

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On March 13, 2010, the City held its 2nd Annual Boards and Commission Recognition Banquet to honor the men and women who dedicate time and energy to help make our City a great place to live. The City extends a big **Thank You** to all our Board and Commission members. It was too late to get the current pictures in this newsletter, so here a few pictures from last year's banquet.



2009 Board of Adjustment Members



2009 Banquet



2009 Planning & Zoning Commission Members



Would you be interested serving on a City board or commission? The City has the following boards and commissions:

Board of Adjustment  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Economic Development Corporation

Building Standards Commission  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Library Board

These boards and commissions usually have two-year terms of office that are staggered among the members, so appointments and/or re-appointments are made on an annual basis.

The City is accepting applications for a place on one of our boards or commissions. The application can be found on our website at [www.cityofforney.org](http://www.cityofforney.org) or you can contact the City Secretary by email at [dbrooks@cityofforney.org](mailto:dbrooks@cityofforney.org) or by phone at 972-564-7302 to request an application. The applications will be kept on file for a period of two (2) years. Please note that while we cannot guarantee appointment to a board or commission, all applications will be given consideration. Appointments for open positions are usually made in June.

## When Should You Call 911?

The Forney Police Department is the "Public Safety Answering Point" for 911 calls in the city of Forney and parts of Kaufman County. Forney's 911 Center is a state-of-the-art facility that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is staffed by professional Communication Specialists who answer more than 18,750 calls annually.

Because of the growing call volume, we want to share some basic rules with you about when to use the 911 Emergency services line. Knowing when to call 911 can save a life, and knowing when not to call 911 can be just as important.

### When to Call

911 should only be called for emergencies requiring the police, fire department or an ambulance; this allows emergency responders to find people in distress. Forney's 911 system is an "Enhanced 911." This means the system provides dispatchers with the location of calls placed from a landline. Cellular phones have a similar capability, but are not nearly as accurate in locating the caller.

***People should only call 911 when they have an emergency to report and need help fast. Unfortunately, we get a lot of 911 calls that are not emergencies.***

### When Not to Call

Do not call 911 for non-emergencies. We have had people call 911 to find out if school was open for the day. They have also called to ask what the road conditions are, for bus schedules, to report power outages or to ask when the power is coming back on.

These types of calls should either be made to the proper agency or the Police Department business line, which is

972-564-7600. Unnecessary calls clog the system, delay help, and actually prevent people from reaching 911 in an emergency. The system is designed to handle multiple emergencies simultaneously, but can be overloaded during severe storms or other regional emergencies.

### Info to Know Before You Call 911

When you do have an emergency, be prepared to tell the dispatcher:

- ✚ What is your emergency?
- ✚ Do you need the police, fire department or an ambulance?
- ✚ What is the address of your location? If you don't know the exact address, give the street are you on and the nearest cross street.
- ✚ Speak clearly, remain calm and stay on the line. The dispatcher may ask you questions while help is being sent your way.
- ✚ If you accidentally call 911, don't hang up. Simply explain the mistake and that there is no emergency. A great number of 911 calls we receive are from preprogrammed phones that accidentally call.

You can help us by using 911 only for emergencies. We want to be there when you call for help.

### Other Helpful Information

- ✚ To report power outages or inquire about electrical service, call your provider. Their number should be on your bill.
- ✚ For Texas Department of Transportation road conditions, you can call 972-962-3848.
- ✚ For school closure information, call the Forney Independent School District at 972-564-4055.

### Congratulations

To Forney Community Park for winning the Texas Association for Landscape Architects Merit Award.



### Upcoming Events

- May 1, 2010 -- Main Street Rabbit Trax 5K Race** (For more information call Kim Buttram at 972-564-5808)
- June 5, 2010 -- Kid Quest** hosted by City of Forney Public Works Department (For more information call Karen Sanders at 972-564-7340.)

### Fun Facts 😊

Every year, kids in North America spend close to half a billion dollars on chewing gum.

The oldest piece of chewing gum is 9000 years old. [Yuck! They probably found it on the bottom of a table!]



Think  
SHOP  
Live  
FORNEY

### Important Dates

- April 2 -- Good Friday - City Offices Closed**
- April 4 -- Easter**
- April 6 -- City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.**
- April 20 -- City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.**
- April 26 -- Early Voting begins**  
(Comience Temprano Votacion)

**April Fool's Day -- April 1st**

Watch your mail box for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Citizen's Survey