



News and Views

A Monthly Publication
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www.cityofforney.org

TXDOT Closes FM740 from FM460 to Hillside Drive

As you are probably aware, at the end of July TXDOT closed FM740 from FM460 to Hillside Drive. The City worked assiduously with TXDOT to prevent the closure, but TXDOT felt it was necessary in order to avoid an additional \$1.2 million in construction costs. The closure is expected to last one year. Allowing the closure is expected to reduce construction time from 19 months to 13 months.

The \$2.85 million project, already underway, is needed to replace aging pavement and bridges at Buffalo Creek. The project will add new shoulders to the pavement and bridges and will accommodate future plans to widen FM 740 at this location.

Contact for the project is: Darwin Myers, P.E. at 903-874-4351 or by email at dmyers@dot.state.tx.us.

Citizen Survey -- Excerpts

The report on the 2010 City Survey was given to the City Council and the public at the July 20, 2010, City Council Meeting. Please accept our thanks for taking the time out of your busy schedules to participate in this survey. Your responses help the City Council set their Strategic Initiatives for the year and help us measure our success in meeting our goals. The following are excerpts from the full report.

1453 people responded to the survey, for a total of 33%. That is an 18% increase in the number of responses from the 2009 survey

77% of the respondents were satisfied with the overall appearance of Forney and 77% were satisfied with the overall appearance of their neighborhoods. That is a 2% increase in satisfaction since the 2009 survey.

City Services were rated as follows:

Highest Rated

Fire Services
Ambulance Services
General Community Safety
Police Services
Building Inspections

Mid-Range Rating

Park Opportunities
Wastewater Services
Citizen Communications
Animal Control

Lowest Rated

Recreational Services
Code Enforcement
Drainage Services
Downtown Revitalization
Neighborhood Streets
Major Roadways

A large percentage of the respondents are pleased with our Code Compliance efforts and believe the increased emphasis has led to a positive change in that our city looks better.

The most important issue facing Forney in the next 5 years is Traffic with 92% of the respondents marking this issue. Next was Road Repair/Maintenance/Expansion with 90%.

Full-menu Restaurants and Retail Stores came in with the highest percentages of respondents wanting to see this type of development in Forney.

The full report can be found on our website at www.cityofforney.org.

Think – SHOP – Live – FORNEY

Disconnection of Utility Services

The Utility Service Department's least favorite days involve service cutoffs. Utility service bills are sent out on the first (1st) day of each month to our south side residents and on the fifteenth (15th) day of each month to our north side residents. You have 15 days to pay the bill. Service will be disconnected approximately 10 days after the due date if payment has not been made.

Disconnect Days

North Side Residents – Your cutoff day is the **10th day of the month** unless it falls on a weekend, then it is the next business day.

South Side Residents – Your cutoff day is the **25th day of the month** unless it falls on a weekend, then it is the next business day.

A \$50.00 administration fee will be applied at this time. No service will be reconnected until payment in full or payment arrangements have been made.

If you are having financial difficulties, don't wait until your service is disconnected to call us. Help us help you. Our Utility Services Department can assist you with payment arrangements one time per quarter. Visit our website at www.cityofforney.org or call 972-564-7304 for more information.

ATTENTION

Requirements for Profit and Nonprofit Food Vendors

If you are a food vendor, or are having an event in which you are serving and/or preparing food, you **must** obtain a permit from the City. Vendors must have their operation inspected by the sanitarian and operators may need a food handler's permit. If you are planning on including food at your event, or you are a vendor (even if it is for a charity or non-profit), you must obtain a permit and inspection. The City requires notification of at least two weeks to ensure that the permit and inspection can be completed in time for your event. For more information, contact Brenda Zepeda at 972-564-7381 or bzepeda@cityofforney.org.

Well Done!

Congratulations go to our Finance Department for receiving the Texas Comptroller's Bronze Leadership Circle Award. The bronze award recognizes the City for taking the first steps toward achieving financial transparency by providing our citizens with clear, consistent pictures of spending and sharing information in a user-friendly format. The Texas Comptroller's Leadership Circle program recognizes local governments across Texas that are striving to meet a high standard for financial transparency online.

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.

IT Services

Over the past year, we have introduced you to various city departments and the part they have in the day-to-day operation of the City. This month we would like to introduce you to our IT Services department. The IT Director is Richard Curry, the IT Administrator is Barry Chenault and the IT Technician is Ron West. The Information Technology Department serves all city departments by providing technical support for the majority of the city's computer systems. We greatly appreciate all their hard work to keep us up and running.

In Cleveland, Ohio, it is illegal to catch mice without a hunting license.



To join the City's Facebook, go to our website at www.cityofforney.org and click on the Facebook button. We'd love to add you as a friend.

Shopping Forney First is vital to the financial health of the City. Please bear with us during the construction at US80/FM548 and the road closure on FM740 and continue shopping Forney. It DOES make a difference. Without the sales tax revenue, our property tax rate would have to be **increased** by 30¢.

Coming Soon

Pizza Hut
Panda Express

Important Dates

City Council Meetings – City Hall
September 7, 2010; 7 pm
September 21, 2010, 7 pm

City Offices will be closed on
Monday, September 6, 2010 for
Labor Day