

Daddy Daughter Dance coming in February

Dads and their daughters are in for a sweet treat at the annual Daddy Daughter Dance, coming Saturday, February 7, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center.

The event includes refreshments, a keepsake photo and, of course, the dancing.

Advance tickets, available through February 5, are \$5 each for Farmers Branch residents and \$8 for non-residents. All tickets will be \$10 at the door.

For more information, call 972.247.4607.

Landscaping classes continue in February

Gardeners, enthusiasts and dedicated rosarians, will talk on Tuesdays in February about Landscaping with Roses, as the annual winter class series continues.

Each session begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, through February 17. The class sessions are free but pre-registration is required by calling the Community Recreation Center at 972.247.4607. For more information, call Pam Smith at 972.919.2625.

Tell it to the Mayor set Feb 11 & 25

Mayor Bob Phelps will hold open office hours as part of his "Tell it to the Mayor" sessions on Wednesdays, February 11 and 25, from 3 until 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall. Anyone is invited to come by and visit with Mayor Phelps on any topic, without a prior appointment.

City Council to meet Feb 3 & 17

The Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session on Tuesdays, February 3 and 17, 6 p.m. at City Hall. Coverage on FBTV begins with Study Session at 4 p.m.

February 2015

Branch REVIEW



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Pomp & Special Circumstance

Fire Inspector finishes degree 50 years after starting college

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Not all college students graduate in the originally intended four years. Some take five, some take six.

Don Ross was on the 50-year plan.

A part-time Farmers Branch Fire Inspector for the past five years, Don is fondly looking back on 2014 today as the year he turned 70 and the year he finally graduated from college.

It was 1964 when the 20-year-old Don Ross first started working on his Bachelor's degree in Illinois. However, it wasn't long before Uncle Sam called him up for a trip to southeast Asia.

After two years in the Army, including combat experience in Vietnam, Don returned stateside and tried to go back to school but found the 1960s reception for returning Vietnam Veterans to be unwelcoming.

So, he hit the workforce.

Suddenly, 30 years went by working for an insurance company and a home improvement retailer.

Then, 10 years ago at the age of 60, Don and his wife, Nancy had a house fire at their home in Lewisville.

He was so fascinated by the machinations and procedures of the fire investigation that he went to school to become a Fire-fighter, Fire Inspector, Investigator and Certified Texas Peace Officer. And, in 2011, he resumed work on that long-idle undergraduate degree program.

Three years-worth of night classes later, Don earned his Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences degree from the University of North Texas. What's more is that he did it with a 3.8 grade point average.

But, he's not stopping there.

In January he will become Don Ross, the graduate student, working towards a Master's Degree with a concentration in Criminal Justice. He expects this degree to only take about three and a half years.

"At age 70, Don is really hitting his stride," said Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker. "We're looking forward to having Don serve the citizens of Farmers Branch well into the future."



University of North Texas Alumnus Don Ross

Love the Branch shirts return in time for Valentine's Day

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Anyone looking for the perfect Valentine's Day gift need look no farther than the Community Recreation Center, where new "Love the Branch" t-shirts are available for sale, in different colors.

Now available in blue, purple, green and the traditional red, the shirts are all short-sleeved and cost \$10 each (including tax).

For more information, call 972.247.4607.



Check it Out

Hometown resident Denise Wallace named new Director at Manske Library

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Drawing on her local experience and familiarity, Farmers Branch resident Denise Wallace has been appointed Director of the Manske Library.

The announcement came this week from Library Systems and Services, the contract management firm that operates the Library on behalf of the City of Farmers Branch.

"Libraries are our greatest asset in connecting with all communities and keeping them current about the world around them," Ms. Wallace said. "I am thrilled to be working with the Farmers Branch Library and my fellow citizens."

This is Ms. Wallace's second tour with the Manske Library, having served as Children's Youth Supervisor from 2013 until earlier this year. Before that, she served six years as an elementary and middle school librarian and instructional media specialist for Grand Prairie ISD and two years as youth librarian for Prince of Peace Christian School.

Farmers Branch Managing Director John Land, who supervises the Library operation, expressed excitement at the appointment of such an experienced Director.

"Denise is not only familiar with the community, she's familiar with the Library and the staff," he said. "Her qualifications, combined with her effervescent personality and drive to excel, will be perfect for the Manske Library."

Ms. Wallace grew up in the Austin area, graduating from Pflugerville High School before obtaining her Masters degree in Library science at the University of North Texas in 2002.

Married, with one son, Ms. Wallace has been a resident of Farmers Branch for 22 years and formerly served on the Farmers Branch Historical Preservation and Restoration Board.

The Farmers Branch Manske Library is located at 13613 Webb Chapel Road. Call them at 972.247.2511 or visit them online at farmersbranchlibrary.org.



Tour of Lights illuminates new record for traffic, donations

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The 2014 incarnation of the Farmers Branch Christmas Tour of Lights was the most successful, to date, according to statistics released by the Parks and Recreation Department.

With a new route, a new synchronized light show and region-wide buzz, the 2014 Tour generated a total of 13,764 vehicles - up 51 percent over last year's 9,129.

Likewise, non-profit organizations who worked the light tour each night reported a cumulative donation total of \$39,421 - a dramatic increase of 69 percent over 2013.



Ancient Egypt series continues in February at Library

MANSKE LIBRARY ~ By popular demand, the gallery exhibition and series of presentations on ancient Egypt continues in February.

Rollin Phipps, former professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and an expert on ancient Egypt, has provided an exhibition for the gallery that includes a variety of both authentic relics and museum replicas.

The collection will be on display through February 27. Mr. Phipps will follow his January 13 and 24 presentations on history of Egypt and Egyptology, with an additional session on February 11 at 7 p.m. Call 972.247.2511.

Vintage Base Ball plans spring training

HISTORICAL PARK ~ Anyone interested in playing base ball (yes, two words) by 1860s rules is invited to come out for Vintage Base Ball spring training with the Farmers Branch Mustangs on Saturday, February 21 from 1 until 4 p.m.

All equipment is provided and participation is free of charge. No previous athletic experience is required.

Team members will learn the rules and practice the art of 1860s base ball. Visit fbvintagebaseball.com for more information.

Firehouse Theatre opens 'The Drowsy Chaperone' Feb 12

The Firehouse Theatre opens its 2015 season with the offbeat musical 'The Drowsy Chaperone,' a parody of the American musical comedy of the 1920s.

The show debuted on Broadway in 1998 and won five Tonys.

It will be presented at The Firehouse Theatre on select days through March 1. Call 972.620.3747 for info.

Senior Center hosts Tea

Seniors can enjoy the Victorian elegance of a Valentine's Day-themed tea on Friday, February 13 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Call 972.919.8740.

Camping Under the Stars sets registration

Registration for the upcoming March 14 edition of Camping Under the Stars at the Farmers Branch Historical Park, opens on February 2. Campsites require a \$50, non-refundable fee at registration. Call 972.484.3620.

Senior Dances

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

- Feb 2 **JC Tippett**
Country Western
- Feb 9 **Gary Lee:**
Ballroom
- Feb 16 **Will Taylor:**
Country Western
- Feb 23 **Dave Alexander:**
Country/Ballroom

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