

# Branch REVIEW



[www.farmersbranchtx.gov](http://www.farmersbranchtx.gov)



## Fish n' Fun will feature fish, fun and kayaks

A rite of spring in Farmers Branch, the annual Fishin' Fun event returns to the banks of Rawhide Creek, near City Hall, on Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m. til 12 p.m.

Rawhide Creek will be stocked with a ton of fish waiting for young anglers (16 and under). The event is free of charge and no registration is required. Additionally, there will be a kayaking area further downstream that has proved to be very popular.

Fishing will take place between 8 and 10 a.m. with an awards ceremony at 10:30.

For more information, call 972.919.1444.

## Early voting set for City elections

Early voting for the May 10 City elections, including balloting for **Mayor and Councilmember, District 2**, for **legal sale of beer and wine** for off-premise consumption and for a **\$23.5 million bond issue**, will be held:

- Mon - Sat, April 28 - May 3**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 4**  
1 to 6 p.m.
- Mon & Tue, May 5 & 6**  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Farmers Branch residents may vote early at any Dallas County early voting location, including Farmers Branch City Hall. Special **close-to-the-door parking** spaces will be available.

## City offices close for Memorial Day

Most City of Farmers Branch offices and facilities will be closed on **Monday, May 26** in observance of Memorial Day. The only exceptions will be the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center and Historical Park, both open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. **There will be no garbage collection on Memorial Day.**

# Summer to kick off with Dallas Symphony Orchestra

**HISTORICAL PARK** ~ With the intent of appealing to a variety of audiences through the years, the City of Farmers Branch has announced the next generation of its summer kickoff event with this year's "Liberty Fest presents Stars & Strings," featuring the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.



The event is planned for Saturday, May 24 at the Farmers Branch Historical Park and will celebrate liberty while honoring America and the men and women who serve her. Food trucks, fireworks and a tribute to our nation's heroes will all be a part of the

evening, highlighted by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in concert. Families can set up their lawn chairs and blankets in the meadow to enjoy an evening under the stars. Admission will be free. Call 972.919.2620 for more information or visit [www.fbspecialevents.com](http://www.fbspecialevents.com).

## Citizen Collection Center reopens Thursday-Saturday

**FARMERS BRANCH** ~ Back by popular demand, the Citizen Collection Center has reopened for Farmers Branch resident use, at 1399 Valley View Lane, west of Luna Road.

Closed in 2009, funding to reopen the center was approved by the Farmers Branch City Council earlier this year. The transfer station features drive up dumpsters to drop off large trash and debris, along with regular household garbage and recycling.



Public Works officials emphasized the Center is designed for use by residents. No commercial vehicles or contractors will be allowed use of the site.

The all-new Citizen Collection Center will be open Thursday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. There is no cost for Farmers Branch residents to use the facility.

## Gussie garden becomes testing ground for English roses

**FARMERS BRANCH** ~ Now that the EarthKind Rose trial is over, the garden at Gussie Field Watterworth Park in Farmers Branch has become a trial garden for England's David Austin Roses.

Volunteers from local rose societies along with Farmers Branch Parks and Recreation staff converged on the rose garden in early March, braving chilly temperatures, to plant the 600-plus David Austin trial roses.

The National EarthKind Rose trial in the Farmers Branch garden, testing roses that could grow with little maintenance, concluded its five-year run in 2012.

Farmers Branch Landscape Manager Pam Smith said the bed improvements and roses were all donated by the David Austin group.

The four-year trial will feature both climbing and shrub roses of varying types. For more information, call 972.919.2625.





# Bond Issue 2014

## Voters asked to consider \$23.5 million for streets

FARMERS BRANCH ~ In an effort to put together a comprehensive approach to improve roadways in the City, the Farmers Branch City Council is asking voters in May to consider \$23.5 million for street improvements.

While there is a regular budget for routine street maintenance, a decade of tight economics, many harsh summers, some hard winters and, in large part, the end of the pavement lifecycle, has created a greater need than the regular maintenance budget can handle.

The last significant street improvement project in Farmers Branch was in 2008 with the overlay of Webb Chapel Road, Marsh Lane and Midway Road and a reconstruction of Benchmark Drive.

The City plans to augment the debt issue with pay-as-you-go funding in the amount of \$5 million for a total of \$28.5 million for street improvements over a 10 year period. Of that total, \$10 million would be slated for residential streets, \$17.5 million for major streets and \$1 million for bridge replacement on southbound Marsh Lane between Wooded Creek and Valley View.

Streets will be scheduled for improvements based on a 2013 scientific study of every street in Farmers Branch. Infrastructure Management Services used GPS technology, combined with digital video photography and lasers to evaluate street conditions and compile a detailed inventory and conditions rating for every street in the City. Staff will use this detailed study to help prioritize street improvement projects under the proposed

bond issue. However, notable streets to be included are Valley View Lane, Josey Lane and Valwood Parkway. Projects will be done in the most efficient and effective order as determined by the City's streets and engineering professionals.

If the 20-year maturity bonds are approved, there will be an estimated 4.5-cent increase on property taxes in Farmers Branch. For an average home value of \$145,095, that increase would equal \$52.25 per year. If that same valued home has both a homestead and over-65 exemption, the increase would be \$22.99.

Election Day is May 10, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at Dallas County precinct polling places.

Early voting will take place Monday through Saturday, April 28 through May 3 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday, May 4 from 1 until 6



This specially-equipped truck used state of the art GPS technology, video cameras and lasers to evaluate surface streets in Farmers Branch.

p.m. and Monday and Tuesday, May 5 & 6 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Any Dallas County resident can vote early at any Dallas County early voting location, including Farmers Branch City Hall.

In addition to the bond issue, the ballot will feature a City officers election for Mayor and for City Council, District 2. Candidates for Mayor are Bob Phelps, Carol Dingman and David Koch. Candidates for City Council, District 2 are Luther Bernstein, Harold Froehlich and Garrett Smith.

Finally, the ballot will also contain a Local Option Election for the legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption.

For additional information, visit the [www.dallascountyvotes.org](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org) or the City's Elections Info web page at [www.farmersbranchtx.gov](http://www.farmersbranchtx.gov) or call 972.247.3131.



## Council enacts Distracted Driving ordinance

Responding to an ever-growing trend of accidents caused by smartphone distractions, the Farmers Branch City Council has enacted a new ordinance limiting the use of a handheld communications device while driving.

The new law prohibits a driver from writing, reading or sending texts, email or social media posts or surfing the Internet while behind the wheel. Farmers Branch Police Chief Sidney Fuller said the goal is to educate the public so these kinds of accidents don't happen.

Find out more at [www.farmersbranchtx.gov](http://www.farmersbranchtx.gov) or by calling 972.484.2620.

## E-cigarette sales to minors now prohibited

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Responding to the growing proliferation of the electronic cigarette market, the Farmers Branch City Council recently took action to safeguard youth by restricting sale of e-cigarettes to minors.

The new ordinance prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes to minors as well as possession of e-cigarettes by minors. In addition, e-cigarettes are restricted from sale in self-service machines where minors could have access.

Violation of the ordinance carries a fine of up to \$500 per offense. For more information, call 972.484.3620.

## Senior Dances

MAY 05

Southern Pride

MAY 12

Bill G

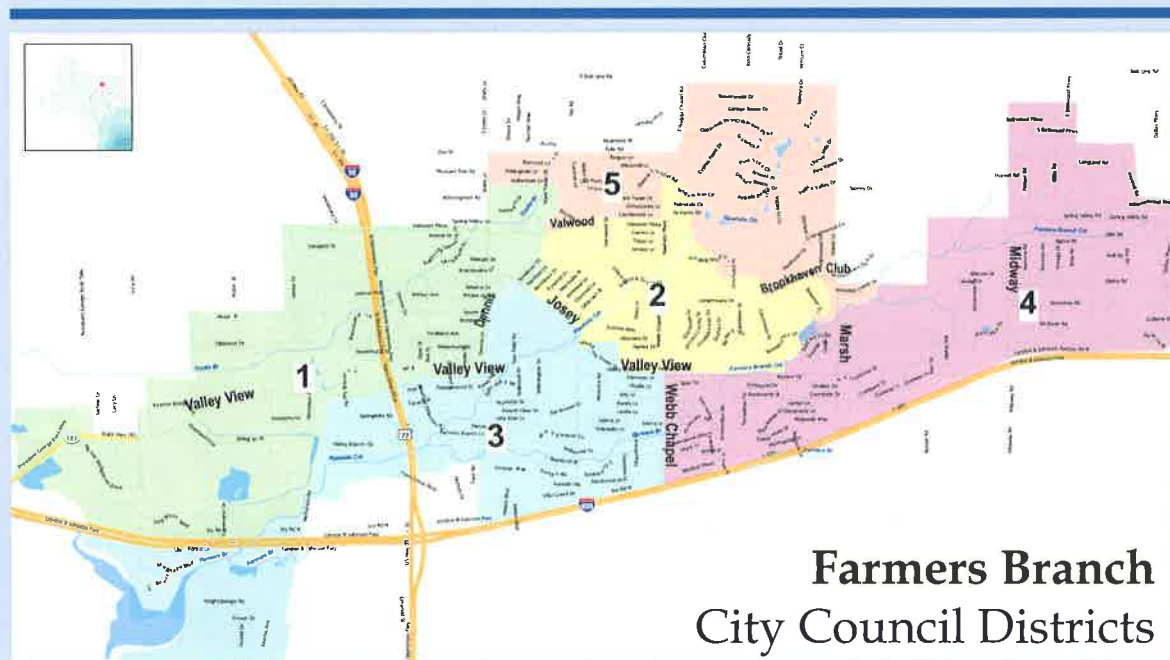
MAY 19

Will Taylor

MAY 26

Memorial Day - No Dance

Dances are from 7 until 9:30 p.m. each scheduled Monday at a cost of \$5 per person. Free dance lessons are offered at 8 p.m. for those in attendance.



Farmers Branch  
City Council Districts