

City partnering with Metrocrest to stock food pantry

In anticipation of the holiday season, Metrocrest Services has reported a critical shortage of baking supplies for distribution to families in need in the area.

Trying to help fill the void, the City of Farmers Branch is partnering with Metrocrest Services to help restock their food pantry with baking necessities.

All non-perishable food items will be accepted, but there is a serious need for sugar, flour, salt, spices, oils and boxed mixes.

Items may be dropped off at Farmers Branch City Hall or at the Community Recreation Center from December 1 to December 23.

Offices & facilities close for holidays

All City of Farmers Branch offices and facilities will be closed Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. There will be no garbage collection on either day and the Citizen Collection Center will be closed.

The following week, offices will again be closed on Thursday, January 1 to observe New Year's Day. Likewise, there will be no garbage collection and the Citizen Collection Center will be closed.

Tell it to the Mayor one day only

Due to the holidays, Mayor Bob Phelps will hold open office hours at City Hall from 3 until 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday in December, that is December 10.

The Mayor usually holds "Tell it to the Mayor" sessions on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, but decided to curtail the schedule in December as the fourth Wednesday is Christmas Eve and Farmers Branch residents will "likely be otherwise occupied."

December 2014

Branch REVIEW



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Dancing Lights

Synchronized show in Historical park, change in route highlight all new Christmas Tour of Lights

HISTORICAL PARK ~ For the first time in its storied history, the traditional Farmers Branch Christmas Tour of Lights is taking a different turn with a change to the route and a new, synchronized show of dancing lights in the Historical Park.

The driving tour will begin, as always, at I-35E and Valley View, continuing east on Valley View but now turning south onto Denton Drive.

From there, guests will enjoy additional lighting displays down Denton Drive, passing Liberty Plaza, before turning left onto Farmers Branch Lane and into the Historical Park.

The tour will be open each night from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m., November 28 through December 30 (closed only December 6 & 25). The dancing lights in the Historical Park will be set to Christmas music and are expected to greatly enhance the tour experience. Car radios should tune to 107.3 FM.



As is the case every year, the Historical Park portion of the tour is staffed by members of community non-profit organizations. The tour is free with donations accepted by those non-profits working each night.

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Christmas Tree Lighting event set December 6

HISTORICAL PARK ~ Countdown to the official lighting of the Farmers Branch tree and a special holiday fireworks show will all be a part of the annual Christmas Tree Lighting event, set for Saturday, December 6 at the Farmers Branch Historical Park.

Gates open at 6:30 p.m. with the tree lighting at 7.

The night also features a visit from Santa, a snow hill for tubing, a free KidZone, letters to the North Pole, holiday treats and more.

For more information, call 972.919.2620 or visit www.fbspecialevents.com.



Aquatics Center memberships make great Christmas gift

FARMERS BRANCH ~ With construction continuing towards a 2015 opening, the all new Farmers Branch Aquatics Center will begin selling memberships and season passes in December for those looking for the perfect Christmas gift for family and friends.

The new Farmers Branch Aquatics Center will include the Margaret Young Natatorium and the Frog Pond outdoor area. The Margaret Young Natatorium will operate year-round and is expected to be ready for swimmers by late winter/early spring of 2015. The Frog Pond is planned to open by next summer.

To find out more about each of the Aquatics Center facilities or for more information about membership and season pass prices, call the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center at 972.247.4607.



Branch Briefs

Farmers Branch Police warn residents to be alert to telephone scams this season

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The Farmers Branch Police Department is asking residents, especially older residents, to be aware of a proliferation of telephone scams throughout the DFW area, from people claiming to be law enforcement or other official agencies.

Officials said callers will represent themselves as IRS, Immigration, DEA, FBI or even a local police agency. Sometimes they might claim to be an attorney, a politician or someone from a local utility company. They will assert some kind of emergency that can only be handled by immediately sending them money.

Lt. Jay Siegel, of the Farmers Branch Police Department, said these scam artists are well rehearsed and can be quite convincing.

"They will be polite, cajoling, aggressive and threatening, often all within the same call," he said. "Their goal is to confuse, bully and incite panic in an effort to make the victim more susceptible to the scam."

Investigators said the rule is to NEVER give any personal information over the phone to someone who has called you. Legitimate companies and agencies will only ask for identifying information if you call them.

"Unfortunately, scam artists like this often prey on the elderly, so please pass this information along to family and friends – especially to older residents," Lt. Siegel explained. "And know that law enforcement agencies will NEVER ask you for money." Anyone suspecting a scam or questioning the validity of a contact should call the Farmers Branch Police Department at 972.484.3620.



Patron appreciation day set at Library

As is their annual holiday tradition, the staff of the Farmers Branch Manske Library invites all patrons to come to a holiday open house for light snacks and refreshments in the mezzanine on Tuesday, December 9 from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Open House planned at Rec Center

The Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center will host its traditional Christmas Open House on Friday, December 5 from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m.

Admission is free to the event that will include stage perform-

ances, strolling carolers, arts & crafts, visits with Santa, Holiday treats and more. Canned food donations will be accepted to benefit Metrocrest Services. For more information, call 972.247.4607.

Firehouse Theatre prepares for a 'Christmas Tradition'

"Christmas at the Firehouse: A Family Christmas Tradition!" is the holiday-themed spectacular to be presented by the Firehouse Theatre, December 11-14.

Admission will include a catered dinner, then transportation to the Firehouse Theatre for performances.

For more information, call 972.620.3747 or visit thefirehousetheatre.org.

Council to meet

Mayor Bob Phelps and the Farmers Branch City Council are scheduled to meet twice in December on Tuesdays, December 2 and 16, 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall. Meetings are broadcast live on FBTv.

Brookhaven Handbell Ensemble to play

Sixty-eight handbells and 68 handchimes will be ringing to celebrate Christmas at a special performance of the Brookhaven College Holiday Handbell Ensemble, Saturday, December 13 at 3 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Manske Library. Admission is free to the program that will include holiday favorites like "Blue Christmas," "Sleighride," and more.

Library book sale set December 5 & 6

Raising money for programs throughout the year, the Farmers Branch Manske Library's Semi-Annual Used Book Sale will be on Friday and Saturday, December 5 & 6, during regular library hours. Most titles are less than \$1. Call 972.247.2511.

Santa makes housecalls again this year

Farmers Branch kids will again have the opportunity to visit with Santa in their own home between December 12 and 24 with the "Santa Makes Housecalls" program from the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center.

With prior appointments, Santa will visit homes within a five mile radius of the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center, between 6:30 and 9 p.m.

Santa will deliver gifts to children (provided in advance by parents) and visit with families. Santa will stay for 15 minutes and must enter through the front door.

Reservations began in November. Call 972.247.4607 for more information or to reserve a time.

Santa & Cookies coming to Library

The whole family is invited to celebrate the holiday season with cookie decorating, activities and songs at the Santa & Cookies event Wednesday, December 10 at 6 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Manske Library. Call 972.247.2511 for more information.

Senior Dances

The Senior Dance Club holds dances most Monday nights at the Farmers Branch Senior Center at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5.

Dec 1 Southern Pride
Dec 8 Dave Alexander
Dec 15 Will Taylor
Dec 22 & 29 No Dance

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