



News and Views

A Monthly Publication
October 2010
www.cityofforney.org

Dear Citizens:

This month is the first anniversary of News and Views. I hope you have enjoyed the newsletter and found the information useful and entertaining. I've tried to highlight all of our departments so that you could get to know the employees and the jobs they do. The City has a wonderful group of employees (some are in the public eye and some work behind the scenes) and they all work very hard for our citizens.

October is the beginning of the City's fiscal year. Even with the slight increase we had to institute, the majority of which is to pay for the 2006 bond projects, this year's budget is extremely slim. The budget did not include new capital improvement projects, new heavy equipment, new positions or raises for employees. We are thankful that we did not have to cut services, lay off workers or have furlough days. Everyone is working very hard to be able to keep giving you the best services possible.

Road construction is still underway, but you should now have a fairly good idea of how the intersection at FM548/US80 will work once it is complete. Please remember to keep shopping in Forney. It can be tiresome with the construction and congestion, but it truly makes a difference in your taxes.

For current information on road construction, please visit our website at www.cityofforney.org.

Shop Forney First

School is in full swing now, so be sure to watch for those school zones. Remember, cell phone use is not allowed in school zones – you can now get a ticket. Also, texting and driving can be compared to driving under the influence – it is very dangerous – so don't text and drive at the same time.

The City departments that I did not highlight this past year include our Human Resources Department, which is headed up by Leigh Corson, Director, with the help of her assistant, Michelle Jenkin; the City Manager's office, which includes Brian Brooks, City Manager; Gina Nash, Assistant City Manager, and Sheila Miller, their assistant; and finally, my department – City Secretary, and my name is Dorothy Brooks.

This newsletter is a direct result of our 2009 Citizen Survey, which showed that approximately 60% of the respondents received information about the City by word of mouth. In addition to this newsletter, the City started a Facebook page and updated our website. As a result, this year's survey showed that only 49% of the respondents received information about the City by word of mouth. Thank you for reading the newsletter and visiting our website and Facebook page.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Brooks, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Recycling Roundup – Saturday, October 2, 2010 at Community Park – 9 am to Noon

For Forney citizens only. Please bring a water bill with you as proof of residency. Items being collected include: (1) Electronic Items such as monitors, TV's, computers, stereos, VCR's, household copiers, hard drives, CD-ROMS and batteries. Batteries in electronic items must be removed prior to collection; (2) Cardboard – broken down and flattened; (3) Paper – shredding will be done on site; and (4) Eyeglasses and sunglasses in any condition, both frames and lenses.

Thanks go to our Community Development Department for hosting this event.



October is National Fire Safety Month

October 3 – 9 is Fire Prevention Week
"Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With"



Police Officer Mike Williams celebrates 20th year with the Forney Police Department

September 7, 2010, marked the 20th Anniversary of Lt. Mike Williams. He began his career with the Forney Police Department as a reserve and then became an officer. He was later promoted to a Patrol Sergeant and then moved into CID (Criminal Investigations Division). He became a Lieutenant while in CID and recently has moved back into Patrol as a Lieutenant. Thanks and congratulations go to Officer Williams on 20 years of service to the Citizens of Forney.

Welcome!

The City's Police Department has welcomed two new Patrol Officers:

Mike Byford who began September 6 and
J.J. Melton who began September 8



Kaufman County Crime Stoppers

You could get a cash reward of up to \$1000

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist county law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime by overcoming the two key elements that inhibit community involvement: fear and apathy.

Crime Stoppers provides a telephone number and Web Tips to encourage citizens in the community to volunteer vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies to fight against crime.

Callers can remain anonymous and are eligible to receive a cash reward if the information given leads to an arrest or grand jury indictment of a felony offender.

Crime Stoppers relies on volunteer Directors and tax deductible contributions from the public in order to operate the administration of the program.

Hotline: 877-TIPSKCC (847-7522)

Online: www.kaufmancountycrimestoppers.org



Important Dates

City Council Meetings – City Hall

October 5, 2010; 7 pm

October 19, 2010, 7 pm



**Meals on Wheels
Volunteers Wanted**
Call 972-564-7348

October is Community Planning Month



Future Events

Turkey Trax – Hosted by the EDC, will be held on Sunday, November 7, 2010 from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 p.m.

City Offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25-26, 2010, for the Thanksgiving Holidays



TRICK OR TREATING

Where: **THE TRAIL OF TREATS****

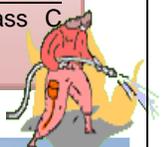
When: **Saturday, October 30, 2010**

Time: **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

If your business or organization is interested in having a "candy station" on the trail, please contact Dodie at dvan@cityofforney.org or 972-564-7326.

** Also known as the Forney Community Park Trail

Kaufman County Commissioners issued a 30-day Burn Ban starting on August 9, 2010, and ending on September 7, 2010 (weather permitting). During a Burn Ban, **no** outdoor burning is allowed (including trash & burn barrels). Depending on the weather, this ban may still be in effect. Call 972-932-9799 or 469-376-4110 before your burn, to determine if the Burn Ban has been lifted. A violation of the Burn Ban is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500.00.



Why Is My Bill So High, I Never Use This Much Water?

Your bill is based on how much water passes thru your meter, which is read monthly. Since movement of water is the only source of energy the meter has, anytime you see a dial moving on the meter, it definitely means there is water moving through it. Some causes for high bills are: size of household (includes having relatives come stay during the holidays), size of home or yard, and more days between readings and of course, plumbing leaks. We read meters every 25 to 35 days and sometimes a misread can occur due to human error or electronic transmissions.

Requesting a Meter Re-read: Please contact the Water Department at 972-564-7304, request a consumption history, and begin looking for leaks. If your normal water usage has increased at least 20%, then we will schedule a meter technician to re-read your meter. After the meter is re-read and if the reading is determined to be **incorrect**, then an adjustment will be placed on your account. **If** the meter is functioning properly, then you must find your leak and repair it as soon as possible.