

Tales with Tails

There will be some reading and tail-wagging going on when the Northeast Texas Library Dogs make a return appearance at the Farmers Branch Manske Library, Saturday, February 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. Kids can enjoy an hour of sitting and reading with these dogs who make great listeners for young readers. Call the Manske Library at 972.247.2511 for more info.

Vintage Base Ball

The public is invited to play base ball by 1860s rules at the All Play Ball event, set February 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Gilbert Meadow at the Farmers Branch Historical Park. Anyone can join the members of the Farmers Branch Mustangs Vintage Base Ball club for the game. All equipment and uniform jerseys will be provided for players at this free event.



City Council

The Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session on its regular schedule, **February 4 & 18** at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers at Farmers Branch City Hall, 13000 William Dodson Parkway. Meetings are broadcast live on FBTv, **cable channel 16** in Farmers Branch, **AT&T Uverse channel 99** and at farmersbranchtx.gov. For more information, call 972.247.3131.

Storytelling Workshop

Author L.E. Taylor will share secrets learned about memoir-quality storytelling in a Family Storytelling Workshop, set for 1 p.m. on February 10 & 17 at the Farmers Branch Senior Center. Registration at the Senior Center is limited to ages 50 or older at a fee of \$39. Call 972.919.8740.



February 2014

Branch REVIEW



www.farmersbranchtx.gov



Daddy-Daughter Dance

Wonderland theme planned for annual extravaganza

REC CENTER ~ Dads and their daughters are invited to dance their way into the classic children's story, *Alice in Wonderland* at the annual Daddy Daughter Dance, coming up Saturday, February 1 at the Community Recreation Center, from 6 until 8 p.m.

Daddies and daughters will join Alice, the Mad Hatter, TweedleDee and TweedleDum and other classic characters for a night to remember.

Plans include a live DJ, dancing, face painting, keepsake photo, cookies, punch and coffee.

Advance tickets are \$5 for Farmers Branch residents, \$8 for non-residents, through January 31. All tickets are \$10 at the door.

The Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center is located at 14050 Heartside Place, near the intersection of Heartside Place and Valwood Parkway. For more information, call 972.247.4607.



I-35E project set to close HOV lanes

INTERSTATE 35E~ As part of the massive overhaul of Interstate 35E, High Occupancy Vehicle lanes between Whitlock Lane in Carrollton, south, through Farmers Branch, to LBJ Freeway in Dallas were scheduled to permanently close in mid-January, according to project officials.



Known as the 35Express Project, the endeavor is a 30-mile, \$1.4 billion expansion of the Interstate 35E corridor from U.S. Highway 380 in Denton County, to Interstate 635 in Dallas.

On average, nearly 7,000 vehicles per day use this five mile stretch of HOV lanes that will be closed.

Once finished, the 35Express project will feature a pair of reversible, managed toll lanes that will take the place of HOV lanes and will be reversed each day to accommodate the heaviest flow of traffic in the mornings and evenings of business days.

The goal of the managed lanes will be to ease congestion and keep traffic flowing at an average rate of 50 mph along the corridor. For more information, including a schedule of community meetings in 2014 and other resources available from the 35Express Public Information Office, visit www.35express.org or call 214.483.7777.



The 35Express project map shows the different section boundaries of the project. Green is the northern section, extending from U.S. Highway 380 south towards the Lake Lewisville Bridge. Orange is the middle section, continuing south to the President George Bush Turnpike, followed by the Blue (south) segment which finishes the project at LBJ freeway.



Tour of Lights fares well in shorter, icy season

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Despite losing six days to the calendar, with a later Thanksgiving, and three more to an early-season ice storm, the 2013 edition of the Christmas Tour of Lights still produced results that easily compare to prior years.

According to a Parks and Recreation Department report, an average of 326 visited the Tour of Lights per night in 2013, compared to an average of 283 in 2012.

This season featured a Thanksgiving weekend start that was six days later than in 2012. The Tour was further hampered by icy weather in early December. As such, the 2013 run clocked in at 28 days, nine less than the 37 days the previous year.

Overall, donations to the non-profit groups working the Tour each night, totaled \$23,208 this year. Groups in 2012 received \$27,414. However, this season still resulted in a higher average donations total per night with \$828, compared to \$740 last year.

Additionally, the Tour of Lights collected 244 toys for less fortunate kids in North Texas as part of WFAA's Santa's Helpers annual toy drive.





LBJ Express opens first segment of massive overhaul project

DALLAS ~ The first managed toll lanes of the LBJ Express makeover project are now open from just east of Preston Road to Greenville Avenue, past Central Expressway, in Dallas.



The LBJ Express group guarantees the new "TEXpress" lanes will run at 50 mph at any time of day, but with a variable toll assessed depending on volume of traffic. However, that will not happen until after the first six months. During the "test drive" phase, there will be a fixed price for sampling the new roadway.


"It's a comprehensive new way of how to manage the traffic in congested areas," said Heather DeLapp, a spokeswoman for the LBJ Express, in the Dallas Business Journal. "Upon completion of construction, then we'll be able to manage that traffic at 50 mph on the LBJ Express and all of these projects across the North Texas region."

The entire LBJ makeover is scheduled for completion in 2015.

EXPRESS LANES

TO East  / 

	\$0.90
HOV 2+	\$0.45

HIGHER RATES FOR NO TAG OR LARGER VEHICLES

Landscaping with Roses

The Annual Landscaping with Roses Classes conclude in February at 7 p.m. each scheduled evening at the Community Recreation Center with the exception of February 8. All classes are free and open to all. Call 972.247.4607 to pre-register. Remaining classes include:

- Feb 4 - Inspirations from Chandor Gardens 7 p.m.
- Feb 8 - Rose Pruning: Hands on in the Garden 10 a.m.
- Feb 11 - The Elephant in the Room: Rose Rosette Disease 7 p.m.

Victorian Valentine's Tea

Seniors can celebrate Valentine's Day in the style of the Victorian era with tea at the Farmers Branch Senior Center on Friday, February 14 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Call the Senior Center for availability and more information at 972.919.8740.

Sculptural exhibit

Vanessa Lee and "Mokey" Lee Davidson will be exhibiting "Sculptural Photography and Sculpture" in the Art Gallery at the Farmers Branch Manske Library throughout the month of February. Vanessa's work includes original works of sculptural photography and metal sculptures while Mokey's endeavors concentrate on ceramics and sculpture. There will be a reception for the artists on February 15 at 2:30 p.m. when new photographers are encouraged to bring their work for a professional critique. Call the Library at 972.247.2511.

Senior Dances

Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Feb 3 . Southern Pride
Feb 10 . Bill G
Feb 17 . Will Taylor
Feb 24 . Gary Lee



Shiny New Year

New windows gleam in the January sun at the Mustang Station development along the DART Green Line. Further down and around the ground floor, brick and stone began going onto the building during the holiday season. Developers of the project say noticeable progress will be seen in the coming weeks. In the meantime, a leasing office has opened for future tenants.

Computer classes planned for at Manske Library

MANSKE LIBRARY ~ Anyone that has ever had issues dealing with numbers and statistics in a spreadsheet can benefit from Introduction to Microsoft Excel Part I and II at the Farmers Branch Manske Library.

The two-part class is planned for February 5 and 12, each night from 7 until 8:30 p.m.

Part I will include the basics of Microsoft Excel and how to properly build a spreadsheet from the ground up. Attendance is limited and basic computer skills are required.

A continuation of the Excel class, Part II is designed as the second step for those attending the first class.

Registration is available online through the Manske Library calendar at www.farmersbranchtx.gov. Call for more information at 972.247.2511.