



FM Mayor running for one more term

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During her four years in office as Mayor of Flower Mound, Jody Smith has steered the town toward more business growth than it had experienced during several years before she was elected. Lakeside District has grown enormously; there have been many corporate relocations; a major hotel with condominium units as part of the project is being planned and numerous other retail, restaurant and commercial entities have been completed. Working assiduously with other Town Council members, the Mayor has been a friendly and diplomatic facilitator and ambassador for the rapidly growing area. Ms. Smith said the appointment of Harlan Jefferson as Town Manager has been one of the most important accomplishments of the current town council.

“Harlan has just finished his second year and has been an awesome town administrator. He has brought some very good, straight thinking to the table. He’s conservative when it comes to finances and he’s had the ability to work with the council for the betterment of Flower Mound. A lot of his work is reflected in the projects that have been completed, as well as the projects that are just getting started. Also, the town has made progress without having a battle in the newspaper every week. It has been a friendlier and kindlier town.” The mayor went on to say that she feels the town has a very independent and unified Council. “Independent because all of the Council members and I represent the entire community. Not one of us is backed by just a specific group and we come to the table with independent thoughts. We come to the Council Chamber with every resident’s needs in mind. We’re unified in making decisions that will benefit our constituents. With that in mind, we’ve been able to bring high quality development to our town. Our Lakeside District is building out and there are several other large projects coming up, including a few along Gerault Road that are about 45,000 square feet.”

Mayor Smith said there are other major projects coming to the table. "Presbyterian Hospital has expressed their interest in coming to Flower Mound, hotels are coming, and other hospitals in the area, such as Baylor and Medical Center of Lewisville are expressing a desire to expand into our town." Another addition to the town that is being proposed is to be entitled, "The River Walk in Central Park." Smith said a developer has brought a marvelous team that has hit the ground working. "We've had meetings; the developer has had workshops and meetings scheduled with all of our boards and commissions. It will include a river walk, hotel, retail, commercial, residential, a hospital and an extremely well thought out and well laid plan." If the 166 acre development comes to fruition, the mayor believes it will become the "Star of Flower Mound." An application for the project was made on 12/31/07 and will be decided on after the usual studies are completed and approvals made.

"It's very exciting because the team that has come to the table is very professional. Mr. McDowell has brought in architects, planners, people who can take this ball and run with it," Mayor Smith said. As for a timeline, the mayor said, "Within the year they'd like to see dirt turning for the hospital. This project would have to be phased to make it work out to the level of quality the town wants. I look at this as a very sustainable community because the plan is so well done that it will have the building standards and development standards that are even higher than the town would ordinarily require."

Lastly, the mayor wanted to announce that she is running for reelection and it will be her last term. "Although I've enjoyed the past four years and am looking forward to two more, I'd like to encourage other folks to consider taking the opportunity to plan to run for mayor because I'd like to call my third term, my last term," she said. "I know that some will say the people decide on term limits by voting. However, in this case, I'm going to impose term limits on myself."