



# News and Views

A Monthly Publication  
September 2014  
[www.cityofforney.org](http://www.cityofforney.org)

## From the Mayor

At this time, it appears our tax rate will stay the same for this upcoming fiscal year. Below is my article from May 2013 that explains our current tax rate, how it's determined, and how the tax revenue is used.

### What's our tax rate?

I am often asked about the city's tax rate -- "How do you figure our taxes?" "Why are they so high?" etc. The following is the best way I have found to explain our city taxes.

Property taxes are a necessary way of funding our local governments. Your annual property tax bill is actually a bill for city taxes, school taxes, and county taxes. When all of the amounts are combined, the total can be rather large. How does the city determine its rate?

Our city tax rate of .74904 – we'll call it 75 cents – is applied to 1% of the value of your home or property. To come up with that rate, we have to calculate two smaller rates; what it will cost to operate the city, and what it will cost to pay our debt. Our Maintenance and Operation (M&O) rate is about 32 cents, and our Debt Service rate is about 43 cents.

The average home value in the city is about \$150,000. So, the tax due on that home is approximately \$1,125. The M&O portion is about \$480 and the Debt portion is about \$645.

The \$645 (\$53.75 a month) is primarily for the 2006 voter-approved bonds that have allowed us to construct the new police and courts building, the community park, the FM 548 / Hwy 80 improvements, the FM 741 widening, and the currently underway, FM 740 widening.

The \$480 (\$40 a month) is what it costs to operate our city of 16,000 residents. It pays for the buildings, equipment, and personnel to provide police and fire protection, a public works department, parks maintenance and activities, community development, and administrative services.

Our overall tax rate is one of the highest in the area. That is because the voters overwhelmingly decided that we wanted Forney to become a quality community, and made the commitment to a higher Debt rate for the Justice Center, Community Park, and our road projects.

However, our M&O rate is one of the lowest in the area. That is because our city employees work to provide the best service at the most effective cost and our City Council works to manage the needs of our growing community. As we continue to grow, I'm confident that commitment will continue.

## Downtown Corner

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays Downtown Forney

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month the Forney Arts Council hosts a free event for the entire family. Shop unique artisan vendors, experience the rhythm of drum circle, and enjoy an acoustic jam session with live music. Located in Historic Downtown Forney, this is an event you do not want to miss. For more information on



the Forney Arts Council, visit their website at [www.forneyarts.org](http://www.forneyarts.org).

## Downtown Business Association

Find out more at  
[www.fdba-tx.com](http://www.fdba-tx.com)



## REMEMBER TO CONSERVE WATER

Stage 3 Watering Restrictions have been extended limiting landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems to once every two weeks and specific watering days have been assigned.

You may water trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, gardens, and any other landscaping any day up to two hours by a hand-held hose or low volume non-spray irrigation. These areas may be watered by spray irrigation on the assigned watering days only. You can never water between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

For your watering days and additional restrictions, please visit our website at [www.cityofforney.org](http://www.cityofforney.org). Citations will be issued if you are caught watering on a day other than your assigned watering day.

If you have any questions about the restrictions, please contact the City of Forney Public Works Dept. at 972-564-7340.

## Upcoming Events and Things to Do

For more information on our events, please visit our website at [www.cityofforney.org](http://www.cityofforney.org) or our Facebook page.

### LABOR DAY

Monday, September 1, 2014  
City Offices are closed

### X-TREME GREEN EVENT

Saturday, October 4, 2014  
From 8:30 a.m. to Noon  
Location: Community Park

### TRAIL OF TREATS

Saturday, October 25, 2014  
From 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Community Park/Soccer Complex

### TURKEY TRAX

November 9, 2014  
From 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Downtown

### CHRISTMAS ON MAIN

December 6, 2014  
From 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Downtown

## School has Started -- Don't Call or Text and Drive Texting is a **Major Distracter**

Driving while using a cell phone incurs a four times greater risk of crashing, which is equivalent to driving while drunk (with 0.08 blood-alcohol level). Talking on a cell phone while driving slows down the reaction time of even the most experienced driver. **FOR TEXTERS, THE RISK IS EIGHT TIMES GREATER.** All drivers must be committed to reducing serious injuries and deaths on our roadways. **This starts with your commitment to NOT BECOME A DISTRACTED DRIVER!**

**Use of a cell phone in a school zone is illegal.**

## Shop Forney First

Shopping Forney First is vital to the financial health of the City. It DOES make a difference.

## Forney Senior Citizen Center

The Forney Senior Citizen Center is open to everyone, but caters to our citizens that are 60 years and older. The center is open Mon-Fri from 8 am to 2 pm and they have a variety of activities to offer. Daily you can take advantage of the several 42-domino tables, card games, puzzle tables, and you can always find an abundance of friendship at the center.

Some of their regular activities include covered dish meals, bingo, birthday celebrations, health and nutrition demonstrations, and low impact exercise equipment is always available at the center.

Layden Senior Center  
101 E. Main Street (City Hall)  
Forney, TX 75126  
Phone: (972) 564-7348  
Hours: Monday thru Friday  
8:00am - 2:00pm

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

Meals on Wheels services are also carried out at the Layden Senior Center.

## Community Park Information

**Effective October 1, 2014, pavilion reservation hours will be 9 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 4 pm and 5 pm to 8 pm.**



## Coming Soon!!

### Trail of Treats

Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

It is that wonderful time of year again -- planning and preparation for the Trail of Treats 2014!

For more information contact Forney Special Events:

[specialevents@cityofforney.org](mailto:specialevents@cityofforney.org)  
[972-564-7329](tel:972-564-7329)

## City Council Meetings

City Hall, Council Chambers  
101 E. Main Street

Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

Just a reminder....if you have not yet signed up for Blackboard Connect, you can do so on our website by clicking on the icon that looks like this – it is located on the home page of our website – [www.cityofforney.org](http://www.cityofforney.org).

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## Fun Facts

In the Arctic, the sun sometimes appears to be square.

A "jiffy" is the scientific name for 1/100th of a second.

The "dot" over the letter "i" is called a tittle.