May, 2008



# City Lights DeSoto, Texas



www.ci.desoto.tx.us

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

## Council Corner......A Message from Thelma Clardy



As I write this final column as a councilmember, there's so much that I want to say to you, the citizens of DeSoto. I have truly enjoyed my tenure as a member of the city council. I am proud of what my fellow councilmembers and I have accomplished

over the past six years.

Let me recap some of the projects that I am particularly proud of:

- The Town Center Development, a catalyst project intended to spur additional development along Hampton Road.
- The creation of the DeSoto Dining & Dialogue program which our former mayor, Michael Hurtt, had the foresight and courage to implement after I brought the idea to him. This program has evolved into one of our signature programs and qualified us for the All-America City Award.
- The work done by all the boards and commissions whose volunteer members work tirelessly to make our city a great place to live.
- The purchase of Nance Farm, a historical treasure in our city which undoubtedly will teach us many lessons in the future.

It takes a lot to run a city – it's a business, and we, the citizens of DeSoto, are extremely lucky to have a city manager, assistant city manager, and entire city staff who work tirelessly to serve the citizens and often go above and beyond to perform their service.

Jim Baugh is a city manager extraordinaire, and a workaholic who I have personally observed carry out the "servant leader" work

ethic. We truly have a jewel in him and I salute him for all he's done for our city. Lynda Humble, our assistant city manager, also epitomizes the "servant leader" attitude. Together, she and Jim set the bar for all other city employees. I also want to applaud all our managing directors, city staff, and city employees, who work together as a team to make DeSoto the All-America City that it is and will continue to be. I also commend all our citizen volunteers who serve on our boards and commissions and homeowner associations who devote countless hours to serving our community. You are the reason our city works as well as it does.

To my fellow councilmembers, with whom I've had the pleasure of serving, I'm thankful for the congenial attitude we share as we work together. Even when we have disagreed, we have done so without being disagreeable. Each one of us has brought a different set of skills and expertise to our council which has worked for the benefit of our city.

To you, the citizens of DeSoto, I thank you for the opportunity to have served you during these past six years. I hope that I have served you well. Finally, but certainly not least of all, I want to recognize my family whose support has always been there. My sacrifices have been their sacrifices, and I look forward to spending more time with them in the years to come.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that I have fulfilled the only promise that I made when I first ran and that was to be a voice for all. Thank you and God bless our great community.

#### Thelma Clardy, Mayor Pro Tem

#### Desoto Dining and Dialogue Needs Guests for the Next Dinner Event on June 7, 2008

Many feel that the cultural and racial divide that separates Americans is the single most pressing matter plaguing our communities. Some have chosen not to deal with the problem by relocating to a city less diverse. But this is, at best, a temporary fix. For it is estimated that by the year 2050 there will no longer be a minority population, and diversity will be the rule in most cities. Racial issues are not easy to discuss. But it is a conversation we must engage in if our cities are to be all they can be.

DeSoto now has a vehicle to make this conversation possible. It is called DeSoto Dining & Dialogue. The program, originally organized by former Mayor Michael Hurtt, is now run by a volunteer group of DeSoto citizens as an independent non-profit organization. The group seeks to bring DeSoto citizens from different cultural backgrounds together over dinner, for the

purpose of encouraging cross-cultural communication. More than a dozen dinner tables involving 8 to 10 people are held three times a year. They start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m., in homes, churches, and restaurants all over the city on the same night. Registered participants are assigned a dinner location.

Anyone who lives or works in DeSoto can participate in the program by agreeing to be a guest at the next dinner scheduled for June 7, 2008. Guests need only bring an open mind and a willingness to share ideas and experiences, there is no charge for dinner. To balance the tables and enhance the experience, we need male and female guest of all ethnicities and ages. High school students can receive credit for 5 community service hours for

Trained facilitators will (cont. on page 2)

participating.

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If you are one of those who gathered up your documents and brought them in for shredding on April 5th only to find that the truck was full, please accept our apology. We were overwhelmed by the response and will adjust next year.

#### **Protecting Yourself From Home Invasion**

Because the home is supposed to be a safe place for those who live there, home invasion is frightening and emotionally scarring. Fortunately, there are ways you can protect yourself. Prevention works best. Harden your home or apartment with strong doors and locks with three-inch screws in the strike plate. Use a wideangle peephole and instruct everyone in your family not to open the door to strangers.

There are several home protection components available for purchase that are effective at protecting your home. For increased security, use a combination of the following:

- Motion-sensitive outdoor lighting—This type of lighting will come on when there is movement around the outside of your home, alerting you to potential prowlers.
- Cameras—Whether it is a dummy camera or a real one, the presence of a security camera will cause potential invaders to avoid your home.
- Alarms Alarms come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and price ranges. An inexpensive door-stop alarm sounds when a door is opened, while more sophisticated systems are not only activated by doors and windows, but also can notify the authorities that the alarm has been activated.

If it makes sense to have an alarm system, then it should make sense to have it monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by your local 911 emergency center. Alarm monitoring is now being offered as a fee based service by the City of DeSoto for \$25 per month. No long-term contract is required.

There is a cost associated with having your monitored system reprogrammed to be monitored by DeSoto's 911 Call Center. As a result, the city will waive the first three months of their monitoring fee to help offset any costs you may incur to have your system reprogrammed. There is no faster response to your alarm system than the response provided by your city. For more information on the City of DeSoto Alarm Monitoring Program please contact 972.230.5248.

#### CITY CALENDAR

#### May

- 1 National Day of Prayer City Hall 7 a.m.
- 1 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 3 Mother/Son Black & White Ball Community Missionary Baptist Church
- 3-4 Flyin' West Corner Theatre www.aareptheater.com
- 5 Park Development Corp. Meeting 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 6 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 10 City Election Day
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 14 Police Senior TRIAD Symposium 9 a.m. Civic Center
- 15 Police Memorial Police Station 9 a.m.
- 20 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 26 Memorial Day Holiday City Offices & facilities closed
- 27 DEDC Board Meeting—City Hall noon
- 27 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall

#### **June**

- 2 Park Development Corp. Meeting 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 3 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 5 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. City Hall
- 7 DeSoto Dining & Dialogue Dinner Event 6:30 p.m. 972.230.9648
- 10 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 12 FY-2009 Budget Meeting to Discuss CIP 6 p.m. City Hall
- 13 Juneteenth—An Evening of Storytelling 7 p.m. Corner Theatre
- 14 BSW Juneteenth Celebration 4 p.m. Moseley Park 1300 Honor Drive
- 17 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- 24 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. 7 p.m. City Hall
- 30 DEDC Board Meeting noon City Hall

#### DeSoto Dining & Dialogue Needs Guests for June 7th Dinner

(cont. from page 1) provide structure to the evening and use techniques designed to minimize debate and maximize sharing and understanding. Volunteer hosts agree to welcome a group of 8 to 10 into your home or other location and cover the cost of their meal. The program is also looking for volunteer hosts.

By participating in DeSoto Dining and Dialogue, we are starting the conversation that transforms DeSoto into the consummate American city;

- A city where diversity is not only in the workplace, but a place where diversity works
- A city where cultural differences are not only tolerated but respected
- A city where the flag is not just waved but its principles are lived out
- A city where family values are not only preached but where every family is valued

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue was the cornerstone program that qualified the City of DeSoto for the All-America City Award. If you would like to be a part of this award-winning program, please call Kathy Jones at 972 230-9648 or go to the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue website at **desotodininganddialogue.org** and register to attend the next dinner by May 18, 2008. Together with DeSoto Dining & Dialogue, we are making DeSoto a one of a kind city where the American dream is a reality.

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### DeSoto Is Going Green.....By Offering Recycling Collection to Commercial Customers

The City of DeSoto began going green a couple of years ago and is now encouraging other corporate citizens to follow their lead. June is national recycling month and beginning June 1, 2008, DeSoto's solid waste contractor, Duncan Disposal will begin collecting recycling from commercial businesses in basically the same manner as they have been collecting residential recycling for many years. Here are the procedures:

- If you are currently a commercial customer for solid waste and you would like to have your recycling collected, please call 972.225.5252 to request the service.
- Once initiated, you will receive information about the initial set-up, billing and pricing information. You'll also be provided with one 95 gallon Polycart to hold your recycled items. The basic recycling charge is \$30 per month for the first cart.
   Additional carts can be provided at a fee of \$10 per month/per cart.
- Customers are responsible for bagging their recycled material in a clear or blue bag (available at local stores) prior to placing it in the cart for collection. Bagged contents must weigh less than 35 lbs. per bagged unit. Bagging of the materials to be recycled helps avoid contamination problems.
- Wednesday is the designated day for recycling throughout DeSoto and materials must be placed curbside by 7 a.m. for collection.
- Items acceptable for commercial recycling include:
  - 1. Newspaper (should be tied & bundled)
  - 2. Mixed paper or high-grade office paper
  - 3. Corrugated paper (boxes have to be flattened or cut to a maximum size of 3X3 ft. tied and bundled.
  - 4. Glass bottles (should be rinsed)
  - 5. Plastics & Aluminum (should be rinsed)

The City of DeSoto has offered desk side recycling to our staff for several years and in October, began recycling glass and plastics. We hope other businesses will follow our lead.

For more information on the Commercial Recycling Program, please call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689.



Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Members pose with a plastic bottle and aluminum can recycling bin they have installed in DeSoto City Hall. Pictured on front row from left, Kellie Larson, Elizabeth Green, Genesis Moore, Linda Zander and Marilyn Hurtt, Back row from left Gabrielle Royal, Wayne Valentine and Tem Youngblood.

## **Keep DeSoto Beautiful Encourages Residents to RECYCLE RIGHT!!**

The City of DeSoto offers a curbside recycling program for all residents. Recycle GREEN bins are available from the Utility Billing Department at a cost of \$5 each. New residents receive one GREEN bin when they initiate water service.



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 Abitibi Recycling Plant. Recycling diverts large amounts of materials from our landfills.

or front curb (where applicable) by 7 a.m.

Items that can be placed in the Recycle GREEN bins include:

- Plastic— Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 (look for the Recycling Triangle usually found on the bottom on the container or the number)
- Glass All colors of glass bottles can be recycled. Only bottles are accepted. No plate glass, ceramic or mirrors.
- Metal All metal (tin/aluminum) food and beverage cans can be recycled. It's not necessary to remove the label, but please remove the lids and rinse out all food waste. Aluminum foil is not accepted.
- Newspapers, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, cardboard and mixed household paper can be recycled. Tissues, wet paper or paper contaminated

with food products are not accepted. All cardboard must be broken down to a size that will fit inside your recycle bin. Larger boxes can be flattened and placed under your recycle bin for pick-up.

For additional information on RECYCLE RIGHT, call 972.230.9600, visit the city's website at <a href="www.ci.desoto.tx.us">www.ci.desoto.tx.us</a>, or contact the Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board (KDB) through their webpage on the city's website. RECYCLE RIGHT will ensure that discarded materials are reused so that our landfills will have a longer life and continue serving our community for future generations. However, if we fail to RECYCLE RIGHT, our community will eventually encounter a rude financial and environmental awakening.

#### BSW Juneteenth Celebration - Moseley Pool & Park - Saturday, June 14, 2008

1 p.m. - 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament begins

3 p.m. - BSW Juneteenth Parade - begins at Polk and Pleasant Run, travels north on Polk to Ray ending at Moseley Park

4 p.m. - Opening Ceremonies

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Great Gospel Music

7:45 p.m. - Announce Winners of Tea Cake and Sweet Potato Pie Contest

8 p.m. - Sons of God (IBOC)

9 p.m. - Special Performance by Dana Hemphill

Enjoy lots of food, crafts, children's activities and family fun. When you need to cool off, Moseley Pool will be open for a refreshing dip and it's also the site of the Toddler Pageant Swimsuit Competition at 5 p.m.

Applications for the Tea Cake Cook-off, Parade, 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Essay Contest and Vendor Booths are available on the BSW Juneteenth Celebration page on the DeSoto website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us or by calling 972.230.9651.

Community Partners:



headline a full evening of great gospel entertainment. Ms. Hemphill has shared the stage with John P. Kee, Kim Burrell, Vickie Winans, and Fred Hammond just to name a few. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs and get a good seat for the show.



We're stating the BSW Juneteenth Celebration with a Parade that will begin on Polk at Pleasant Run, travel north on Polk to Ray, west on Ray to Honor ending at Moseley Pool. Churches, scouts, sports associations, volunteers groups and anyone who loves a parade is invited to participate. For a free application, please call 972.230.9648.



Juneteenth - An Evening of *Storvtelling* presented by Rhonda Haugabook & Fruit for the **Soul Artisans** June 13th - 7 p.m. Corner Theatre

Educating our communities on the history and importance of Juneteenth is a focus of this year's event. As a result, local visual artist, Rhonda Haugabook and Fruits for the Soul Artisans will present Juneteenth - An Evening of Storytelling. It will bring to light what life was actually like for the liberated slaves and their descendents, highlight the efforts of Al Edwards who worked diligently to make Juneteenth a statewide historical

holiday and celebrate the living legacy of a proud and determined people.

This special performance made possible in part by an arts grant from the



DeSoto Arts Commission, is scheduled for Friday, June 13, 2008 at 7 p.m. in DeSoto's Corner Theatre located in DeSoto Town Center. Tickets are \$10 and can be reserved by calling 972.291.9874. Seating for this special performance is limited.











#### **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

#### SWIMMING LESSONS SCHEDULE

Monday—Thursday (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4) 10:10 am - 10:50 am



#### 11:00 am - 11:40 am -7:50 pm (Limited Space Available)

- Session I June 9 thru June 19 Session II June 23 thru July 3
- \* Session IV July 21 thru July 31
- Note: Make-Up Sessions Aug 4 thru Aug 14
- Mom and Tot classes offered at each time slot.







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

Wanda Gardner (972) 230-9649 (972) 230-9655

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