



Election day set May 11 Early voting underway April 29 - May 7

FARMERS BRANCH ~ With City Council election day coming up May 11, Dallas County election officials are preparing for the early voting period to take place April 29 through May 7.

As the result of a lawsuit, the federal district court has ordered that City Council members must now be elected from five geographically drawn single member districts, replacing the at-large system of elections used in prior years.

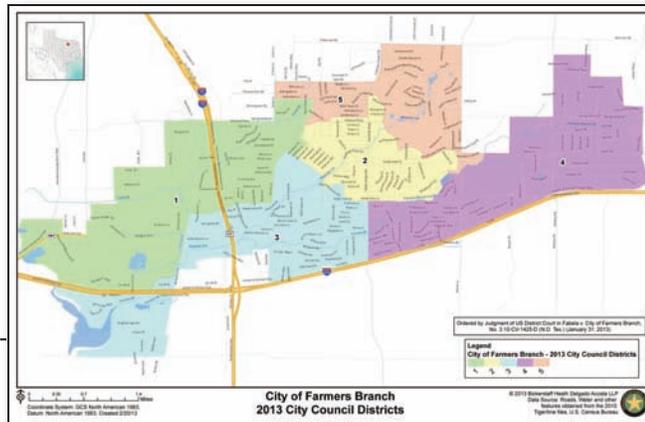
The implementation of the single member district system will be staggered during the next three years to coincide with the current staggered three-year terms.

In 2013, Districts 1 and 4 are up for election. Candidates in District 1 are Ana Reyes and William Capener. For District 4, Kirk Connally faces incumbent David Koch.

Early voting will be conducted at City Hall from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, April 29 to May 4; from 1 until 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 5; and from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, May 6 & 7.

Next year, District 2 plus the Mayor's seat will be chosen. Then, in 2015, representatives from Districts 3 and 5 will be elected. Current Council members will retain their positions until the end of their respective terms, at which time they have the option to run for re-election if that district is up for election in that year. The Mayor's position will continue to be elected at-large.

District 1 generally covers the northwest end of the City while District 4 encompasses most of the southeast section of Farmers Branch. District 3 extends from the center of the City to the southwestern edge while Districts 2 and 5 are located in the northern central area of town. Dallas County Elections Department will be sending new cards to registered voters, including the district number for their residence. Detailed maps are available for inspection at City Hall or online at www.farmersbranch.info. For more information, call 972.919.2503.



For a closer look, visit www.farmersbranch.info/discover/resources or visit any City facility where maps are available for inspection.

Easton Corbin joins lineup for Liberty Fest

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Country music star Easton Corbin will join Jack Ingram and Randy Houser as the featured performers for Liberty Fest 2013, set for Saturday, May 25 at the Farmers Branch Historical Park.



The event will start at 12 noon and feature country music acts all day, leading up to the featured performers that evening.

The 2013 Memorial Day weekend event will also feature a Burgers and Brews tasting section; Craft Marketplace; "The Zone" with a zip line, bungee trampoline, mechanical bull, rock climbing wall, velcro wall and more. For smaller kids, there will be a free kids' area with games, ice cream, bubble station and more.

Free tickets will be required for admission to Liberty Fest and are now available at City facilities, sponsor locations and at www.fblibertyfest.com.

Fishin' Fun adds kayaks

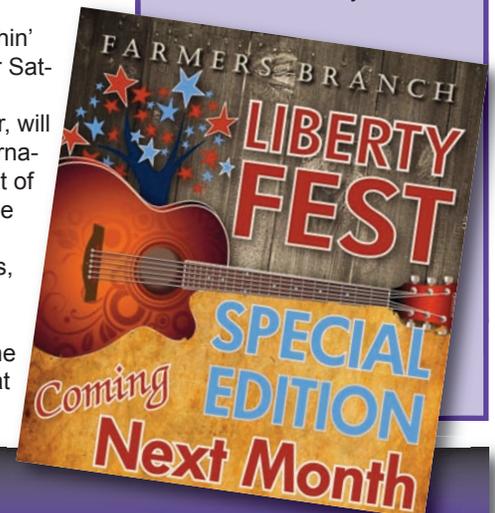
FARMERS BRANCH ~ Ever expanding the range of offering fun with fish, the 2013 edition of Fishin' Fun in Farmers Branch will feature kayaking and kayak fishing as part of this year's event, set for Saturday, May 4 around Rawhide Creek at Gussie Field Waterworth Park, near City Hall.



The traditional fishing event, open to kids ages 16 and under, will begin with registration starting at 7 a.m. that morning. The tournament goes from 8 until 10 a.m. with kids looking for the biggest of the one ton of farm-raised catfish that have been stocked in the creek. The awards ceremony will follow.

Additionally, the Kids Zone, featuring games for younger kids, will be open from 8 a.m. until 12 noon.

Kayak fishing will be held from 9 a.m. until 12 noon with on-site reservations available for specific time slots. General kayaking will be available throughout the morning. As always, registration for Fishin' Fun is free and loaner fishing equipment is available at no charge. For more info, call 972.919.1444.



City offices to close for Memorial Day; No garbage pickup

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Most City of Farmers Branch offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day. **There will be no garbage collection that day.** The only exceptions will be the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center and Historical Park, both open 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and the Don Showman Pool which will be open from 1 until 7 p.m.

New City website coming this summer

FARMERS BRANCH ~ After more than four years, the City's website is getting an extreme makeover and a new web address. Later this summer, the new City site at www.farmersbranchtx.gov will be launched at a Town Hall Meeting on technology, set for Thursday, June 13 at the Farmers Branch Manske Library. Stay tuned for more.

Advance orders taken for FB pictorial history book

HISTORICAL PARK ~ Advance orders are now being taken for a pictorial history of Farmers Branch book, set for publication later this year. The Farmers Branch Historical Park says the volume will be full color and will provide a great historical reference of the City. Advance orders are \$35 through May 31 and \$50 afterwards. Call 972.406.0184.

Senior Dances in May

May 6 - Southern Pride
May 13 - Bill G
May 20 - Will Taylor
May 27 - Closed for Memorial Day

May Updates

Council provides solid foundation for repairs

Permit process to provide peace of mind for local homeowners

FARMERS BRANCH ~ In an effort to protect local residents against less qualified practitioners in the multi-billion dollar, unregulated Texas foundation repair industry, the Farmers Branch City Council recently passed an ordinance requiring a permit for foundation repair so that work can be reviewed by a licensed engineer.

Farmers Branch Community Services Director Jim Olk said there are no licenses required and no special training for anyone to be in the business of foundation repair in Texas.

"Prior to issuing a permit, the City of Farmers Branch will require that a set of plans be submitted that reflects the work to be done and that the plans are reviewed and sealed by a licensed engineer," Mr. Olk explained. "Additionally, the engineer will need to inspect the work and then certify that the work was done per the design."

He said this should help protect the public by insuring that the foundation repair work meets the designed standards. Once the foundation work is complete, the plumbing will be tested to insure that no damage was done to the water lines or the drain under the house. For more information, call 972.919.2550.



Prevention preached for upcoming West Nile season

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Following another mild winter, mosquito-breeding season is expected to kick into gear as the weather warms up and with it comes the ever-present threat of West Nile Virus.

Farmers Branch Environmental Director Stacy Wright explained that attention to prevention now will help curtail West Nile as the summer goes on. Elimination of opportunities for standing water helps keep mosquito breeding areas to a minimum," he said. Mr. Wright added that an illustrative graphic on the City's website help explain more. Go to farmersbranch.info/protect/environmental-health or this QR code.



21st century technologies to diagnose streets

FARMERS BRANCH ~ As a means of gathering scientific data on street conditions in order to prioritize repair and maintenance schedules, the Farmers Branch Public Works Department began a comprehensive study in April, using a combination of 21st century technologies.



"In years past, street assessment was done by human observation," said Farmers Branch Public Works Director Randy Walhood. "Now, technology is going to give us so much more information than we ever dreamed possible."

He explained the City has contracted with Infrastructure Management Services to perform the study. For most of the month of April, a specially-rigged IMS van will be driving the 196 lane miles of Farmers Branch streets utilizing GPS technology, along with digital video photography and lasers to evaluate street conditions and compile a detailed inventory and condition rating for all roadways in the city.

The company's Laser Road Surface Tester, or RST, measures pavement roughness, rutting, cracking and other surface distresses as it travels with lasers hitting the roadway up to 6,000 times per second. "Once all the data is collected, it will be used to develop a series of reports that will allow us to cost-effectively budget resources for long-term maintenance of Farmers Branch streets," Mr. Walhood concluded. For more information, call 972.919.2597.

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