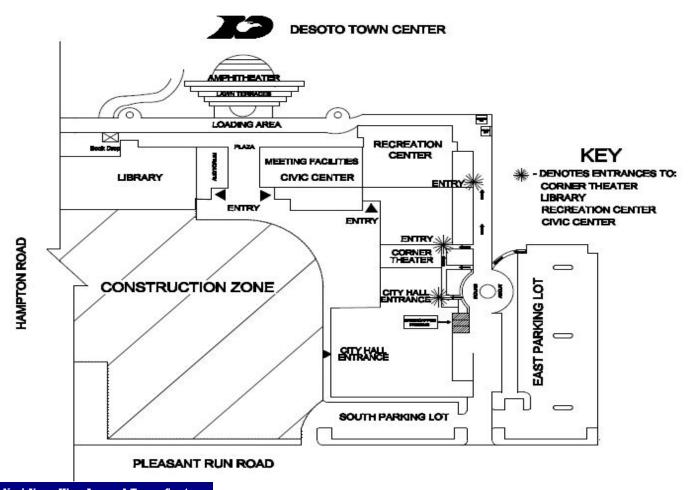


## City Lights DeSoto, Texas



www.ci.desoto.tx.us

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department



Finding Your Way Around Town Center

Site preparation is underway and construction will soon begin on the Town Center Project, a mixed-use retail, office, residential facility which is a public/private partnership between the City of DeSoto and developer, Trammell Crow's High Street Residential Division. In anticipation, the city constructed a new parking lot, accessible from Pleasant Run Road on the east side of City Hall that will serve as the main parking area for the entire complex during construction. Here's some information that may be helpful in finding your way around:

- The south parking lot, facing Pleasant Run Road, is still available.
- The west entrances of City Hall, the Corner Theatre, the Recreation Center, the Civic Center and Library are still open.
- The map above indicates the location of the parking areas and how the buildings can now be entered from the east parking lot. Tuck this map into the visor of your car so that you can refer to it when you come to Town Center.
- If you are visiting the Recreation Center, Corner Theatre, Civic Center or Library, please use the east entrance of the Recreation Center near the racquet ball courts from the east parking lot.
- New signage inside the building will direct you to your destination.
- The Library's book return has been moved to the north side of the Library facing Ten Mile Creek. To reach the new book drop enter the pavestone drive off of Pleasant Run Road and follow it around the building.

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Page 2 City Lights

#### **Annual Clean-Up Newsletter**

#### **Dumpsters Available for Clean-Up**

April 5th and 6th is Clean-Up Weekend in DeSoto and city staff and members of Keep DeSoto Beautiful encourage you to clean out your garage, pick up your yard and bring it to the dumpsters on Westmoreland Road at Spinner. Ten dumpsters will be available on Saturday, April 5th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sunday, April 6th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The dumpsters are provided for DeSoto residents only and proof of residency is required. Hazardous materials including paint, oil, chemicals, batteries and tires will not be allowed in the dumpsters. Tires will be accepted for recycling for a \$2 fee.

#### **Electronics Recycling**

Tossing hundreds of computers, TVs and cell phones into landfills poses serious health and environmental risks. Most electronic components can now be reused, recycled and diverted from the waste stream. The City of DeSoto, in conjunction with Waste Management Recycle America is doing our part by offering recycling of electronic equipment during the city's annual clean-up event.

On Saturday, April 5th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., bring your unwanted electronic items to the DeSoto Service Center, 809 W. Spinner Road for recycling.

#### Here is a list of acceptable items:

	Recycling Fee
Computers—CPUs	-0-
Monitors/TVs	\$10
Computer Peripherals	\$3
Printers	\$3
Fax Machines	\$3
Keyboards	\$3
Photocopiers	\$3
VCRs	\$3
Stereos	\$3
Consumer Electronics	\$3
Home & Office Phones	-0-
Cell Phones	-0-

#### Unacceptable Items

Microwaves
Smoke Alarms/Detectors
Thermometers
Dehumidifiers
Large Appliances – Refrigerators, etc.
Non Decontaminated Medical Equipment
Batteries
Any unit containing Sludge or Liquids

If you have questions regarding electronics recycling, please call the Action Center at 972. 230.9600.

#### CITY CALENDAR March

- 3 Town Hall Meeting 6 p.m. meet & greet 7 p.m. meeting City Hall
- 3 Park Development Corp. Meeting 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 4 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 6 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 10 Last day to file for Mayor or Council seat
- 11 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 13 Board & Commission Banquet 6:30 p.m. Civic Center
- 18 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 20 Civic Academy Begins
- 22 Easter Egg Hunt noon Zeiger Park
- 24 DEDC Board Meeting-City Hall noon
- 24 Council Budget Workshop 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 25 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall

#### April

- 1 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 3 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 5 Annual Clean-up Kick-Off Service Center
- 7 Park Development Corp. Meeting 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 8 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 12 Auditions for DeSoto Star Search 9 to 4p.m. Corner Theatre (reservation required)
- 12 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event 9 a.m. 1 p.m. Pump Station
- 15 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 19 HOA Involvement Workshop-9 a.m. City Hall
- 21 DEDC Board Meeting noon City Hall
- 22 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg.
- 26 DeSoto Star Search Show-7:30 p.m. Corner Theatre tickets \$10 at door

## Do You Need a Helping Hand? Great Days of Service Can Help!

Great Days of Service, a cooperative effort between area churches, community volunteers and the City of DeSoto is looking for homes that need painting, and/or minor repairs. These homes must be located in DeSoto, owner occupied and the homeowners should be elderly, disabled or financially challenged. The work will be done the week of June 16th through 21st. If you or someone you know needs a helping hand, please call Tracie Hlavinka with the City of DeSoto at 972.230.9689.



Wednesday is recycling day in DeSoto. The Duncan trucks that are used to collect regular garbage are also used every Wednesday to collect recycling which is taken to the Abitti Recycling Plant. Recycling diverts large amounts of materials from our landfills. Please place plastic, glass, cardboard, paper and junk mail in your green recycling bin for pick-up every Wednesday.

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April 5, 2008

#### Help Us Keep DeSoto Beautiful!!

9:30 a.m. - Trash Pick Up Begins -Meet at one of the locations below

11:30 p.m. - Free Hot Dog Lunch for all participants

City of DeSoto and Keep DeSoto Beautiful will kick-off the 2008 Annual Clean-Up activities by participating in the **Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off** on Saturday, April 5th, and we need your help to get DeSoto looking great and litter-free. We've identified some areas in need of a spring cleaning and would like to ask you and your neighbors to set aside a couple of hours that morning to help clean the following locations:

- 1) Danieldale Rd. (Westmoreland Rd. to Bolton Boone Rd.)
- 2) Westmoreland Rd. (south of Pleasant Run and north of Wintergreen)
- 3) Parkerville Rd.
- 4) Elerson Rd.
- 5) Uhl Rd.
- 6) Polk Street (Wintergreen to Parkerville)

A city staff member will be on hand at each location to provide trash bags and water for volunteers and to collect the filled bags. It is our goal to clean as many areas around our community as possible and the above sites are just a suggestion. If there is an area near your neighborhood that needs some attention, please call 972.230.9689 and let us know ahead of time. We would like to provide you with trash bags and will make arrangements to come by and pick up the bags after they have been filled.

After you've spent the morning making DeSoto look good, join us at the DeSoto Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road for a free hot dog lunch at 11:30 a.m. All litter-collectors will receive a recycling tote bag as a thank you. We hope to see you there!!! For more information, please call the Action Center at 972 274-CITY or Tracie Hlavinka at 972 230-9689.

Annual Clean-Up Proud Sponsors:



#### Avoid Identity Theft by Shredding Your Personal Documents

A mobile document shredding unit will be available on Saturday, April 5th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DeSoto Service Center located at 809 W. Spinner Road to shred junk mail and other documents you don't want to fall into the wrong hands. You will be asked to show proof of DeSoto residency in the form of a driver's license or utility bill.

Please place all your documents in boxes. Do not bring them loose in bags as documents must be stacked to go into the shredder. You can watch your documents being shredded. There is no limit to the amount of material you may bring for shredding. However, if you bring a large amount of documents and you wish to view them being shredded, you will be asked to step out of line and wait in order to get as many people through the line as possible. If you have any questions about document shredding, please call the City of DeSoto Action Center at 972.230.9600.

## Code Enforcement Encourages You to be Their Eyes & Ears

DeSoto's Code Enforcement Department has offered a program for several years called Eyes & Ears which enlists the help of homeowner's association members by asking them to report code violations such as high grass or junk cars in their neighborhood. That program was expanded last year to allow HOA members an even greater opportunity to make a difference in their neighborhoods. In addition to reporting high grass, the Eyes & Ears Program was expanded to empower registered homeowner's associations to mow high grass and weeds at vacant homes in their neighborhood.

As we move into spring, neighborhoods may start to experience problems with high weeds. The Expanded Eyes & Ears program allows HOAs to be proactive in resolving the problem by following these procedures. When a high grass complaint at a vacant house is reported, a Code Enforcement Officer verifies that a violation exists and confirms with the city's water department that the property is vacant. A high grass sign is placed in the yard of the vacant property and digital photos are taken of the property for documentation purposes including the date and time of the photo. The property owner is then notified and has seven (7) days to mow the property. On the eighth day, the Code Enforcement Officer will re-inspect the property and if it has not been mowed, the neighborhood's homeowner's association is notified and members of the HOA can mow the property.

Before this program was instituted, mowing contractors were hired to mow the vacant property extending the time before the property was mowed. Now HOA members can mow the property as soon as they are notified by Code Enforcement giving them some control over the appearance of their neighborhood. This gets the mowing done more quickly in most cases. Property owners are billed for the mowing and the HOA is paid \$50 for each yard mowed under this program.

In order to participate in the Eyes & Ears Program, the homeowner's association must be registered with the City of DeSoto Community Initiatives Manager. For more information or to participate in this program, please call the City of DeSoto Action Center at 972.230.9600.

#### Household Hazardous Waste Event Set For April 12, 2008

The City of DeSoto will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on Saturday, April 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Westmoreland Pump Station, 620 N. Westmoreland Road. If you have household hazardous waste that cannot be discarded along with the regular trash such as paint, oil, fertilizer, acid, gasoline, or pesticides, you can bring it to the event with a voucher. Vouchers can be obtained from the City of DeSoto Action Center located in City Hall or by calling 972. 230.9600. We have a limited number of vouchers available. Only DeSoto residents will be allowed to participate and you will be asked to show proof of residency in order to obtain your voucher.

#### Cont. from page 1

- Library staff knows that the walk may be too much for elderly of those with small children. If you call ahead to 972,230.9665, library staff will pull your materials and bring them to their service entrance on the north side of the building for pick-up.
- The utility payment drop box and the U.S. mailbox have been moved to the round-about on the east side of City Hall.

For more information and a construction schedule for the Town Center Project, please check out the city's website at <a href="www.ci.desoto.tx.us">www.ci.desoto.tx.us</a>. The effects of the construction on City Hall and the other municipal facilities is also the subject of a Focus On DeSoto Today program currently running on Time Warner Cable Channel 16 and available for viewing on the city's website.

Mother/Son Black & White Ball Saturday, May 3rd - Civic Center \$30 per couple, \$15 each additional child Tickets go on sale April 14th Call 972 230-9651 for info.

# The City of DeSoto Arts Commission is proud to present the 6th Annual DeSoto STAR SEARCH: April 26, 2008 7:30 p.m. DeSoto Corner Theatre

Got talent? Do you sing, dance or tell jokes?? Here's your chance to perform and compete for cash prizes. Take part in DeSoto's very own, just for fun Star Search. Auditions for kids aged 8~13, teens aged 14 to 18, adults & seniors will be held on April 12th. Audition fee \$5 per act. Call 972 230~9648 to reserve an audition time or more information.

#### Planning is Underway for the BSW Juneteenth Celebration in DeSoto

On June 14, 2008, the Best Southwest Juneteenth Celebration returns to the city were it got it's start. DeSoto will host this year's event at Moseley Park, located at 1300 Honor Drive and the planning is underway. A committee made up of representatives from the cities of DeSoto, Duncanville, Lancaster and Cedar Hill in addition to citizens from each of the cities has begun the process of planning the event. Activities will include the Tea Cake and Sweet Potato Pie Cook-off, a 3 on 3 Basketball competition, children's activities, swimming at Moseley Pool and a health fair, just to name a few. You can also expect a great entertainment line-up. Gospel music is the theme and the entertainment committee is looking for the best gospel choirs to perform. If you would like to help with the planning, can suggest a great choir or just want more information on the event, please call special events coordinator, Carolyn Campbell at 972 230-

Would you, or someone you know, like to receive an e-mail notification when new information is posted to the city's website? It's easy, just sign up for *Notify Me* on DeSoto's website at <a href="https://www.ci.desoto.tx.us.">www.ci.desoto.tx.us.</a>. You can register to receive a notice when the latest version of the City Lights Newsletter is added or each time a new City Council Meeting agenda is posted or to see the newest job postings. Just click on *Notify Me* and follow the prompts.

#### Caster Egg Hunt

Saturday,
March 22, 2008
noon
Zeiger Park
400 Cagle Drive

Join the Easter Bunny and the DeSoto PALS staff for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The egg hunt is separated by the following age groups 3 & under, 4 - 7 and 8 - 10. Free admission, bring your Easter basket. For more information call 972 230-9650.



If you like to drop your City of DeSoto
Utility payment in the drop box which
has always been in the parking lot at
Town Center, you can still do that. The
utility payment box and the U.S. Mailbox
have been moved from their location
facing Pleasant Run Road to the east
side of City Hall in the new round-about.

#### **Coming Attractions at:**



### Showcase Stars Variety Show

Performances - March 13th at 7:30 pm & March 14th at 7pm & 10 pm

Sister Cantaloupe (Trina Jeffrie) presents a monthly comedy, dance, music and mime show. Featured in March - Komplete Kreation vocal group, comedian Thomas S. Newell and Mine Rhonda Jones. Tickets are \$15 and available at the door or by calling 1-800-970-9820.

The construction of the Town Center project will eliminate access to the Corner Theatre as well as other facilities at Town Center from the west parking area during 2008. However, the show must go on!!! Parking for Corner Theatre patrons will be in the newly completed east parking lot off Pleasant Run Road. You will enter the facility on the east side of the Recreation Center near the racquet ball courts and follow the signs through the Recreation Center and out to the front entrance of the Corner Theatre.