

# DeSoto City Lights

*A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department*

## Council Corner, A Message from Mayor Pro Tem, Patricia Ledbetter



On the council we often ask citizens what brought you to DeSoto? Answers vary from I finished high school here; my parents lived here; I wanted to get out of Dallas or a big city or I wanted to come to a warmer climate. They mention how DeSoto is the best kept secret and they like the small town feel, but close to everything without the major traffic delays. I ask them what keeps them here and so far the winning remark is the comment, "I love my neighbors".

In frontier times a neighbor would mean life or death when food got short or as protection during war times or you needed to find someone to marry or help birth a baby. As cities developed and urban triumphed over rural life, how close and how far away a neighbor was would be determined by planners and people with an eye for how to zone a city, and developers. Did they get it right?

DeSoto has progressed to just under 50,000 in population with about 18,000 households. While we have grown in our population, we have not outgrown our customs of being good neighbors. Progress has brought its own challenges with more people together in one place. You need some homes, some retail and some commercial. We have beautiful neighborhoods and HOAs; beautiful parks and utilized sports facilities; a first class school academy; Roy Orr trails and the Nance historical farm. We see strangers from one end of the city to the other when we are in our cars. But one thing has not changed; we become a neighbor and have a neighbor somewhere near us when we go home.

I will admit I get out and walk, talk and bike occasionally in the city and my neighborhood. It helps me know my neighbors and who lives in a house. I become what the Police Department calls a force multiplier with my eyes and ears as a crime watch component. I help keep my street safer. A fact I learned recently is that homeowners as pedestrians in a neighborhood can reduce crime. Since DeSoto is not immune to crime, and I am a taxpayer, it helps me contribute in another way that impacts my city. Our new Police Chief, Joseph Costa, came to our city recently and re-evaluated how best to use resources in order to have a greater presence on the street and impact the crime statics. Specifics are included in the DeSoto Police Annual Report. Go to [www.desotopolice.com](http://www.desotopolice.com) and choose 2012 Annual Report from the left hand navigation. I hope you will take a few moments to review this important information for council and citizens. DeSoto also participates in a National Night Out each year in August and it helps people connect with their neighbors and hear about what our police department is doing. If you are interested in these types of events, you do not need to wait for an invitation. Pick a day, start small or go big, form your own group. We have a city staff director, Tracie Hlavinka (email [thlavinka@desototexas.gov](mailto:thlavinka@desototexas.gov)) who can help you organize formally or informally. The police department also has a community liaison, Office Cindy Tyndall, who is available to talk to your group upon request. DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is another great event offering new and established citizens the opportunity to come together and talk about issues that affect our city and government. **(continued on page two)**



## City Calendar

### September

2 Labor Day - City offices closed  
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
5 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
5 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm  
9 Job Fair for Dallas Behavioral Healthcare  
9 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm  
9 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
9 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm  
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
15 Fiesta Latino DeSoto - Amphitheater 3-7  
16 Golf Challenge - Thorntree - 9 am  
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
21 DeSoto Dining & Dialogue Dinner Event  
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
26 Photo Contest Turn in-City Hall 9am-7pm

### October

6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
7 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm  
7 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm  
7 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
8 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
26 DAC 5K Walk & Roll - Amphitheater  
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am



#### JOB FAIR

Monday, Sept. 9, 2013

9 am to 7 pm

DeSoto Civic Center  
211 E. Pleasant Run Road  
DeSoto, TX 75115

The City of DeSoto is partnering with Dallas Behavioral Healthcare Hospital to host this job fair designed to give DeSoto residents the first opportunity to apply for positions in their DeSoto location scheduled to open in September. DBHH is looking to fill 350 positions including physicians, nurses, mental health techs, case managers, business office staff, cooks and housekeepers. For more information go to <http://dallasbehavioral.com>.

## Consider Having Your Alarm Monitored by 911SWRCC

Since 1999, Southwest Regional Communications Center (SWRCC) has been operating continuously, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing 911 emergency services to the cities of DeSoto, Duncanville and Cedar Hill. SWRCC also provides fire and security alarm system monitoring as a fee-based service to their member cities. Imagine how much time could be saved if your alarm was attached directly to your 911 police, fire and EMS dispatch center.

### How It Works

In the traditional alarm monitoring model, when your alarm is triggered, the alarm panel in your home uses the public telephone system to call a commercial monitoring center, which must then call the local 911 center serving your area to request dispatch of emergency personnel. With SWRCC Alarm Monitoring, your alarm panel reports directly to SWRCC.

### How Do I Sign Up For Alarm Monitoring

After obtaining an alarm permit, please contact SWRCC at 972.223.6111 or

[www.swrcc.net](http://www.swrcc.net). They will schedule a licensed service provider to re-program your alarm panel. Once your system is re-programmed, the alarm service provider will contact SWRCC with the appropriate information necessary to activate your account.

The typical re-programming fee is \$135 which is paid directly to the alarm service provider. Upon activation of the account, SWRCC provides a \$75 credit toward future monthly monitoring fees to offset this initial expense.

Installation of cellular system monitoring is based on the customer's current alarm system and will incur additional costs. A price quote is available upon request.

The alarm monitoring fee is \$25 per month for traditional telephone alarm monitoring. Cellular system monitoring is \$35 per month for those who no longer have a land line in their home. Billing can be set up on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

## Council Corner, A Message from Mayor Pro Tem, Patricia Ledbetter *(continued from Page One)*

If you are interested in getting involved with DeSoto Dining and Dialogue as a host family or would like to attend a dinner, contact Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 or go to [www.desotodd.org](http://www.desotodd.org) to register. The next dinner event, featuring a discussion of the Future of DeSoto ISD, is scheduled for September 21, 2013.

I moved to DeSoto in 1992 and have been blessed with each neighbor I have had. I had one neighbor from Jordan who did not share my language, but I could help in times of need with simple hand signals. I have kept children when a parent had an emergency in the middle of the night. I have been the only house with electricity during an ice storm with extension cords running across the street keeping food preserved during the power outage. I have also received more from them than I ever gave. One time I could not get my lawn mowed before dark and when I came home it had been mowed by one of my retired neighbors. Another time I had a water leak and used every sheet, towel, and blanket in the house to mop up the water. When I came home eleven loads of laundry, the materials used in the water leak, were washed and folded.

In Carl Wilkins' book *I'm Not Leaving* written in Rwanda, he said "the most important factor in that situation that determined who survived and who did not was that they had relationships with their neighbors". I found that statement profound knowing the whole country was a crime scene. I do not expect an extreme situation like that to ever reach our city, but as an All-America City, I believe we are called to have understanding within relationships, to have peace among diversity, and love our neighbors.

I commend our citizens and thank you for continuing to be good neighbors. It has kept the fabric of our city held firm and made DeSoto a good place to continue to live and call home.

## Patricia Ledbetter, Mayor Pro Tem

# Literacy Workshop

A DeSoto Public Library Special Presentation

**Saturday, September 14th  
At 2:30p.m.**

**Jump start your  
pre-schooler with  
early reading skills!**

Join our Early Literacy Workshop for skills to develop reading readiness for your baby.

For more information visit the Children's Reference desk or call 972-230-9666

**Is your child  
having trouble  
reading?**

Join our Literacy Workshop for vital information on improving you child's reading skills.



*"Connecting Neighbors!"*

## **Do you feel connected to the DeSoto Community?**

*If you'd like to connect with your neighbors and find out what's going on in the community, please take this as a personal invitation to attend our next free DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner event on September 21, 2013. Adults who live or work in DeSoto and care about our community are encouraged to attend. High School students and their parents are also welcome to attend. We offer five hours of Community Service Credit for students who attend because their input is vital to the program. As a guest, all you have to do is attend and join in on the discussion. Repeat guests are also welcome. Please register your attendance at [www.desotodd.org](http://www.desotodd.org).*

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals of all ages, who live or work in DeSoto, the opportunity to get to know one another at private dinner events. These dinners are held twice times a year. The discussion is led by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community. DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is primarily successful because families are willing to host a dinner for a diverse group of citizens at their own expense. Facilitators and other volunteers willingly give of their time and expertise because they believe in the program. However, we need continuing community participation to keep the program strong. Join us in building a strong community. Please feel free to forward this invitation to anyone who lives and/or works in DeSoto!

Dinner Discussion Topic:

## **The Future of DeSoto ISD**

Exciting things are happening at DeSoto ISD and they want the community to be informed. As a result, DeSoto ISD is inviting the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Program to the new Academies Cafeteria at DeSoto High School and has agreed to "host" all our dinner tables there. This is a great opportunity for the community to see, first-hand, this state-of-art facility and hear from Superintendent, David Harris on the vision for the district. You'll also have a chance to share your thoughts with your fellow table participants during the small group discussion on the future of DeSoto ISD.

**Sat. September 21, 2013  
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

For more information and to register go to:

[www.desotodd.org](http://www.desotodd.org)

**or call Kathy Jones at  
972-230-9648**

The deadline to register to attend the free dinner event is September 9th!

## **Did You Know....**

That you can now properly dispose of some household hazardous waste without driving to the Dallas County Household Hazardous Waste site in Plano? On Saturday, August 24, 2013, the City of Dallas launched North Texas' largest mobile collection of *used batteries, motor oil and oil filters, latex paint, and antifreeze (BOPA)* at Southwest Center Mall located at 3662 W. Camp Wisdom Road.

The City of Dallas BOPA Mobile accepts **batteries, motor oil/oil filters, latex paint, and antifreeze** for free. The maximum total amount of latex paint, motor oil, or antifreeze that can be dropped off per household per day is 25 gallons. Containers larger than a 5-gallon size will **NOT** be accepted. The maximum weight of the total amount of batteries which can be dropped off is 50 pounds. The average car battery weighs 40 pounds. Palletized batteries will **NOT** be accepted. This service is for household waste only. Materials from businesses will **NOT** be accepted.

Residents of Dallas and Dallas County Household Hazardous Waste Program member cities, such as DeSoto, who bring a driver's license or utility bill showing proof of residency can bring their used batteries, motor oil and oil filters, latex paint, and antifreeze to the mall on the **fourth Saturday of every month between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.**

Those who sign a waiver can get free household cleaning products that have been donated for reuse, while supplies last. For more information please call 214.553.1765.



CAPOEIRA  
MOISES RUIZ'S MARIACHI  
BANDAN KORO DRUMMERS  
& MORE!

**Free EVENT!**

# Fiesta Latino DESOTO

featuring **HAVANA NRG**

DESOTO LATIN FESTIVAL  
DeSoto Town Center Plaza & Outdoor Amphitheater  
211 E. Pleasant Run Road (behind the Library)

6pm

artsdesoto.com

**09.15**  
two thousand and thirteen  
**3-7PM**

### Give Us Your Best Shot Photo Contest



Submit your photos at DeSoto City Hall on Thurs. Sept. 26th. For info go to [www.artsdesoto.com](http://www.artsdesoto.com) or call 972.230.9648.

### New Play Makes It's World Premiere at DeSoto's Corner Theatre in September

The African American Repertory Theater is pleased to be the first organization to bring an awarding winning new work to the stage. *Homeschooled*, a new play by Jonathan Norton, will make it's world premiere at DeSoto's Corner Theatre on September 6th. Directed by Regina Washington, *Homeschooled* tells the story of Johnetta Duncan, a homeschool co-op leader lost in grief after the death of her mother. She finds herself quickly losing control of her life and classroom. A student's simple inquiry as to the meaning of the word "lynch" unearths the cruelty and pain surrounding the tragic history of the lynchings in the American South. Morgan, a frustrated mother, is greatly disturbed by the classroom incident and believes that it would not have occurred had Johnetta not been so overwhelmed by grief. No longer wishing to look the other way, Morgan questions Johnetta's effectiveness as a teacher and challenges Johnetta "to get hold of her life and let go!"

*Homeschooled* has been selected as a recipient of a grant from the TACA Donna Wilhelm Family New Works Fund. For tickets to attend this special presentation, call 972.572.0998 or [www.aapreptheater.com](http://www.aapreptheater.com).

**ART**  
PRESENTS

A new play by Jonathan Norton

# homeschooled

SEPT. 6 - 29, 2013

Tickets: 972.572.0998  
or [aapreptheater.com](http://aapreptheater.com)

THE CORNER THEATRE

Presented by Communities for Kids (A Texas non-profit organization)

**ATTENTION PARENTS! ALL NEW PROGRAM!**

**SEPTEMBER**  
LIVE DJ AND INFLATABLE AT EVERY EVENT!

**Friday, Sep. 6**  
WELCOME BACK PARTY!!  
BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS!  
FOOTBALL TARGET CONTEST!  
BOYZ VS. GIRLZ DANCE OFF!  
SODA SLAM!

**Friday, Sep. 13**  
NFL NIGHT!  
Trash Can Football Toss Relay!  
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM JERSEY!  
Cheer Leading & Team Dance Off Contest!

**Friday, Sep. 20**  
Talent Night!  
Sing \* Dance \* Act \* Comedy  
DODGEBALL  
Hula Hoop Contest  
Minute to Win It!

**Friday, Sep. 27**  
CARNIVAL NIGHT!  
- CARNIVAL GAMES!  
- COTTON CANDY!  
GLOW HOUR  
You don't want to miss this!!

Fun Time Live is now a 1st-5th grade program from 7-10:30pm!  
FRIDAYS! 1st-5th Grades! 7-10:30pm

Police Officer On Site  
**Fun Safe**  
Supervised Entertainment!  
Parents! Enjoy a night out while your kids have the time of their lives!  
Celebrate Birthdays with us!  
**\$10.00 Admission**

**DESOTO RECREATION CENTER**  
211 EAST PLEASANT RUN RD - DESOTO, TX 75115  
Concessions Available

FUNTIMELIVE.COM 214-986-4326 FACEBOOK.COM/FTLDESOTO