

City of Ferris

July - September 2011

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One of the new bench and plant holder sets in historic downtown

From the Mayor's Desk Richard Barrett



There are several exciting changes that are occurring in Ferris that I want to be sure you are aware of. First, if you haven't noticed, they have begun the renovation on the fields at Mutz Park. The new fields will be ready for the next baseball season and will be a huge improvement from what we have had previously.



One of the new plant holders placed in historic downtown Ferris

The new library is also currently under construction. The new 7,200 square foot facility is scheduled to be completed in October. This facility is going to be a great addition to the City. The library continues to be one of the most utilized



New Ferris City Council Chambers

buildings in town, and we are excited to see this new building as it nears completion.

The final two construction projects involve the new Council Chambers and City Hall. The new Council Chambers are completed and turned out great. We would love to have you come visit us in our new building at one of our upcoming Council meetings. We are now starting to add more offices to the existing City Hall, which will centralize more employees and make the City government run more efficiently.

Finally, I want to express appreciation to Bill Pardue and Bill Dunn. They both served the City faithfully for several years on the City Council. The City would not be where it is today without the dedicated service and commitment from these two. Also, I want to congratulate Micheal Driggars and Jay Walsh on their recent election to City Council. We look forward to working with you on moving Ferris forward over the next several years.

In closing, I would like to express my personal appreciation to all of you who continue to support this great city of ours. We have so much to be thankful for. I hope 2011 is a great year for all of you.

Until next time.....God Bless the City of Ferris.

Rick Barrett



One of the newly refurbished benches at Ferris City Hall

**From the desk of Sam Love –
Chief of Police**



We continue to have the usual crime problems with thefts and burglaries, but we have had some successes in curtailing these problems with two major arrests recently. On 5/23/11, we apprehended a burglary of a building suspect caught in the act of entering a new house under construction on N. Church Street at W. 3rd Street. An alert neighbor called to report he saw some suspicious activity at the house. Our officers arrived quickly, and, after a short foot chase, Officer Damon Hooper and Investigator Gator Weiss took the suspect into custody. * On June 2, 2011 Officer Ernesto Fierro located and stopped 3 robbery suspects 2 minutes and 45 seconds after the call came in. The victim was still on the phone with the dispatcher when the suspects were stopped. The offenders had approached a woman and her son at the Ferris ISD Ag Barn on N. Central and took her purse, cell phone, and car keys. When stopped, one of them fled on foot and was apprehended an hour and a half later with the help of Wilmer, Palmer, and Garrett Police Depts. and the Texas DPS helicopter. In addition, the Ellis County Sheriff's Dept. assisted, including their K-9 officer, who took the "final bite out of crime" in catching the suspect who was hiding under the I45 Ten Mile Creek Bridge. We recovered the victim's property. The suspects did not display a weapon while robbing the victim - but they did have a shotgun in the car. The Ferris PD takes pride in statements made by the suspects when they were booked into the Dallas County Jail. They told all of the other prisoners in the book-in area, "Don't go to Ferris to rob people. They will catch you and their dog will bite you." The Ferris Police Department will continue to do our best at crime prevention and making Ferris a safe place. With the help of observant neighbors, we can all do a better job at this task.

**From the desk of Kathy Harrington –
Library Director**



The theme for the Ferris Public Library's Texas Summer Reading Club 2011 is "Dig Up a Good Book!" Summer is one of our favorite times at the library with so many fun and educational events happening. For a schedule of events, please call the library at 972-544-3696 or become a fan of the library on Facebook. Local businesses Alfonso's Philly CheeseSteak, Ferris Donuts, Ferris Fruit Stand, Javier's, PUEBLITO Meat Market and Taqueria, Dairy Queen, and What-A-Burger have contributed to making this program successful. **Texas Teen Time** is held each **Thursday at 2 p.m.** with a finale party being held on July 21st at 2 p.m. Also, the Ferris Public Library is participating in the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus' *Reading with Ringling Bros!* Your child can earn a free circus ticket by simply reading. For more information, please visit us at the Ferris Library located at 514 S. Mabel Street at 10th Street.



Follow **Ferris Public Library** on Facebook

**Community
Calendar**

July

- 4 City offices closed (Independence Day)**
- 5 City Council Meeting**
- 18 City Council Meeting**

August

- 1 City Council Meeting**
- 15 City Council Meeting**

September

- 5 City offices closed (Labor Day)**
- 6 City Council Meeting**
- 19 City Council Meeting**

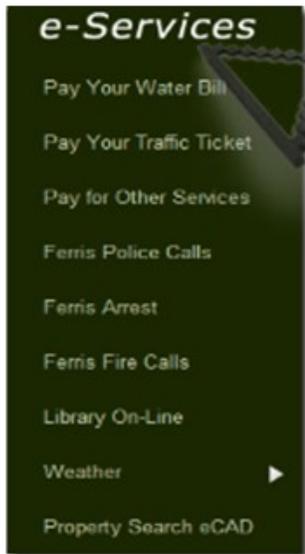
October

- 1 PIONEER DAY!!**
- 3 City Council Meeting**
- 17 City Council Meeting**



Ethan Child signs up for Ferris Library's Summer Reading Club.

From the desk of Doug Childers – Internal Technical Services



I wanted to introduce you to some wonderful additions and features to the e-Service area of our city website. We have added the ability to view and pay your current water bill, as well as a way to pay for other service fees such as permits, open records, finger printing, water deposits, animal licenses, and any other fees that you need to pay to the city. Another great feature we added is the Weather Center. You can now view current weather conditions, view a forecast of the next seven days, and view a live weather radar. The two HD live radar features allow you to get information concerning all watches and warnings in our area and the ability to zoom in on an approaching storms. With the addition of these new features, you can still pay your traffic ticket online, view all live Police and Fire calls, view a list of arrestees in the Ferris jail, and access our Library online. This area allows you to search what books are available at our Library (even see if a particular book is checked out and when it's due to be returned).

Some up and coming features that will be located in the e-Services area soon will be the ability to sign up for city alerts such as approaching bad weather sent directly to your smart phone through text, email, or a phone call, the ability to listen to all Police and Fire calls online and on your smart phone, and listen to live broadcasts of our City Council meetings.

I hope you enjoy these new features and, as always, if you have any questions, or need to get a hold of me, feel free to call me at 972.842.2752 or visit me at the Finance building at 104 S. Central.

From the desk of Chuck Dart – Economic Development Director



The City of Ferris **Façade Improvement Program** officially kicks off in July. Designed to help revitalize our historic downtown, the program offers matching grants for building owners who improve their qualified properties while adhering to design guidelines. The grant money is provided by the 4B EDC Board. So far, seven buildings are in the queue for grants of up to \$5,000 each. ~ **City Board Applications** are now available. Youths, grades 9 - 12, are encouraged to apply! See cityofferris.org for details. ~ **Historical Structure Note Cards** are available at Ferris City Hall, the City of Ferris Finance building, and at area businesses. Twelve unique cards (shown at right), hand drawn by Ferris High School students, are included in each pack for only \$12. Proceeds will fund coloring books for McDonald Elementary students. A nice Christmas gift! ~ The **2011 Brick Festival**, sponsored by Ferris Main Street and the Ferris Downtown Association, drew about 1,700



people. The Saturday night **Brick Festival Street Dance** was a huge success, with entertainment supplied by the MidTown Playboys. The 5K run/walk, car show, music, food, vendors, and the brick history booth highlighted the event. ~ **J Houston Homes** is wrapping up four new spec homes in the Shaw Creek subdivision (pictured at left). Excellent schools, close proximity to downtown Dallas, and an absence of housing inventory prompted the first new home starts in several years.



Follow **Ferris Main Street** on Facebook



100 Town Plaza

Ferris, Texas 75125



PLEASE VISIT US
ONLINE:
www.cityofferris.org

Did you know?

WEEKLY BRUSH LIST

For your convenience, a residential brush/bulk waste pick up is available to you every Friday, free of charge. All you need to do is call City Hall and let them know the address of where the brush has been placed. Items such as tree limbs, large furniture, and appliances are acceptable. However, bio-hazardous items like TV's, wet paint, etc cannot be accepted. For service, please call 972.544.2110 or 972.842.5761 .

MOWING AND ALLEYWAYS

Every property owner is responsible for mowing their half of the alleyway behind their own property. Actually, mowing your lot should include the entire perimeter of your lot - everything from corner to corner, ditches, out to the roadway. In addition to keeping the alleyway mowed, the property owner is also responsible for keeping their section of the alley free from debris, trash, etc. For more info, please call City Hall.