

# Branch Review



JANUARY 2017



## Winter Work

# Construction on Marsh & Valley View continues

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Working towards the goal of completion later this year, crews continue to work through the winter months on the new southbound Marsh Lane bridge over Farmers

Branch Creek along with east and westbound Valley View Lane, between Josey Lane and Webb Chapel.

Both projects include funding under the 2015 voter-approved \$23.5 million bond issue for street improvements. The southbound Marsh Lane bridge has flooded numerous times through the years whenever Farmers Branch Creek swells from excessive rainfall. That \$2.4 million project will demolish, then reconstruct the southbound bridge to a compatible height with its northbound counterpart.

Slated for 200 working days, the project began in November. Farmers Branch and Dallas County are splitting the cost of design and construction. During the project, all north and southbound traffic will be reduced to a single lane each way across the remaining bridge.

East and westbound Valley View has been underway since late summer. After an updated waterline is installed and aerial street light wiring is relocated underground, crews will turn to constructing the 10-inch-thick concrete paving and seven-foot-side sidewalks. Traffic will detour due to various closed lanes throughout the project.

Valley View is a \$3.1 million project and is expected to be complete by May.



## City sets New Years hours

FBTX~ All City of Farmers Branch offices and facilities will be closed on Sunday, January 1, in observance of New Years Day and most will remain closed on Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Years legal holiday.

Exceptions will be the Community Recreation Center and Margaret Young Natatorium, both open Monday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, the Senior Center and Historical Park will operate that day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All hours are subject to change.

However, there **will be** garbage collection on Monday, January 2.

For more information, call 972.247.3131.

## Council to meet second and fourth Tuesday in January

FBTX~ The Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session, in January only, on the second and fourth Tuesdays, that is January 10 & 24.

Additionally, there will be a special meeting of the City Council on Monday, January 9 to discuss the funding mechanism for the proposed west side Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone.

All meetings are set for 6 p.m. at City Hall. Regular meetings are preceded by a mid-afternoon Study Session at 3 p.m.

For more information, call 972.247.3131.

## Tell it to the Mayor sessions scheduled in January

FBTX~ Mayor Bob Phelps will resume his regular office hours, called "Tell it to the Mayor," on Wednesdays, January 11 & 25, 3 to 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Regularly held on the second and fourth Wednesdays, "Tell it to the Mayor" allows residents to sit down and visit with Mayor Phelps on any topic, without an appointment. For more information, call 972.919.2515.

## Daddy Daughter Dance coming in February

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The annual opportunity for Dads to dance with their Daughters is coming up on Saturday, February 4 with the annual Daddy Daughter Dance at the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center.

Planned from 6 to 8 p.m., Dads and Daughters can dance to a DJ, enjoy refreshments, and receive a keepsake photo. All ages are welcome. Advance tickets are available through February 3 at \$5 for residents and \$8 for non-residents (\$15 at the door).

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## Senior Center's Spud & a Show set January 24

FBTX ~ Farmers Branch seniors (over the age of 50) can enjoy a baked potato with the works in front of a major motion picture, featuring "Florence Foster Jenkins" on January 24 at 11:30 a.m.

The movie stars Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. Cost is \$2. Call the Senior Center for more information at 972.919.8740.

## Farmers Branch Market to open in April this year

FBTX ~ Based on a very successful inaugural year and by popular demand, the Farmers Branch Market will return for

the 2017 season a month earlier this year, on Saturday, April 1.

The Market

will be held each Saturday during the season, from April through October, 8 a.m. to 12 noon at The Grove @ Mustang Crossing, 12700 Denton Drive, just steps from the Farmers Branch DART Green Line light rail station. Visit [farmersbranchmarket.com](http://farmersbranchmarket.com).

## Frog Pond begins accepting rental reservations

FBTX ~ In preparation for the 2017 summer swim season, the Farmers Branch Aquatics Center's Frog Pond begins accepting rental reservations January 2.

Call 972.919.8720.

## Tony-winning 'Putnam County Spelling Bee' to be presented by FHT

FBTX ~ The Firehouse Theatre will present the Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning "The 24th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" on select nights, January 5-22.

Based on a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin, with a vibrant score by William Finn, the show has made an impact on audiences across the country.

The Firehouse Theatre is located at 2535 Valley View Lane in old Farmers Branch Fire Station No. 1. For tickets, visit [thefirehousetheatre.com](http://thefirehousetheatre.com) or call 972.620.3747.

## Senior Dances set Mondays

FBTX~ Live music and friendly people make Senior Dance night one of the best in the Metroplex. Tickets are \$5 at the door for dances from 7 to 9:20 p.m.

**JAN 02** No dance - Happy New Year  
**JAN 09** Jim Baker (Country)  
**JAN 16** J.C. Tippett (Country)  
**JAN 23** Dave Alexander (Ballroom)  
**JAN 30** Southern Pride (Country)

# Winter gardening classes designed to 'cultivate participants' gardening skills

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The annual series of winter gardening classes has been planned in 2017 for most Tuesdays in January with a Rose Pruning Clinic on a Saturday in February.

Designed for gardeners of all skill levels, the classes are standalone so that anyone may attend as many as they like. All classes are free and open to the public and will be held at the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center at 7 p.m. each scheduled Tuesday evening. Classes include:

### January 10: Protecting the Branch Collar and other Essentials of Tree Pruning

Sam Hill, Board Certified Master Arborist and owner of Sam Hill Tree Care will take the mystery out of pruning and care.

### January 17: The Edible Landscape

Utilizing areas in landscaping to grow edibles is a way to add food to the table and reduce grocery bills. This program teaches participants how to incorporate edible plants into the home garden and landscape. Participants will learn how herbs, fruits and vegetables can add to the colors and textures of permanent landscaping, combining both aesthetics and functionality.

### January 24: Don't Throw that Orchid Away

Dotty Woodson, a familiar face on NBC on Sunday mornings and an orchid enthusiast, will share secrets of caring for blooming orchids and coaxing them back into bloom once again.

### January 31: Backyard Composting

This program teaches the composting process, the different types and methods of composting as well as how to compost and its importance. There will be three Shepherd Complete Composters given away as door prizes.

### February 18: Saturday Rose Pruning Clinic

Participants are invited out to the Rose Garden to learn how to prune roses or just to come help and spend time with other gardeners. Leather gloves and pruners are required.

Even though classes are free, reservations are requested by calling 972.247.4607.



Rosalind Creasy

## Residents should be aware of squirrel scam

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Believe it or not, there's a squirrel scam that has come to light in the past few months that residents should be aware of.

Scammers are targeting the elderly by telling them they saw a squirrel scamper into their attic and for a couple of hundred dollars they'll "find it and kill it" for them.

They return from the attic with a dead squirrel and collect for a job well done. Of course, the squirrel was already dead when the scammers took it with them to the attic before returning it downstairs.

Anyone that is approached by this scam is encouraged to, first, decline the offer, then call Farmers Branch Police at 972.484.3620 with as much descriptive information as possible.



## Code Enforcement Corner

### Required Swimming Pool Maintenance

Now that the summer is over and winter is creeping in, here are a few helpful reminders regarding swimming pools and their required maintenance:

- You are required to maintain pool water so that it is clear enough to see the bottom at the deepest part of the pools and to maintain all mechanical devices in working condition so that the pool water remains clear at all times; including removing all stagnant water (and water accumulated on top of covers)
- When you are cleaning your pool remember not to discharge pool water into the street, alley, or any other location where it may enter the storm water system, only discharge water into a sanitary sewer drain.
- Remember to repair broken fences, open or missing gates or other conditions that may make a pool area accessible to children.

FARMERS  BRANCH

To Report a Code Violation:

- Call 972.919.1414
- Log on at [farmersbranchtx.gov/code](http://farmersbranchtx.gov/code)
- Download the MyFBTX app