

July, 2011



[www.ci.desoto.tx.us](http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us)

972.230.9600

# City Lights DeSoto, Texas



*A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department*

## Council Corner: A Message from Jerry Edgin, Councilmember, Place 7



On June 9th, I organized a meeting of the Mantlebrook/Meadowbrook HOA association with the Police Department to discuss the increased incidents of crime in our neighborhood. About 70 concerned citizens attended the meeting hosted by the HOA.

DeSoto Police Chief, Mike Brodnax, spoke about ways to better protect our

neighborhoods. He made the following suggestions:

- Get to know your neighbors.
- Introduce yourselves to the homeowners on either side, across the street and behind your home.
- Ask your neighbors to call 911 if they see anything suspicious or out of the ordinary taking place at your home or at their neighbors homes.
- Lock your back gates, close your sheds and garage doors when not in use and when you leave home.
- TURN ON YOUR ALARM SYSTEM if you have one.

"We don't have enough police officers to patrol every neighborhood, every second of everyday but, we do have neighbors that are home in the day time," said Chief Brodnax. "If we help one another and report strange cars in our alley ways and strange people knocking on our doors taking strange surveys, or strangers walking our streets, we can cut down on crime."

We also received good information from Dona Fernandez, Managing Director of Southwest Regional Communications Center (SWRCC), the city's 911 call center. She spoke about the residential and commercial burglar alarm monitoring system offered by the city. She provided some interesting facts regarding having your alarm system monitored by SWRCC rather than one of the other commercial providers.

Did you know that if you use any system other than the one monitored by SWRCC, it can take from ten to thirty minutes for the private company to receive your call, verify your call, and notify police dispatch (SWRCC) of DeSoto who will then dispatch a police officer to respond to your call. WOW! It's my understanding if you are using the alarm monitoring program offered by SWRCC, a message goes directly to the DeSoto dispatcher, is quickly verified and assigned to a police officer. If you have an alarm or are deciding about getting one you may want to check out what the city is offering by calling 972.230.5248.

As times get tough, crimes increase. We must help ourselves, help our neighbors and help our police department. Don't be embarrassed to call 911. Your call is anonymous and according to Chief Brodnax "if it doesn't look good it probably isn't so let the police check it out". Only you and me can reduce crime by being involved citizens.

**Hon. Jerry Edgin**  
**City Councilmember, Place Seven**



Call 972.230.5248 or check out [www.swrcc.net/alarm](http://www.swrcc.net/alarm) for more information on having your residential or commercial alarm system monitored by your local 911 call center.

## City of DeSoto and JHP Architecture Receive NCTCOG CLIDE Award for the Town Center Mixed-Use Development

At their Annual General Assembly Meeting on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, the North Central Texas Council of Governments named the City of DeSoto and JHP Architecture recipients of a Celebrating Leadership in Development Excellence (CLIDE) Award for the mixed use development at DeSoto Town Center. The CLIDE Award Recognition Program, established in 2003, honors local projects and initiatives that are helping to ensure the region's prosperity into the future. These projects exemplify the mission of the Center of Development Excellence to promote quality growth in North Central Texas that enhances the built environment, reduces vehicle miles of travel, uses water and energy resources effectively and efficiently, and helps advance environmental stewardship in order to ensure continued economic vitality and provide the highest attainable quality for all residents.

The DeSoto Town Center was one of sixteen projects in North Central Texas recognized in the 2011 CLIDE Award Recognition Program. This award is given to projects that exemplify one or more of the "Principles of Development Excellence" established by the Center of Development Excellence in the categories of new development, redevelopment, special development, raising public awareness and public planning and policy. DeSoto Town Center was recognized by the CLIDE Award as a Redevelopment project because of its re-use of existing structures.

This facility was originally a strip shopping center which was converted into DeSoto's City Hall, Recreation



Center, Civic Center and Library in 1994. DeSoto Town Center is also the site of a mixed-use facility that contains approximately 38,000 square feet of office and retail space, 136 modern rental apartment units and a parking garage. This project is a public/private partnership between The City of DeSoto and High Street Residential™, a subsidiary of Trammell Crow Company.

"We are extremely honored to be recognized with a prestigious CLIDE AWARD for the DeSoto Town Center Project," said Tarron Richardson, Ph.D. "We would like to thank our partners in the project, JHP Architecture/Urban Design and Trammel Crow Highstreet Residential."

## CITY CALENDAR

### July

- 4 Independence Day Holiday - City offices & facilities closed
- 4 DeSoto/Lancaster Fireworks Show - canceled due to drought
- 5 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m. - canceled
- 7 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - Library Conference Room - 7 p.m.
- 7 DeSoto, TX Historical Foundation Mtg. - Admin. Conf. Rm. - 7 p.m.
- 8 Beehive, The 60's Musical opens in Corner Theatre
- 8 DAC - Movies In The Park - Town Ctr. Amphitheater - 8:30 p.m.
- 11 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 12 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
- 26 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 28 Mayor's Quarterly 360 HOA Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.

### August

- 2 DeSoto Night Out - 7 to 9 p.m.
- 4 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - Library Conf. Room - 7 p.m.
- 8 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Poetry In Progress Mtg. - Library - 6 p.m.
- 9 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 12 Free Family Movie Toy Story 3 - Outdoor Amphitheater - 8:30 p.m.
- 13 Jazz & Spoken Word Concert - Corner Theatre - 7 p.m.
- 16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
- 23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 26 FY2012 Budget Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.

## Participate in DeSoto's Night Out Against Crime!!

This year's DeSoto Night Out event is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2011 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?

The Elerson Ranch Homeowners Association is busy planning their DeSoto Night Out celebration. At their Night Out Block Party, they will unveil a new entryway lighting and landscaping project for which they received funding from the city's Neighborhood Grant Program. Their neighborhood entrances will be bathed in light thanks to funding provided by the grant. They are tying this project in with DeSoto Night Out because not only is the project beautifying their entryways, the new lighting will also be a crime deterrent. They are especially proud of the fact that they are using low-watt, solar lighting for their entryway and are encouraging neighbors in the subdivision use low-watt lighting around their homes as well.

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.

## Applications for Arts Grants Accepted through August 15th

If you have 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 on display in the City Hall Lobby, you have 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 2012 fiscal year which is October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

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 [www.desotoartscommission.com](http://www.desotoartscommission.com) or by calling the DeSoto Arts Commission liaison at 972.230.9648.

## The Next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner is May 21st

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 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.



For the last seven 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 dinner events with 8 to 10 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 24, 2011. 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. We also invite previous guests to join us on September 24th. All you need to do it go to [desotodd.org](http://desotodd.org) and register or call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 to register by phone. We must receive your registration by September 11th to participate in this dinner. Make a commitment to build a strong community by attending DeSoto Dining and Dialogue.

## Code Enforcement Encourages You to be Their Eyes and Ears

DeSoto's Code Enforcement Department has offered a program for several years called Eyes & Ears which enlists the help of homeowners' or neighborhood association members by asking them to report code violations such as high grass or junk cars in their neighborhood. That program has been expanded to allow HOA members an even greater opportunity to make a difference in their neighborhoods. In addition to reporting high grass, the Eyes & Ears Program was expanded to empower registered homeowners' associations to mow high grass and weeds at vacant homes in their neighborhoods.

Each summer some neighborhoods experience problems with high weeds at vacant homes. The Expanded Eyes & Ears program allows HOAs or neighborhood associations to be proactive in resolving the problem by following these procedures:



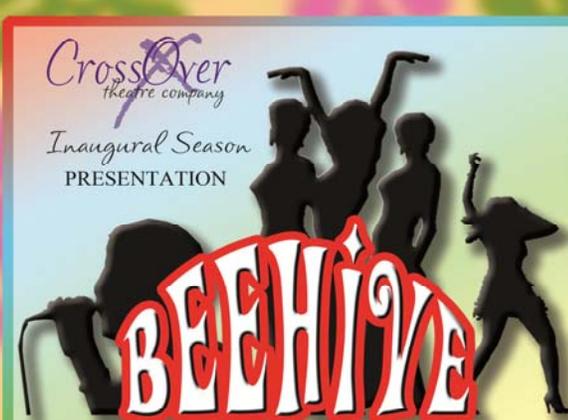
- When a high grass complaint at a vacant house is reported, a Code Enforcement Officer verifies that a violation exists and confirms with the city's water department that the property is vacant.
- A high grass sign is placed in the yard of the vacant property and digital photos are taken of the property for documentation purposes including the date and time of the photo.
- The property owner is notified and has seven days to mow the property.
- On the eighth day, the Code Enforcement Officer will re-inspect the property and if it has not been mowed, the neighborhood's homeowners' association is notified and members of the HOA can mow the property where applicable.

Before this program was instituted, mowing contractors were hired to mow the vacant property extending the time before the property was mowed. Now, HOA or neighborhood association members can mow the property as soon as they are notified by Code Enforcement giving them some control over the appearance of their neighborhood. This gets the mowing done more quickly in most cases. Property owners are billed for the mowing and the HOA or neighborhood association is paid \$50 for each yard mowed under this program.

In order to participate in the Eyes & Ears Program, the HOA or neighborhood association must be registered with the City of DeSoto's Community Initiatives Manager. For more information or to participate in this program, please call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689.

CrossOver  
Theatre Company

Inaugural Season  
PRESENTATION



**BEEHIVE**

THE 60'S MUSICAL

CREATED BY LARRY GALLAGHER

"BEEHIVE," a finger-snapping, hand-clapping, toe-tapping trip down memory lane" - NY TIMES

FEATURING MUSIC OF	HEAR FAVORITES INCLUDING
The Chiffons	A My Boyfriend's Back
The Supremes	One Fine Day
Tina Turner	Where the Boys Are
Aretha Franklin	Downtown
Janis Joplin	Proud Mary
and more!	Respect
	and more!

**JULY 8-31, 2011**

at The CORNER THEATRE 211 E. Pleasant Run Road DeSoto, TX 75115 972.600.8770



DIRECTED BY  
William (Bill) Earl Ray

CHOREOGRAPHY  
Gil Pritchett

MUSIC DIRECTION  
Marty Hill

Performances on Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. - \$20  
Matinees on Saturdays & Sundays at 2:30 pm - \$15  
Special "Pay What You Can" Preview Night - July 7th at 7:30 pm  
\$5 Senior Citizens' Matinee - Sunday, July 10th  
For tickets go to [desotoartscommission.com](http://desotoartscommission.com) or call 972-230-4288



presents:

**Jazz & Spoken Word Event**  
Saturday, August 13th 7pm  
DeSoto Corner Theatre - \$10

Join us for an evening of cool jazz featuring the sultry sounds of B. Williams and spoken word sponsored by Poetry In Progress. For tickets call 972.230.9648.

---

DESOTO INDEPENDENT FILM FEST

**INDIEFEST** SEPT. 22, 23, 24  
972-230-9648

**Calling all Independent Filmmakers!!**

The DeSoto Arts Commission is hosting an Independent Film Festival. Cash prizes will be award for winning films in two categories: Shorts (15 minutes) and Full Length (not more than 120 minutes in length). Submissions must be received by August 15th.

Please go to [www.desotoartscommission.com](http://www.desotoartscommission.com) for more information and application forms. Watch this newsletter for more information on the public event to view these films which will take place on September 22nd, 23rd and 24th at the DeSoto Corner Theatre.

DeSoto Arts Commission presents:

# Free Family Movies In The Park

In the Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center 8:30 p.m.



Bring the kids and your lawn chairs and enjoy these great family movies shown on a 16 foot inflatable screen. We'll have snow cones and other goodies for sale. The Outdoor Amphitheater is located behind the DeSoto Public Library at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. For more info call 972.230.9648.