

Citizens join officials in celebrating Forest Hill's 65th Birthday

On March 16, the City of Forest Hill celebrated its 65th birthday. To mark this event, a citywide open house was planned to give citizens an opportunity to see inside city operations. Starting at noon on Wednesday, March 16, open houses were held at the following:

- New City Hall, 3219 California Parkway
- New Fire/Police Substation, 6800 Forest Hill Drive
- New Public Works Facility, 3101 Horton Road
- New Public Library, 6962 Forest Hill Drive

There were treats and tours at each location. Public Works

employees cooked hamburgers and hotdogs, the Library had sandwiches and dished up popcorn during Spring Break movies, City Hall had a big array of food along with birthday cake and punch and the Police/Fire Substation had hot wings and a lot more.

A commemorative program was held at 7 p.m. at City Hall and the newly-framed pictures of all 21 mayors who have served were unveiled. The program concluded with an opportunity for citizens to share positive memories of the City. (See Photos on Right.)

Election Day - May 14

Early voting begins May 2 for Mayor and Three Council Places

On Saturday, May 14, voters will go to the polls to elect a mayor and three council members. An election is not necessary for the Library Board since those three places are unopposed. Information the candidates gave when they registered to run for office includes:

Mayor:

Gerald Joubert, age 51, who is serving in City Council Place 3, is seeking the mayor's slot. He lives at 7329 Falmouth and has been a resident for 23 years. He lists his occupation as security.

Incumbent James Gosey, age 48, is seeking a fifth term in office. Gosey lives at 3839 Lon Stephenson Road and has lived in the city for 22 years. He is an electrical engineer, communications officer and property manager.

Lyndia Thomas, age 59, is presently serving in City Council Place 2 but is also running for mayor. She lives at 6941 Windy Hill and has been a resident for 31 years. She is retired.

Jesse Major, age 58, is seeking the mayor's post. He lives at 4200 Forest Hill Circle and has been a resident for 55 years. He is a security guard.

Place 4:

Dulani Masimini, age 38, is seeking a third term in Place 4. He resides at 6904 Stonewall Road and has lived in Forest Hill for 38 years. He is in education.

Ozell Birks, age 60, lives at 3300 Railfence Road and has been a resident for 36 years. He is in appliance repair.

Place 5:

Charlie Smith, age 56, lives at 3901 Panama Street and has been a resident for 50 years. He works for Tarrant County.

Bob Shanklin, age 84, lives at 3716 Orchard and has been a resident for 46 years. He is retired.

Incumbent Drew Sanders, age 63, who is completing four years on the Council, lives at 4635 California Parkway and has been a resident for 34 years. He is retired.

Place 6:

Steve Marshall, age 55, lives at 3309 Bunker Hill, and has been a resident for 20 years. He is in home health.

Malinda Miller, age 65, lives at 4205 Burlly Street and has been a resident for 20 years. She is a nurse.

Beckie Hayes, age 52, lives at 7317 Woodbridge Drive, and has been a resident for 20 years. She is retired.

Mustafa Sami, age 57, lives at 6401 Friar Court, and has been a resident for 31 years. He is completing four years on the Council and is a contractor.

Early voting by personal appearance will be held Monday, May 2, through Thursday, May 10, weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Community Center.

The election will be held at the Community Center, 6800 Forest Hill Drive, on Saturday, May 14, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, contact the City Secretary at 817-568-3000.

Scenes from City Celebration



Tours of the new Police/Fire Substation were a hit.



Visitors to City Hall received commemorative t-shirts and other goodies along with birthday cake.



Public Works cooks included Robert Hernandez, Braulio Magana, Ray Mitchell and Esteban Montoya.



Jo Pirtle from the Historical Society shows off the display which included old maps, histories and a lot of pictures which brought back a world of memories.

City Council holds two meetings

March 1, 2011

The Forest Hill City Council met on Tuesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. with Mayor Pro Tem Dulani Masimini presiding. Attending were Council Members Damian Dalcour, Lyndia Thomas, Gerald Joubert and Andrew Sanders. Mustafa Sami was not in attendance and Mayor James Gosey was on suspension. Prayer was offered by Fire Chief Ed Henderson followed by the pledges to the flags.

- Dan Lamers, Senior Program Manager, Transportation Planning, North Central Council of Government (NCTCOG) gave a presentation entitled "Mobility 2035 Plan" and discussed a possible rail station in the distant future as part of the nearly \$100 billion, 25-year blueprint for transportation in the 12-county North Texas area.

- Curvie Hawkins Jr., Director of Planning, Fort Worth Transportation Authority-The "T" said they are starting to focus more into a detailed study of Southeast Fort Worth and have found that southeast Fort Worth contributes the highest bus ridership of any part of the city.

- Amir Omar, City of Richardson City Council, gave a presentation entitled "Tree North Texas" which is a tree initiative program. The Regional Urban Forestation Initiative supports 30-50 Cities pledging to Tree North Texas by setting goals for their City, as well as, education and promoting planting trees.

- City Manager's Report:
 - Update on City of Forest Hill short term IT Plan
 - Update on Tarrant County Community Development Home Investment Partnership
 - Update on Elections and Filing for Office: The Council held a lengthy discussion about requirements for running for office and a ruling made by a federal court in south Texas.

- Update on the acquisition of playground equipment for City of Forest Hill Parks – Ipaye told the Council that his goal is to get donations for playground equipment for several of the City's parks. There were no Citizens Presentations.

- A public hearing regarding a request for a Specific Use Permit for a Motor Freight Terminal Facility to be located at 6629 Anglin Drive was held with no one speaking.

- Minutes of February 15, 2011 regular council meeting were approved as part

of the consent agenda.

- An agenda item regarding approval of a franchise agreement with Oncor Electric was pulled by the City Manager.

- No action was taken on an item dealing with the financial obligation to the City of Forest Hill Municipal Pound.

- An item dealing with the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual was pulled by Council Member Gerald Joubert.



Mayor Pro Tem Dulani Masimini presents proclamation to Berniece Taylor Johnson.

- An item regarding code compliance issues in Heritage Heights Addition was also pulled by Joubert.

- The Council unanimously authorized the City Manager to submit a grant application for the sum of \$10,037 to the Department of Justice for Forest Hill Police Department.

- The Council unanimously approved a request for a Specific Use Permit for a Motor Freight Terminal Facility to be located at 6629 Anglin Drive as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

- The Council adjourned following a lengthy executive session.

City Council Meeting - March 15, 2011

The Forest Hill City Council held a pre-council workshop at 6:00 p.m. with the regular meeting beginning at 7 p.m. with Mayor Pro Tem Dulani Masimini conducting. Council Member Damian Dalcour was not in attendance and Mayor James Gosey was on suspension. All other council members were in attendance.

Invocation was offered by Fire Chief Ed Henderson followed by the pledges to the flags.

- A proclamation was presented to Berniece Taylor Johnson by the Mayor Pro Tem.

- The City Manager's report included:
 - Update on 2011 TML Municipal Excellence Award
 - Update on City Wide Warrant Round-Up
 - Update on Forest Hill's 65th Birthday Celebration

- Citizens Presentations included Beckie Hayes (twice), Joseph Berry, Brenda Scruggs (twice), Loretta Muldrew, Linda Washington, Jimmie Sanders and Pearl Barnett.

- A public hearing was held on a Final Plat for Patel Addition being 2.28 acres located on Forest Hill Circle as requested by Priscilla Patel.

- An agreement for election services between the City of Forest Hill and Forest Hill Library District was unanimously approved during the consent agenda.

- Minutes of the March 1, 2011 Council Meeting were unanimously approved after discussion on the form and length of the minutes.

- In a split vote with Masimini being the dissenting vote, action regarding City Council Rules of Order and Procedure were delayed for a workshop in June.

- Action on authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents related to the purchase of the Chase Bank building located at 3219 California Parkway was delayed until after executive session at which time this item was approved.

- An Interlocal Agreement with Fort Worth Transportation Authority was unanimously approved.

- Action regarding filling vacancies for Boards and Commissions was pulled and will be brought back in April.

- Action on a Charter Review Committee failed in a split vote.

- A Resolution for 2010-2011 matching funds for the Home Grant Program was unanimously approved.

- The Final Plat for the Patel Addition on Forest Hill Circle (Best Western Hotel) was unanimously approved.

- The Council held a lengthy executive session and returned to take action on the purchase of the California Parkway property (above).

Minutes have not yet been approved by the City Council and are subject to corrections. Any changes made will be noted in the next month's news. Minutes and other information are available at www.foresthilltx.org.

Warning! Grass Fire Danger!

Currently we are experiencing high fire danger across much of North Texas. An extremely dry air mass is in place over North Texas and this is expected to support significant fire behavior over all of North Texas. High winds are expected in our area.

Extreme care is urged during all outside activities where there is a potential for grass fires to get started. Avoid outside burning and welding. Do not toss lit cigarette butts outside. Report all grass fires immediately to your local fire department by dialing 9-1-1!

Grief classes underway

The Forest Hill Church of Christ is holding a Grief Class each Monday in April from 7 to 8 p.m. The class meets in the Educational Wing of the Church and is open to all. The Church is located at 3916 Forest Hill Circle. Please call Walford Jones at 817-320-7855 for registration.

Easter Egg Hunt set for April 16

The City of Forest Hill's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is set for 11 a.m. Saturday, April 16 at the Community Center, 6800 Forest Hill Drive.

- The Easter Bunny will arrive in a police car to visit with the youngsters! Be sure to bring your camera for a picture.

- All youngsters 10 and under are invited to bring their baskets and hunt for eggs! More than 150 prize eggs will be hidden along with 1,500 other eggs.

- Other surprises are being planned including a clown. Light refreshments will be served. Don't miss the fun! Info: 817-568-3000.

Forest Hill News ★Your City Newspaper

Director of Production & Advertising.....**Jill Darden**
Editor.....**Shirley Fowkes**

To Advertise Your Business Call 817-729-6491.

Forest Hill News is published each month and provided to Forest Hill residents. The Forest Hill News publishes community news but reserves the right to refuse or edit advertising and editorial copy. Articles appearing in the Forest Hill News are the sole responsibility of the City of Forest Hill and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the publishers. The publishers are not held liable for any incident which may result from use or misuse of the information.

Sign up now for the Citizens Police Academy

The Forest Hill Police Department will be hosting a Citizens Police Academy beginning on Monday, May 16, 2011. The class will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will run until 9 p.m. It is a 13-week course and will be held every Monday night at the new Police Substation at 6800 Forest Hill Drive (old City Hall building). Registration forms can be obtained at the Forest Hill Police Department, 3336 Horton Rd, or you may contact Community Relations Officer Chris Stokes at 817-531-5250.

The Citizen Police Academy is a police department interactive program, designed to educate the public about its department policies, regulations, the criminal justice system, and ways to reduce crime.

The program allows members of

the Forest Hill Police Department and citizens of the community to meet, share ideas and information, and interact in a very positive and proactive setting. It is further hoped that the instruction will increase police awareness whereas to dispel suspicions and misconceptions and to increase community rapport through this educative process.

In addition, this is a fun, enjoyable partnering experience. Due to the course curriculum and content, all participants must pass a criminal history check.

The Citizen Police Academy curriculum includes:

- Introduction to the Forest Hill Police Department
- Department Hiring, Education and Training Requirements

- Communications
- Mechanics of Arrest
- Traffic Stops
- Felony Traffic Stops
- Criminal Investigations
- Gangs
- Jail Procedures
- Family Violence
- Accident Investigations
- Crime Scene Investigations
- Narcotics Recognition
- Narcotics Interdiction
- Crime Prevention

Upon successful completion of the Citizen Police Academy, graduates will be eligible to participate in programs such as the Forest Hill Ride-Along program and the Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association.

Ride-Along Program

The Forest Hill Police Department's Ride-Along Program is a program which allows the participants to sit inside a police vehicle during an officer's regular patrol shift. The participants ride with the officer during the course of the shift where they act as an

observer.

The officer's goal is to introduce the participant into the role of a Forest Hill Police Officer, to show a part of the community not normally seen by the average citizen, and to explain the apparent risks that come with the job. For more information and rules contact Officer Chris Stokes at 817-531-5250.



The City of Forest Hill's Annual
EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 16, 11 a.m.
at the Community Center
6800 Forest Hill Drive.

- The Easter Bunny will arrive in a police car to visit with youngsters! Feel free to bring your camera or phone to take pictures with the Easter Bunny.
- All youngsters 10 and under are invited to bring their baskets and hunt for eggs! More than 150 prize eggs will be hidden along with 1,500 other eggs
- Light refreshments will be served.
Info: 817-568-3000.



Want to participate in a community garden?

It's happening at the Forest Hill Public Library

6962 Forest Hill Drive

Call 817-551-5354 for more details.

House need repairs? Rehab Program May Fix Your Problems

The City of Forest Hill and The Tarrant County Community Development and Housing Division have partnered to create the "Home Owner Rehabilitation Program."

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) appropriates funds to entitlement communities through the HOME Investment Partnership Block Grant (Home) Program. These funds are targeted to benefit low to moderate-income persons. Funds are to be used for the development of safe and decent housing by providing homebuyer assistance; and homeowner rehabilitation.

Eligible participants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Have an annual income below the HUD established income limits
- Own your own home (place of residence for at

least one (1) year

- Have no more than two (2) liens placed against the property
- Meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - 62 years of age or older
 - disabled
 - handicapped
 - family with dependent children

The types of repairs covered include roof, foundation, plumbing, electrical and weatherization. To find out more about this program or other related programs, call 817-850-7940 during normal business hours.

There are also funds available for first-time home purchases for buyers who meet specific guidelines. City Manager Sheyi Ipaye encourages local citizens to take advantage of these programs. Additional information can also be found on the Internet at www.hud.gov.

Youth! Take advantage of these opportunities! Jovenes! ¿Están Preparados para su futuro?



To see if you are eligible for these Youth Programs, contact:

Resource Connection
1400 Circle Dr
Ft. Worth, TX 76119
817-804-2634

Students between the ages of 17 and 21 may be able to receive:

- Interactive Job Readiness Training
- Preparing for College or Occupational Skills Training
- Leadership Development Opportunities
- Gaining Work Experience
- Job Search Tools

Si esta entre las edades de 17 y 21 años, nosotros podemos poder ayudarle con:

- Entrenamiento en preparacion para trabajo
- Preparacion para colegio o' entrenamiento de habilidades profesionaies
- Obtener experiencia de trabajo ó empleo
- Ayuda con la busqueda de trabajo

If you are between the ages of 17 and 21 years old and not in school, you may receive help with:

- Getting your High School Diploma
- Obtaining your GED
- Interactive Job Readiness Training
- Preparing for College or Occupational Skills Training
- Leadership Development Opportunities
- Gaining Work Experience
- Job Search Tools

Si esta entre las edades de 17 y de 21 años, y no esta en la escuela nosotros podemos poder ayudarle con:

- Obtener su diploma de HS
- Obtener su GED
- Entrenamiento en preparacion para trabajo
- Preparacion para colegio o entrena miento de habilidades profesionales
- Programas de liderazgo
- Obtener experiencia de trabajo ó empleo
- Ayuda con la busqueda de trabajo

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FREE Pregnancy Testing Center

6609 Forest Hill Drive
Forest Hill, TX 76140

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

817-561-2261



FREE Pregnancy Testing (No Waiting)
Find out your results in minutes. It's quick, easy, free and confidential.

FREE Physician Referral
We will set you up with an appointment to see a physician.

FREE Medicaid Application Assistance
Think you qualify for healthcare under Medicaid? Get help with application paperwork. Our staff is here to assist you – free of charge.

FREE Childbirth Education
We offer free childbirth education. Please visit us or call us for more information.

The Pregnancy Testing Center is located in the Forest Hill Shopping Center, where Dollar General & Dollar Tree are located.

South Tarrant Chamber Annual "Celebration of Superstars" Scholarship & Awards Banquet & Silent Auction
Thurs., April 14, 2011 at Glen Garden Country Club, 6 pm, 2916 Glen Garden Drive, 76119, Donation: \$35. Call 817-478-6185.

Forest Hill Self Storage
817-568-2963

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Call 817-293-8357

Ask the Doctor

Stephanie Menes, M.D.
Forest Hill Medical Clinic




I think I might have a sexually transmitted disease. Will it go away on its own?
Chris K.

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are more than just an embarrassment. Untreated, some STDs can cause serious health problems or even death, in the case of HIV/AIDS. However, not all infections in the genitals are caused by STDs. If you are sexually active, it's important to see your doctor to check for STDs while they are in their earliest, most treatable stage.

Dr. Menes is your community doctor for illnesses, physicals and management of chronic diseases including diabetes and high blood pressure. Same day appointments are usually available.

Forest Hill Medical Clinic
6619 Forest Hill Drive, Suite 30
817-563-6985



Community Calendar April 2011

All meetings are subject to change. Look for agenda postings in front of City Hall prior to scheduled public meetings. City info available: www.foresthilltx.org.

April 4
Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.
Historical Commission Meeting, 10 a.m. – Library. Interested persons invited. Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., at the City Hall.

April 5
City Council Workshop and Meeting - 6 p.m. – New City Hall.

April 6
Senior Center Council Meeting, 9 a.m. at the Center.
The Forest Hill News arrives at your door.

April 7
Senior Birthday Party for those with April birthdays.

April 8
Senior Center Food Day for regular attendees.

April 11
Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.
Easter craft class, 10 a.m., at the Senior Center. Call 817-293-8319 for details. Parks & Clean City Commission Meeting - 6 p.m. – New City Hall. Police Alumni Association Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Police Station. Friends of the Library Meeting - 7 p.m., - Library. Info: 817-551-5354.

April 14
Last day to register to vote in the May 14th city election.

April 16
ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT for kids 10 and under, 11 a.m. at the Community Center.

April 18
Blood pressure checks & BINGO & Easter Party – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m. Community Development Corporation Meeting - 7 p.m. – New City Hall.

April 19
City Council Workshop and Meeting - 6 p.m. – New City Hall.

April 22
Good Friday. City Hall and other offices closed. Senior Center OPEN! Emergency personnel on duty in all departments. Call 9-1-1 for help.

April 24 **Happy Easter!**

April 25
Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m. Library Board Meeting - Library. Info: 817-551-5354.

May 2
Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m. Historical Commission Meeting, 10 a.m. – Library. Interested persons invited. Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., at the City Hall.

May 2
First day for early voting in person in the City Council/Mayor election. (Last day is May 10.)

May 3
City Council Workshop and Meeting - 6 p.m. – New City Hall.

May 4
Senior Center Council Meeting, 9 a.m. at the Center.
The Forest Hill News arrives at your door.

Neighborhood Watch:
Neighborhood Watch Meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., Church of Christ in Forest Hill, 3916 Forest Hill Circle. Info: 817-988-3360.

Library Happenings:
Information: 817-551-5354
ESL Classes, Tuesday & Thursdays, 6-7 p.m., at the Library.
Chess Club, Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. at the Library.
'Tween & Teen Nite at the Library, Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Driving Safety Classes – Info: 817-293-0823. Visit online at www.foresthillpubliclibrary.org.

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers. Call 817-258-6439.