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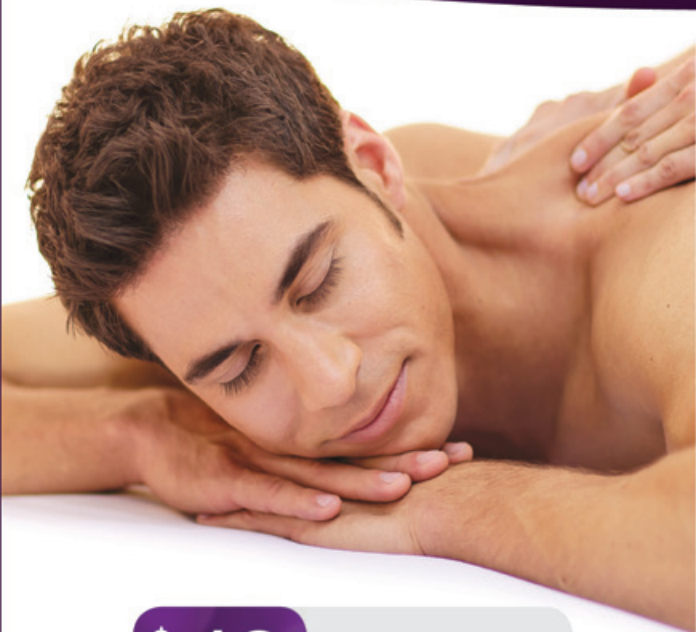
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## ON THE COVER



Delta Sigma Theta women carry on decades of tradition and excellence.

*Photo by Amy Ramirez*

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## Editor's Note

*Southwest Friends,*

I use this greeting each month, so I think I'll use this note to contemplate friendship. What comprises a friendship? Well, friends in a ship, maybe? The dictionary says a friend is someone you like or like being with — someone who helps or supports. Words such as affection, esteem, favor or favored come into play. This definition made me laugh: not hostile.

So which question carries more weight with you: having friends or being a friend? Two root words for friend are: to love and free. All of us experience different levels of love toward and from people — ranging from commonality to affection to appreciation or admiration to intimacy. But when you consider the word *free* in relation to being a friend or receiving friendship, it adds depth. With whom do you find freedom?

Wishing you a Happy New Year rich with friendships from all of us at NOW Magazines!

*Beverly*

Beverly Shay  
SouthwestNOW Editor  
beverly.shay@nowmagazines.com



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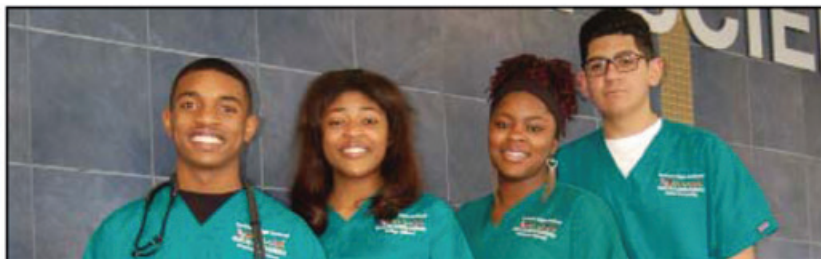
# EAGLE EXPRESS



## **CROSS THE LINE: Choose to be the BEST!**

### DeSoto ISD - Board Recognition Month

January 2014 is School Board Recognition Month—a great time to focus on the crucial role an elected board of trustees plays in our communities and schools. They are extraordinary people who voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing school districts. Their actions and decisions affect the present and future lives of our children. DeSoto ISD schools will be hosting our Board Trustees at functions throughout the month to say 'thank you' for their service to the students, staff and community of DeSoto ISD. Be sure to say 'thank you' to our trustees, during the month of January and all throughout the year.



### DeSoto High School Collegiate Magnet Program (CMP)

In 2013, DeSoto ISD launched the Collegiate Magnet Program to offer associates degrees to high school students through a collaborative collegiate partnership. Interested students and parents are encouraged to explore the DeSoto Collegiate Magnet Programs (CMP) Viewbook online and attend an informational meeting. The online-only application packet must include the completed application, three recommendations, academic records and an essay. Qualifying applicants will interview or audition in early April.

The CMP informational meetings will be at 6:30 p.m.:

- Tues., February 4 - East Middle School
- Th., February 6 - West Middle School
- Tues., February 11 - McCowan Middle School
- Th., February 13 - Freshman Campus

Online applications open Feb. 17-Mar. 21 at [www.desotoisd.org](http://www.desotoisd.org)  
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**All current DeSoto ISD eighth-grade students are invited to the second annual 8th Grade EXPO!**

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Eighth graders will join together in team building exercises, interact with campus staff and explore course, club and extra-curricular offerings at the Freshman Campus and DHS as they prepare for the next four years. Transportation, event t-shirt, snacks and lunch will be provided.



Congratulations to the DeSoto Eagles Football Team for another great year. While we had a tough loss to Allen in the state semi-finals, the DeSoto Eagles are the 7-5A District and Region 1 Champions. "They played with heart, dignity and class," said Dr. David Harris. "We are proud of their outstanding effort."

### *Calendar of Events*

Dec. 20 - Early Release; Last Day of Semester  
Dec. 23-Jan. 6 - Winter Break; School Resumes Jan. 7  
Mon., Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting, Board Room  
Th., Jan. 16, 7 p.m. - WINGS Graduation  
Mon., Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
Sat., Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Fine Arts Showcase, DHS  
Sat., Feb. 1, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. - 8th Grade EXPO, DHS  
Mon., Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m. - Joint ISD and City Meeting  
Mon., Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting, Board Room  
Mon., Feb. 17 - No school; Staff Development Day



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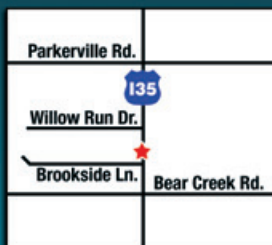


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Bertha Whatley, Sharon Royal-Hunt and Dr. Thalia Matherson proudly celebrate their sorority's anniversary.



# A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

By Beverly Shay

*A gathering occurred a hundred years ago with lots of dreams and goals and ideas for the betterment of those deemed underserved. United in purpose, the 22 African-American women who gathered were leaders of their time, academic scholars pushing through a male-driven cadre of elite and chosen academicians at Howard University. From that meeting, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was born. Their sisterhood has flourished and grown worldwide, with chapters nationally and internationally. Recently, some 40,000 representatives gathered in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the sorority. Dallas Alumnae representatives were also preparing for their chapter's 90th anniversary.*

"We are proud Frederica Chase Dodd, one of the 22 founders, was a Dallas native. In 1924, following her return home, she helped charter what has become the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta," began Sharon Royal-Hunt, currently the 45th president and 17-year member. The Dallas/Ft. Worth area boasts 15 chapters and some 2,500 members, all committed to the sorority's five-point thrust of educational and economic development, physical and mental health, political and international awareness and involvement.

Over 940 chapters of college-educated women undergo a rigorous intake process and commit to public service, especially to growth and development within the African-American community. Chapters can be either

**// We're all very  
proud and  
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collegiate or alumnae. A grade point average of 2.7 must be (or have been) maintained for those graduates who are accepted. Community service is an absolute must, as is recommendation by a member. Initiation fees and dues to both the local and national chapters are required. "The women are expected to learn the history of each of the 22 founders — their backgrounds and goals. They also commit to memory each of the national presidents and their initiatives and programs. Each local and regional chapter member learns the history of the local directors," Sharon stated. "It's a rather erudite discipline, but you can ask any Delta, and they can tell you everything about our history."

"We're all very proud and honored





to be Deltas,” added Dr. Thalia Matherson, whose doctorate is in education administration. “In high school, I considered becoming an interior decorator, but I got my teacher’s certification, majoring in English and French from Huston-Tillotson College [now Huston-Tillotson University] and, later, a Master of Liberal Arts from SMU. I loved teaching school and being a principal during my 34 years with the Dallas ISD.” Though diminutive in stature, Dr. Matherson apparently never thought twice about taking on male-dominated fields — women were gaining recognition. After all, Deltas had cut their teeth on women’s suffrage. Delta Sigma Theta was the only African-American women’s organization that marched in the 1913 parade on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Dr. Matherson taught junior high and high school, took the required year off while pregnant, returned to integrate an all-white middle school, became assistant principal, then principal and moved to the administrative offices, before retiring in 1998. She applied for an executive director position with the South Central Jurisdiction of the UMC, a position previously held only by white male clergy. She was hired and held that job for six-and-a-half years before moving into real estate and multiple volunteer positions. “Yes, I volunteer — even more so in retirement,” she noted. “But I’ve been a Delta since college. All the women I admired were Deltas, and the requisite academic emphasis sparked my desire to meet and maintain that mark.”

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Sharon graduated from Lufkin High School and, later, from Stephen F. Austin State University with a degree in elementary education and special education. "I wanted to be a math teacher," she admitted. She volunteered at the state school in Lufkin. When she moved to Dallas, she completed her master's in special education, with a diagnostician certification and principal's certification at Texas A&M University-Commerce. "My first job was helping kids with drug problems through the Catholic Charities. Teachers would go into the facilities where the teens lived to teach core academics. Later, I taught special education in a middle school in the Dallas ISD. I spent five to six years with emotionally disturbed children whose behavior was out of control — that really affects their ability to learn."

Sharon has spent the last six years of her 24 years of teaching as special services supervisor for the hospital/homebound program of the Dallas ISD for children in Dallas hospitals, Timberlawn, Hickory Trail and the juvenile division of Lew Sterrett Justice Center. Sharon especially enjoys working in the Delta programs for children. "Our program for both boys and girls ages 2-8 is called Gems and Jewels. The group is comprised of children or grandchildren of Deltas," Sharon explained. "We like introducing them to the idea of community service at a young age. They do things like provide socks and scarves for people in nursing homes, and they plant vegetable and flower gardens." The Delta Academy is made up of girls ages 9-14. "We are mentoring at this age with the goal of teaching them to help each other."

Delta G.E.M.S. (Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully) are young women, ages 15-18. They are involved with service projects, salons, social action and serving as deputy voter registrars. "We work closely with the League of Women Voters, and we want our young women to carry on the vision and heritage of women's suffrage," Sharon remarked.

Bertha, who was born and spent most of her childhood in Georgia where her father was a sharecropper, graduated from high school in Canton,



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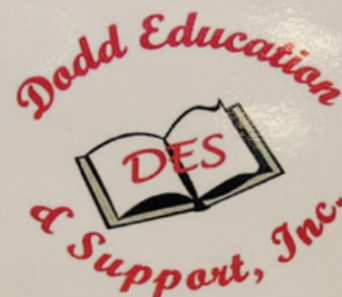
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Ohio, attended the College of Wooster and Kalamazoo College. She then attended law school at the University of Minnesota, working in Minnesota for 11 years. "I moved to Ft. Worth with my company in 1984, then worked for DART and joined a law firm representing Dallas ISD," Bertha stated. Having joined the Dallas Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta in 1997, she is an avid supporter of all things Delta. Bertha served as chief legal counsel for Ft. Worth ISD, and as of January 2013, she became chief legal counsel for Irving ISD.



### Our Mission

To help strengthen and expand the charitable and educational programs of Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and to acquire and manage property(ies) for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the chapter's programs and projects.

We are all so proud that the Dallas Alumnae chapter, celebrating 90 years, is still thriving and growing and impacting," Bertha stated. Starting with only five members, they currently have 350. "Every year we vote on whether we will host a membership intake. When we decide to do that, we contact those who have shown interest and invite them to an interest meeting where we hand out qualification packets. Most of our membership intakes happen on the university campuses."

Deltas make a lifetime commitment. They attend monthly meetings to plan and participate in projects, some of which are pure fun and all are service-oriented. Every Delta enjoys the regional conferences and national conventions. They are educated women making a difference. **NOW**



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# Ride of Respect

— By Sydni Thomas



Jerry and Janice Hall and Dorothy and Tommy Brock ride with the Patriot Guard Riders out of respect for soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.





*Army veterans Tommy Brock and Jerry Hall will never forget returning to America from the Vietnam War and the negative public opinion returning soldiers faced at that time. With increased threats of protests at the funeral services of fallen soldiers following September 11, 2001, they both promised they would not let that happen again. Both joined Patriot Guard Riders, a nonprofit organization which ensures dignity and respect at memorial services honoring fallen military heroes, first responders and honorably discharged veterans. "Coming home from Vietnam was difficult on soldiers," Jerry said.*

Jerry joined PGR shortly after the organization formed. He and his wife, Janice, began traveling to funerals whenever their work schedules allowed. Many of the funerals were local, but the Halls would travel as far as Austin sometimes to escort a fallen soldier. "At first I had a smaller motorcycle, but it wasn't keeping up with all of

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our traveling," Jerry said. "I ended up buying a trike to keep up with the other riders. Janice rides with me to most of the funerals."

Tommy had just retired when he learned about PGR in 2011. He was at a bike shop talking to a guy about finding something to do with all of his newfound time. The guy happened to be a member of PGR and invited him to come along.



His 14-year-old granddaughter rides with him whenever she can. "Joining the PGR just felt like the right thing to do," Tommy said. "We are there to pay our respects, and I wish I could go to all of them. In the beginning, I was told to set a radius and stick with it. If not, I'd be at funerals all day."

Riders must be invited by the family of the deceased in order to attend. What began as a way to protect the grieving





from protestors now serves more as a gesture of support and respect. Some funerals have as many as 200 riders show up to escort. "We are not there to remind people of what it means to make a sacrifice to this country," Jerry said. "We are there to show the families of our brother or sister in arms that they have our support."

When a soldier is killed in action, PGR is with the family from the time the plane lands until he or she is laid to rest in the cemetery. After the soldier is escorted off the tarmac, PGR then travels to the funeral home, returns for the visitation,



escorts the soldier to the funeral and finally to the cemetery. "I remember the first time we went to the airport to bring a soldier home," Janice said. "If you have never been a part of that, I recommend it. Showing the family we

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respect the soldier's sacrifice is one of the many things we can all do. It is the most emotional thing, and one that will change your life."

What began with the American Legion Riders chapter 136 from Kansas stepping in to stop a funeral protest in 2005 has turned into something larger than anyone could imagine. From the placards on their bikes and cars to the large flags adorning their bikes, PGR members are recognized by the community even when they're not attending funerals, but it took a while for this to be the case. "Often when I'm filling up my bike at the gas station, I will have someone come up to me and thank me for what I'm doing," Tommy said. "It still surprises me when someone recognizes I am with the PGR."

Thousands of riders, young and old, now ride and spread the word about their efforts. Not all riders are veterans, but all are brought together by their love of country. With hundreds of services happening each day across the country, PGR needs more and more volunteers. "We're looking for more people to join us all the time," Jerry admitted. "Even if you can't ride a bike, there is a place for you."

The members of PGR are there for families during their worst days, and they are also there when one of their own is facing a battle. In April 2013, Jerry suffered a heart attack. Within a short period of time, members of PGR rallied around the Halls, offering their support. "PGR has become family," Janice said. "We see many of the same people at the funerals we go to, and they turned around and were there when we needed help."

The day-to-day work of PGR



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volunteers takes a serious and respectful tone. Riders do not “hoop and holler” down the highways. They are reverent and silent. Their attitude says it all for 51 weeks out of the year. However, one week a year, PGR members drop everything to help the children of fallen soldiers at the Snowball Express. The mission of Snowball Express is to bring together for one week children from all over the world who have lost parents in the military. American Airlines flies the children in on special planes. They stay in a hotel and have a week filled with fun events. One of the things the children remember each year is PGR with their vests and bikes. Many remember them from a parent's funeral, and this is a way for them to reconnect.

“We live for this week each year,” Janice said. “What we do on a day-to-day basis for PGR can be heartbreaking, but seeing these kids light up each December makes those hard times worth it. One year, Jerry Jones let the Snowball Express use Cowboy stadium. Activities were planned for all of the children, and PGR was allowed to ride onto the track around the field as a surprise for the kids. They all loved it!”

The impact PGR has made on the families of fallen soldiers is great. Children of fallen soldiers remember the day members of PGR were there with their big bikes and flags. Both Jerry and Tommy know there will always be a need for them at PGR, and they plan to ride until they no longer can. “I can't imagine not having joined the PGR now,” Tommy said. “I would do this all day every day if I could.” **NOW**



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# Living Large

— By Sara Edgell

AT HOME WITH Larry & Comisha Stephens



*Larry and Comisha Stephens have a simplistic philosophy for life: go big or go home. From their home to their family to Larry's stature, big is just how they do things. Larry has a heart of gold, and his size is definitely outdone by his even bigger generous and caring nature. "He is definitely a gentle giant with a big heart," Comisha lovingly said.*

But Larry isn't the only one. Together, the Stephenses run their home with a sort of open-door policy — there is always someone visiting. From cousins to their adult children, their parents to their grandchild, family is always welcome in their home. Larry says they live by the motto: "You never know when God is going to bring you home, so you might as well be having fun while you're here."

The couple met back in 1995, while they were out having fun with friends and were drawn to each other. They struck up a conversation, and the rest is history. Well, not really. The two went their separate ways but remained in touch, dating over the years. In 2007, on November 12 to be exact, they finally gave in and decided to tie the knot. They finally realized they were soul mates. In a simple ceremony at the courthouse in Dallas, the couple exchanged vows. "It was the best day of my life," Larry proclaimed. Flash forward nearly six





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years. They are as happy and content with life as anyone could ever hope to be, and the theme of big love has spilled over into other areas of their lives in many ways.

Together, the couple owns and operates their own business, Stephen's Fence and Concrete. Larry and Comisha share four children and one grandbaby between the two of them. Three of the said children are grown and out on their own, although they frequent their parents' home on a regular basis. Living

in the home with Comisha and Larry is their daughter, Trinity, age 10, and their two Yorkies, Gucci and Chanel. They have talked about adopting in the future. Adorning the wall in the master bedroom hangs a decorative sign which reads, *All because we fell in love*. The saying perfectly captures the feel of the family and the home, but it also represents the couple's belief about life.

When they purchased



their home in 2010, they knew it was a place where they could plant their roots. Having lived previously in DeSoto and Cedar Hill, the couple was looking for a home to accommodate their big family, lifestyle and furniture.

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about the home? The Stephensens agree the house is just comfy and cozy, fitting them and their family needs perfectly. Comisha's favorite spot in the house is her giant walk-in closet, which houses her impressive designer shoe and handbag collection. "Out of all of these shoes, I have only worn maybe five percent of them," she admitted.

Larry's favorite place is in the spacious master bedroom — in his oversized recliner positioned perfectly adjacent to the massive flat-screen TV. "This is my spot," he added.

In terms of design, the home features a spacious floor plan with six bedrooms, including the master suite. Trinity takes one room, while the in-home gym and the movie theater occupy two others. Comisha has taken special care to decorate the remaining two spare bedrooms to provide for their frequent guests. "My mother stays often," Comisha shared, "so it's nice to be able to have a place for her where she can be comfortable." And that is exactly the feel the home gives — one of great comfort. Beyond the large, cozy beds and couches is a relaxed and cool atmosphere. Perhaps this comes from the feel of the design. Much of the decor has been found in trendy and upscale stores and boutiques.

Decorating is just the beginning of Comisha's focal points within her family's home. The gorgeous oversized vase and the ornate formal sofas in the front room demonstrate her attention to detail and love of elegance. The oversized

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master bed and the plush sofas in both living areas further express their love of comfort, but also Larry and Comisha's appreciation of doing things big. The giant fork and spoon adorning the kitchen walls are a prime example of the family's larger-than-life appreciation of togetherness — and food! The kitchen is truly the heart of the home. When holidays roll around each year, it is Larry and Comisha who host the family gatherings in their home for meals and celebrations of all sorts. And that's where the primary focus comes into play — family time.

Last month, Christmas brought the entire family together for a celebration of the Lord and family. Larry decorates in the "go big or go home" style because it's one of his favorite holidays. "I go crazy for Christmas," he exclaimed. "People come from all over the place just to drive by our house."

However, Christmas is not the only big holiday the family celebrates together. For Easter, the Stephens attend church services and then host a traditional potluck. Thanksgiving brings the entire family together to celebrate in their roomy home. They enjoy a large meal with all of the fixings and trimmings, but more so, they enjoy the togetherness.

In addition to holiday celebrations, they celebrate family on a weekly basis. Larry and Comisha host Sunday dinner after church, so the family can be together to eat, visit and talk about the past week and the week to come. Comisha especially enjoys this time together. "Everyone brings a dish," she smiled. "It's like Thanksgiving every Sunday." And given the number of people in this sizable family, birthday parties are just another reason to get the cousins, siblings and grandparents together to celebrate with each other. "Our favorite memories are of the family all together under one roof," Comisha remarked.

And given Larry and Comisha's outlook on life, that's what it's all about. The big furniture and the large home are nice things to have in life, but what really matters is great, big love for family. So if you ask them about their home, they will both tell you the same thing. "Our house is comfy. We have a lot of fun here, and we do it together." **NOW**



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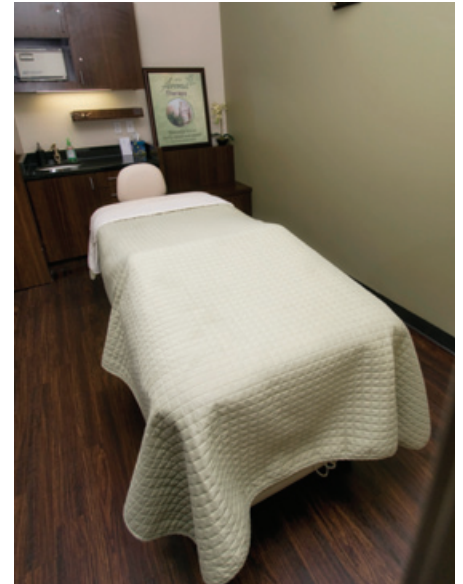


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— By Beverly Shay

Massage Envy Spa owners Christina and Derek Michels and staff are eager to introduce you to a spa experience that will ease your weariness, stimulate your well-being and set you up for a lifetime of wellness. The spa, new to Cedar Hill as of August 2013, is one of 33 Massage Envy Clinics and Spas in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. While each location offers similar services, every spa is unique. Christina and Derek are from Ontario, so they bring the Canadian flavor of massage therapy into their business. “In Canada, massage therapy is parallel to physical therapy,” Christina stated. “I was always interested in massage therapy and the whole concept of wellness as a lifestyle.

Following high school, I completed nursing school and then spent two years accruing the 2,500 hours required for massage therapy certification.”

Derek’s degree is in human kinetics. His job brought him to Arkansas for six years and then to DFW four years ago. “We were looking for a business we could own and work together,” Derek remarked. “Massage Envy seemed like a really good fit for us. We researched the demographics and felt Cedar Hill would be the perfect place. We have fallen in love with Uptown Village and our co-tenants.”

“One thing we really like about this company is their



partnership with charities. The corporation partners with the Arthritis Foundation. We plan to partner with local charities as well, by giving massages and donating the proceeds," Christina stated. "It's a good way to help the public become aware of the benefits of massage."

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"We work well together," Christina said with a smile. Because of her massage therapy instructor and continuing education licenses, Christina is able to provide mentoring and continuing education for her staff. "I want them to be the best massage therapists they can be both here and wherever their career takes them. Our goal is to better the people around us. We believe massage therapy should become a lifestyle, along with a regular exercise plan. It's much more than affordable, enjoyable relaxation." **NOW**

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*Dr. David Harris, left, and his wife, Lesa, right, crown Queen Debbi Heads and King Juan Ellis at the DeSoto ISD Seniors Prom.*



*Cedar Hill ISD Foundation Executive Director Denise Root watches a class while the Dallas Symphony master teaches.*



*Bob Edgar, who has volunteered 3,600 hours at Methodist Charlton, shows off the hat he received when he took his Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.*



*Josh Glenn of Simply Mac in Uptown Village at Cedar Hill hands off a rebuilt MacBook Pro to a very happy customer, Melissa Rawlins.*



*The Cedar Mountains Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas donated their most recent book to the Duncanville library.*



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## Keeping Your Financial Resolutions

Each January, many of us start the New Year off with New Year's resolutions such as losing weight, eating healthier, exercising or saving money for retirement. While I can't offer advice on the first three resolutions, I can suggest an easy way to save money. Consider an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

An Individual Retirement Account allows you to put money away for your retirement either tax free or tax deferred. There are two types of IRAs: an Individual IRA or a Roth IRA. For both the Roth IRA and Individual IRA, you can contribute up to \$5,500 if you are under age 50 and \$6,500 if you are age 50 or older. However, the Roth IRA is subject to income limits.

How does a Traditional IRA work? If you contribute to a Traditional IRA your contributions are tax deductible. That is, if you contribute \$1,000 and you are in the 25 percent tax bracket, you can reduce your taxes by \$250. You can invest your money in many types of investments: stocks, bonds, mutual funds and annuities. As your investments grow, taxes on the growth will be deferred until you withdraw

them. You can withdraw your money any time, but if you do so before age 59 1/2, you will have to pay taxes and a 10-percent penalty. When you become 70 1/2, you must begin withdrawals from your Traditional IRA.

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Setting up an IRA and funding it is easy to do. And it will be one less resolution you have to worry about keeping. **NOW**

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### January 1 — February 1

Early registration for Daddy/Daughter Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball **Feb. 8:** 6:30-9:00 p.m., CH Rec. Ctr., 310 E. Parkerville Rd. For dads/daughters of all ages: \$30/couple (includes entrance into a drawing to win the Mardi Gras grand prize). **After Feb. 1:** \$40 per couple; \$10/additional daughter. Wear a mask and dance the night away. Mardi Gras fun includes dinner/drinks and a photo op. Tickets: CH Rec. Ctr. or cedarhilltx.com. (972) 293-5288.

### January 2 — 31

Celebrate Amnesty Month: Return all CH library materials during January with one nonperishable food item to waive library fines.

### January 7

Dallas Area Writers Group (DAWG) critique evening: 7:00-8:30 p.m., CH library. Bring five copies of your selection for yourself and the panel. Each reader is given a few minutes to read and receive a constructive critique from a panel of writers.

### January 9

Cedar Hill Genealogical Society: 6:30-8:00 p.m., CH library.

### January 13

Martin Luther King Celebration: 6:30 p.m., CH library. Celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through storytelling, dance and musical performances.

### January 13 — 15

Freedom on Hooves: 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., John Justin Arena in Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3400 Burnett Tandy Dr., Fort Worth. For event details and schedules, visit [www.chisholmchallenge.com](http://www.chisholmchallenge.com).

### January 25

DeSoto ISD Fine Arts Day: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., DeSoto High School, 300 Eagle Drive. Free, public event includes various DeSoto ISD school choirs, bands, jazz bands, dance troupes, percussion ensembles and theater students.

DeSoto Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala "Sunset Safari": 6:00-10:00 p.m., Clarion Hotel. Tickets: (972) 224-3565.

### January 27

Southwest Dallas County Parkinson's Group: 6:00-8:30 p.m., Trinity UMC, 1302 S. Clark Rd., for family, caregivers and those with PD. (972) 298-4556.

### January 30

Southwest Lupus Support Group: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Trinity UMC, 1302 S. Clark Rd. (972) 291-8786.

### Ongoing:

#### Tuesdays

Homeschool DVD series: *Explorers of the World*: 2:00 p.m., DV library.

Family Board Game Night: 8:00 p.m., DV library.

#### Wednesdays

Awana's Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (ages 3-12th grade): 6:30-8:00 p.m., Colonial Hills Baptist Church, 820 E. Wintergreen. (972) 291-0066.

#### Third Saturdays

Cedar Hill Star Party: sunset-11:00 p.m., J.W. Williams Park, 1605 High Pointe Ln. BYOT (bring your own telescope) or use ours. (214) 800-6000. No cost.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [berverly.shay@nowmagazines.com](mailto:berverly.shay@nowmagazines.com).*

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## In The Kitchen With Donna Bobb-Semple

— *By Beverly Shay*

“Growing up, my mother was a career educator and didn’t care for cooking. So she made sure I learned from my aunt, my dad and both grandmothers,” Donna Bobb-Semple admitted. With encouragement from family members who liked what she fixed, she was inspired to continue. “My favorite seasonings are garlic powder, Tony Chachere’s Creole Seasoning and, lately, Slap Ya Mama seasoning.”

Donna admits growing up in New Orleans definitely influenced her cooking. “Popular dishes such as creole red beans and rice with smoked sausage, gumbo and jambalaya, appeared regularly at our dinner table,” Donna remarked.

Donna is the house mom at Hope Mansion. As part of her responsibilities there, she has been teaching the residents to cook, much as she taught her own five children. **NOW**

### Meatloaf

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground meat
- 1 Tbsp. each onion and garlic powder
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. Slap Ya Mama seasoning, or to taste
- 4 eggs
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 cup whole oats
- 3/4 cup barbecue sauce (any dark variety)
- 1/4 cup Italian bread crumbs

1. Preheat oven to 350 F
2. In a large bowl, mix meat, seasonings and eggs. Add vegetables, oats and barbecue sauce. Form into a loaf; place in large pot/pan. Sprinkle with bread crumbs.
3. Bake, uncovered, for 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

### Jalapeño Cornbread

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground meat
- 1 large onion, chopped
- Salt, to taste
- 1 Tbsp. thyme
- 1 box Jiffy cornbread mix
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. each salt and baking soda
- 1/2 cup oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 can creamed corn
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 16 slices jalapeño peppers
- 1 lb. sharp cheddar cheese, grated

1. Preheat oven to 475 F
2. Brown ground meat; add onions, salt and thyme; cook until onions are translucent. Drain off grease; set mixture aside.
3. In a large bowl, mix remaining ingredients,

except jalapeños and cheese, until well-blended.

4. Spread just enough cornbread mixture to cover bottom of greased 9x13-inch pan. Cover with ground meat mixture; top with jalapeños and cheese. Cover with remaining cornbread mixture.

5. Bake for 25 minutes. Serve with green salad.

### Shrimp Creole

- 4 green onions, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic (or 1 rounded Tbsp. jarred garlic)
- 1 small bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped
- 1/3 cup fresh parsley (or 1/8 cup dried)
- 1 15-oz. can tomato sauce with onions
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 2 lbs. shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 1/2 tsp. Tony Chachere’s Creole Seasoning
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2 cups water

1. In a large skillet, cook vegetables in small amount of oil for about 10 minutes. Add tomato sauce and paste; mix well. Cook on low for about 10 minutes.

2. Add shrimp, Tony Chachere’s Creole Seasoning, sugar and butter. Stir well. Add water; simmer for 20 minutes. Serve over rice.

### Cream Cheese Pound Cake

- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 1 stick margarine, softened
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla (optional)
- 6 eggs
- 3 cups flour, sifted

1. Cream together butter, margarine, cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time. Add flour; mix well.

2. Pour into greased and floured tube pan. Bake at 325 F for 1 hour. Cool for 10 minutes. Invert on rack; remove pan; cool completely.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



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