

# DeSoto City Lights

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

## City Administration Presents FY2015 Municipal Budget

Nearly six (6) years ago, the City of DeSoto began to realize a decrease in its property valuations and revenue sources. As a result of these burgeoning monetary issues that resulted from the economic recession, various cost savings initiatives were enacted to thwart any diminution in public services. By fiscal year (FY) 2010, the impact of this crisis began to foster a wealth of issues as it related to funding debt service obligations and human resources.

As the global economy continued to spiral downwards, certain personnel benefits and planned projects were eradicated to balance the annual budget. The challenge of correcting more than a decade of overestimated revenues that were solely based upon projected growth patterns took almost four (4) years to correct.

Throughout this duration of time, the City Administration was able to hire several professionals who had a wide array of experiences with re-engineering complex budgets and underperforming agencies. In collaboration with tenured executive management employees, the Administration was able to produce consecutive balanced budgets with stable fund reserves. As a result of their due diligence with managing human and financial resources, City of DeSoto residents have yet to endure a property tax rate (.7574) increase since FY2012. In addition to the aforesaid achievements, the City of DeSoto recently received a bond rating upgrade from Standard and Poor's (AA- to AA). This accomplishment came approximately two (2) years after receiving a bond rating upgrade from Fitch IBCA (AA- to AA).

"This achievement clearly demonstrates our unwavering commitment to improving the financial health and stability of this municipality", said Tarron J. Richardson, Ph.D., DeSoto's City Manager. "Being able to accomplish two unprecedented bond rating upgrades within a four year period would not have become a reality without the superior leadership of our Managing Directors. As we move forward into FY2015 and beyond, the City Administration will continue to take a conservative approach toward projecting and managing their budgets. The City of DeSoto has learned valuable lessons from past financial blunders that have negatively impacted its tax rate and employee benefits. Managing the financial affairs of this municipality in such a frugal manner will be beneficial for many years to come, said Dr. Richardson"



We Will Never Forget! Members of DeSoto Fire Rescue and EDUCT honor the citizen and first responder victims of 9-11.

## City Calendar

### 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

### October

2 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 2 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm  
 2 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm  
 4 5K Walk & Roll 9am Roy Orr Trail  
 5 Classical Concert - Corner Theatre 3pm  
 6 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 5:45 pm  
 6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm  
 6 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr.- 6 pm  
 7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 12 Jazz Concert - Corner Theatre - 3 pm  
 14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall-7 pm  
 19 Classical Concert - Corner Theatre 3 pm  
 21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm  
 26 Jazz Concert - Corner Theatre - 3 pm  
 27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am  
 28 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall - 7pm

## Marshmallow Madness at the DeSoto Public Library!

In celebration of National Teen Read Week, the DeSoto Public Library is presenting two programs for kids and teens on Thursday, October 16th at 5 pm. These programs are free and open to the public.

**For Teens, ages 13 - 18, a Marshmallow Madness Build Your Own Creation Food Activity**

**For Kids, ages 7 - 12, a Marshmallow Madness Build Your Own Creations Arts 'n' Crafts Activity**

To attend, check out five books and receive a ticket to the event! The library is located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, in the DeSoto Town Center Complex. Free parking is available in the nearby parking garage. For more information, please call the library at 972.230.9666 or 972.230.9663.

## OPERATION PARTNERSHIP: A Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Summit sponsored by City of DeSoto and the DeSoto Police

Stories involving domestic violence are frequently in the news and incidents seem to be increasing. City of DeSoto and DeSoto Police are taking proactive steps to raise awareness of the problem and provide information regarding available resources by hosting OPERATION PARTERSHIP: A Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Summit. It will take place on Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 9 am to noon at First United Methodist Church in DeSoto located at 310 Roaring Springs Drive.

This summit is an initiative of the DeSoto Police Department designed to highlight the growing problem of domestic violence and to inform the community of resources available to victims. DeSoto Police are not only inviting the public to attend but they are reaching out to stakeholders in the community, both non-profit organizations and private businesses, who provide resources for victims.

"The event is intended to bring together local

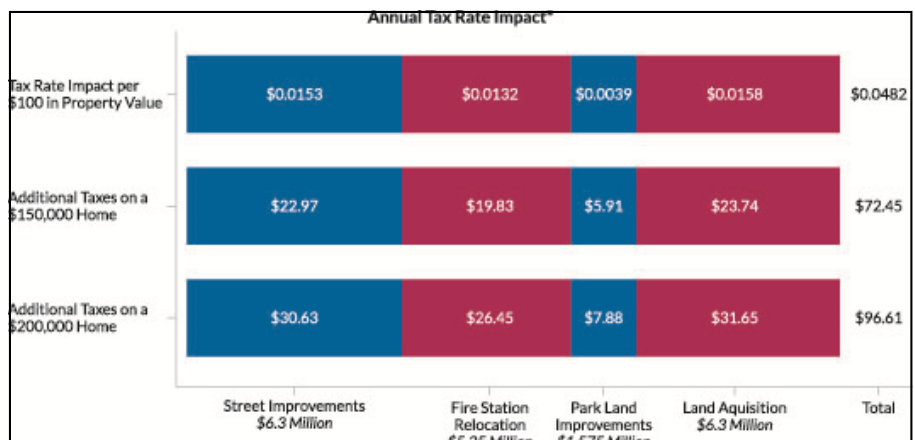
resources who are combatting domestic violence to network and become acquainted with each other and the community at large," said Sgt. Melissa Franks with DeSoto PD.

The summit will feature a special presentation by Burleson Mayor, Ken Shetter who is the Executive Director of *Safe City Commission*, a non-profit corporation which develops and supports effective crime prevention and reduction efforts. The public is invited to learn more about Mayor Shetter's newly developed organization that is providing cutting-edge services for victims of domestic violence.

Local service providers are encouraged to contact Officer Sherman Williams about having a booth to provide information to participants. Vendor booth applications are available on the City of DeSoto website at [www.desototexas.gov](http://www.desototexas.gov) or by calling Officer Sherman at 469.658.3055.



Senator Royce West joins members of the DeSoto City Council, DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Board, DeSoto Chamber of Commerce and fixed base operator, SKY Helicopters as they cut the ribbon on the new DeSoto Heliport located in DeSoto's Eagle Industrial Park.



The table above provides estimates of the possible impact on the tax rate for each proposition.

## 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.

#### **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 as they 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).

**uptown downtown desoto** Concert Series

artsdesoto.com

Held at the DeSoto Corner Theatre located in the DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road

Join us for an exciting series celebrating DeSoto's diverse taste in music. Hear great jazz on even numbered Sundays followed by the best in classical music on odd numbered Sundays.

Continues:  
October 5- November 16, 2014  
April 12 - May 31, 2015

Tickets for all performances are just \$10. For more information visit [artsdesoto.com](http://artsdesoto.com) or call 972.230.9648.

### Halloween at the South West Regional Communications Center

On Friday, October 31, 2014, emergency call takers and dispatchers at SWRCC, DeSoto's 9-1-1 Call Center will be in full costume and prepared to teach elementary aged children in grades 3 through 5, the proper use of 9-1-1 and emergency services. We are offering this field trip opportunity to local schools in an effort to educate our local



Presented by Communities for Kidz (A Texas non-profit organization)

**FUN TIME LIVE**

in association with DeSoto Parks & Recreation Discover, Experience, Play!

**POLICE OFFICER ON SITE FUN SAFE SUPERVISED ENTERTAINMENT!**

**OCTOBER**  
DJ PLAYING TOP 40 EVERY WEEK!

<b>FRIDAY, OCT. 3</b> <b>Putt Putt GOLF!</b> LET'S MAKE A DEAL	<b>FRIDAY, OCT. 10</b> <b>FEAR FACTOR NIGHT!</b> ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A ??? STATUE OF LIBERTY CONTEST!
<b>FRIDAY, OCT. 17</b> <b>POP-LOCK-DROP CONTEST!</b> SOCCER RELAY! SODA SLAM!	<b>FRIDAY, OCT. 24</b> <b>HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY!</b> (COSTUME NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND!) GLOW NIGHT!

**FRIDAY NIGHT! 7-10:30PM**

**OPEN TO ALL KIDS IN GRADE 1ST-6TH! ANY SCHOOL ANY DISTRICT!**

**CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH US! CALL FOR DETAILS!**

**CLOSED OCT. 31ST FOR HALLOWEEN!**

**\$10 Admission**

**DESOTO RECREATION CENTER**  
211 EAST PLEASANT RUN RD - DESOTO, TX 75115

CONCESSION AVAILABLE

**FUNTIMELIVE.COM** 972-784-4060 **FACEBOOK.COM/FTLDESOTO**

### CPR/AED Training Classes

In conjunction with the American Heart Association and UT Southwestern Medical Center, the BSW Community Emergency Response Team will offer CPR/AED training classes on October 25, 2014 at the DeSoto Fire Training Center, 501 E. Wintergreen Rd. The classes will use the American Heart Association curriculum and provide extensive "hands-on" training in a small class setting. Two sessions limited to 10 students each are available at 8 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 5pm. The \$75 registration fee includes class, student workbook and completion card. To register or for more information call Gordy VanSteenberg at 972.467.6843 or [gordonclyde@tx.rr.com](mailto:gordonclyde@tx.rr.com).

community about the services we offer and show our children how they can stay safe all year long. During the field trip, kids will learn the steps to calling 9-1-1, when to place a call to 9-1-1 and what information is important when calling the center for help.

The tour will include light refreshments, gifts, and a spooky house for those who dare. SWRCC will be hosting this event between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm. Groups will be scheduled in one hour increments. This event will connect your local emergency 9-1-1 team to schools and students, providing necessary information to help keep our community safe. To schedule a field trip for your group contact Tamara Bell, Communication Manager, at 972.230.5662 or Nori Kelly, Shift Supervisor at 972-223-6111 by October 7, 2014. Be sure to provide the number of students and staff who will attend and the time when making reservations.



The DeSoto Arts Commission and AKA Sorority ULO Chapter will sponsor a 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run for Breast Cancer Awareness, October 4th at 9am. To register go to [www.artsdesoto.com](http://www.artsdesoto.com) or call 972.230.9648