

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner, A Message from Mayor Pro Tem, Denise Valentine



We ARE our brothers' keeper!

The holidays...good food, happy family gatherings, presents for our loved ones. "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire"..."This Christmas will be a very special Christmas for me"...the holiday songs describe warm and cozy times. For some, the holidays do not bring reflections of good memories and they are not filled with joy. For some, they are STRESSFUL!!! Too often, stress, anger, lack of money or credit, and drug and alcohol addictions can lead to family violence. Husbands, wives, girlfriends, boyfriends, children, and pets become victims. Too often, school vacation leaves open and unsupervised time for our children and they fill it with criminal activities.

Are we our brothers' keeper? Do we observe suspicious activities and hurriedly close the blinds while proclaiming, "Our neighborhood has REALLY changed!"? Or call 911? Do we hear screams, moans, and thuds coming from a neighbor's home and wonder "What is going on over there?" but not call 911? Do we see young adults (teens) fighting in the street and reach for the cell phone to video the "action" and download it to YouTube? Or call 911? *Are we our brothers' keeper?*

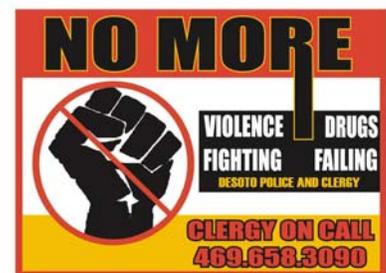
We can say "No More" to violence, fighting, failing, drugs, and bullying. We can bond together as an All-America City and be our brothers' keeper. **DeSoto Police and Clergy**, an alliance of clergy living in or serving in a church in our community and the DeSoto Police Department, have enacted programs toward that goal. The "**No More**" Movement is a campaign designed to raise expectations and change attitudes within our community from tolerance and apathy toward violence, fighting, failing grades, bullying and drugs to become intolerant and proactive. Perhaps you missed the "No More Teen Violence Symposium" in May, 2011. Another is planned in early 2012. Watch and listen for the date and time. Even if you don't have children, we need all of the community to participate. There are wristbands, yard signs, and window decals available now to show you and your family are committed to saying "No More"!

The **Ministers On Call Program, 469.658.3090**, provides pastors and ministers from various faith groups who are available 24 hours a day to victims and family members of family violence (at no cost). They will provide ministerial counseling and referrals to programs that can provide longer term assistance. A **Gang Prevention and Behavioral Management Program** is offered to help our youth positively cope with issues and influences in their lives (at minimal cost). The **Tutorial Program** in reading and math is offered to assist students in improving their grades and test scores (at no cost). **Counseling, Mentoring and Parenting Programs** are offered to bring healing and peace to individuals and families (at minimal cost). The **Athletic Events Program** provides the joint presence of police and clergy during athletic events (at no cost). Many of our local students and families are members of churches under the leadership of the ministers and will see the presence of these spiritual leaders alongside the police maintaining dignity and order. There are several other ministries for adults and children available from our local churches under the umbrella of DeSoto Police and Clergy. For help, information or to volunteer for these programs, please call 469.658.3090.

We ARE our brothers' keepers! Happy Holidays!

Denise Valentine
Mayor Pro Tem, DeSoto

972-230-3366 office or 972-979-3595 cell



City Calendar

December

- 1 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
- 1 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 3 Christmas Activities - Civic Ctr.
- 3 Parade of Lights - Hampton Rd. - 5 pm
- 5 Poetry in Progress - Library - 6 pm
- 5 Arts Com. Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
- 5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 6 Tree Lighting at Town Center - 7 pm
- 8 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
- 9 Holiday FunTime Live - Rec. Ctr. 7-11 pm
- 13 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 19 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
- 20 City Council Mtg. - canceled
- 22 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
- 23 Christmas Holiday - city facilities closed
- 26 Christmas Holiday - city facilities closed

January

- 2 Park Board Mtg. - canceled
- 2 Arts Com. Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
- 3 City Council Mtg. - canceled
- 5 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
- 5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 12 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
- 17 City Council Mtg. - canceled
- 24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 26 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
- 30 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon

Danieldale Road Reconstruction Benefits DeSoto, the City of Dallas, and Dallas County

Trammell Crow Company and the City of Dallas recently approached the City of DeSoto and Dallas County to partner in funding improvements to Danieldale Road from Hampton Road to Polk Street. This section of Danieldale actually lies within the city limits of Dallas but is a major feeder road for DeSoto's Eagle Industrial Park. Reconstruction of this two lane, asphalt road improves access to our industrial park stimulating economic development for DeSoto.

Trammell Crow is proposing to increase the size of a distribution facility in Dallas (just north of Danieldale Road). The new tenant for this facility desires that Danieldale Road be improved and access to the distribution facility be constructed from Danieldale Road.

Since both the City of Dallas and DeSoto are participating in this project, our County Commissioner, John Wiley Price,

committed to include this roadway in the Dallas County Major Capital Improvement Program and participate in the cost. Dallas County had already programmed \$1 million for a future project on Danieldale Road so they increased their amount to \$1.3 million to match the commitment made by the City of DeSoto.

Making these improvements to Danieldale Road is a win-win for all parties involved. Improved access to DeSoto's industrial park will help to ensure it's viability and make it much more attractive to future investment. The new roadway will be concrete with three lanes from Hampton Road to east of Talon Drive and then transition to two lanes for the remaining section to Polk Street. Signal lights are proposed at Hampton and Danieldale and Polk Street and Danieldale Road.

Code Enforcement to Step Up Enforcement of Sign Ordinance Violations

The City requires local businesses to obtain a permit in order to display a sign for that business. When the business acquires the permit, they become obligated to abide by certain rules on the size, appearance and maintenance of that sign and that obligation does not end if that business ceases to operate. Chapter 3

"Building Regulations" of the City's Code of Ordinances states that:

"The permittee of any sign, as defined in this article, shall maintain all parts and support of said sign in good condition to prevent deterioration, oxidation, rust, and other unsightly conditions."

The City of DeSoto's Code Enforcement Office is sending letters to local businesses whose signs are found to be in disrepair notifying them of the violation of the City's Sign Ordinance and requesting them to resolve the matter within ten days of the date of the letter. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of \$2,000 per day for each day the sign remains in disrepair.



DeSotoans: we need opinions and input!

LIKE ANY OF THESE BETTER THAN OUR CURRENT NAME?

- DeNada
- DeBestplace
- DeNile
- DeLorean
- DeCenter
- DeVilleville

Just joshin'—don't worry—no name change! But the city is embarking on a very intentional and strategic rebranding effort designed to benefit all who live, work, and do business here—and we wouldn't think of doing it without involving you. So, please invest a few minutes to take this very important survey at RebrandDeSoto.com.



Hurry, survey ends Dec. 31st RebrandDeSoto.com

DeSoto's Code Enforcement officers work hard to keep DeSoto looking good.

The Next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner is Saturday, January 28, 2012

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, January 28th at 6:30 p.m.

For the last eight 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 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. Here are some quotes from participants at the last dinner event:



- One facilitator commented that “the overall consensus of the participants was that DeSoto is a well kept and safe community and the quality of life is very good .”
- A dinner guest said she “enjoyed the open and honest dialogue.”
- Another guest said he was “very interested to hear the opinions of my neighbors.”
- “Understanding other’s perspective on a few of the key issues facing our city and the opportunity to dialogue with neighbors has made my experience at DeSoto Dining and Dialogue invaluable,” said another guest.

To keep the program strong, we need new guests to attend the next dinner on January 28, 2012. 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 January 28th. All you need to do it go to desotodd.org and register or call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 to register by phone. We must receive your registration by January 13th to participate in this dinner. Make a commitment to build a strong community by attending DeSoto Dining and Dialogue.

Do You Have a Loved One Serving Overseas?

The City of DeSoto would like to help you connect with your loved one stationed overseas for the holidays through Skype. If your soldier has access to Skype, we will help you set up a Skype session using equipment at City Hall. We would also like to film this session as a part of our “DeSoto Salutes Our Military



Families” segment for broadcast on the City’s Government Access Cable Channel. If you would like to take advantage of this program, please contact Kathy Jones, Public Information Officer at 972.230.9648.

Did You Know...

That DeSoto is home to a true piece of history? In 1847, one hundred and two years before the City of DeSoto was incorporated, the first structure was built at Nance Farm with hand-hewn logs and hand-cut nails. In 2007, when Nance Farm was 160 years old, the City saved the farm from the auction block and commissioned a board to plan and manage the restoration of the farmstead to preserve its valuable history for future generations. The Nance farm house is thought to be the only hand-hewn vertical frame structure of its age and type still standing on its original land in the State of Texas. Nance Farm is located at 1325 Greenbrook Drive in the Mantlebrook subdivision.



Light Up DeSoto Awards!

Each year during the Holiday Season, the DeSoto City Council recognizes outstanding residential holiday displays with the Light Up DeSoto Award. In order to be eligible, decorate your home with your best holiday display. City Councilmembers will be driving the neighborhoods in their respective districts looking for their favorite displays during the weekend of December 10th and 11th. Mayor Sherman will judge the commercial properties. Winners will have a Light Up DeSoto Award sign placed in their yard for the holidays.

GRAFTED BRANCHES ARTS TROUPE PRESENTS

THE Kings COMPANY

AN HEIR TO THE MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE

We all know the story of Christ's birth: how he came into the world, born of a virgin girl, to be the salvation for the world. But how often do we consider just exactly what this young prince inherited, and the great burden that came into his life upon his innocent birth? For he was not just another child, but an heir to the creator of the universe.

Join as we explore through song, dance, and artistic expression the mystery of this great gift that was given to the world that fateful morning, and experience along with your family with fresh eyes the meaning of Christmas like you never have before.

972.230.1838 for tickets

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2011 | 7:30 PM
THE CORNER THEATER | DESOTO TOWN CENTER
TICKETS ARE \$5.00

Since the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays fall on Sunday this year, there will be no disruption of trash service. The City's solid waste contractor, Republic Waste will be collecting live Christmas trees for recycling on Wednesday, December 28th and on Wednesday, January 4th. Place trees on the curb in the front of your home for recycling. Trees placed in the alley will go to the landfill. Be sure to remove all decorations and lights for recycling. If you have questions regarding your trash service, please call the City of DeSoto Action



Concerned DeSoto Citizens (CDC) in partnership with the City of DeSoto invite you to

Kwanzaa Feast 2011 - Tuesday, December 27, 2011 7pm
DeSoto Civic Center

Presented by Communities for Kidz
(A Texas non-profit organization)

FUN TIME LIVE
FUN, SAFE SUPERVISED ENTERTAINMENT

3RD THRU 8TH GRADES!
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
7 TO 11 P.M.

Dance Contests
Tug-o-War
Foosball
DJ "Julian"
Win Prizes
Concessions
Pickle Contest
Sack Races
Scooter Races
& More!!!

\$10.00 ADMISSION
FOR 4 HOURS OF FUN &
EXCITEMENT!

For information
Please Call
214-492-9279

DECEMBER 2011

www.funtimealive.com

FRIDAY, DEC. 2

Get your team here!

**5+ON+5
Basketball
Tournament**



- *Dance Contest
- Playing all your favorite music!
- *Giant Balloon Stomp
- *Crazy Face Paint
- *Concession Special

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

**"Holiday Fun
Time Live"**

- * 1/2 Court Football Throw
- * Milk Bottle Toss
- * Bowling
- * Dart Ball
- * Ring Toss
- * Picture with Santa

**Giveaways: Walmart
McDonald's, Subway,
Chili's gift cards!!**



**COME MEET ABE ELAM
#26 DALLAS COWBOYS!!**
Desoto Youth Advisory Council
helping out this special night!

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

**Christmas
Dance
Party**

With
FM 97.9
in the
HOUSE!

- *Dance Contest
- *Candy Cane Limbo
- *Win Christmas Cash
- *7-on-7 Football



Closed
Friday,
Dec. 23 & 30!

Happy
Holidays!

See ya back
on Friday,
Jan. 6 for our
New Year's
Dance
Party!!

Desoto Recreation Center
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. • Desoto, TX 75115