

Gussie gets state designation

The Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) has designated Gussie Field Watterworth Park in Farmers Branch as a 'Lone Star Legacy Park.'

According to TRAPS, such designation is bestowed upon a "park that holds special prominence in the local community and in the state of Texas. These parks have endured the test of time and have become iconic to those who have visited, played and rested on their grounds.

A TRAPS award for that designation was given at a ceremony in February.

Spring slate of Star Parties set

The spring slate of Star Parties gets underway Tuesday, **March 4** from dusk till about 9 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Historical Park.

Star Parties are free opportunities for anyone to take advantage of high-powered telescopes to view celestial objects. Telescopes and volunteer expertise are provided by the Texas Astronomical Society. Additional parties are set for **April 8** & **May 6**. For more info, visit www.texasastro.org.

City Council to meet in March

The Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session on its regular schedule, **March 4 & 18** at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers at Farmers Branch City Hall, 13000 William Dodson Parkway.

March 2014

Branch REVIEW



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Camping Comeback

Historical Park readies for the 2014 edition of Camping Under the Stars

HISTORICAL PARK ~ Families will be coming out again for the very popular Camping Under the Stars event, making a return appearance at the Farmers Branch Historical Park for the weekend of March 15.

Families may set up camp at the Historical Park meadow beginning at 5 p.m. that Saturday and must pack up by 9 a.m. on Sunday, March 16. The event will include star viewing, a community campfire, s'mores and entertainment.

Non-refundable cost is \$50 per family campsite and includes access to a community fire pit, the aforementioned s'mores and a campfire breakfast. Space is limited to a total of 15 campsites, or 75 campers, so advance reservations are required and camping equipment is not included.

The Farmers Branch Historical Park is located at 2540 Farmers Branch Lane, just east of the DART Green Line tracks. For more information on this events or other Historical Park activities or programs, call 972.406.0184.

Young Indiana Jones was seen practicing his craft at last year's Camping Under the Stars event.



Derrick Birdsall

Monitronics announces headquarters expansion

FARMERS BRANCH ~ One of the nation's largest and fastest growing home security alarm monitoring companies, Monitronics International has announced that it will remain in Farmers Branch, moving from their current location at Valley View and I-35E to a new location to be built in the emerging Mercer Crossing area of the City's west side.

Generating more than \$40,000,000 in sales per year, Monitronics provides monitored business and home security system services to more than 800,000 residential and commercial customers nationwide. Out of both parking and space at their existing headquarters, the company's new home will be a 165,000 square foot building between LBJ and Valley View, east of Luna Road.

Monitronics recently acquired Security Networks, LLC further enhancing growth prospects and the need for new space. Farmers Branch Economic Development Director John Land said retaining Monitronics is huge for the City.

"A company with the incredible growth potential of Monitronics is a company we want to stay in Farmers Branch," he said. "As such, we are thrilled to keep them here and give them room to breathe and to grow in the coming years."

CityWide CleanUp Day to feature household chemical collection

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Because of the tremendous response last year, City officials have announced that CityWide CleanUp Day 2014 will return to Oran Good Park, corner of Valley View and Tom Field Road, on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

Again, the event will feature opportunities for electronics recycling, prescription medication disposal and document shredding, along with regular refuse disposal and recycling drop off. In addition this year, there will be household chemical collection on site, provided by Dallas County.



Tom Bryson

Representatives of the Farmers Branch Manske Library will be on hand to accept any old books, DVDs or other media that residents would like to donate to future Used Book Sales. Books and other media should be in good condition and suitable for resale.

Additionally, there will be public safety equipment on display, Community Watch, animals available for adoption and more.

Oran Good Park is located at 13401 Tom Field Road, near the corner of Tom Field and Valley View Lane. Entry for CityWide CleanUp Day should be made from the Tom Field Road entrance. Call 972.919.2510 for more information.

Date Night returning in April

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Following its popular debut last year, Date Night in the Park will return to the Farmers Branch Historical Park on the evening of Saturday, April 12.

Gates will open at 6:30 p.m. that evening and admission is free.

Much like its inaugural incarnation in 2013, this year's event will feature an assortment of food trucks for dining and snacking throughout the event, along with musical entertainment at 7 p.m. Beer and wine will be available.

The movie for the evening will be selected by users on Facebook and will be announced soon.

Also, to ensure the Date Night theme, childcare will be available at the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center at a cost of \$10 per child, but pre-registration is necessary no later than Friday, April 11.

For more information, call 972.919.2620.



Tom Bryson



Tom Bryson

Going Green

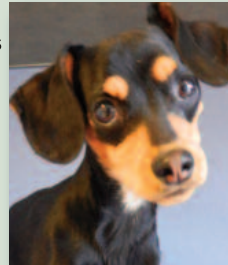
It was a cold day, but the ceremonial "parting of the extension cord" substituted for a ribbon-cutting as the City of Farmers Branch officially opened three electric vehicle charging stations in the west parking lot in front of City Hall, in February. The stations are part of an overall initiative to take measures to go green and encourage the technology.

Animal Adoption Center offers Easter specials in April

FARMERS BRANCH ~ In order to alleviate shelter overcrowding and offer pets new homes for the Easter holiday, the Farmers Branch Animal Adoption Center is offering discounted pet adoptions in April.

During the month, dogs and puppies may be adopted for \$55 with cats and kittens for \$35. The adoption fee includes sterilization, rabies vaccination (plus other select vaccinations), micro-chipping, one free veterinarian exam and 30 days free pet insurance.

For more information, come by the Animal Adoption Center at 3727 Valley View Lane or call 972.919.8770. Operating hours are 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.



Animal Services begins feral cat trapping program

FARMERS BRANCH ~ City of Farmers Branch Animal Services personnel have begun a program to trap, neuter and return feral cats to their environments in an effort to reduce the population.

Studies have shown that this method, sterilization rather than euthanasia, effectively reduces the feral cat populations in a given area. Farmers Branch residents can request a cat trap for participation in the program by calling Animal Services at 972.919.8770 or by coming by the Animal Adoption Center, 3727 Valley View Lane.

For additional information on the program, visit the Animal Services page on the City's website at www.farmersbranchtx.gov.

Enhanced reading classes set for adults 50+

Specially designed for students over the age of 50, an Enhanced Reading course of study has been planned on Saturdays in March, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Senior Center.

According to organizers, students will gain speed, improve comprehension, memory and retention. The workbook is \$15 and students over 50 must register in advance, by February 28.

'Know When to Call 9.1.1' to be presented Mar 21

Farmers Branch Fire Department EMS Chief Mike Thomson will be at the Farmers Branch Senior Center Friday, March 21 at 1:30 p.m. for a special presentation on knowing 'When to Call 9.1.1.'

Chief Thomson will emphasize the necessity to call 9.1.1 at the first sign of a stroke or heart attack and how to purchase a 'Knox Box' so the Fire Department has entry into the house.

Coming in March

MAR 03

Sr Dance - Southern Pride

MAR 04

*City Council Meeting
Star Party*

MAR 10

Sr Dance - Bill G's Band

MAR 15

Camping Under the Stars

MAR 17

Sr Dance - Will Taylor

MAR 18

City Council Meeting

MAR 24

Sr Dance - Dave Alexander

MAR 31

Sr Dance - J.C. Tippet

Coming Soon

APR 12

CityWide CleanUp Day

Date Night in the Park

MAY 3

Fishin' Fun

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