

February, 2010



www.ci.desoto.tx.us
972.230.9600

City Lights DeSoto, Texas

A publication of the City of DeSoto's Community Relations Department



Council Corner, A Message from Mayor Pro Tem Carl Sherman, Place 6



You can help to achieve the future of DeSoto

These days, having a say in deciding the top priorities of how a city will use its financial resources is unfortunately rare and infrequent. It seems today that many local governments decide how capital funding will be allotted before pursuing serious input from the general public. All too often, local city officials and administrators deliberate and

plan how to use the money of the populous without creating open forums that solicit the views of the underwriters of such funds. Many will defend this management style and perceived valid justification by saying; the general public is not engaged enough to understand the complexities and issues of budgeting a multi-million dollar operation with billions in assets. While that may be the norm in local governments, not so in the All-America City of DeSoto, Texas.

As the past chair of DeSoto's last bond referendum, which was successfully supported by the citizens of DeSoto, I am confident in the ability of our citizens to help establish the top capital improvement priorities for the city. In the past, you have been engaged and interested in providing input into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) by submitting your opinions in writing by way of completing input survey cards. Those cards will again be mailed out to you soon. Your input is so vitally important in our decision making process, as we move to establish the top priority projects for DeSoto. Imagine, you have been elected to serve on the DeSoto city council and your decision will help to influence and establish the Work Plan for FY 2011-2015. That said, the following projects under consideration have emerged from suggestions and input over the last six years from you:

Ashphalt Reconstruction of arterial w/Dallas County; Alley Reconstruction Program; Sidewalk Program; Passive Park Trail Extension; Westmoreland Road Widening (Belt Line to Parkerville); Walking Trails at Community Parks; Corner Theatre Improvements; BMX Restroom Improvements; Grimes Park Concession Improvements; Library Remodel; Parkerville

Road (Polk to Hampton); Chattey Road Reconstruction (Westmoreland to Cockrell Hill); Fire Station 2 Relocation; Elerson Road Park; Wintergreen Road Re-Alignment; Recreation Center; and Sports Complex.

I hope you will take the time to express your opinion on the proposed projects that will be outlined and itemized on the input cards we will be mailing out in early February. Your input is valued and we will not make any final decisions without first reviewing your written input. Therefore, it is very important that we receive your written input by completing and returning the postage paid card by March 15, 2010. Finally, we invite you to speak directly with us at a Town Hall meeting forum scheduled to take place at City Hall on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at 9:00 am. P.S. For those of you who require something to get your day started, coffee and donuts will be provided, so arrive early!

Sincerely yours,

Carl O. Sherman, Sr.
Mayor Pro Tem

Give Us Your Saturday Morning and We'll Help You Improve Your Neighborhood

The City will host the fifth annual HOA Involvement Workshop on Saturday, February 20th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at City Hall. Information is a key element in effective neighborhood involvement and this workshop is designed to provide representatives from DeSoto's neighborhood and homeowners associations with the information they need to make their neighborhood a better, safer place to live.

Consisting of two general sessions, this free workshop will provide information on topics of interest to our residents such as neighborhood security, code enforcement, legal issues involved with an HOA, beautification/curb appeal tips and the city's Capital Improvement Plan. Members of all registered DeSoto homeowner's associations are encouraged to attend whether your association is new or well-established. You are also urged to attend if you are considering starting an association in your neighborhood.

To register or for more information, please call Tracie Hlavinka at 972.230.9689 or by e-mail at thlavinka@ci.desoto.tx.us.

Animal Control is Seeing an Increase in Canine Distemper

DeSoto Animal Control Officers are seeing a higher than usual number of cases of canine distemper in our area. Canine distemper is a contagious, incurable, often fatal, multisystemic viral disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems. Distemper is caused by the canine distemper virus (CDV). It occurs among domestic dogs and many other carnivores, including raccoons, skunks, and foxes. CDV is fairly common in wildlife. The development of a vaccine in the early 1960s led to a dramatic reduction in the number of infected domestic dogs. It tends to occur now only as sporadic outbreaks.

Young puppies between 3 and 6 months old are most susceptible to infection and disease and are more likely to die than infected adults. Nonimmunized older dogs are also highly susceptible to infection and disease. Nonimmunized dogs that have contact with other nonimmunized dogs or with wild carnivores have a greater risk of developing canine distemper.

DeSoto Animal Control Officers are urging residents to vaccinate your pet for the canine distemper virus. You must specifically ask your veterinarian for it as it is not included with the regular rabies vaccination. For more information on canine distemper virus, call DeSoto Animal Control at 972.230.9600.

YOGA with Marilyn Englund.
Beginner/Intermediate classes:
5:30-6:30 and 6:45-7:45

Tuesdays, January 5 through February 16, 2010
7-week session - \$49 • Drop-in class fee - \$10

DeSoto Recreation Center 972.230.9655
Next session - Tuesdays, February 23 - April 6
Gentle yoga for all sizes, shapes, skill levels & ages
16 to 99 – wear comfortable clothes & bring a mat!
Classes held in the Pecan Meeting Rooms.

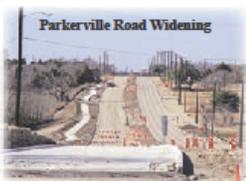
CITY CALENDAR

February

- 1 Arts Commission Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 1 Park Development Corp. Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - PALS Conference Room
- 2 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 4 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 4 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - 7 p.m. - Library Conference Room
- 5 *Having Our Say* - opens in the Corner Theatre 972.572.0998
- 6 Daddy Daughter Valentine Dance - Civic Center 6 to 9 p.m.
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 10 Library Program - Melody Bell - 10:30 a.m. - Assembly Hall
- 11 Town Hall Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall - Nance Farm Public Usage
- 16 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 20 HOA Involvement Workshop
- 20 Black History Month Program - call 972.230.9651 for info
- 22 DEDC Board Meeting - noon - City Hall
- 23 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 27 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner Event - call 972.230.9648 for info.

March

- 1 Arts Commission Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - City hall
- 1 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - Recreation Center
- 2 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 4 Council Work Session to discuss Public Transportation in DeSoto
- 4 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 4 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - 7 p.m. - Library Conference Room
- 6 Town Hall Mtg. - 9 a.m. - City Hall - FY2011-15 CIP Discussion
- 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 7 p.m.
- 11 Board & Commission Appreciation Banquet - 6:30 p.m. - Civic Center
- 13 Jazz Concert with Keith Anderson - 8 p.m. - Corner Theatre
- 16 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 22 DEDC Board Meeting - noon - City Hall
- 23 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. City Hall



Parkerville Road Widening



Pleasant Run Rd @ Westmoreland Intersection Improvement

CITIZEN INPUT

FY 2011—2015

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 6, 2010 9 a.m.

TOWN HALL MEETING

City Hall Council Chambers
Town Center
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

"5-Year Capital Improvement Plan"



City Staff has compiled a list of unfunded Capital Improvement Projects (any project that costs more than \$100,000 to construct and has a useful life of more than five years) that have been submitted by citizens through the annual "call for projects." This list of projects, which includes items such as the alley reconstruction project and adding a new fire station, will be included on a postcard similar to the one pictured here that will be mailed to every household in early February. When you receive the postage paid card, please take a few moments to review and rank the projects and drop it back in the mail to the City of DeSoto. A Town Hall Meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on March 6th at City Hall to offer an "in-person" opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas on the city's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan. If you can't attend the meeting, you can also complete the survey of projects on the city's website at www.ci.desoto.tx.us. Questions? Please call 972.230.9609 for more information on DeSoto's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Important Information Regarding the Upcoming City Election

The next DeSoto General Election is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2010. The following council positions will appear on the ballot:

**Mayor - Place 1,
Councilmember - Place 3
Councilmember - Place 5**

If you are interested in running for any of these positions on the City Council, please visit the City Secretary page of our web site at www.ci.desoto.tx.us to access a City Council Candidate Guide, which contains all the information needed to file. These guides will be available beginning Friday, February 5, 2010.

Applications for a place on the City of DeSoto General Election ballot will be accepted Monday, February 8th through Monday, March 8th between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the Office of the City Secretary at City Hall.

Applicants for City Council must meet the following qualifications as outlined in the DeSoto City Charter, Article II, City Council, Section 3:

- U.S. Citizen at least 18 years of age,

- Registered qualified voter of the State of Texas,
- Shall have resided for at least one year next preceding the election at which he/she is a candidate within the Council-represented district to which he/she seeks election, except for the Mayor, who may be a resident of any district in the City. Councilmembers are elected "at large" by voters of the entire city,
- Candidates shall not be in arrears in the payment of any taxes or other liability due the City.

For more information, please call DeSoto City Secretary, Laura Hallmark at 972.230.9664.



The U.S. Census Bureau is Issuing a Call to Action for Every Resident of our Nation..... "Be Counted in 2010".

The Census: A Snapshot

What: The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

Who: All U.S. residents must be counted - people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

When: Census Day is April 1, 2010. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. More detailed socioeconomic information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey.

Why: the U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

How: Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers will also visit households that do not return questionnaires.

How are census data used?

The federal government uses population data to allocate funds in a number of areas including:

- Title 1 grants to educational agencies (school districts across the country)
- Head Start Programs
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food grants
- Road rehabilitation and



construction

- Programs for the elderly
- Emergency food and shelter
- Empowerment zones

Census data affect your voice in Congress, as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils and voting districts. The data also help the private sector as well as state and federal governments to determine where jobs and job programs are needed. Census data help potential homeowners research property values, median income, and other demographic information about a particular community. Corporations use population data for market research to determine locations for commercial enterprises, such as food stores, pharmacies and other essential services. Census data are used by faith-based organizations and institutions to apply for grants and determine locations for new facilities.

2010 Census Questionnaire: Quick, Easy and Confidential

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

The success of the 2010 Census is in our hands. Please join us in making a difference by participating in the 2010 Census.

**DeSoto Complete Count Committee
Gayla Burton, Chair**

The DeSoto Arts Commission Presents:

Keith Anderson - In Concert

Saturday, March 13th 8 p.m.

DeSoto Corner Theatre - Tickets \$10

Saxophonist Keith Anderson has performed with Roy Hargrove, Erykah Badu, Bobby Lyle, and Kirk Franklin and was called "the newest of the Texas Tenors" by Cab Calloway. He has recorded with Al Jaereau and Kanye West on his "College Dropout" CD. The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to join us for a great evening of jazz featuring Keith Anderson at the DeSoto Corner Theatre located in Town Center. For tickets call, 972.230.9648.



DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Needs You!!

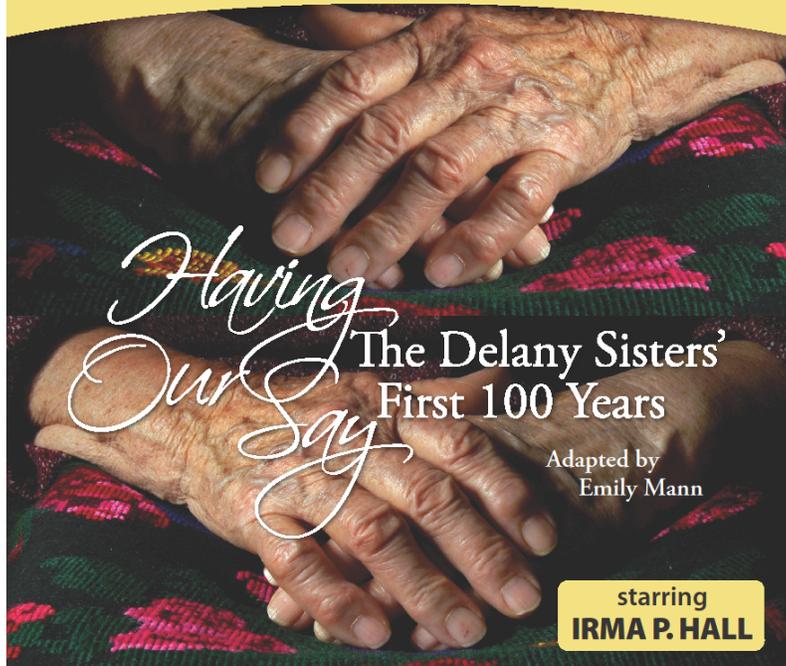
Do you know your neighbors? Do you feel personally connected to the DeSoto community? Have you attended a DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event? If your answer to these questions is no, please consider this your personal invitation to attend the next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

For the last six years, DeSoto Dining and Dialogue has brought together people of various ages and backgrounds to discuss making DeSoto a more vibrant place for all. By connecting neighbors, the program seeks to build relationships among people from different backgrounds with the ultimate goal of sharing experiences and building a strong community; regardless of color, culture or class.

The purpose of DeSoto Dining and Dialogue (DDD) is to bring together a group of strangers who all have something in common. They all live or work in DeSoto and care about their community. DDD is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals the opportunity to get to know one another at dinner events with 8 to 10 participants. These dinners are held three times a year in private homes, churches or restaurants all over town on the same night. The discussion is lead by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community.

To keep the program strong, we need new guests to attend the next dinner on February 27th. High School students can receive five hours of community service for attending. As a guest, your only obligation is to attend the dinner and participate in the discussion. We also invite previous guests to join us on the 27th. All you need to do it go to desotodininganddialogue.org and register or call Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 to register by phone. We must receive your registration by February 10th to participate in this dinner. Make a commitment to build a strong community by attending DeSoto Dining and Dialogue.

AFRICAN AMERICAN
REPERTORY THEATER
PRESENTS



Having Our Say
The Delany Sisters'
First 100 Years

Adapted by
Emily Mann

starring
IRMA P. HALL

Directed by William (Bill) Earl Ray

Show Dates & Times:

February 5 - 28, 2010

Friday & Saturday Nights @ 7:30pm \$25

Saturday & Sunday Matinee @ 2:30pm \$20

Preview Performance on

February 4 @ 7:30pm \$12

To Purchase Tickets:

Box Office - 972.572.0998

Web - www.aareptheater.com

THE
CORNER
CITY OF DESOTO, TEXAS

211 E. Pleasant Run
DeSoto, TX 75115

Sponsored by:

