



Branch REVIEW

www.farmersbranchtx.gov

Up and running

All four partner cities now on the air at North Texas Emergency Communications Center

CARROLLTON ~ After years of planning, preparation, testing and checking, the North Texas Emergency Communications Center, or NTECC, is now fully implemented with public safety dispatch for its four member cities - Farmers Branch, Carrollton, Coppel and Addison.



In February, Farmers Branch was first to move their public safety dispatch capabilities to the centralized, state-of-the-art facility, located near Interstate 35E in Carrollton. All four cities were live on the system by the end of March.

Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker explained that NTECC is not the first combined dispatch center in north Texas, but it is the largest and most elaborate. "This represents a huge commitment on the part of these four cities," he said. "It has been a project of enormous proportions."



Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker (right) confers with NTECC dispatcher Courtney Williams during the February "go live" of Farmers Branch emergency communications.

Tom Bryson

Screening necessary for outdoor storage of recycling cart

FBTX ~ With the new Curbside Recycling Program now underway, residents are reminded to store their recycling cart out of view of the street.

Participating residents received carts in March prior to the start of the program the week of April 4.

Storage of the 95-gallon rolling cart can be in a garage or inside a backyard with solid



**FARMERS BRANCH
RECYCLES**

fencing. For those that, for whatever reason, cannot store a cart in the garage or backyard, they may store the cart next to the house provided that carts are screened in with opaque fencing in an L-shaped configuration.

There will be a grace period until October 1 for installation of proper screening.

Fines for solid waste ordinance violations will range up to \$500. However, City officials emphasize that residents will have ample opportunity to learn about proper storage and correct any issues. Fines will not be assessed except in cases of multiple repeat violations. For more info, visit fbrecycles.com or call 972.919.2597.

Early Voting runs thru May 3; Election Day is May 7

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Early voting will continue as April gives way to May, heading for Election Day on Saturday, May 7.

Two City Council Districts are up for election this year. In District 1, Ana Reyes is running unopposed. In District 4, Chuck Zubarik and Terry Lynne are candidates.

Early voting begins Monday through Saturday, April 25-30, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. It continues on Sunday, May 1, from 1 until 6 p.m. Then, early voting concludes on Monday and Tuesday, May 2 & 3, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Any Dallas County voter can vote early at any Dallas County early voting location, including Farmers Branch City Hall.

On Election Day, Saturday, May 7, voters must cast their ballots at their designated precinct polling place. Find out more about that at dallascountyvotes.org or farmersbranchtx.gov/elections.



New City Marshals serve vital functions for Municipal Court

FBTX ~ After being sworn-in earlier this year, three new City Marshals are now at work establishing the first Marshals Office for Farmers Branch to serve the Municipal Court.

City Secretary Amy Piukana (left) administered the oath to (from left) Nicole Rodriguez-Terrell, Jesse Ramon, Jr. and Gary Elkins.

The Marshals will handle duties previously done by police officers, thus freeing up officers for the street. Among their work will be to serve and process the more than 18,000 active warrants outstanding in the municipal court.



Tom Bryson

Bond Committee seeking public input

FBTX ~ In preparation for the prospect of presenting a quality of life bond issue to the voters, the Farmers Branch City Council appointed a Citizen Committee that is soliciting input from members of the public on a potential bond election.

Anyone that has input, feedback or ideas for a possible bond election is encouraged to attend the Committee's meetings, currently scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month.

Meetings are subject to change. Those interested should call 972.247.3131 to confirm any meeting.

If anyone is unable to attend, they can offer their input electronically via the Citizen Committee's web page at www.farmersbranchtx.gov/bond.

Farmers Market opens May 7

FBTX ~ After an absence of about 15 years, farmers will be back in the Branch on Saturday, May 7 for the grand opening of the all-new Farmers Branch Market, in The Grove at Mustang Crossing.



**FARMERS
BRANCH
MARKET**

Improvements have been made to the area that will accommodate a wide array of vendors offering seasonal favorites. The Market will run each Saturday, through October 29, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Any interested vendor should visit farmersbranchmarket.com and fill out an application or call 972.919.2620.

Tastes & Tunes returns with music & food trucks

FBTX ~ The summertime series that mixes live music with food truck offerings is back for 2016 as Tastes & Tunes returns May 19 at The Grove at Mustang Crossing, across from the Dr Pepper StarCenter.



Set from 6 to 9 p.m., the event will feature a variety of DFW's most popular food trucks along with live music from All Funk Radio Show. Admission is free with blankets and lawn chairs recommended. Parking is available at the Farmers Branch Green Line DART Station.

Other dates include June 16 with the Beatles cover band, "Hard Night's Day" & July 21 with "Lone Star Attitude."

Visit fbspecialevents.com.

Aquatics Center lowers

Frog Pond season pass prices

FBTX ~ The Farmers Branch Aquatics Center just made it easier for swimmers to have fun in the sun this summer with lower prices for season passes to the outdoor Frog Pond. For 2016, Farmers Branch residents will pay \$50 for individuals while non-residents will pay \$80. Visit fbh2o.com.

Firehouse Theatre to close

[title of show] May 1

FBTX ~ After opening on April 14, the one-act musical, ironically entitled, [title of show], will conclude it's run at The Firehouse Theatre on May 1.

Next up for the theatre will be the time-honored musical, **The Fantasticks** on select nights June 2-19. For more info or tickets, visit thefirehousetheatre.com or call 972.620.3747.

Senior Dances set Mondays

May 2 Southern Pride (Country)
May 9 Jim Baker (Country/Ballroom)
May 16 JC Tippett (Country/Ballroom)
May 23 Dave Alexander (Country/Ballroom)

Volunteers encouraged to attend City Boards & Commissions Recruiting Event, May 10 at City Hall

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Anyone that has ever considered serving on a City board is invited to attend a 'Boards & Commissions' Recruiting Event, planned for Tuesday, May 10 at 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall.

The public can come learn about the roles of each of the City's board and commissions, visit with current board members and board chairs, along with City Council and City staff.

Applications for Board service are being accepted April 18 through May 16. Eligible applicants may be asked to attend a followup interview session with the City Council on May 24. For more information call 972.919.2503.

One ton of farm-raised fish headed for Farmers Branch at Fishin' Fun

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The traditional ton of farm-raised fish is on the way to Rawhide Creek, near City Hall, for the annual angling extravaganza, Fishin' Fun, planned for Saturday, May 14.

Designed as a unique fishing experience, Fishin' Fun invites kids ages 16 and under to bring their own gear or borrow a rod from the Parks and Recreation Department to help catch the big one.

Kayaking, zip lining and other fun activities will be provided at the event at Gussie Field Watterworth Park adjacent to the amphitheater at City Hall

Trophies will be given at the awards ceremony for the biggest fish in each age category.

No registration is required and the event is free of charge to kids ages 16 and under. For more information, visit fbspecialevents.com or call 972.919.1433.



Stars & Strings to feature Dallas Wind Symphony



FARMERS BRANCH ~ The summer kicks off in fine fashion on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 28, when Liberty Fest presents Stars & Strings, featuring the Dallas Wind Symphony in a concert under the stars at the Farmers Branch Historical Park.

Gates will open at 6:30 p.m. and admission is free. The event will also feature a free KidZone, tours of historic structures, concessions available for purchase and pre-ordered picnic baskets from Central Market. A fireworks finale will complete the evening after dark. Visit fbspecialevents.com.



Rotary Signature Playground ready for grand opening

FARMERS BRANCH ~ A joint project of the Farmers Branch and Carrollton-Farmers Branch Rotary Clubs, the all-inclusive Rotary Signature Playground at Gussie Field Watterworth Park, will celebrate its grand opening April 30 at 11 a.m.

Designed for children of all abilities, the project has been heavily supported by private donations from local businesses and residents.

Coffee with a Cop coming May 21

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Members of the Farmers Branch Police Department will be present, java in hand, to answer questions and have conversations with members of the public at the 'Coffee with a Cop' event, coming up on Saturday May 21 from 10 to 11 a.m.

The event regularly rotates to different areas of the City. This time, the venue will be the Old City Cafe, 12895 Josey Lane, Suite 128.

There is no formal agenda, just a chance to have conversations with some of Farmers Branch's finest. Call 972.919.9135.

