

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

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



Because of term limits, my six years on City Council has come to an end. In 2008 I focused on issues that I saw every day in my District 2, one of the older areas of the city. I came to DeSoto to raise my family and to work for the Super Collider. I wanted safe streets and good schools just like my neighbors did. I wanted a place to call home. I specifically wanted sidewalks on Chattey Road which would make it safer for pedestrians and a signal light at Park and Belt Line to keep traffic at the posted speed limit. However, my service on City Council made me focus on all of DeSoto and have a voice on all issues in our city, not just District 2.

You do not have to know everything before you run and get elected to City Council, but you do need to have the desire to serve and volunteer your time to your community. I believe my time on council was a free education at a public institution.

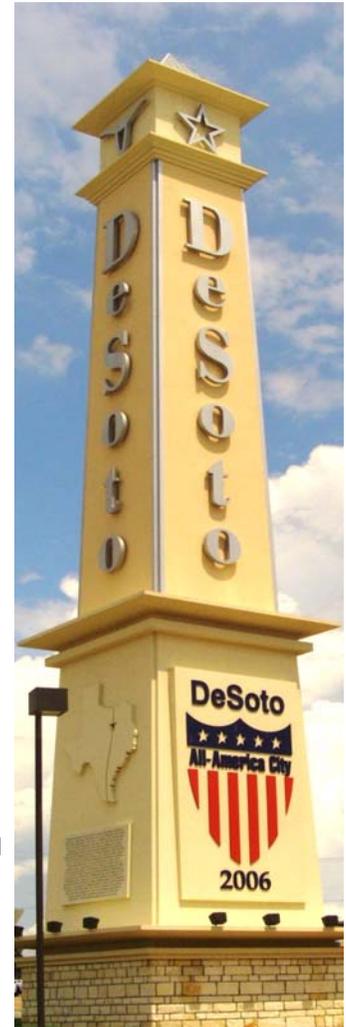
A council has three main goals:

- a fiduciary responsibility over taxes and putting together a work plan and budget which includes smart and manageable debt, city services, and retention of our great city employees;
- hiring and keeping a great CEO which is the city manager; and
- setting policy and passing ordinances.

We have top of the line City services and we have so many things that contribute to our quality of life.

A great American, Oliver Wendell Holmes said: "I don't mind paying taxes, it builds a civilization". I want to enjoy my community now, retain current residents and attract others to live here. The city leaders that made budget decisions and took on debt in the past have given me great facilities including a public library, a recreation center, great parks, civic center, heliport, industrial park, senior center, fire departments, regional police station, fire academy, alleys, sidewalks, street signs, traffic lights, water and sewer lines, swimming pool, town center, and a BMX bike facility to name a few. I have to take a moment to recognize and brag on the councilmembers, all those years ago, that voted to have the first and only covered BMX facility in the USA built right here in DeSoto. They knew it was the right decision to spend the money, not knowing exactly the dollars that would follow. However, each spring we reap the benefits of their vision in increased tourism as we host the USA Supernationals BMX Race which brings in people from 40 states and 12 countries to stay in our hotels and spent money here. BMX is now an Olympic sport and our facility is viewed on ESPN.

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City Calendar

May

1 National Day of Prayer—7am
1 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6pm
1 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
1 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
3 Mother/Son Dance, Civic Ctr. 7pm
4 Jazz Concert - Corner Theatre - 3pm
5 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
5 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6pm
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
10 Dog Days N DeSoto - Zeiger Park 9am
10 Household Hazardous Waste Event 9am
10 Municipal Election Day
11 Classical Concert - Corner Theatre 7pm
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
15 Don Diego Concert - Amphitheater 7 pm
17 R.L. Griffin Concert - Amphitheater 7 pm
18 Jazz Concert - Corner Theatre - 3 pm
20 DEDC Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 K. Vet Concert - Amphitheater - 7pm
25 Classical Concert-Corner Theatre - 3 pm
26 Memorial Day - City Facilities Closed
27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm

June

2 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
4 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
4 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
7 Creekfest - Amphitheater 4 - 10 pm
8 Jazz Concert Corner Theatre - 3pm
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
14 Juneteenth Celebration - Duncannonville
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm

DeSoto Police Introduce New K-9 Team

The DeSoto Police Department introduced its new K9 Team to the City Council at their meeting on April 15th. Officer Preston Hammel and his K9 partner, "Arsen", recently completed an intensive six-week program in search and apprehension. Pictured from left to right are Asst. Chief, Gary Perkins, Chief Joe Costa, Sgt. Melissa Franks, Officer Preston Hammel and Arsen.

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

Citizens say, and I agree, that we need to find a way to reduce residential taxes and grow the retail and commercial tax base. We have to make bold decisions now to be ready when a business or developer comes. When the next bond election occurs, the last one was in 2003, we need to remember that we balance our quality of life with things we need; and that we become ready for those developers and businesses when we pass those Capital Improvement Projects.

I am asked what will I do now? I live in a simple house on a simple street surrounded by neighbors that I love. I am not moving. I am not going anywhere. I will continue to serve this community. You will see me in schools and helping to mentor future leaders. You will see me doing aerobics or line dancing at the Recreation Center; at the library reading books; at the Corner Theatre enjoying the arts; at my church praying.

During this last year on council, I have been working diligently to bring international relationships to our All-America City through involvement in Sister Cities International. I will continue to do that as well. I recently hosted two Youth Ambassadors from South America. At the end of their twelve day stay, they said DeSoto would always be America to them. They hope to make the world a better place and have a better home in their country because of what they saw and what they heard about in our community. It took me back to my father's words about why he fought in WWII in Germany to stop the aggression--- "To keep a country free, to raise a family, and a place to call home." DeSoto is my home. Thank you for the privilege to serve you these six years.

"Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
It is here that the race of men go by
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong, wise, foolish, so am I
I will not sit in the scorner's seat or hurl the cynic's ban,
Let me live in my house by the side of the road, And be a friend to man." (POEM BY SAM FOSS-1858)

Mayor Pro Tem, Patricia Ledbetter City Council Place Two



DeSoto Public Library
Teen Summer Programs 2014
 June - July

“Destination Cretaceous” Fossil Presentation
 Teen Theatre/Improv
 Teen Money Matters and Mad City Money
 Writing and Storytelling
 Literacy and Hip Hop
 Capoeira: African/Brazilian Martial Arts
 “Cook It Up” Teen Nutritional Cooking Show
 WorldBeat: Cultures Through Rhythm
 Register at the Information Desk

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.

Summer Reading Club 2014
 @ DeSoto Public Library

JUNE 11 – JULY 31ST
 • For Kids Of ALL Ages • Read And Win Prizes •

Celebrating..

Star Wars
 Junie B. Jones
 Dork Diaries

Science
 Diary of a Wimpy Kid

2014 Teen Summer Volunteer Program

Teens are you looking for a great summer experience while receiving community service hours at the same time?
 Sign up for the **DeSoto Public Library Teen Summer Volunteer Program!**

Book Buddies | Crafts | Movies | Shelving | Teen Techie | Gaming | Chess Club | Anime
VISIT WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/LIBRARY
SIGN-UP MAY 01 - 25, 2014

SUMMER BOOK BUDDIES PROGRAM Ages 4 – 11

DESOTO PUBLIC LIBRARY
 “LEADERS ARE READERS”
 JUNE 10, 2014 - July 15, 2014
 Teens read with children on Tuesday Mornings
 From 10:30am-11:30am
Space is limited
 Please register your child at the Children’s Information Desk, **Starting May 12, 2014**
 A six week program of reading, writing, art and games. Join the fun!

Updated Services Make Using the DeSoto Public Library Easier and More Convenient!

Patrons of the DeSoto Library can now have up to twenty-four renewals on materials as long as there are no holds on the materials. This is an increase over the two renewals allowed in the past. Renewals can be made in person at the library, by telephone at 972.230.5792 or 972.230.9665 or on the library webpage at www.desototexas.gov/library. Renewals made by telephone by calling 972.230.5792 or on the library webpage can be made twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. This new renewal policy does not apply to Interlibrary Loan materials. The Interlibrary Loan service is a nationwide search for materials the library does not own, and the check-out period for those materials is set by the library which sends the materials to the library.

Also, resident library cards will now be good for three years instead of one year. Nonresident cards will continue to expire one year after issue, and cards issued through the statewide Texshare program will continue to expire on their regular dates.

The DeSoto Public Library is located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the DeSoto Town Center Complex. Free parking is available in the nearby garage. For more information, please call the library at 972.230.9656.

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 (3)** consecutive days and can be held two times per calendar year. A permit must be obtained twenty-four hours prior to beginning your sale from the Utility Billing Department in City Hall or by applying online through the City’s website. 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 parked away from the sale are also not permitted.

High Weeds and Grass

City Ordinances require that weeds and grass be kept below twelve (12) 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.

THE UPTOWN/DOWNTOWN DESOTO SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES WITH:



Join us for an exciting series celebrating DeSoto's diverse taste in music, alternating each week from classical to jazz. There's something for everyone!

THE RICHARDSON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FREE CONCERT || All concerts are at the DeSoto Corner Theater in the DeSoto Town Center.

MAY 4TH AT 3PM
JAZZ DRUMMER,
ANDREW GRIFFITH

MAY 11TH AT 7PM
THE DRAMATIC CANTATA
"UNDELIVERED" PERFORMED
BY THE HALL ENSEMBLE

MAY 18TH AT 3PM
THE SANDAGA JAZZ BAND

MAY 25TH AT 3PM
THE RICHARDSON SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA || FREE Memorial Day
Concert

211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

Important Information Regarding the 2014 Municipal Election

The City of DeSoto will hold a General Municipal Election on May 10, 2014. Here are the candidates:

- Place 2 - Virgil Helm** – (unopposed)
- Place 4 - Rachel Proctor**
- Place 4 - Nate Naas**

All members of the City Council run by place but are elected at large. This means that they must reside in the district for which they are seeking election. However, all registered voters who live anywhere in DeSoto may cast ballots for that position. If you would like more information on the City Council districts, a map is available on the City's website at www.desototexas.gov under the Government tab at the top of the page.

Voting on Election Day will take place from 7 am to 7 pm in the Assembly Hall of the DeSoto Public Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road.

5TH ANNUAL CITY OF DESOTO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MUSIC IN THE PARK SERIES

ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE!



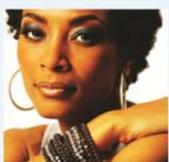
Don Diego
Thursday, May 15th
7:00 P.M.
Town Center Ampitheater
211 E Pleasant Run Rd
DeSoto, Texas 75115

Don Diego is a contemporary jazz fusion saxophonist, vocalist and keyboard player who mixes instrumental covers of modern and classic R&B with rap and pop vocals.



R. L. Griffin
Saturday, May 17th
7:00 P.M.
Town Center Ampitheater
211 E Pleasant Run Rd
DeSoto, Texas 75115

R.L. Griffin is a major figure on the Dallas blues scene. Not only is he a fine entertainer and recording star, but he has his own club, R.L.'s Blues Palace #2. He is also a disc jockey on KKDA 730 AM where he spins classic blues and R&B tunes.



K. Avett
Thursday, May 22nd
7:00 P.M.
Town Center Ampitheater
211 E Pleasant Run Rd
DeSoto, Texas 75115

K. Avett recently completed her debut solo CD, K. Avett: Revelations. She also lends her sound, a mix of "fancy fruit salad of rock, beat-up funk, juke-joint flavor, and old soul," to a variety of local Dallas-based bands including TOP, The Signature Band, Fingerprints and the Walton Stout Band.



Evelyn Champagne King
CREEKFEST ★
Saturday, June 7th
4:00 - 10:00 P.M.
Town Center Ampitheater
211 E Pleasant Run Rd
DeSoto, Texas 75115

Evelyn "Champagne" King is the legendary entertainer behind two number one RB hits during the early '80s, "I'm in Love" and "Love Come Down. She managed to survive as a star well past the '80s and is still recording and touring frequently today.

DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover, Experience, Play!

desototexas.gov/parks
facebook.com/desotorec

CITY OF DESOTO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SOUL SISTAH EXPO

June 7, 2014
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
FREE!
Hair, Health and a Holistic Approach to Living Well
DeSoto Civic Center
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.
For more information contact call 972.230.9651 or email ccampbell@desototexas.gov

Vendor Space Available

2014