

May, 2007



# City Lights DeSoto, Texas



[www.ci.desoto.tx.us](http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us)

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

## To the Citizens of DeSoto,

I want to thank you for being such an important part of the last nine years of my life. As we have implemented programs that have come from citizen surveys, homeowner associations and your suggestions, I have gotten to know so many wonderful people that love this city. Many times we do not realize how much we accomplish, so I would like to highlight some of those accomplishments I believe are important to our future.

We overwhelmingly passed bond issues in 1998 and again in 2003 for a total of over \$50 million. This has allowed us to financially plan for long term capital projects in a systematic approach. The projects included renovation of the Baseball and Soccer complexes at Grimes Park, work on Mosley Park and Pool and the Zeiger Park renovation. Council also added Meadow Creek Park for football, and has worked for the improvements for neighborhood parks like Keva and North Elerson Road Park.

The City has begun a street grading and reconstruction program, and our water and sewer department developed a strategy for replacing water meters, defining and grading drainage projects. The Parkerville Road widening project has started, and Cockrell Hill Road is right behind. The intersection at Pleasant Run and Westmoreland is being signalized and widened. We have repaired loop detectors

and implemented a timing program for all lighted intersections. Briarwood Pond was also reconstructed. Water storage tanks and towers were added and renovated and we have instituted a sidewalk construction program.

We continue to add staff to our fire and police departments to keep us at appropriate manning levels. The Police Department has continued its CALEA certification, and our Fire Department is beginning the process for accreditation.

The library has continued to grow and add resource materials and has become innovative in their programs, with computers, downloadable books and books on tape. DeSoto hosted the first Greater Dallas Realtor Parade of Homes in 2001. The only time it has been held south of the Trinity River. Since that time we have been adding new subdivisions and homes to our community at a rate of almost 500 homes per year with an average value of \$200,000.

We have formed three Charter Review Committees, renovated Town Center, adding the fitness center and then upgrading and improving it. We have over 55 active Homeowner Associations and have held our second workshop for HOA involvement. Our Homeowner Associations participate in National Night Out, Great Days of Service, the Adopt-A-Street program, and our Community Clean-up each April. We began offering the Neighborhood Grant Program which has returned over \$60,000 to HOA's for neighborhood landscaping, identification and beautification.

We have a City Litter Crew, and a Street Sweeper funded through the Sanitation Fund. Our trash, brush and garbage collection standards are the envy of other cities. You said you wanted more landscaping, better street lights, and enhanced code enforcement, so we have complied. I do not think our community has ever looked better.

Regionally, we have developed the combined dispatch, jail and alarm monitoring programs. We have built new or remodeled all existing City facilities and we completed the Senior Activity Center Expansion. The list of things goes on and on and on, and we still have not completed the monument at I-35 and Pleasant Run Road, and the Town Center Vision and Redevelopment Project. This has the potential to create the first phase of a "true community" that will sustain us through the lives that suburbs experience.

I will cherish as Mayor for DeSoto getting to know our inner being. We are a City that listens to its citizens, through surveys, involvement in Boards, Commissions, HOA's, Citizen and Youth Academies, the Ministerial Alliance, and the school board. We are also rolling out a new, more customer friendly, and interactive website. We communicate back to the citizens what we are doing through cable television, the CityLights newsletter, and town hall meetings. We now have a Public Information Officer to tell our story. We instituted Granicus, a system that allows our Council meetings to be played and accessed live

through our website wherever there is a computer with Internet access.

You have a City administration and employees that recognize that the citizen is the customer, and they are doing all of the tiny things to bring us from good to great. The Council has seen and supported this direction of staff through competitive pay programs, and a performance improvement program that was funded by savings from our workers compensation rate decrease. This was instituted by the employees. I think our employees make the difference.

We now see the results of all of our efforts beginning to bloom. Achieving All-America City status in 2006 recognized our efforts at reaching into our neighborhoods for involvement, the Dining and Dialogue program for inclusion and diversity, and the youth involvement through KDB, Citizen's Academy and the Hip-Hop Teen Summit. Winning this award has validated all of our hard work. I will be eternally grateful for the opportunity you gave by allowing me to serve on the council and as Mayor. I have met so many caring, dedicated and loving people. I will always think of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:13 as I reflect on our City. *"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."* I have great faith in our future because of you. I hope we have done some things to pave the road to a brighter future. I pray you have seen the love we have for you, as I have seen your love.

**With love and respect,  
Michael Hurr  
Mayor of DeSoto**

## Dallas County Health & Human Services asks us to Join the Fight Against West Nile

Mosquito season in Dallas County typically runs from May to October with peak activity in August. However, with the recent warm temperatures and rains Dallas County is seeing an early increase in mosquito activity. DCHHS is stepping up its efforts to detect, prevent and control the spread of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses. A part of its efforts is a public education campaign “**D-fend Against West Nile: Dress, Drain & wear DEET**” to inform the public about West Nile virus and to remind them of ways to protect themselves and their families.

### **DRAIN**

- Get rid of all standing water
- Empty, remove, cover or turn upside down any containers that will hold standing water
- Change water in pet dishes, wading pools and birdbaths several times a week
- Cover trash containers so they will not collect water

### **DRESS**

- Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing to avoid mosquito bites when outside

### **DEET**

- Use insect repellent products with “DEET” or other FDA approved repellents and follow product instructions

For more information about mosquito activities in Dallas County, call the DCHHS Environmental Health Division at 214 819-2115 or visit [www.dallascounty.org](http://www.dallascounty.org). You can also contact the City of DeSoto Environmental Health Department at 972 230-9600 for local information.

## The DeSoto Senior Activity Center Will Host a Community Garage Sale on June 8th

How would you like to have a garage sale and be guaranteed a crowd of shoppers without advertising it or worrying about strangers coming to your home? If this sounds good to you then why not participate in the DeSoto Community Garage Sale sponsored by the DeSoto Senior Activity Center scheduled from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. The DeSoto Senior Activity Center is located at 201 Lion Street.

Booth spaces rent for \$25, \$15 and \$10 and will be available both inside the center and on the outside lawn. Space is limited and will be assigned at the time of the rental. Regardless of weather conditions, all booth rentals are non-refundable. Applications are available at [www.ci.desoto.tx.us](http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us) or by calling the DeSoto Senior Activity Center at 972-230-5825.

## CITY CALENDAR

### May

- 1 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 3 National Day of Prayer - 7 a.m. - City Hall
- 3 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 5 DeSoto Dining & Dialogue Dinner Event
- 7 Park Development Corp. Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 8 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 8 Early Voting Ends
- 12 City Election Day
- 15 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 22 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. City Hall
- 28 DEDC Board Meeting—City Hall noon

### June

- 2 Toad Holler Creekfest - Town Center 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 4 Park Development Corp. Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 5 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 7 Keep DeSoto Beautiful Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m. - City Hall
- 12 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 16 BSW Juneteenth Celebration - Cedar Hill 4p.m. to 10 p.m.
- 19 City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall
- 23 Hip Hop Summit - Outdoor Amphitheater
- 25 Mavs Youth Basketball Camp - Rec. Center 972 230-9650
- 26 Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. - 7 p.m. - City Hall



Mayor Pro Tem, Bobby Waddle leads the Pledge of Allegiance during a ceremony at the DeSoto Senior Activity Center. Mr. Waddle donated the American and Texas flags to the center.

A section of Westmoreland Road is currently closed at the intersection of Pleasant Run Road for construction. The intersection will be widened to four lanes and a traffic signal will be added.



## DeSoto Website gets a New Attitude

We have been working hard to reorganize the city's website and give it a new updated look.

The goal is to allow for our citizens and customers to find what they are looking for with just a few clicks. Here are a few of the new features DeSoto's website has to offer:

- The ability for citizens to enter code enforcement concerns or service requests directly to the City over the Internet
- At least 20 different ways to conduct business with the City from the privacy of your home, anytime you want
- Enhanced Search Feature
- Print-friendly pages
- Optional e-mail notification signup for various announcements sent by the City
- Services A-Z list
- New section specifically designed for Neighborhoods and Homeowner Associations



- "E-mail this page to a friend" option
  - Lengthy FAQ list
  - New, updated, colorful pictures
  - Extensive list of all special events held by the City
- Check us out at [www.ci.desoto.tx.us](http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us).

## DeSoto Public Library Offers Summer Reading Club for Kids

School will be out soon and if you are looking for summer activities that will keep your kid's reading skills sharp, try the DeSoto Public Library.

There will be a Come and Go Sign Up party to kick-off the Library's Summer Reading Club, an independent reading program for children ages 0-18 on Wednesday, June 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Children's Department at the Library. Bring your kids to sign-up for the Summer Reading Club and enjoy face painting, candy and a balloon artist.

In addition to promoting reading over the summer, the Summer Reading Club offers special performances every Wednesday and movie screenings every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 2 p.m. from June 18th through July 24th in the DeSoto Library Assembly Hall.

All activities are free and open to the public. To register or for more information on the DeSoto Public Library's Summer Reading Club, please call the Children's Librarian at 972 230-9666.

### Summer Reading Club Performances

- June 13 Snake Encounters
- June 20 Bonkers the Clown
- June 27 Catherine Whitman, Storyteller
- July 11 Juggler
- July 18 Science Show
- July 25 Creature Teacher

All performances are free and open to the public. They will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. in the DeSoto Public Library Assembly Hall. For more information, call 972 230-9666.

# Come Join the Fun at Toad Holler Creekfest..... Saturday June 2nd!!



On Saturday, June 2, 2007, the City of DeSoto will step back in time to the days of the old Toad Holler School to host Toad Holler Creekfest. The name of this unique event comes from the old Toad Holler School attended by DeSoto children in the early 1900's which was located near the intersection of Pleasant Run and Duncanville Roads. It is said that the school was named for all the toads and frogs that hopped through the hollow where it was built. Creekfest describes this city-wide festival that takes place in our outdoor amphitheater on the banks of historic Ten Mile Creek at DeSoto Town Center. Toad Holler Creekfest is a full day of food, fun and family entertainment. We invite you to join us on June 2nd from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and admission is free.

implanted in his cheek. You won't want to miss the fun!!

A great entertainment line-up is planned for the Creekfest. You'll want to bring your lawn chair or spread a blanket to enjoy free concerts on the Amphitheater Stage featuring:

- 11 a.m. DeSoto Star Search Winners
- 2 p. m. LaShondra Lee
- 3 p.m. Tracy Carter
- 4 p.m. DuVal & Ave Maria
- 5:30 p.m. Cathy Garner
- 7 p.m. Mighty Marvelous 4

Art League will host their Annual Art Show in the City Hall Lobby and you'll also want to visit the *Now Are We Christian Concepts* exhibit in the Library Assembly Hall and enjoy the work of a group of local Christian artists. Tri-City Animal Shelter will have a booth with adorable dogs and puppies for adoption as well as information and giveaways.

You'll also want to see the Annual Mayor's Cup Invitational Cow Chip Toss which takes place at 1:00 p.m. during Creekfest. Each year, our Mayor issues personalized invitations to members of our community to take part in this most prestigious competition of skill.

Competitors are allowed to choose their projectile from a pile of cow chips produced for this very purpose by DeSoto cows and are issued official rubber gloves to be worn during their toss. The coveted Mayor's Cup (a loving cup with a gold cow chip in the top) is awarded to the competitor with the longest toss. There is also a Showmanship Award. Our DeSoto Mayor presides over this event each year with his tongue firmly



Back by popular demand are the Mighty Marvelous 4 who will perform at 7:p.m. ending a great day of entertainment on the Amphitheater Stage at Creekfest. For more information call 972 230-9651.



**BSW Juneteenth Celebration** Sponsored by the cities of DeSoto, Lancaster, Duncanville & Cedar Hill  
 Sat. June 16, 2007 At Valley Ridge Park 2850 Park Ridge Dr.  
 For info call the host, City of Cedar Hill at 972 293-5288



*Branson Style*

**The Corner Theatre**  
 DeSoto Town Center  
 Pleasant Run @ Hampton  
 211 E. Pleasant Run Road  
 DeSoto, TX

**Tickets \$12**  
**Seating is Limited**



presents

## Country Music and Beyond

### Friday June 8th 7:30 pm

The show will be backed by the group known as **Off The Record**, whose founder has been a DeSoto resident since 1979. Formed in 1990, **Off The Record** continues to enjoy playing all types of venues, including corporate events, charitable fund-raisers, city street festivals, TV's famous South Fork Ranch, and many more. Earlier this year, the band performed at the annual Toad Holler Creekfest, and also had the privilege of playing for the Roast & Toast to Mayor Michael Hurtt.

For tickets call 972 223-9723 or 214 718-3299. Tickets can also be purchased at the DeSoto Chamber Office by contacting Angie McCord at 972 224-3565.

Thank You!



Due to the overwhelming support and the sell-out crowd at our first Lone Star Country Showcase last October; we are excited to bring it back to the Corner Theatre. It's true' you don't have to travel to Branson to hear great music. Texas is full of great singers and talented musicians. We have selected some of the Top Performers from in and around the state to bring you the music of some of the greats.

Please join us for a fun-filled evening of good music and family entertainment.