

New Aquatics Center gears up for 2015 season

FARMERS BRANCH ~ While construction crews continue steadily towards concluding their work, Farmers Branch Parks and Recreation officials have begun planning the grand opening of the new Aquatics Center on Saturday, May 23.

Consisting of two distinct facilities, the Aquatics Center will feature water-related activities for all ages and at all times of year. The outdoor 'Frog Pond' is designed for use during the summer swim season and includes a lazy river, a lagoon pool, two water slides and a children's interactive play area.

The Margaret Young Natatorium will provide indoor swimming in a lap pool as well as a warmer water therapy pool. That facility is expected to open this spring and be open year-round. The May 23 celebration will be to inaugurate the entire facility and officially open the 'Frog Pond' for the 2015 summer swim season.

The new Farmers Branch Aquatics Center replaces the 50+-year-old Don Showman pool which served the City well during its time but ongoing maintenance issues dictated the need for a change.

After a long season off last year, while construction continued, residents will be able take full advantage of the state-of-the-art water facility in their backyard.

"Yes, 2015 brings pride in ownership for our residents," said Farmers Branch Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Harting.

"This new center will, undoubtedly, be one of the most popular water play-grounds in the Metroplex and something Farmers Branch residents can be proud of."

Find out more about membership rates, annual passes, admission, parties, rentals and more at fbh2o.com.

Likewise, more info will be posted at farmersbranchtx.gov.



The double water slide tower at the Frog Pond shows off a late season snow against its bright colors. By Memorial Day weekend, the only moisture on the slides will be water.

April 2015

Branch REVIEW

www.farmersbranchtx.gov

Council sets 2015 meeting schedule

In order to accommodate summertime and holiday schedules, the Farmers Branch City Council has announced three months in 2015 where they will meet one time in regular session.

During the summer, the Council will meet on June 16 and July 14. Then, they will meet once in December on December 15. In addition, they moved

the first meeting in October to Monday, October 5 in deference to National Night Out.

In all other months, the City Council will meet in regular session on the traditional first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall. All meetings are subject to change, call 972.247.3131.



Date Night

An evening of music, food trucks & Bill Murray

HISTORICAL PARK ~ Setting the stage for the coming of Spring, Date Night in the Park is bringing food trucks and music back to the Farmers Branch Historical Park to mix with the outdoor movie, "St. Vincent" starring the incomparable Bill Murray, on Saturday, April 25.

Gates open at 6:30 p.m. and admission is free. Ty Mayfield will provide live music beginning at 7 p.m. while patrons enjoy the culinary creations of the food trucks assembled for the evening. New this year, there will be a craft beer tasting with taste tickets available for purchase on site.

The Bill Murray, Melissa McCarthy movie, "St. Vincent" (rated PG-13) begins at dusk. Childcare will be available at the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center for \$10 per child. Call 972.247.4607 to register. For more information on the event, parking and food truck offerings, log on at fbspecialevents.com or call 972.919.2620.



Early voting planned for May 9 election

FARMERS BRANCH ~ With elections coming up on May 9 to fill City Council seats for Districts 3 and 5, early voting has been scheduled for April 27 through May 5.

At the close of the official filing period, the following candidates had filed to run for the District 3 seat - (in ballot order) Andy Olivo, Brenda Brodrick and John Norwood. In District 5, David Merritt is running against Mike Bomgardner for that position.

Early voting will be held at Dallas County early voting locations according to the following schedule:

- ✓ Monday, April 27 through Saturday, May 2, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- ✓ Sunday, May 3, from 1 until 6 p.m.
- ✓ Monday & Tuesday, May 4 & 5, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Additional information for voters can be found at farmersbranchtx.gov/elections, including a Council District Map, facts about the Texas Voter ID law and a lookup tool for determining Council districts according to address.



Environmental Health Manager implementing program to stay ahead of mosquito season

FARMERS BRANCH ~ It's not summer yet, but the City of Farmers Branch is already working to prepare for the upcoming mosquito season by updating its Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program to be consistent with the standards set by Dallas County.



Katy Evans

Farmers Branch Environmental Health Manager Katy Evans said that update means the IMM program will focus on prevention through education, surveillance, and use of larvicide.

"The city will continue to work tirelessly to eliminate standing water in order to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus and the emerging Chikungunya virus," Ms. Evans explained. "Because mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water, eliminating the source will facilitate a dramatic reduction in mosquito populations."

In the coming months, the city will be holding public outreach events to educate the community about mosquito management. Mosquito dunks will be available free of charge to senior residents beginning in May.

To learn more about Integrated Mosquito Management and the city's effort to fight West Nile Virus, please visit farmersbranchtx.gov/wnv.

Proper draining of pools necessary to avoid myriad issues

FARMERS BRANCH ~ With warmer weather on the way, residents may find themselves needing to drain their backyard pools for routine maintenance or repairs.

"It is important to remember that Farmers Branch City ordinances prohibit draining your pool to a yard, street, or alley," explained Environmental Health Specialist Louise Maranzana. "Rather, all water must be drained to the sanitary sewer. Pool water runoff can enter storm drains and reach creeks, where pool chemicals may harm animal and plant life.

"During warmer months, water can pool and become a breeding ground for mosquitoes."

The sanitary sewer can be accessed through cleanouts located in your yard or through your pool's integrated system, if you have one. A licensed pool service can assist you in properly draining your pool or spa. For more information, call 972.919.2537.

Satisfaction Survey gives City staff its report card

FARMERS BRANCH ~ A solid 94 percent of the more than 1,000 responding to the 2014 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, sent out last fall, have rated quality of life in Farmers Branch as excellent or good.

This was up a single percentage point from the previous survey held in 2012. The bi-annual measurement tool was sent to 8,000 homes and made available online through parts of October and November 2014.

Public Safety was, again, ranked as the highest priority for respondents with 98.8 percent ranking this service area as very or somewhat important and 96.4 percent ranking services provided as excellent or good.

Officials said those numbers compare to similarly sized Texas cities that score public safety at 86 percent excellent/good and all Texas cities where the average drops to 78 percent.

Overall quality of services in Farmers Branch were rated as excellent or good by 83 percent of respondents, holding steady at 83 percent from the 2012 survey. Conversely, that number drops to 74 percent in similarly-sized Texas cities. Only 66 percent think that overall service is excellent or good across Texas cities while the national average holds at 67 percent. See the whole report at farmersbranchtx.gov/2014survey.



This photographer wasted no time taking advantage of the late season snow at the Farmers Branch Historical Park for what is sure to be memorable photos of this bridal party.

FBPD stays in 'STEP'

FARMERS BRANCH ~ In an effort to enhance driver safety by actively reducing the number of traffic accidents in the City, Farmers Branch Police officers have been involved in the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) made possible by a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation.

The grant enables the department to devote one additional officer each day for traffic enforcement, thus freeing up beat officers to focus on their assigned neighborhoods and attend to other community needs. For more information, call 972.484.3620.

Fishin' Fun coming Saturday, May 2

The annual angling extravaganza that is Fishin' Fun in Farmers Branch is set for Saturday, May 2, from 8 am to 12 noon on the banks of Rawhide Creek in Gussie Field Waterworth Park, near Farmers Branch City Hall.

Designed for kids ages 16 and under, the free fishing fest allows boys and girls to pull one ton of farm-raised catfish from the waters of Rawhide Creek. Find out more at 972.919.8740.

Stars & Strings planned for May 23

Liberty Fest presents Stars & Strings will, this year, feature the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra in concert on Saturday, May 23. Watch for additional info at fb-specialevents.com.

FBPD's Stephens marks 30 years

Farmers Branch Police Officer Jim Stephens was lauded in February on the occasion of receiving his 30-year service award. He joined the Department in 1985 and is not yet planning on retirement.



Firehouse Theatre goes 'Into the Woods'

The Firehouse Theatre continues its 2015 season with the original production of the musical "Into the Woods," from which the 2014 movie was adapted.

It will be presented at The Firehouse Theatre on select days April 16 to May 3. Call 972.620.3747 for info.

Senior Dances

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

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| Apr 6 | Southern Pride |
| Apr 13 | Blue Champagne |
| Apr 20 | Jim Baker |
| Apr 27 | JC Tippitt |