

July, 2009



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City Lights DeSoto, Texas

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department



Blue Cow Coffee Company is Coming to the DeSoto Library

“By mid-August, you’ll be able to enjoy a great cup of coffee when you visit the DeSoto Public Library,” according to Jim Baugh, DeSoto City Manager. Recently the City Council approved an agreement with Blue Cow Coffee Company to operate a coffee shop/bistro in the lobby area of the DeSoto Public Library.

“We have been working to enhance our services, foster a comfortable environment and improve the amenities offered by our library, said Lucile Dade, Managing Director of Library Services. “We’ve repainted and installed new carpet, we added the extended hours computer lab a couple of months ago and now we are partnering with the Blue Cow to offer coffee and bistro food to our patrons and the community,” said Dade.

The Library Board and staff have been involved for some time now on a plan to transform our library into the Library of the 21st Century. One plan initiative was to make the library more of a community gathering place by offering a coffee shop with free Wi-Fi. Paul Courtaway’s philosophy for operating the Blue Cow fit perfectly with that initiative.

“Blue Cow is not a franchise, it is an idea brought about by the times and by a true passion for great food and great coffee. It is a place of community, a place of gathering, and a place for fellowship for EVERYONE....not just the coffee house crowd,” said Paul Courtaway, Blue Cow owner.

“Blue Cow will offer homemade from scratch, made-to-order food and the best coffees from around the world at an affordable price that is sensitive to the needs of all in these tough economic times,” said Courtaway. The menu will feature daily .99 cent drip coffee, teas, sodas, juice drinks, blended drinks, great food and daily specials including homemade soups, Panini and deli sandwiches, stuffed pretzels and breakfast burritos.

The Blue Cow will convert the existing kitchen in the Library Assembly Hall and a portion of the Library’s lobby area into the bistro. They expect to open for business in early August. Initially the hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. They plan to extend their hours to 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. once established.

“The Blue Cow will be physically located in our library but we hope that residents, employees and visitors to Town Center will patronize it,” said Jim Baugh, City Manager. “This will be a great place to grab a cup of coffee after your morning workout in the Fitness Center or during intermission of a show in the Corner Theatre.”



“We are excited that our family owned and family run business has the chance to come to DeSoto and be a part of a community that values family so much,” said Blue Cow owner, Courtaway. “ We look forward to showing everyone what truly great coffee, truly great passion for food and truly great service really means.”



This picture was taken at the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Reunion Event in May that honored the 5-year anniversary of the program which seeks to bring together a diverse group of residents over dinner to discuss community issues. The next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2009. Anyone who lives or works in DeSoto is invited to participate in this free program. Just go to the DDD website at www.desotodininganddialogue.org for information or to register.

City Begins First Project Using CDBG Funds And Receives Grant for a Second Project

2008 was the first year the City of DeSoto participated in Dallas County's Community Development Block Grant Program. The City received \$104,877 from Dallas County which is being used to fund the reconstruction of Wintergreen Court/Gannon Lane. That project is currently underway. Community Development Block Grant funds can be used for a variety of purposes as long as they eradicate blight, principally benefit low/moderate income people, or eliminate a community-threatening condition. Cities in the program typically use grant funds for capital improvement projects such as street reconstruction, installing new water lines, replacing bridges or renovating parks in low/moderate income areas.

A Town Hall Meeting was held on May 28th to invite citizen input regarding project(s) that might be funded with Community Development Block Grant funds for 2009. Recommendations for projects were presented to the Council on June 2nd. The City Council voted to use the \$93,677 grant from the CDBG Program to reconstruct Hubert Drive. Hubert Drive is currently a "grade F" street and reconstruction of this roadway will include milling the surface, laying new asphalt, and re-grading the shoulders. Construction should begin in the summer of 2010.

Because the CDBG grant is insufficient to entirely fund the reconstruction project, the grant funds will be supplemented with the City's 2010 Capital Improvement Project funds.

If You Hear the Outdoor Sirens Sound, This Is The Signal To Take Cover

The purpose of the City's Outdoor Warning Siren System is to alert residents of impending threats due to tornados, severe wind conditions, large hail or enemy attack. The system is not intended to be used as a warning of impending flooding or to indicate an all clear condition. The warning sirens will be activated when; a tornado is sighted by DeSoto storm spotters or by spotters in a neighboring city and the direction of movement indicates a threat to DeSoto, when the National Weather Service has issued a Tornado Warning for DeSoto or the immediate area, when Commercial TV stations have broadcast a Tornado Warning for DeSoto, or if Cedar Hill, Duncanville, Lancaster, Glenn Heights, or Ovilla activate their sirens. DeSoto's Outdoor Warning Sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. in good weather. Any other time you hear the sirens sound, an imminent threat is present and you should take cover immediately in the interior of a structure avoiding windows.

CITY CALENDAR

July

- 2 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 2 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - 7 p.m. - Library Conference Room
- 3 City Offices and Some Facilities are closed for July 4th Holiday
- 4 July 4th Fireworks Show at Grimes Park - 6 p.m.
- 6 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - Recreation Center
- 7 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 16 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 7 p.m.
- 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 FY2010 City Council Budget Workshop - 6 p.m. City Hall
- 31 FY2010 City Council Budget Workshop - 6 p.m. City Hall

August

- 1 FY2010 City Council Budget Workshop - 9 a.m. City Hall
- 3 Park Development Corp. Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 4 City Council Meeting - cancelled to observe National Night Out
- 6 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 6 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - 7 p.m. - Library Conference Room
- 11 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 18 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 24 DEDC Board Meeting - noon - City Hall
- 25 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 29 Briarwood Kids Fishing Day - Briarwood Park - 9 a.m.

Help Take a Bite Out of Crime by Planning a National Night Out Block Party in Your Neighborhood



City Councilman, Sandy Respass (center) and DeSoto Police Captain, Gary Perkins talk with residents during Churchill Estates 2008 National Night Out Celebration.

This year's National Night Out event is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2009 from 7 to 9 p.m. Crime watch groups, homeowners associations and neighborhood groups are encouraged to come outside their homes that evening and join together for a show of community support. This year, why not help "take a bite out of crime" by joining your neighbors in planning a block party on National Night Out?

If your neighborhood group would like to organize a block party and would like to schedule a visit by a City official or police officers, please contact Officer Cindy Mendez at 469.658.3055 or Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689.

Mayor Waddle Will Serve as President of NCTCOG Executive Board

DeSoto Mayor, Bobby Waddle was recently elected President of the Executive Board of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). NCTCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating regional development. NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas centered around the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Their 230 member governmental organizations represent cities, counties, school districts and special districts. NCTCOG promotes regional cooperation on projects involving air quality, transportation, public safety and emergency management, community services and regional training.

Each member government appoints a COG voting representative from its governing body and Mayor Waddle has represented DeSoto as a voting representative for the last five years. These voting representatives make up the General Assembly, which annually elects an Executive Board composed of 13 locally elected officials. As President, Mayor Waddle presides over the Executive Board and is actively involved in program activities, decisions, and regional plans undertaken by the Council of Governments. He also represents DeSoto and the southern sector in matters of importance to the whole region. It is quite an honor to have Mayor Waddle serve as President of the Executive Board of the North Central Texas Council of Governments.



DeSoto Mayor, Bobby Waddle is named President of the Executive Board of the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

A New Session of the DeSoto Civic Academy Begins August 20, 2009

The DeSoto Civic Academy is looking for participants for its thirteenth session. This program is designed to give citizens a behind-the-scenes look at the City of DeSoto. There are 11 weekly sessions each hosted by a different city department or group. Each class is designed to allow participants to experience hands-on how our city operates.

The first session is a Hollywood-style Opening Night hosted by the staff of the City Manager's office who serve a sumptuous dinner prepared by Debby Baugh, the City Manager's wife. They introduce participants to their "cast of characters" (the staff in Administration) and their duties. Next, the class goes behind-the-scenes at the Police Department to tour the facilities including the jail. They operate a radar gun, and walk through shoot/don't shoot scenarios. Development Services hosts the class at the Service Center and shows them the equipment used by our Street Department. The class even gets the opportunity to drive the street sweeper and other equipment. There's a tour of the city's Pump Station and class members see what it takes to make it possible for us to have water every time we turn on a faucet. DeSoto Fire Rescue hosts the class at Central Fire Station and serves some of their famous Fire House Burgers as they discuss all aspects of fire protection and emergency medical services. Staff from Information Technology, the Library, and Community Relations take class members on a scavenger hunt using the city's website. Human Resources, Planning & Zoning and Building Inspections also make presentations.

The Finance Department guides the class through the world of municipal accounting and budgeting by giving class members a fictional amount of money to run their imaginary city. The DeSoto

Economic Development Corporation discusses how they attract commercial development to our city and Parks & Leisure Services discusses the city's beautification program and the wide spectrum of recreation opportunities available to DeSoto residents. The class also goes behind the scenes at Southwest Regional Communications, the 911 emergency dispatch center for DeSoto, Duncanville and Cedar Hill. Participants see dispatchers work a 911 call from start to finish. They can also get extra credit for taking "ride-alongs" with both our Police and Fire Departments.

At the final class, the City Secretary's office casts class members in the roll of Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Staff and citizens and walks them through a "mock" city council meeting. The meeting is accurately scripted to the smallest detail, however, the subject matter is so ludicrous that your sides will ache from laughter.

"Participating in the Civic Academy is a significant time commitment but we have had 12 classes graduate from the program and participants always say the experience was positive and well worth their time," said Tracie Hlavinka, Civic Academy coordinator. The next Civic Academy begins August 20th. There is no cost to participate and dinner is provided for each class. To register, please call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689.





The City of DeSoto recently installed a new LED message board in the median on Pleasant Run Road next to Town Center. A second message board is located in the courtyard of Town Center. Please watch these boards for information on special public meetings, city events and activities and information on performances in the DeSoto Corner Theatre.

...T-Mobile...

Josh Howard & Greg Buckner

Celebrity Softball Showdown

JOSH HOWARD FOUNDATION ALLSTARS VS GREG BUCKNER FOUNDATION ALLSTARS

SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST, 2009

GRIMES PARK

501 EAST WINTERGREEN / DESOTO, TX

AUTOGRAPH SESSION 4-5PM
 CELEBRITY SOFTBALL SHOWDOWN 5:30-7:30PM
 ADMISSION ONLY \$10

ALLSTARWEEKEND2010.COM

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AFRICAN AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER PRESENTS

Winner of the N.Y. Drama Critics Award for Best Play

Sponsored by: City of DeSoto

Seven Guitars

by AUGUST WILSON

Directed by William (Bill) Earl Ray

To Purchase Tickets:
 Box Office - 972.572.0998
 Web - www.aareptheater.com

DeSOTO CORNER THEATER
 211 E. Pleasant Run
 DeSoto, TX 75115

Show Dates & Times:
 Fri. & Sat. Nights @ 7:30pm \$20
 Sat. & Sun. Matinee @ 2:30pm \$15
 Preview Performance on
 Thurs., August 6 @ 7:30pm \$10

DeSoto ISD

Back to School FAIR!

DeSoto ISD along with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the City of DeSoto and the Chamber are partnering to host a Back to School Fair on Saturday, August 8, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the DeSoto Freshman Campus, 620 S. Westmoreland Rd. The goal of this community-wide collaboration is to provide school age children with the essential supplies and services they need to start the school year ready to learn. All current and incoming DeSoto ISD students are eligible to participate and receive a free backpack with supplies and vouchers for free or low-cost immunizations, athletic physicals and other services. Preregistration is available at the DeSoto Administration Building, 200 E. Belt Line Rd. beginning Monday, August 3rd through Thursday, August 6th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is also available at the event. All school supplies and services that will be distributed at the Back to School Fair are donated. If you would like to donate items or funds to support this event, please contact Beth Trimble at DeSoto ISD, 972.274.8212 or btrimble@desotoisd.org.