

Five Spots are Left for the Next Civic Academy Class Beginning August 19th

The DeSoto Civic Academy has five openings for it's next class which begins August 19th. This program is designed to give citizens a behind-the-scenes look at the City of DeSoto. There are 11 weekly sessions each hosted by a different city department or group. Each class is designed to allow participants to experience hands-on how our city operates.

The first session is a Hollywood-style Opening Night hosted by the staff of the City Manager's office who serve a sumptuous dinner prepared by Debby Baugh, the City Manager's wife. They introduce participants to their "cast of characters" (the staff in Administration) and their duties. Next, the class goes behind-the-scenes at the Police Department to tour the facilities including the jail. They operate a radar gun, and walk through shoot/don't shoot scenarios. Development Services hosts the class at the Service Center and shows them the equipment used by our Street Department. The class even gets the opportunity to drive the street sweeper and other equipment. There's a tour of the city's Pump Station and class members see what it takes for us to have water every time we turn on a faucet. DeSoto Fire Rescue hosts the class at Central Fire Station and serves some of their famous Fire House Burgers as they discuss all aspects of fire protection and emergency medical services. Staff from Information Technology, the Library, and Community Relations take class members on a scavenger hunt using the city's website. Human Resources, Planning & Zoning and Building Inspections also make presentations.

The Finance Department guides the class through the world of municipal accounting and budgeting by giving class members a fictional amount of money to run their imaginary city. The DeSoto Economic Development Corporation discusses how they attract commercial development to our city and Parks & Leisure Services discusses the city's beautification program and the wide spectrum of recreation opportunities available to DeSoto residents. The class also goes behind the scenes at Southwest Regional Communications, the 911 emergency dispatch center for DeSoto, Duncanville and Cedar Hill. Participants see dispatchers work a 911 call from start to finish. They can also get extra credit for taking "ride-alongs" with both our Police and Fire Departments.

At the final class, the City Secretary's office casts class members in the roll of Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Staff and citizens and walks them through a "mock" city council meeting. The meeting is accurately scripted to the smallest detail, however, the subject matter is so ludicrous that your sides will ache from laugher.

"Participating in the Civic Academy is a significant time commitment but we have had 13 classes graduate from the program and participants always say the experience was positive and well worth their time, "said Tracie Hlavinka, Civic Academy coordinator. The next Civic Academy begins August 19th and the first five citizens who call will be registered for the class. There is no cost to participate and dinner is provided for each class. To register, please call Tracie Hlavinka at 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.



Please Join us for a Town Hall Meeting to discuss Zoning for Nance Farm

Monday, August 2, 2010 6:30 p.m. at DeSoto City Hall In the City Council Chambers

For more information, call 972.230.9643.



DeSoto Dining and Dialogue

JAZZ BENEFIT CONCERT With Joseph Vincelli

DeSoto Corner Theatre 211 E. Pleasant Run Road Saturday, August 28th 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue invites you to join us at the Corner Theatre for an evening of cool jazz featuring saxophonist, Joseph Vincelli. Vincelli's signature is his passion towards his music. It is evident on the stage, in his recording, with his speeches and in his books. What sets him apart from other smooth jazz artists is his ability to create music from an array of sources that many others would consider stretching the limits.

This concert benefits the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program. Tickets are \$25 and include a preconcert reception with drinks and hot hors d'oeuvres. To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 or kmaples@ci.desoto.tx.us.





Connecting Neighbors.

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Ronald Radford Thursday, September 4th 7:30 pm DeSoto Corner Theatre

American Master of the Flamenco Guitar

The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to the DeSoto Corner Theater for an evening of Flamenco Guitar with Ronald Radford "equal to those on any Flamenco stage in Madrid, Seville, or Andalusia." Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Seating is limited.

To purchase tickets or for more information call 972.230.9648 or email kmaples@ci.desoto.tx.us. See www.ronaldradford.com for more info.

Special funding for this concert has been provided by:





