



News and Views

A Monthly Publication
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www.cityofforney.org



Can you believe that Christmas has already come and gone? And that it is now 2013? The New Year brings about many things: a reflection on the past year; fun with family and friends as we counted down to midnight; a fresh start to a new year; and of course, those famous New Year's resolutions. Many resolutions change each year, but here at the City, we are resolved to keep doing what we've been doing—providing quality services to our community.

City offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2013, in observance of this holiday.

Crumbzz -- Best New Downtown Business in Texas



Crumbzz Tasting Pavilion in Downtown Forney has been awarded Best New Downtown Business in Texas by the Texas Downtown Association.

The Best Downtown Business award recognizes an exceptional downtown business that positively promotes the downtown or commercial district as a destination for locals and tourists alike, and actively participates in the revitalization efforts and supports downtown promotional events. Come see for yourself what the fuss is all about!

Congratulations

Mara Dondoyana, a 9th grade choir student at North Forney High School was recently named the winner of the Searching for a Star competition. The event was sponsored by The Ballard Street School for the Performing Arts. Mara beat more than 50 entrants from 16 cities to win the competition. The win earns Mara an audition with the television talent competition show, The Voice. How exciting for her!!

From the Mayor

In mid-November, I had a conversation on Facebook with someone about the retail outlook in Forney. We all have heard the old saying, "If one person asks a question, there were probably a few others wondering, too." With that in mind, I thought I would share the comment that got the ball rolling, and my un-edited reply, so more people would have the information.

... I was hoping we would get a Braum's, Super Target or a Dollar Tree ...

This was actually the ground breaking last May for the Gateway Bridge ... which will bring many stores, restaurants, and entertainment options, but the entire development will take several years.

The Kroger groundbreaking was last Wednesday. It will be a Kroger Marketplace store, their newest concept. There are only 6 or so open in the state. It has some "whole foods" and "central market" elements to it. It should be a good fit for our market.

Braum's is a family-owned business out of Oklahoma. We have talked with them several times. They have a store in Terrell, and now TWO in Mesquite, but they have no interest in being in Forney right now. They don't want to hurt the other 3 stores. So that tells me that we do have Forney shoppers going there.

Dollar Tree would do GREAT in Forney. They have told us for at least 3 years they are coming, but they are not here yet. We have so many teachers in the Forney area (I'm married to one), that I KNOW DT would be a hit here.

As far as Super Target, we've been having those conversations for a few years. Target is a huge corporation, and they don't make decisions quickly; however, I'm hopeful to hear something soon.

We have been talking to these retailers and many more, as well as restaurants. If there are others that anyone thinks would be a fit, let us know. Chances are, if you think they're a fit, they probably are, and we've probably already talked to them. It's just that most things have been on hold for the past few years due to the recession.

Just because we might have to leave town for some of our shopping, doesn't mean we need to do all of our shopping out of town. We need to continue to support our local stores and restaurants, when and where we can.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year, and a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2013!

Fire Department Promotions

Congratulations go to Darren Yarborough on being promoted to Fire Department Lieutenant and to Phillip Pyle for being promoted to Fire Department Captain.

Don't forget that Community Waste Disposal (CWD) will pick up Christmas trees left at the curb as part of the normal brush pick-up service on **January 2, 2013**.

Kroger Update



The groundbreaking for the new Forney Kroger Marketplace took place on November 14, 2012. The store is scheduled to open in late 2013. The Forney Marketplace will offer 350 new jobs to the Forney

area. With 123,000 square feet of space it will offer more than just food. Customers will be able to purchase fashion, decor, furniture, fine jewelry and much more.

Turkey Trax / Veterans Day Celebration

Over 100 vehicles gathered despite stormy weather in Downtown Forney on Sunday, November 11th for the 5th annual event sponsored by the City of Forney Economic Development Corporation. Unique Karz once again brought classic cars, trucks, motorcycles, low-riders and roadsters which lined Main and Elm streets. The Forney Outlawz car club helped manage the event, and participated along with many other car clubs from Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Young and old enjoyed the cars, Cajun food and barbeque, rock climbing and slides, and live music by Galaxy.

Turkey Trax occurred on Veteran's Day this year, which spurred having a program in their honor. The crowds braved wind and rain to enjoy the ceremony. Many community organizations participated in making the day special, including AFJROTC, FHS Chamber Choir, NFHS culinary arts and Cub Scouts. Council Member Ray Stephens emceed the well attended event, which included our own city fire and police departments singing *God Bless America* for the crowd. Former County Judge Wayne Gent, a veteran himself, delivered the veteran's day message - the AFJROTC demonstrated an honorary flag-folding as well as a 21 gun salute. Veteran's, many in full uniform, stood as their military branch anthem was played, conjuring up expressions of pride and emotion in many of the attendees. Kudos for a great job coordinating this first-time event, go to EDC Executive Assistant Kayla Bryson!



Onlookers enjoy the autos in front of Napoli's in Downtown Forney.



In honor of the late Cara Stafford who was Finance Director for the city for many years, awards were given to her husband, Jason, and son, Brian for their motorcycles.



Kurt Wojtowicz of Forney won the coveted 6-foot Mayor's trophy for his 1929 Ford Model A Tudor, which has been in his family for 3 generations.



Cub Scouts passed out free flags to the crowd at Turkey Trax for the Veteran's Ceremony



AFJROTC presented the colors



Korean War Veteran – Dedicated soldiers and attendees didn't let the rain keep them away.



Volunteer Fire Department Chaplain Mark Elliott, Volunteer Fireman Charles Buster, Fire Chief Rick Townsend, Detective Michael Clay, Justice Center IT Administrator Craig Verner sang *God Bless America*.

Martin Luther King Day

At the White House Rose Garden on November 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating a federal holiday to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Observed for the first time on January 20, 1986, it is called Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The holiday is observed on the third Monday of January each year, near the time of King's birthday. Martin Luther King Day was officially observed in all fifty U.S. states for the first time on January 17, 2000.

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2013, in observance of this holiday.

Congratulations

To John Holcomb for being awarded the Star Employee Award for his hard work and coordination efforts on the ISO rating being reduced to a 2. Way to Go John! We appreciate all you do.

2013 City Council Meetings

Times are subject to change – Agendas are posted 72 hours in advance on our website at www.cityofforney.org

1 st Tuesday of the Month Start Time 6:00 p.m. Work Session/Action Agenda	3 rd Tuesday of the Month Start Time 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
January 8 – Date Change**	January 22 – Date Change**
February 5	February 19
March 5	March 19
April 2	April 16
May 7	May 21
June 4	June 18
July 2	July 16
August 6	August 20
September 3	September 17
October 1	October 15
November 5	November 19
December 3	December 17

**Please check our website to verify these date changes.