



**FARMERS  
BRANCH**

# News Release

City of Farmers Branch, Texas

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## For Immediate Release

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## Neighbors Go Community Leaders Column

**By Bob Phelps, Mayor**  
*City of Farmers Branch*

The City of Farmers Branch is in the midst of an application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to expand the allowable capacity of the Camelot Landfill to serve the waste disposal needs of Farmers Branch and other communities for years to come. Camelot is owned by Farmers Branch, but located in Lewisville along one of its borders with Carrollton.

As a long-term entrepreneurial decision, the City of Farmers Branch bought the property in then-unincorporated Denton County and began operation of the Camelot Landfill in 1980. It is situated to the north of the much larger, and currently taller, DFW Landfill. Originally, there were no residences located near the Camelot Landfill and there was industrial zoning in place around the two landfills to act as a buffer between those operations and any future residential development.

The area was incorporated into the City of Lewisville by annexation in 1987. Land uses nearby have changed through the years, but development still continues to grow in the area, even with two landfills there, proving the landfills to be a compatible land use. Still, despite the dramatic changes in the area around Camelot since the early days, Farmers Branch has always endeavored to work closely with our neighbors to wisely manage the operation to the benefit of all cities who rely on services provided at Camelot.

- That's why we put in a Landfill Gas Collection System to capture methane and convert it to energy, all the while cutting down on landfill odors.
- That's why we heartily endorsed the Lewisville suggestion that we install a slurry wall to serve as an extra layer of protection outside the clay liner. The slurry wall will be installed this summer.
- That's why we're discussing the restart of a curbside recycling program next Spring.
- And, even though there has been no evidence to suggest that the Trinity River has been affected by Camelot, that's why we're happily installing extra monitoring wells to ensure the sustainability of that precious resource.

As a north Texas resident, here's what you need to know. About half a million north Texans in 12 communities are served by those two landfills. Those include Farmers Branch, Carrollton, Lewisville, The Colony, Grapevine, Flower Mound, Lake Dallas, Highland Village, Corinth, Double Oak, Addison and Coppell. If Camelot is allowed to expand, based on the submitted application, Farmers Branch could serve the waste needs of these communities for the next four decades.

DFW Landfill is expected to reach capacity and to close in about 10 years. Without expansion, Camelot will close a few years later. If that were to happen, those half a million north Texans would be faced with having their cities truck their trash to deep south Dallas County. Those extended travels would incur heavy impacts on infrastructure, on the environment and on residential collection bills. We got a sneak preview of that when the flooding Trinity River cut off access to Camelot and residential trash had to be taken to Ferris.

Right now, Farmers Branch residents are not charged for garbage collection as proceeds from operating the Camelot Landfill go almost entirely to offset that cost. In addition, the City is required to set aside funds for the \$21 million closure and post-closure monitoring of Camelot for 30 years, whenever that closure occurs. As such, the approximate \$1.9 million revenue the City sees each year cannot be called profit as it is consumed by those operational costs and contribution to those planning reserves.

This is an extremely complex issue that prompts a number of questions. At the City of Farmers Branch, we've been forthcoming and transparent with every step of this procedure, especially with our friends and neighbors in Lewisville, Carrollton and the Indian Creek Homeowners Association, with whom we meet quarterly.

Perspective is important when considering the height issue so please note that these quoted heights are measured in feet above sea level. Most of the homes in the neighborhood adjacent to Camelot are higher than 500 feet. Camelot currently sits at about 510 feet. DFW Landfill is already about 600 feet and will top out at 623. The Camelot expansion request of 725 feet would add about 1/3 to its current height (about 15 percent higher than DFW).

By their very nature, landfills grow and expand every day. If this expansion is granted, what will our friends in Carrollton and Lewisville be able to see that is different in day-to-day operations?

Nothing.

It will take half a lifetime for the Camelot Landfill to reach its proposed height. At that point, it will be one hill next to another one (the by-then-40-year-old DFW Landfill). And, that will happen so incrementally it will be hard to notice.

We look forward to continuing this process, in accordance with all applicable state laws, to its logical conclusion for the betterment of all our communities.