



Councilmember Dotty DeLassus  
1951-2005

## HEAVY HEARTS MOURN LOSS OF COUNCILMEMBER DOTTY DELASSUS

Dorothy "Dotty" DeLassus passed away on Wednesday, January 19 of complications from cancer. She was 54.

Always active in her community, Dotty was elected to the Webster Groves City Council in 1996 and was serving her third term at the time of her death. While on the Council, she served as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Green Space Advisory Commission, the Tax Increment Finance Commission, the Citizens Advisory Commission for Community Development, the Plan Commission, the Financial Advisory Board, and the Historic Preservation Commission. In addition, she was active in Community Days serving for many years as a judge for the Miss Webster pageant.

Dotty also served on the national, state, and county levels with her appointment to the National League of Cities - Small Cities Steering Committee and her appointment to numerous committees on the Missouri Municipal League and St. Louis County Municipal League.

Accessibility and communication with the citizens of Webster Groves was always a priority for Dotty. She came to the table fully versed on the matters at hand and helped to guide the Council

through many important issues. Dotty dedicated many years to her community from her service to the City of Webster Groves and her involvement with the Webster Groves School District. She was always there to give her time, to listen, and to serve. She was an exemplary Councilmember and an outstanding citizen.

Visitation for Dotty was held on January 27 at Gerber Chapel. A funeral service will be held Friday, January 28, at 10:00 a.m. at First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, 10 West Lockwood. Burial will follow in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

### MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Dotty DeLassus Service Award, Webster Groves School District, care of Diane Vaughn, 400 East Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119. This award will be presented to a graduating senior at Webster Groves High School in honor of community service.

## FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES REMEMBER DOTTY...

"I served with Dotty on the City Council for four years. I was always amazed at the tireless dedication she gave to public service. She put in countless hours at home on nights and weekends and treated her Council duties like a full-time job. She was always serving in the best interest of the community, not herself. She was truly one of the most sincere and honest people I have ever met."

**Steve Beck**  
Former City Councilmember

"Dotty never returned to her house on Clark Avenue without stopping to talk to her neighbors. Sometimes her drive from the bottom of the block to the DeLassus house at the top of the hill would take 45 minutes because Dotty wouldn't pass up the chance to say 'hello' to each person she saw. Conversations ranged from neighborhood news to the latest happenings in Webster. Dotty always knew something about them all. Those of us who live on Clark will miss those friendly chats more than we can say."

**Lea Ann Coates**  
Clark Avenue Neighbor

"Dotty was a wonderful mother and a wonderful person who cared about the young people of the community. When her sons attended the high school, she was very involved in the school organizations. She would often call me when she heard about students who might need help, especially with regard to alcohol and drug abuse.

"Dotty became active in our Safe and Drug Free Advisory Council and later was a cofounder of UNITE 2000 - an award-winning community action group that worked for the prevention of violence and drug abuse.

"We will miss her advice and counsel, her caring capacity, and her friendship."

**John Raimondo**  
Assistant Principal, Webster Groves High School and Former UNITE 2000 Director

"Dotty was always proactive in her approach to community issues. She looked at challenges not as problems but as opportunities to make life in Webster Groves better for everyone.

"One of the first projects I worked with her on was the installation of a new playground at the upper end of Deer Creek Park. The original unit had been vandalized

beyond repair. At that time she was involved in the Northeast Webster Community Improvement Association more than 15 years ago. She not only helped to raise funds for the project but also coordinated the manpower to help City forces install the unit. She always saw parks and recreation as an important part of the fabric of the community."

**Mike Oppermann**  
Webster Groves Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Development

"I counted them up today, and in the last 20 years as a local government manager or assistant, I've worked closely with 45 county commissioners or city councilmembers. I can't think of any who were any more well-informed, well-prepared and well-intended about this business than Dotty.

"Two other things that made her special were she recognized the nuances of what makes efforts successful, and she never gave up on trying to solve problems that seemed all but hopeless. Government here will go on, but I fear the virtues and commitment of Dotty will be extraordinarily difficult to replace."

**Steve Wylie**  
Webster Groves City Manager

## PARK NEWS

### RECREATION COMPLEX FEASIBILITY STUDY

The City of Webster Groves has contracted with Jacobs Facilities, Inc. to complete a feasibility study for constructing additions to the Recreation Complex. Potential projects include a fitness area and larger meeting and event space. Focus groups will be conducted in early February with input from senior citizens, commercial entities, non-profit entities, schools, user groups, Park Board, and City Council. In the near future, the public will be invited to attend forums to provide their vision and input. The study will be complete by April 2005.

### DADDY/DAUGHTER VALENTINE'S DANCE

Daddies and daughters are invited to enjoy an evening with your special Valentine! Event includes dancing, refreshments, a craft, and a photo. Register early because this event will fill up quickly! Pre-registration is required. Note: Only family members may register together.

#### Daddy/Daughter Valentine's Dance

Friday, February 11  
6:30-8 p.m. (Check-in begins at 6 p.m.)  
Ages 3 and older  
Fee: Daddy + 1 Daughter = \$16  
Additional \$4 per daughter

## CITY SERVICE AWARDS



Front row L to R: Alan Rudolph and Robert Nash, Police Department. Second Row L to R: James Helle, Police Department, and Pernell Garner, Fire Department. Not shown in photo: Andrew Pitt and Don Daniel

Recently, nine employees were recognized for significant years of service to the City of Webster Groves.

### 2004 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

**20 YEARS** • Robert Ruhland - Police Department • Russell Nunnally - Police Department • Dave Garth - Parks and Recreation Department

**25 YEARS** • Alan Rudolph - Police Department • Robert Nash - Police Department • Andrew Pitt - Fire Department • James Helle - Police Department • Don Daniel - Police Department • Pernell Garner - Fire Department

## SHADY CREEK GREENWAY OPEN HOUSE

Residents and business owners of Webster Groves, Brentwood and Maplewood are invited to an Open House for the Shady Creek Greenway.

Come learn about the Great River Greenway's (GRG) plan to work with local municipalities for a proposed walk and bike trail that will travel through Webster Groves along Shady and Deer creeks from Larson Park to the Sunnen Metrolink Station. This path is part of a projected 600-mile "River Ring" of interconnected trails planned for St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Charles County.

### Shady Creek Greenway Open House

Thursday, February 17, 2005 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Webster Groves City Hall • 4 East Lockwood Avenue

For more information, contact: MaryAnn Taylor Crate at 314-241-2808 or visit [www.greatrivers.info](http://www.greatrivers.info)

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The Webster Groves City Council is currently seeking applications for those interested in serving on the following Boards/Commissions:

- City Plan Commission (*Real Estate or Law background helpful*)
- Crossroads Special Business District (*Applicants must own property or operate a municipally licensed business within the district.*)
- Economic Development Commission
- Green Space Advisory Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Tax Increment Financing Commission
- Traffic Advisory Commission

Applications are available on the bulletin board at City Hall, or on the City's website at [www.webstergroves.org](http://www.webstergroves.org). Please direct questions to the City Clerk at 963-5318.

**Application deadline: February 11, 2005.**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



### Meetings & Activities

For meeting times and locations, which are frequently subject to change, please call 963-5319 or visit [www.webstergroves.org](http://www.webstergroves.org)

- 2/1 City Council Meeting
- 2/2 Crossroads Special Business District
- 2/2 Architectural Review Board
- 2/3 Parks and Recreation Commission
- 2/7 City Plan Commission
- 2/7 Financial Advisory Board
- 2/7 Green Space Advisory Commission
- 2/8 Old Orchard Business District
- 2/10 Traffic Advisory Commission
- 2/15 City Council Meeting
- 2/16 Architectural Review Board
- 2/16 Historic Preservation Commission
- 2/16 Municipal Court
- 2/16 Webster Groves Library Board
- 2/18 Economic Development Commission
- 2/22 Old Webster Business District
- 2/23 Municipal Court
- 2/24 Parks and Recreation Commission
- 2/28 Board of Adjustment