



# News and Views

A Monthly Publication  
May 2013  
[www.cityofforney.org](http://www.cityofforney.org)

## From the Mayor

### 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.

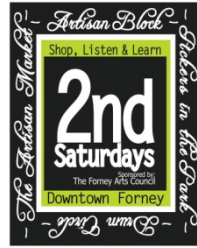
The \$480 (\$40 a month) is what it costs to operate our city of 16,000 residents. It pays for the buildings, equipment, and personnel to provide police and fire protection, a public works department, parks maintenance and activities, community development, and administrative services.

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. There is something for all ages. For more information visit the Forney

Arts Council website at [www.forneyarts.org](http://www.forneyarts.org).

**The May event date is Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Place: Bell Park in Downtown Forney**  
**300 S. Bois D'Arc**

## Memorial Day



Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2013, in observance of Memorial Day.

**The Splash Pad opens at Community Park on Memorial Day Weekend**  
(May 24-27, 2013)

## Election



The City's General Election is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2013. Election Day polling locations are:

Entity	Precinct #	Polling Location/Address
Forney ISD Forney City	3, 4, 13, 27, 29	First Baptist Church 1003 FM 741 Forney, Texas 75126
Forney ISD Forney City	7, 11, 14, 25	Forney Sub Courthouse 200 E. Main Street Forney, Texas 75126

Since the City contracts with the County for election services, please call the Election Administrator at 972-932-0298 for further information

### REMEMBER TO CONSERVE WATER

**Watering is not allowed from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.**

Citizens can water their property twice a week, on any day, but not between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## 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.

### Saturday, May 4, 2013 Main Street Liberty 5K Run – “Let Freedom Run”

Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Downtown



### Sunday, May 12, 2013 Mother’s Day

### Saturday, May 18, 2013 Relay for Life

12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.  
Forney Community Park/Spellman Amphitheater

### Monday, May 27, 2013 Memorial Day

**City offices will be closed**

### Movies in the Park

#### Puss n Boots

### Saturday, June 1, 2013

Time: 9:00 p.m.  
Spellman Amphitheater @ Community Park

### Movies in the Park

#### Despicable Me

### Friday, June 14, 2013

Time: 9:00 p.m.  
Spellman Amphitheater @ Community Park

### Sunday, June 16, 2013 Father’s Day

### Saturday, June 29, 2013 Independence Day Celebration

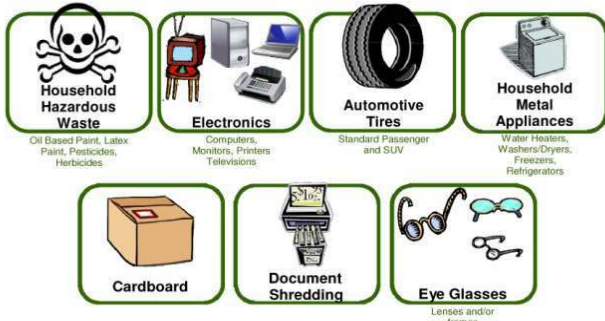
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Forney Community Park



## Upcoming City of Forney and CWD – X-treme Green Events

**Dates:** June 15, 2013 and October 26, 2013  
**Place:** Forney Community Park – 241 S. FM548  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to Noon

The following items will be collected:



Questions? Please call 972-564-7390



## 2013 City Council Meetings

Times are subject to change – Agendas are posted 72 hours in advance on our website at [www.cityofforney.org](http://www.cityofforney.org)

1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month Start Time 6:00 p.m. Work Session/Action Agenda	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
<b>May 7</b>	<b>May 21</b>
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

## Spring is in the Air – It’s Time to Reserve Ball Fields and Pavilions!

### Ball Field Reservations

You may reserve Fields 1, 2 (field 2 unavailable on Sundays from 1pm to 3pm), 4, and 5 through 11 at Mulberry Park or the baseball/softball fields at Claybon Elementary, Crosby Elementary, Criswell Elementary or Forney High School (field by the parking lot). Ball field reservations begin on Monday mornings at 8am by email only. You may email Monday at 8am for a reservation for the following Wednesday evening OR a Sunday specified time slot. Emails sent before 8am will not be processed. Specified time slots for Sunday are 1pm to 3pm or 3pm to 5pm or 5pm to 7pm. Reservations are for one week at a time. Reservations are for one time slot per team per week.

NOTE: Ball field lights are done in 2 hour blocks. They are \$20 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Residents must present a copy of their park pass at time of payment. Payment is due NO LATER THAN 4:30pm on Wednesday for Wednesday reservations and NO LATER THAN 4:30pm on Friday for Sunday reservations. If your light payment is not received by Wednesday or Sunday by 4:30pm, your lights will NOT be turned on. Payment address is 241 South FM 548 in the Spellman Parks Building in Forney Community Park. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm.

### Pavilion Reservations

The reservation cut off for the pavilion at Forney Community Park is Monday at 9am prior to the reservation date. For more information or to make your reservations contact Dodie Witt at 972-564-7326.



**Think SHOP Live  
FORNEY**