

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner: A Message from Jerry Edgin, Councilmember, Place Seven



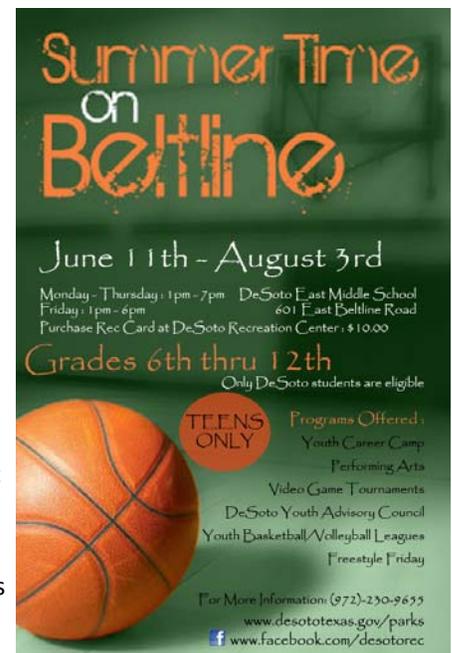
I have lived in southern Dallas county for over 45 years and have resided in DeSoto for 37 of those years. I had never been involved or even interested in the politics or government of our community. I just paid my taxes and voted when my wife encouraged me to do so.

Two years ago, shortly after retiring, I was approached by several members of my circle of local friends and urged to run for the vacated council seat of Carl Williams. My first thought was, why do I want to take on the responsibilities of city government? I had been in business for my entire adult life and knew nothing about the job of running for office, or tackling the awesome responsibility of making decisions that affected thousands of people and millions of their tax dollars.

After much deliberation and many hours of thought, I decided that I had lived in and enjoyed the city for many years and had never really contributed much to the betterment of our town. I filled out the application, paid my hundred dollars and became a politician. I looked up the definition of City Councilman on Google, primary duties are to: make and enforce laws and make decisions. I figured I could do that.

The past two years have been a real education. I am most appreciative to my fellow Councilmembers for their warm welcome and the assistance they provided me during my initial learning period. I'd like to say a special thank you to the City staff, the people behind the scenes that carry out policy and make things work successfully and run smoothly.

One thing that really got my attention very quickly when I took office and has persisted to concern me throughout my term, is apathy, the lack of citizen interest in what goes on in our city. The Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month and usually there are just a few citizens on hand to see what their elected officials are doing. The six Councilmembers and our Mayor make decisions each month that affect millions of our tax dollars and thousands of lives; and as a rule, there are only a handful of our fifty thousand citizens in attendance.



Summer Time
on
Beltline

June 11th - August 3rd

Monday - Thursday : 1pm - 7pm DeSoto East Middle School
Friday : 1pm - 6pm 601 East Beltline Road
Purchase Rec Card at DeSoto Recreation Center : \$10.00

Grades 6th thru 12th
Only DeSoto students are eligible

TEENS ONLY Programs Offered:
Youth Career Camp
Performing Arts
Video Game Tournaments
DeSoto Youth Advisory Council
Youth Basketball/Volleyball Leagues
Freestyle Friday

For More Information: (972)-230-9655
www.desototexas.gov/parks
www.facebook.com/desotorec

Continued on page 2

City Calendar

June

4 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
4 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
7 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
9 SoJazz Festival - Eagle Stadium
11 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
14 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
16 BSW Juneteenth Celebration Town Ctr.
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
30 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon

July

2 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 City Council Mtg. - Canceled
4 Independence Day - city offices closed
5 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
9 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
12 Historical Foundation Mtg. City Hall 6pm
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
19 Mayor's Quarterly Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 7 pm
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm

Would You Like to Attend the Next DeSoto Civic Academy?

The DeSoto Civic Academy is looking for participants for their next session which begins in August. The academy includes eleven weekly sessions each hosted by a different City department or group. Each class is designed to allow participants to experience first hand how our City operates.

In the first session, participants will hear from City Management about their duties and responsibilities. Next you'll visit the Police Department to tour their facilities including the jail. These sessions are hands-on and participants will have the opportunity to operate a radar gun and walk through shoot/don't shoot scenarios. Development Service allows the group to operate the street sweeper and see their heavy equipment. Finance will show how the budget is built and the final class is a mock City Council meeting where class participants play the parts of Mayor, Councilmembers, citizens and staff. The academy is free and includes dinner at each class. To attend or for more information, call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689.

Continued from Page 1

We have town hall meetings - the last was a few weeks ago, to discuss the City's Comprehensive Plan where the future of our City was discussed, and twenty or thirty people attended the meeting. That scares me and should scare you.

Did you know that four out of our six seated Councilmembers ran unopposed? We have over twenty five thousand registered voters in DeSoto. During our last election less than ten percent showed up at the polls to cast their ballot.

Your Councilmembers are guardians of your tax dollars and they are supposed to represent you. If you don't know them or never speak to them or never attend meetings to observe what's being discussed, how can they know what you need or want? Don't misunderstand my comments - you have good hard working folks on your Council, but they are human. Sometimes they make mistakes in judgment or may misplace priorities. Their vision for our city may differ from yours; however, without citizen input, they don't have the benefit of your thoughts.

On the sixth of June, my time in office came to an end. However, I promise I will not be one of the silent majority. I intend to stay informed, attend pertinent Council sessions, go to the town hall meetings, vote at every opportunity and let my Council representatives and Mayor know what's on my mind.

There will be some very important issues facing our community during the next few years and we need to be informed and be involved in our city government or we may wake up one morning and our tax rate has increased and our city services diminished.

We must communicate with our decision makers and assist them in continuing to make DeSoto forever the All-America City we want it to be.

Jerry Edgin City Councilmember, Place Seven

DeSoto Parks & Leisure Services

MOSELEY POOL 2012

ADMISSION

**** RESIDENT with ID CARD ****
Adult (18 - 54 years) \$4.00
Child (3 - 17years) \$2.00
Note: DeSoto Seniors (55+) & Children (0-2years) are FREE

**** NON-RESIDENTS ****
Adult (18 - 54 years) \$5.00
Child (3 - 17years) \$4.00

YOUTH BIRTHDAY PARTIES

* Price: \$100 for up to 10 children
* Add \$10 per child for more than 10 children (max 20)
* Party table reserved for 2 hours
* Each additional hour is \$50

We provide the following:
Hot Dog, Chips, Drink & Balloons
(You may bring your own cake and party favors)

Party Slots:
12 pm - 2 pm | 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm | 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Reservations are requested a week in advance, and payments are due at the time of reservation. Rental times will be strictly enforced. If cancellation is necessary, we request 3 days notice.

Hours of Operation:
Mon-Thur: 12:00pm to 7:00pm
Fri-Sat: 11:00am to 7:00pm
CLOSED SUNDAY

Carolyn Campbell
Special Events & Aquatics Supervisor
(972) 230-9651
Recreation Center
(972) 230-9655

Official Opening Day
June 2
Pool Closes August 18th

Tel: (972) 228-3553
1300 Honor Drive • DeSoto, Texas 75115

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Eight Assets of 21st Century Communities

A framework for creating a prosperous DeSoto

By Scott Fleming, President & CEO of the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation

Many of our DeSoto kids will graduate this year and in years to come. They will earn degrees in disciplines such as engineering, medicine, and computer science and will be headed out into the work world. Where will these knowledge-based workers choose to invest their talent and begin their new lives? In communities that provide a sense of "place".

Research shows that today's mobile workforce puts a community's amenities at the top of the list - ahead of the job situation - when deciding where to live. Attracting these young professionals and the companies that need their skills is essential to the growth of our community. Areas without concentrations of talent will have great difficulty retaining or attracting knowledge-based enterprises.

The National League of Cities, Urban Planners, and a host of university studies have identified eight assets that create the sense of "place" that this young talent desires. They are physical design and walkability, green initiatives, cultural economic development, entrepreneurship, multiculturalism, messaging and technology, transit and education.

The DeSoto Economic Development Corporation is in a unique position to work with business and the City of DeSoto government leaders to develop these assets for our community. DEDC's past projects include helping secure funding for a number of business startups, assisting with road and infrastructure improvements, providing some low-interest financing for a Revolving Loan Program, and working with the City of DeSoto in attracting Kohl's E-Commerce Distribution Center.

In addition to appealing to young professionals, developing these assets fortifies business attraction efforts. In November, 2011, the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors and

staff amended the DEDC Annual Work Plan to include target market clusters that are well-suited for DeSoto including advanced technology and manufacturing, the aerospace and aviation industry, and biotechnology and life sciences. DeSoto's Eagle Business and Industrial Park is already home to several companies fitting the DEDC's target objectives, including Technology Container Corp. and Solar Turbines.

Technology Container Corp. (TCC) is the world's largest producer of reusable, custom designed, corrugated plastic and paper distribution boxes. TCC's unique design and manufacturing capabilities include user friendly, automatic locking bottom or crash bottom designs that set up instantly when opposing corners are pushed together. This innovative feature eliminates the time, materials, labor and setup equipment needed for conventional packaging.

Products from Solar Turbines also play an important role in the development of oil, natural gas and power generation projects around the world. Solar Turbines' products include gas turbine engines (rated from 1,590 to 30,000 horsepower), gas compressors, and gas turbine-powered compressor sets, mechanical-drive packages and generator sets (ranging from 1.1 to 22.4 megawatts).

Continuing to develop the eight assets of 21st century communities greatly increases DeSoto's chances of attracting more knowledge-based businesses like Technology Container and Solar Turbines and the young talent that will help our community grow and prosper.



The DeSoto Historical Foundation opened historic Nance Farm (circa 1847) to the public during their Family Farm Festival on April 28th. Pictured at left are the Line Dance Steppers from the DeSoto Senior Activity Center performing during the festival. Nance Farm is available for public tours by appointment. Please contact the City's Administration Office at 972.230.9643 for more information.



DeSoto Public Library Summer Reading Activities

Each year the DeSoto Public Library plans a full range of free activities for kids that promote reading and fun learning experiences over the summer. Here's what's scheduled this year:

Summer Reading Kick-off - June 6th 1 -3pm Library Assembly Hall
Bring the kids to enjoy the petting zoo, a bounce house, pony rides and fun with Hello Kitty and Sponge Bob.

Princess and the Pea Puppet Show
by Sandy Shrout June 11th 11am - Library Assembly Hall

Anime Club - For kids aged 10 to 14. Meets weekly from June 14th through July 26th. Club members enjoy an introduction to a new Anime Series accompanied by a craft, activity or Yu-gi-oh card battling.

Computer Classes – June 20 & 27 & July 11 School aged kids will experience the resources available through the library's webpage.

Summer Crafts - June 13, 20 & 27 & July 18 & 25 - 1pm Library Assembly Hall. Pre-school and school aged kids enjoy jewelry making, yarn lacing, paper plane making, macaroni art and basket weaving.

Beginners & Competitors Chess Clubs - June 11, 18, 25 and July 3, 9, 16, 23 in the Library Assembly Hall. Beginners aged 7 to 12 learn the basics of chess and those with a knowledge of pieces and moves will learn to compete.

M.A.P.S. (Multi-Academic Programs) Tutoring Program - June 11, 18, 25 & July 2, 9, 16, 23 30 4:30 pm at 4:30 pm in the Children's Area.

For more information, please call 972.230.9666.

BEST SOUTHWEST JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
Celebrate Juneteenth 2012
 LIVE MUSIC || GAMES || KID'S ACTIVITIES || CAR SHOW || NATURAL HAIR EXPO

THE INSPIRATION BAND
 ANDREA DAWSON
 JOE KING

Celebrate Juneteenth with the sister cities of the Best Southwest! Come out to DeSoto Town Center to check out the car show or the natural hair expo. Fro Fest! There is something for everyone!

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2012
 DESOTO TOWN CENTER AMPHITHEATER 5:00-10:00
 211 E. Pleasant Run | DeSoto, TX 75115

facebook.com/DeSotoRec
 www.desototexas.gov/PARKS | 972-230-9651

Summer Book Buddies Program starts June 18th

The DeSoto Public Library will launch their Summer Book Buddies Program on June 18, 2012. This program matches children with a teen reading buddy with the goal of helping kids realize that reading is the key to their success. Each Monday from 10:15 am to 11:15 am, teen volunteers read with their buddies for 45 minutes and do enrichment activities for 15 minutes during the six week program. If you are interested in having your child participate, please register them by June 18th. Space is limited. The library is also seeking Early Childhood Development Programs to participate in the Summer Book Buddies Program. To register their participation or for more information, please call the Library at 972.230.9661.

Code Enforcement Reminds You to Keep Grass Mowed

City Ordinances require that grass and weeds be kept below twelve inches in height at all times. As the owner or occupant of the property, you are required to maintain the property from the street in the front to the middle of the alley in the back (or the property line). This includes the front, back, side yards, the right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the curb) and the alley and easement.

nappiology
FRO FEST
 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

SATURDAY
 June 16, 2012
 1pm - 6pm

DESOTO CIVIC CENTER
 BLUEBONNET ROOMS
 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.
 DeSoto, TX

FREE ADMISSION

sponsored by
 Miss Jessie's ORIGINAL

Conversation with Miko and Till Branch, founders of Miss Jessie's Original followed by a Q & A

VENDORS, WORKSHOPS, NATURAL HAIR SHOWCASE & MORE!

www.nappiology.net

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 facebook.com/DeSotoRec

Beauty For U
 Bank of DeSoto
 Grande HOTEL

DanceDESOTO!

Learn Them ALL!

SALSA JUNE 22nd **SWING** JUNE 29th **LINE** JULY 6th

www.DeSotoArtsCommission.com
 972.230.9648 \$30 per couple for the 3 sessions