



THE FLOWER MOUND
Messenger

Friday, Dec. 28, 2007

2007 Year in Review

By Stephanie A. Miller

Staff Writer

Editor's Note: In our final issue for 2007, we take a look back at events in our area of North Texas. The first issue in 2008 will look at potential stories on the horizon.

The year 2007 has been an eventful one for Flower Mound, which was listed among *Business Week* magazine's Top 25 Most Affordable Suburbs in the South category.

For its part, Highland Village was ranked as the Safest City in Texas, following its ranking for five consecutive years as the Safest City in North Texas.

Construction of the Community Activity Center (CAC) in Flower Mound began early this year and, when completed, will offer a variety of services to residents and families.

Lakeside Business District received some new neighbors and talks of a unique property development, known as the Forums, also surfaced.

The summer of 2007 was defined by the local flooding of Lewisville and Grapevine lakes and was so severe the annual Lions Club Balloon Festival was canceled in August. According to the Dallas-Fort Worth office of the National Weather Service, flooding took place in Flower Mound and Highland Village from May until July.

Here's a look back at some of the news worthy highlights memorable events of 2007.

In late January, Flower Mound renewed its relationship with the Flower Mound Chamber of Commerce to coordinate efforts for economic development endeavors. The Town Council approved a \$50,000 funding and services agreement for a two-year period with the Flower Mound Chamber of

Commerce. The move repaired a business relationship that was torn in 2005 after it was uncovered that the chamber's vice president had embezzled \$50,000.

Drilling in the Barnett Shale area west of Flower Mound prompted new pipeline ordinance approval. Town leaders approved an oil and gas well ordinance that stemmed from resident concerns about noise and light, Flower Mound Town Manager Harlan Jefferson said. Stakeholders also had concerns regarding setback requirements so the oil and gas well ordinance provides a balance between the two, he said. The ordinance will also provide legislative guidance for the development of Canyon Falls in west Flower Mound.

Several new tenants called the Lakeside Business District their new home when they located to the area this year.

Stacy Furniture, Direct Source Hamco, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association and Home Depot Supply were among the businesses that came aboard this fall. FUNimation Entertainment relocated from its 25,000 square-foot North Richland Hills location into a 48,500 square-foot location at Corporate Ridge in Lakeside Business District. FUNimation Entertainment is a publicly traded company that produces popular television series and games for children and young adults.

The Lakeside DFW development, however, hit several potholes — or speed bumps — in its progress surrounding a five-star hotel and resort with condominiums. In September, developers initiated a redesign then the project was broken into two phases in October. A fresh approach was undertaken following a Lakeside Stakeholders meeting under the direction of Scott Polikov, president of Gateway Planning Group, which was hired by Flower Mound to lead the committee of 12 toward a cohesive development plan.

This year also brought talks of developing 158 acres of property near the Forums neighborhood.

In January, council members voted 4 to 1 against approving the building of a Market Street Supermarket at Cross Timbers and Long Prairie Roads.

Cole McDowell, developer of Parker Square, presented plans to Flower Mound leaders for a "down-town" Flower Mound that will be based in the center by a 3,200-foot-long river walk, a hospital, 40 acres of parks and an Italian-influenced plaza.

A main element of the development will be five different types of residential that will be mainly along Morriss Road. The various residential structures will include unassisted-care senior living, condominiums, townhouses or duplex and some multifamily.

Flower Mound Mayor Jody Smith believes that "the time is right" for the concept of the development.

"I'm very excited to see our community's reaction to the possibility of a town center finally being planned in Flower Mound," she said. "This project will bring a centralized area for residents to gather for relaxation, for business, for shopping and for very valuable services, such as medical services and in the future, we will benefit from the businesses that will call a quote on quote forums home."

This was the first year that the Flower Mound Police Department activated its CodeRed system, which alerts the public in the event of an emergency. As of late December, more than 21,000 phone numbers were registered in the Police Department's CodeRed program.

"I think it's been a very good program to date," Flower Mound Police Lt. Wendell Mitchell said. "Before, we had to use FMTV, posting messages or our town's Web page. With this right here, we're able to contact those registered persons more directly."

This year marked the end of the operations of patrol motorcycle officers. The phasing out of the patrol motorcycle officers started about two years ago as the department