

NEW YOUTH BASKETBALL COURT



Public Works employees put the finishing touches on a full-size basketball court at the Community Center as part of a project to provide for the youth of Forest Hill.



“Community Friends”

“Community Friends” participated in a giant holiday program at Sellars Elementary on Friday, December 17. The Forest Hill Police Association, Forest Hill Firefighters Association and Captain D’s bought bicycles to be awarded as prizes for perfect attendance and for those who were members of the 25 Can Club during the recent canned food drive which gathered 4,598 cans. More than 100 youngsters also gathered on stage to perform a charming musical production for the entire school as students prepared to blast off for the holidays.

Christmas spirit abounds at Forest Hill tree lighting



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



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



Santa visits with local youngster.

A large crowd of local residents braved the cold weather on Thursday, December 3, for the 31st 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.

Choirs from David K. Sellars Elementary School

and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints warmed up the crowd with Christmas carols. Council Member Drew Sanders offered the invocation and Mayor Pro Tem Dulani Masimini wished everyone a happy holiday season.

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 21st Christmas in Forest Hill this year. 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!”



The Year in Review

Forest Hill has productive year in 2010

ADMINISTRATION

- The City Council Approved budget and set the Property Tax Rate at \$1.06 per \$100 valuation same as last year.
- Council approved a revision on the Comprehensive Master Plan previously written in 1993.
- Council approved a revision on the Sub-division Regulation previously written in 1993.
- Council approved establishment of Police and Fire Sub-station, four new Police cars, two commercial mower, street sweeper, sewer truck, and municipal pound.
- Council approved improvements to major street projects for overlay and reconstruction included: Queen Ann, Embassy, Regal, Plantation, Robindale, Carriage Hill, Rough Creek, Rustic, Cobblestone Dr., Cobblestone Ct., Shiloh Ct., Candlewick Ct., Valley Forge Trail.
- Revised the Personnel Policy, previously written in 2001.
- Initiated ISO process to lower city's insurance rating for the residents.
- Supervised implementation of \$73,659 Community Development Block Grant from Tarrant County for water line replacement.
- Negotiated gas deals with Burnett Gathering and Chesapeake.
- Council approved seven (7) Specific Use Permits for the following businesses: Best Western, Watermill Express, WingStop, Metal Recycling Center, Conatser Frac Pond Project, Car Wash Project and Assisted Living Facility.
- City Council approved \$115,184 36th-year CDBG/Stimulus – 12" Waterline improvement for Cardinal Ridge at Forest Oak/Truett Street.
- Promoted and hired more than a dozen part-time and key personnel including:
 - Promoted Robert Herbert to Police Chief
 - Promoted Grace Edwards, City Secretary
 - Promoted Lisa Cabrera, City Planner
 - Hired Jaynice Porter- Braithwaite, Administrative Assistant to City Manager; and promoted to Human Resources/Civil Service Director
 - Hired Ed Henderson, Fire Chief
 - Hired Jill McGrew, Finance Director
 - Hired Virginia Silas, Court/Accounts Clerk
 - Hired a new Animal Control Officer. Obtained Texas Department of Health Certification and Code Compliance training and certification.
- Celebrated National Night Out, Veterans Day and a Ribbon cutting for the New City Hall plus the annual Easter Egg Hunt, an AIDS Concert, Halloween Trick-or-Treat activity and the annual Tree Lighting.
- Code Enforcement filed 641 cases and collected

\$23,706 in Administrative Fees.

- Eleven (11) junk vehicles were crushed.
- Municipal Court filed 3,277 cases and received \$193,362.
- 547 cases received credit for time served in the amount of \$167,106.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Forest Hill Explorers participated in the 2010 Texas Law Enforcement Explorer Competition (state wide competition). Won five categories and brought back trophies. Also participated in numerous city events, including National Night Out, City-wide Clean-up, etc.
- Promoted a Lieutenant
- Filled two officer's positions.
- Assigned a detective to the Tarrant County District Attorney Major Crime Investigative Team.
- Crime rate has risen, but doing a great job in catching burglars, shooters, etc.
- Traffic Study performed at schools.
- Secured the cooperation of the sworn staff to go to 12-hour shifts, improving staffing levels and reducing response times.
- Successfully hosted a National Night Out event with more than 300 participants.
- Hired a new Administrative Assistant/Evidence Technician.
- Shut down drug houses in Heritage Heights.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- All members of the department passed annual medical and physical assessment with ratings of good, excellent and/or superior at Huguley Hospital.
- Three fire officers obtained state of Texas and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II certifications.
- Participated in and was instrumental in the creation of Medstar/EPAB's first responder's EMS bag configuration.
- Participated in numerous public events (career days, National Night Out, etc.)
- Processed two gas well applications.
- Implemented an above-ground fuel ground storage ordinance for the city.
- Worked with consultant to lower ISO city's insurance rating.
- Participated in 1,814 training hours
- Tested 123 pieces of fire hose
- Flow tested 149 fire hydrants
- Conducted 212 business inspections
- Responded to 1,943 calls for service to date:
 - 72 fire events
 - 1,149 EMS events
 - 159 public service events
 - 563 other events

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- Submitted 120 bacteriological water samples to the Health Department and monitored chlorine residual 365 days throughout the year as well.
- Provided water service taps where required as well as to private residences.
- Repaired approximately 50 water main breaks, as well

as water meter repairs and service line repairs

- Started a program to replace/repair as well as install additional water valves to make turning off mains more resident friendly during repairs and emergency situations.
- Inspected water tanks and towers for repairs.
- Passed TCEQ annual inspection for meeting requirements and reporting.
- Pump Station upgrade to ensure ample supply of water to City
- Supervised CDBG/Stimulus Waterline project was completed (Forest Oak/Forest Haven Spencer/Story) upgraded to 6" water main.
- Repaired several collapsed sewer lines including the problem encountered at the Chase Bank building.
- Responded to over 300 sewer backup calls in 2010.
- Programmed automated chemical treatment for the Lift Station for efficient operation.
- Responded to 38 manhole maintenance program by adding degreaser all over the City.
- Maintained fire hydrants and 36 locations of dead-end mains were flushed monthly.
- Repair numerous water meter repairs, Public Works assumed the responsibility of water meter inventory, continued to assist Utility Billing when requested.
- Handled customer complaint issues involving water taste, odor, pressure, color problems.
- Kept licenses current by attending required schooling, obtained new licenses required by TCEQ.
- Fixed pot holes on streets were filled and cutouts and capouts, overlays for repairs of water main repairs, problem areas were addressed.
- Streets curb and gutters cleaned manually, occasionally by street sweeper, overhanging tree limbs removed.
- Major street projects for overlay and reconstruction included 13 streets.
- Removal of graffiti from traffic signs and concrete culverts was a priority. Street signs program to update size and numbers system was begun.
- Repair signal light at Forest Hill Dr./Forest Hill Circle continued to be kept functional, program for replacing bulbs with LEDs was begun.
- Flashing school zone lights on Forest Hill Dr. and Dorsey St. kept operational for time zone changes and school start up/end.
- City parks were kept mowed, weedeated, trash picked up and maintained as needed. Ballparks were also maintained with watering and striping, prepping for activities.
- Public Works assisted in the move of City to the new location.
- Public Works moved to the new location.

THE 2010-2011 GOALS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Address organizational issues within city government while emphasizing quality customer service at all levels of the organization.
2. Promote a positive environment for economic development in the community to achieve stable and positive financial conditions.
3. Enhance the quality of life by improving the City's capital infrastructures.

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Year in Review (CONTINUED)

MAJOR PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Organizational Issues

The most important goal involving organizational issues is to instill confidence in the integrity of the city government. Through a commitment to excellence in leadership and staff development, employees can deal responsibly with citizen's concerns, resulting in the successful achievement of this goal.

The City of Forest Hill 2010 certified taxable property value of \$348,209,630 reflects a decrease of \$34,161,502, or 8.3 percent from the 2009 adjusted certified value of \$382,371,132.

As evidenced by this drop in assessed values, fiscal issues require constant vigilance. Bearing in mind achieving a long-term, stable, positive financial condition is paramount to the progress of Forest Hill; The City has elected to keep the same tax rate of \$1.06, in FY 2010-2011.

The FY 2010-2011 Annual Program of Services is divided into the following areas. These include: Adminis-

trative Services, Financial Services, Emergency Services, Municipal Services, and Utility Services. The program areas outline the respective roles of the departments and their associated divisions based upon the services they perform. This allows the creation of individual cost centers and better overall monitoring of fund expenditures. Owing to the delivery of services to business and residential interests in the community, the following are recommendations for FY 2010-2011:

- Adopt the effective tax rate of \$1.06 for FY 2010-2011 and establish fiscal accountability for growth in the assessment of property valuation in order to create additional capacity for future debt service.
- Review job compensation plan to ensure a market based approach for employee recruitment and retention.
- Complete improvements to: Burseson, Bunker Hill, Meadows, Nantucket, Alhambra, Independence, Sabine, Twin Oaks, Story, Forest Oak, Forest Haven, Trailwood, and Woody Lane.
- Complete improvements to Police/Fire Sub-station, Youth/Senior Citizens Center, Flea Market parking, Public Works building, Municipal Salvage Yard, Griggs and

Trailwood Park Projects.

- Consider establishing the "T" bus service to provide transportation in the community.
- Add position of City Planner, Code Enforcement Officers, Park and Recreation Coordinator and Human Resources Director during the coming year.
- Lease/purchase two (2) Police patrol vehicles, two (2) trucks for water utility area, one (1) Street sweeper, one (1) sewer truck, and two (2) commercial lawn mowers.
- Submit the fiscal year 2010-2011 Annual Program of Services to GFOA to determine its eligibility for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. Complete a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and enact fiscal policies that support increased accountability. Plan to submit the CAFR to the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada to determine eligibility for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

These recommendations will assist the City of Forest Hill in meeting basic service needs, accounting for operational deficiencies and preparing to meet future growth.

Community effort provides holiday help for needy

That Community Driven Spirit which moves Forest Hill was never more evident than it was this holiday season. Forest Hill Action Group officials reported an increase in the number of families assisted. This year there were 91 families assisted including over 251 children who received toys, gifts and other items during the Christmas holidays thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations in the community.

In addition, groceries which were collected during Super 1 Foods' "Spirit of Christmas Food Drive" and by students at local elementary schools, were distributed to those families in need of food and to a lot of senior citizens and disabled in the community. Super 1 Foods also donated hens for the needy families.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opened their building for the group to use as a sorting station and distribution point and also provided volunteers.

During the Thanksgiving Holiday, many families, especially senior citizens, were assisted with either groceries or gift cards made possible by a generous donation from the Forest Hill Lions Club, the House of Prayer and the Forest Hill United Methodist Church. In addition, several families who were in dire need of



Volunteers including firefighters, Police Officers, Lions and others sort canned goods.



Young Men assist in moving toys for the needy.

groceries and some emergency supplies were helped in early December.

Many individuals donated toys, money or other items for the needy and Dollar General on Forest Hill Drive provided toys from their annual drive.

Action Group coordinators expressed appreciation on behalf of the needy in Forest Hill for all the help which was given, especially the donations of money and toys.

"We really want to thank our volunteers. We could not complete all this work without them," stated Action Group Coordinator Connie Hoffman.

They also expressed deep appreciation for the City of Forest Hill which provides pickup points for applications and drop-off points for donations along with publicity for the program. They also sent out a big thank you to the Forest Hill Firefighters Association and Police Association for providing volunteers who helped sort canned goods and then came back on Saturday to help clean up and carry out packages for

the recipients.

The Forest Hill Action Group is a not-for-profit volunteer group which assists the needy, especially during the holidays, and has operated in the City of Forest Hill for 31 years.

Important Phone Numbers

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Atmos Energy (gas) | 1-800-460-3030 |
| AT&T | 1-800-464-7928 |
| City Offices and Departments | |
| Animal Control (Police Department) | 817-531-5420 |
| Building Official | 817-531-5718 |
| City Hall | 817-568-3000 |
| Code Enforcement/Planning & Zoning | 817-806-4701 |
| Fire Station – Main Number | 817-531-5715 |
| Municipal Court | 817-568-3046 |
| Permits Department | 817-531-5715 |
| Police Department | 817-531-5250 |
| Public Works | 817-531-5700 |
| Senior Citizen Center | 817-293-8319 |
| Water Department | 817-568-3030 |
| Water (Leaks in street) or after hours - Police Department | 817-531-5700 817-531-5250 |
| Charter Communications (Cable TV) | 1-888-438-2427 |
| County Commissioner Roy Brooks | 817-370-4500 |
| Forest Hill Action Group | 817-483-8857 |
| Forest Hill Ballpark/FHYA | 817-478-9941 |
| Forest Hill Library Office | 817-551-5354 |
| Forest Hill Lions Club | 817-572-2334 |
| Forest Hill Senior Citizen Center | 817-293-8319 |
| Garbage (IESI) including large item pickup | 817-222-2221 |
| Head Start Program | 817-483-0545 |
| Health Department | 817-871-7200 |
| Meals on Wheels | 817-336-0912 |
| Social Security | 1-800-772-1213 |
| Southwestern Bell Telephone | 817-464-7928 |
| State Rep. Marc Veasey District 95 | 817-339-1430 |
| State Senator Wendy Davis District 10 | 817-332-3338 |
| Tarrant Appraisal Office | 817-284-0024 |
| Tarrant County Transportation Service (seniors & disabled) | 817-336-8714 |
| TXU Energy (electric) | Metro 972-791-2888 |
| Oncor (electric emergencies) | 1-800-233-2133 |
| Oncor Street Light Outage Toll Free | 1-888-313-4747 |
| U.S. Representative Dr. Michael Burgess | 817-531-4570 |
| Medical, Police Emergencies | 9-1-1 |

Cleaner Curbs & Cleaner Creeks for a Healthier Community

Prevent storm water pollution in your community:



Report a Litterer



- Comply with local ordinances and storm water pollution prevention programs.
- Keep Your Waterways Beautiful.
- Participate in cleanup activities in your neighborhood.
- Support environmental education and programs in your city, county and school.
- Volunteer to place curb markers in storm drains.
- Report littering to the state hotline at 888.TEX.8683 or www.dontmesswithtexas.org
- Report illegal dumping in North Central Texas at 1-888-335-DUMP.

www.dfwstormwater.com



Library receives \$4,000 grant – El Dia de los Ninos/El Dia de los Libros

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) recently announced that the Forest Hill Public Library was one of eight libraries awarded a \$4,000 El dia de los ninos/El dia de los libros mini-grant. The grant is funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and will be used to increase the children's multicultural collection and the Library's overall emphasis on diversity. It will also be used to promote the El dia de los ni-

nos / El dia de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) literacy event on April 30, 2011.

In February and March, the Library will host a series of concerts featuring local middle and high school choir and band students. A panel of judges will select one band and/or choir to perform for the Dia celebration on Saturday, April 30.

Stay tuned for more details regarding the upcoming concerts and Dia event!

The Forest Hill Public Library is now open! Located at 6962 Forest Hill Drive (just north of the Senior Citizens Center), hours of operation are:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Tuesday | 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday | 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| Friday | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| Sunday & Monday | CLOSED |

Street light out? Report It

Keeping the lights on in Forest Hill is a priority for ONCOR. And with your help, you can notify them of malfunctioning lights or those in need of repair.

To make a report, log on to www.oncorstreetlight.com and fill out the online form. Or call 1-888-313-4747. You'll need to know the location of the problem light as well as identify the problem. Remember, please do *not* attempt to make a repair yourself.

Per the Public Utility Commission of Texas rules, ONCOR has 15 days to complete a repair once notified. However, they strive to complete standard repairs (burned out bulbs, photocells) in five days or less.

Spotlight on Business

Tito's is known for its Tacos



Authentic Mexican food can be found at one of the most unlikely places in Forest Hill. When the owners of Conoco Station decided to expand their business, they created the all new *Tito's Tacos*, located on the corner of I-20 and Anglin Drive. The restaurant area features a full service kitchen that cooks up steak and chicken tacos, as

well as burritos and other south of the border favorites. Aaron Rodriguez, also known as Tito, prepares family recipes he learned from his mother in the Mexican state of Durango. He and manager, Gulnar Noorami, pride themselves in serving only delicious and flavorful menu items.

"I love the flavors, peppers, spices and fruit we mix together to create authentic tastes," Noorami said. "If the flavor is missing, we call Tito's mama."

Noorami said the restaurant was opened in response to customers asking for hot food items when they stopped by the service station. It officially opened in September 2010 and they have added a few American classics like chicken fillets, hamburgers, and a breakfast menu. You can visit *Tito's Tacos* at 4724 SE Loop 820, or call 817-478-2143.

Employee of the Year named at Christmas Party



Employee of Year Cecile Yancey with City Manager Sheyi Ipaye.



Shirley Fowkes receives plaque from City Manager.

Cecile Yancey, Public Works Clerk, was named "Forest Hill Employee of the Year" during festivities at Glen Garden Country Club on Saturday, December 18. Each department chose a special employee and then an overall employee was named during the formal evening. She was lauded as one of the hardest working people in the city, always on time, often staying late. She "mothers" the Public Works guys and pours her soul into her work.

Other departmental employees included Robert Chapman (retired) from the Fire Department, Janis Humphrey from the Police Department and Municipal Court Clerk Bobbie Spence from City Hall. Also honored was Alicia Driver from the Forest Hill Public Library.

In addition, a plaque was presented to Shirley Fowkes, Forest Hill News Editor and Forest Hill Action Group Coordinator, for her service to the City.



The Compassionate Doctor



There's a new doctor in town and she cares deeply about helping others.

Stephanie Menes, M.D. opened her medical practice on

Forest Hill Drive in response to a need for a health care clinic in the city. She candidly answered *Forest Hill News* questions about her journey:

What made you want to become a doctor and what has the journey been like?

"I was inspired by watching documentaries on medical issues and I felt the call to alleviate the illness of the sick and needy. I have a compassion for helping people and I get great joy from seeing someone who was really sick turn around and become well again due to the care I gave them. It's really great to see the smile on their faces after they get well. It has been worthwhile and rewarding and I derive joy from knowing that I played a part in the health and well being of my patients."

Becoming a doctor is a long process, what made you stick with it and see it to completion?

"I think I stuck with the process because of my compassion for helping people. Rather than focus on the chal-

lenges of the process, I was focused on the goal of knowing that I would be able to touch people's lives once I became a doctor. Besides, it helped that I am a persistent person and I like to carry on with any project I start and see it to completion. It has been a difficult and sometimes treacherous road, but I love to take care of the sick."

What do you feel distinguishes your clinic from other doctors?

"I am very compassionate...I am dedicated to my practice and am very thorough about providing the best standard of care. I not only want to cure my patients but I also want to show them preventive measures that will keep them from getting sick often."

Dr. Menes received her training in Internal Medicine (Internship and Residency) at Metro General Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Her clinic offers flu shots, treats high blood pressure, diabetes, digestive problems and more. You can stop by for a visit at 6619 Forest Hill Drive or call 817-563-6985.

Career Day at Harlean Beal

Area officials recently participated in Career Day at Harlean Beal Elementary School, located on Forest Hill Drive.

(Above) The Southwest Dairy Association explains about the dairy business at their mobile classroom. The presentation included demonstrations for the students, who watched eagerly.

(Right) Fire Department shows the class how equipment works on a standard truck.



Watering restrictions now year round

No lawn or landscaping watering or irrigating is permitted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Hand watering or using soaker hoses is permitted. Hand watering is allowed while you are standing in your yard with a hose or watering can. Hoses connected to sprinklers or hoses left open-ended are not allowed during the restricted hours.

Why the restrictions during the daytime hours? Evaporation is generally highest from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. due to wind, sunlight and high temperatures. When you water outside of this time period, more water will seep into your landscaping, grass, trees and plants; that means less will be lost to the atmosphere because of evaporation.

Check your automatic sprinkler system timer settings. Make sure they're not set to run during the restricted time period. Citations may be issued if homeowners are not complying with these guidelines.

Use water wisely. Conservation is the key to a plentiful supply in the future. For more information about watering restrictions, call the Code Compliance officer at 817-806-4701.



The next time you pass the corner of California Parkway and Wichita, notice the new flag flying over City Hall.



Council Member Lyndia Thomas visits with other officials at the Fort Worth South Economic Development Holiday Event.

HOME ENERGY AID NOW AVAILABLE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced the availability of more than \$670 million to states to help low income families with their heating bills this winter. These funds are additional grants to states, tribes and territories under the LIHEAP. This program helps eligible families pay the costs of heating and insulating their homes in the winter, and cooling their homes in the summer.

IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY YOUR HOME ENERGY BILL, YOUR HOME MAY NOT BE SAFE, AND YOU MAY BE AT RISK OF SERIOUS ILLNESS OR INJURY.

THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) MAY BE ABLE TO HELP KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE AND HEALTHY.

STAY HEALTHY IN YOUR HOME

Energy assistance is important to all that receive it, but more so if someone in your home is elderly, disabled or a young child under six years of age. These persons are especially at risk for life threatening illness or death if their home is too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer.

BE SAFE IN YOUR HOME

You can face safety risks if you are unable to pay your home energy bills. Some people resort to unsafe methods to keep their homes warm or cool. These include the use of fireplaces, stoves, improperly vented portable heaters, barbecue grills, or overload electrical circuits. These methods are not only fire hazards, but also create the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR HELP WITH HOME HEATING AND/OR COOLING BILLS.

WHAT IS LIHEAP?

LIHEAP is a Federally-funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills.

LIHEAP can help you stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. By doing so, you can reduce the risk of health and safety problems (such as illness, fire, or eviction).

The federal government does not provide energy assistance directly to the public. Instead, LIHEAP operates in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, and the U.S. territories.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE LIHEAP ASSISTANCE?

The LIHEAP program in your community determines if your household's income qualifies for the program. The LIHEAP program may also require households to meet additional eligibility criteria to receive LIHEAP assistance.*

*NOTE: The availability of LIHEAP assistance is not guaranteed. Often most of the Federal LIHEAP funds are spent during the winter.

WHAT ASSISTANCE DOES LIHEAP PROVIDE?

Your LIHEAP program may be able to offer you one or more of the following types of assistance:

- Bill payment assistance.
- Energy crisis assistance.
- Weatherization and energy-related home repairs.

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO APPLY? YOU MAY NEED THE FOLLOWING:

- Recent copies of your utility bills.
- A recent payroll stub or other proof that shows your current gross income.
- Documentation showing income from Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, Pension Funds, disability, etc.
- Final Utility Termination Notice (if you've received a shut-off notice from your energy company).
- Proof of present address (e.g., rent receipt, lease or deed, property tax bill).
- Proof of total members living in your household (e.g., birth certificates, school records, etc.).
- Social Security cards (or numbers) for all persons living in your household.
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residence.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LIHEAP AND WHERE TO APPLY

You can call the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) project. NEAR is a free service providing information on where you can apply for LIHEAP. You can speak to someone at NEAR Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. (Mountain Time).

You can:

- Call the toll-free phone number at: 1-866-674-6327
- Send an e-mail to: energy@ncat.org
- Or you can contact your State's LIHEAP office

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) ready for business to Forest Hill

Free tax preparation for families with an annual income of \$50,900 or less will be available in January in Forest Hill. Statewide, one in four Texas residents did not claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) last year. Since 2008, between \$80- \$90 million of EITC rightfully owed to Tarrant County residents has gone unclaimed.

Reports indicate approximately \$300 in out-of-pocket savings per family that utilizes VITA rather than a commercial tax preparer with approximately \$2 returned to the local economy for each \$1 received in EITC!

The VITA sites offer high quality tax preparation services and all sites are IRS certified as well as the staff and volunteers. Free Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs), amending tax returns, and extensions on returns are available.

Tax preparation will be available from January 15 through April 14 in Forest Hill on Mondays and Thursdays, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 6800 Forest Hill Drive.

More information is available by calling 211.

City Council acts on wide variety of issues

City Council – December 7, 2010

The Forest Hill City Council met at 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 7, at the City Hall, 3219 California Parkway, starting with a town hall meeting. Only a small group attended with Council Member Andrew Sanders, Mayor James Gosey and Mayor Pro Tem Dulani Masimini there to respond to the citizens. Concerns voiced were the condition of Trailwood, economic development, code enforcement and sewer problems on Woodbridge.

At 7 p.m., Fire Chief Ed Henderson offered the invocation followed by the pledges to the flags. Council Members Gerald Joubert, Damian Dalcour, Lyndia Thomas and Mustafa Sami joined the regular meeting.

- City Manager Sheyi Ipaye gave an update on the 2011 holiday schedule and the new police and fire substation. He also provided information on the Tarrant County street rehabilitation project and the Community Development Block Grant project - water line for Cardinal Ridge. Ipaye also reported on the response which was submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on a violation in Griggs Park.
- Minutes of the September 21 Council Meeting were unanimously approved.
- A resolution accepting the results of the November 2 election for the continuance of the local sales and use tax was unanimously approved.
- An Interlocal Agreement with Fort Worth for Rabies Control Services was unanimously approved in a routine matter.
- Council Member Lyndia Thomas removed an agenda item on considering procedures on investigation and to enforce allegations of ethics violations by council members.
- An ordinance setting a rate of \$7.00 per thousand gallons of water used (by Chesapeake Energy) was unanimously approved.
- The Council unanimously approved a mutual aid service agreement with Tarrant County and surrounding cities.
- The Council convened into executive session with a lengthy agenda.

City Council – December 9, 2010

The Forest Hill City Council met at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, at the City Hall, 3219 California Parkway, with all Council Members attending. Following the invocation and pledges to the flags, discussion centered on which of two agendas was to be followed since one was posted at the request of the mayor and the other at the written request of three council members.

- The Council, in a split vote, appointed Council Member Mustafa Sami to chair the meeting instead of Mayor Gosey who was accused of violating the city's ethics ordinance by coercing a council member to vote to keep the city secretary and that he stated, in front of witnesses, that he would have the city secretary file sexual harassment charges against Council Member Damian Dalcour.
- Council Member Drew Sanders resigned at this point in the meeting saying, "I cannot stand this mess! I will be praying for you. God bless you. This is my last night."
- Following discussion, in a split vote, the Council suspended Mayor James Gosey for four months. Voting against the suspension was Mayor Pro Tem Masimini with Council Member Drew Sanders now gone.
- In another split vote, the Council voted to discharge City Secretary Grace Edwards with Dalcour, Thomas and Joubert voting for the firing and Masimini and Sami voting against the dismissal. (Four

votes are required for passage according to the City Charter.)

Special Council Meeting - December 21, 2010

The Forest Hill City Council met at 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 21, for a very brief workshop and then waited until 7 p.m. to convene the regular meeting. All members were present except Mayor James Gosey who was suspended.

Following the invocation by Fire Chief Ed Henderson and the pledges to the flags,

- Council Member Drew Sanders asked for forgiveness for his previous action and vowed to stay on the City Council and "try to make a difference." (His previous resignation was not submitted in writing and had not been accepted by the City Council.)

City Manager's Report:

City Manager Sheyi Ipaye gave an update on the new Police and Fire Department Sub-Station and the Municipal Yard.

He also reported on pending Economic Development Projects including:

- Best Western Hotel – final plat and loan in process
- Car wash – plans progressing
- Assisted living facility – will employ 28 persons including many locals

A report on holiday help for the needy was turned over to Forest Hill Action Group Coordinator Shirley Fowkes who reported that over 90 families and 251 children were assisted with help from the community.

- Citizens Presentations included Loretta Muldrew, Brenda Scruggs, Jimmie Sanders and Beckie Hayes.
- Consent agenda items were approved in a split vote with Lyndia Thomas and Gerald Joubert voting nay which included the following:

- Approval of minutes of November 16, 2010 regular council meeting.
- Approval of minutes of December 7, 2010 regular council meeting.
- Approval of minutes of December 9, 2010 special council meeting.

- In a split vote, Council Member Lyndia Thomas was appointed temporary presiding officer in case of the absence of Mayor Pro Tem Dulani Masimini.
- In a unanimous decision, the Council authorized the City Manager to move forward with the acquisition of the property located at 3217 California Parkway, (Chase Bank).

- The Council held a lively discussion on establishing a policy regarding absent/leave for City Attorney, Municipal Judge, City Secretary and City Manager and unanimously agreed that the City Attorney and Municipal Court Judge's absences should be covered in their contract and that the others should be established the same as regular city employees.

- The Council unanimously approved an ordinance defining terms for boards and commissions.
- The Council deferred action regarding the development of an evaluation tool and process for council appointees to a workshop.
- The Council discussed who types and posts agendas with no formal action taken.
- Action regarding the duties/goals for the City Attorney, Municipal Judge, City Secretary and City Manager was deferred to a workshop.
- In a split vote with Masimini voting nay, the Council agreed to move ahead in establishing a municipal yard at 3415 Horton Road.
- Following a short executive session, the Council adjourned.

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.

Babygarten

Babygarten now available at Forest Hill Library

Babygarten, a special story/playtime hour for children 0-24 months will be available:

Friday, Jan. 7, 2011 at 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 at 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Friday, Jan. 21, 2010 at 11:30 am.-12:30 pm

Sign up for Babygarten or ask for Children's Librarian Alicia Driver at 817-551-5354 and join the fun!



Chesapeake Energy celebrated their first pad site in Forest Hill on Thursday, December 14, at a Conatser Kickoff Party at City Hall. A lot of mineral owners came by to get information and enjoy the light refreshments served by Chesapeake associates.

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