

## City offices to close for Thanksgiving

All City of Farmers Branch offices and facilities will be closed on Thursday, November 27, in observance of Thanksgiving Day. On Friday, November 28, most offices remain closed except for the Community Recreation Center and Historical Park, both open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Historical Park reopens at 6:30 p.m. for the first night of the Christmas Tour of Lights.

There will be no garbage pickup either day and the Citizen Collection Center will be closed.

## Town Hall Meeting set November 13

Mayor Bob Phelps and the members of the Farmers Branch City Council invite the public to attend a Town Hall Meeting, planned for 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 13 at the Farmers Branch Senior Center.

This will be the second of two Town Hall Meetings planned each year where the Mayor and Council can meet with citizens and answer questions about City planning, services and procedures.

Spanish to English translation services will be available for those residents needing assistance. For more information, call 972.919.2515.

## Star Party planned for Veterans Day

Veterans and residents can gaze at objects in the sky during a Star Party, planned for Tuesday, November 11 from dusk until about 9 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Historical Park. Volunteers from the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Astronomical Society will be there with high-powered telescopes to assist guests with viewing. The Star Party is free and open to the public. Visit [www.texasastro.org](http://www.texasastro.org).

November 2014

# Branch REVIEW



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



# Salute

## Manhattan Dolls coming to town to help celebrate Farmers Branch Veterans, November 11

SENIOR CENTER ~ Celebrating with swing-style song and dance, the entertainment trio, "Manhattan Dolls" will be performing this year at the Farmers Branch Veterans Day Celebration, set for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday,

November 11 at the Farmers Branch Senior Center.

Everyone is invited to the annual celebration of those who have worn the uniform of the U.S. military and admission is free.

The traditional free hot dog lunch will follow the proceedings at about 12 noon.

The Farmers Branch Senior Center is located at 14055 Dennis Lane, between Josey Lane and Valwood Parkway. Call 972.919.2620 for more information on the event.



## Tour of Lights to open Thanksgiving weekend

HISTORICAL PARK ~ Featuring 300,000 twinkling lights in an all new, animated show, the Farmers Branch Christmas Tour of Lights officially gets underway the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 28.

Lights, synchronized to Christmas music, will be featured in the Historical Park, which will be open every night, through December 30, from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m. The only time the Tour will be closed is Saturday, December 6, for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting event and on Christmas Day.

Admission to the driving tour is free with donations accepted by the non-profit community groups helping to work the event each evening. Call 972.919.2620 for more information.



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Miklos Valdez

## Aquatics Center taking shape

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Construction continues on schedule at the site of the new Farmers Branch Aquatics Center, that will include the Margaret Young Natatorium and the Frog Pond outdoor area.

The beginnings of the play structure and activity pool can clearly be seen on site, with what will be a lazy river near the natatorium construction, immediately south of the Community Recreation Center. The Frog Pond will also feature two slides and a lagoon pool.

Water slides and the play structure should be completed this fall. Also, the brick facade will soon be going up on the natatorium with actual construction on the indoor pools.

The Margaret Young Natatorium will operate year-round and is expected to be ready for swimmers by late winter/early spring of 2015. The Frog Pond is planned to open by next summer.



## Christmas Tree to light up Dec 6

Holiday fireworks, a visit from St. Nick and tubing on a snow hill are all part of the traditional Farmers Branch Christmas Tree Lighting celebration, planned Saturday, December 6 at 7 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Historical Park. Find out more at [www.fbspecialevents.com](http://www.fbspecialevents.com)

## Demo/Rebuild plan gets facelift

New "Demo/Rebuild" rules give homebuyers even more incentive to replace older homes with newer ones.

The availability of quality housing stock in the City of Farmers Branch encourages the retention of businesses, attracts new businesses, and promotes expansion of existing businesses to and within the City. In turn, quality housing stock will stimulate growth, create jobs, and increase property and sales tax revenues.

In an effort to accomplish this, the City Council enacted a Residential Demolition/Rebuild Program to encourage the redevelopment of existing single-family detached residential properties with the construction of new, higher value, single-family detached residential structures.

The Council recently enhanced this program by establishing two incentive options: One, to provide up to \$5,000 for the cost of demolition and a seven (7) years municipal tax rebate, and two, to provide a municipal tax rebate up to 10 years with the option of advancing 50 percent of the estimated municipal tax increase upon receipt of permanent financing. Call 972.247.3131.

## Senior Dances

The Senior Dance Club holds dances most Monday nights at the Farmers Branch Senior Center at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5.

- Nov 3 Southern Pride
- Nov 10 NO DANCE
- Nov 17 Will Taylor
- Nov 24 Gary Lee

# Branch Briefs

## Camelot Landfill honored by state agency

AUSTIN ~ For consistent efforts in keeping the neighboring highways clear of trash and debris, the Texas Department of Transportation has issued a certificate of appreciation to the City of Farmers Branch and the Camelot Landfill.



Signed by TxDOT's "Adopt a Highway" coordinator, the certificate was presented "for outstanding effort and generous contribution of time and energy to maintain the beauty of Texas roadsides through dedicated voluntary participation in the 2014 Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off."

## Citizenship classes resume at Library

In partnership with the Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc. the Farmers Branch Manske Library has resumed hosting citizenship classes. All classes to prepare for the United States citizenship test will be free, but seating for each session is limited.

For more information call the Manske Library at 972.247.2511.

## Care of autumn leaves helps yards

With Fall in full swing, Farmers Branch Environmental Health officials are encouraging use of autumn leaves to help care for neighborhood yards.

"Instead of raking and bagging them, where they'll head to the landfill, why not put them back

into your lawns and gardens, as a valuable source of mulch, fertilizer and compost," said Environmental Health Director Stacy Wright. "Leaves contain 50 to 80 percent of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the season."

As such, he said residents should consider mowing leaves and leaving the shredded remains on the lawn, mulching leaves and working into beds or composting for future soil conditioning.

## Blacksmithing demos planned at park

As part of its ongoing mission to educate the public on the history and customs of the past, the Farmers Branch Historical Park has planned a series of demonstrations on the historically important practice of blacksmithing.

The live demonstrations take

place in the Log Culture area at the Park and are suitable for all ages. The next series of presentations will be November 8, 15, 16 & 30. Demonstrations go on between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Call 972.406.0184 for more information.

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