

Branch REVIEW



AUGUST 2017



Robert Dye elected Mayor

FBTX ~ A lengthy election season came to a close on June 10 when Robert Dye was elected Mayor of Farmers Branch after the votes were counted in his runoff with Harold Froehlich.

Four candidates began the race in February. That field was narrowed to two after the May 8 election, but no candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote so Mr. Dye and Mr. Froehlich went to a runoff.

After the votes were counted, Mr. Dye received 1,746 (52.96 percent) while Mr. Froehlich received 1,551 (47.04 percent).

With his hand on the historic Gilbert Bible, Mr. Dye was sworn in as Mayor at the June 21 meeting of the City Council, after the votes were canvassed and pronounced official.

In his remarks, Mayor Dye praised retiring Mayor Bob Phelps for his decades of service and called upon all members of the Farmers Branch community to come together and work towards the betterment of the City.



Farmers Branch Mayor Robert Dye

Results of Resident Satisfaction Survey underscore Farmers Branch quality of life

FBTX ~ Nine out of 10 residents participating in the 2017 Resident Satisfaction Survey rated the quality of life in Farmers Branch as excellent or good according to a report on the survey issued by National Service Research and presented to the City Council.

A total of 1,226 residents participated in the 2017 survey, up from 1,050 in 2014. More than half of respondents (55 percent) feel that Farmers Branch has improved since the last survey. Respondents said the City is exceeding expectations in Library services, recreation programs, senior services and special events.

An oft-cited need in previous surveys for residential curbside recycling services was heavily lauded in the 2017 survey after the initiation of the program last year.

The biggest areas of the current survey where respondents asked for increased efforts included retail revitalization in the form of restaurants, more retail options, coffee shops and grocery stores.

Parks and Recreation satisfaction was rated at 88 percent "excellent" or "good." City employees were rated as "courteous" by 87 percent of respondents.

People appear to feel safe in Farmers Branch with 97 percent reporting they feel very or reasonably safe walking alone in their neighborhoods during the day. Overall, 91 percent of respondents said their contact with the Police Department was "excellent" or "good" while the Fire Department garnered 94 percent "excellent" or "good" ratings.

Residential recycling services were rated at 89 percent "excellent" or "good," compared to 51 percent in the 2014 survey. The entire survey report is available online at the City's website.



Prototype entry monument installed on Marsh Lane

FBTX ~ Drawing on local craftsmanship, a new prototype entry monument has been installed on Marsh Lane, near LBJ.

The three vertical blades give the name of the City and feature some of the iconic leaves from the City logo. In addition, the sign can be illuminated



at night with colors programmed to match the time of year. Residents are encouraged to offer their feedback on the sign by calling 972.247.3131 or at fbinfo@farmersbranchtx.gov.

City Council sets special schedule through year

FBTX ~ The Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session on the traditional first and third Tuesdays, that is **August 1 & 15** at 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall, with a special called meeting August 29 to discuss the City's tax rate.

The remainder of the year, however, will see slight alterations to that traditional first and third Tuesday schedule.

In September, the Council will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays, **September 12 & 26**.

The first meeting in October will take place on Monday, **October 2**, in deference to National Night Out on Tuesday, October 3. The second meeting remains on the third Tuesday, that is **October 17**.

In order to avoid holding a regular meeting the week of Thanksgiving, the Council will meet in November on the second and fourth Tuesdays, **November 14 and 28**.

Finally, the City Council has one scheduled meeting in December, on Tuesday, **December 12**. However, all meetings are subject to change. Call 972.247.3131.

Fire Training Center to open

FBTX ~ Everyone is invited to the grand opening of the Joint Fire Training Center, Saturday, August 12 at 9 a.m. at Farmers Branch Fire Station No. 3, 13333 Hutton Drive.

The multi-story structure, designed for various firefighting and rescue scenarios, is being financed and operated by the Fire Departments from Farmers Branch, Addison, Carrollton and Coppell.

Discover Farmers Branch '&' some really great stuff

FBTX ~ In an effort to showcase the community to attract new residents and visitors, the City has unveiled the 'Discover Farmers Branch' campaign. City staff, along with the Pyro Brand agency, created the vibrant and creative marketing campaign to promote all assets of Farmers Branch.

From this, the 'Discover Farmers Branch' campaign was created, featuring an iconic ampersand (&) to illustrate the endless possibilities in this community. To those who may not be familiar with Farmers Branch, the ampersand is a bold symbol that helps communicate the variety of opportunities in Farmers Branch.

"The ampersand campaign is best understood by visiting the website at discoverfarmersbranch.com and checking out the seemingly endless descriptors that can accompany any segment of our community," said City Manager Charles S. Cox. "It makes people stop and want to find out more about Farmers Branch and we think they will."

"Starting with one of the best locations in the Metroplex, Farmers Branch has so much to offer in only 12 square miles - entertainment & special events & sports tournaments & Farmers Market & incentives for homes & incentives for businesses & amazing City services & the list goes on."

The campaign focuses on digital media to promote three main topics - the Demo/Rebuild program (offering incentives to homeowners to replace older houses with new ones), destination special events and Farmers Branch amenities such as the Historical Park, Nature Preserve and award-winning parks.

In addition, a larger-than-life ampersand sculpture has been added to the Farmers Branch Market on weekends and larger special events which organizers say has been a popular photo opportunity and conversation starter. Find out more at discoverfarmersbranch.com.



Police to open Fall Citizen Academy, September 7

FBTX ~ There is still availability for residents to apply for the Fall 2017 edition of the Farmers Branch Police Department's Citizen Police Academy.

The multi-week course offers residents an up-close look at Police Department personnel, policies and procedures. Visit farmersbranchtx.gov/police.

Firehouse Theatre to offer classic musical 'Pippin'

FBTX ~ A special engagement of the classic musical, 'Pippin,' will be presented by the Firehouse Theatre on select nights, including Wednesdays, July 19 through August 20.

For info or for tickets, call 972.620.3747 or go to thefirehousetheatre.com.

Back to Splash Days set

FBTX~ Help provide school supplies for students in need and receive a discounted admission to the Frog Pond August 1-13.

Residents can donate an item from the Blair Elementary 2017-2018 School Supply Lists between August 1-13 and receive Margaret Young Natatorium admission pricing (Residents \$3, Non-Residents \$5) to the Frog Pond. Visit the Farmers Branch Aquatics Center front desk for a copy of the supply list or call 972.919.8720.

Senior Dances planned

FBTX~ Live music and friendly people make Senior Dance night one of the best in the Metroplex. Tickets are \$5.

AUG 07 Swingin' Country (Country)

AUG 14 Jim Baker (Ballroom)

AUG 21 J.C. Tippett (Country)

AUG 28 Dave Alexander (Ballroom)

City Engineer Marc Bentley named Director of Public Works

FBTX ~ After a national search, Farmers Branch City officials found they didn't have to look far for their new Director of Public Works, naming City Engineer Marc Bentley to the position earlier this summer.

A graduate of Texas A&M University with more than 35 years of experience in civil engineering, Mr. Bentley began his career at the Texas Department of Transportation in Greenville. After that, he spent 26 years in private practice with 15 as head of his own firm. He succeeds former Director Randy Walhood who retired earlier this year.

"Marc brings a wealth of experience to the Director's office," said Farmers Branch Deputy City Manager John Land. "And with that comes the institutional experience of already working in Farmers Branch Public Works which has given him invaluable, inside knowledge of programs and projects that will enable him to get up to full speed day one."

His municipal experience includes four years at the Town of Sunnyvale and he is now in his fourth year with the City of Farmers Branch. Mr. Bentley is a licensed Professional Engineer and a Certified Floodplain Manager. He is married with two sons that serve in the United States Marine Corps. He spends his spare time with his wife and dogs and working out at the Community Recreation Center.



Marc Bentley

Shane Davis promoted to sustainability post

FBTX ~ Capitalizing on his breadth of experience in health and environmental fields, the City's Environmental Services and Solid Waste Manager, Shane Davis has been promoted to the new position of Director of Sustainability and Public Health.

A member of the Farmers Branch City Staff since 2006, Mr. Davis will be responsible for management of solid waste operations, which includes oversight and administration of the Camelot Landfill, the landfill gas-to-energy facility, garbage and recycling collection, brush and bulky collection, household hazardous waste and shredding events. He will also be in charge of public health, which includes restaurant and pool inspections, mosquito abatement and the health services contract with Dallas County.

Additionally, Mr. Davis will supervise the industrial pretreatment permitting and inspection program and associated contract with the Trinity River Authority, chemical spill response and clean-up, stormwater permitting and reporting, municipal settings designation review, animal services and he will act as staff liaison to the Sustainability Committee.

A graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelors degree in Microbiology, Mr. Davis has six years prior professional experience at the City of Lubbock in Environmental Compliance. He was hired in Farmers Branch as Landfill Administrator before also taking on Solid Waste collection and Environmental Health.



Shane Davis