SPRING EDITION MARCH 2023

News, Information, Activities and Program Opportunities from The Branch Connection



Fishin' Fun Saturday, April 29 8 am - 12 pm

Grab your grandkids, 16 and under, and come out to Gussie Field Watterworth Park, next to City Hall, for a morning of fishing, kids' activities, and fun. Rawhide Creek will be stocked full of fish. Be sure to bring your fishing rod or borrow one of ours. Free bait will be provided, and concessions will be available. Trophies will be awarded to the three largest fish caught in each age category.

SCHEDULE

8 am - 10 am 8 am - 12 pm 10:30 am

Kids Fishing Tournament Kid Zone Awards Ceremony

Volunteer Opportunities: Wanted.... Fishin' Fun Volunteers Saturday, April 29, 7:30 am - 12:30 pm

This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer your time helping children in our community have a fun day out in nature. We need volunteers for our pole loaner station, bait stations, catch and release tank, kid games and roamers. Volunteer Release forms will be accepted at the front desk through Monday, April 10, 2023.

Registration FYI

You must register for all classes and programs one month in advance. Resident fitness classes and special event registration begin the first Monday of each month. Open registration for non-residents begins the second Monday of each month. For example, patrons will register for March classes in April.

To register for activities, programs, trips and all fun things The Branch Connection has to offer, you can choose any of these options:

- 1. Online at: Register online at FarmersBranchLiving.com (Select "Activities" and search TBC.)
- 2. In Person, at the front desk: Please stop by the front desk and speak with a staff member to register for activities, programs, trips, etc.
- 3. Over the phone: Call 972-919-8740 and speak with a staff member to register for activities, programs, trips, etc. You will need to remain on the phone with the staff member until your registration is complete.



🗰 www.thebranchconnection.com (f) www.facebook.com/TheBranchConnectionFB 14055 Dennis Lane | Farmers Branch, Texas 75234 | 972-919-8740

TRIPS

Registration required by calling 972-919-8740

DAY TRIPS Dallas Quilt Show Friday | March 10

9:30 am - 5 pm | \$15 Enjoy a full day of quilting displays and vendors at Market Hall. The TBC Quilting group members will provide a sack lunch and a water bottle. Fill out the menu selection at the time of registration. The deadline to register for tickets is Tuesday, March 7.

Choctaw Casino

Wednesday| March 29 | 8 am - 5 pm 8:30 am (Bus Departure)

Your winning experience awaits! Dive into 7,400 slot machines, a state-of-the-art poker room and over 100 table games on this rare occasion. Bring money for lunch & gambling.

CRUISIN CUISINE: LSA Burger Grandscape

Friday | April 14 11 am (Bus Departure) Bring money for lunch Great Texas food with a great Texas experience.



Monthly **Breakfast** Members | Free Non-members: \$5 Mondays March 6, April 3 8:15 - 9 am

Come enjoy a free breakfast, meet up with old friends, and make new ones at the monthly breakfast. The Senior Advisory Board hosts the event and provides a fun atmosphere to start the month off!

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Registration is required for all craft classes: 972-919-8740.

Free Arts and Crafts Groups

Quilting GroupFridays | 10 amInstructional QuiltingThursdays | 1 - 3 pmEvening CraftsMondays | 5 - 8 pm

NEW 3rd Friday Quilt a Block

March 17 | April 21 | 10 am

Join us for this once-a-month activity during the third Friday Quilting Group time as we build two blocks each month for twelve consecutive months. The Sew Scrappy Spools pattern is provided. Instructions will be given by a member of the Friday Quilting Group each month. New and old, interested members are welcome to join in. Registration is required each month.

CHECK TRIPS ON FRONT PAGE FOR THE DALLAS QUILT SHOW INFORMATION.

Cricut Class

Tuesday | March 28 | 12:30 pm Instructor: Jennifer Stone

Come learn more about the Cricut machine and applying white heat-transfer vinyl quilt block to one of your own colored shirts. Any material will work. Learn how to weed, place and press your permanent vinyl quilt block onto your shirt. Registration required by 5 pm, March 17.

Watercolor Painting 1

Tuesdays | 2 - 3:15 pm Instructor: Dr. Marsha Blount

Paint, brush and paper provided. Enjoy painting with others in this fun class as we talk about art. You will be guided in painting washes, color layering, and critiquing, and how to finish your piece for displaying.

Watercolor Painting 2

Tuesdays | 3:15 - 4 pm

Free | Instructor: Dr. Marsha Blount

Learn color theory through independent and guided instruction in a studio format. Feel free to bring your supplies. If you want to paint in acrylic, you will need acrylic paints, canvases and brushes. Supply recommendations are available from the instructor.

Advanced Greeting Card Class

Tuesday | March 14 | April 11 | 1 - 3:30 pm Supply Fee: \$10

Instructors: Jan McCord & Carmel Mosley

Learn various card-making techniques and create four beautiful cards.

DIY Painting Party

Monday | March 13 | April 10 | 6 - 8 pm Supply Fee: \$25 | Instructor: Calinda Locklear We provide all the supplies; you enjoy an evening of painting fun with friends and take home your completed home décor for a seasonal project. All welcome - beginner to advanced!

Chalk Contour

Monday | March 20 | 6 pm Free | Instructor: Valarie Jackson

Oh, happy day painting with ink paint and stencils. Anyone can learn to use ink paint by Chalk Contour. Choose between an easy screen-printing process on a canvas pillow cover or bag. Select pillowcase or bag at the time of registration. Registration is required by 5 pm Friday, March 17. Supplies provided.

Napkinizing With Pam

Monday | April 17 | 6 pm Free | Instructor: Pam Hayes

Learn the magic of paper napkins and mod podge with a mason jar in this easy-to-learn craft class. You will leave with a beautiful upcycled vase for some fresh-cut flowers. All supplies furnished. Registration is required by 5 pm Friday, April 14.

FITNESS CLASSES

Registration required by calling 972-919-8740

Silver Sneakers Classic – Posture Renewal Mondays | 11 - 11:45 am Free | Instructor: Rotha Crump

Balanced Bodies Classic Tuesdays & Thursdays | 9 - 9:45 am Free | Instructor: Rotha Crump

Mindful Yoga

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 10 - 10:45 am Free | Instructor: Rotha Crump

Tai Chi

Mondays & Wednesdays | 10 - 10:45 am Free | Instructor: Susan Davis

Zumba Gold

Wednesdays | 6 - 7 pm Free | Instructor: Giselle Huet

Power Walking

Wednesdays | 1 - 1:45 pm Fridays | 9 - 9:45 am (No Class on 3/31) Free | Instructor: Laura Franklin

COMPUTER CLASSES

Registration is required by calling 972-919-8740 or at front desk.

Photoshop Elements Part 1

Mondays & Thursdays | March 6 - 30 | 1 - 3 pm Free | Instructor: Linda Eakle

Transferring Pictures from iPhone or iPad to PC

Monday | April 10 | 1 - 3 pm Free | Instructor: Linda Eakle

Learn different ways to transfer pictures from your iPhone or iPad to your PC with ease. Bring your iPhone or iPad to class.

Windows Tips and Tricks

Thursday | April 20 | 1 - 3 pm

Free | Instructor: Linda Eakle

General discussion of Windows 10 and 11. Discuss new features of Windows 11, shortcuts and different ways to accomplish tasks.

Managing Your Passwords

Monday | April 24 | 1 - 3 pm Free | Instructor: Linda Eakle

Learn how to keep yourself and your passwords safe on the internet and have your passwords easily available.

EDUCATIONAL TALKS

Registration required by calling 972-919-8740

Social Security: Your Questions Answered

Monday | April 10 | 12 - 1 pm Free | Presented by Olivia Price [Edward Jones] & Tommy Campbell [BlackRock]

Social Security will likely be the foundation of your retirement income. See how Social Security fits into your retirement income plan, when you should start taking benefits and any tax considerations. Light lunch provided. Registration required.

Learning to Fish (this class is open to all ages)

Saturday | April 1 | 9 am - 12 pm Free | Instructor: Bill Slaughter Location: Gussie Field Pavillion/Rawhide Creek Learning to fish is a rite of passage. Learning to fish correctly is an art form. Rod and reel and bait provided.

Wellness Screening

Wednesday | April 5 | 1 - 3 pm Free | Presented by Dallas Medical Center

The Dallas Medical Center will be screening for peripheral artery disease, which is a common condition in which narrowed arteries reduce blood flow to the arms and legs. Please call to register, limited space available.

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Registration required by calling 972-919-8740

DROP-IN RECREATION: During facility hours, the game room is open for drop-in recreation such as cards, billiards, dominos and Mah Jongg.

Open Mah-Jongg

Mondays & Wednesdays | 1 pm | Free

Join us for a friendly game of American Mah-Jongg. We welcome experienced players and newer players to the game for casual, non-competitive play.

Fly Tying Group

Monday | March 13, 20 & 27 | April 10, 17 & 24 | 5 pm Free | Instructor: Bill Slaughter Everything you need to know to tie flies like a pro!

Fly Casting

Tuesdays | 5 pm Free | Instructor: Bill Slaughter Learn the fine art of casting flies and using fly rods to better your fly-fishing skills.

Texas 42 (using Dominos)

Wednesdays | 1 pm

Free | Instructor: Bill Slaughter

Have you ever wondered how to "get your game on" with Texas 42? Join Bill Slaughter for lessons from beginners and beyond to learn the game.

Thinkabilities!

Mondavs | 9:15 am

Free | Instructor: Anna Abner

Our Thinkabilities program provides brain-challenging worksheets. We meet in person, but members may also have some fun challenges emailed to them or made available for pick up as The Branch Connection. Contact staff at 972-919-8740 for details.

Shared Moments

Monday | March 6 & 20 | April 3 & 17 | 10:15 am

What's your story? In this small group, you can hear others recall and share life memories and your own stories. All are welcome!

Mountain Dulcimer

Bring your instrument and learn to play this beautifulsounding instrument better by practicing in a small group weekly.

DULCIMER LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS Tuesdays | 8:30 - 9:30 am Instructor: Donna Shelton

No prior experience is necessary! Learn how to play the instrument, read standard and tablature notation and learn music theory.

SOUTHWIND DULCIMER

Tuesdays | 10 am - 12 pm Free | Instructor: Donna Shelton This group preserves and promotes the historic dulcimer instrument by playing together weekly.

INTERMEDIATE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER GROUP Wednesdays | 10 am - 12 pm Free | Instructor: Marcella Houston

Line Dancing

Instructor: Karen Aubrey Whatever your level may be, learn Line Dancing step-by-step at a comfortable pace with the following:

LOW BEGINNER

Tuesdays | 12:30 - 1:45 pm (Cost per class: \$2.50) March: 7, 14, 21 & 28 April: 4, 11, 18 & 25 Learn easy beginner dances. Mastery of basic beginner line dance steps is required for this class.

HIGH BEGINNER

Tuesdays | 2 - 3:15 pm (Cost per class: \$2.50) March: 7, 14, 21 & 28 April: 4. 11, 18 & 25

IMPROVER/INTERMEDIATE

Wednesdays | 10 - 11:30 am (Cost per class: \$3.00) March: 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 April: 5, 12, 19 & 26

Let's Learn to Dance!

Members: Free Non-members: \$5 (includes entry to The Mixer) Lessons for active adults, age 50 and better. Stay for The Mixer; watch and practice what you learn.

DANCE LESSONS: SALSA Monday | March 6, 13, 20 & 27 | 6 - 6:45 pm

DANCE LESSON: WALTZ REVIEW, FOXTROT, AND 2-STEP Monday | April 3, 10, 17 & 24 | 6 - 6:45 pm

Bingo

Wednesday | March 1 & 15 | April 5 & 19 | 1 - 3 pm \$1 per Bingo card must purchase cards at the front desk by 12:45 pm

Enjoy BINGO and bring a friend. Good luck!

Registration required by calling 972-919-8740

Photo Club

Wednesday | March 1 & 15 | April 5 & 19 | 1 pm Free | Instructor: Linda Eakle

Share your experience and learn from others to make your pictures better. Members regularly challenge each other to capture certain subjects and share those pictures through a group email. Anyone with a camera or smartphone camera is welcome!

Random Acts of Kindness

The Random Acts of Kindness Group does many amazing things like collecting and giving food and supplies to those in need. You can get involved monthly by dropping off the needed items, and we make sure they get to that month's charity. Thank you for your kindness.

Sweats for Veterans Thursday | April 13 | 11 am

Donations of coats, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and socks will be collected for our RAK Group. These items will be dropped off at the Dallas VFW for military veterans and their families in need.

Book Club

Meet kindred book lovers as they discuss reading a different book each month.

Lonesome Dove by Larry MacMurtry Genre: Historical/Fiction Monday | March 13 | 1 pm Movie on March 20 | 1 pm

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt Genre: Historical Fiction Monday | April 10 | 1 pm Performance date April 17 | 1 pm



City Of Farmers Branch, Farmers Branch, TX

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Registration required by calling 972-919-8740

MOST SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES ARE FREE TO MEMBERS. Join today to take advantage of all The Branch Connection has to offer. Registration re-

Friday Franks

Friday | March 17 | April 21 | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Non-members: \$5

Come enjoy a hot dog with all the fixins' hosted by The Senior Advisory Board.

B12 Shots

Thursday | March 2 | April 6 | 9 - 9:30 am Fee \$20 | ProSalutem

Notary Public

Monday | March 6 | April 3 | 11 am - 12 pm Free | Maxine Pride

Bridge

One of the greatest card games of all and can provide an immense challenge and enjoyment in a fun group setting. Grab a friend and join us!

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

(All players must be seated by 9:15 am) Mondays | 9:30 am Free | Instructor: Diane Royer

PARTY BRIDGE Fridays | 1 pm Free | Instructor: Diane Royer

Cookin' Club

Cookin' Fish Wednesday | March 8 | 10:30 am - 12 pm Learn how to cook fish in parchment paper packets for moist and juicy fish every time. Registration required.

Easter Brunch

Wednesday | April 12 | 10:30 am - 12 pm

Learn the do's, don'ts and other elements that make Easter Brunch a success! Registration required.

Chair Volleyball

Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays | 1 pm Free

Chair Volleyball involves physical activity, social interaction, competition and lots of laughs!

CHAIR VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday | March 31 | 9 am - 5 pm The First North Dallas Chair Volleyball Tournament for 2023. This tournament will include a light breakfast and lunch for those teams participating in a winner take all tournament. Team registration is required.

Wii Bowling

Grab your team of two or more players and compete together against other teams. Register your team at the front desk, or let us know if you're looking for a team. Season I Party | March 3 | 2 pm Season II | March 6 - April 28

Texas Hold 'Em

Thursday | March 16 | April 20 | 1 pm Know when to hold 'em; know when to fold 'em. Join us each month for this competitive poker game.

Clogging

Easy to High Intermediate Skill Saturdays | 1:30 - 4:30 pm Free | Instructor: Libby Smith American Folk Dance is performed with double-tap shoes by striking the heel, the toe, or both against a floor to create audible rhythms.

An Exercise in Critical Thinking; Conversations in Neglected History Fridays | 9:30 am | Free | Special Guest Speakers on March 31, April 7 and April 28

DATETOPICMarch 3This Day in HistoryMarch 10Guns Germs & SteelMarch 17You Remember That?March 24The Other Herbert HooverMarch 31History of Fort ConchoApril 7Palenque Mayan RuinsApril 14Women at West PointApril 21Mini TopicsApril 28History of Fort Towson

SPEAKER Jesse Spurway George Smartt Jeanette Seigler Dr. Mark Hahlen Sara Ross - Fort Concho National Historic Education Coordinator World Renowned Archaeologist George Fery Debbi Hull Jesse Spurway David Reed of Fort Townson Historic Site



Table Tennis

Intermediate / Advanced (No Class 3/31) Wednesdays & Fridays | 2:30 pm Free

Improve your skills with members ranging from recreational players to elite players who compete in local and national tournaments year-round. This program promotes excellence and sportsmanship in a safe and friendly environment.

Tuesday Trivia Night

Spies Like Us March 28 | 6 pm Free

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From James Bond to Austin Powers, test your knowledge of the secret world of intrigue and adventure in the spy business.

Where in the World? April 25 | 6 pm Free

Fascinating questions about the most interesting and unique places in the world.



THE MIXER

(Don't forget to check out our dance lessons!) Best 50 and Better Dance in the Metroplex! Mondays | 7 - 9 p.m. | BYOB Permitted Members: FREE | Non-members: \$5

DATE	BAND
March 6	Pete & Patti (Variety)
March 13	Justin Hunter Band (Country & Western)
March 20	Nobles of Note (Variety)
March 27	City Lights (Country & Western)
April 3	Justin Hunter Band (Country & Western)
April 10	Mitch & Stick (Classic Oldies & Variety)
April 17	Danny Romo (Country & Western)
April 24	Tye & Noot (Variety)



MEMBERSHIP

The Branch Connection is open to anyone 50 years of age or better. We offer a variety of activities and special events to promote fun, fellowship, and health.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Residents: Non-residents:

\$25 \$50

\$5 Day Pass available for non-members
\$5 ID Card replacement fee
Options to pay in full or pay by an electronic check or credit card draft of \$2.50 or \$5 each month.
Our program calendars are available at:
TheBranchConnection.com

You may qualify for a FREE Membership

Most health insurance plans offer programs to help you maintain a healthy lifestyle as an active adult through physical and social activity. Bring in your insurance card or call us at 972-919-8740, and our staff will check if you qualify. The plans we partner with are Silver Sneakers, Silver & Fit, and Renew Active.

FACILITY HOURS

Monday - Wednesday Thursday & Friday Saturday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 1 - 5 p.m.

RENOVATION FAQS

To see the current renovation FAQs for The Branch Connection, please visit **FarmersBranchTX.gov/TBCReno**

THE BRANCH CONNECTION STAFF

Jackie Byles, Manager Lynnette Hill, Assistant Manager Jennifer Stone, Recreation Supervisor

TO VOLUNTEER

Contact Jennifer Stone jennifer.stone@farmersbranchtx.gov 972-919-8742

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