



# Branch REVIEW

farmersbranchtx.gov



## Partnership

### Construction of Fire Training Tower is latest example of regional cooperation

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Years of planning and coordination have given way to the moving of dirt as construction has begun on the state-of-the-art Fire Training Tower that will be shared by Farmers Branch, Carrollton and Coppell's departments. Soon to rise on 1.5 acres behind the Bob Phelps Fire Administration Building at 13333 Hutton Drive in Farmers Branch, the Tower will be jointly operated by the three agencies with proportional training time shared according to the size of each fire/rescue department.

The \$2.4 million, six-story structure will feature more than 7,000 square-feet of space for all manner of public safety training. State-of-the-art fire science technology will be incorporated in three burn rooms for various fire rescue and control scenarios.

"The height of the structure will allow for practice on multi-story rescues and the flexibility to conduct multiple exercises," said Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker.

"This project is the latest example of regional cooperation where we pool our resources to produce maximum benefit for our citizens."

Ground is moving behind the Farmers Branch Bob Phelps Fire Administration Building on Hutton Drive in Farmers Branch.

Farmers Branch, along with Carrollton, Coppell and Addison recently launched the North Texas Emergency Communications Center, a joint public safety dispatch center, designed to streamline calls and provide seamless service in each community.

Cost for the construction and operation of the facility will be shared by the three departments. The new Fire Training Tower should be complete by the winter of 2016/17.

"Smaller departments typically can't afford to build a facility like this on their own and they can frequently have difficulty scheduling training time on another agency's tower," Chief Parker said. "But, putting our heads together, our three agencies have been able to make this happen and that will only benefit the citizens of our respective communities with the best-trained personnel in the area."



**The \$2.4 million, six-story tower will be a state-of-the-art training facility for Farmers Branch, Carrollton and Coppell Fire Departments.**



### Police Chief Sid Fuller to retire this summer

FBTX ~ With 33 years of police service to his credit, Farmers Branch Police Chief Sid Fuller has announced that he will retire August 31 after a decade at the helm of the local department.

"In my opinion, no police chief should stay in one place longer than 10 years," he said. "We should make room for fresh ideas and innovative new approaches to policing."

With that in mind, the Chief said that he and his wife, Amy, have had this date circled for the past three years.

Chief Fuller came to Farmers Branch in 2006 after 23 years with Irving PD. His tenure has seen significant advancements in community policing, implementation of the successful mandatory crime reduction program for apartments and accreditation of his department as a Recognized police agency.

"The 10 years I have spent in Farmers Branch have been, by far, the highlight of my career in law enforcement," he explained. "The officers and staff of the FBPD are the very best that law enforcement has to offer, the caliber of Farmers Branch city employees is unmatched and the citizens of Farmers Branch really assist us in keeping this city safe."

One of the major legacies of the Fuller administration is regional cooperation, exemplified by his role in the creation of the Quad Cities Police Consortium with Carrollton, Addison and Coppell. That effort led to the creation of the North Texas Metro SWAT Team, the North Texas Emergency Communications Center joint dispatch operation among other projects.

Under his watch, the City of Farmers Branch has also seen a steady decline in the crime rate with 2015 representing a 25-year low.

In retirement, Chief Fuller says he plans to move "to the lake and begin a very extensive bucket list" while teaching college part time.

There will be a retirement ceremony for Chief Fuller on August 31 at 2 p.m. at Farmers Branch City Hall. More about Chief Fuller's retirement is at [fbtx.net](http://fbtx.net).



## Code Enforcement

# C O R N E R

### Inoperable Vehicles

The City prohibits the keeping of an inoperable vehicle in a place where it is visible from a public place, adjoining private property or a public right-of-way. A vehicle that does not have a valid license registration, valid inspection sticker, is wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled, has one or more flat tires, or any combination of the above is considered an inoperable vehicle. Failure to remove the inoperable vehicle from the property, or to return it to an operable condition, may result in a Court citation.

#### To Report a Code Violation:

- Call 972.919.1414
- Log on at [farmersbranchtx.gov/code](http://farmersbranchtx.gov/code)
- Download the MyFBTX app

FARMERS  BRANCH

# Farmers Branch honored for regional cooperation with neighbors

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The four municipalities that partnered for one of the most innovative, joint public safety dispatch centers in the nation, have received the North Central Texas Council of Governments' William J. Pitstick Regional Excellence Award in part for their work that became the North Texas Emergency Communications Center.

Representatives of the Cities of Farmers Branch, Addison, Carrollton and Coppell were all on hand to accept the award at the NCTCOG General Assembly meeting. The award recognizes entities that refuse to let jurisdictional boundaries of local governments become barriers to solutions.

"This area of the Metroplex is becoming quite well-known for advancing the cause of regional cooperation to never-before-seen lengths," said Farmers Branch Police Chief Sid Fuller. "The fact that these four cities can work together so flawlessly is not only a benefit to the citizens of Farmers Branch, but a tribute to local leadership that can rise up to see the big picture."

Residents of these four cities are receiving direct benefit from the use of regional resources in solving multi-jurisdictional problems to establish higher levels of safety and well-being. Currently, the cities collaborate on the newly opened NTECC, a regional dispatch operations hub, the Regional Critical Incident Response Team, NORTEX Regional SWAT Team, the Regional Crash Investigation Team, as well as the soon-to-be-erected joint fire training facility which will begin operation this winter.



The Farmers Branch Police Department's David Hale (left) and Fire Department's Mike Thomson accepted the Regional Excellence Award on behalf of the City of Farmers Branch.

## Branch Briefs

### Feizy Rugs to occupy former call center building in Valwood

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Building on 40 years of success, Feizy Import is expanding their business with the acquisition of a 225,000 square-foot building in the 13800 block of Diplomat Drive in Farmers Branch.

Feizy Rugs is staying in their traditional Dallas location on Stemmons Freeway but expanding in to the Farmers Branch property by adding approximately 50,000 square-feet of space to the existing building. The company manufactures and sells rugs to the design trade, as opposed to the general public.

### Teen Fire & Rescue Academy designed for ages 13-18

REC CENTER ~ Planned as a way to give young people a glimpse into the inner workings of the fire and rescue service, the Teen Fire & Rescue Academy is planned for August 1-5 for Farmers Branch residents, ages 13-18.

Limited to 12 participants, registration is now underway at a cost of \$50 for residents.

The Academy features hands-on training, challenges and drills including fire ground operations, search and rescue, basic CPR, arson investigation and other related topics. Tours include the various fire training facilities. Teens end the week with an awards ceremony, slideshow and lunch. Call the Community Recreation Center for more information at 972.247.4607.

### Historical Park reservations open August 1

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Reservations for anyone interested in holding 2017 events at the Farmers Branch Historical Park open August 1 at 8 a.m. For more information, call 972.406.0184.

### Encounters from the Past coming in September

FARMERS BRANCH ~ The Farmers Branch Historical Park's interactive tours of historic Keenan Cemetery will return the weekend of September 16-17 to illuminate the history of the Farmers Branch community.

Costumed re-enactors portray figures from Farmers Branch history while guests traverse a guided route through the oldest cemetery in Dallas county.

For more info, call 972.406.0184.

### Senior Dances set Mondays

SENIOR CENTER ~ The Senior Dance Club hosts dances most Monday nights at the Farmers Branch Senior Center, 14055 Dennis Lane. Admission is \$5. Featured entertainment for upcoming dances are:

- Aug 1 Swinging Country (Country)
- Aug 8 Jim Baker (Ballroom)
- Aug 15 JC Tippet (Country)
- Aug 22 Dave Alexander (Ballroom)
- Aug 29 Southern Pride (Country)



**FARMERS  
— BRANCH —  
MARKET**

**SATURDAYS**  
8 AM - 12 PM  
**MAY - OCTOBER**  
THE GROVE AT MUSTANG CROSSING



**FARMERS BRANCH  
CITIZEN BOND COMMITTEE**

LIVE WORK PLAY AND... ?

FIND OUT MORE @  
[farmersbranchtx.gov/bond](http://farmersbranchtx.gov/bond)