

City Council

The Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session on its regular schedule, **January 7 & 21**

at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers at Farmers Branch City Hall, 13000



William Dodson Parkway. Meetings are broadcast live on FBTV, **cable channel 16** in Farmers Branch, **AT&T Uverse channel 99** and on-line at www.farmersbranchtx.gov. For more information, call 972.247.3131.

Daddy Daughter Dance

Dads and their daughters are invited to dance their way into the classic children's story, Alice in Wonderland at the annual Daddy Daughter Dance, coming up Saturday, February 1 at the Community Recreation Center, from 6 until 8 p.m.

Daddys and daughters will join Alice, the Mad Hatter, TweedleDee and TweedleDum and other classic characters for a night of dancing, cookies and punch and more. Advance admission is \$5 per Farmers Branch resident, \$8 per non-resident or \$10 at the door.

TXI relocation

Announced earlier this year, Texas Industries, Inc., a leading supplier of cement, aggregate and consumer product building materials, was expected to begin moving their corporate headquarters to Farmers Branch by the end of the 2013.

A permit has been issued for their \$250,000 renovation of the fourth floor at the Park West complex, 1501 LBJ Freeway.



January 2014 Branch REVIEW



Quite a 'Rec'ade

RECREATION CENTER ~ In what has been an eventful decade, the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center is celebrating its 10th Anniversary in January with a 10-day celebration planned and a quest for pictures from the 10 years.

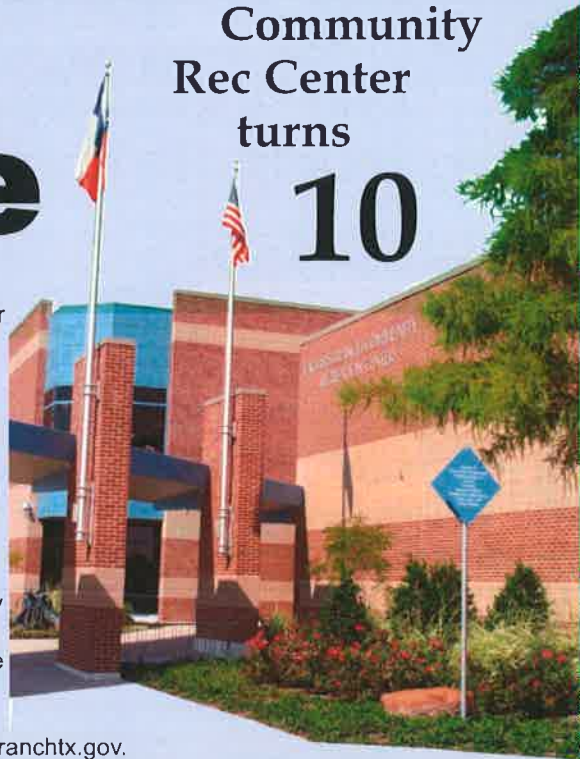
Rec Center officials will stage the 10-day celebration to begin on January 10, the official opening day anniversary, with Family Game Night from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. There will be basketball, volleyball, board games, snacks and play use, concessions, a bounce house and more. Additional information on other celebratory events will be announced closer to the date. More information will be released on City media as it becomes available.

In addition, Rec Center staff is looking for photos from the past 10 years. Members and guests since 2004 are asked to post their photos to the Rec Center Facebook page

@fbreccenter or email them to stephanie.castro@farmersbranchtx.gov.

The Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center is located at 14050 Heartside Place, near the corner of Heartside and Valwood Parkway. For more information, call 972.247.2607.

Community Rec Center turns 10



City Council renews contract for operation of Manske Library

Self-checkout technology coming in 2014

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Based on a successful track record, the Farmers Branch City Council on Tuesday renewed the three-year contract with Library Systems and Services (LSSI) for operation of the Farmers Branch Manske Library.

Originally contracted to manage the Library in 2010, LSSI's tenure has seen a 91 percent customer satisfaction rating, a 73 percent rise in the number of programs offered at the Library and a steadily increasing stream of visitors with a record of more than 215,000 in 2013.

Farmers Branch Managing Director John Land said the City will save an estimated \$900,000 over the term of the contract.

Additionally, LSSI has agreed to purchase RFID (radio frequency identification) self checkout technology with installation scheduled for spring. Call the Library at 972.247.2511.

www.farmersbranchtx.gov

Firefighter Combat Challenge team places in World Top 20

LAS VEGAS, NV ~ After a year of grueling competition, the Farmers Branch Fire Department's Firefighter Combat Challenge Team recently competed in the World Championships in Las Vegas, placing in the top 20 for both singles and relay events.

The Firefighter Combat Challenge is a series of events that simulate the physical demands of firefighting, from climbing a four-story tower to dragging a victim to safety and putting water on a target. Events are grouped into singles and relay (team) competitions. The Farmers Branch team features Eric Blunt, Andy Davis, Morgan Bell, Bryan Hardy and Michael Bilharz.

Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker said the Farmers Branch team travels and competes on their own time.

"Yes, the competition is a lot of fun and provides a great atmosphere of camaraderie through friendly competition between departments in the fire service," he explained. "But the specific level of skill and high level of physical fitness needed to execute these challenges provides a great training program for these guys that only makes them better at their jobs here at home."

The Farmers Branch team placed 11th in relays and 16th in the world in the singles competition.



Farmers Branch recognized for Financial Transparency by state agency



AUSTIN ~ For setting the bar with efforts of transparency in government accessibility and reporting, the City of Farmers Branch has been awarded the Gold Leadership Circle Award by the Texas Comptroller's Office for the fourth consecutive year.

The Leadership Circle program was launched in 2009 to recognize local governments across Texas that are striving to meet a high standard for financial transparency online.

Specifically, award criteria includes whether or not the government is opening its books to the public, providing clear, consistent pictures of spending and sharing information in a user-friendly format that lets taxpayers easily drill down for more information.

The Comptroller's Office defines "Gold" as those agencies that are excelling with transparency efforts. "Silver" is designed to encourage those who are making progress, while "Bronze" is meant to inspire those who are just beginning their transparency efforts.



Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker (left) speaks to the assembled crowd of friends and family who were on hand to witness the recent swearing in of new Firefighter/Paramedics (continuing from left) Jonathon Dallalio, Jonathan Schneider, Brett Schonfeld and Michael Smith.

Landscaping with Roses

The Annual Landscaping with Roses Classes are coming back in January and February. Each class begins at 7 p.m. at the Community Recreation Center. All classes are free and open to all. Pre-register by calling 972.247.4607.

- Jan 14 - Roses for the Landscape
- Jan 21 - DIY Drip Irrigation
- Jan 28 - The Informed Gardener - Are you really?
- Feb 4 - Inspirations from Chandor Gardens
- Feb 8 - Rose Pruning: Hands on in the Garden
- Feb 11 - The Elephant in the Room: Rose Rosette Disease

Bluegrass stats

The Fourth Annual Bloomin' Bluegrass Festival, held in October, saw attendance of more than 6,000 guests and generated more than 100 room nights in Farmers Branch Hotels, according to statistics released by Visit Farmers Branch.

Family History Month

January is Family History Month at the Manske Library with events scheduled to help residents with genealogical research. The 'Basics of DNA Testing' for tracing family ancestry will be the focus of a program on January 18 at 1 p.m. Then, on January 28 at 6 p.m., a specialized session will show teens how to research family history. Call 972.247.2511.

New Year's info

All City offices and facilities will be closed on January 1. There will be no garbage collection that day.

Senior Dances

Monday nights at 7 p.m. at Senior Center.

- Jan 6 J.C. Tippett
- Jan 13 Dave Alexander
- Jan 20 Will Taylor
- Jan 27 Gary Lee

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