

## Election runoffs would be June 21

If there are runoffs necessary for either City officers election, that balloting would take place on June 21.

The offices of Mayor and City Councilmember, District 2 were on the May 10 City ballot. However, as three candidates were running in each race, a runoff between the top two vote-getters would be required if no individual candidate received at least 51 percent of the vote.

Also on the ballot was a \$23.5 million bond issue for street improvements and a local option election for beer and wine sales for off-premise consumption.

Since the BRANCH REVIEW goes to press before election day, residents should check for results online at [farmersbranchtx.gov](http://farmersbranchtx.gov) or [dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org).

## Independence Day celebration set

The annual Farmers Branch Independence Day Celebration promises to be memorable with food, music and a spectacular fireworks show. Gates to the Farmers Branch Historical Park will open at 6:30 p.m. on July 3 and admission is free. There will be a concert by 'Groove Knight,' a free Kidzone and the traditional low-level fireworks show as the grand finale. Call 972.919.2620.

## Citizen Collection Center now open

Back by popular demand, the Citizen Collection Center has reopened for Farmers Branch resident use at 1399 Valley View Lane.

The convenience station features drive up dumpsters to drop off large trash and debris, along with regular garbage and recycling. Hours are Thursday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. There is no cost for residents to use the facility.

June 2014

# Branch REVIEW



[www.farmersbranchtx.gov](http://www.farmersbranchtx.gov)

## Be social!



## City launches #fbtx social media campaign

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The most recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey showed us that 84 percent of citizens still prefer the tried-and-true Branch Review as their primary, but not only, source for City information.

Giving credence to the supposition that "print is not dead," this statistic nonetheless is tempered by the dramatic spike that same survey saw in use of 'eNews' products like Branch Mail eNews blasts and the Branch Bulletin weekly eNewsletter. In two year's time, use of those information channels by Farmers Branch residents skyrocketed from 28 to 63 percent.

National statistics tells us that social media is here to stay with 56 percent of all Americans having a profile on a social networking site and 55 percent of the 45-55 age range. Facebook boasts 845 million active users. And, the total number of text messages sent and received each day exceeds the population of the planet.

Since branching out into the social media realm, the City of Farmers Branch has seen residents, businesspeople and visitors using platforms like Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook to share their own Farmers Branch stories and photos.

To encourage more of the same, the City is launching the #fbtx Social Media Campaign.

"We invite you to be a part of the #fbtx campaign simply by following and interacting with the City on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and Twitter," said the Parks and Recreation Department's Maria Minter. "Share your Farmers Branch pictures and stories with us by 'tagging' posts with the hashtag 'fbtx.'"

She explained that "hashtags" are keywords or phrases, preceded by the # sign, that allows anyone to search for content under that hashtag.

"As we roll out a new 'theme' each month, we invite you to participate by sharing your theme-related posts," Ms. Minter added. "Just be sure to include '#fbtx.'"

Links to City of Farmers Branch social media sites can be found on the City's homepage at [www.farmersbranchtx.gov](http://www.farmersbranchtx.gov) or users can go to the City's social platforms directly.



### Upcoming #fbtx Monthly Themes

JUN - "Show Us Your Shades"  
JUL - "Liberty Plaza"  
AUG - "Dog Days of Summer"  
(People & Their Pets)  
Watch For More Coming Soon

## Firehouse Theatre plans kids show, "The Talent Tree"

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The Firehouse Theatre will present the children's play "The Talent Tree" June 7 and 14 at 10 a.m. and 12 noon in the Farmers Branch Manske Library Theatre.

"The Talent Tree" is a children's play about a boy named Bobbin, who can't figure out what, if any talent he has, so he is in search of the Talent Tree. He has heard of it and hopes it will help him discover his talent. In his search, he runs into an old peddler named Sundown who knows where the tree is and takes him to it. From the tree he learns about many different talents and finds the best one for him.

All seats are \$5. For more information, visit [www.thefirehousetheatre.com](http://www.thefirehousetheatre.com) or call 972.620.3747.

# Public Health Alert

## Two wild animals test positive for rabies

FARMERS BRANCH ~ After going at least 15 years without rabies reported in the City, Farmers Branch Environmental Health officials have said they have received confirmation of rabies in two animals in one week's time.

The second test, early May, was on a skunk found in a live animal trap placed in the 2800 block of Reedcroft in a residential neighborhood. Five days earlier, a 10-year-old boy was bitten on the ankle by a rabid skunk after approaching it during an animal show at a local assembly hall. The child is reportedly responding to medical treatment for rabies exposure. The Reedcroft skunk is not known to have attacked a human.

Farmers Branch Environmental Health Director Stacy Wright said all residents, especially children, need to stay away from wild animals such as skunks, raccoons, bats, coyotes and foxes which are high-risk animals for rabies. Additionally, pet owners are urged to be sure that family pets are current on their rabies vaccinations as required by local ordinance and state law.

As skunks are primarily nocturnal animals, seeing them during daylight hours would be unusual and could be a sign of illness in the animal. Anyone observing a skunk during the daytime, or anyone that has come into contact with a skunk in the past few weeks, is asked to report it to Animal Services at 972.919.8770.



## Summertime swimming available while new Aquatics Center is constructed

FARMERS BRANCH ~ While the new Aquatics Center is being built this summer on the site of the old Don Showman Pool, Farmers Branch residents will be able to take advantage of Carrollton's Rosemeade Rainforest facility at a special discounted rate.

Farmers Branch residents can go to the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center to fill out appropriate paperwork, show proof of residency and pay a fee equivalent to the 2013 fees at the Don Showman Pool. That is \$18 for residents and \$55 for families. Residents will then take their paperwork to the Rosemeade Recreation Center, 1330 Rosemeade Parkway, Carrollton 75007, to have IDs made.

Construction on the new Farmers Branch Aquatics Center is expected to begin this spring with a year-round indoor facility and seasonal outdoor section to feature slides, a lazy river, kids play area and more. For more information, call 972.247.4607.

VIDEO  EXTRA



"Sorry folks, pool's closed."

Scan the QR code for this family-friendly video about 2014 swimming options or go to [youtube.com/fbtv16](http://youtube.com/fbtv16).



### Dream Wedding

Meredith Dowdy

Navy Specialist Brandon Cullum and Elizabeth Croager became the first couple to wed in the newly redesigned Rose Gardens of Farmers Branch. The City partnered with local sponsoring vendors to give away a dream wedding to a military couple. The late April ceremony was the finale to the year-long process but only the first of what are expected to be many weddings in the rose garden.

## Combined dispatch center on track for 2015 launch

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The creation of a four-city, consolidated public safety communications center took a giant step forward this spring with the approval of agreements by the participating cities of Farmers Branch, Carrollton, Addison and Coppell.

The agreement creates the North Texas Emergency Communications Center Local Government Corporation that will oversee and operate the center, which will handle 9.1.1 calls as well as Police and Fire dispatch for all four cities.

"This is the best of all worlds," said Farmers Branch Police Chief Sid Fuller. "Police activity can frequently spill over borders of small communities as close as ours are. With a consolidated communications center, the transfer of information between agencies will be completely seamless."

Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker echoes those sentiments when addressing multi-jurisdictional issues.

"We assist, and are assisted by, our neighboring agencies every day," he explained. "When we're out on a full response, Carrollton or Addison will cover our station for anything else that happens. Consolidated dispatch will make that process better and improve response times for everyone."

The new center is scheduled to go online in 2015.

## New online utility payment system available

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Customers in Farmers Branch are now seamlessly directed to a new online utility payment site where they can access the City's website to pay their utility bill.

The new site allows customers to pay their account by debit or credit card using Visa, MasterCard or Discover on a one-time basis or to set up recurring payments. Customers may also choose to auto draft their bank account on a recurring basis on their bill due date.

Additionally, customers can sign up for e-notifications to receive alerts about their account.

The system guides customers through the first-time setup process. For more info, call 972.919.2525 or log on to [www.farmers-branchtx.gov](http://www.farmers-branchtx.gov).

## Registration opened May 1 for summer youth camps

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Three tried and true Farmers Branch Youth Camps registration for the 2014 summer season opened on May 1.

The "Leader in Training" teen camp runs June through August 22. For ages 13-15, the camp meets weekly and includes volunteer opportunities throughout the City for a \$15 weekly fee.

The Teen Fire and Rescue Academy for ages 14 to 18 will be held June 23-27 with hands-on training, challenges and drill.

The Teen Police Academy is also available to ages 13 to 18 and will be held July 14-18. The cost for both academies is \$50 for members of the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center and \$65 for non-members. Call 972.247.4607.

## Senior Dances

June 2 **JC Tippett**  
June 9 **Bill G**  
June 16 **Will Taylor**  
June 23 **Gary Lee**  
June 30 **Dave Alexander**

Dances are from 7 until 9:30 p.m. each scheduled Monday at a cost of \$5 per person. Free dance lessons are offered at 6 p.m. for those in attendance.