

Branch REVIEW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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ISO Class 1

Farmers Branch becomes one of only 300 communities nationwide to attain top rating

FBTX ~ Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker has announced that the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office has informed him that the City of Farmers Branch will be moved to an ISO Class 1 Public Protection Classification, effective December 1.

According to information published online by the state Fire Marshal's Office, the Public Protection Classification system grades the fire protection of a city using Insurance Services Office (ISO) Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. The system is used in all 50 states.

The ISO classifies communities from 1 (best) to 10 (worst) based on how well they score on the rating schedule which grades such features as water distribution, fire department equipment and manpower and fire alarm facilities.

Farmers Branch becomes one of only 63 class 1 communities in Texas and one of only 300 nationwide. Chief Parker said ISO ratings are one of the factors that affect insurance rates and the local residents and businesses should check with their carriers after December 1 to ensure that their fire insurance is being rated at the correct level.



Dave Blair remembered at memorial as an influential leader with a heart for service

FBTX ~ At a celebration service of his life, former Farmers Branch Mayor Dave Blair was remembered as an influential figure that was 'larger than life' on the local stage for more than three decades.



Dave Blair

Mayor Blair, 87, died July 1 after taking ill while on vacation with his family in Orange Beach, Alabama. The Celebration of Life service was held in late July and attended by current and former elected officials and City staff members.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Dave Blair earned his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University in Boston in 1954. He landed in Texas as a Test Engineer for Chance Vought Aircraft and established his own company, Blair Engineering, in 1965, where he held the position of Chairman and CEO for 28 years.

In 1982 he was appointed to the Farmers Branch City Council where he was elected to three additional terms before becoming Mayor in 1988. He remains one of the longest serving Mayors in Farmers Branch history with eight years in office.

Mayor Blair and his late wife, Lorraine, helped establish the Lorraine and Dave Blair Scholarship Fund for worthy R.L. Turner High School students. He served on the board of numerous organizations including the Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce, Metroplex Mayors' Association, the Farmers Branch Rotary Club and the North Texas Tollway Authority where he was the original Chairman.

Joint venture brewhouse and eatery announced for Mustang Station restaurant park

FBTX~ Joining Cox Farms Market as anchors of the new Mustang Station restaurant park, Cedar Creek Brewhouse & Eatery have announced that they will locate in the new retail area at Valley View and Bee.

The two-story establishment is a joint venture between Cedar Creek Brewery of Seven Points, Texas and Chef-Engineered of Dallas, the power behind LUCK in Trinity Groves.

Cedar Creek Brewhouse & Eatery is expected to be open in the third quarter of 2019.

Power Switch registration continues through September 25

FBTX~ The pooling of buying power may result in lower energy bills through Farmers Branch Power Switch, which continues registration through September 25.

There is no cost to participate and no obligation. Find out more at:

farmersbranchtx.gov/fbpowerswitch.

Most City offices to close for Labor Day holiday

FBTX~ Most City of Farmers Branch offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of the Labor Day holiday, with a few notable exceptions.

The Community Recreation Center and the Margaret Young Natatorium will be open from 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the Frog Pond will be open for the last day of summer swim season from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. and the Historical Park will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

There will be no Green Grabber/bulky pickup on Labor Day but there will be regular garbage and recycling pickup.

Related to the holiday schedule, in deference to the Labor Day, the Farmers Branch City Council will meet in regular session on the second and fourth Tuesdays in September, rather than the traditional first and third - specifically, Tuesdays, September 11 and 25.



FARMERS BRANCH
POWER SWITCH

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Firehouse plans *Aida*

FBTX~ Based on the opera by Giuseppe Verdi, Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* will be brought to life locally by the Firehouse Theatre on select nights September 6-23.

An epic story, the show is infused with an award-winning pop/rock sensibility from the seasoned duo behind the music for Disney's *The Lion King*.

The Firehouse Theatre is located at 2535 Valley View. Find out more by calling 972.620.3747 or visiting thefirehousetheatre.com.

Advice offered on panhandling

FBTX ~ Farmers Branch compassionate and charitable citizens can avoid giving to panhandlers and give to support organizations and services that provide care in order to effect lasting change.

If approached by a panhandler on foot, citizens should know that it's OK to say 'no,' do not open a purse or wallet, try not to engage if possible and be aware of surroundings.

If approached by a panhandler when you're in a vehicle, citizens should avoid lowering the window, realize that it's OK to make eye contact and say 'no,' keep distance and be safe.

Farmers Branch officials say if panhandlers ever become aggressive or if anyone feels threatened, they should call 911 immediately.

The City of Dallas has released a list of "what to do" and "who to call" and can be found at endpanhandlingnow.com.

Senior Center plans Game Night

FBTX~ The Farmers Branch Senior Center's annual Game Night - this year dubbed "Aloha, Y'all" - will be distinctly Texan but with a south seas flavor. Planned for Saturday, September 22, tickets are \$15. Doors open at 5 p.m. for dinner with games beginning at 6. Call 972.919.8740 for info and ticket availability.

National Night Out party registration now open

FBTX~ Farmers Branch Police Chief David Hale reminds residents that Texas will hold National Night Out on Tuesday, October 2 with block parties, backyard barbecues and other neighborhood gatherings.

Anyone planning a party for NNO is encouraged to register their event in order to have Police, Fire and City officials make the rounds. Call 972.919.9304.

Senior Dances set Mondays

FBTX~ Live music and friendly people make Senior Dance night one of the best. Tickets are \$5 at the door and dances run from 7 until 9:20 p.m. each Monday night. Upcoming:

SEP 03 Labor Day | No Dance

SEP 10 Jim Baker | Ballroom

SEP 17 J.C. Tippett | Country

SEP 24 Dave Alexander | Ballroom

Proposed FY 2018-19 budget to be considered by City Council

FBTX ~ City Manager Charles Cox has delivered to the City Council a \$132 million proposed budget for the upcoming 2018-19 fiscal year that updates and expands facilities, continues to improve City streets and compensates employees for good work - all while trimming the property tax rate for the first time in 35 years.

Even though voters said 'yes' to a 2-cent increase in the property tax rate with the approval of \$15 million in bond packages last November, the proposed budget absorbs that increase with expanding revenue and offers a quarter-cent reduction in the tax rate to 59.9507-cents for every \$100 of valuation.

The Mayor and members of the City Council may discuss the budget during their regularly scheduled Study Sessions in August and September with a Public Hearing and vote on the new package set for their regular meeting of September 11.

The proposed budget can be found in hard copy at City Hall, Manske Library and Justice Center or online at farmersbranchtx.gov/budget.



Branch Briefs

Farmers Branch recognized for performance management

WASHINGTON, DC ~The International City/County Management Association, or ICMA, has announced that the City of Farmers Branch has been recognized for its data-driven management and reporting efforts with a Certificate of Distinction.

"Performance management is a bedrock principle of professional local government management," ICMA Executive Director Marc A. Ott said.

Farmers Branch is among 13 jurisdictions receiving the Certificate of Distinction, and one of only 57 recognized overall. In the State of Texas, only six jurisdictions were recognized by ICMA for their performance management efforts. ICMA will officially recognize recipients at its 104th Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, September 23-26.



Date Night returns to the Park September 15

FBTX ~ Rounding out its three scheduled dates this year, Date Night in the Park returns to the Farmers Branch Historical Park on Saturday, September 15.

Again food trucks will line the meadow while live music will be provided by The Buffalo Ruckus. A movie under the stars will round out the evening. For more information, and movie titles, stay in touch at fbspecialevents.com.

Pickups-n-Panels planned September 8

FBTX ~ With gleaming chrome and classic styling, awesome cars and trucks will be part of the annual Pickups-n-Panels Classic Car Truck Shootout from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 8 at the Historical Park.

Admission is free. Entry fee for is \$20 per vehicle with proceeds going to charity. There will be concessions and kids activities.

Bloomin' Bluegrass tickets now on sale for October event

FBTX ~ Tickets are now on sale for this year's Bloomin' Bluegrass music festival, set for October 19 & 20 in and around the Farmers Branch Historical Park.

Advance adult weekend passes are \$10 with day passes at \$5 for Friday and \$7 for Saturday. Kids passes (ages 4-12) are \$6 for advance weekend with day passes at \$3 on Friday and \$5 on Saturday. Find out more at bloominbluegrass.com.



Farmers Branch Market sets closing weekend

FBTX ~ Capping a highly successful season with new twilight hours, the Farmers Branch Market will close for the 2018 season on Saturday, September 29 with regular hours from 5 until 8 p.m. at The Grove @ Mustang Crossing.

There will be a single market in October and special editions of the Holiday Market will recur this year with events planned in November and December. Find out more at farmersbranchmarket.com.