

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner, A Message from Mayor Pro Tem Curtistene McCowan



Greetings My Fellow Citizens,

As our City Council continues preparations on the City of DeSoto's Business Plan and Budget for the 2015 fiscal year, I am reminded of the basic purpose for which government was created in the first place – to bring people together to accomplish goals we could not possibly attain alone. To that end, the City currently uses a variety of tools to inform and solicit input on important issues and needs of the community. Like most cities, the needs in DeSoto are far greater than the resources to address each and every one of them simultaneously.

Approximately one year ago, our City began the process of updating its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which was adopted in 2003. "The CIP represents the best efforts to allocate available resources toward projects that provide the most benefit for the citizens of DeSoto." What an up close and personal, very positive learning experience this has been for me! Through public meetings, surveys solicited by mail and online, appointment of a steering committee and staff/council work sessions, an updated list of proposed capital improvement projects was developed. Throughout this process, one of Council's key areas of focus is to ensure that our collaborative efforts will serve the long-term interests of all of our citizens as it relates to the overall quality of life and economic impact on our community. After months of reviewing and assessing the input from various stakeholders, Council is scheduled to vote on a list of capital improvements projects at the July 1, 2014 meeting. An important piece of this deliberative process is which projects will be funded through Certificates of Obligation (decided by Council) or General Obligation Bonds (decided by voters in a Bond Referendum on the November 4, 2014 ballot). I encourage you to be fully engaged in the entire process and to continue to share your input with me as well as other council members.

Citizens frequently ask me: What does the future hold for DeSoto? Well my friends, I believe the future is bright for our All America City. While there is some evidence of economic growth in our community, we still have a long ways to go. As we forge ahead with our collaborative efforts to retain and attract more quality commercial and retail economic development, upscale restaurants and maintain safe and clean neighborhoods, my prayer is that we will also continue to leverage every opportunity to help strengthen the educational, cultural, arts and entertainment programs our community offers. For those of you who have shared your knowledge, skills and abilities to help turn DeSoto's vision into a reality, we thank you! You are making a difference. Please don't stop now.

Mayor Pro Tem Curtistene McCowan
City Council Place Six



City Calendar

July

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
3 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6pm
3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
4 July 4th Holiday - City facilities closed
4 Fireworks - Lancaster Community Park
7 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
7 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm
8 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
11 Outdoor Movie-FROZEN-Town Center Amphitheater - 8:30 pm
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
18 Dive In Movie-Despicable Me 3 - Moseley Pool - 8 pm
22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - 7pm
25 Council Budget Mtg. - City Hall - 6pm
25 Outdoor Movie-Madea's Big Happy Family - Town Center Amphitheater 8:30 pm
28 DEDC Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
31 City Council FY2015 Budget Workshop - City Hall - 6 pm

August

1 City Council FY2015 Budget Workshop - City Hall - 6 pm
2 City Council FY2015 Budget Workshop - City Hall - 9 am
4 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
7 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
7 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm

A Message from Code Enforcement

In an effort to help you enjoy being a part of the DeSoto community, the Code Enforcement Department would like to share the following information that is intended to help us make DeSoto a clean and safe place to live.

Garage Sales

Garage sales are allowed to run for **three** consecutive days and can be held two times per calendar year. A permit must be obtained 24 hours prior to beginning your sale from the Utility Billing Department in City Hall or by applying online through the City's website at www.desototexas.gov. There is no cost for the permit. Obtaining a garage sale permit will cause information on your garage sale to be posted on the City's website. **One sign is allowed** in the seller's immediate yard and another may be placed at the end of the block with the owner's permission. However, signs

cannot be placed in medians, on utility poles or in rights-of-way. Signs placed on automobiles (similar to the one pictured



here) parked away from the sale are also not permitted.

High Weeds and Grass

City Ordinances require that weeds and grass be kept below twelve inches in height. 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.

What Can Residents Do To Help Prevent West Nile Virus?

When it comes to stopping the spread of West Nile Virus, the best offense is a good

D-fense. Residents should:

Dress - wear long, loose and light-colored clothing to avoid mosquito bites when outside.

Deet - Use insect repellent products with "DEET" or other approved repellents and follow product instructions.

Drain - Get rid of ALL standing water.

- Empty, remove, cover or turn upside down any containers that will hold standing water (bottles, cans, tires, buckets, flower pots, etc.)
- Change water in pet dishes, wading pools and birdbaths several times a week.
- Cover trash containers so they will not collect water.

Dusk & Dawn

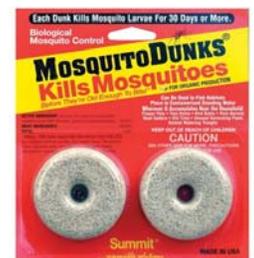
Stay indoors during dusk and dawn hours—

when mosquitoes are most active.

What is the City of DeSoto doing?

The City of DeSoto Environmental Health Department works closely with Dallas County Health and Human Services' Mosquito Control Division to fight mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile Virus by participating in their spraying program when diseased mosquitos are found in our neighborhoods. The City also provides free mosquito dunks to residents who have standing water on their property that they are unable to drain. These dunks treat the water killing mosquito larvae for up to 30 days.

Drop by the Action Center in City Hall to pick up your free mosquito dunks during normal business hours or call 972.230.9600.



FOURTH ANNUAL CITY OF DESOTO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

September 15, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

ThornTree Country Club
825 W. Wintergreen Rd.
DeSoto, TX. 75115

Register online:
www.desototexas.gov/golf
Contact information:
Email youthsports@desototexas.gov

CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

Benefiting DeSoto Parks & Recreation Youth Programming

2014

What's New At The DeSoto Public Library?

Meet our New Managing Director - Kerry McGeath

Kerry McGeath took the reigns as



Managing Director of Library Services following Lucile Dade's retirement in March. Kerry worked as a retailer for 25 years including as a general manager of stores for bookstore/

cafes at DFW and Denver International Airports, as well as a corporate buyer for several national chains. He received his Masters In Library Science from Indiana University in 1989 but did not work in the library field until 1999. For four years, he worked in different aspects of libraries in several communities to learn the business prior to being named City Librarian for the City of Southlake, Texas.

Kerry has been President of the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association, an affiliate of the Texas Municipal League (TML), and President of the Public Library Administrators of North Texas. He was named 2009 Texas Librarian of the year by the Texas Library Association, and was nominated to run for President of that organization in 2014.

He brings a business and retail sensibility focused on keeping costs down, and developing an efficient and productive staff focused on providing superior customer service. He enjoys being out in the community developing partnerships

that benefit the library as well as making the library an indispensable part of the fabric of DeSoto.

"We are in the midst of adapting how we serve customers in the DeSoto public library – our residents deserve great service in which staff will always be respectful and professional, and do all we can to deliver resources to you as effectively as we can," said McGeath. "The Library is much more than just books – come and check out the resources we have available to make your life just a little easier and maybe just a little more pleasurable."

Adult Information Sessions

What's going on at the library? When is the library open? How do I get a library card? How can I renew materials at 3 am? How do I find out if the library has the materials I'm looking for? How can I search databases from outside the library?

Find out the answers to these questions and more by attending one of the special information sessions designed for adults that will show you how to use the library's webpage and catalog. The sessions take place on Thursday, July 10th from 6 to 7:30 pm or Friday, July 18th from 10:30 am to noon.

This free program is open to the public. No registration is necessary. The library is located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the DeSoto Town Center Complex.

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 August 14th. Each weekly session is hosted by a different City department or group. Classes are 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. During the class hosted by Development Services, participants can 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.

If you have considered applying for a City board or commission but felt you didn't know enough about City operations to make an informed decision, the Civic Academy will allow you to become familiar with City services and processes. The academy is free and includes dinner at each class. To attend or for more information, call 972.230.9643.



The City of DeSoto recently received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Preparation Award. At a recent council meeting, Mayor Carl Sherman (pictured at left) presented the plaque to (pictured left to right) Finance Director - Edena Atmore, Accounting Manager - Tracy Cormier and Assistant Finance Director - Tisha Jordan.

DeSoto Arts Commission - Cultural Arts Grant Program

If you have enjoyed a live theater performance presented by Crossover Arts Theater or NIA Kids at the DeSoto Corner Theatre, a performance by Texas Winds Musical Outreach at a local nursing home, 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 and entertainment opportunities made available to DeSoto residents by this program. Applications for funding are currently being accepted for projects scheduled to take place during the 2015 fiscal year, October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

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 or an individual affiliated with a nonprofit 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 but your program does not have to be based in DeSoto to apply. Examples of previously funded projects include professional and community theater, visual art shows, gospel concerts, dance performances and jazz concerts.

artsdesoto.com

JULY 11
Frozen the Sing-Along Version (PG) // 8:30PM
Outdoor Amphitheater at Town Center

JULY 18
Despicable Me 2 (PG) // 8:00
Moseley Pool - Dive In Movie
\$3 per person kids under 3 free

JULY 25
Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family (PG-13)
Outdoor Amphitheater at Town Center

Applications are accepted from June 15th through July 31st each year. Qualifying nonprofit arts organizations can request funding for their projects. Application forms are available at www.artsdesoto.com or by calling the DeSoto Arts Commission staff liaison at 972.230.9648.



In the third season of family friendly, CAST youth productions, it's "all for one and one for all", in this slick, hip, swashbuckling romp. Adapted by Kathi Baker from the classic novel by Alexandre Dumas, CrossOver Arts' Artistic Director, Dennis Raveneau teams up with fight director, Jeffrey Colangelo, in this lively production featuring local, professional actors working alongside an ensemble of talented teens from the 2014 CAST workshop.

Sword fights, romance, music and humour – What's not to like? This rousing story of heroism, treachery and honor runs from July 31st through August 9th at the DeSoto Corner Theatre, (located in the DeSoto Town Center, 211 East Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, TX 75115). Park free in the adjacent covered DeSoto Town Center garage (entrance off Hampton Road). Turn off the television, bring the kids and enjoy a thrilling theatrical experience with the entire family!

PERFORMANCE DETAILS:

Purchase Tickets: www.showtix4u.com

Admission Prices: \$10/Adults; \$8/Seniors (65+) and Youth (Under 19)

Group Discount Rates: Call or Text, (214) 714-4175 or visit the box office

July Box Office Hours: Tuesdays – Thursdays, 6p-8p [Box Office also open one hour prior to show time]

Dates & Times:

Preview: July 31 (preview)*	7:30pm	(PREVIEW SPECIAL: ALL SEATS \$5)
Evenings:	August 1, 2, 8, 9	7:30pm
Mornings:	August 5, 6 & 7	10:00am