

January, 2011



www.ci.desoto.tx.us
972.230.9600

City Lights DeSoto, Texas

A publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department



Council Corner - A Message from Deshaundra Lockhart, Place 4



As we embark on 2011, let's take a look back at 2010, a year full of opportunities and accomplishments. There are several to bring to your attention.

The first is the installation of solar photovoltaics (pv), commonly referred to as solar panels, on the roof of Town Center and the parking garage. The goal was to reduce the city's reliance on traditional forms of electricity, create a clean energy project, reduce greenhouse gas emission and reduce energy bills. The City of DeSoto received Federal Stimulus Funds which were used to cover the installation costs.

After working with City Manager Jim Baugh, Environmental Health Manager, Jimmy Stephens and an energy consultant, I would like to announce, we have a stellar clean energy project. Some benefits include a long system life, low maintenance requirements, and a savings on the municipal electricity bill of more than \$2,300 this year alone. DeSoto's solar pv system will have a lasting impact on the citizens and visitors here.

Another opportunity presented itself with the Tri-City Animal Shelter, for which I serve as Council liaison. The shelter, located in Cedar Hill, is a collaborative effort of three cities, Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville. The economic responsibility for the operation of the animal shelter is divided equally between the cities. You may recall in 2009 a new animal shelter was opened next to the old one. Although the new shelter has many cosmetic and functional improvements, it needed a sally port. I am pleased to announce the sally port design and construction are forthcoming. The design includes a fully enclosed area for Animal Control officers to unload animals and provides needed storage space for food, litter and other supplies. Additionally, it includes five outdoor dog runs for stray dog maintenance. The outdoor kennel runs will improve the safety and efficiency of the staff during cleaning/handling of stray dog holding areas. The sally port will maintain separation of the evaluated adoptable dogs and the incoming dogs.

Another 2010 accomplishment is the city's continued ascent into regional leadership in the North Texas area. As a result of my involvement as Council representative to North Texas Council of Government (NTCOG), specifically the resource committee, DeSoto has hosted several training classes this year. These classes offered continuing credits to the attendees while showcasing our Town Center complex and local eateries. This initiative has sparked an interest in DeSoto and we have been asked to participate in a couple of studies with NTCOG.

On a personal note, we all have been challenged to do more with less money this year. I view this as an opportunity for us to work together

better, increase communication and do our individual best to maintain and improve life for DeSoto businesses, residents and visitors. We have achieved much and there is much more to do. Let's do it together.

Deshaundra Lockhart
City Council, Place 4

Public Transportation Study Underway

DeSoto has embarked on an important Public Transportation Study, with the goal of assessing our current – *and future* – transportation needs. A local consulting firm is working closely with us every step of the way to help us as we begin this important study.

We need to hear from **YOU!** Over the coming months, you'll have plenty of opportunities to learn as much about this project as possible and give us your feedback. The city and its consultants are developing educational videos and an informational website in order to engage the community to help think about the future of DeSoto. The website will offer important information to explain **WHAT** we're doing, **WHY** we're doing this, **WHO's** involved, and how **YOU** can get involved. It will also include a schedule of activities.

We will be asking **YOU** to complete a survey, so that we can gather public opinions; we will also ask **YOU** about your transportation routines and challenges. DeSoto residents will have an opportunity to take the survey online, on paper, or in person during the months of January and February.

Just go to www.desototransit.com to complete the survey. We encourage you to take the survey so we can learn more about the transportation needs of our city as a whole and make decisions about its future. Watch for more information about the study's findings and recommendations in City Lights, on our city website and the government access TV channel 16. **We cannot move our city forward without hearing from **YOU** first!**

Did You Know.....

That the city's water department flushes the water system on a routine basis to remove sediments from the lines? The process of periodically "flushing" fire hydrants is an important preventive maintenance activity. Flushing also refreshes the entire water distribution system.

Although it may appear to waste water, this process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers. The flushing process can take from twenty minutes to more than eight hours in some cases.



As a result of the flushing procedure, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work area may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and precipitates and does not affect the safety of the water.

If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your own home by running all water faucets for a minute or two. If you have any questions regarding your water service, please call the Action Center at 972.230.9600.

The DeSoto Public Library is offering FREE Computer Classes!

Two sessions will be offered as follows:

The Saturday morning series will be from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the Library's Venable Training Room. Topics include:

Jan. 8 Computer Basics and Word 2003 Basics (create and print documents, edit, move, copy, and format text) **Register after Dec. 30**

Jan. 15 Word 2003 Basics Level II (in-depth editing, formatting, styles, templates) **Register on or after Jan. 8**

Jan. 22 Word 2003 Basics Level III (working on complex documents, mail merge, auto formatting, compare documents) **Register on or after Jan. 15**

Jan. 29 Searching the library catalog (learn how the library is organized and to use the catalog to find materials,) **Register on or after Jan. 22**

The Thursday evening series will be from 6 – 7 p.m. in the Library's Venable Training Room and will cover:

Jan. 6 Computer Basics and Excel 2003 Basics (toolbar, shortcuts, workbooks & worksheets) **Register on or after Dec. 30**

Jan. 13 Excel 2003 Basics Level II (editing and formatting, functions, tables, adding pictures and diagrams to a worksheet) **Register on or after Jan. 6**

Jan. 20 Excel 2003 Basics Level III (advanced formulas, data tables, advanced web topics) **Register on or after Jan. 13**

Jan. 27 Library Database Searching (searching the library's research informational databases) **Register on or after Jan. 20 (cont.)**

CITY CAENDAR

January

- 3 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 3 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 4 City Council Meeting - canceled due to holiday
- 6 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - Library Conference Room-7p.m.
- 8 Winter Jam Storytelling Event - Corner Theatre 4 p.m.
- 11 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 14&15 Bag Ladies - Corner Theatre 7:30 p.m.
- 17 City offices and facilities closed for MLK Holiday
- 18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 24 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon
- 25 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 27 Mayor's Quarterly Mtg. w/HOA representatives - City Hall - 7 p.m.

February

- 1 City Council Meeting - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 3 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Library Advisory Board Mtg. - Library Conf. Room - 7 p.m.
- 4 *Flyin' West* by Pearl Cleage opens in Corner Theatre
- 7 Park Development Corp. Mtg. - City Hall - 6:30 p.m.
- 7 DeSoto Arts Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 6 p.m.
- 8 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 p.m.
- 19 DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner event
- 20 CDC Gospel Concert - Blue Bonnet Rooms - 4 p.m.
- 22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - (cancelled due to holiday)
- 28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - noon



Tri-City Animal Shelter

Download a bar-code scanner app to your web-enabled phone, such as www.i-nigma.mobi, and scan this two-dimensional barcode (left) for a website with details on the Tri-City Animal Shelter and DeSoto Animal Control.

(Cont.)

Registrations for each class can only be made the week before the class. Participants must bring their valid DeSoto Public Library card and a flash drive to the classes. Because space is limited, registration is required. Please call the Information Desk, 972.230.9661 to register for these classes. If you find you cannot attend a class after you have registered, please call the library to cancel your registration.

Join Us For The Next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner Event on Feb. 19th

Our community, along with the rest of the country, is facing some big challenges. Let's come together to share thoughts and opinions. We owe it to ourselves.....

For more than six years, DeSoto Dining and Dialogue has brought together people from various 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 next free DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner event is scheduled for Saturday, February 19, 2011. To attend, all you have to do is register. Registration is easy, just go to the website at



www.desotodd.org and fill out the guest registration form before February 7, 2011 or call Kathy (Maples) Jones at 972.230.9648 to register by phone. Once registered, you will be assigned to a dinner

table and you'll receive information on the host and location of your dinner in the mail during the week of February 14th. As a DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner guest, all you have to do is honor the commitment you made to attend the dinner on February 19th when you registered and engage in the discussion.

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 events with eight to ten participants. High school students who attend can earn community service hours for their participation in the dinner discussion. 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. The discussion at the February dinner event will center around opportunities that exist in DeSoto to become an active part of the community. We invite anyone new to DeSoto to make plans to attend and learn about the many volunteer opportunities available to our residents. Repeat guests are welcomed and encouraged but you must register your attendance for each dinner.

Join us in building a strong community by registering to attend the dinner on February 19, 2010. For more information on the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Program, please call Kathy (Maples) Jones at 972.230.9648 or go to www.desotodd.org.

Dallas Storytelling Guild presents: WINTER JAM III Sat. Jan. 8th 4 to 6 pm at DeSoto Corner Theatre

Join featured storytellers, Elida Bonet, Jiaan Powers, Vivian Rutherford, Twice Upon a Time Storytellers and Tim Tingle for an afternoon concert featuring stories of family, home and heritage. Tickets for adults are \$7.50 and children 12 and under are \$5. Tickets are available at the door or through the Dallas Storytelling Guild website at www.dallastorytelling.org.



PLEASANT RUN ROAD MEDIAN LANDSCAPING

DeSOTO • TEXAS



You may have noticed dirt being moved in the median of Pleasant Run Road at Hampton Road. This work is being done in connection with a median landscaping project included in the city's Capital Improvement Program. Pictured at left is an artist's rendering of the project. The 2003 Comprehensive Plan Update developed streetscape guidelines which set the framework for the thoroughfares of DeSoto. Pleasant Run Road from I-35-E to Hampton Road is identified in the Streetscape Plan as an approach street, which will lead visitors from I-35-E to DeSoto Town Center creating a sense of arrival in the city's core. Phase I of the project will include landscape improvements from Red Bud Lane to Hilltop Circle along Pleasant Run Road.



DEVELOPER
CITY OF DESOTO
211 E. Pleasant Run Road
DeSoto, TX 75120

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
DAVID C. BALDWIN, INC.
739 East Park Boulevard, Suite 200
Plano, TX 75075
Tel: (972) 969-1246 Fax: (972) 969-1289

JANUARY 19, 2010

Check out the new website for DeSoto Arts Commission at:
www.desotoartscommission.com

YOGA
 with Marilyn Englund.
 Gentle yoga for all sizes, shapes, skill levels & ages 16 to 99 – bring a mat & wear comfortable clothes!
 DeSoto Recreation Center
 972.230.9655

2011 sessions - Tuesdays
 January 11 - February 22
 March 1 - April 12
 April 19 - May 31

Classes 5:30- 6:30pm and 6:45-7:45pm in the Pecan Meeting Rooms.
 7-week session - \$49
 Drop-in class fee - \$10

What's New At The Library??

Enhanced Services

The DeSoto Public Library is now offering two enhanced services intended to move patrons through the library more quickly and efficiently. Patrons can now pick up their own holds/requests rather than waiting in line at the Check-Out Desk for staff to retrieve them from the workroom. The holds/requests materials are now placed in a bookcase behind the Information Desk. Materials are filed in alphabetical order by the first four letters of patron's last name, followed by their first and middle initial (for example, materials held for John A. Smith would be filed as **SMIT, J A.**).

Express Self-Check service is also now available. This service allows patrons to check out their own materials, again bypassing the line at the Check-Out Desk. If you have an unexpired DeSoto Library card, have no more than two overdue materials, and have no late charges or fees over \$5, you can use Express Self-Check to check out books, movies, and all other circulating library materials. Staff is eager to show you how to use this service, which available to patrons of all ages.

Sony Readers Are Available at the Library

Two Sony Readers are available for patrons to use in the library. The library has a subscription to the New York Times newspaper for one of the Readers, and the second reader has a number of free books loaded on it. The Readers cannot be checked out—they are for library use only and require a patron's driver's license to be left at the Information Desk during use. This new service will allow patrons to try out and become familiar with this new technology.

For more information about these new services at the DeSoto Public Library, please call the Information Desk at 972.230.9661.

the cast

choreo-poem directed by Talitha Bolden & Debra Lowe
THE CORNER THEATRE
 211 E. Pleasant Run :: DeSoto, TX 75115

Tickets :: \$12 for Friday & Saturday Evening
 \$10 for Saturday Matinee

Tickets can be purchased by calling
 These Are They Community Church
 972.230.8282

GRAPHICS BY: