding efforts in organizing Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in DeSoto and other BSW cities. Don and Gordy are the driving force behind the DeSoto C.E.R.T. program which offers basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills for citizens. Once trained, these citizen volunteers assist public safety personnel in performing critical functions necessary during the early stages of a catastrophic disaster. The DeSoto program has grown to over 60 volunteers. For more information on CERT, please call 972.230.9689.

Help Take a Bite Out of Crime by Planning a DeSoto Night Out Block Party in Your Neighborhood on August 3, 2010

This year's DeSoto Night Out event is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3, 2010 from 7 to 9 p.m. Crime watch groups, homeowners associations and neighborhood groups are encouraged to come outside their homes that evening and join together for a show of community support. This year, why not help "take a bite out of crime" by joining your neighbors in planning a block party on DeSoto Night Out?

If your neighborhood group would like to organize a block party and

would like to schedule a visit by a City official or police officers, please contact Officer Cindy Mendez at 469.658.3055. Officer Mendez has yard signs available, upon request, to help promote your DeSoto Night Out event.



The City of DeSoto is Participating with Dallas County to Help Clear Outstanding Fines and Citations

Dallas County has recently instituted a program which gives cities a new collection tool for fines owed for failure to pay traffic tickets and other citations. Under this program, any fine that is more than ninety days past due will be flagged and forwarded to Dallas County. When a vehicle owner who has an outstanding fine attempts to renew his vehicle registration, that renewal will be blocked until the owner pays the outstanding fine.

This program is designed to assist in compliance with laws that are intended to create a safe environment for our residents. Currently enforcing compliance uses public safety resources which can be better utilized to respond to calls for service and investigate crimes.

Dallas records are often referenced by Dallas County citizens to inquire about their outstanding citations. With this program, the DeSoto citations also would appear, if applicable, and the program would direct them to the City of DeSoto website and allow them to pay their citation electronically, if desired. For more information regarding clearing an outstanding fine, please call the DeSoto Municipal Court at 972.230.9673.

Applications for Arts Grants Accepted through August 15th

If you enjoyed a performance presented by the African American Repertory Theater in the Corner Theatre, or one of the Juried Visual Arts Shows sponsored by the DeSoto Art League, 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 2011 calendar year.

The Cultural Arts Grant Program is coordinated by the DeSoto Arts Commission. Each 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. Examples of previously funded projects include professional and community theater, art shows, gospel concerts, dance performances and jazz concerts. Applications are accepted from June 15th through August 15th each year. 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.

Third Coast Arts Center & The DeSoto Arts Commission Present

AN EVENING OF JAZZ WITH PAUL ROGERS & Special Guest Host, SHUCKY DUCKY

Saturday, July 17, 2010 6 to 9 p.m. DeSoto Corner Theatre



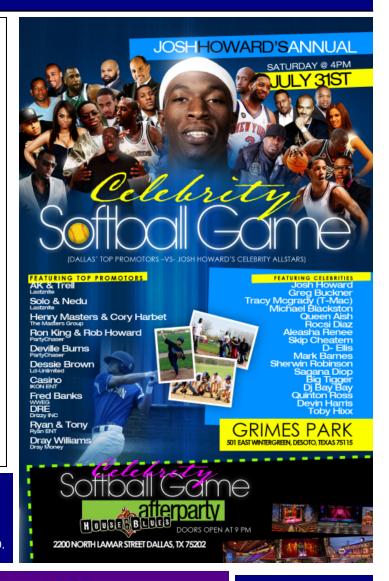
"Shucky Ducky"



Paul Rogers

Seating is limited. Tickets are \$25 and include light appetizers. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 972.230.9648. The DeSoto Corner Theatre is located in DeSoto Town Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Free parking is available in the parking garage.

Please remember that City Ordinance requires that all household garbage be placed in plastic garbage bags for collection even if the garbage is also placed in a trash can. Bagging garbage helps keep our alleys and streets free of blowing debris. If you have any questions regarding your trash collection, please call 972.230.9600.



TAKS Programs at the Library

Reservations Required Call 972-230-9666

Help your kids be ready for the next school year.



• TAKS Writing Camp

• TAKS Math Camp

TAKS Reading Camp

• TAKS Science Camp

TAKS Writing Camp

(Grade 4)

(Grades 5-6)

(Grades 5-6) (Grade 5)

(Grades 5-8)

Free tutoring in Reading is also offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 to 11:45 a.m. at the DeSoto Public Library through July 29, 2010. For more information or to make a reservation, please call 972.230.9666.

July 4th Combined Fireworks Show

Lancaster will host the July 4th Joint Fireworks Show at Lancaster Community Park 1700 Veterans Memorial Pkwy

Sunday, July 4th
6pm
Live performances by
Zumar &
Kingdom Impact
children's activities,
food & fun