

# North Texas

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### AREA

#### Four cities recognized by North Central Texas COG

Carrollton, Addison, Coppell and Farmers Branch were recognized by the North Central Texas Council of Governments for their far-reaching regional support efforts, specifically in the area of public safety.

Representatives from all four cities accepted the William J. Pitstick Regional Excellence Award from the council at its recent general assembly meeting in Hurst. The award recognizes entities that refuse to let jurisdictional boundaries of local governments become barriers to the solutions of community issues.

The council serves a 16-county region in North Texas by assisting local governments in planning for common needs, cooperation for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. It celebrates 50 years of service this year.

Deborah Fleck

### CARROLLTON

#### Gala to celebrate Senior Center's re-opening

Carrollton will celebrate the grand re-opening of the Carrollton Senior Center with "A Night to Remember" gala Thursday. An open house and ribbon cutting will be at 5:30 p.m. at the center, 1720 Keller Springs Road, with dinner and dancing following at 6:30 p.m.

The open house and ribbon cutting are free and open to the public. City officials will attend.

Tickets for the gala are \$20 per person and \$35 for a couple. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 972-466-4850.

Deborah Fleck

### DENTON

#### City manager resigns after council votes to let him go

Denton's City Manager George Campbell has resigned effective Friday, after a deeply divided City Council voted Wednesday 4-3 to let him go. No one has said what was behind the dismissal.

The agreement provides for \$376,299.64 in severance pay, delivered to Campbell in a lump sum on July 2. He also agreed to serve as a consultant to a yet-to-be-named interim city manager through Sept. 30. For that, the council agreed to pay Campbell an additional \$89,641.52.

The separation agreement contains a clause in which Campbell and council members agree not to say anything willfully disparaging or denigrating of each other.

Campbell has served as Denton's city manager for nearly 10 years. Previously, he was city manager in Arlington, Coppell and Weatherford.

Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe,  
Denton Record-Chronicle

### EAST OAK CLIFF

#### Free legal clinic for veterans, spouses is set for Friday

The Dallas Bar Association, in partnership with the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, will hold a free legal advice clinic for area veterans from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Friday at the Veterans Resource Center, 4900 S. Lancaster Road.



Photos by Rex C. Curry/Special Contributor



## From refugees to U.S. citizens: Time to celebrate

**Above:** A Navy color guard presented the colors June 18 during a celebration of new citizens for World Refugee Day at the Northwest Community Center in Vickery Meadow. The event included a naturalization ceremony, voter registration drive and service fair.

**Left:** Ashwu Alrammahi, who immigrated from Iraq in 2010 and became a U.S. citizen in March, was one of four women honored at the celebration.

The clinic is open to any veteran or spouse of a deceased veteran free of charge.

The Dallas Bar Association has additional veterans legal clinics on the first Friday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Veterans Resource Center.

Find more information at [bit.ly/28SEI4m](http://bit.ly/28SEI4m).

Deborah Fleck

### FARMERS BRANCH

#### Tastes and Tunes offers live music, food trucks Thursday

Tastes and Tunes will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday at The Grove @ Mustang Crossing.

The band All Funk Radio Show will perform. Admission is free.

Food truck options include Bombay Chop Stix, The Butcher's Son, Gypsy Scoops, Gepetto's Pizza and Nuevo Leon. In addition, craft beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Blankets and lawn chairs are recommended for the lawn seating.

Friends of the Farmers Branch Historical Park will have chair rentals for \$2 per chair. Weather information can be found at 972-919-1433. For more information, visit [fbspecialevents.com](http://fbspecialevents.com).

Deborah Fleck

### IRVING

#### North Lake College to host emergency drill

The main campus of North Lake College will be closed Sunday so the college can host an emergency drill.

The drill will be from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participating organizations include Irving's Office of Emergency Management, Irving Police Department, Irving Fire Department, CareFlite and Baylor Scott & White Medical Center at Irving.

The campus is at 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd. To learn more, visit [northlakecollege.edu](http://northlakecollege.edu).

Deborah Fleck

### NORTH DALLAS

#### Orchid Society meeting to include auction

The Greater North Texas Orchid Society will meet at 2:30 p.m. July 3 at North Haven Gardens, 7700 Northaven Road. The meeting will include the semi-annual auction of orchids and related items and a potluck.

To learn more call 214-328-2684 or visit [gntos.org](http://gntos.org).

Deborah Fleck

### PLANO

#### Mayor pro tem to head council of governments

Plano Mayor Pro Tem Lissa Smith was elected president of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' executive board at the council's recent 50th annual General Assembly. The executive board is the policy-making body of the COG, which serves 16 North Central Texas counties. Smith will lead the 17-member

board for the next 12 months. She replaces Hunt County Judge John Horn. North Richland Hills City Council member Tom Lombard was elected vice-president, and Waxahachie Mayor Kevin Strength was elected secretary/treasurer.

Deborah Fleck

### WYLIE

#### City's website, marketing campaign earns recognition

Wylie's website was recognized as the Best Website in Texas (population under 100,000) by the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers at the group's annual conference earlier this month. Judges noted the website's responsive architecture, simplification, ease of use and transparency, along with its cutting-edge design, clean, uncluttered look and the ease with which it translates to mobile devices.

Wylie also won third place in the Best Marketing Campaign category for Bluegrass on Ballard.

Deborah Fleck

## PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

### FAR NORTHEAST DALLAS

#### Pedestrian killed while trying to cross freeway

A pedestrian was struck and killed early Saturday while trying to run across LBJ Freeway near Walnut Hill

Lane.

The man was running north across the highway when he was hit about 1:30 a.m., said Senior Cpl. Monica Cordova, a Dallas police spokeswoman.

The victim, whose name was not released, was pronounced dead at the

scene.

Liz Farmer

### MESQUITE

#### Police say SUV driver who killed 1 was drunk

A Dallas man has been charged with intoxication manslaughter after his SUV plowed into the back of a car on Interstate 30 late Friday, police said.

Jorge Valdez-Martinez, 41, rear-ended a 2008 Toyota Corolla about 11:50 p.m. in the 2800 block of west-bound I-30 near Gus Thomasson Road, police said.

The driver of the Corolla, whose identity was not released Saturday, died at a local hospital.

The crash caused a chain reaction involving four cars and an 18-wheeler, police said.

Valdez-Martinez was arrested after a security officer chased him down as he tried to run away, police said. He was being held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Sarah Mervosh

### SOUTHEAST OAK CLIFF

#### Shooting ends party; teens say police did it

A 17-year-old boy was shot outside a community center late Friday after police were called to break up a party attended by hundreds of teenagers.

Witnesses later said the victim was shot by one of the first officers to

arrive, but Dallas police said investigators found no evidence to support the claim.

Authorities said they arrived at the Turnkey Community Center in the 4200 block of Tioga Street about 10:30 p.m. and found about half of the crowd outside and half inside. While they dispersed the group inside, police said the officers heard gunfire outside.

Outside, they found the victim, who was taken to a hospital. Police dispersed the crowd and started investigating the shooting.

About 40 minutes later, the officers were getting ready to leave when witnesses approached, saying it was an officer who shot the 17-year-old.

The investigation is ongoing.

Liz Farmer

## Metro & State

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