



Branch REVIEW

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Half Million Lights

Synchronized Tour of Lights ready for 2015 edition

FBTX ~ Bigger, better and brighter than ever before, the Farmers Branch Christmas Tour of Lights is ready for its 2015 edition, running November 27 through December 30.

The lights will be on each and every night during the month from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m. with the Historical Park portion of the show synchronized to music on a posted FM radio station.

The only nights the Historical Park portion will be unavailable are December 5 and 25.

The driving tour starts at I-35E and Valley View Lane and follows the signs with lights and displays down Denton Drive to Farmers Branch Lane and into the synchronized show at the Historical Park.

Admission is free with donations accepted by the various civic, non-profit agencies working in the park each evening. Call the Special Events Hotline at 972.919.1433.

Christmas Tree Lighting to officially open season

FBTX ~ The Farmers Branch community comes together in celebration to launch the season with the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, set for Saturday, December 5 at the Farmers Branch Historical Park. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., admission is free.

Kids can visit with Santa, tube down a real snow hill, warm up with hot chocolate and witness the annual lighting of the City's Christmas Tree. Visit fbspecialevents.com.



City Council schedules one meeting in December

Mayor Bob Phelps and the members of the Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session one time in December on Tuesday, December 15 at City Hall.

Study Sessions typically precede the regular meeting at 4 p.m. in the upstairs conference room at City Hall. The regular session begins at 6 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Live coverage of City Council meetings begins at 5:45 p.m. on FBTV (Time Warner Cable Channel 16 in Farmers Branch, AT&T Uverse Channel 99 throughout the DFW Metroplex or online at farmersbranchtx.gov).

All meeting times and dates are subject to change. Call 972.247.3131 for more info.

Santa, again, makes house calls December 11-24

Santa Claus will make visits to kids in their homes in Farmers Branch again this year as part of his "Santa Makes House Calls" program, sponsored by the Community Recreation Center.

The Jolly Old Elf will come during a pre-arranged appointment on the evenings of December 11 through 24, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Visits are 15 minutes long and Santa will enter through the front door. Cost is \$25 for Community Recreation Center members and \$29 for non-members.

Prime timeslots go fast so call the Rec Center at 972.247.4607 for reservations.

City offices list holiday hours

All City offices and facilities will be closed on both Thursday and Friday, December 24 & 25 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Some City facilities may post earlier than usual closing hours on Thursday, December 31 but all City office and facilities will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2016 to observe New Year's Day. Call the facility of your choice to inquire on December 31 hours of operation.

There will be no garbage collection on December 24, 25 & 31 and the Citizen Collection Center will be closed.



Tour of Lights Open 6:30-9:30 pm Nov 27 - Dec 30

Season's Greetings Guide

A Rundown of Christmas Activities Coming Up in December

DEC 2

Santa Laughed All the Way to Dallas

11 am @ Senior Center | The Dallas Historical Society Brown Bag Series features local humorist Rose-Mary Rumbley speaking on Christmas stories. \$3. Advance registration required at Senior Center. Call the Senior Center at 972.919.8740.

DEC 4

Rec Center Open House

7 pm @ Rec Center | Arts & crafts | Visit with Santa | Storytime with Mrs. Claus | Stage entertainment | Fitness demos, refreshments and more | Free | 972.247.4607.

DEC 5 & 12

Historical Park Christmas Tours

2:15 pm start @ HP flag pole | Experience Christmas in the Old Church, School House, Queen Anne Victorian Cottage and General store showcasing holiday decorations and traditions of the past | Free | 972.406.0184

DEC 7

Senior Dance Club

6:30 to 8:30 pm | JC Tippett plays Country/Western | 972.919.8740 (no dances December 21 or 28).

DEC 9

Santa & Cookies

6 pm @ Manske Library | Everyone is invited for an evening of cookie decorating, activities and songs. Take pictures with Santa | Free with canned food donations accepted for Metrocrest Services | 972.247.2511.

DEC 10

Holiday Light Tour

5 pm @ Senior Center | Enjoy Hot Chocolate and snacks at Senior Center before boarding a bus to see the lights at Vitruvian Park, Farmers Branch and Grapevine. \$3. Advance registration required at Senior Center. Call the Senior Center at 972.919.8740.

DEC 12

Flapjacks with Santa

9 to 11 am @ Rec Center | Visit with Santa and enjoy a pancake breakfast, arts & crafts and more | \$3 for members | \$5 for non-members | 972.247.4607.

DEC 14

Senior Dance Club

6:30 to 8:30 pm | Jim Baker plays Country/Western | 972.919.8740 (no dances December 21 or 28).

DEC 15

The Texas Tenors

11 am departure @ Senior Center | The Texas Tenors return to Grapevine for their fifth season. Lunch on your own before the matinee. \$35. Call the Senior Center at 972.919.8740.

Parks crew takes top proficiency honors at regional equipment rodeo

SOUTHLAKE ~ Drawing on their training and years of experience, members of the Farmers Branch Parks and Recreation Department won first place out of 28 teams represented at the Texas Recreation and Parks Society Equipment Rodeo for the North Region, held recently in Southlake.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Harting said the North Region includes all communities from the DFW Metroplex north to the Red River and east to the state line.

"The Equipment Rodeo is an opportunity for our team to showcase their ability by competing against their peers," he explained. "Events are based on utilization of equipment and practices common to parks maintenance."

He said those events include backhoe operation, mowers, trailer backing, irrigation installation and plant identification.

"There were 28 teams and 330 competitors overall," Mr. Harting said. "This victory confirms what many of us already realize, some of the most capable and talented parks and recreation professionals in Texas work right here in Farmers Branch and we are blessed to have them on our team."



The TRAPS North Region Parks Equipment Rodeo Champions are (first row, from left) Jose Ramirez, Jose Torres, Robert Carrera (second row, from left) Earl Marett, Joey Romans, Will Tosch, Alfredo Flores, Tony Derrick, Kerry Phillips, Roberto Sarabia and Porfirio Leyva.

Amy Piukana named Farmers Branch City Secretary

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Expressing confidence in her ability to bring a new level of efficiency to the office, Farmers Branch City Manager Gary D. Greer recently named Amy Piukana as Farmers Branch City Secretary.

Mrs. Piukana came to the City of Farmers Branch earlier this year as Records Management Coordinator but was already a certified municipal clerk. She has previously served as Assistant to the City Secretary in Hurst, Town Secretary in Prosper and Deputy City Secretary for The Colony.

"Amy brings a servant's heart and an incredible work ethic to our office," said Mr. Greer. "She fits in very well with our team and will be a wonderful ambassador to the public."

Mrs. Piukana is a graduate of the University of North Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and serves on the Public Relations Marketing Committee for the Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Association.



Amy Piukana

'Tell it to the Mayor' set second Wednesday

FBTX ~ With the fourth Wednesday of December falling near Christmas Eve, Mayor Bob Phelps will hold only one 'Tell it to the Mayor' open office hour session, Wednesday, December 9, 3 to 6 pm at Farmers Branch City Hall.

Fats, oils and grease can clog residential plumbing

FBTX ~ As the holiday season approaches, the Farmers Branch Public Works Department reminds residents to properly dispose of cooking remnants like fats, oils and grease.

Improper disposal can clog residential plumbing and cause extensive problems in the City's sewer system.

Storm Damage

Parks crews work to clear a fallen tree that crushed a bench swing in Gussie Field Waterworth Park within an hour after a severe storm moved through Farmers Branch in late October. No one was injured although similar damage to trees and limbs in different parts of Farmers Branch.

Photo by Tom Bryson



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