August, 2010



City Lights DeSoto, Texas



www.ci.desoto.tx.us 972.230.9600

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner - Patricia Ledbetter, Place 2



I am a Baby Boomer. I am associated with the group of people that questioned authority. We saw the Vietnam War, heard the testimony of Watergate, were awed by space travel, and demanded our Civil Rights. We are health-conscious, independent, educated, and wear watches. The aspect I find interesting is that historically we had three TV channels. Where I grew up we had one, except on stormy days when the others would come in somehow across the antennae. By 2015 the Baby

Boomers will all have reached the age of 50, and soon, thereafter, become retirees and senior citizens. Turning 50 will be a major milestone for me.

What will DeSoto look like in 2015? What will be our contribution in this city? Pick any future date and imagine. The population density in Texas alone will double by 2050. DeSoto will be here, but what will she look like? What will be some of the challenges?

I serve on the city council with the Traditionalist Generation and Generation X. The council is a policy body that has visions for the city at the same time wanting to continue what is valuable to citizens, and offer beneficial decisions that affect our quality of life. DeSoto will need bold visions and progress. It is not accomplished by just seven elected individuals. It will take more than a few good men and women to be a factor in the progress. We all need to be engaged in the process.

The City of DeSoto has openings on Boards and Commissions that advise and give direction to city staff and the city council. There are Corporations, such as Economic Development and Parks; and boards that are advisory for the city and to the council, like Planning and Zoning or Library. These boards are made up of citizens, just like you, that volunteer their time to promote our DeSoto. I took advantage of the opportunity to get involved eight years ago through the Boards and Commission Fair and applied to the Arts Commission. I would like to challenge each of you Baby

Labor Day Holiday Trash Schedule

Monday, Sept. 6th is Labor Day. No trash will be collected. Regular Monday trash collection 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.

Boomers, Generation X and Generation Y citizens to get involved. The city is hosting a Boards and Commission Fair on Monday, August 30th at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Applications and information will be available about these boards, and I hope that my fellow citizens will join me there. Especially, my fellow Baby Boomers – which I will know when I see the wristwatch! The Board and Commission application is also available on the city website as well, at www.ci.desoto.tx.us, select the City Hall link.

If you are asking yourself should I do this? If not you, then who? If not now, then when? Those from the Traditionalists Generation, please share this issue of City Lights with your grandchildren that live in DeSoto. Encourage them to get involved. The All-America City award was not delivered to us by accident. It was earned through community involvement, vision and commitment from all the generations.

Recently, I was asked why I serve, and my answer was serving makes me feel connected to my roots, my origin. I grew up with parents that were from the Traditionalists Generation. They were hard workers, patriotic and savers. They had a loyalty to this country and what it stood for as a nation that helped end Japanese and Nazi aggression. They talked to people face to face using Standard American English, none of that texting in text language. They are gone now, but I hear their wisdom on most days. I have enjoyed being alive in the most modern of all civilizations. I like the technology and the internet. Just as my parent's time came and went and they left their mark, my generation and yours will come and go. Let's leave our city with the best of ourselves - begin by volunteering to serve on a board or commission.

I leave you with words from a fellow American woman. She was influential as the wife of a Revolutionary and American President. Abigail Adams in her letter to John Thaxter, dated September, 1778 said, "If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind, whom should we serve?"

Patricia Ledbetter City Council, Place 2 Page 2 City Lights

Come out to the fishin' hole at Briarwood Park for the city's annual Kid's Fishin' Day on Saturday, August 28, 2010 from 9 a.m. to noon. Briarwood Park and Pond, located at 1625 W.

Belt Line
Road, will be
generously
stocked to
increase the
kid's odds of
a memorable
fishing
experience.
Kids under
14 are
welcome and
must be
accompanied
by an adult.



You can bring your own fishing gear. No fishing license is required. If you don't have your own equipment, there will be a limited amount of fishing rods. bait and tackle available. Volunteers will be on hand to assist you and your child in catching the fish. Registration is \$5 per child. Prizes will be awarded by age category for the largest fish caught. Applications will be available at the City of DeSoto, Parks & Leisure Services Department beginning August 11th or on-line at www.ci.desoto.tx.us. You can also register at the event. For more information, call 972. 230.9651.

A Few Simple Tips Can Keep Your Home Safe This Summer

As you prepare to leave town for summer vacation, remember these safety tips. Don't send a message to criminals that you are not home.

- Leave blinds open in their usual position.
- Have mail and packages picked up, forwarded or held by the post office.
- Lower the sound of your telephone bell so it can't be heard outside.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed.
- Stop newspaper deliveries.
- Ask a friend to pick up "throwaway" newspapers and circulars.
- Use automatic timers to turn lights on and off in your living room and bedrooms at appropriate times.
- Consider connecting a radio to a timer.
- Tell police and dependable neighbors when you plan to be away and join with your neighbors to keep a close watch on what is happening in your area.

If you have an alarm monitoring system, consider having it monitored by the City of DeSoto's 911 center. There is no faster response to your alarm system than the response provided by your city. When a call is received by a third party system, it must then be relayed to the city's 911 call center. Precious seconds are saved when you cut out the extra step. For more information on the City of DeSoto Alarm Monitoring Program, please contact 972.230.5248.

CITY CALENDAR

August

- 2 Town Hall Meeting—Nance Farm Zoning City Hall 6 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 7 to 9 p.m.
- 5 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Library Advisory Board Meeting Library Conf. Room 7 p.m.
- 5 Jt. Mtg. Council & P&Z re: Mixed-Use Zoning City Hall 6 p.m.
- 10 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 12 Special Mtg. Entertainment Venue Study City Hall 6 p.m.
- 14 Town Hall Meeting Group Homes City Hall 9 a.m.
- 17 City Council Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 24 Planning & Zoning Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 25 Hip Hop Trivia Rec. Center 7 9 p.m.
- 26 Special Mtg. Redevelopment of Hampton Rd. City Hall 6 p.m.
- 28 Kid's Fishing Day at Briarwood Park 9 a.m.
- 28 Jazz Concert w/Joseph Vincelli benefiting DeSoto Dining & Dialogue at DeSoto Corner Theatre 7:30 p.m.
- 30 DEDC Board Meeting City Hall noon
- 30 Board & Commission Fair City Hall 6:30 p.m.

September

- 2 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 2 Library Advisory Board Meeting Library Conference Room-7p.m.
- 2 Flamenco Guitar Concert with Ronald Radford Corner Theatre
- 6 Labor Day Holiday City Hall offices and facilities closed
- 7 City Council Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 13 Arts Commission Meeting City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Park Development Corp. Meeting Recreation Center 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 16 Free Concert w/Inner City All-stars Amphitheater 6:30 p.m.
- 21 City Council Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.
- 25 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue For info call 972.230.9648
- 27 DEDC Board Meeting City Hall noon
- 28 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting City Hall 7 p.m.

Please Join us for a Town Hall Meeting to receive public input on the subject of **Groups Homes in DeSoto**

Saturday, August 14, 2010
City Council Chambers at DeSoto City Hall
Gather for coffee at 8:30 a.m. Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

August, 2010 Page 3

The Next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner Event is September 25, 2010

Do you know your neighbors? Do you feel personally connected to the DeSoto community? Have you attended a DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event? If your answer to these questions is no, please consider this your personal invitation to attend the next free DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event on Saturday, September 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

For the last six years, DeSoto Dining and Dialogue has brought together people of various ages and backgrounds to discuss making DeSoto a more vibrant place for all. By connecting neighbors, the program seeks to build relationships among people from different backgrounds with the ultimate goal of sharing experiences and building a strong community; regardless of color, culture or class.

The purpose of DeSoto Dining and Dialogue (DDD) is to bring together a group of strangers who all have something in common. They all live or work in DeSoto and care about their community. DDD is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals the opportunity to get to know one another at free dinner events with eight to ten participants. These dinners are held three times a year in private homes, churches or restaurants all over town on the same night. The discussion is lead by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community.

To keep the program strong, we need new guests to attend the next dinner on September 25th. High School students can receive five hours of community service for attending. As a guest, your only obligation is to attend the dinner and participate in the discussion. There is no cost to the guest. We also invite previous guests to join us on September 25th. All you need to do it go to <a href="description-left-desc

Make a commitment to build a strong community by attending DeSoto Dining and Dialogue. Our community, along with the

rest of the country, is facing some big challenges. Let's come together to share thoughts and opinions. We owe it to ourselves.



The City of DeSoto Code Enforcement Department would like to remind you that improperly disposing of old tires is considered illegal dumping and is a Class C Misdemeanor. Report illegal dumping to the North Central Texas Illegal Dumping Hotline at 1.888.335.DUMP



24 hours a day. You can also report illegal dumping within the DeSoto city limits to 469.658.3076. Please be able to provide a specific street location where the dumping occurred, the type of waste dumped, and the license plate number or description of the vehicle and violator if possible.

Join Us for the Board and Commission Fair on Monday, August 30th at 6:30 p.m.

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 hosts a Boards and Commissions Fair to provide you with the information you need to make an educated decision regarding volunteer service to your community. This year the Board and Commissions Fair will take place on Monday, August 30, 2010 at 6:30 pm in the atrium of City Hall, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Representatives from each of the city's standing boards and commissions will be on hand at this event to provide specific information about their responsibilities and activities and to answer any questions you may have.

All appointees to City of DeSoto Boards, Commissions, and Committees must be residents of DeSoto for at least one year prior to their appointment, and remain in the city during their tenure. 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.

Currently openings exist on the following boards or commissions:

- DeSoto Economic Development Corp. Board
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Arts Commission
- Park Development Corp. Board

Detailed information regarding duties and requirements for serving on all the city's standing boards and commissions can be found on our web site at www.ci.desoto.tx.us. Just click on City Hall on the homepage and then Citizen Boards and Commissions. Once there, you will also find information on how to submit an application. You can also to contact the Office of the City Secretary with questions regarding service on a city board or commission by calling 972.230.9664.

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue

JA77 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.

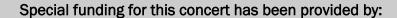
Ronald Radford 7:30 pm DeSoto Corner Theatre

Thursday, September 2nd

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.









Swim Lessons - Moseley Pool - 1300 Honor Drive - Aug. 9 - 20th

It's never too late to learn to swim. Moseley Pool is now offering kid's swim classes levels 1, 2, 3, 4 and Mom and tot classes at 9:20 a.m., 10:10 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 7:10 p.m. Adult classes are offered at 8:30 a.m. and 7:10 p.m. The cost is \$50 per session. Register at the Control Booth in the Recreation Center or by calling 972.230.9655.

Water Aerobics - Moseley Pool - 1300 Honor Drive - Aug. 9 - 20th

Are you looking for a way to stay in shape and beat the heat? Moseley Pool offers water aerobics for all ages. Classes are held on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. The cost is \$30 per session. Register at the Control Booth in the Recreation Center or by calling 972.230.9655.