

# DeSoto City Lights

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

## Council Corner, A Message from Virgil Helm, Councilmember Place 2



Let me begin by saying thank you to the citizens of DeSoto for allowing me to serve another term on the DeSoto City Council. My previous term ended in 2008.

I know that many of you are wondering why I wanted to serve another term. As a matter of fact, an acquaintance remarked, "you must have lost your mind". Sometimes I think that person was onto something.

Actually, there are several reasons why I want to serve again. First, my family has lived in DeSoto since 1977 and it's my home. DeSoto has given much to my family and I feel obligated to give something back. A gift of my time is the best gift that I can offer.

Secondly, I like DeSoto's location in the Metroplex. I enjoy the distinct weather seasons that are characteristic of the North Texas area. Since our town is located on the southern side of the Metroplex, I find that it's much less congested here, and that makes it easier to travel from one location to the other.

Third, I enjoy working with the current councilmembers, and the staff that the City employs. Our staff and councilmembers are dedicated to hard work, and they have adapted to needed changes. Since this group readily accepts change, we are able to install much needed new technology for the City. We're working on the next budget cycle and new technology has allowed us keep our tax rate low.

Finally, I wanted to serve again because we have good people living in DeSoto. DeSoto's population is about 50,000 residents, but the town still maintains much small town charm. Our population is much different from the population of 1977 DeSoto, but good people continue to move to DeSoto.

We have much to be proud of but problems do exist in DeSoto just as they do in neighboring cities. I look forward to the next three years, but I need you to work with me and to support me and the rest of the council. With your help, we can solve our problems and keep DeSoto a proud city in North Texas.

**Virgil Helm**  
**City Council Place Two**



### DeSoto Heliport Grand Opening

SKY Helicopters, in partnership with the City of DeSoto, DeSoto Economic Development Corporation and the Texas Department of Transportation, Aviation Division, is pleased to announce the grand opening of the DeSoto Heliport. Please join us on August 27th between 5 and 9 pm at 150 E. Danieldale Road to tour this beautiful, new vertical flight facility. Please R.S.V.P., if attending, to [connie@skyhelicopters.com](mailto:connie@skyhelicopters.com).

## City Calendar

### August

4 City Council FY2015 Budget Workshop - City Hall - 6 pm  
 4 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm  
 4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 4 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm  
 5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 5 pm  
 7 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 7 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm  
 12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm

### September

1 Labor Day Holiday - City facilities closed  
 2 City Council Mtg. - canceled  
 4 Special City Council Mtg. - City Hall 6pm  
 4 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6pm  
 4 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 8 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm  
 8 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 8 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. 6 pm  
 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 13 Town Hall Meeting Bond Referendum  
 14 Fiesta Latina DeSoto-Amphitheater-3pm  
 15 City Manager's Golf Classic - Thorntree  
 16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 20 DDD Dinner Event RSVP to 972-230-9648  
 23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - 7pm  
 29 DEDC Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 30 FY2014 ends

## 2014 Bond Election Overview Four Propositions for DeSoto's Future

This November 4th, DeSoto residents will have the opportunity to vote on four propositions for improvements within the City. These four propositions encompass (I) Street Improvements, (II) New Fire Station #2, (III) Park Land Improvements and (IV) Land Acquisition for Future Economic Development.

### Proposition I:

#### Street Improvements, \$6.3 million

Proposition I will allocate \$6.3 million to improve Parkerville Road, between Hampton Road and Polk Street. This proposed project will widen Parkerville Road to a four-lane divided, concrete roadway with underground drainage, sidewalks, lighting and landscaping. This project will be similar to the widening of Parkerville Road, from I-35 to Polk Street, which was completed in 2008.



### Proposition II:

#### Construction and Improvement of Firefighting Facilities, \$5.25 Million

If approved by voters, Proposition II will allow for the construction and improvement of firefighting facilities, including the construction of a new Fire Station #2 on Parks Drive. The new Fire Station will better accommodate both male and female firefighters. Plans for the new Fire Station will include pull-through bays for large emergency equipment, administrative offices, and training and fitness areas for the firefighters.



<p>FOURTH ANNUAL CITY OF DESOTO PARKS &amp; RECREATION DEPARTMENT</p> <p><b>CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE</b></p>	<p>September 15, 2014 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thorntree Country Club 825 W. Wintergreen Rd. DeSoto, TX. 75115</p> <p>Register online: <a href="http://www.desototexas.gov/golf">www.desototexas.gov/golf</a> Contact information: Email <a href="mailto:youthsports@desototexas.gov">youthsports@desototexas.gov</a></p>
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Benefiting DeSoto Parks & Recreation  
Youth Programming

2014

**Bond Referendum Information (cont.)**

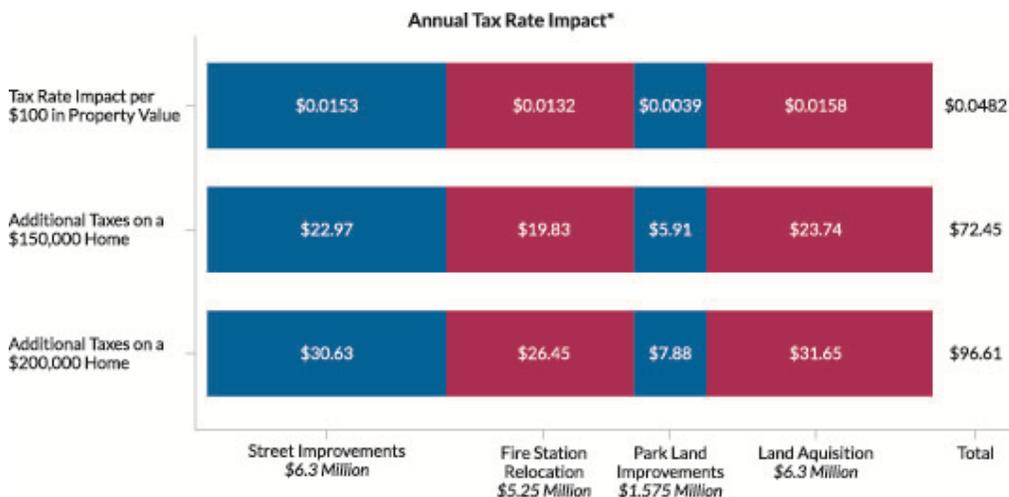
**Proposition III:  
Park Land Improvements within the City, \$1.575 Million**

Proposition III will provide park improvements and several Roy Orr Trail extensions, which are intended to close existing gaps and create a comprehensive trail system in the City of DeSoto as follows

- Mantlebrook Park Trail will be adding a half-mile looped trail at Mantlebrook and Beverly, and will be connected to the Roy Orr Trail System.
- Roy Orr Trail will be extended from Mirkes Parkway to an area near the intersection of Wintergreen Road and Westmoreland Road.
- Roy Orr Trail will be extended from Murphy Hills Park to Alpine Drive.
- DeSoto Ranch Nature Trail Phase I will provide for the construction of a nature trail with pond features.
- Meadowcreek Park improvements will include the addition of athletic fields with lighting, irrigation, and drainage.
- The Briarwood Park renovation will include updates and improvements such as trail, lighting, and other park amenities.

**Proposition IV:  
Land Acquisition for Future Economic Development, \$6.3 Million**

Proposition IV will set up an account for the purchase of land for economic development purposes, for an area described in the Hampton Road Redevelopment Plan - an area generally located along Hampton Road, and generally bound by an area just south of Belt Line Road and just north of Pleasant Run Road.



**Propositions for  
November 4, 2014  
Bond Referendum**

On November 4, 2014, registered voters will be asked to consider the following Propositions that will appear on the ballot:

**PROPOSITION NUMBER 1**  
“THE ISSUANCE OF \$6,300,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND THE LEVY OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF”

**PROPOSITION NUMBER 2**  
“THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,250,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR FIRE-FIGHTING FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS AND THE LEVY OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF”

**PROPOSITION NUMBER 3**  
“THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,575,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR PARK AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS AND THE LEVY OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF”

**PROPOSITION NUMBER 4**  
“THE ISSUANCE OF \$6,300,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE AREA DESCRIBED IN THE HAMPTON ROAD CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AND THE LEVY OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF”

Early voting will take place in the DeSoto Public Library Assembly Hall located in DeSoto Town Center beginning on October 20, 2014 through election day on November 4, 2014. You must be registered to vote prior to September 20, 2014. To check your status or to register to vote in the upcoming election, please go to [www.dallascountyvotes.org](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org).

**Town Hall Meeting on Bond Referendum**

**Saturday, September 13, 2014 10 am, City Council Chambers , 211 E. Pleasant Run**

A special Town Hall Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 10 am in the City Council Chambers at the Jim Baugh Government Center to provide more information on the proposed projects in the referendum and to answer voter’s questions. This meeting will also be available for viewing live and rebroadcast on the city’s website, Time Warner cable channel 16 and AT&T Uverse channel 99.



artsdesoto.com

DeSoto Arts Commission & Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.,  
Upsilon Lambda Omega Chapter

# ANNUAL 5K & ONE MILE FUN RUN

oct  
04  
2014

DeSoto  
Town Center  
Amphitheater

### REGISTRATION ONLINE

at [www.artsdesoto.com](http://www.artsdesoto.com) or by calling 972-230-9648

### SCHEDULE

On-site registration begins at 7:30 am  
Aerobic Warm-up – 8:30 am  
5K and 1 Mile Fun Run begin simultaneously at 9 am  
Cost: \$15 per person includes a walk t-shirt (proceeds benefit the Susan G. Koman Foundation, Dallas County)

### WALK ROUTE

Walkers gather at the DeSoto Town Center Outdoor Amphitheater. The 5k Walk & Roll will take place westbound on the Roy Orr Trail looping around at the western most end of the trail near Mirkes Parkway. It will begin and end at the Outdoor Amphitheater. The 1 Mile Fun Run will head east on the Roy Orr Trail to Ernie Roberts Park and then head west on Pleasant Run Road along the sidewalk ending back at DeSoto Town Center.

other activities include:

BAYLOR IMAGING MAMMOGRAM UNIT | VENDOR BOOTHS | LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



*"Connecting Neighbors!"*

**Do you feel connected to the DeSoto Community?**

**If you'd like to connect with your neighbors and find out what's going on in the community, please take this as a personal invitation to attend our next free DeSoto Dining and Dialogue dinner event on September 20, 2014. This dinner event will allow adults and high school students who live in DeSoto to come together with City Council members and Staff to discuss the Propositions on the November 4<sup>th</sup> bond referendum. This event is free to you but you must register to attend. Space is limited to the first 100 registered guests. Please register your attendance at [www.desotodd.org](http://www.desotodd.org).**

Dinner Discussion Topic:

## 2014 Bond Referendum

The DeSoto City Council has called a Bond Referendum for November 4, 2014. If approved, the propositions on the ballot will fund improvements to Parkerville Road, the construction of a new fire station, park and trail improvements and provide funding for land acquisition for economic development. DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is dedicating the September dinner event to host an open forum to provide information on each Proposition item. Guests will have the opportunity to discuss them with fellow residents, councilmembers and city staff. Please follow the link below and register to attend this important event! Space is limited.

**Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014**

**6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

**DeSoto Civic Center, Pecan Rooms, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.**

For more information and to register go to:

[www.desotodd.org](http://www.desotodd.org)

or call Kathy Jones at

DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals of all ages, who live or work in DeSoto, the opportunity to get to know one another at private dinner events. These dinners are held twice a year in private homes around DeSoto. The discussion is led by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community. DeSoto Dining and Dialogue is primarily successful because families are willing to host a dinner for a diverse group of citizens in their homes at their own expense. Facilitators and other volunteers willingly give of their time and expertise because they believe in the program. However, we need continuing community participation to keep the program strong. Join us in building a strong community. Please feel free to forward this invitation to anyone who lives and/or works in DeSoto!

artsdesoto.com

\*Vendor  
Opportunities  
Available



FIESTA

# Latina

DESOTO  
DESOTO LATIN FESTIVAL

09.14

DeSoto Town  
Center Amphitheater

3:00–4:00pm

MARIACHI CUAHVETEMOS

4:15–5:00pm

BALLET FOKLORKO  
DE DOS TIERRAS

5:15–5:45pm

DANIEL DECORDOBA  
BAILES ESPANOLAS

6:00–7:00pm

HAVANA NRG