

Branch Review



FEBRUARY 2017



Daddies & Daughters invited to 'Be Our Guest'

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Tickets are now on sale for the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance, one of the highlights of the Community Recreation Center season, set for Saturday, February 4.

Themed this year to "Beauty and the Beast," the annual extravaganza will be held at the Community Recreation Center, 14050 Heartside Place, from 6 until 8 p.m.

Advance ticket prices are \$5 per person for Farmers Branch residents and \$8 per person for non-residents, through February 3. All tickets will be \$15 at the door.

Daddies and Daughters will dance to the sounds of a live DJ and enjoy cookies, punch and coffee. Keep-sake photos will be available for free download at farmersbranch.smugmug.com.

The event is designed for Daddies and their Daughters only, please. No additional family members will be admitted.

For more information, call the Community Recreation Center at 972.247.4607.



Election calendar commences

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Candidate filing for a place on the Farmers Branch City Council ballot in the May 6 General Election opens January 18 and closes February 17, according to City Secretary Amy Piukana.

The City Council is made up of a Mayor, elected at-large, and five Council positions, elected from five geographically-defined single member districts. The Mayor and members of the Council are elected to three-year terms, staggered so that two positions are up for election each year.

In 2017, the office of Mayor along with Council member for District 2 are on the ballot.

To vote in the May 6 General Election, citizens must be registered to vote no later than April 6. Voters are required to present an approved form of photo identification in order to vote in all Texas Elections.

Early voting for the election will be held April 24 through May 2 at all Dallas County early voting locations, including Farmers Branch City Hall.

All City elections are administered by Dallas County. For more information, call 972.919.2503 visit farmersbranchtx.gov/elections or dallascountyvotes.org.



Pruning clinic planned at Rose Gardens

FBTX~ As a conclusion to January's winter gardening class series, a Rose Pruning Clinic has been planned for Saturday, February 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rose Gardens of Farmers Branch at Gussie Field Waterworth Park. Organizers say participants should bring their own leather gloves and pruners. Call 972.247.4607 for more.

City Council seeks applicants for Charter review

FBTX~ The Mayor and City Council are seeking citizens from each voting precinct interested in serving on a committee to review the City Charter and recommend any changes to be put before the voters in 2018.

For more, call 972.919.2503.

2016 Tour of Lights shatters previous records

FBTX~ Blessed by largely good weather and positive publicity, the Farmers Branch Tour of Lights broke records in 2016 for both attendance and donations.

The driving tour was open from Thanksgiving weekend through New Years weekend.

There was a total of 18,381 vehicles passing through the Tour this year, far exceeding last year's total of 13,961.

The Tour is staffed each night by community non-profit and civic organizations who accept donations for their participation. That total for 2016 stands at \$60,584, topping last year's total of \$33,535 by more than \$25,000.

The 2017 edition of the Farmers Branch Christmas Tour of Lights opens on Friday, November 24.



Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics Texas

FBTX ~ Citizens will brave the frigid February waters of the Farmers Branch Aquatics Center's Frog Pond to help raise funds for Texas Special Olympics with the 2017 Polar Plunge, Saturday, February 4. Anyone raising a minimum \$60 can don a creative costume and voluntarily jump into ice cold water beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, visit sobx.org/polarplunge.

Allison Cook named to business leader list

FBTX ~ Citing her business background and organizational philosophy DJCEO magazine recently named Farmers

Branch Director of Economic Development and Tourism Allison Cook to their list of the 500 "Most Powerful Business Leaders" in Dallas.

The SMU graduate was named to the Director's position in Farmers Branch last year after serving the department as Economic Development Manager.



Allison Cook

Senior Center plans Valentine Tea, February 10

FBTX ~ "Love is Brewing" at the Senior Center's annual Valentine Tea, planned Friday, February 10 at 2 p.m. at the Center, 14055 Dennis Lane.

A \$5 ticket will cover canapes and fine tea while participants will relax and enjoy conversation with others. "Harp Essence" will provide entertainment.

FHT to present 'Birdie'

FBTX ~ A perennial favorite since its premiere on Broadway more than 50 years ago, 'Bye Bye Birdie' will be presented by The Firehouse Theatre on select nights February 23 thru March 12.

Loosely based on the late 1950s phenomenon that occurred when Elvis Presley was inducted into the U.S. Army, the show follows the series of events when the teen idol Conrad Birdie is drafted.

The Firehouse Theatre is located at 2535 Valley View Lane in old Farmers Branch Fire Station No. 1. For tickets, visit thefirehousetheatre.com or call 972.620.3747.

Senior Dances set Mondays

FBTX~ Live music and friendly people make Senior Dance night one of the best in the Metroplex. Tickets are \$5 at the door for dances from 7 to 9:20 p.m.

FEB 06 Swingin' Country (Country)

FEB 13 Jim Baker (Ballroom)

FEB 20 J.C. Tippett (Country)

FEB 27 Dave Alexander (Ballroom)

NTECC has new executive director

CARROLLTON ~ The Board of Directors for North Texas Emergency Communications Center, joint public safety dispatch for Farmers Branch, Carrollton, Coppell and Addison, has announced Terry Goswick as its new executive director.



Currently serving as Public Safety Program Administrator for Pasco County Government near the Gulf coast of central Florida. He is expected to assume his new position with NTECC in January.

Mr. Goswick has almost 20 years of public safety experience with the U.S. Army, Department of Veterans Affairs and Florida Highway Patrol in addition to Pasco County. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Safety from the University of South Florida.



Terry Goswick

Streamlined public information request process unveiled online

FARMERS BRANCH ~ Streamlining the process of public information requests like never before, Farmers Branch City Secretary Amy Piukana said her office has launched an on-line public information request process.

Begun in December, the City Secretary's Office Open Records Portal can be found online at the City's website, farmersbranchtx.gov.

"Citizens requesting public information will now be able to enter their request online, monitor the request and download any responsive documents," Ms. Piukana said. "The program is very user friendly and will walk citizens from one step to the next."

She added the system handles Open Records requests for all City departments, including Police. Although the system is designed to streamline the process for citizens, traditional methods of filing Open Records requests will still be accepted.

To assist residents in using the system, Ms. Piukana's office has produced an explanatory "how to" video that walks users through the process. It can be found on YouTube at the City's channel - youtube.com/fbtv.

For more information, call 972.919.2520.



City Secretary Amy Piukana has prepared an explanatory "how to" video for the new Public Information Request Center that is available on the Farmers Branch YouTube channel at youtube.com/fbtv.



Code Enforcement Corner

Getting Ready for Spring Cleaning

As residents begin to plan for Spring cleaning during the next few months, please bear in mind the following code requirements, regarding outside storage:

- Any items stored outside your home MUST be kept in a garage or in an enclosed structure, such as a storage shed.
- Residents should not store items outside in yards or under a carport or patio.
- Items that would constitute prohibited outside storage include (but are not limited to): building materials, furniture, appliances, auto parts, tires, tools and/or mechanical equipment and lawn maintenance equipment.

To Report a Code Violation:

- Call 972.919.1414
- Log on at farmersbranchtx.gov/code
- Download the MyFBTX app

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