

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner, A Message from Former Councilmember, Sandy Respass



They say time flies when you are having fun, and time really flies when you serve on City Council. The past six years and my two terms on Council passed in a flash. I was young and inexperienced at the start; I'm (sadly) older now, but hopefully a little wiser. I want to thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity to serve these past six years as your representative. You have allowed me to work on a dedicated and diligent City Council, and given me the opportunity to get to know the fine, hard working staff and management of our City. I will be forever grateful to you for my experience on Council.

Councilmembers are your elected representatives. You elect Councilmembers to act on your behalf and in your best interest on literally hundreds of issues of City policy and finance. Your City

Council sets the vision and direction for the City, and they are responsible for its prudent financial management. In carrying out those duties, City Council always strives to assure that you receive the quality of City services and value for your tax dollars that you deserve.

However, your input and involvement is needed. Council's vision for the City should be your vision. If it is, tell your Councilmember. If not, let your Councilmember know what you think the vision should be. And if you don't know where the City is going, just ask. Your Council needs citizen input and involvement to do a proper job.

In this past election only 1,400 of the more than 32,000 registered voters in the City of DeSoto voted. Only 4% of our citizens made the effort to choose the leadership of the City for the next three years. During the next three years, Council will act on issues of City services, budgets, tax rates, bond elections, road improvements and a host of lesser issues that most citizens will never know about. The more you are involved in these issues the better the outcomes will be.

So in parting I'm asking that you become more aware and involved. Communicate your thoughts and opinions with your Councilmember.

Councilmembers are easy to contact – by e-mail through the City website, by telephone, or by a knock on the door. It's our City and it's a great City. We all live here together. Let's get involved.

Thanks again for allowing me the privilege of community service.

Sandy Respass

Have you ever wanted to know how the DeSoto Police Department works behind the scenes? Then the DeSoto Citizens Police Academy is for you. They will start a new eight-week session on September 17, 2013. To register or for more information call Officer Cindy Tyndall at 469.658.3055.



TOWN HALL MEETING
We Need Your Input on
the Update of the City's
Comprehensive Plan
Mon. July 15th at 7pm
Or
Sat. July 20th at 9am
At the Jim Baugh Gov. Ctr.
City Council Chambers

The public is encouraged to attend one of these important meetings to share your thoughts regarding future land use, the city's thoroughfare plan, use of public space, our parks and trail system and other important topics facing DeSoto as we plan for the future. For more information, please call Edlyn Vathauer at 972.230.9624.

City Calendar

July

1 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
1 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 City Council Mtg. - canceled
4 Independence Day - City offices closed
9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
9 DTHF Mtg., Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
10 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
11 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
11 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
11 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
19 Outdoor Movie - Amphitheater - 8:30 pm
26 FY2014 Budget Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
26 Dive-In Movie - Moseley Pool - 8:30 pm
30 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm

August

1 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
1 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
1 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
1 FY2014 Budget Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm
2 FY2014 Budget Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
2 Outdoor Movie - Amphitheater - 8:30 pm
3 FY2014 Budget Mtg. - City Hall - 8 am
5 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
5 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 City Council Mtg. - canceled
6 DeSoto Night Out
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
27 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 eleven week sessions beginning in August. Each weekly session is 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 972.230.9643.

The North Texas Auto Theft Task Force and Kroger Will Offer Free VIN Etching For Your Vehicle on July 18th

Kroger Foods and the North Texas Auto Theft Task Force are joining forces to address auto thefts by offering a free VIN Etching event on Thursday, July 18, 2013 at the DeSoto Kroger located in the Crossing Shopping Center, 1001 I-35E at Pleasant Run Road from 10 am to 2 pm.

What Is VIN Etching?

VIN etching is the process of acid stenciling your vehicle's 17-digit identification number onto the window glass of the vehicle.

Why Should I Have VIN Etching Done On My Car?

VIN etching deters auto theft. Many thieves will steal a vehicle and change its identity by removing the VIN plate on the dashboard and replacing it with a

different one. They will then sell the stolen vehicle to an unsuspecting buyer. By having the identification number placed on additional parts of your vehicle, thieves who might want to change the identity will be deterred knowing they will also have to change out all the window glass in addition to the dashboard VIN plate. This is an investment most thieves will not make.

The VIN stencil that will be placed on your vehicle at the event is relatively small and does not hamper your view through the windows in any way. Because the etching is done at the bottom of your windows, it is not obviously noticeable and does not take away from the attractiveness of your vehicle. A sample will be available for viewing before the etching is done.



Photographers!!!

The DeSoto Art League is organizing a juried photo contest and show that will be on display in the Atrium of the Jim Baugh Government Center during October. Watch this newsletter or call 972.230.9648 for more information on submitting your entries for the show.



The DeSoto City Council Welcomes Two New Members....

Kristine Clark pictured at left, was sworn in by Chief Justice Carolyn Wright at the May 21st City Council meeting. Ms. Clark will serve as Councilmember for Place 3. Mayor Sherman, who ran unopposed, was also confirmed for another three-year term at that meeting.

Following a run-off election, Richard (Dick) North (right) was sworn in by Judge Phyllis Lister Brown at a special City Council Meeting on June 20, 2013. North will represent Place 5 on the City Council.



What's New At The DeSoto Public Library?

DeSoto Public Library presents: "Strategies for When the Battle Ends - Finding a New Normal"

Cedric Jones, USMC, from the Center for BrainHealth at the University of Texas at Dallas, will lead a discussion about some of the reintegration challenges veterans face, dispel misconceptions about post-traumatic stress, explain research and therapies available at the Center, and help us discover how we can better support service members and their families

within our local community.

"Strategies for When the Battle Ends— Finding a New Normal" will be presented at the DeSoto Public Library on Thursday, July 11th, from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. The discussion will also include credible sources of assistance for military families, as well as ways to volunteer. The public is invited to this free program that will take place in the DeSoto Public Library located in DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road.

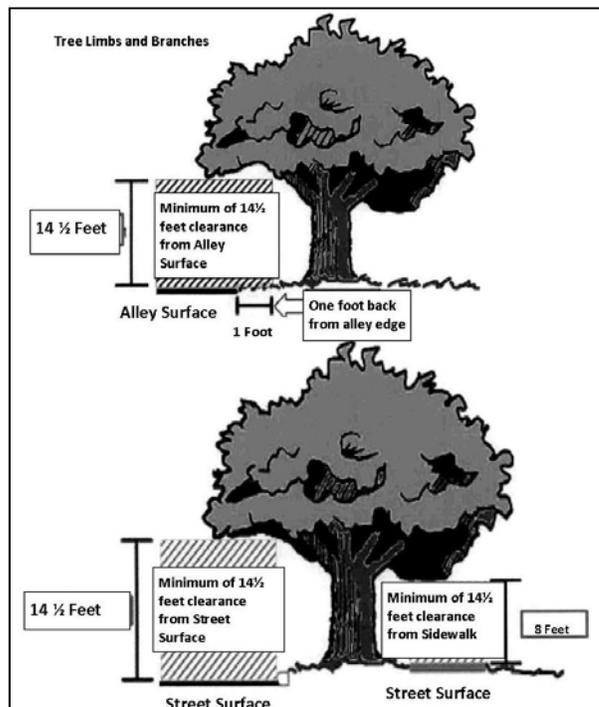


This year's National Night Out *DeSoto Style* is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2013 from 7 to 9 pm. Crime watch groups, homeowners associations and neighborhood groups are encouraged to come outside their homes that evening and join together for a show of community support. Make plans now for your neighborhood event on National Night Out. To schedule a police or city official visit or for more info, call Officer Tyndall at 469.658.3055.

An Important Message from Code Enforcement....

Every property owner or occupant having any tree or shrub overhanging any street, alley or right-of-way within the City of DeSoto is required by City Ordinance to prune the branches so that they do not interfere with the unobstructed use of the street, alley, sidewalk or right-of-way or obstruct the view of any street intersection. Trees and shrubs overhanging the street and alley must be pruned to allow a minimum 14½ feet clearance above the entire surface of the street or alley. Trees and shrubs overhanging the sidewalk and/or right-of-way must be pruned to allow a minimum 8 feet clearance above the entire sidewalk surface and/or right-of-way

to the adjoining property line as illustrated below.



Did You Know....

That bagging your trash is required by city ordinance? City of DeSoto Ordinance, Article 13.800 Garbage, Trash and Refuse, Section 13.807 Containers states: "Residential customers shall utilize a plastic refuse bag that is designed and sold for the purpose of placing garbage, trash, or refuse in it for disposal." All trash must be placed in a 20 to 30 gallon plastic refuse bag, with at least a 2-ml strength/thickness rating. It is fine to place bagged trash in a can or container. Trash must be out by 7 am on your regular trash day, however, please refrain from putting it out the night before to avoid having animals scatter it through the alley.

Bagging garbage can have a huge impact on the appearance of a neighborhood. When garbage is placed loose in cans or other containers, this causes problems for our solid waste contractor, Republic Waste. Workers must pick up the can and dump it in the truck rather than grabbing a bag and tossing it in. When emptying the cans, garbage that is not bagged can miss the truck and be scattered along the alley or street. Please help us keep our alleys and streets free of blowing garbage by following this simple ordinance.

Got Art?

The DeSoto Arts Commission is in the process of developing a list of visual artists, musicians, and performers in the North Texas area. We invite local artists to go to the DeSoto Arts Commission website at www.artsdesoto.com, click on the link at the top right, and join our Artists Registry. The information gathered here will be used to inform you of arts opportunities in DeSoto as they become available. For more info call 972.230.9648.

ARTSDESOTO.COM
facebook.com/ARTSDESOTO

DESOTO AMPHITHEATER
WRECK IT RALPH
JULY 19
FREE

DESOTO AMPHITHEATER
MADAGASCAR III
AUG. 2
FREE

MOVIES START
8:30 PM

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
JULY 26
MOSELEY POOL
\$3 pool adm.

WWW.ARTSDESOTO.COM

SUMMER Outdoor MOVIES IN THE PARK SERIES

FOR UPCOMING EVENTS & LOCATION INFO, VISIT
ARTSDESOTO.COM

Call 972-230-9648 for more info. facebook.com/ARTSDESOTO

TAKE THE CHALLENGE.

DESOTO CITY MANAGER'S CORPORATE
GOLF CHALLENGE
MONDAY, SEPT. 16th | WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV

CROSSOVER ARTS SUMMER THEATRE
Presents
Holka Polka
by D. M. Larson

July 24-27, 2013
Desoto Corner Theater

Tickets are \$10 for General Admission, \$5 for Seniors and kids 12 and under
• Purchase tickets online at www.showtix4u.com

Directed by Dennis Raveneau
www.crossoverarts.org

For More Info (972) 230-9250