



Branch REVIEW

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Citizen Committee to be formed for possible bond election

FARMERS BRANCH ~ In preparation for the prospect of presenting a bond issue to voters in 2016, the Farmers Branch City Council is seeking community volunteers to serve on a Citizen Committee to research and champion a potential quality-of-life bond effort.

The City Council will also be asking citizens to consider immediate public safety needs in a May bond election but would like to engage a Citizen Committee to consider other quality of life proposals for a possible November 8, 2016 bond election.

The Citizen Committee would be expected to begin work in January after having had an opportunity to meet with Council for finalizing appointments. Although a volunteer effort, committee members would be expected to commit several hours and days per month towards planning the future of Farmers Branch.

The Committee will have three to four months to assess current City facilities and needs, consider Council suggestions, identify new projects for consideration, determine costs and prioritize proposals.

Members of the committee will create a written report and present their findings to the City Council in mid-June.

Organizers say the committee will likely be self-directed so people with a passion for Farmers Branch are necessary. Anyone interested in applying for service on the committee should return an application no later than 12 noon on January 5, 2016.

For more information, call 972.919.2505.

www.farmersbranchtx.gov/bond



Top 10 Again

Economic Development lands on list of DBJ's best

FBTX ~ The Farmers Branch Economic Development Department has landed on the Dallas Business Journal's Top Ten list of DFW-area Economic Development agencies for the fourth consecutive year.



Managing Director John Land and his team placed at number five on this year's list, up from number 10 last year.

Rounding out the Top Five are the City of Fort Worth at number one, followed by the Economic Development offices of the cities of Arlington, Plano and Dallas.

Mr. Land praised the work of his team.

"This is evidence that diligence pays off in attracting new businesses and retaining existing ones," he said. "It doesn't hurt that we also have a prime location in the DFW area, a low tax rate, business-friendly leadership and one of the best teams in the business, on hte job."

City offices to close for New Year's holiday

FBTX ~ All City of Farmers Branch offices and facilities will be closed on Friday, January 1 in observance of the New Year's holiday. There will be no garbage collection that day and the Citizen Collection Center will be closed.

Council to meet in regular session January 5 & 19

FBTX ~ Mayor Bob Phelps and the members of the Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session on Tuesdays, January 5 & 19 at 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall.

Study Session typically precedes the regular meeting at 4 p.m. in the upstairs conference room at City Hall.

City Council meetings are broadcast live on FBTv, that is Time Warner Cable channel 16, AT&T Uverse channel 99 and online at www.farmersbranchtx.gov.

Meetings and times are subject to change. Call 972.247.3131 for verification on any meeting or event.



Senior Center plans for Valentine's Tea

FBTX ~ Seniors will be celebrating the season of love with a Valentine's Tea on February 12 at 1 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Senior Center.

For \$5, seniors will enjoy canapes and fine tea. Seniors are asked to wear red or pink for the occasion. Resident ticket sales begin Friday, January 15.

Call 972.919.8740

Polar Plunge planned to support Special Olympics

FBTX ~ The temps may be freezing, but the brave are ready to take the Special Olympics Texas Polar Plunge, sponsored by the Farmers Branch Police Department and set for Saturday, January 30 at the Farmers Branch Aquatics Center.

The Polar Plunge will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. with the actual plunge happening at 10 a.m.

Participants will dress in costume and jump in the water to raise money for Special Olympics Texas.

For information, visit sotx.org.

Frog Pond season pass special extended to March 31

FBTX ~ Season passes for the 2016 summer swim season at the Farmers Branch Aquatics Center's Frog Pond are available at a special discount, through March 31.

Individual passes for Farmers Branch residents are on sale for \$65, a \$20 savings while family passes have been discounted \$40 to \$130. Family passes are valid for up to four immediate family members. Each additional family member would be \$10 each. Visit fbh2o.com for more.

What is Geocaching? Find out in January at Historical Park

FBTX ~ Winter Geocaching is a five-part multi-cache that takes visitors through the Farmers Branch Historical Park, on January 30 between 12 noon and 6 p.m.

One online definition defines Geocaching as, "a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. Find out more by calling 972.406.0184.

Senior Dances set Mondays

The Senior Dance Club hosts dances most Monday nights at the Farmers Branch Senior Center. Admission is \$5.

Jan 4 Swingin' Country
Jan 11 Jim Baker Band
Jan 18 JC Tippett
Jan 25 Dave Alexander



From left; City Secretary Amy Piukana, Fire Chief Steve Parker, new Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Turner, Driver Dan Briles, Driver Bryan Hardy, Firefighter/Paramedic Jacob Little, Lieutenant Jason Shelby, Captain Jim Dennis and Mayor Bob Phelps.

Fire Department promotes four officers & swears in two firefighters

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Praising each of them for their commitment to the community and their dedication to service, Fire Chief Steve Parker presided over the promotion of four members of his department and the swearing-in of two new members in ceremonies last week at the Bob Phelps Fire Administration Building.

Mayor Bob Phelps was in attendance to pin badges on the newly promoted officers and new firefighters after their respective oaths were administered by City Secretary Amy Piukana.

Promoted to Captain was FBFD veteran Jim Dennis. Jason Shelby received promotion to Lieutenant. Bryan Hardy and Dan Briles were both promoted to Driver.

New members of the department included Jacob Little and Joshua Turner.

Parks & Recreation's Mitzi Davis elected to hometown sports Hall of Fame

TAYLORSVILLE, North Carolina ~ Having made noteworthy contributions to sports in Alexander County, North Carolina and having "lived a life of exemplary character,"

Farmers Branch Parks and Recreation Program Manager Mitzi Davis will be inducted into her hometown Sports Hall of Fame on November 23.

Mitzi is one of five inductees to the Alexander County Sports Hall of Fame for 2015.

A 17-year veteran of the Farmers Branch City staff, Mitzi is a 1979 graduate of Alexander Central High School in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

She was a standout athlete for the ACHS Cougars, starting in volleyball, basketball and softball. A member of the first state championship softball team at ACHS in 1979, Mitzi was also voted NWC Player of the Year 1976 through 1979 and was named Most Valuable Player in Alexander's state final wins over Cape Fear.

Following high school, Mitzi attended East Carolina University on a volleyball/softball scholarship where she was all-time letter winner, MVP and All-State from 1979 through 1983.

She was named to the United States Specialty Sports Association - Softball Texas Hall of Fame in 1998.

"This is indicative of the character and commitment Mitzi brings to the table," said Farmers Branch Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Harting. "Her leadership is reflected in our staff and those she has contact with every day."



Mitzi Davis

