



# Branch REVIEW

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## Combined Resources Versatile fire training tower to be shared by Farmers Branch, Carrollton & Coppell

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Continuing to capitalize on the synergy that comes from combining community resources between neighboring cities, a new Fire Training Facility will soon emerge on the west side of the City, a joint project between Farmers Branch, Carrollton and Coppell.

To be located at the Bob Phelps Fire Administration Building on Hutton Drive, just north of Valley View, the multi-level building will be designed to offer firefighters from the three agencies various simulated live fire scenarios in order to better hone their skills for the real thing.

The three departments will also share cost of the \$2.4 million facility, based on department size and anticipated training hours. The Farmers Branch share of the cost is \$570,500 (23.7 percent of the total).

"The partnership between the three cities to build a facility of this caliber allows each Fire Department to train their firefighters to be able to safely deliver fire and rescue services to their community," explained Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker.

"Well-trained firefighters, operating safely, efficiently and effectively will only improve the level of service that our residents expect and deserve."



Chief Parker

Chief Parker said the facility's design will allow firefighters to practice responding to various fire and rescue scenarios. The building can be laid out to resemble a single family home, a multi-family apartment, a motel, a warehouse or a high-rise office building.

"With five different fire props, the training scenarios that the firefighters will be challenged with will prepare them for what they are responsible for handling in their own communities," Chief Parker said. "The facility is also designed to allow high-angle rappelling, forcible entry, ladder rescue and vertical ventilation simulations. In addition, a driving course is also included in the design to allow our large group of young firefighters a safe, controlled area to practice driving and operating our very large fire apparatus."

Along with Chief Parker, Carrollton Fire Chief John Murphey and Coppell Fire Chief Kevin Richardson are coordinating with their training chiefs on the last review of the tower design, including coordinating with the gas fire-place prop manufacturing company on locating all their control equipment and fireplace equipment inside of the structure.

A grand opening for the new facility is planned in the Fall of 2015.

## Election results

As press time for the Branch Review falls prior to Election Day, results for the May 9 City Council Election will be posted online at [farmersbranchtx.gov/elections](http://farmersbranchtx.gov/elections) and at [dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org).

The City Council seats for Districts 3 and 5 were on the ballot. In the event of a runoff, that election would be held on Saturday, June 13. Early voting would be from Monday through Saturday, June 1 to 6 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Sunday, June 7 from 1 until 6 p.m.; and Monday and Tuesday, June 8 & 9 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

For more information, call 972.247.3131 or [farmersbranchtx.gov/elections](http://farmersbranchtx.gov/elections).



## MyFBTX App

Response has been positive to the release of the City's mobile app, "MyFBTX," now available on Apple's App Store and on Google Play for the Android platform.

Multi-functional and versatile, MyFBTX affords users the chance to have City news and information at their fingertips via their smartphone or tablet.

Find out more at the App Store or on Google Play.



## City Council meetings

In order to accommodate summertime and holiday schedules, the Farmers Branch City Council has announced they will meet one time in regular session in both June and July, on June 16 and July 14.

Regular meetings begin at 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall. All meetings are subject to change, call 972.247.3131.

## Tastes & Tunes

Food trucks have been so popular at other events, they're getting one of their own. The Parks and Recreation Department has announced that "Tastes & Tunes" will be featured one night per month in June, July and August at the Denton Road Mini Park, adjacent to the Farmers Branch DART station.

Admission will be free to the food truck area where live music will be played each evening.

Dates, bands and a list of food trucks will be coming soon at [fbspecialevents.com](http://fbspecialevents.com) and other City media channels.



## Teen Academies

The Farmers Branch Teen Fire & Rescue Academy, a summer program to give youth a closer look at the workings of the Fire Department, is now enrolling for their June 22 to 26 session.



The Academy is limited to ages 13 to 18 and there is space for 20 participants. Cost is \$50 for Farmers Branch residents and \$65 for non-residents. Activities include hands-on training, challenges and drills. Topics will feature fire operations, search and rescue, emergency management, basic CPR, medical equipment, thermal imaging and more.

Likewise, the Teen Police Academy is also registering for its session coming up July 13 to 17. Both academies are operated through the Community Recreation Center in cooperation with the Police & Fire Departments. For more information, call 972.247.4607.

## Firehouse Theatre

The Pulitzer-prize-winning classic of the American theatre, "You Can't Take it With You" will be presented by the Firehouse Theatre on select nights May 26 to June 4.

Performances will be offered at the Firehouse Theatre, 2535 Valley View Lane. For reservations and ticket information visit [www.thefirehousetheatre.com](http://www.thefirehousetheatre.com) or call 972.620.3747.

## Household Hazardous Waste

Dallas County will hold a Household Hazardous Waste collection event in Farmers Branch on Saturday, June 27. The time and location will be posted online at [farmersbranchtx.gov](http://farmersbranchtx.gov) prior to the event.

Available to residents of all participating Dallas county cities, the event is designed to provide a safe way to dispose of household chemicals.

For a list of what is acceptable for disposal at the event, visit [farmersbranchtx.gov/hhw](http://farmersbranchtx.gov/hhw).

## Senior Dances

The Senior Dance Club hosts dances most Monday nights at the Farmers Branch Senior Center, 14055 Dennis Lane, between Josey and Valwood. Admission is \$5. Featured entertainment for upcoming dances include:

- June 1 Southern Pride
- June 8 Blue Champagne
- June 15 J.C. Tippett
- June 22 Dave Alexander
- June 29 Swinging Country



## Vintage Base Ball festival to celebrate origins of the great game

**HISTORICAL PARK** ~ The Farmers Branch Historical Park will be bringing base ball history back to life on June 6 by hosting the Farmers Branch Vintage Base Ball Festival, featuring teams from around the area, playing by 1860s rules.

Running from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., admission to the festival is free.

As the home team, the Farmers Branch Mustangs will welcome the Irving Estelle, Carrollton Elites, and Plano Wildcats. All teams will show off their skills by playing six base ball matches, starting at 8:30 a.m. and running throughout the day.



The four North Texas teams will play in the Historical Park's meadow by 1860s base ball rules which means no gloves, no stealing of bases, and some great nicknames.

Fans will be encouraged to support the team using 19th century cheers such as "Huzzah!" and "Show some ginger!"

Festival attendees are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets, and picnic lunches to enjoy during the festival. Friends of Farmers Branch Historical Park will be selling concessions and

providing bounce houses for children from 11 am to 2 pm. Chairs will be available to rent for \$2 throughout the day.

The Farmers Branch Historical Park is located at 2540 Farmers Branch Lane, between Denton Drive and Ford Road, a short, five-minute walk south from the Farmers Branch DART Green Line light rail station.

Overflow parking will be at Metro Square Business Park, two blocks south of the Historical Park at 12300 Ford Road.

For more information, visit [fbvintagebaseball.com](http://fbvintagebaseball.com), or call 972.406.0184.

## Superhero Summer Reading Club starts June

**FARMERS BRANCH** ~ "Every Hero Has a Story!" is the superhero theme of the 2015 Summer Reading Club at the Farmers Branch Manske Library, kicking off in June.

Kids are invited to the "Superhero Training Camp Kick-Off" on June 6 at 10 a.m. at the Manske Library. Library Director Denise Wallace said there will be superheroes a plenty.

"We want kids to join us for a Summer Reading Kick-Off that tests their superpowers by striking out a villain, performing daring rescues and by registering for the Summer Reading Club," she said. "We'll offer adventurous programs and activities throughout the summer."

Ms. Wallace added that kids will complete reading logs for cool prizes, be entertained every Wednesday by talented performers, show family movies every Monday and more.

"Enter our grand prize drawing and earn bragging rights for your school with our Traveling Trophy," she explained. "It will be awarded to the elementary school with the highest student participation." For more information, visit [fblibrary.com](http://fblibrary.com) or call 972.247.2511.

## Standing water targeted for mosquito breeding risks

**FARMERS BRANCH** ~ With the heavy rains of late, elimination of standing water has shot to the top of the priority list for prevention of breeding mosquitoes that can carry diseases such as West Nile Virus.

Farmers Branch Environmental Health Manager Katy Evans said the wet spring has made it more important than ever for residents and business owners to be vigilant about standing water. She said the City of Farmers Branch is again providing mosquito larvicide briquettes, or "dunks," that can be used to treat standing water when eliminating it is not possible. The briquettes are available for residents at Farmers Branch City Hall and at the Farmers Branch Senior Center at no cost.

"With the goal of eliminating standing water, we've been training employees to report issues when they see them in the community" she explained. "We hope that citizens will do the same."

In order to report standing water, call 972.919.2536. For additional information about preventing West Nile Virus, visit [www.farmersbranchtx.gov/wnv](http://www.farmersbranchtx.gov/wnv).



Check Out the New Aquatics Center @ [fbh2o.com](http://fbh2o.com)