

DeSoto City Lights

Update on the Clean-up at Meadow Creek Park

Large amounts of construction debris from damaged homes was dropped on the youth football fields at Meadow Creek Park during the tornado that hit the southern part of DeSoto and northern Ellis County on December 26, 2015 causing the City to close the park to the public. Phase I of the embedded debris removal at Meadow Creek Park began recently and is producing some surprising results.



The initial phase involves mowing the grass to half an inch, vacuuming the debris and using magnets to see if any debris remains. A pass of the areas around the perimeter of the playing fields by a tractor with a special magnet attached has already produced mounds of roofing and concrete nails, screws and other small pieces of metal.

Once this vacuuming process is complete, the next step is to perform a special process called verticutting to further expose the embedded debris in the grass, remove thatch

buildup, and sift debris, followed by more vacuuming and mowing. Phase III will involve excavating random areas of the fields and sifting the removed soil three separate times as a way to determine if other debris exists. Finally new topsoil and sod must be applied to the excavated areas in order to be ready for use.

“All of this takes time,” said Phil Lozano, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for DeSoto, “and must be done according to specific instructions to satisfy FEMA reimbursement conditions.” In addition to addressing the issues with the fields, there are several support structures that were damaged such as the press box, bleachers, goalposts, lighting standards, fencing and more.



It is anticipated that the fields will not reopen until the fall 2017 season. However, arrangements are being made to allow the 36 youth football teams in various age groups to play at multiple sites within DeSoto Independent School District.

“It will be a tedious situation not being able to play at Meadow Creek, but we’re all one team,” said Calvin Ford, coach of the DeSoto Panthers, “and we’ll make it happen together.” Byron Sanders, President of the DeSoto Youth Football League and coach of the DeSoto Colts, said they are conducting “damage control” meetings and assuring parents that they will have a season in 2016.

“It’s all about safety,” said Lozano. “We want to be sure we have fields that are good and safe.”



City Calendar

July

- 4 Fireworks Lancaster Community Park 6pm
- 2 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 6 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 6 Historical Foundation Mtg. - 6 pm
- 15 Inside Out Movie Amphitheater - 8:30 pm
- 19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 22 Council Budget Meeting - City Hall 6 pm
- 22 Funky Knuckles Amphitheater - 7 pm
- 25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
- 26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall - 7 pm
- 28 Council Budget Meeting City Hall - 6 pm

August

- 1 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
- 1 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 2 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
- 4 Library Summer Reading Kick-off - 1 pm
- 4 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
- 4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 5 Zootopia Movie – Amphitheater 8:30 pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm
- 13 Backyard Bash & Concert - Amphitheater
- 16 City Council Mtg.– City Hall - 7 pm
- 23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
- 26 POLiiITIC Concert - Amphitheater - 7pm
- 29 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am



“I’m a patriot,” says Eudean Hester. He has never served in the military but loves his country and city and for the 3rd year in a row, has placed American flags along Cloud Crest for Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. Mr. Hester carefully places each flag himself, spacing them two feet from the curb. The City of DeSoto salutes you!



Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller showed his appreciation for DeSoto Police and Fire first responders by donated a police vehicle to the DeSoto Police Department and \$25,000 to the DeSoto Fire Academy that will fund 15 scholarships for deserving fire recruits. Following the presentation ceremony, Miller signed autographs for first responders. The police vehicle is a great example of police and community cooperation and will be used as recruiting tool. “We are so proud of Von and all he has accomplished,” said DeSoto Police Chief Joe Costa. “It’s gratifying to know that he has not forgotten his roots and is willing to give back to his hometown.” Thank you Von!!!

Free Family Fun in the Outdoor Amphitheater with...

Outdoor Movies...



July 29th 8:30 pm



Aug. 5th 8:30 pm



Poetry Slam and Concert with POLiiITIC August 26th 7pm



The DeSoto Domestic Violence and Prevention Commission recently sponsored a student essay contest. The winners were recognized at a recent City Council meeting and include: **High School** – Jazmine Davis, Kennedy Harper, Autumn Jennings, Thomas Hatton, Te’á Johnson, Alexis Seals,

Jada Jones, Mikiah McNair, and Cierra Scott. **Middle School** – Cedric Barnes, Daylon Johnson, Kayla Spears, Odyssey Giddings, Cameron Vance, and Courtney Saich.

A Message From Code Enforcement

The fence on your property should be maintained at all times. It is unlawful to allow your fence to lean or to have missing, loose or broken slats or panels. The fence is not allowed to have any symbols, writings or other graffiti except for signs which pertain to the address or occupancy of the property. It is prohibited to have barbed wire, hog wire, or chicken wire or to have an electric fence.

If you have a swimming pool, a fence, structure or gate is required to completely surround the swimming pool to prevent small children from

inadvertently wandering into the pool. This fence, structure or gate shall not be lower than (6) six feet in height, and not have any openings that will allow a four-inch diameter sphere to pass through; and all gates should have a self-closing and self-latching device designed to keep gates closed and locked at all times.

A permit is required to build any fence on your property and can be obtained from Building Inspection at City Hall, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. or by calling 972.230.9610.

Would You Like to Apply for an Arts Grant from the DeSoto Arts Commission?

If you have enjoyed a live concert at the DeSoto Corner Theatre, a performance by Texas Winds Musical Outreach at a local nursing home, or one of the Juried Visual Arts Shows sponsored by the DeSoto Art League on display in the DeSoto Library, you have enjoyed programs funded by DeSoto’s Cultural Arts Grants Program. These are just a few of the arts and entertainment opportunities made available to DeSoto residents by this program.

Applications for funding of projects scheduled to take place in 2017 are accepted from July 1st through August 31st each year. Qualifying nonprofit arts organizations can request funding for their projects by completing the application form available at www.artsdesoto.com or by calling the DeSoto Arts Commission staff liaison at 972.230.9648.



You can now enjoy award winning barbeque in DeSoto Town Center at Top 5 BBQ. DeSoto based and family owned, Top 5 BBQ recently opened their restaurant on Pleasant Run Road but they have been serving great barbeque in DeSoto for some time from their bright red catering trailer. Now Greene has taken his business to the next level in his new location. Try it, its “just smokin’ good.”

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
GREATER DALLAS



What: Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas Job Search Assistance

When: Tuesdays from 6 pm to 8 pm

Where: DeSoto Public Library Computer Lab



Each Tuesday evening for 6:00 PM–8:00 PM, we will have a representative of Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas assisting job seekers in the Computer Lab with resumes, interview skills, WorkinTexas.com registration, and information about workforce programs and career pathways.

DeSoto Public Library • 211 E Pleasant Run Road, Suite C • DeSoto, Texas 75115

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Relay Texas: 711 | TDD: 1-800-735-2989 | Voice: 1-800-735-2988

Happy 104th Birthday, Mrs. Gladys Harris!!

Recently the DeSoto Senior Activity Center celebrated a special birthday. Mrs. Gladys Harris turned 104 on July 4th. DeSoto Mayor Curtistene McCowan presented a Mayoral Commendation to her. Mrs. Harris attends the Senior Center daily, rain or shine, and performs with the Golden Voices Choir. Pictured from left, Mrs. Harris' daughter-in-law Dana Harrington, Mayor McCowan, Mrs. Gladys Harris, son Levon Harrington and Mayor Pro Tem, Rachel Proctor. Happy 104th Birthday Mrs. Harris!!!



FREE CONCERT

 **DeSoto Parks & Recreation**
Discover, Experience, Play!

 **desotorec**

Backyard Blast

Saturday, August 13, 2016
Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Amphitheater | 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. | 972-230-9655

Live Musical Performances by Crystal Yates, Jay B and the Zydeco Band and The Found



DE SOTO Arts Live!

Art & Music Festival

Join with friends and family at this **FREE** festival packed with fun for everyone!

Saturday, September 3rd
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

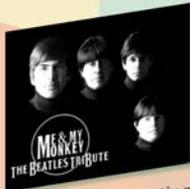
DeSoto's Outdoor Amphitheater
at DeSoto Town Center
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

Event Sponsors:

Come enjoy great music with:
Me & My Monkey at 4 p.m.
The Original Lakeside at 8 p.m.

 **Me & My Monkey**
THE BEATLES TRIBUTE

 **The Original Lakeside**

\$15 Reserved Pavilion Seating for the Original Lakeside show available at 7 p.m. Purchase at www.artsdesoto.com.

Free lawn seating available. Bring your own chair.

Join friends at The Brick House in DeSoto for an after party and autograph signing with the Original Lakeside band members.

The day also features:

- A stroll along the Roy Orr Trail to see plein air artists painting the landscape live from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Art sale
- Enjoy strolling minstrels
- Dancers
- A craft bazaar
- Kid's Zone with: gaming trucks (\$) laser tag (\$) bubble soccer (\$)
- Lots of great food (\$)

Brought to you by:  **DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION**

Vendor and artist opportunities are still available. Find more information at www.artsdesoto.com or call 972-230-9648