

## Tastes & Tunes events set to wrap up August 14

Live 80 will bring back the decade of rolled up jacket sleeves and parachute pants as they play for the third and final edition of Tastes & Tunes for the summer of 2015.



The August event is set Friday, August 14 at The Grove @ Mustang Crossing.

Planned for 5 to 8 p.m., the summertime series features a different band at each of the three planned events along with a variety of food trucks to satisfy a variety of appetites.

The Grove @ Mustang Crossing is located at the southeast corner of Bill Moses Parkway and Denton Drive, near the Farmers Branch DART Light Rail Station. Blankets and lawn chairs are suggested for the lawn seating event. Admission to the area is free.

For more information, visit [www.fbspecialevents.com](http://www.fbspecialevents.com) or call 972.919.1433.

## Council meetings planned August 4 & 18

The Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session on Tuesdays, August 4 and 18 at 6 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall.

Council Study Sessions traditionally begin at 4 p.m. in the upstairs conference room. All meetings are subject to change, call 972.247.3131.

## ICMA to recognize City Manager for longevity

Capping a quarter century of dedicated involvement in local government, Farmers Branch City Manager Gary D. Greer will receive a 25-year local government service award from the International City Management Association at their upcoming 101st Annual Conference, in September.



**Gary D. Greer**  
City Manager

An ICMA-credentialed City Manager, Mr. Greer has been the City Manager in Farmers Branch for eight of those 25 years, following service in Texas, Kansas and Nebraska.

He is among 82 credentialed City Managers in Texas, out of more than 1,800 municipalities. There are currently 1,342 credentialed managers across the country.

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# Branch REVIEW

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

## NTECC Update

### New, combined dispatch center moves steadily closer to launch

CARROLLTON ~ With a nod to the synergy of joining services for the greater good, the North Texas Emergency Communications Center, which will combine the public safety dispatch centers of Farmers Branch, Carrollton, Coppell and Addison under one roof, is moving steadily closer to a launch date later this year.



Located in a data center in Carrollton, the facility is completely built out with the Computer-Aided-Dispatch system expected to begin testing in August.

Executive Director Jeff Ecker and staff are working with the state to get appropriate licensing and access to criminal justice databases while the radio consoles are being installed.

In addition to the radio systems, multiple dispatch-specific technologies are being implemented. These include the fire station alerting system, call logging and recording, quality assurance and video feeds. Supervisors have been selected from existing dispatch centers and current dispatchers have received contingent offers of employment at NTECC.

Farmers Branch expects to be the first department to transition full dispatching capabilities to NTECC. The partner jurisdictions will soon follow.

## Town Hall Meeting set to discuss recycling and sustainability issues

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Mayor Bob Phelps and members of the Farmers Branch City Council are inviting everyone to a community discussion on recycling and sustainability at a Town Hall meeting planned for July 30, 7 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall.

The Council is considering the resumption of a curbside recycling program and wants to hear from the community.

For more than a dozen years, Farmers Branch residents have used a drop-off recycling program with containers located at Oran Good Park and near the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center. Records indicated that program has yielded an average of 394 tons of recyclables each year since 2010.

The potential return of curbside recycling services continues to be a high priority issue in Citizen Satisfaction Surveys, compiled every two years. Most recently, in 2014, 40 percent of respondents rated the City's recycling services as "excellent or good." However, another 40 percent said those services were "fair or poor," up sharply from 17 percent in 2012.

Citizens' comments from the surveys have included: "Need curbside recycling services," "It is inconvenient to take recyclables to a drop off location, it prevents many residents from participating in recycling" and "Provide recycle and trash containers." Anyone unable to attend the meeting is encouraged to send their comments to [recycling@farmersbranchtx.gov](mailto:recycling@farmersbranchtx.gov) or tweet them @fbtx.

Farmers Branch City Hall is located at 13000 William Dodson Parkway. Call 972.247.3131.



# Anticipated increase in water/sewer rates result from multiple factors

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The record rainfall of 2015 isn't the only weather affecting water and sewer issues as that, plus a legal battle over the source of local drinking water, is combining for a perfect storm that will likely result in higher rates for the new fiscal year.

Farmers Branch Finance Director Charles Cox said all players in the Farmers Branch water and sewer equation are experiencing issues. First, local water sales are down 15 percent this year, or about \$3 million below expectations, due to the excess rainfall.

"When it rains, people don't buy water, but when it rains a lot, those numbers become even more pronounced," he said. "That said, customers should know that 80 percent of our water and sewer expenses come from fixed costs that are passed on to us by the Trinity River Authority and by Dallas Water Utilities."

In addition, because of the record rains, the Trinity River Authority is processing approximately twice as much wastewater as normal, resulting in additional costs for pumping operations and chemicals. If that weren't enough, the TRA is also reporting infrastructure damage from all the water that currently totals \$2 million.

Finally, Dallas Water Utilities has said that its protracted legal battle with the Sabine River Authority over access to the Lake Fork water supply will result in \$10 million in costs being passed down to its customers of treated and raw water, including the City of Farmers Branch.

"We're still analyzing all of the data to determine what the exact impact will be on Farmers Branch water customers," Mr. Cox said. "However, we expect that a substantial increase in rates is unavoidable."

The exact amount of increase will be outlined when the proposed 2015-2016 Fiscal Year budget is delivered to the City Council for their consideration, by the end of July. The new fiscal year will begin October 1.



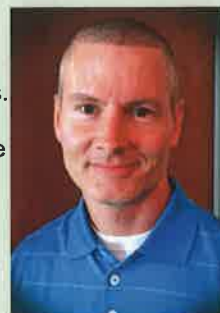
## Hugh Pender named Building Official

Having to look no farther than the current staff, Farmers Branch City Manager Gary D. Greer has announced that Plans Examiner Hugh Pender has been promoted to the position of Building Official.

An 18-year-veteran of municipal government work, Mr. Pender was selected after an exhaustive open search process.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Mr. Pender has served the City of Farmers Branch for the past nine years, after nine years at the City of Carrollton.



**Hugh Pender**  
Building Official

Mr. Pender fills the position vacated by longtime Building Official Jim Olk. His appointment is effective immediately.

# Rotary Clubs join with City to create all-inclusive, signature playground

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The City of Farmers Branch has joined with the Rotary Clubs of Farmers Branch and Carrollton-Farmers Branch to create a signature, all-inclusive "Rotary Playground" at Gussie Field Waterworth Park.



The playground will be uniquely designed to allow children with disabilities to play alongside their siblings and friends. Estimated to cost \$160,000, Rotary officials report fundraising to be more than halfway there, but additional donations are needed.

Donors can be rewarded for levels of giving with a brick (\$500), paver (\$1,000), large stone (\$5,000) or bench (\$10,000).

The playground site at Gussie Field Waterworth Park is next to Farmers Branch City Hall at 13000 William Dodson Parkway, and along Rawhide Creek with its tall trees and paved walking trails. Nearby are amenities including restrooms, water fountains and a large covered pavilion.

For more information, visit [www.cfbplayground.org](http://www.cfbplayground.org) or forward a donation to Rotary Playground Project, P.O. Box 819010, Farmers Branch TX 75381.



## Splash

Kids of all ages are discovering the delight of the Farmers Branch Aquatics Center Frog Pond, open through Labor Day. Visit [www.fbh2o.com](http://www.fbh2o.com).

## Firehouse Theatre set to conclude "Oklahoma!"

The first effort of a fruitful partnership will be featured in Farmers Branch as the Firehouse Theatre presents the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, "Oklahoma" on select nights through August 2.

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.

## Senior Dances set Mondays

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:

- Aug 3 J.C. Tippett
- Aug 10 Blue Champagne
- Aug 17 Swinging Country
- Aug 24 Dave Alexander
- Aug 31 J.C. Tippett

## Disaster Relief

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, along with the American Red Cross and Small Business Administration were at Farmers Branch City Hall in early July to help residents and business people in Dallas County that might have been affected by the flooding rains this spring or by the small tornado that skipped across the City May 24.



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