

October, 2010



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972.230.9600

# City Lights DeSoto, Texas



*A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department*

## Council Corner - A Message from Mayor Pro Tem, Denise Valentine



What is the role of the police in our community? To fight crime! What about those crimes that are family violence? They occur inside our homes among family members; husband vs. wife, child vs. parent, etc. And fights among our children? The police cannot prevent these crimes. They are called to restore order and enforce the law once the crime has been committed.

In 2009, there were 84 aggravated assaults in De Soto. 61% of these crimes were the result of family

violence. A police force can only be effective if they are working together with the community. A coalition has been formed between the DeSoto police and the ministers who live in DeSoto or serve citizens in our community. DeSoto Police and Clergy, DPAC, was formed to help our community to address the root cause of family violence rather than just the symptoms. This coalition will allow ministers from various faith groups to be available to our community when needed. These ministers have volunteered to be

“on call” when a family member, victim or perpetrator, requests ministerial counseling.

The ministers are currently attending formal training

similar to the curriculum for Citizen Police Academy. The training sessions ensure that the ministers understand the policies and procedures of the police department. How much training do our officers receive? How often? What is the policy on “use of force”? These are some of the questions answered by the training. Ministers also share information about the ministries available

through their own churches. Some have programs in place to provide counseling for family violence and alcohol and drug rehabilitation. They have special outreach ministries for our youth. The sessions are an opportunity to exchange information and forge a solid working relationship.

This coalition is not a new idea. It has been implemented in other cities and communities across the United States. We will customize this program to match the needs of our community. I learned about the program by attending a workshop in Fort Worth given by leaders of their organization called Uniting Clergy and Police. Rev. Oscar Epps, pastor of Community Missionary Baptist Church in DeSoto and DeSoto Police Chief Brodnax subsequently met with the Fort Worth coalition and created the DeSoto alliance.

Rev. Josef Rasheed, pastor of CrossRoads Covenant Church in DeSoto and leader of the DeSoto Ministerial Alliance, recalls participating in a similar program in Oakland, California where he served as a Youth Minister. Some of the relationships he developed during that time still exist today. In Memphis, Tennessee, their program was recently expanded to include matching a minister to mentor youth as an alternative to jail time in their juvenile court.

DeSoto Police and Clergy (DPAC) is in its early stages but can be called in to provide ministerial counseling for family violence situations, car accidents, or disruptive behavior among our adolescents. Expect to see them at athletic events and other public gatherings. We look forward to growing the program by increasing the number of ministers involved and the ways they can impact the community. A new class will be formed in 2011. We are actively seeking ministers who wish to volunteer. For more information please contact me [dvalentine@ci.desoto.tx.us](mailto:dvalentine@ci.desoto.tx.us) or through our City Secretary at 972.230.9664.

**Denise Valentine, Mayor Pro Tem**  
**Place Three**



## Did You Know.....

During heavy rains it helps to remove the cap from your sewer line cleanout (the white pipe that sticks about 7” out of the ground, near your house or near your property line).

The purpose of the cleanout is to help prevent sewer backups into your house. In heavy rains, when the lines are particularly full, sewer backups tend to follow the path of least resistance. If your cleanout cap is off, a potential overflow is more likely to happen at the cleanout than inside your home.

**So let your cleanouts help you.** Keep the cleanout caps loose, or take them off in the event of heavy rainfall.

**Let us help you.** If you experience a sewer backup in your yard or inside your home, call the City at 972-230-9600 (8am-5pm, Monday-Friday), or 972-780-6641 (after business hours).

## Voting in the General Election

In order to vote in the General Election on November 2nd, you must register to vote by October 2nd, 2010. Voter’s Registration cards are available in the City Secretary’s Office at City Hall or by contacting the Dallas County Elections Department at 214.637.7937.

Early voting will take place at Library Assembly Hall located in the DeSoto Public Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd. on the following schedule:

Monday, Oct. 18th -- Friday, Oct. 22nd	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 23rd	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 24th	1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 25th -- Friday, Oct. 29th	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voting on the General Election Day, November 2nd will take place at local precincts. If you have questions about voting, please contact the Dallas County Election Department at 214.637.7937.



*Students at Meadows Elementary celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a Flamenco Guitar concert featuring Ron Radford sponsored by the DeSoto Arts Commission. He also performed for students at Canterbury Episcopal School and DeSoto Private as well as providing a public performance in the Corner Theatre. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

## CITY CALENDAR

### October

- 2 Head Over Wheels Event - DHS 600 Eagle Dr.
- 4 Park Development Corp. Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 4 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6:00 p.m.
- 5 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 7 Free Concert w/Natural Change - Amphitheater - 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Library Advisory Board Meeting - Library Conf. Room - 7 p.m.
- 8 “Jitney” by August Wilson opens in the Corner Theatre
- 9 Senior Center Community Garage Sale—204 Lion St.
- 12 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 12 Special Council Mtg. Financial Forecast FY2012-City Hall- 6 p.m.
- 19 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 21 Adopt-a-Street Banquet - Civic Center - 7 p.m.
- 25 DEDC Board Meeting - City Hall - noon
- 26 Planning & Zoning Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 29, 30, 31 “Skips in the Record” - Outdoor Amphitheater

### November

- 1 Park Development Corp. Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 1 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6:00 p.m.
- 2 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 4 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Meeting - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Library Advisory Board Meeting - Library Conference Room-7p.m.
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 16 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 19 Joseph Vincelli Holiday Concert - Corner Theatre - 8:00 p.m.
- 22 DEDC Board Meeting - City Hall - noon
- 23 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 25 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices and Facilities closed
- 26 Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices and Facilities closed



*The Blue Cow Coffee Company in the lobby of the DeSoto Public Library serves great Panini sandwiches, soups and salads as well as coffee. They also serve an all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$5.99 per person.*

## What's New At The DeSoto Public Library?



Pictured above are members of the DeSoto Public Library Teen Volunteer Program. They are (front row from left) Keyana Davis, Brittni Stewart, Jessica Burroughs, Essence Crow, Sydney Ukabiala, Broockxy Dominguez, Kewanis Runnels and Alyna Garner—(back row) Alexandria Grant, Nakeya Barksdale, Miss Heart of Texas USA, Felicia Bolton, Denecia Baker, Mikala Wright, Tony Contreras and Mia Dabney.

As a part of the summer program, these teens produced a music video called "Reading's a Good Time" with the help of Eric Williams, CEO of Out of the Box Entertainment. This video debuted on MTV in August and is available for viewing at <http://www.youtube.com/NTRBOYZ>.

## Are You a Poet?

If so, the DeSoto Public Library would like to challenge you to a **Pleasant Run Poetry Write**. The Library is hosting a community poetry contest open to all DeSoto residents aged five and up. Have fun and let your "inner poet" surprise you!

Here are the details:

- Write a poem containing the paired words "pleasant run" (no particular poetic form is required)
- Submit your poem at the DeSoto Public Library, they can provide the entry form.
- By submitting a poem, the author is giving the Library permission to keep and display it in public places.
- Copyrights of poems are the responsibility of the authors or parents/guardians of children.
- The deadline to submit your poem to the Library is November 1, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Selected poems will be read at the **Pleasant Run Poetry Night Event** which will be held at the DeSoto Civic Center located in Town Center on Friday, November 12, 2010 at 7:30 pm. For more information on the **Pleasant Run Poetry Write**, please call Marq Runnels at 972.230.9663.

## Hey Teens, Join Us At The Library for the *Books With Beat Mixer*

Teens are invited to come to the **Books with Beat Mixer** at the DeSoto Public Library to celebrate **Teen Read Week** Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. This year's theme 'Books with Beat @ Your Library' encourages teens to read a variety of materials including poetry, audiobooks, books about music, and more just for the fun of it.

**Teen Read Week** is a national adolescent literacy initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association. This year's program will be sponsored by R.E.A.D. Young Readers, Young Leaders (Readers Educated and Determined), a group DeSoto Library teen volunteers who have developed a community project to bring awareness to the importance of reading and library use. They accomplish this goal by establishing books clubs and, performing at schools, libraries, and community events.

The **Teen Read Week** celebration will include music, poetry, dance, light refreshments and prizes. The highlight of the event will be a meet and greet book discussion with special guest author Travis Hunter who has written a new teen book titled *Two The Hard Way*. The guest author is sponsored by the Best Southwest Bookfest Committee, which consists of the UNT Dallas Campus Library, and other area libraries including Cedar Hill, Lancaster, and Duncanville. DJ, Paul Miranda, will also be on hand for dancing after the event.



The DeSoto Public Library has added a new function to its webpage on the City's website called Journey Back In Time. Journey Back in Time is a database that brings 400 years of history to life. It includes tens of thousands of selected newspaper articles, rare books, videos, illustrations, photos, maps and documents spanning 400 years of American heritage.

As a DeSoto Public Library card holder, you have access to this database. All you have to do is log onto the city's website at [www.ci.desoto.tx.us/library](http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/library) and scroll down on the library homepage until you see the link for Journey Back in Time, enter your 14-digit library card number and enjoy. If you have any questions, please call the library reference desk at 972.230.9665.

AFRICAN AMERICAN  
REPERTORY THEATER  
PRESENTS




• AUGUST WILSON •  
**JITNEY**

WINNER OF THE NEW YORK DRAMA CRITICS AWARD FOR BEST NEW PLAY AND THE OUTER CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING OFF BROADWAY PLAY. AUGUST WILSON'S *JITNEY* IS SET IN 1970 IN THE HILL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH. *JITNEY* DRAMATIZES THE LIVES OF MEN HUSTLING TO MAKE A LIVING AS JITNEYS—UNOFFICIAL, UNLICENSED TAXI CAB DRIVERS. WHEN THE BOSS BECKER'S SON RETURNS FROM PRISON, VIOLENCE THREATENS TO ERUPT. *JITNEY* IS ONE OF WILSON'S MASTERPIECES, THE WORDS THESE MEN USE AND THE STORIES THEY TELL FORM A TRUE SLICE OF LIFE.

DIRECTED BY ED SMITH

**OCTOBER 8 - 31, 2010**  
PREVIEW SHOW: OCT. 7, 2010  
DATES: THURSDAY - SATURDAY @ 7:30 PM  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY @ 2:30 PM

TICKETS: \$10 - \$20  
972.572.0998 or [www.aareptheater.com](http://www.aareptheater.com)

SPONSORED BY




## Music In Park - October 7th

DeSoto's Parks and Leisure Services Department invites you to the outdoor amphitheater at Town Center for the last Music in the Park concert of the season. It will take place on Thursday, October 7th at 7 p.m.

Joe King will perform at 7 p.m. Some of you may know him as a DeSoto resident and a true cowboy who owns and rides horses. Some may recognize him from his NFL days playing for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the Cincinnati Bengals and the Oakland Raiders in the 1990's. But did you know that he's a country singer? If not, make plans to hear him sing his original song "Down In Stillwater, Oklahoma" along with your country favorites. Following Joe, we'll shift gears for some cool jazz with smooth sounds of Paul Rogers and Natural Change.

**October 7, 2010**

Joe King  Natural Change 

The Crossover Theatre Company  
Presents



*Skips in the Record*  
By Rose Weaver

A Staged Reading

*Skips in the Record depicts characters drawn from real life. It uses their stories and songs to enlighten us about the struggles with Alzheimer's in many families, a disease that affects well over five million people in the United States.*

Directed By Veronica Parish Mcgruder



October 29, 30, and 31  
At The DeSoto Amphitheater  
211 East Pleasant Run  
DeSoto, TX 75115

Tickets Available at [www.showtix+tu.com](http://www.showtix+tu.com)  
General Admission \$5.00

## AART Acting Workshops in October

Have you been bitten by the acting bug? African American Repertory Theatre is excited to announce that Broadway Veteran, Gil Pritchett will be leading professional acting workshops for adults and children at the Corner Theatre in October. Pritchett, a native of Dallas, has returned home after a 30 year-career as a working actor in New York and Los Angeles.

**Extreme Theater for the Working Actor** - Oct. 17, 18, 24, 26 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Class Fee - \$200  
This is the class for the actor or person who wants to explore the deeper levels of creating characters, dissecting and interpreting dialogue, developing a greater control of the speaking voice and diction and developing the power of speaking professionally in public.

**Teen/Kids Story Dramatization & Dance Workshop** - Oct. 16, 23, 30 10 a.m. to noon Class Fee - \$75 Ages 9 to 12  
Gil Pritchett will introduce kids to the art of "Story Book Theatre" and help them discover their true "star" potential through story dramatization and dance. The workshop ends with a special performance where the kids will bring a book to life through the wonderful world of theater, dance and acting. No audition is required, but students must commit to the full length of the scheduled classes.

For more information on the acting workshops sponsored by African American Repertory Theater, please call 972.572.0998.