

Residents can opt for texts on WNV

In an ongoing effort to curb the potential for West Nile Virus during the warmer months, Farmers Branch Environmental Health officials are offering residents the option to sign up for text or email alerts when there is West Nile Virus news or when mosquito spraying will be going on in a specific area of the City.

Those interested should visit farmersbranchtx.gov and select the "West Nile Virus Prevention" button on the left side links.

Info available for I-35E, 635 projects

As freeway construction picks up on Interstate 35E through Farmers Branch and others, residents and business-people can stay informed on information from that project as well as the ongoing LBJ expansion project at their respective

websites. The I-35E project can be accessed at 35express.org while the LBJ project is at lbjtexpress.com. Both offer overviews and options for text alerts.

FBPD premieres 'Don't Text' video

Continuing the public education campaign on the City's new law designed to curb distracted driving, the



Farmers Branch Police Department has premiered a new short video, providing information on the subject and warning motorists to "put it down."

To view the video, scan the QR code with your device or go to youtube.com/fbtv16.



August 2014 Branch REVIEW



www.farmersbranchtx.gov



Election results

Bob Phelps resumes roles as Mayor; Harold Froehlich re-elected to City Council



Tom Bryson

Mayor Bob Phelps

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Six years after retiring as the longest-serving Mayor in Farmers Branch history, Bob Phelps returned to the Mayor's office, winning the runoff election for the seat while Councilmember Harold Froehlich won re-election to his seat for District 2.

Phelps and Froehlich were both sworn-in during a special meeting of the City Council on the last day of June, where votes from the runoff election were canvassed. Following the inauguration, Councilmembers Jeff Fuller and Kirk Connally were selected to return to their positions as Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem for the coming year. A brief reception for Mayor Phelps and Councilmember Froehlich was held after the meeting. Results of the June 21 runoff elections for Farmers Branch Mayor and City Council, District 2 were:

In the Mayor's race, Bob Phelps received 1,787 votes while David Koch received 1,494 votes.

For City Council District 2, Luther Bernstein received 453 votes while Harold Froehlich received 503 votes.

Mayor Phelps was first elected to the Farmers Branch City Council in 1986. He became Mayor in 1996, serving until 2008. This is Mr. Froehlich's third term on the City Council.



District 2 Councilman
Harold Froehlich

Bond rating agencies score Farmers Branch as AA+

FARMERS BRANCH ~ In anticipation of a bond sale to fund the new joint public safety dispatch system and the voter-approved 10-year street improvement project, bond rating agencies Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poors have both assigned Farmers Branch the highly sought-after 'AA+' bond rating.

Fitch observed that Farmers Branch "maintains a strong financial position, characterized by solid reserves and stout liquidity. Operations are supported by a fairly diverse revenue base that has benefitted from rapidly rebounding sales tax revenues, despite recent recessionary pressures. Management's conservative fiscal practices and policies have enabled break-even to net surplus operations over the last five fiscal years."



In noting the City's "mature neighborhoods," Fitch added that this is an evolving situation, "with typically higher-end infill projects that benefit from the city's strategic development plans, such as the recently developed condos and homes near the city's existing DART station."

Standard and Poors said "citywide sales tax collections have shown healthy growth, increasing 26 percent since fiscal 2010, reaching \$13.7 million in fiscal 2013." Both agencies noted the City's historically conservative debt program, with a debt burden of about 3.5 percent of assessed value and rapid amortization with a majority of the debt due to mature in 10 years.

Social Media Theme of the Month . 'Dog Days of Summer' . #FBTX

Branch Briefs

Volunteers needed for City's rose gardens

FARMERS BRANCH ~ With the ever-expanding selection of roses in several different gardens, the need for volunteers in the Rose Gardens of Farmers Branch is greater than ever.

Between Gussie Field Watterworth Park, the rose gardens near the DART station and in the Historical Park and other beds, Farmers Branch is home to more than 500 different roses.

Maintenance and upkeep of these gardens takes time which is why the Parks and Recreation Department is actively seeking volunteers (green thumb optional) to assist in rose garden beautification projects under the guidance of the City's expert Landscape Manager, Pam Smith.

Perks of volunteering include access to the exclusive invitation-only City Manager's Rose Party, limited-edition Rose Garden t-shirt, top-notch gardening tips, and more. Outdoor-loving individuals interested in volunteering should contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 972.919.2620 or visit fbroses.com.



Former Police K-9, Kilo, dies at 9

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Only a year and a half after his retirement, former Farmers Branch Police Department K-9, Kilo, has died at the age of 9.

A Dutch Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix, Kilo's career, as the FBPD's fifth K-9, spanned 42 dog years, working from 2006 until his retirement ceremony in December of 2012.

During his watch, Kilo, along with his partner, Officer Cary Morgan, was responsible for seizure of 193 pounds of marijuana, more than 11 pounds of cocaine, 73.6 grams of heroin, 36 pounds of methamphetamine and almost 900 doses of other drugs and pills. Total street value of Kilo's seizures was \$874,229. Officially signed over to Officer Morgan at his retirement, Kilo died suddenly in June.

He was buried privately.

Vacant lots named for longtime volunteer

Three vacant and undeveloped lots adjacent to Oran Good Park have been dedicated for public park purposes and named for Raymond DeLeon, longtime Farmers Branch resident and former Executive Vice President of the Farmers Branch Baseball Association.

The action was taken by the Farmers Branch City Council during their regular meeting in June.

Accompanying this dedication of land for park purposes is a plan to construct a tee-ball field and associated parking on the property.

The three City-owned lots have been vacant since 2009.

Mr. DeLeon has dedicated untold volunteer hours to further baseball in Farmers Branch and was selected to the Farmers



Raymond DeLeon

Branch Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

Swimming passes for 2014 remain available

Farmers Branch residents can still take advantage of Carrollton's Rosemeade Rainforest facility at a special discounted rate, while the new aquatic center is being built on the site of the old Don Showman pool.

The Farmers Branch City Council approved the plan earlier this year. Farmers Branch residents can go to the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center to fill out appropriate paperwork, show proof of residency and pay a fee equivalent to the 2013 fees at the Don Showman Pool. That is \$18 for residents and \$55 for families. Call 972.247.4607 for questions or more information.



Work continues on the new Farmers Branch Aquatics Center

City Council plans regular meetings

The Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session according to its regular first and third Tuesday schedule in August on Tuesdays, August 5 & 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall. Study Sessions typically precede the Council meeting in the upstairs conference room at City Hall at 5 p.m. All meeting dates and times are subject to change. Call 972.247.3131.

Teens produce video blog

The Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center's "Leader in Training" Teen Camp has begun producing a video blog of their field trips, service projects and activities during the summer months. It can be found on the City's YouTube channel at youtube.com/fbvtv16.



Mosquito dunks available while supplies last

As elimination of mosquito breeding areas is the top priority in prevention of West Nile Virus, the Farmers Branch Environmental Health Department is offering larvicide "mosquito dunks" for treatment of standing water.

Free dunks can be picked up, while supplies last, at the Farmers Branch Senior Center or City Hall. For more information, visit farmersbranchtx.gov and click on "West Nile Virus Prevention."

Senior Dances

Aug 4 **JC Tippet**
Aug 11 **Dave Alexander**
Aug 18 **Will Taylor**
Aug 25 **Gary Lee**

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 6 p.m.



Keep Up with Street Projects & Road Construction stemming from the voter approved \$23.5 million bond issue

Get Updates & Sign Up for Text Alerts at www.farmersbranchtx.gov/streetrepairs

Stay in Touch ~ Subscribe to eNews at farmersbranchtx.gov