

DE SOTO

KANSAS

WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUING

In the last City Newsletter, we reported on the rehabilitation project for the water treatment facility and distribution systems. De Soto is taking a phased approach to the overall refurbishment plans while we investigate the possibility of a water wholesale arrangement with other entities in the area. A portion of Phase I improvements is nearing completion, and the rest of Phase I should begin soon.

While efforts continue to seek out partners to form a wholesale water supply group utilizing De Soto's treatment facility, we are moving ahead with upgrades needed to ensure the continued delivery of safe drinking water to the City.

Phase I improvements includes work on the water supply lines for treated water and electrical systems at the treatment facility. The project includes the following:

The construction of 9,400 feet of 24" water distribution main that will replace an existing 12" main. This main currently links the treatment plant to the four white water towers on the

Sunflower property and the rest of the City's distribution system.

The construction of 5,500 feet of overhead electrical line to replace the existing electrical feed to the treatment plant building.

The purchase and installation of a 350 kW back-up generator at the treatment plant facility. If electrical power in the area is lost, water won't be.

The installation of a new electrical motor control center within the treatment plant building including new wire and conduit to 21 separate sub-panels.

The total project costs for this phase of system improvements is \$1,700,000. This cost will be partly offset by a \$500,000 EPA grant for the waterline construction portion of the project.

The City took bids for the generator and interior electrical work in July, and subsequently awarded a contract for that



portion of the project to Ace Electrical of Topeka, Kansas. Interior plant electrical work is nearly complete and we are currently awaiting the delivery of the generator, due in mid February. Once delivered, the Contractor will have about 30 days of work to complete its installation and get the system online and functional.

The new overhead electrical feed to the treatment facility is being constructed by Westar Energy. By the time this newsletter is printed, it is likely

that this line will be complete. It can be put into service as soon as the generator is delivered and installed. All the current electrical system upgrades are expected to be completed by early spring of 2011.

We have received all the necessary State and EPA permit approvals for the construction of the water main. Final bid documents are nearing completion and the project will be out for bids in January. A springtime construction schedule is expected.

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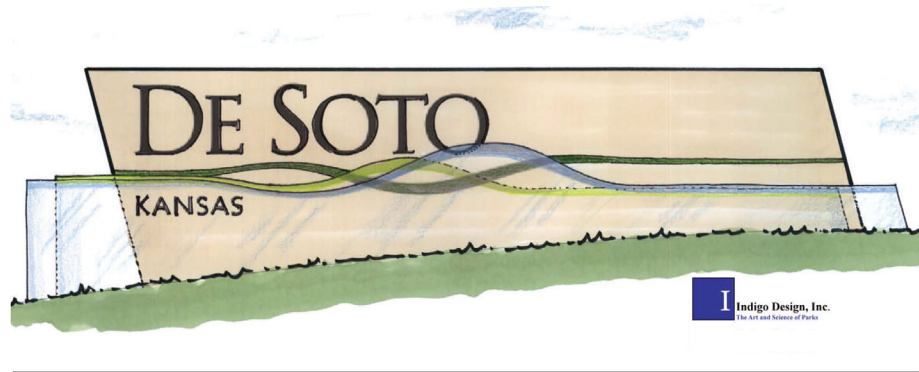
4 De Soto Days moves back to Labor Day Weekend.

7 De Soto Parks and Recreation requests your guidance on programs and facilities.

MONUMENT SIGN UPDATE

In the August, 2010 edition of the City Newsletter we reported on the City's project to construct a monument sign along K-10 highway. In December, bids were received for the construction of the monument, pictured below. It was to include a forward leaning cast stone panel roughly 25 feet in length and 6 feet high with the logo's lettering cast into the panel. Surrounding the panel were two transparent plexiglass offsets that would hold the colored waves that form the City Logo. Lighting for the sign included LED components.

Unfortunately, all the submitted bids were more than the project budget would allow, so it was back to the drawing board (literally) for the design committee. After consultation with the bidders it was concluded that the curved design of the plexiglass panels and proposed LED lighting contributed significantly to the higher-than-



expected bid proposals.

With the budget set at \$80,000, the challenge is to lower the cost of materials and construction while maintaining the uniqueness of the design which incorporated the new City logo and hinted at De Soto's ties to the Kansas River.

On January 6th, 2011, Doug Pickert of Indigo Design presented a new design to the City Council. Pictured below, the new design retains many aspects of the original look, but uses construction methods and materials that are more common

and less costly than the original concept. The City Logo remains the prominent feature in the revised design which is slightly larger than the original concept. Glass masonry blocks and a wider footprint will allow the sign to be lit from the interior, which can be done with traditional light fixtures as opposed to the LED's in the initial concepts.

Much consideration has been given to the sign's proposed location. Obviously the sign must be clearly visible from both west bound and east bound K-10 traffic, and it needs to be at a location

that marks an entrance to our community. The scale of the sign is also a critical factor in choosing a proper location. For safety reasons, the sign must be set off from the roadway a considerable distance. The sign must therefore be of sufficient size to be effective. The location recommended by the Committee is within the K-10 right-of-way along the north side of the highway approximately 1/4 mile east of the Lexington Avenue interchange. The sign will be placed approximately 100 feet north of the outside shoulder of the west-bound lanes. This location is slightly higher than the highway and clearly visible from both directions of travel.

Permits needed to construct the sign within the K-10 right-of-way have been obtained from KDOT. We are down to the last major hurdle--finalize the revised design in order to refine the project cost estimates to ensure that the project is within funding levels.

CITY CONTACTS & HELPFUL NUMBERS

MAYOR

David R. Anderson
913-583-3362 Home
816-985-0342 Cell

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Pat Guilfoyle
913-583-1182 x 120
913-689-8740 Cell

CITY CLERK

Lana McPherson
913-583-1182 x 110
913-689-8733 Cell

CITY BUILDING OFFICIAL

Steve Chick, Sr.
913-583-1182 x 130
913-208-4526 Cell

CITY CODES OFFICER

Pam Graff
913-583-1182 x 114
913-238-0435 Cell

CITY ENGINEER

Mike Brungardt, P.E.
913-583-1182 x 116
913-689-8737 Cell

CITY PLANNER

Linda Bohnsack
913-583-1182 x 115

STREET SUPERINTENDENT

Ron Creason
913-583-1182 x 126
913-238-0437 Cell

City Shop
913-583-3379

UTILITIES

Nancy Steele
913-583-1182 x 112

WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT

Doug Smith
913-238-0434 Cell
Wastewater Plant
913-585-9956

WATER SUPERINTENDENT

Clarence Brunk
913-583-1182 x 119
913-238-0436 Cell

Water Plant
913-583-1749

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mitra M. Templin
913-583-3183

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Betty Cannon
913-583-1500

Mike Drennon
913-583-1389

Ron McDaniel
913-585-1902

Rick Walker
913-538-5655

MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK

Boots Linden
913-583-1182 x 122

PARK & RECREATION DIRECTOR

Jay Garvin
913-583-1182 x 127
913-544-8073 Cell

AQUATICS MANAGER

Justin Huslig
913-583-1182 x 131
913-620-6629 Cell

ANIMAL CONTROL

Jo. Co. Sheriff
913-782-0720

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Sara Ritter
913-583-1585
913-238-2206 Cell

JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Dispatch
913-782-0720

NORTHWEST JOHNSON COUNTY CONS. FIRE DISTRICT - SERVING DE SOTO

De Soto Station
913-583-1595

NW Jo Co Station
913-583-3886

WELDON-HONEY CREEK SANITATION (Trash Service)

Kevin Weldon
785-423-8999 cell

Randy Weldon
785-423-1809 cell

OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

Cable-Time Warner
913-451-6464

DigSafe Kansas
1-800-344-7233

Electricity-Westar Energy
1-800-383-1183

Fire Dept. De Soto Station
913-583-1595

Natural Gas-Atmos Energy
1-888-442-1313

Post Office De Soto Branch
913-583-1543

Schools USD #232
913-667-6200

Senior Center De Soto Branch
913-585-1762

Johnson Co. Courthouse
913-715-5000

Johnson Co. Election Office
913-782-3441

Johnson Co. Environmental
913-492-0402

Johnson Co. Hazardous Waste
913-715-6900

Johnson Co. Library-De Soto
913-583-3106

Johnson Co. Motor Vehicle
913-826-1800

Johnson Co. Multi-Service Ctr
913-583-1152

Johnson Co. Sheriff Dispatch
913-782-0720

De Soto City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

De Soto Planning Commission meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

De Soto Municipal Court is held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.



www.desotoks.us
Check us out on Facebook!

CHECK WITH CHICK... YOUR BUILDING OFFICIAL



In this issue of the newsletter, I would like to cover a topic that frequently affects us all in the spring and summer months living in the Midwest--Storm and Tornado Safety and Preparedness. I'll cover some related construction and building code related topics, review some basic steps to disaster planning and provide some resources for those who would like further information.

As your De Soto Building Official, I have had first hand opportunities to view damage done by storms both here in De Soto and other communities across Kansas. I train and participate with fellow building officials and architects across Kansas in a cooperative program called the "Kansas Disaster Assessment Team", which responds to disasters such as tornadoes and floods; we do initial onsite structural assessment of affected structures for Kansas Communities.

Recently, I have had numerous questions from residents about constructing safe rooms or storm shelters in new or existing homes. Many new homes are being constructed with basement and underground shelters and "stoop" areas. Should you consider building a shelter in your house to protect yourself and your family during a storm or tornado? It depends: Do you live in a high-risk area? How quickly can you reach safe shelter during extreme winds? What level of safety do you want to provide? What is the cost of a shelter?

The United States has been divided into four Wind Zones; Zone 4, which

includes our region, has experienced the most frequent and the strongest recorded tornado activity (up to 250 mph). Your house is probably built in accordance with local building codes that consider the effects of minimum, "code approved" design winds in this area. Building codes require that buildings withstand a "design" wind event, which is 90 MPH in our region. A tornado or extreme weather event can cause winds much greater than those "design" wind events.

New homes can be designed easily to include a storm shelter in the basement or another level following the designs from International Code Council (ICC) or FEMA. In addition, many companies such as DuPont offer "storm room" design and materials information. And remember, my advice is always to consult your contractor and local building official before starting any construction project.

For existing homes the cost of retrofitting for a storm shelter may be cost prohibitive. Basement shelters can be retrofitted and are typically the best choice; however, they can be expensive also. Another shelter option for existing structures is an interior room on the first floor. Researchers and emergency responders have often found an interior room of a house still standing, when all other above ground parts of the house have been destroyed. Interior closets, bathrooms and small storage rooms offer the advantage of having only one door and no windows; that makes them well suited for conversion to a shelter. Bathrooms have the additional advantage of including a water supply and toilet.

Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes or other high winds. Do not seek shelter in a hallway or bathroom of a mobile home. If you have access to a



▲ Some of the tornado damage done to the town of Greensburg.

sturdy building or shelter, abandon your mobile home immediately.

Another important part of windstorms and tornadoes is having a Family Disaster Plan. The American Red Cross, FEMA and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) all have good brochures readily available. They all recommend that families be prepared for hazards that could affect their region.

1. Gather Information about hazards: Contact National Weather Service, Emergency Management Offices and the American Red Cross Chapter for information. Learn about your community's warning signals and any evacuation plans. Know your home's hazards.

2. Meet with your family to create a plan. Discuss the information you have gathered. Pick two places to meet: a place outside your home for an emergency and a place away from your neighborhood in

case you cannot return home. Choose an out-of-city/state friend as your "family check-in contact" if the family gets separated. Review your "Plan" with family members.

3. Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit: This may contain First Aid and essential medications. Food & water, protective clothing and bedding or sleeping bags. Be prepared with flashlights, battery radio, extra batteries and simple activities for children. Also, remember specialty items for infants, the elderly or disabled family members. Keep instructions on how to turn off utilities, such as water, gas and electric services. Keep important documents in a waterproof container and remember to keep a smaller supplies kit in the truck of your car.

When we plan ahead for disasters, whether it's construction of an in-home shelter, having a family disaster plan or just keeping disaster supplies on hand—we will be able to "Safely Weather a Storm." Should you have any questions about code issues or construction projects, remember to "Check with Chick," your De Soto Building Official.

Additional information is also available at:

www.redcross.org

("Family Disaster Plan", "Tornado Safety Checklist")

www.fema.gov

("Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room Inside your House" FEMA 320)

www.iccsafe.org

("ICC/NSSA Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters" ICC500-2008)

www.bt.cdc.gov

(Emergency Preparedness and Response)

NO INCREASE IN 2011 WATER RATES

The first big 2011 headline from the City of De Soto is about water rates. 2011 will not see an increase in our water utility's user rates; they will remain the same. That's right, 2011 will be the first year since 2006 when there has not been an adjustment in our water rates.

We saw the potential for better times in 2009 as we prepared for the 2010 budget. Instead of a projected 5% water rate increase, we were able to ease back on a 2010 rate increase to 3.5%. That was a welcomed departure from recent history.

It appeared that 2011 might produce even

better news. As we approached the last half of the year in 2010, we saw the potential for the Water Fund to end the year with an increase in its end-of-the-year cash balance—in other words, showing “a profit.” As the year came to a close, that potential changed to reality. The five-year projections for the Water Fund demonstrated enough confidence in the Water Fund's positive direction that the City Council saw no need to increase our water rates for 2011.

How did it happen? Two elements contributed over time. The first and most sustainable one is frugality of the Water Fund's employees. Mindful of a challenged budget, the Department has

consistently kept spending down. Secondly, we saw a significant uptick in water usage in the last quarter of 2010. Thanks to a hot/dry spell in the latter part of the summer, October water usage produced the biggest October since 2006. November usage showed a more impressive statistic, an all-time record November consumption.

With the expected savings arising from a new water main to be completed late this spring/early summer (see the related article elsewhere in this newsletter), the City expects the Water Fund's bottom line to show continued strengthening over the next several years.

WANT A PLACE TO DUMP YOUR BRUSH?

Spring is coming and there is a good chance that you are already outside with your chain saw or brush clipper. It's time to prune, trim, and cut down that undesirable brush and those unwanted trees. But what to do with the stuff? The trash hauler can't take it with your weekly trash.

The City gives you a free opportunity to get rid of it. Beginning on April 2 through October 21, you can dispose of that landscaping material at the City's brush dump on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month between the hours of 8AM and noon.

Where's the brush dump? Get onto Ottawa Street heading north from 83rd St. Go past Riverfest Park and continue westward between 1 and 2 miles to the City's waste water treatment plant on the south side of the road. You are there; an attendant will be on site to guide you to the spot to unload your material.

The brush facility is free to any De Soto resident. Be sure to bring identification in the event the attendant needs to verify that you are a De Soto resident. We can accept all of your brush and tree trimmings, no problem. But we cannot accept any of your leaves or grass clippings.

DE SOTO DAYS

The De Soto Days Committee is excited to announce that De Soto Days is moving back to Labor Day Weekend and Evans Midland Carnival will be returning. Evans is the carnival that served De Soto in 2009, and it also serves as the official carnival for Old Shawnee Days.

Another exciting addition is Games 2 U. Games2U has quickly become one of the hottest attractions at events of all kinds. Their Mobile Video Game Theaters and Laser Tag are taking gamers where no gamers have gone before and creating the most unique and memorable parties anywhere! Each night they will be featuring their Giant Hamster Balls and on Saturday they will be bringing out the Mobile Video Game Theater Van. You can check them out at www.g2u.com.

Of course, we will continue to have all the old favorites, Pony rides, Petting Zoo, Car Show and Live Entertainment each night and all day Saturday. We will have plenty of Food and Vendors for you to enjoy as well. And, don't forget Saturday's De Soto Days Parade along with the Walk/Run and Pancake Feed.

This is a community-wide event and we invite everyone to participate in the Largest City-Wide Event of the Year. So save the dates: September 1-4, 2011 at Riverfest Park! Check out the website and Facebook for more information about the De Soto Days Festival. www.desotodays.com We look forward to seeing you there! And, don't forget to invite your out-of-town family and friends.

Ripple Has Arrived!!

Up until 2011, De Soto's drop-off recycling center (located in City Hall's west parking lot) took it all in—with one major exception. You could not recycle your glass containers. And that is one desirable recyclable we heard about from our recycling community.

Johnson County's Department of Solid Waste Management came to the rescue. The County purchased a Ripple Glass container and coordinated the service contract with Ripple Glass. As a result, De Soto residents don't have to travel beyond our city limits to recycle their glass.

Ripple makes glass recycling easy. You don't have to separate brown, green, blue and clear glass containers. Throw them all into the Ripple Glass container; co-mingling is OK. Ripple simply asks that you rinse the containers first—not a necessity, but the rinsing kindness will minimize odor and sanitation concerns, especially as the weather warms up.

Ripple doesn't need you to remove any paper labeling on the containers either. That is a big time saver and a recycling disincentive gone bye-bye.

But there are a few no-no's in the Ripple program. Ripple Glass cannot accept plate glass (windows), mirrors, Pyrex, Corning ware, ceramics, or dishes. Those materials need to go into your trash can.

And that is pretty much it—simple and easy.



DE SOTO LOOKS INTO WATER COOP

De Soto has begun implementation of a multi-year program to upgrade the City's water supply, treatment, and distribution systems. The U.S. Army once owned De Soto's water treatment plant and used it to provide treated water to its former 9,000 acre Sunflower Ordinance Works property. The treatment facility (known as the Sunflower Water Treatment Plant) has a production capacity that far exceeds the needs of De Soto. Its design capacity is approximately 10 times De Soto's current demand. It has long been recognized that this excess capacity could be utilized in a cooperative effort with other water suppliers in the region.

De Soto is currently having discussions relating to the formation of a wholesale water supply district with other water providers in the region including Baldwin City, Douglas County Rural Water District (RWD) #4, the City of Wellsville, and Public Wholesale Water Supply District #25, which includes Douglas County RWD #2 and Osage County RWD #2. Others could eventually be involved as well. The concept is to form a separate legal entity that would own and operate the treatment plant and provide treated water to each participant. Similar arrangements are in effect and supplying water throughout the nation. Twenty three public wholesale water supply districts have been organized in Kansas, to date. Not all of these districts are actively delivering water. Several have been organized recently and have not yet had the time to develop the infrastructure to deliver water. Others were formally organized but never

became operational. Such a partnership would allow its members to take advantage of the large scale of the treatment facility and provide water at a much lower cost than would be otherwise possible.

Kansas has many small public water suppliers that would benefit from participation in a regional water supply system. Regionalization is a key State strategy for ensuring that small systems attain and maintain technical, financial and managerial capacity. Regionalization is further encouraged by Kansas statute. K.S.A. 65-163g (2) states that the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment shall, "in consultation with the Kansas Water Office, encourage regional cooperative public water supply projects in accordance with the public water supply regionalization strategy of the state water plan"

Although the discussions are just beginning, it is contemplated that a newly formed wholesale district would be its own legal entity, and would be governed by a board of directors with representation from each entity involved. Improvements to the facility would be undertaken by the wholesale entity, which would pay for the cost of the upgrades with bonds that would be backed by water purchase contracts with each participating entity.

Advantages to this arrangement include the following:

The wholesale district is a non-political entity,

with a single focus on delivering high quality water to its members at the lowest possible cost. The structure of the district eliminates some of the problems often associated with governmental agencies negotiating water sales contracts such as territorial boundary disputes, future water rate adjustments, and water rationing to control growth and land use patterns.

Economy of scale. Because the Sunflower Water Treatment Plant has such a large design capacity, the wholesale district will be able to implement a more cost-effective rehabilitation plan than would be possible if De Soto were to go it alone. After all the upgrades are made, it will be more efficient to operate the plant at a flow rate closer to the plant capacity.

Lower unit costs for operation and maintenance activities. Much of the costs associated with running a water treatment plant are fixed, and not dependant on how much water is treated or sold. Examples of fixed costs are debt service payments on capital improvements, employee salaries, and equipment replacement costs. Producing water for several entities will lower the unit cost for everyone.

A wholesale water partnership utilizing the Sunflower Water Treatment facility is a goal the City Council has been pursuing for several years, and its implementation could result in a lowering of the cost to provide safe drinking water to De Soto and others in the area.

NIGHT ON THE KAW

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 18, 2011 for Great American Bank's Night on the Kaw featuring country music star Mark Chesnutt. Advance tickets go on sale mid-March. October 7-8, 2011 is the 8th Annual Cookin' on the Kaw BBB Contest, where 49 of the best BBQ teams in the area descend upon De Soto and vie for the Grand Champion title. Enjoy a blues

festival and visit with the BBQ teams on October 7th - Tickets are only \$5 in advance. For more information, please call 913-583-1585 or visit our website at www.desotoks.org. You can also become a fan of the De Soto Chamber of Commerce on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter at "DeSotoKSChamber". We routinely provide updates on activities through these social media outlets.

The 2011-2012 De Soto Chamber of Commerce Membership Directory will be available in early June. Many citizens of the community utilize this marketing piece as their mini De Soto phonebook. There is no charge to receive the directory, so please stop by the Chamber Office to pick up a copy.

Do you own a business in De Soto but are not yet a member? We invite you to participate and become an active voice

in your community! Monthly luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month. Members receive a free listing in our Membership Directory as well as representation on our new website www.desotoks.org.

Your De Soto Chamber of Commerce wants to hear from you! If you have any questions or would like assistance on business, demographic or research information, please contact us at 913-583-1585. We are here to serve you!

SPRING WEATHER

CAN PRODUCE SOME UGLY

One pleasant virtue about winter's snow cover is that it can hide a lot of ugly. With the snow cover, your neighbor's unsightly junked cars and other junk material may be less visible. The cold weather also keeps annoyingly overgrown grass from developing. With the cold weather, few of us are tempted to open our windows and be bothered by late night back yard parties with sleep-robbing loud music or that constantly barking dog in the adjoining back yard..

Springtime not only brings relief from

winter's confinement and discomfort; it also unveils that hidden yard trash, causes the growth of your neighbor's grass gone un-mowed, and brings back those pesky loud noises that disturb the expected quiet inside your home. These are some of the common complaints our Code Enforcement Officer, Pam Graff, hears about with the return of warm weather. And yes, there are City ordinances that address all of those issues.

What to do? All you need to do to learn if the annoyance violates any City ordinances is to

call Pam at 913-583-1182, extension 114. You can also email her at pgraff@desotoks.us. Tell or type her the problem or leave a voice message for her to call you back. She can tell you what the City can do to help deal with the problem.

Don't worry; your call will be treated anonymously. Pam never divulges who complains about a problem; her job is to simply determine if the problem violates any City nuisance ordinances and attempt to fix it.

4TH OF JULY (WEATHER PERMITTING) PICNIC AND FIREWORKS RETURN

The City's plans for a spectacular third annual 4th of July in Riverfest Park are well on their way even though it's only February. The evening's festivities begin Monday evening, July 4th, at 6:00 p.m. with mouth-watering choices of food vendors. BBQ Bill Frenzel will be back grilling up burgers, brisket, chicken and brats. Joining in again this year is the Juarez Family with their tamales, burritos, nachos, corn, and mango on a stick.

Vendors are still signing up. Max and Star Atwell will once again be squeezing fresh lemonade and limeade shake-ups. The DHS Band will sell you an ice-cold soda, and Boy Scout Troop 54 will be stirring up home-made root beer and ice cream floats. The DHS Band will be there to help you 'walk the walk' to win a cake or pie. So be sure to come hungry and enjoy all our vendors have to offer.

Several local businesses will offer information about their services and products. There will also be opportunities to shop our vendors and purchase those gift items for forthcoming birthdays and weddings, or you can purchase a gift for yourself from handcrafted jewelry, artwork, beauty products, and more.

The kiddos will enjoy playing in the moonwalk and running through the bubble tower. Plan

to spend a fabulous evening of fun, food, shopping and good music featuring the popular "Prairie Wine" six-piece band beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Putting an end to the evening will be the City's annual fireworks display, starting at about 9:45 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at Riverfest Park on July 4th (weather permitting, of course).

DE SOTO PARKS & RECREATION

Youth Volleyball Clinic

Fee: \$35.00

Dates: April 3, 10, 17

May 1, 8, 15

Grades: 2nd – 6th (Current Grade 2010-11)

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Ages: 7-14

Youth Softball Clinic

Contact DHS Softball

Blastball

Fee: \$25.00

Date: May 31, 2011

Summer Camps

Camps:

Archery, Basketball,

Dance, Soccer, Tennis

Youth Dance

Amanda's Dance Academy

Phone: 785.691.6314

Web Page:

www.amandadanceacademy.com

jazzercise®

Owner: Tricia Conley

Phone: 913.534.4900

E-Mail: desotojazzercise@yahoo.com

Martial Arts

White Tiger Tae Kwon Do

Phone: 913-568-9218

Fall Youth Soccer

Fee: \$30.00

Registration Deadline:

Friday, July 29, 2011

Fall Youth Volleyball

Fee: \$35.00

Registration Deadline:

Friday, August 5, 2011

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

Fee: \$110

Registration Deadline:

Friday, August 26, 2011

VOLUNTARY CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Q&A

QUESTION: What do the comedian Jack Benny and the City's planned voluntary curbside recycling program have in common?

ANSWER: The number 39. 39 was Jack Benny's never-changing age and 39 is the number of De Soto residents that have notified City Hall that they want to sign up for the City's voluntary curbside recycling program.

QUESTION: When will the curbside service start?

ANSWER: The start-up date is April. The City's waste hauling contractor, Honey Creek Disposal, is in the process of obtaining additional trucks to dedicate to the service and coordinating its regular trash pick-up schedules and personnel. That all takes a little bit of time.

QUESTION: How much will the service cost?

ANSWER: With a target date of April, Honey Creek Disposal will initiate the service for any residential trash customer in De Soto for a monthly fee of \$4. The City will add the fee to a resident's monthly utility bill.

QUESTION: How can I get my name on a list if I want to use the curbside service?

ANSWER: All you have to do is pick up the telephone and call City Hall at 913-583-1182 and let Nancy know your name and address; if she is unavailable simply leave a message for her at extension 112.

QUESTION: How will the curbside pick-up service work?

ANSWER: Honey Creek currently provides every residential customer with a 95 gallon (or optional 65, 35 gallon) container for your weekly trash. The company will provide you with a 65 gallon container (with a yellow lid to distinguish it from your regular trash container). Simply put all of your recycled material in the one container. Every 2 weeks, roll your container to the curb and Honey Creek will collect your recyclables.

QUESTION: What can be recycled?

ANSWER: You can recycle everything that is currently

COMING IN APRIL

allowed at the City Hall's drop-off recycling center. That includes all plastic labeled #1 through #7, cardboard/chipboard, aluminum cans, other metal cans, and newspapers/junk mail/ magazines/telephone books/office paper.

QUESTION: What cannot be recycled?

ANSWER: Styrofoam is not recyclable, nor are plastic bags or tissues/napkins/paper towels. Glass is also a no-no for curbside service.

QUESTION: Will the City still have its City Hall drop-off center available if I don't want to use the curbside service?

ANSWER: Yes indeed. Everything that you can recycle curbside can still be separated and dropped off at the City Hall facility. In addition, you can recycle glass if you bring it to the drop-off center's Ripple Glass container. If you want to continue to support the De Soto Rotary Club's fund raising efforts, the Club's newspaper container will also be available at City Hall's drop-off center.

If you have any additional questions, please give Nancy a call at City Hall.

VOTERS EXTEND SPECIAL SALES TAX TO 2022

As reported in the last newsletter, the City's $\frac{3}{4}$ cent sales tax approved by the voters ten years ago expires in April, 2012. The tax produces between \$300,000 to \$350,000 per year; the revenue is dedicated strictly for capital improvement projects.

The City Council opted to place the question of extending the tax for another ten years on a mail-in ballot. The Johnson County Election office mailed out the ballots to the 2,972 registered De Soto voters on January 12 with a return deadline of February 1.

Voters decided to extend the $\frac{3}{4}$ cent sales tax for another ten years, until April, 2022. 1,172 voters cast a ballot; that represents 39% of the registered voters. 72%, or 841 voters, chose to extend the tax while 28%, or 330 voters, chose to cease the tax when it sunsets in 2012.



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

De Soto Parks and Recreation requests your guidance. We attempt to offer programs and facilities that are doable within limited budgetary capabilities, that are responsive to community interests, and that are feasible within our physical facilities. Some of our programs are more successful than others; and admittedly, there may be program interests that we're not hearing about and responding to.

Our desire is to be as responsive to community interests as much as possible. Toward that end, we want to reach out to you and ask for your feedback and give you a chance to sit

and share your ideas with us.

So here is what we would like to do. We want your input on existing facilities and programs as well as future facility and program needs. We plan to initiate a two-step process that involves you. The first step will be an online survey that will ask you to tell us about the good and bad of current offerings. Equally important will be a chance to identify new programs and facility upgrades that you feel the community will support.

For the second step, we will be reaching out to you to join our staff in an open public meeting to discuss

the results of the survey and to offer additional feedback. We will attempt to reach some consensus about existing and future programs and facilities.

Mark your calendar. The on-line survey will be available on the city's website www.desotoks.us. April 4th through April 22nd. Once the results are tallied, we will share them with you at an open public meeting, to be scheduled in May and posted on our website.

Put your thinking cap on and please give us your positive suggestions when the survey will be posted on April 4.

SOME NEW "TWEAKS"

FOR THE AQUATIC CENTER SEASON



▲ De Soto residents enjoying the Aquatic Center.

We heard, we listened, we are attempting to respond.

Our swim-lesson classes are popular enough that we have to turn people away. After 7pm, attendance drops off dramatically. We are offering added time for more swim lessons, creating an evening-time opportunity in addition to the traditional morning times.

You'll also find swim time devoted to senior citizens only. Seniors will be able to swim without competing for pool space.

And finally, rates for pool passes and daily admission will not change this year. Join in on the fun at the De Soto Aquatic Center behind City Hall at 32907 W. 84th Street.

Hours of Operation

Daily (Sunday – Saturday)
12:30pm – 7:00pm

Daily Admission Fee:

General Admission - \$5.00

Under 2 yrs of age – FREE
Senior Citizen (62+) - \$2.50

Aquatic Center Memberships Payment Options:

Purchase at De Soto City Hall –
Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm
Place in the Utility Drop Box in front
of City Hall – 32905 W. 84th Street
Mail to De Soto City Hall – P.O. Box C
CANNOT purchase at
the Aquatic Center

Aquatic Center Season Memberships

Single Child Resident: \$55
Single Child Non-Resident: \$80
Single Adult Resident: \$60
Single Adult Non Resident: \$85
Household Resident: \$105
Household Non-Resident: \$145
Senior (62+) Resident: \$20
Senior (62+) Non-Resident: \$35

Membership Definitions:

Household: 2 Adults and
4 Children (\$105 / \$145)
Additional Children
- \$15.00 per child

Adult: 18 yrs of age or older
Child: 17 yrs of age or younger
Resident: Pays for City of De Soto
utility services. Living within
the De Soto school district does
not qualify you as a resident.

Opening Day

Saturday, May 28, 2011
12:30pm – 6:00pm

Free Admission Dates:

Opening Weekend -
Saturday, May 28, 2011
Sunday, May 29, 2011
Monday, May 30, 2011
(Memorial Day)

Appreciation Day:

Sunday, August 14, 2011

Closing Day:

Sunday, September 4, 2011

Special Events:

Night Swim – Friday, June 10, 2011
9:00pm – 11:00pm,
\$1.00 Admission
4th of July Celebration –
Monday, July 4, 2011
12:30pm – 6:00pm,
Regular Admission
80's Night – Friday, July 29, 2011
9:00pm – 11:00pm,
\$1.00 Admission
Doggie Plunge – Monday,
September 5, 2011
12:30pm – 3:00pm,
\$3.00 per dog

Swim Lessons:

Fee: \$35.00
Sessions:
June 6-16, 2011
June 20-30, 2011
July 5-14, 2011
July 18-28, 2011

Projected Times:

9:00am - 9:40am
9:45am – 10:25am
10:30am – 11:10am
11:15am - 11:55am
7:00pm – 7:40pm

Water Aerobics:

Fee: \$24.00 – Per session
Sessions:
June 7-30, 2011
July 5-28, 2011
August 2-25, 2011
Morning Class: Tuesday & Thursday
11:00am – 12:00pm
Evening Class: Tuesday & Thursday
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Food & Drink Policy:

Outside food and drinks are NOT
allowed to be brought into the De Soto
Aquatic Center, with the exception
of a water bottle. Concession items
bought at the Aquatic Center can be
consumed throughout the facility, but
we ask that you keep your area
clean. We have trash receptacles
throughout the facility,
please utilize them.
Parents with infant children will be
allowed to bring small snack items and
beverages for the infant ONLY.

Pool Parties:

Private Parties: 7:00pm – 10:00pm
Rental Fee: 150.00 per hour
Individual Fee: \$1.00 per person
who enters the facility.

Open Hour Party: 12:30pm – 7:00pm
Rental Fee: \$25.00 per Hour
Individual Fee: General Admission

Lap Swimming:

June 6, 2011 – July 27, 2011
Monday & Wednesday
6:30am – 12:00 Noon
Individual Fee: General Admission
or Season Pool Pass

Senior Citizens Only

June 6, 2011 – July 27, 2011
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00am – 9am
Saturday, 11:00am – noon
Individual Fee: General
Admission or Season Pool Pass
Senior Only Swim Time
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8AM – 9AM
and Saturdays 11Am-12PM