

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Council Corner, A Message from Rachel Proctor, City Council - Place 4



First and foremost, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to each of you for allowing me to serve you over the past year. As a graduate of DeSoto High School, I have deep roots in the community and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that our youth are engaged civically and have opportunities to become future leaders.

According to President Obama, "America cannot lead in the 21st century unless we have the best educated, most competitive workforce in the world". In fact, the United States Department of Education estimates that by 2018, 62% of all jobs will require some sort of postsecondary education credentials. This statistic suggests that there is an increasing need for today's youth to attend college and excel in their chosen fields of study.

As a first generation college student, I know the value of having an outstanding resume that reflects educational achievements and meaningful work experience. We owe it to our youth to make sure they are prepared to handle the challenges they will encounter beyond high school. Through community partnerships, we can support programs that will assist in developing them into trailblazers in the continually changing global economy. In an effort to make these defined priorities a reality, listed below are two noteworthy events that are scheduled for this month that will enable your teen to become involved in shaping their future.

3rd Annual DeSoto Public Library Teen Empowerment Summit

For teens between the ages of 13-18
Date: March 12th-14th, 2014
Time: 9 a.m. to 12p.m. for all 3 days
DeSoto Civic Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto, TX

This summit is designed to equip the participants with job-readiness skills. Workshop topics include: resume writing, interviewing skills, ethics, social networking and branding, customer service and effective communication.

Teens 16 years old and up will have the opportunity to obtain the Mayor's Teen Excellence Job Readiness Certification upon passing an assessment test. Registration is required and space is limited. The registration fee is \$10 and is non-refundable. Attire for all three days is "Dress for Success." Employers will also be available at the Career Fair held on March 14th to interview teens for potential jobs and internships. Participants can be entered in a drawing to win a tablet donated by the DeSoto Parks and Recreation Department!

To register, visit www.desototexas.gov/library. For more information, call Marq Runnels at 972-230-9663 or at email at mrunnels@desototexas.gov.
(continued on page two)



Saturday, April 12th

The DeSoto Parks and Recreations Department invites you to bring the kids to Zeiger Park, 400 Eagle Drive for our annual Easter Egg Hunt at 11 am on Saturday, April 12th. The hunt is separated into a 3 and under age group, a 4 to 6 age group and a 7 to 9 age group. Admission is free, but bring an Easter basket! For more information please call Special Events Coordinator, Carolyn Campbell at 972.230.9651.

City Calendar

March

1 DeSoto Dining & Dialogue Dinner
3 Liverpool Legends DHS Auditorium 7 pm
3 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
3 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
6 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
11 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
16 Jazz Concert - Corner Theatre - 3 pm
18 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
23 Classical Concert-Corner Theatre—3 pm
25 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
30 R&B Concert-Corner Theatre - 3pm
31 DEDC Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am

April

1 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
3 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
3 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
6 Jazz Concert Corner Theatre - 3pm
7 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm
7 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
8 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
12 E-Recycling/Document Shredding - 9 am
12 CDC Candidate Forum - City Hall - 9 am
13 Classical Concert - Corner Theatre - 3 pm
15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
18 Good Friday - City Offices Closed
20 Jazz Concert - Corner Theatre - 3 pm
21 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm
26 Dallas Black Dance Theatre - DHS - 3pm
27 Classical Concert - Corner Theatre - 3pm
28 First Day of Early Voting-Library Assembly

(continued from page 1)

Council Corner, A Message from Rachel Proctor, City Council - Place 4

Emerge Leadership Inc. is partnering with DeSoto Independent School District to host the 1st Annual "Journey Conference"!

Date: Saturday, March 29th, 2014

Time: 9am-12:30pm.

Location: DeSoto High School Academies Cafeteria; 600 Eagle Dr., DeSoto, TX 75115

This event is open to DeSoto ISD female students in grades 8 through 12 who are first generation college students or are college bound. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring a female parent or guardian with them to the event. The Keynote Speaker for the day will be WFAA's Rebecca Lopez. There will be student and parent workshops that include topics on college money matters, financial aid FAQ's, time management, etiquette classes, first year college pitfalls to avoid, and more! Self-defense training will be presented by the DeSoto Police Department. Scholarship opportunities are available to graduating seniors. This event is FREE but registration is required. Please contact Ms. Tabora Walton, Parent and Community Liaison for DeSoto High School, at 972-230-0726 ext. 1502 or Tabora.Walton@desotoisd.org to sign up today! For more information on the Journey Conference and to download the scholarship application, please visit <http://EmergeLeadershipInc.org>.

Lastly, as a community it is our responsibility to invest in our young people so they gain the skills needed to compete in an increasingly demanding global environment. Remember this, today's children become tomorrow's adults. When you make a commitment to them today, you are making a commitment to the future!

Rachel Proctor City Council Place 4

N.I.A. Kids Center for the Performing Arts Presents

PAGES FROM THE



GOOD BOOK

An Original Stage Play

A multi-talented cast of youth and teens brings to life "the greatest stories ever told" through drama, song, and dance!

PERFORMANCES: Saturdays: March 1 & 8, 2014 2:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.	ADMISSION: \$15 children and adults (No babies or children under the age of 4 please)
Sundays: March 2 & 9, 2014 4:00 p.m.	To Purchase Tickets: niakids2014.eventbrite.com or www.niakids.org

DeSoto Corner Theater
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.
DeSoto, TX 75115



For more information, visit www.niakids.org or call 972-228-8381



APRIL RECYCLING EVENT
April 12th 9 am to noon
DeSoto Service Center, 809 W. Spinner Rd.

Document Shredding - bring up to 10 boxes of personal documents for shredding. Proof of DeSoto residency required.

E-Recycling - bring any unwanted electronic items including personal computers, phones, chargers, printers and other small electronics for free recycling with proof of DeSoto residency. For more information please call 972.230.9643.

If You Are Planning A Garage Sale, Here is Some Information Regarding Posting Garage Sale Signs

The City of DeSoto has a sign ordinance that prohibits the posting of signs in the city right-of-way. This includes garage sale signs like this ones at right. When you apply for a permit to hold a garage sale at your home, you will be notified that you can post a sign in your own yard only. You are subject to a fine if you post other signs in the medians or on utility poles. Code enforcement has stepped up enforcement of this ordinance. If you have any questions,

please contact the City of DeSoto Code Enforcement office at 469.658.3075.



DeSoto's Municipal Court Places New Emphasis on Clearing Warrants

DeSoto's City Marshal, Gina Medlin, has announced that the DeSoto Municipal Court has initiated a coordinated effort to clear its existing warrants. This effort involves participation in the 2014 Texas Warrant Roundup and an effort to reach out to defendants with outstanding warrants by telephone to let them know that they have been targeted for arrest unless they come to the court to resolve their outstanding citations and/or unpaid fines. "We have new technology that enables us to locate work and home addresses with greater accuracy, and we are

using it to good effect," said Marshal Medlin. Defendants are encouraged to contact the Court in person, online, or by telephone to make arrangements to resolve their cases and avoid arrest at work or at their residence. "Municipal Court Judge Kurth has ordered that no defendant with active warrants who comes to court to try and resolve their cases will be arrested at the Court. "We are here to help resolve these outstanding warrants that too often end up with our citizens being jailed because they failed to respond to their traffic citations," said Judge Kurth.

DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION PRESENTS

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATER

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 3:00P

FRED NICHOLS AUDITORIUM
DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL

Special \$5 tickets for Seniors 55+ and Students.
Call Kathy Jones at 972-230-9648 to purchase.

Tickets Available at ARTSDESOTO.com

This performance is underwritten by the City of DeSoto Arts Commission and, as a result, we can offer special pricing. General Admission tickets will be \$10 each if purchased by April 1st, \$12 until April 12th and \$15 at the door. Student tickets are \$5. Senior 55+ tickets are \$5 per person with advance purchase. Tickets are available for purchase online at artsdesoto.com or in person by calling Kathy Jones at 972-230-9648.

Important Information Regarding the 2014 Municipal Election

We are already gearing up for the May 10, 2014 General Election, for which, two positions will be on the ballot as follows:

Councilmember Place 2 Councilmember Place 4

All members of the City Council run by place but are elected at large. This means that they must reside in the district for which they are seeking election. However, all registered voters who live anywhere in DeSoto may cast ballots for that position. If you would like more information on the City Council districts, a map is available on the City's website at www.desototexas.gov under the Government tab at the top of the page.

Early and election day voting will take place in the Assembly Hall of the DeSoto Public Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Here is the schedule:

Weekdays April 28 - May 2nd	8am-5pm
May 3 (Saturday)	8am-5pm
May 4 (Sunday)	1pm-6pm
May 5 and May 6	7am-7pm
Election Day May 10	7am-7pm

If you are not a registered voter in Dallas County, please go to www.dallascountyvotes.org for an application. You must register by April 10, 2014 in order to vote in the May 10, 2014 election.

Concerned DeSoto Citizens will host a Meet the Candidates Forum at DeSoto City Hall in the City Council Chambers on Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 9 am to noon. DeSoto voters are encouraged to attend this event and meet the candidates for City Council and the DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees.

For more information on the upcoming election, visit our website at www.desototexas.gov and follow the link to election information.

The DeSoto Arts Commission Rolls Out the Sunday Uptown/Downtown/DeSoto Concert Series in March at the DeSoto Corner Theatre

Sunday afternoons from March through June, an exciting music series will present great jazz and classical music in your DeSoto Corner Theatre. The DeSoto Arts Commission's live music series will feature the best musicians from throughout DFW, including international jazz performers and principals of the Dallas and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras.

"We are calling the series Uptown/Downtown DeSoto," said Gregory Isaacs, DeSoto Arts Commission Member. "Uptown presents classical music and Downtown offers Jazz, R&B, Latin Jazz, and Big Band," said Isaacs. "DeSoto's taste in music is diverse and we want to offer something for everyone."

The series will kick off on March 16th at 3 pm in the DeSoto Corner Theatre with a performance by the sixteen-piece Brad Leali and Shelley Carrol Big Band, featuring singer Tatiana Mayfield. Both band leaders tour internationally with the Duke Ellington Orchestra and their band features that Duke Ellington Big Band sound.

Brad Leali is Professor of Saxophone at the world famous University of North Texas Jazz Studies program, is Director of the Three O'Clock Lab Band, and performs widely in the DFW area. For almost two decades, he has played in the Kennedy Center Honors orchestra. A great saxophonist, he has a unique tone that makes his solos especially beautiful and poignant, and accentuates his improvisations. Professor Brad Leali is one of the great alto saxophonists and an important part of the DFW jazz scene.

Shelley Carrol tours worldwide with the Duke Ellington Orchestra and takes his own quartet to Europe and Japan. He also tours with Sheryl Crow. Locally he has led one of the longest-running jazz gigs at the Amsterdam Bar. Carrol is a true Texas Tenor - a saxophonist who can make a big sound that cuts through the ambient noise of a Texas Roadhouse and still sounds great.

The Brad Leali and Shelley Carrol Big Band comprises the top jazz orchestra performers in North Texas, such as Tony Baker, Professor of Trombone at UNT. A traditional sixteen-piece orchestra, it includes four trumpets, four trombones, and four saxophones covering the range from soprano to baritone. The rhythm section includes piano, guitar, bass, and drums.

For this performance, the orchestra will feature Tatiana Mayfield, a graduate of the Vocal Jazz program at UNT. A musician at heart, Mayfield plays trombone and arranges her own music. Last year, her album reached was No. 1 on the Great Britain Soul chart and she toured the UK with her band of DFW musicians.

The Downtown Series will follow on even numbered Sundays with a variety of jazz performers including the Sandaga Jazz Band, the Joyce Spencer Quartet, the Andrew Griffith Quintet, and the Brazilian Jazz Band Brasuka. On odd numbered Sundays, the Uptown Series will present a variety of

classical performances featuring members of the Fort Worth and Dallas orchestras.

We have a very special event planned to usher in the Uptown or classical portion of the series. The DeSoto Arts Commission is pleased to welcome one of the world's great opera singers, internationally recognized, operatic baritone, Donnie Ray Albert to the Corner Theatre. In addition to orchestral engagements in Chicago, Dallas, Houston, London, Toronto and New York, Mr. Albert can be heard on RCA's PORGY AND BESS winner of a Grammy in 1977 for Best Opera Recording and the Grand Prix du Disc and THE RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHOGONNY that received two Grammy's in 2008 for Best Opera Recording and Best Classical Album. He is most well-known nationally for his portrayal of Porgy in PORGY AND BESS. Mr. Albert has a wonderful program of music planned for his DeSoto performance on March 23rd that will begin with selections from African American poets and composers followed by a medley of Spirituals that both inspire and entertain.



The Uptown portion of the series continues on odd numbered Sundays at 3 pm with performances by the Wyeth String Quartet, D'Drum Percussion Ensemble, the Richardson Symphony and Gary Levinson.

In a very special event, DeSoto will host the World Premiere of a new opera entitled *Undelivered* which tells the story of the speech that John F. Kennedy intended to deliver in Dallas. *Undelivered* will be performed by the Hall Ensemble on May 11th. Through an unusual set of circumstances, it will be premiered in DeSoto, before its intended premiere in another DFW setting. This event will draw members of the classical music community from throughout North Texas to our Corner Theatre.

Tickets for all these performances are just \$10 per person. Check out the artsdesoto.com website for schedules and to purchase advance tickets or call 972.230.9648 for more information.

artsdesoto.com

tatiana mayfield

brad leali & shelly carol big band

Uptown
downtown
desoto
Concert Series

donnie ray albert

SUNDAY
MARCH 23RD

at the DeSoto Corner Theater

Join us for an exciting series celebrating DeSoto's diverse taste in music, alternating each week from classical to jazz. There's something for everyone!