

Branch REVIEW



WATER CONSERVATION IN 2018

FBTX ~ With Spring watering season coming up quickly, the Farmers Branch Sustainability Committee is offering tips to help conserve water, and save money.

1. REDUCE OUTDOOR WATERING.

More than 50 percent of residential water use is outdoor watering. Water between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. to allow water to seep deeply into roots and avoid evaporation. Once a week is enough.

2. CHECK TOILETS TO VERIFY THEY ARE WORKING PROPERLY.

Make sure the water level is not too high, the fill valve is working properly and the flapper is not leaking. A leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. Newer toilets use only 1.28 gallons per flush where older ones use three times that much. Consider going modern.

3. WHETHER LAUNDRY OR DISHES, WASH WITH A FULL LOAD.

Conventional washing machines, built before 2011, typically use about 40 gallons per load. Water-efficient washers may use as little as 15. Likewise, wash full loads of dishes to maximize efficiency. If washing by hand, fill the sink rather than run the tap to rinse.

4. FIND AND FIX ANY LEAKY FAUCETS.

A leaky faucet can leak 60 drops per minute or 192 gallons per month. Consider installing an aerator to cut down on the amount of water, but not the pressurizer per minute, that comes out of the tap.

5. BE WATER WISE WHEN BATHING.

Reducing a 10-minute shower to five saves 12.5 gallons of water if your showerhead has a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute. Consider installing a low flow showerhead which may use up to half the amount per minute than an older model.

Backyard chickens approved
FBTX ~ More information will be forthcoming in the near future about the procedures for obtaining a permit to house urban chickens in residential backyards in Farmers Branch.

The City Council approved the measure in January that will allow residents to house between three and six hens (no roosters).

There will be a fee for the permit and an education component that must be completed before the permit is issued. City officials will release additional information once procedures are put in place.

Second Fire Station meeting planned in April

FBTX ~ The second of two information meetings is planned for April 12 to gather public input on the design of the soon-to-be relocated Fire Station No. 2, moving from its remote location on Spring Valley to a relatively small corner of Holiday Park near Brookhaven College at Valley View Lane and Alpha Link.



The meeting follows a February meeting where initial design concepts for the new station were developed. It is planned for the Bob Phelps Fire Administration Building, 13333 Hutton Drive at 7 p.m. Call 972.919.2640.

Council to meet in March

FBTX ~ The Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session on Tuesdays, March 6 & 20 at 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall.

Coverage will be carried live on FBTV, cable channel 16 in Farmers Branch, AT&T Uverse Channel 99 throughout the Metroplex and online at www.farmersbranchtx.gov.

All meetings are subject to change. Call 972.247.3131.

Historical Park reopens on Sundays in March

FBTX ~ Following a seasonal closure on Sundays during colder months, the Farmers Branch Historical Park will reopen on Sundays, beginning March 4.

Senior Dances planned

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

MAR 05 Swingin' Country | Country

MAR 12 Jim Baker | Ballroom

MAR 19 Solid Country | Country

MAR 26 Dave Alexander | Ballroom

Good planning

Tina Firgens brings diverse experience back to Farmers Branch

FBTX ~ Citing her varied background and diverse work experience, Farmers Branch City Manager Charles Cox has announced that Tina Firgens has returned to Farmers Branch as the new Planning Director.

Ms. Firgens has Texas municipal Planning experience ranging from Victoria to McKinney and including stints in Plano and Richardson, where she has served as Planning Projects Manager since 2013. She served as Interim Planning Director and Senior Planner in Farmers Branch from 1999 to 2007.

"It is rare that a city gets the opportunity to bring on a Planning Director that is not only impressively qualified for the position, but is also a known fit for this organization," Mr. Cox explained. "With everything we have going on, we are thrilled that Tina is returning to Farmers Branch."

Ms. Firgens holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography - Urban and Regional Planning with a minor in Political Science and an emphasis in Public Administration. She holds American Institute of Certified Planners certification and is a member of the American Planning Association (AICP).

"Having had the opportunity to serve the Farmers Branch community earlier in my career, it will be interesting to see the changes that have occurred throughout the city over the past decade," Ms. Firgens said. "This is an exciting time in Farmers Branch with new development and redevelopment occurring within the city, in particular the development happening within the DART station area, the city's west side, and along the Dallas North Tollway corridor. I look forward to working with city leaders, residents, business owners and other stakeholders within the community."

Ms. Firgens, and her husband, Keith, are parents of twin 12-year-old boys.



Tina M. Firgens, AICP

Precautions urged for cold/flu season, now in progress

FBTX ~ Whether you've noticed longer lines at the pharmacy or have experienced the aches and pains yourself, there's no denying it that flu season is here.

Symptoms of the flu vary in severity and may include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, chills, and fatigue. Some people also report vomiting and diarrhea.

"If you're sick, the most important thing you can do is stay home from school or work," advises Farmers Branch Public Health Manager Katy Evans. "And of course, everyone should wash their hands and disinfect surfaces regularly to prevent the spread of illness."

While mild cases of the flu won't generally require medical attention, severe infections may require hospitalizations and cause death. Already, Dallas County has seen a total of 38 flu-related deaths in the 2017-2018 flu season through mid-January.

The flu spreads when respiratory droplets land on surfaces that are touched by others.

"The flu is very contagious," says Evans. "Another way to reduce your chances of getting sick is to get the flu vaccine. It's not too late."

Flu vaccines are available through your physician or through Dallas County Health and Human Services. Dallas County provides flu shots to adults for \$30 and to children for \$5-10. For more information contact DCHHS at 214.819.2163.



Camping Under the Stars planned March 16-17

FBTX ~ For those that want to try camping, but not too far away from home, the annual Camping Under the Stars event at the Farmers Branch Historical Park may be the answer.

Lasting from 5 p.m. Friday, March 16 through 9 a.m. Saturday, March 17, entertainment, s'mores and breakfast are provided.

Registration began February 5 and is \$50 per family campsite. Families should bring their own dinner, tent and supplies. There will be an optional nature event Saturday morning, beginning at 9 a.m. Call 972.406.0184.

Firehouse returns to Rydell High with Grease



FBTX ~ The rollicking musical that is both an homage to the idealism of the fifties and a satire of high schoolers' desire to rebel, Grease, will be presented by the Firehouse Theatre on select nights March 1 through 18.

Performances will be at the theatre, 2535 Valley View Lane. For tickets and more information, call 972.620.3747 or visit thefirehousetheatre.com.

MARCH 2018



Farmers Branch's bravest Fire Department celebrates successes during past year in special ceremonies

FBTX ~ Celebrating accomplishments and successes during the past year, Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker and his staff bestowed awards and certificates on members of the Fire Department that excelled and marked milestones in 2017.

The awards ceremony and reception was held recently at Farmers Branch City Hall. For bravery in saving a young man's life, Lieutenant Ricky Garrison, Driver Chad Brown and Firefighter Joshua Turner were awarded a Company Citation. In March of 2017, the team performed a search and rescued a victim trapped in a house fire.

Jake Little was named Firefighter of the Year for his exceptional work as a training officer, assistance in rolling out Operative IQ Narcotics inventory system and his work in saving the life of a cardiac arrest victim.

The 2017 Officer of the Year was Lieutenant Jason Shelby. He was cited for management of multiple, complex projects, serving on the firefighter cancer reduction committee, as behavior health awareness trainer, Branch

Brigade clown and more. Lieutenant Daniel Latimer was named recipient of the 2017 Golden Eagle Award for taking ownership in developing and implementing the Operative IQ system.

The 12 firefighters of Engine 134 were cited for their service to the state of Texas in providing fire and rescue services to the City of Rockport and Aransas County over a three-week period as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Additionally, Firefighter/Paramedics Kyle Green and Mike Smith were noted for their EMS response to the City of Houston. Also, Emergency Management Specialist Lauren Sanchez was recognized for supporting the Dallas Mega-shelter for Hurricane Harvey evacuees and facilitating the reimbursement process for Farmers Branch.

Driver/Paramedic and National Guard Sergeant First Class Terry Evans was cited for his deployment in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Finally, the 2017 Award of Exemplary Action was bestowed upon Captain Bryan Lafleur and Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Tucker for volunteering to perform boat rescues of residents in Montgomery and Harris Counties that were trapped by the historic flooding, relating to Hurricane Harvey.



Cited for bravery in saving a young man's life, the Company Citation was bestowed on (from left) Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Turner, Driver/Paramedic Chad Brown and Lieutenant Ricky Garrison, with Fire Chief Steve Parker.



Promoted at PD

Continuing a busy month for public safety, Farmers Branch Police Chief David Hale held ceremonies to promote five members of his department to new ranks. They are (from left) Corporal Jacob Read, Sergeants Jason Roddy and Julia Chandler, Corporal Kristofor Garrett and Lieutenant Terry Eoff.

Infrastructure



One of the largest projects in the \$23 million street improvement bond, passed by voters in 2014, was the reconstruction of Valley View Lane between Josey and Webb Chapel. The project was completed in August of 2017 and resulted in new, wider sidewalks, updated utilities, and a reconstructed road.

Additionally, in October 2017, the Marsh Lane bridge project was completed. The southbound Marsh Lane bridge, which crosses Farmers Branch creek, was notorious for extreme flooding. The City was able to secure a matching grant with Dallas County enabling construction and completion of the project.

Camelot Landfill

A process that began in 2011 came to an official end in October of 2017 when the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality approved a plan to expand the Farmers Branch-owned Camelot Landfill, in Lewisville. The state-approved expansion will add 152 vertical feet to the previously permitted top of 523 feet above sea level and expand the waste footprint by a total of 38.5 acres. The approval will add an estimated three to four decades to the life of the landfill, which would have otherwise closed in about 14 years.



Family Clinic



A multi-year development project came to pass in 2017 as ground was broken on a new medical office building, next door to Walmart Neighborhood Market. The 5,000-square-foot building will be home to the Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation and the all-new Farmers Branch Family Clinic that will become a great benefit to residents and employees.

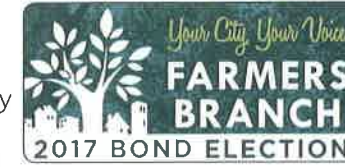
Dr Pepper StarCenter

In 2017, plans were developed and approved for the 14-year-old facility to receive a \$2 million makeover. Updates include creating a Dallas Stars Alumni Center, Texas Hockey History Center and updates to the exterior and lobby. Once completed, the facility will become the Official practice ice for NHL visiting teams and the home of sled hockey in the Metroplex.



Bond Election

In November 2017, the residents of Farmers Branch voted and passed three quality of life bond propositions. Focusing on the DART Station area, trails, sidewalks, the John F. Burke Nature Preserve and residential revitalization, the \$15 million bond package will allow progress towards a more vibrant, connected community.



Public Safety



Resident Satisfaction Surveys continue to tell us that our residents feel safe and secure in Farmers Branch. And the data tells a similar story as major crime was down 14.7% from 2016.

There are a lot of factors that go into ensuring residents can enjoy living in a safe city. From maintaining one of the lowest emergency response times in the area, on average four minutes, to working with individual neighborhoods on Crime watch programs, to the various community programs offered by the Police and Fire Departments. In Farmers Branch keeping our residents safe is a priority.

In 2017, several public safety projects were started including:

- The addition of a new police beat for the developing west side
- A new full-time ambulance will be added to Fire Station No. 3 in the west side
- Security updates to the Justice Center to include fencing and gates, ballistic material in strategic places, locker room updates, and additional storage and work areas for Regional SWAT equipment and evidence processing

Fire Training Tower

New in 2017, the joint Fire Training Facility, located at Farmers Branch Fire Station No. 3, is a state-of-the-art training facility funded by the cities of Farmers Branch, Addison, Carrollton and Coppell, and will provide cutting edge training scenarios for first responders across the four cities.



Approved Development

In 2017, City Council approved more than \$1 billion in development projects in the City. Below are just a few highlights.



BRIDGEVIEW

Location: Inwood and Alpha
Project: Hotel, Office, Restaurant Commons
Investment: \$300 million



BEE STREET RESTAURANT PARK

Location: DART Station Area
Project: 37,000 sq ft retail including Cox Market
Investment: \$14 million



BRICKYARD PHASE II

Location: West Side
Project: 447 Multi-Family
Investment: \$57 million



LA QUINTA HOTEL

Location: West Side
Project: 109 room hotel
Investment: \$20 million



HUTTON TOWNHOMES

Location: West Side
Project: 32 unit townhome
Investment: \$11 million



MERCER CROSSING

Location: West Side
Project: Single family, multi-family, restaurants, retail, hotel & office
Investment: \$800 million

RESIDENT SATISFACTION



97%

of residents who feel safe in Farmers Branch



87%

of residents who have had good courteous exchanges when dealing with City employees



93%

of residents who feel they have a good quality of life in Farmers Branch

RECYCLING

2017 was the first year of the City's curbside recycling program and resulted in widespread success including receiving the Keep Texas Beautiful Award for recycling success.



FARMERS BRANCH RECYCLES

329%

increase in TONS of recycling due to the curbside recycling program

89%

of residents who are satisfied with the City's recycling program