

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Communications Department

LIBRARY BECOMES DESOTO'S NEWEST DESTINATION OF CHOICE

72% More Visitors and Circulation Doubles In Just 6 Years

By Matt Smith, Communications Manager, City of DeSoto

It used to be that the public library was a place that you went to when you needed peace and quiet or wanted to be left alone. But here in DeSoto, times have really changed. A recent comparison of the DeSoto Public Library's (DPL) key figures found that 72% more residents have been visiting the library over the past 6 years, that circulation has more than doubled, and that Internet usage is up by 57%. Rather than being a place to get away from it all, the DeSoto Public Library has become one of city's newest centers of activity.

"A library can be an imposing structure with all of the books in the world in it, but what good does that do if people don't use it?," noted DeSoto's Mayor Curtisene S. McCowan. "Fortunately, in DeSoto, our library has become a focal point of our community and is constantly a beehive of activity. That is why I am heartened to see the dramatic increase of residents who visit our library and regularly enjoy its many services."

DeSoto Library's turnaround coincided with the arrival of Kerry McGeath who became the new Managing Director of Library Services in 2014. Kerry has received numerous recognitions for his operational skills, but the first 25 years of his career was spent on the retail side of the book industry. Kerry has successfully used many of the skills developed through his retail experience, along with his knowledge of industry best practices, to attract more residents.

"I knew that our library system was growing in popularity, but I had no idea just how much our library had become an epicenter of our city until I saw the numbers," observed Mayor McCowan. "And one of the biggest reasons for the success of our system is Managing Director McGeath and the extremely talented and dedicated team that he has assembled!"

McGeath is the first to admit that the turnaround could not have taken place without the strong support of the Mayor, Council and Senior City Management. He is also most appreciative of their willingness to let him and his team to be creative and to think and operate slightly "out-of-the-box."

"I have always bristled at the concept of a library being a cold and uninviting place and have made it a point to always keep things interesting, to constantly give our residents new reasons to visit, and to provide them with the types of programs and service that they'll appreciate and remember."

This change likely contributed to the 903% increase in the DPL's programs and outreach. Some of the most memorable events held in recent months include late April's 2019 Everything Teen Expo that drew more 6,200 enthusiastic teens, a Juneteenth commemoration that attracted an overflow crowd and their Sewing and Fashion Boot Camp which showcased the design and sewing skills of some of DeSoto's most talented teen designers.

And there are more great events just around the corner. To find out which ones you might be interested in, check back frequently on the DeSoto Public Library's Home Page (<http://www.desototexas.gov/110/Library>), on their Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/desotolibrary/?rf=172838962843466>) or on their Twitter Page (<https://twitter.com/desotolibrarytx?lang=en>). Or for more specific information contact the library at 972.230.9656 or reach out directly to staff members via their contact page (<https://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/1558/About-the-Library>).

The DeSoto Public Library is open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm, Friday from 10 am to 6 pm, Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm, and is closed on Sunday.



City Calendar

September

2 City Offices & Facilities Closed
3 City Council Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm
4 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
5 Mayor's Quarterly Meeting
5 Library Board Mtg. - Library - 7 pm
5 KDB Mtg. - Civic Center -
5 Historical Foundation Mtg. canceled
7 Latino Heritage Fest - Town Ctr. 6 - 10pm
9 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall - 7 pm
11 DeSoto Works Job Fair
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
19 Adopt-a-Street Banquet
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - canceled
28 DeSoto Arts Live -Town Ctr. 2-10 pm

October

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
1 Texas Night Out - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
3 DeSoto Dining & Dialogue - 6:30 pm
3 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 Library Board Mtg. - Library - 7 pm
7 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
8 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
25 Free Concert - Corner Theatre 7:30 pm
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm



"Connecting Neighbors!"

Do you feel connected to the DeSoto Community?

If you'd like to participate in an important conversation on the future of our City, please take this as a personal invitation to attend our next free DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner event on October 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Adults who live or work in DeSoto and care about our community are invited to attend.

Resident high school students and their parents are also encouraged to attend. Students will receive five hours of Community Service Credit for their participation in the discussion. Please register your attendance at www.desotodd.org

before October 1st to reserve your place at the free dinner event. Space is limited to the first 75 guests who register.

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Invites You to Join Us For:

ONE DESOTO ...TOGETHER WE WILL

Building on the One DeSoto rally that was held last May, the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Program will host a Dinner Event carrying the City, School District and Faith Community participation forward with **One DeSoto ...Together We Will**. Our school district and municipal government need the support of the community. Be a part of the discussion because **We Are One DeSoto and ...Together We Will!**

Please register today to attend this important DeSoto Dining and Dialogue event on:

Thursday, October 3, 2019

6:30 pm – 8:45 pm

at the DeSoto Corner Theatre located in DeSoto Town Center 211 E. Pleasant Run Road

For more information and to register go to: www.desotodd.org

or call Kathy Jones at

972-230-9648

The deadline to register is Oct. 1st.

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 dinner and discussion events. These dinners are held twice a year in private homes or public facilities around DeSoto. The discussion is led by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community. **Join us in building a great community!** Please feel free to forward this invitation to anyone who lives and/or works in DeSoto and might be interested in attending.

Friday, October 25, 2019
7:30 PM
Corner Theatre

FREE CONCERT

The DeSoto Arts Commission presents a free Classical Music Concert featuring the Gruca White Ensemble with classical guitarist Robert Gruca and flutist Linda White. They stretch the boundaries of the standard classical concert by including original arrangements of rock, funk, Latin tunes, and free improvisation.

For more information, call 972.230.9649.



DeSoto Is A Veteran Friendly City

For several years, the City of DeSoto has hosted events to honor the contributions and sacrifices of our local Veterans and their families. In 2018, the DeSoto City Council created an official Veterans Affairs Committee tasked with carrying this effort forward. They are planning events and initiatives intended to let people know that DeSoto is a Veteran Friendly City.

The Committee is rolling out an initiative to encourage local businesses to actively acknowledge their support of our Veterans by proudly displaying a decal that designates the business as one that offers special discounts or services for Veterans. If you would like to participate in this program and receive a window decal, please contact Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 or kathy.jones@desototexas.gov.

Veteran friendly businesses are also invited to participate in our annual Vet Fest Veterans Appreciation event scheduled for Saturday November 2, 2019 at 9 am. This is a free event and program is for ALL Veterans (from ALL branches of the military) and is intended to honor their service, raise awareness about their needs and provide information on the services available to them while having some fun in the process. Along with our annual appreciation ceremony and benefits fair,

this year's Vet Fest will feature a 5K Run/Walk at the DeSoto Outdoor Amphitheater and along the Roy Orr Trail.

"You don't want to miss the unique experience planned for our 2019 Vet Fest", said Mayor Curtistene McCowan. "I'm sending out a personal request to our local businesses and organizations to support us in this effort to raise awareness about the needs of Veterans and the services available to them through participating organizations."

To make this event a success, we need community support for the following:

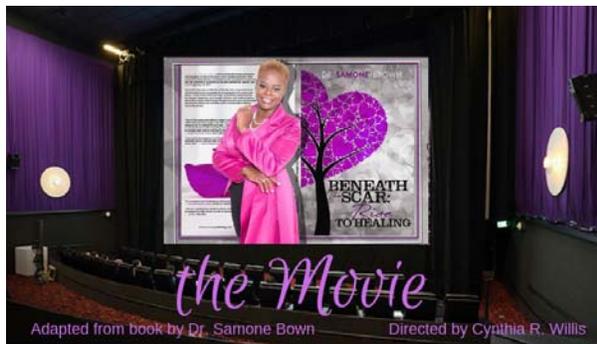
- Underwriting sponsors for water, snacks, participant t-shirts, race timing equipment, etc.
- Volunteers on event day
- Vendors who offer free items for Veterans or have services that would benefit Veterans

"Please help us spread the word about the 2019 Vet Fest 5K Run/Walk and program and make this the best Vet Fest yet," said the Mayor. "I look forward to seeing you there."

Call 972.230.9648 or watch this newsletter for more information on participating in the Vet Fest 5K Run/Walk.



The DeSoto Police Department will host Texas Night Out on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at the DeSoto Civic Center (211 E. Pleasant Run Road) from 7 to 9 pm. DeSoto residents and business owners are encouraged to participate in this "FREE" event designed to encourage the community to engage in crime prevention and speak to officials about concerns in their neighborhoods. There will be food, entertainment for kids and vendor booths. You'll also have a chance to see the public safety police and fire department vehicles and police drone aircrafts up close.



Join the DeSoto Domestic Violence Advisory Commission for a FREE screening of the movie

Beneath the Scar: Rise to Healing

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Hosted by Commissioner Josh Rivera and

Fuego Church

1331 S Interstate 35 East Service Rd

DeSoto, Texas 75115



DeSoto Domestic Violence
Advisory Commission

Doors open 4:00 p.m.
Open Seating

Featuring original singers from the movie
After movie discussion with Author and Director



the desoto arts commission
presents

RUBEN STUDDARD



8:30 pm

Open Seating - Bring Your Lawn Chairs

DESOTO 2019 ARTS

LIVE!

**SAT
SEPT
28
2019**
2PM-10PM
A Free EVENT!

DESOTO TOWN CENTER
AMPHITHEATER

211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.
DeSoto, TX 75115

ARTS PLAZA

KIDZ ZONE

VENDORS

INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT

DESOTOARTSLIVE.COM



INSPIRATION BAND

7:30 pm



RJ + ZYDECO BAND

6 pm



TEA

7 pm



AD BONNER

BANDAN KORO

4 pm



CHALAY EDWARDS

7:15 pm



DESMOND BLAIR

5:50 pm



KIJUAN HOWARD

3 pm

3:30 pm

972.230.9648

