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Community tree lighted during festivities

Enthusiasm and Christmas spirit abounded at the Forest Hill Tree Lighting where a standing-room-only crowd gathered to kick off the holiday season.

Local residents braved the cold weather on Thursday, December 1, for the 32nd annual Forest Hill Tree Lighting. Youngsters began arriving early to make sure they would get a sitting with the jolly man in the red suit. By the time the doors opened at 6:30 p.m., there was a crowd large enough to fill all the chairs in the building.

Following the invocation, City Manager Sheyi Ipaye introduced the dignitaries and Mayor Pro Tem Ozell Birks wished everyone a happy holiday season. Choirs from David K. Sellars Elementary School and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints warmed up the crowd with Christmas carols.

About two dozen door prizes were given away including stuffed animals, a Christmas clock, Christmas books and much more. After the giveaway, everyone joined in Christmas carols and sang to give Santa a signal to follow.

About 7:45 p.m., a big red Forest Hill fire truck rounded the corner and brought Santa to visit with the crowd and to light the tree which celebrated its 22nd Christmas in Forest Hill. Santa's appearance was made possible again this year by Ken Neathery. Goodie bags were given to all the youngsters before Santa left with a booming. "And to all a good night!"



Above: Choir from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints prepares to sing.

Left: David K. Sellars singers warm up the crowd with their lively music.

Above: Santa visits with local youngsters.

An open letter to the residents and businesses of Forest Hill from the Mayor and Council Members

You elected us to clean up. That is easier said than done. We are working on it but it will take time.

Council members no longer have city credit cards. Only business expenses are allowed.

Council members have limited access to City Hall.

Although we are not fully staffed, City Manager, Sheyi Ipaye is keeping service to the citizens at a high level. Spending is being contained and new revenue sources are being found. Our employees are a valuable asset to the day-to-day operation of the city. They are enduring furlough days this year. Some are cross-training to be able to do more than one job.

The problems that were already initiated before this council took office are being dealt with.

1. Christals was approved in 2010. The building was purchased by Corinthian Real Estate, a Colorado company in 2005. ZJ Gifts is the parent company of Christals. Although the store cannot be legally classified as a sexually oriented business, it is not the image we want for

Forest Hill and not the sign we want on I-20.

2. The issue at Griggs Park is that one area was at one time used as a dump ground for city projects and other construction waste. There is a grant available from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to help pay for the restoration of the park. What must be done to get that grant is assure the Department that there is no hazardous waste or ground water contamination. Environmental engineers have been contracted to do the testing. Their testing will be completed by December, 2011. In addition, funding issues will have to be addressed.

As your elected officials, we ask for your comments and suggestions. Consider serving of one of the Boards or Commissions. If you would like to learn more about how you can take part on deciding what happens in your city, come by city hall and pick up an application to serve.

City Council meetings are listed on the community calendar. We look forward to seeing you there.

Gerald Joubert,
Mayor, City of Forest Hill

City Council staffs boards and committees

The City Council met at 6 p.m. Thursday, **November 3**, for a special meeting with members Damian Dalcour, Jo Pirtle and Malinda Miller not attending.

• Following a citizen presentation by Loretta Muldrew, the Council unanimously approved the consent agenda including:

• Approval of a resolution establishing standards and criteria for the use of city-owned property for the installation of gas pipeline infrastructure and related activities.

• Adoption of a resolution to continue receiving taxes on goods-in-transit in response to recent state legislation.

• Approval of Tarrant County Emergency Services Mutual Aid Agreement.

• Minutes of the October 18, 2011 regular council meeting were approved with corrections.

• Two members were removed and appointments made to the Planning and Zoning Board. A replacement was made on the Charter Commission and appointments were made to the Historical Society and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The City Council met at 7 p.m. Thursday, **November 15**, for

a regular meeting with all members attending.

Following a citizen presentation by Loretta Muldrew, the Council unanimously approved:

• Minutes of November 3, 2011 Special Council Meeting.
• Adoption of a Resolution for ethical and training standards for Juvenile Case Managers employed by the City.

• Added Virginia Silas and Lisa Cabrera as signatories on the City of Forest Hill's Bank Accounts.

• Authorized the City Manager to appoint an Assistant City Secretary on a temporary basis.

• A public hearing was held to receive citizen's comments regarding a proposed Resolution relating to the approval of taxation of goods-in-transit that are otherwise exempt from taxation by Texas Tax Code and later in the meeting approved a Resolution regarding this matter.

• A Resolution casting official ballots by each member for the election of members to the Board of Directors, Tarrant Appraisal District was approved.

• A rehearing of sign variance request for ZJ Gifts, 3300 Southeast Loop 820, was held and approval was granted in a split vote with Miller voting nay.

• Mayor's Report included an update on Christal's.

• City Manager's Report included information on the FY 2010-2011 Year-end report; report on FY 2011-2012 October Monthly Report; and a report on the furlough day for November.

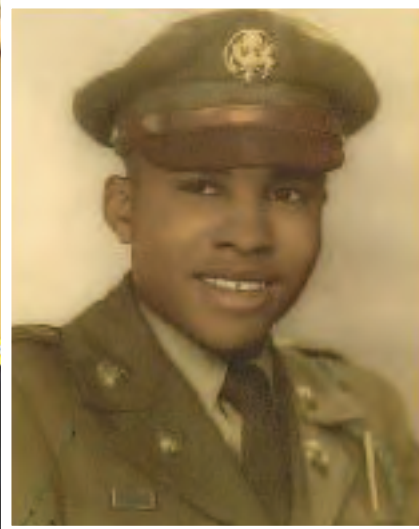
City employees honored at luncheon

It was visions of Christmas Lunch that haunted City employees after a feast on December 8 which included three kinds of pasta main dishes, breadsticks, salad and a wide array of desserts. Following the feast, door prizes were given away by the Celebration Committee with other special treats for employees.

Then the big announcements - Employees of the Year from each department. They were: Virginia Silas - Administration City Hall; Betty Holleman - Library; Chief Robert Herbert - Police Department; Tommy Simmons - Public Works Department; Chris Ellis - Fire Department and overall Employee of the Year for the City.



Veterans Day Program brings back memories



It was a day of remembrance for both veterans, families and survivors of the war years at Luby's on November 11.

Special speakers included **Roy Dell Johnson**, three time recipient of the Purple Heart and One of the Chosen Few from the Korean War (picture in Korean War uniform).

Also on the program were **Judge Manuel T. Valdez** (right) who served in the US Marine Corps 66-69, 1st Battalion - 1st Marines Division (Vietnam 66-67); MOS - Radio

Operator and Colonel (Ret) **Gerald Kokenes** (left) who served for 26 years as a pilot and in many command and staff positions in Washington, DC, Hawaii, Germany, and Vietnam.

Community Calendar

All meetings are subject to change. City info: www.foresthilltx.org.

- Dec. 16** – Senior Center Christmas Party & Gift Exchange.
- Dec. 19** - Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.; Community Development Corporation Meeting - 7 p.m. – City Hall; Library Board Meeting - Library. Info: 817-551-5354.
- Dec. 22** - Furlough Day, City Hall closed. Emergency personnel on duty.*
- Dec. 23** – City Hall & Senior Center closed. Emergency personnel on duty.
- Dec. 26** - City Hall & Senior Center closed. Emergency personnel on duty.
- Jan. 2** – City Hall & Senior Center closed. Emergency personnel on duty.
- Jan. 3** - No City Council Meeting
- Jan. 5** - Neighborhood Watch Meeting, 7 p.m., Church of Christ, 3916 Forest Hill Circle. Info: 817-905-9494.
- Jan. 6** - Food Bank Day at Senior Center for regular attendees.
- Jan. 9** - Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m; Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall.
- Jan. 13** - City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. - City Hall.
- Jan. 16** - Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.; Parks & Clean City Commission Meeting - 6 p.m. - City Hall; Police Alumni Association Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Police and Fire Substation; Friends of the Library - 7 p.m., - Library. Info: 817-551-5354.
- Jan. 17** - City Council Workshop & Meeting - 6 p.m. - City Hall.
- Jan. 23** - Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.; Community Development Corporation Meeting - 7 p.m. – City Hall; Library Board Meeting - Library. Info: 817-551-5354.
- Jan. 30** - Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.
- Feb. 6** – Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m; Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall.
- Feb. 7**- City Council Workshop & Meeting - 6 p.m. - City Hall.



Volunteers and city employees pitched in to help during the semi-annual Clean-up Day held November 12 at Super 1. City officials issued a big “thank you” to all who helped.

Library Happenings

Info: 817-551-5354 or www.foresthillpubliclibrary.org

- * ESL Classes: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.
- * ZUMBA classes: Tuesday, Wednesday – 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Thursday - 5:30 p.m.
- * Storytime: Fridays, 10:30 a.m.
- * Spanish Classes: Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
- * Bilingual Storytime: Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m.
- * Teen & T’ween Night: Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.
- * Game Club: Thursdays, 4:00 p.m.
- * Babygarten: Fridays, 11:30 a.m.
- * Wii Games: Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.
- * Saturdays: Wii Game Day or Movie Day, 1:30 p.m.



Forest Hill Lions braved the winter chill to plant a native persimmon tree in Heritage Park as part of an International Lions commemoration.



Mayor Gerald Joubert looks on as Police Chief Robert Herbert receives a plaque from City Manager Sheyi Ipaye honoring him for 25 years of service to the City of Forest Hill. He has taken a post as police chief in Palestine, Texas.