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Trammell Crow Opens A Leasing Office For The DeSoto Town Center Project

If you've driven past Town Center lately, you can't help but notice that construction on the mixed-use project is progressing nicely. Trammell Crow's High Street Residential Unit has partnered with the City of DeSoto to develop DeSoto Town Center which will include 136 residential units, 37,698 square feet of retail and office space, and a 4 1/2 level parking garage.

The hot dry weather this summer has allowed construction crews to make significant progress and it is anticipated that some of the residential units will be ready for occupancy by the end of the year. As a result, High Street Residential Unit has opened



a leasing office at DeSoto Town Center to begin leasing the residential units. It is located on the creek side of DeSoto Public Library in their assembly hall and can be reached by following the pavestone drive around to the north side of the building or by calling 972.223.8400.



This is a view of residential building 1 in the DeSoto Town Center mixed-use project which will face Hampton Road. Preleasing is currently underway..

If You Don't Have a DeSoto Public Library Card, Now Is The Time to Get One

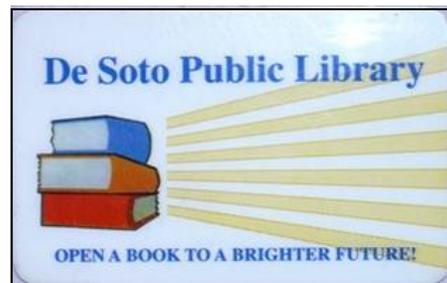
The DeSoto Public Library wants to make sure that you and your children have the smartest card of all – a library card.

Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning. Adults who have library cards are more likely to become lifelong learners, both personally and professionally.

"A library card has always been the most important school supply of all," says Lucile Dade, Managing Director of Library Services. "Kids can come to the library to get homework help and check out books, but they can also check out DVDs and use the Internet to make after school life a little more fun." Work has already begun on "The Spot," which will be the new teen room after the Internet computers are moved to a computer area in the front of the building.

A recent study by the American Library Association also showed that families use libraries to spend time together. Forty-four percent of survey respondents report taking their children to the library for this reason.

For more information on how you can sign up for your library card, visit the DeSoto Public Library, located at 211 E Pleasant Run Road, call 972.230.9656, or see the library's webpage on the city's website, www.ci.desoto.tx.us. Library card applications can also be started on the library's webpage. Main parking for the library is located behind City Hall. Library hours are: Monday – Thursday 10 am – 8 pm, Friday 10 am – 6 pm, and Saturday 9 am – 5 pm. The library is closed on Sunday.



Community Garage Sale - Saturday, October 18th at the DeSoto Senior Activity Center

Do you have stuff you'd like to sell? If so, bring it to the DeSoto Senior Center Community Garage Sale on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Senior Activity Center is looking for individuals, groups or associations who would like booth space at the sale. Vendor set up begins at 7:00 a.m. The fee for an 8 ft. X 8 ft. booth space with one table and two chairs is \$25. 8 ft. x 8 ft. booth spaces will be located inside the building and assigned on a first come, first serve basis. 10 ft. X 10 ft. booths will be available outside for \$15 and will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis also. Senior citizens (55 years and older) who are **current members of the center** may purchase a booth space (inside or outside) for \$10. No electrical power will be available for any booth space. No gas powered equipment or any items that could be considered a fire hazard will be allowed inside the building. The sale will be held rain or shine with no refunds. All proceeds from booth sales will go to the vendor. Booth space rentals fees will be used to purchase needed items for the Senior Activity Center.

Concessions will be provided by the center, so vendors may not sell food items. You may register for booth space at the DeSoto Senior Activity Center, 204 Lion Street. It is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Space is limited, so please register early! For more information call the Senior Activity Center at 972.230.5825.

Even if you don't have items to sell, please come by the center on October 18th. You might just find that treasure you have been looking for.

Voting in the General Election

In order to vote in the General Election on November 4th, you must register to vote by October 6, 2008. Voter's Registration cards are available in the City Secretary's Office at City Hall or by contacting the Dallas County Elections Department at 214.637.7937.

Early voting will take place at DeSoto East Middle School, 601 E. Belt Line Rd. on the following schedule:

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| Monday, Oct. 20th -- Friday, Oct. 24th | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 28th | 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. |
| Sunday, Oct. 26th | 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 27th -- Friday, Oct. 31st | 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. |

September 5, 2008 is the first day to apply for a ballot by mail and all ballots by mail must be received by October 28, 2008. Voting on the General Election Day, November 4th will take place at local precincts. If you have questions about voting, please contact the Dallas County Election Department at 214.637.7937.



CITY CALENDAR

September

- 1 Labor Day Holiday - city offices and facilities closed
- 2 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 4 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 4 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - 7 p.m. - Library Conference Room
- 4 "A Soldier's Play" opens in the Corner Theatre
- 8 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - Recreation Center
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 13 VIVA DeSoto - Elerson Park - noon - 6 p.m.
- 16 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 22 DEDC Board Meeting - noon - City Hall
- 23 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. City Hall
- 27 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner Event

October

- 2 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 2 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - 7 p.m. - Library Conference Room
- 4 Toad Holler Creekfest - First National Bank Building
- 6 Park Development Corp. Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 6 Last day to register to vote in November election
- 7 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 20 Early voting begins at East Junior High
- 21 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 27 DEDC Board Meeting - noon - City Hall
- 28 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 30 "Neat" opens in the Corner Theatre
- 31 Early voting ends



City Employees were honored at a recent council meeting for completing the BSW Leadership Training Program. Pictured from left, Jim Baugh-City Manager, Walter Biggins-Water/Waste Water, Carolyn Campbell-Special Events, Kari Christensen-Utility Billing, Donielle Edwards-Planning Dept., Terry Hawthorne-Streets, & Andre Houser, Human Resources.

DeSoto Emergency Management Encourages You To Take Simple Steps to Prepare for Emergencies

September is National Preparedness Month and October is National Fire Safety Month, as a result Fire Chief and DeSoto Emergency Manager, Fred Hart is asking every DeSoto resident to take some simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes. When preparing for a possible emergency situation it's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth. There are four simple steps every household should follow to ensure it is prepared for any emergency.

- **Make A Plan** - Make sure you have a family emergency plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others, such as work, daycare and school, in advance. A family emergency plan template is available at www.ready.gov.
- **Get a Kit** - In some emergencies, you may be asked to shelter at home for an extended period of time. There are eight basics you should stock in your home to be prepared: water, food, first aid, supplies, bedding, tools, emergency supplies, and special need items such as medications. It is recommended that you keep a two week supply of these items, update your stockpile every six months, and re-think your family needs once a year.
- **Check Smoke Alarms** - Studies have shown that when a working smoke alarm is present, the chance of dying in a fire is cut in half. Check smoke alarms and replace batteries when daylight savings time changes.
- **Be Informed** - It is important to know what types of emergencies and natural disasters could happen where you live. In DeSoto, it's unlikely that we would receive a direct hit from a hurricane or earthquake but flooding and tornados can threaten with little or no notice. Please be aware that the City of DeSoto has a good outdoor alert system and will sound the alarm whenever a tornado has been sighted in our city of if the cities of Duncanville, Cedar Hill or Lancaster are sounding their alarm because a tornado has been sighted. The city will use our website and Government Channel 16 to provide emergency information to residents. It is also wise to watch our local media outlets for weather information.
- **Register for CODE RED** - The City of DeSoto will also notify residents of emergency situations using our CodeRed Emergency Notification System - an ultra high speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications. If you would like to be contacted on your cell phone or business number in addition to your published home number, please go to

the City of DeSoto website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us, click on E-Services and CodeRed under the drop down menu to register with the CodeRed. This system allows us to telephone all or targeted areas of the city in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action. It is capable of dialing 50,000 phone numbers per hour and will deliver a recorded message to a live person or an answering machine, making three attempts to connect to any number. This system will only be used for emergency purposes such as drinking water contamination, utility outage, evacuation notice and routes, street closures, fires or floods, bomb threats, missing persons, a hostage situation, chemical spills, gas leaks, or other emergency incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential for life safety.



- **Get Involved** - After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies by making a plan, getting a kit and being informed take the next step and get involved in preparing your community. You can do that by joining DeSoto's Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT). This program offers basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills for citizens. Those who complete the training will be prepared as volunteers to perform critical functions necessary during the early stages following a catastrophic disaster. The training, led by DeSoto Fire Rescue staff, covers how to suppress small fires with extinguishers, utility control for your neighborhood; disaster medical operations; light search and rescue; team organization and more. If you'd like to participate in the next CERT training class, call Fire Administration at 972.230.9680.



DeSoto Firefighter/Paramedic, Patrick Brady instructs members of the Town Center CERT team, a group of City Employees who have volunteered to be trained in emergency procedures, on the proper operation of the Lifepack Emergency Defibrillator. This defibrillator is located in the lobby of City Hall.



Toad Holler Creekfest

Saturday, October 4th
noon to 7pm
at First National Bank
2010 N. Hampton Rd.



Local favorites, The Mighty Marvelous 4
Perform at 5:30 pm

Join us for an afternoon of food, entertainment and family fun. Admission is free. For more information call Special Event Coordinator, Carolyn Campbell at 972.230.9651.

Code Enforcement...It's Everyone's Job



DeSoto's Code Enforcement Department has a new Code Enforcement Officer, Tammy Washington, pictured here.

Code Enforcement and Animal Control would like to ask for your help. If you see a coyote, fox or other wild animal roaming your neighborhood, please report it to us. As the seasons change, these animals come out of their normal habitat and may invade neighborhoods. With your help, Animal Control can set traps for these animals and return them to the wild. Please call the Action Center at 972. 230.9600 to make a report.

Take a Seat in



Now Playing:

"A Soldier's Play" September 4th through 28th
A Pulitzer Prize winning drama by Charles Fuller
presented by the African American Repertory Theater

In a Louisiana army camp in 1944 Capt. Taylor, the white C.O. has a problem. He commands a black company whose sergeant has been murdered. He is worried the murderer may be a white officer or the local Klan. When a black investigator, Capt. Davenport, is assigned to the case there is concern it will be swept under the rug. Capt. Davenport perseveres and, as he probes deeper, he finds the black soldiers are as corrupted with hatred as the whites. Each one had a motive for the killing. Davenport solves the case and the truth is even more shocking than the murder itself. "A work of great resonance and integrity." - Newsweek "One of the contemporary American theater's most forceful and original voices." - New York Times. "A Soldier's Play" is the winner of the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the stage version of the movie, "A Soldier's Story" starring Denzel Washington.

"A Soldier's Play" is the African-American Repertory Theater's first main stage production opening September 5th and will run on the weekends through September 28th at DeSoto's Corner Theatre, in DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Visit the African American Repertory Theater website at www.aareptheater.com for tickets or additional information.

Coming Attraction:

NEAT by Charlayne Woodard
October 30th through November 23rd
presented by the African American Repertory Theater

"Neat" is a magnificent story about Charlayne Woodard's real-life remembrances of her brain-damaged Aunt Neat and the profound change the Aunt brings to her life. On a bare stage, Aunt Neat shows her enormous love, energy, simplicity and clarity and teaches the young Charlayne what it is to cherish life. "Neat" is the story of an urban African American girl bursting into adulthood while experiencing first love and embracing both Black pride and feminism. "Neat" is an inspiration for all families.

The preview of "Neat" at the Corner Theatre will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 7:30 pm. Tickets for the preview are \$10. The play opens Saturday, November 1, 2008 and continues through November 23rd on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and matinees at 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for evening performances are \$20 and matinees are \$15. To purchase tickets or for more information on the African American Repertory Theater, visit their website at www.aareptheater.com or call 972.572.0998.

The Corner Theatre is located in DeSoto Town Center next door to the Recreation Center at 211. E. Pleasant Run Road.