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2016 - Year of economic growth in Forest Hill

The year of 2016 brought an abundance of economic development to Forest Hill.

February 3 was the day that **Shipley's Donuts** opened their door at 5 a.m. serving up delicious treats to the area. The company has 190 stores in the south including the new one in Forest Hill. Owner Kim Chong held a ribbon cutting on April 23 with "Free Coffee With the Mayor."

Advance Auto Parts, 5301 Wichita, officially opened on March 26 with Chamber of Commerce and City officials on hand to cut a ribbon. Advance Auto Parts is now the largest retailer of Automotive replacement parts in the U.S.

PL\$, 5301 Wichita, also held a grand opening on March 26 with officials attending. The newcomer to the money business offers money order and check cashing services, fax, notary, and much more.

In March, **Denny's**, 3228 Southeast Loop 820, reopened after a major renovation made necessary by a fire.

QT, corner of I-20 and Wichita opened its doors on April 27 with a gala ribbon cutting attended by City officials and Chamber of Commerce Board Members.

On April 19, the City Council unanimously approved a zoning change which would allow a \$7.2 million **Holiday Inn Express** to be built east of Discount Tire on land between Forest Hill Circle and Southeast Loop 820. Land is presently being cleared for the structure which will also include a spot for a sit-down restaurant.

On August 16, the City Council unanimously approved a replat of land at the corner of Hartman and California Parkway for **City Vending**. The longtime Fort Worth business will move its headquarters to Forest Hill. Permits are in the works for the 20,000 square foot facility which will include 2,000 square feet of office space.

Planet Fitness officials announced in December that they will remodel the space currently next to Dollar Tree (6605 Forest Hill Drive) as well as build out and utilize the space that has been vacant to the south of that store which was previously occupied by Kroger. The entire state-of-the-art health club will be approximately 20,000 square feet. The grand opening will take place in the Spring (April/May).

New Home Construction: As of December 31, in Rose Crest Estates, 89 new homes are either fully complete or in stages of construction since March, 2015. There are 224 lots on the property; four homes were there when Wall Homes started building. The average home price is approximately \$250,000. Also, there are 15 new homes on An-

drea Lane which should be completed in the first quarter of 2017. These homes are only one block away from David K. Sellars Elementary.

One of new Wall Homes in Rose Crest Estates



Brigette Mathis appointed to Council Place 3 after Benson's effective resignation

A Special City Council Meeting was held on Friday, January 6. City Attorney Warren Spencer explained that an Attorney General's ruling had been received which had been requested with clarification on dual elected office holding. The ruling stated that since both



the City Council and Library Board have taxation authority, a person cannot serve on both. Warren explained that when Michelle Benson, who was elected to both last May, was sworn in to the City Council prior to the Library Board, she effectively resigned from City Council when she was sworn into the second office. Benson was not present at the meeting. The Council approved the effective resignation with all other members present and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Malinda Miller abstaining. Brigette Mathis, 57, an educator, was unanimously appointed to fill the slot. She formerly served in that position.

A Message from the Mayor:

Welcome 2017! A time of hope and renewal as we celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another. It's a time to pause....and reflect upon all our accomplishments. A time to set our sights on our goals and opportunities for the future.

As we look forward, we'll build on what we've accomplished so far but we also must take the lessons of this last year and apply them to our plans for 2017 and beyond. It's important to be in action, to be moving forward no matter what. Even in the face of a disappointment or a frustrating setback, going backwards should not be an option.

As a community we've seen how when we band together towards a common goal, we succeed. When it's all said and done, our greatest strength is in our residents – resilient, hard-working, and diverse. And also in your opinions. But –we can work together to make Forest Hill its best as long as we have it in our heart to do just that and the fortitude to work through our differences.

I'm excited for our future and look forward to 2017 bringing us continued positive change and growth to Forest Hill. May the new year bring you and yours health, happiness and success.

Proud to serve you,
Mayor Gerald Joubert

Signups begin for city election

On Saturday, May 6, voters will go to the polls to elect a mayor, three council members for two-year terms and one council member to fill the remaining year of Michelle Benson's term in Place 3. Benson's effective resignation was accepted in January and Brigette Mathis was appointed to fill that slot until the next election.

The election will be conducted by Tarrant County officials at the Civic & Convention Center, 6901 Wichita, on Saturday, May 6.

Signups to run for city election begin Wednesday, January 18, and conclude at 5 p.m. Friday, February 17. Persons wanting to run for office may file weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the City Secretary's Office, 3219 California Parkway.

In addition to the Mayor's slot and a one-year term in Place 3, Place 4 with incumbent Ozell Birks, Place 5 with incumbent Clara Faulkner and Place 6 with incumbent Malinda Miller will be on the ballot. The incumbents have not announced whether or not they will seek reelection.

For information on running for office you may pick up an application at the City Secretary's office at City Hall during regular office hours or call City Secretary Othel Murphree at 817-568-3040.

Frigid temperatures send Public Works employees out at 5 a.m.



Frigid temperatures moved into the Metroplex on Sunday, December 18 and those conditions led to four major water breaks. Public Works crews were summoned from sleep at 5 a.m. when the temperature was 19 degrees. On Stephens Hill Drive, they found that an eight inch water main had broken, water gushed out and turned into ice almost immediately. Then the ice broke the branch off the tree and the tree branch fell and broke the glass of the homeowners' bedroom giving everyone a wakeup call.

Hundreds join Forest Hill's "Dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe" Parade

A huge crowd of walkers was joined by musicians and marchers along with approximately 400 horseback riders for the annual Forest Hill "Dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe" Parade which wound its way through the streets on Sunday, December 11, braving a bitter, cold wind. Total participants is estimated at about 1,000. This year many families lined the parade route to cheer while others decorated their yards and set up parties to commemorate the religious event. Some passed out bottled water to parade participants.

En Español: Una gran multitud de caminantes fueron acompañados por músicos y manifestantes junto con aproximadamente 400 jinetes para el Forest Hill anual "Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe" Desfile que se abrió paso por las calles el domingo, 11 de diciembre de desafiar un viento amargo cole. Total de participantes se estima en unos 1.000. Este año muchas familias se alineaban en la ruta del desfile para animar mientras que otros decoradas sus patios y crear grupos para conmemorar el evento. Algunos pasaron por el agua embotellada para los participantes del desfile.



121 families including 221 youngsters helped at Christmas



Firefighters and police officers assist with canned goods

It was a holiday season of sharing, caring and togetherness as people of all races, faiths and philosophies worked together. Since 1980, the Forest Hill Action Group has coordinated the care of the needy in Forest Hill during the holidays. This year there were 121 families assisted including 221 children who received toys, gifts and other items during the Christmas holidays thanks to the generosity of businesses, individuals and organizations in the community including the Forest Hill Lions Club.

In addition, groceries which were collected during Super 1 Foods' "Spirit of Christmas Food Drive," by students at Harlean Beal Elementary and residents of the Villas were distributed to those families in need of food and to a lot of senior citizens and disabled in the community. The South Tarrant Chamber of Commerce donated canned goods as part of their holiday event. Super 1 Foods also donated hens and packing boxes for the needy families.

An out-of-state donor pitched in with clock radios for needy teens and many others bought toys, balls and other stuff which was needed to complete the needs.

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



Volunteers organize toys to be distributed to needy youngsters. drive for warm blankets, hats and gloves.

Also during the Thanksgiving holiday, many families, especially senior citizens, were assisted with either groceries or gift cards with help from Mt. Zion Christ Holy Sanctified Church, the House of Prayer, Praise Center Church and the Forest Hill United Methodist Church.

Action Group coordinators expressed appreciation on behalf of the needy families in Forest Hill for all the help which was given, especially the donations of money and toys. They reported more than 75 volunteers were on-site during their project. Many of those volunteers came from out-of-town just to be part of the ongoing charity work. If you want to help or need more information, call Shirley Fowkes at 817-881-8857.



FOREST HILL GUNS, GALS & GOURMET



Admission:
\$5 per person OR
\$1 per person w/4 cans of food
Kids 12 & under free w/paying adult

FOREST HILL CIVIC & CONVENTION CENTER
SAT., 2.18.17 9:00AM-5:00PM
SUN., 2.19.17 9:00AM-4:00PM
Info: 817-659-9249

*Canned goods donated to Forest Hill Action Group for needy families

Community Calendar

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

January 16 - City offices closed for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Annual Parade - 9 a.m. Lineup at Civic & Convention Center. Emergency personnel on duty. Call 9-1-1 for help!

January 17 - City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall

January 18 - Lions Club - 7 a.m. - Hampton Inn - Visitors eat free; Historical Commission - 3 p.m. - City Hall.

January 23 - Blood pressure checks & BINGO - Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.; Library Board Meeting - 6 p.m. - Library.

January 28 - Forest Hill Church of Christ Helping Hands Food Program Distribution - 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

January 30 - Blood pressure checks & BINGO - Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.

February 1 - Lions Club - 7 a.m. - Hampton Inn - Visitors eat free

February 2 - Neighborhood Watch Meeting - 7 p.m. - Civic & Convention Center. Info: 817-905-9494

February 3 - Food Bank Day - Senior Center - for seniors who are regular attendees

February 6 - Blood pressure checks & BINGO - Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.; Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - 6 p.m. - City Hall.

February 7 - City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall.

February 13 - Blood pressure checks & BINGO - Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.; Parks, Recreation & Clean City Commission Meeting - 6 p.m. - City Hall; Police Alumni Association Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Civic & Convention Center; Friends of the Library Meeting - 7 p.m. - Library - Info: 817-551-5354

February 15 - Lions Club - 7 a.m. - Hampton Inn - Visitors eat free; Historical Commission - 3 p.m. - City Hall.

February 20 - City offices closed for Presidents Day. Emergency personnel on duty. Call 9-1-1 for help!

February 21 - City Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - City Hall

February 25 - Forest Hill Church of Christ Helping Hands Food Program Distribution - 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

February 27 - Blood pressure checks & BINGO - Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.; Library Board Meeting - 6 p.m. - Library.

Note: Emergency warning sirens are tested the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. weather conditions permitting. Details on website.

FROM THE FOREST HILL LIBRARY

Library: 817-551-5354 or

Info at: Forest Hill Public Library Facebook page

Check out the new Facebook page!

LIBRARY HOURS: Tuesday-Thursday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Closed Friday, Sunday & Monday. Toddler Story Time & Crafts - Wednesday, January 25 from 11 a.m. - 12 noon, ages 2-5 years at the Library.

Story Time & Crafts/Prizes All ages. Saturday, January 28 - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Library.

Toddler Valentine's Story Time Tuesday, February 14, 10-11:30 a.m., for 2 to 5 year olds at the Library

Story Time & Crafts/Prizes All Ages. Saturday, February 18, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Everman Choir performs at Chamber of Commerce Christmas Event



The Everman High School Gospel Choir presented a Christmas Concert for the South Tarrant Chamber of Commerce Christmas Event on December 14 at the Civic & Convention Center.

Free TAX AIDE service at Library

An AARP TAX AIDE will be providing free income tax preparation at the Forest Hill Public Library every Wednesday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The free service starts February 1 and runs until April 12 - Wednesdays only. Appointments are required. Contact or visit the Library to set time slot.

Save water now - save money later

This is a friendly reminder that the City of Forest Hill Water Utilities Department is now in winter average time. This covers the months of December, January and February.

During this time the customer's water usage is calculated over the three (3) month period to set the customer sewer rate for the next year. This recalculation procedure happens in April of every year. **Save water now to save money later.**



Low cost animal vaccination clinic
ANIMAL CLINIC OF FOREST HILL
Every 2nd Saturday of the month
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at 3350 Lookout Drive
817-551-3700 for info

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



ANNUAL PARADE



Celebrating Unity, Harmony & Diversity

MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH - Kickoff @ 9:00AM
(@the Civic & Convention Center)

TO MARCH, RIDE OR WALK,
CALL 817-568-3009 FOR ENTRY FORM