

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

A Message From Sandy Respass, Councilmember Place 5



Unintended consequences. You know, you do something expecting one thing to happen then, surprise something completely unplanned and unexpected happens. Well my involvement with DeSoto Dining and Dialogue from the beginning became one long chain of unintended consequences.

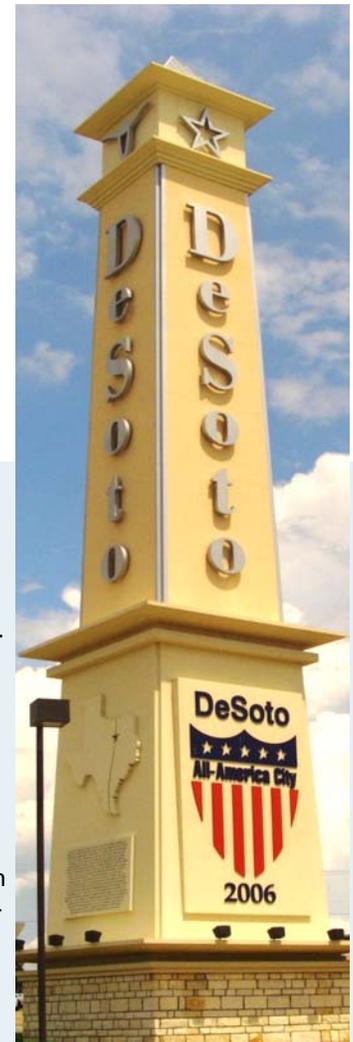
Back 2004 I came home one afternoon, and my wife, Becky, informed me that we were going to a dinner event, the first Dining and Dialogue dinner. This Dining and Dialogue dinner was being hosted in the home of someone we didn't know and would be attended by a diverse group of people that were

complete strangers. The purpose of the dinner was to discuss items of community concern some of which seemed more than a little controversial. Further, several similar dinners for the same purpose were being held throughout the City on that same evening. Now this really didn't sound like a fun evening to me. Dinner in a stranger's home with a diverse group of folks I didn't know talking about controversial community topics like white flight and race relations. I figured there might be a fist fight before we got to the desert. So I told Becky I wasn't going, and unless she was planning to go alone, she needed to start looking for a date.

That said, I was quickly reminded of who ran the household; the many benefits I enjoyed as a member of that household; and that Texas is a community property state. My attendance at the dinner was not optional. I quickly weighted the pros and cons of the situation and decided my best option was to attend the dinner and just suffer through it.

Well the dinner turned out to be a truly great experience. The meal was exceptional. The conversation with this diverse group of neighbors (note that they were now neighbors and not just folks) that I didn't know revealed that we share far more in common than we have in differences. I was overwhelmed by the experience and the sense of community created at that dinner. I wanted to be a part of Dining and Dialogue and help others enjoy the experience of fellowship and community, so I volunteered to serve on the Dining and Dialogue Board – my first time to volunteer for any civic activity and the first in a series unintended consequences. One thing led to another and I ended up volunteering to serve on the Zoning Board of Adjustments, the Economic Development Corporation Board, and finally as a Council member for the past five and a half years - all unintended consequences. By the way, I'm still serving on the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Board.

That's my story, but here's your chance. The next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner is Saturday, January 26, 2013 starting at 6:30 p.m. Any adult who lives or works in DeSoto can participate as a guest. All you have to do is volunteer by registering at www.desotodd.org or calling Kathy Jones at 972-230-9648. So why should you participate? Because the winds of change are blowing through your City Council and you just might want to know what's changing and discuss how the changes could affect you, your neighbors, and your City. *(continued on page two)*



City Calendar

January

1 City Council Mtg. - cancelled
1 City facilities closed for New Year's Day
3 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
3 Friends of the Library - Library - 6pm
7 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
7 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm
8 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
21 MLK Holiday - City offices closed
22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
26 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

February

2 Daddy Daughter Dance - Civic Ctr. 7pm
4 Poetry In Progress - Library - 5:45 pm
4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall 6pm
5 City Council Mtg.—City Hall - 7pm
7 KDB Mtg. City Hall - 6:30 pm
7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
7 Friends of the Library - Library - 6pm
12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm
25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am



ATTENTION:

If you have a stable work history with forklift experience and want to work for a great company, Ryder is looking for you to join their team. The City of DeSoto is providing a space for their Job Fair in an effort to provide jobs for our residents.

Job Fair Jan. 25th & 26th

9 am to 2 pm

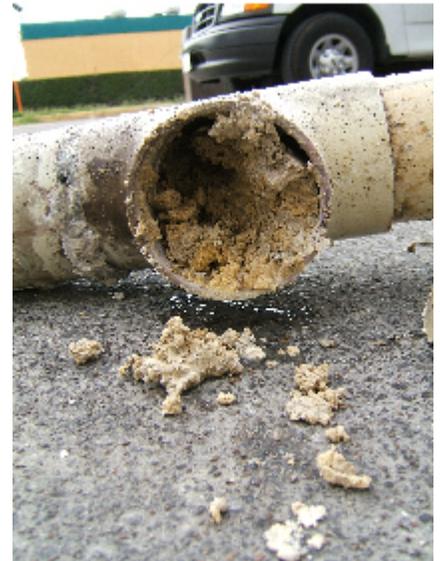
**DeSoto Library
Assembly Hall in
DeSoto Town Center**

**Find out why you should join
the "Winning" Ryder Team.**

Did You Know...?

That you can help prevent a sewer backup in your home?

When fats, oils or grease from cooking are poured down a drain, these substances can harden and cause sewer pipes to clog. This can lead to a Sanitary Sewer Overflow where raw sewage actually backs up into your home, lawn, neighborhood and streets. Not only does this nasty mess cause health issues, it also can run into a nearby creek or stream which affects our drinking water. If your pipes become clogged from putting fats, oils or grease down the drain, it can be a very expensive problem to fix. To avoid household and environmental damage, as well as a costly bill, NEVER put fats, oils or grease down the drain.



A Message From Sandy Respass, cont. from page one

Do you know that a special election will be held February 16, 2013, to elect a Councilmember to represent Place 4? Councilmember Deshaundra Jones (formerly Lockhart) resigned because she has married and moved out of Place 4 to live with her husband. That election is just two months away. Do you know that after the May election at least two, possibly three, Council Places will have new Councilmembers? Mayor Pro Tem Valentine and I will both be leaving the Council due to term limits, and Mayor Sherman will be up for reelection. After the May elections at least three, perhaps four, of the seven Councilmembers will be new. This change of community leadership could have a dramatic effect on the future of our City and will be the main topic of discussion at the January DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event. You just might want to take this opportunity to become informed and involved by attending the dinner. Who knows, there could be unintended consequences.

Sandy Respass, Councilmember, Place 5

Wal-Mart donated an iPad that was raffled off to teachers at West Middle School as a part of the Mayor's Walk the Halls program. Pictured left to right are Beth Trimble, DeSoto ISD Communications Director, Mayor Carl Sherman, iPad winner Coach Brian Stansberry PE teacher at West Middle School and Shelly Graham Store Manager at the DeSoto Wal-Mart.



Northside 5th Grader, Klark Johnson serves as “Mayor for a Day”

DeSoto ISD recently conducted a district wide contest for 5th graders who would like to serve as “Mayor For A Day”. Klark Johnson, a 5th grader at Northside Elementary was chosen for the honor. On Tuesday, December 4th, she “shadowed” DeSoto Mayor, Carl Sherman as he attended Dallas County Commissioner’s Court and was recognized by Commissioners with a Proclamation. She also joined the Mayor at a meeting at the UNT Dallas Campus. Miss Johnson was sworn in by Mayor Sherman at the DeSoto City Council meeting that evening. She called the regular City Council meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and



the Texas Flag. She sat on the dais beside Mayor Sherman and helped him conduct the meeting.

In order to be eligible to serve as

Wal-Mart also donated an iPad for a teacher’s drawing at McCowan Middle School as a part of the Mayor’s Walk the Halls program. Pictured at right is the excited iPad winner, Yolanda Hanspard, theater teacher at McCowan. Mayor Sherman and other teachers look on.



Mayor for a Day, Miss Johnson and her fellow DeSoto ISD 5th graders had to have above average attendance and be on the A/B honor roll. She also had to submit a teacher recommendation and a recommendation from a member of the community along with an essay. Miss Johnson was chosen because she has above average attendance at 98% and exhibits outstanding student citizenship. She is the Northside Student Council President and has the honor of reporting the weather each morning to her fellow Northside students during the morning announcements. She is a member of the Talented and Gifted program, volunteers at her school and church, and is also a member of the Homeless Coalition of Dallas.

“We plan to continue the “Mayor For A Day” program throughout the school year and will give one 8th grader and one 11th grader the opportunity to serve,” said DeSoto Mayor, Carl Sherman. “Students, if you are interested in experiencing local government first hand and would like to walk in my shoes for a day, I encourage you to make application for the “Mayor For A Day” program through your school.”

Storytime at the Library

Beginning January 8th, the DeSoto Public Library will have Baby Storytime on Tuesdays at 10:30 am, for ages newborn to two years. Pre-School Storytime will resume on Wednesdays at 10:30 am, for ages three to six years of age. For more information call the Children’s Department at the DeSoto Public Library at 972.230.9666.

Special Election

City Councilmember, Deshaundra Lockhart Jones tendered her resignation from Place 4 on the DeSoto City Council during their regular meeting on December 4, 2012. Her resignation is the result of her recent marriage to Reginald Jones and her decision to move out of District 4. The DeSoto City Charter requires that all City Council members reside in the district they represent. As a result, a Special Election has been called for February 16, 2013 to fill her unexpired term.

Persons interested in becoming a candidate for Place 4 can request a Candidate Guide from the City of DeSoto website at www.desototexas.gov or by calling the City Secretary’s office at 972.230.9646. Candidate filings will continue through January 7, 2013. Early Voting will take place in the DeSoto Library Assembly Hall beginning January 30, 2013. Election day is February 16, 2013.

THE Nacirema Society
 REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT A CELEBRATION OF THEIR FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS by PEARL CLEAGE
 Feb. 1 - 24, 2013
 Starring IRMA P. HALL

A LESSON BEFORE DYING
 by Romulus Linney
 based on the novel by Ernest J. Gaines
 starring IRMA P. HALL
 April 5 - 28, 2013

Fences
 by August Wilson
 May 24 - June 9, 2013

Saturday, February 2nd
 7pm - 9pm
 Reserved Tickets \$50 per couple
 General Admission \$30 per couple
 Advance purchase only
 Tickets go on sale
 January 7th at the Recreation Center

African American Repertory Theater Announces Fifth Season at the Corner Theatre

2013 is the fifth full year of operation for the African American Repertory Theater Company whose goal is to create opportunities for African American artists and performers and to produce quality, cross cultural theater that will enhance the values of the African American community. This organization's founders; Irma P. Hall, Regina Washington and Vince McGill, have been offering great entertainment at DeSoto's Corner Theatre since 2008. In celebration of their fifth year, AART is offering season passes for three shows in 2013 at a reduced price. If purchased separately they would cost \$75, but the season pass price is \$60. Here's what they have planned:

February 1 - 24 *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of your Presence at a Celebration of their First One Hundred Years*, starring Irma P. Hall is a romantic comedy about the tradition of cotillion featuring a group of African American debutantes who are preparing to meet society in 1964 in Alabama.

April 5 - 28 *A Lesson Before Dying* takes place in the 1940's South when an African American man is wrongly accused of the killing of a white store owner. In this production, Ms. Hall will reprise the role she made famous in the movie version.

May 24 - June 9 *Fences* by August Wilson is the story of a former star of the Negro baseball leagues who is now working as a garbage man in 1957 Pittsburgh. Excluded as a black man from the major leagues during his prime, bitterness takes its toll on his relationships with his wife and son who now wants to play professional ball.

Performances are offered on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm and on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30 pm at the DeSoto Corner Theatre located in DeSoto Town Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. To purchase a season pass go to www.aareptheater.com or call 972.572.0998.