

NCTCG touts DeSoto's growth

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Today Staff

DeSoto remains the largest Best Southwest city, according to the most recent information released from the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The organization announced its 2005 population estimates April 28.

Lancaster has become the hottest spot in the Best Southwest in which to live.

That's the latest word from

the North Central Texas Council of Governments, which released its 2005 population estimates April 28.

Lancaster had an estimated population of 31,500 as of Jan. 1. While that total was below the other three Best Southwest cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville, the rate of growth over the past year told a different story.

During 2004, Lancaster grew an estimated 5.53 percent. In fact, Lancaster had

the third highest growth rate in Dallas County last year, behind just Sachse and Glenn Heights, which were at 9.15 percent and 7.43 percent, respectively.

DeSoto remained the largest of the four Best Southwest cities, with its population now estimated at 45,500. It also had the second-fastest growth rate last year, at 5.08 percent.

Cedar Hill came just behind DeSoto in both areas.

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DeSoto

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Its population was estimated to be 41,700 at the start of the year, with a 2004 growth rate of 4.25 percent.

Duncanville was estimated to start 2005 with 36,150 people, reflecting a 1.12 percent growth rate in 2004.

In other area cities in Dallas County, Hutchins grew to 2,900 and Wilmer stayed flat at 3,100, according to estimates.

In Ellis County, Red Oak led the growth

parade last year, expanding at an estimated 11.29 percent. That gave it an estimated population of 6,900 at the start of the year.

Midlothian had the second-highest growth rate, of 8.48 percent. That gave it an estimated population of 12,150.

Dallas County as a whole grew 1.05 percent and Ellis County grew 3.60 percent.