

City Manager Gary Greer recertified by ICMA

Recognizing his record of success and continuing professional development, the International City/County Management Association has renewed the professional credentials of Farmers Branch City Manager Gary D. Greer.

ICMA established the credentialing program in 2001 to define and recognize local government managers and to promote life-long learning. To maintain credentials, members must submit an annual report, describing 40 hours of professional development during the previous year.

Serving as City Manager of Farmers Branch since 2007, Mr. Greer is among 1,342 managers currently holding credentials in the U.S., 82 of which are in Texas.

Offices & facilities close for holiday

All City of Farmers Branch offices and facilities will be closed on January 1 in observance of New Year's Day. There will be no garbage collection and the Citizen Collection Center will be closed.

Tell it to the Mayor set Jan 14 & 28

Mayor Bob Phelps will hold open office hours as part of his "Tell it to the Mayor" sessions on Wednesdays, January 14 and 28, from 3 until 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall. Anyone is invited to come by and visit with Mayor Phelps on any topic, without a prior appointment.

January 2015

Branch REVIEW



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Natatorium nears completion



Passes now on sale for Aquatics Center's inaugural season

AQUATICS CENTER ~ As winter sets in, work continues indoor on the pool facilities that will complete the Margaret Young Natatorium in time for it's opening in early Spring.

One of two major components of the all-new Farmers Branch Aquatics Center, the Margaret Young Natatorium will be

open year-round while it's companion, the outdoor 'Frog Pond' will debut Memorial Day weekend and remain open during the summer months.

Named for longtime Parks and Recreation Board chair, and Farmers Branch champion, Margaret Young, the Natatorium will feature a heated four-lane lap pool, 25 yards long, with depths ranging from four feet six inches to eight feet.

Also included inside will be a heated, 767 square-foot therapy pool with depths of three feet eight inches to four feet five inches.

The Natatorium will feature aquatic fitness classes, water therapy, swim lessons for all ages and abilities, American Red Cross certification courses, along with open swim times for the general public, party room rentals and after hours rentals. There are locker rooms and a family changing room.

Season memberships to both the Margaret Young Natatorium and/or the Frog Pond went on sale in December with a Farmers Branch Aquatics Center gift bag going to the first 150.

For more information, call 972.247.4607 or visit www.fbh2o.com.



A worker sprays in the side walls of the lap pool in the Margaret Young Natatorium as construction continues towards a spring opening for the indoor, year-round facility.

Landscaping with Roses winter class series begins January 13



REC CENTER ~ Each Tuesday, from January 13 through mid-February, the Community Recreation Center will be abuzz with gardeners, enthusiasts and dedicated rosarians, talking about Landscaping with Roses, as part of the annual winter class series.

Each session begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, January 13 through February 17. The class sessions are free but pre-registration is required by calling the Community Recreation Center at 972.247.4607. For more information, call Pam Smith at 972.919.2625.

KEEP UP WITH CONSTRUCTION



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farmersbranchtx.gov/streetrepairs



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CONEZONEUPDATE

Voter-approved bond program under-way to improve Farmers Branch streets

FARMERS BRANCH ~ As 2015 gets underway, the \$23.5 million bond issue, approved by voters last May, is in full swing through the winter months.

City leaders are combining a budgeted \$500,000 per year with the bond proceeds to total \$28.5 million for both major thoroughfares and residential streets during the next 10 years.

Every street in Farmers Branch was evaluated using lasers, GPS technology and digital photography, in order to create a priority list of roadways in need of repair. The full list, along with updates, can be found online at www.farmersbranchtx.gov/streetrepairs.

Streets that have seen completed roadwork since the program began include Valwood Parkway (between Josey and Webb Chapel), Valley Branch, Dorado Beach, Arawak, Golfing Green (from Josey to Longmeade), Templeton Trail, Montvale and Apple Valley (from Pebble Beach to its southern end).

Additionally, streets currently being repaired for resurfacing are Longmeade, between Rawhide and Dennis; and Birchlawn, from Valwood to Longmeade.

In the first quarter of 2015, the following streets are slated for repair, resurfacing or reconstruction: Golfing Green (from Webb Chapel to Longmeade), Golfing Green Circle, Welch Road, Springvale Lane, Greenhurst Drive and Chadwell Lane.

Residents can keep up with the latest in street construction updates by signing up for alerts at www.farmersbranchtx.gov/streetrepairs. For more information, call 972.919.2597.



Daddy Daughter Dance coming in February

Dads and their daughters are in for a sweet treat at the annual Daddy Daughter Dance, coming Saturday, February 7, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center.

The event includes refreshments, a keepsake photo and, of course, the dancing.

Advance tickets, available through February 5, are \$5 each for Farmers Branch residents and \$8 for non-residents. All tickets will be \$10 at the door.

For more information, call 972.247.4607.

Financial advice for seniors offered January 28

Edward Jones Financial Advisor Carol Holguin will conduct a session for seniors on protecting investments and financial resources on January 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Senior Center. The event is free, dinner is included but participants must register by January 23.

Senior Dances

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

- Jan 5 Southern Pride: Country/Western
- Jan 12 Gary Lee: Ballroom
- Jan 19 Will Taylor: Country/Western
- Jan 26 Dave Alexander: Country/Ballroom

Branch Briefs

Ancient Egypt is returning to Library

MANSKE LIBRARY ~ By popular demand, the gallery exhibition and series of presentations on ancient Egypt will return to the Farmers Branch Manske Library in January.

Rollin Phipps, former professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and an expert on ancient Egypt, has provided an exhibition for the gallery that includes a variety of both authentic relics and museum replicas.

The collection will be on display January 3 through February 27. Mr. Phipps will follow with three presentations on history of Egypt and Egyptology, January 13 at 7 p.m., January 24 at 1 p.m. and February 11 at 7 p.m. For more information, call 972.247.2511.



Firehouse Theatre announces full season in old fire station

FARMERS BRANCH ~ After finally moving into the former fire station number 1, across from City Hall, after almost three years of performing in other locations, the Firehouse Theatre has announced the six shows that will comprise its 2015 Main Stage Season.

The season bill includes four musicals; *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Into the Woods*, *Oklahoma* and *Mary Poppins* (which will be the show's North Texas debut). The two additional plays that round out the season are "You Can't Take it With You" and Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs."

The Firehouse Theatre's Board of Directors said this season will attract talent and audiences from a broad spectrum as the shows will be directed by award winning directors from all over the Metroplex.

Transformation of the 56-year-old building has included decorative red bay doors, a circular driveway in front along with installation of a full stage, cushioned theatre sets and lighting, all inside the former fire vehicle pays which have been painted into a black box.

Season tickets, group sales and individual reserved seat tickets are on sale through the Box Office or online. Call 972.620.3747 or visit www.TheFirehouseTheatre.com for more information.



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