

April - June 2013  
Volume 6, Issue 2

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## Bill Pardue, Mayor



Spring has sprung and I believe everyone is in high spirits. I am very fortunate to serve as Mayor in this great City. As citizens of Ferris, I think we should all take a step back to put into perspective how far this City has come. We are moving in a positive direction for growth yet still have that small town charm.

I am proud to announce that for the second straight year Ferris Main Street received recognition from the National Main Street Organization. I appreciate those of you that take pride in this community. We would not be where we are now if it wasn't for you all.



City Hall is now taking applications for all boards, commissions, and committees within the City. Becoming a member is a great way to meet others and to enjoy the satisfaction of helping to build your community. Applications are due to City Secretary, Pat Bradley, by June 28, 2013. More information can be found on our website, [www.cityofferris.org](http://www.cityofferris.org). Congratulations are in order to 3 of our incumbent office holders. Jay Walsh, Micheal Driggars, and Carol Wright have been declared unopposed and re-elected for a two year term. Therefore, the City will not hold an election on May 11, 2013.



*Pictured L to R:*  
Jay Walsh  
Micheal Driggars  
Carol Wright

## Kathy Harrington, Librarian



The Judge Grace McKnight book collection has been entered into the Ferris Public Library's automated system, so you may search our catalog on-line by going to the City's website [cityofferris.org](http://cityofferris.org) or [ferrispubliclibrary.org](http://ferrispubliclibrary.org). Our patrons and community members are welcome to visit the Judge Grace Campbell McKnight Genealogy Room during our normal business hours. Mrs. Margie Hartis has dutifully worked with the library's staff on this project and is a tremendous source of information on the history of Ferris.

The Library will continue our after-school Game Time on Tuesdays and Story Time every Thursday until the end of May. We have an exciting Summer Reading Club starting in June, full of fun and educational programs. Look for a complete list of events and activities in your child's end-of-school-year packet. You can stay connected with the Library by becoming a "fan" on our Facebook page.



For our E-book readers we offer Adobe and Kindle e-books and MP3 Audio books for a two week lending period. You must be a current member of the Ferris Library to access this service. For information on any of the benefits we offer call 972/544-3696, email: [kathy.harrington@ci.ferristx.us](mailto:kathy.harrington@ci.ferristx.us) or visit us at 301 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9AM-6PM, Saturday 10AM-2PM.

## Scott Mitchell, Fire Chief



With the arrival of spring comes new interest in outdoor activities. This is a great time to spruce up around the house while removing potential fire hazards that could impact your home during the summer fire season. Removing dead vegetation and cutting high grass not only improves the appearance of your home but also protects it from potential damage or worse!

Currently there is not a burn ban in effect, but if our normal spring rains do not occur the County Commissioners may re-instate the ban on outdoor burning. The City website as well as the Ellis County website is good sources for burn ban information. Enjoy the nice weather and outdoor activities, but always stay aware of potential bad weather as well as fire conditions. Have a safe and enjoyable spring season.



We want to make everyone aware of an information service available to Texas residents. It is called "211 Texas". It is a free help line answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 2-1-1 Texas is connected to nearly every service in the state, including government agencies, food pantries, career services, after-school programs, counseling services and many other state and local resources. Lots more information is on the web at [www.211texas.org](http://www.211texas.org)

## Melissa Garcia, Director of Finance



I want to thank Cynthia Sanchez for all of her hard work juggling between the court and water department. She has done such a tremendous job training the new court clerks and helping me through the court software conversion while still making improvements for the water department.

**Thank You!**

I would also like to welcome Lizzy Gentry our Court Bailiff Officer back from maternity leave. Congratulations on her new baby girl, Makayla Renesmee Gentry!



Please help us welcome our two new court clerks to the City. Denise Jantes became a court clerk in February of last year. In her position as court clerk, Denise says, "I am proud to say that the court has taken new steps in

a positive direction. We are always taking steps to improve our service to the community." Denise is a very hard worker and makes sure the job is done right.



Morgan Massey started working in the Court in February of this year, after working as a teller at Commercial State Bank in Ferris. Morgan states, "I am very grateful for this opportunity to be employed as a court clerk. I am looking forward to furthering my

career with the City of Ferris." Morgan is a fast learner and stepped right in with no problems, she has been such a great help since she has started working with us.

## Cynthia Sanchez, Customer Service



Water customers! If you do not receive a bill in the mail, it is your responsibility to call the Water Department. Failure to receive a bill or second notice will not relieve the customer of the responsibility of timely payment of the account and will not negate any fees or penalties due.



You can conveniently pay your water bill each month by having it drafted directly from your bank account. Contact the Finance Department at 972-842-2752 and ask about the Automatic Bank Draft Program. It is absolutely free!



**Pay your water bill online via the City website!**

## Sam Love, Police Chief



Spring and summer are coming fast. With the last day of school being June 6<sup>th</sup>, please begin being careful of our kids being out and about more at various hours of the day and night during summer break.

The police department will be at the annual Brick Festival on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the downtown square. We will offer information on safety and crime prevention. We also like to have our citizens meet the officers.

We will have a ceremony to honor our officers who died in the line of duty at the Ferris Police Memorial in Town Square during Brick Festival on Saturday, April 27 around noon. An announcement will be made at the event about the time.

We want to honor two officers who lost their life in the line of duty in Ferris, Ferris Patrolman Harry Marvin "Marty" Steinfeldt, III, end of watch: Sunday, October 6, 2002, who was shot and killed while responding to a fight at a gas station in Ferris and Ellis County Constable James Ben Wicker end of watch: Wednesday, October 10, 1962, who succumbed to gunshot wounds received three weeks earlier when he was shot after responding to a shots fired call at a cafe in Ferris, Texas

We will observe Police Memorial Week May 12 thru 18. Information about the observance on a national level and in Washington, D.C. is available at web site <http://www.policeweek.org/>

The Ellis County Observance will be held in Waxahachie, TX this year at a date and time to be announced. For more information, call Ferris PD at 972/544-2233.



We and area police agencies are investigating a lot of trailer thefts. A major hindrance to recovering the trailers is that a lot of them do not have serial numbers stamped on them. We encourage owners of any trailer to get a serial number assigned by the Texas Dept. of Transportation and/or stamp their driver's license number on the front part of the trailer in the form of "TX12345678".

We have a new Neighborhood Crime Watch group for the East of I45 area. If you want to participate, contact Chief Sam Love or Investigator Walter Weiss at the Police Department. We also continue to invite citizens to join us in setting up crime watch groups in different areas of the city. Our Shaw Creek, North Central and E. of I45 groups help us stay in touch with things that we need to address.

To access The Ferris Police Department will continue to do our best at crime prevention and making Ferris a safe place. With the help of our citizens keeping us informed we can better accomplish this goal. Call 911 for any emergency or urgent need. Our Office number is 972/544-2225.

## Dennis Burn, Public Works Director Interim City Manager



With the rain we have been receiving and warmer weather approaching, we have begun our mowing efforts throughout the City. This will be an on-going effort throughout the year. It is now time for you to also start mowing your property to help keep not only your property looking nice but to help beautify our community.

We have begun the process of preparing a master plan for the City. The master plan will address our water and sanitary sewer systems, our thoroughfares, drainage and land use. This will be a helpful tool to plan for future growth and to address problems we may have now.

Last week we installed soil conditioner to the infields of our two baseball fields. This greatly improves the playing surface and should enhance the fields maintenance.



Very soon letters will be sent out to properties that are in violation of various ordinances specifically high grass and weeds, junked vehicles, lack of house numbers and indoor furniture placed outside. There will be a period

allowed to correct any problems. After the time period has elapsed properties that continue to be in violation will be issued a citation. Please look around your property and begin the process of cleaning it up. If you get a letter regarding a Code Compliance issue, please do not think we are trying to be difficult. We merely want our City to shine. The City now has a Yard of the Month program. For more information, see page 9.

I would like to give a big thanks to Stephen Davidson. Stephen is our Code Compliance and Animal Control Officer. He takes pride in what he does and is an invaluable asset to the City. Stephen, thanks for all you do and for never saying “no”.

## Stephen Davidson, Animal Control



Did you know that pets must be registered with the City annually? Registering your pet only takes a few minutes and is only \$6.00 per pet. There is a short registration form that needs to be filled out and we will need to obtain a copy of the pet’s rabies vaccination.

If you are looking to adopt a pet, visit the “Ferris Animal Shelter” Facebook page. We keep the page updated with pets available for adoption. There is also a listing of LOST and FOUND pets.

If you have an animal control issue, call our police department at 972/544 -2225.

## 2013 Brick Festival

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

APRIL 27th

DON'T MISS A THING!

2013 FERRIS  
BRICKFEST  
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9am-6pm	VENDORS	MAIN STREET
9am-2pm	BRICK DECORATING CONTEST	TOWN PLAZA
10-10:30	BABY CRAWL RACE	PAVILION STAGE
10-4pm	PHOTO CONTEST	206 W. 6TH STREET
10-4pm	ART CONTEST	213 S. MAIN STREET
10-6pm	LIVESTOCK SHOW	5TH & MAIN STREET
10-3pm	MINI GOLF	PAVILION KID ZONE
10-3pm	MINI BOWLING	PAVILION KID ZONE
10:30-11:30	LIT MR. & MISS BRICKFEST CONTEST	PAVILION STAGE
11-4pm	PONY PHOTOS & RIDES	TOWN PLAZA
11-2pm	DUNK TANK	TOWN PLAZA
11-2pm	TREASURE HUNT	213 S. MAIN STREET
11:30-1pm	DOG SHOW CONTEST	PAVILION STAGE
12:30-1	BRICK PULL CONTEST	EAST SIDE OF PAVILION
1-1:30pm	BRICK THROW CONTEST	EAST SIDE OF PAVILION
1-3pm	HOOPS	PAVILION
1:30-4pm	HORSE SHOES	EAST SIDE OF PAVILION
2-4pm	RING TOSS	PAVILION
2:30-3	PARADE CARS, BAND, FLOATS, HORSES	F.I.S.D. 5TH STREET
3-6pm	CAR SHOW	6TH & MAIN STREET
3:30-4	TRIKE RACE	PAVILION
4-7pm	DANCE	PAVILION
4:45-5:15	AUCTION	PAVILION

# Chuck Dart, Economic Development



For the second year, Mutz Park will host Ferris Earth Day on Saturday, April 13 between 10 - 2pm. The event will include environmentally oriented science and art projects produced by FISSD students, eco-related booths, food and music. Concurrently, over 100 volunteers are signed up to help clean the creek under supervision of Boy Scout Troop 206.

Economic Development Sales Tax revenue is up a whopping 30% over last year. Funds are used to attract, keep and create jobs and to increase quality of life.

Located at Pecan and Weatherford Streets, Holley Park is getting a facelift. In addition to outdoor basketball courts and four covered picnic tables, the park has a functional baseball field with fencing, dugouts, and stands. In March, Waste Management planted about 25 new trees.



New Business Opening

Ferris Family Dental

454 FM 664, Ste B



Lease Signed

SNAP Fitness

454 FM 664, Ste F

The annual BrickFest, April 27, will expand to include a number of fun events, including a miniature livestock show, Charro riders, brick throw and sled pull, photo and art contests, brick decorating, dog show, car show, baby crawl, Little Mr. & Miss Ferris and dance. For the first time in years, there will be a BrickFest parade. See Ferris Downtown Association on Facebook or call Brian at (214) 245-8520.

Mutz Park now boasts 19 new trees thanks to Waste Management, the Park Board, and the City of Ferris Public Works. Redbud trees, which thrive in sub-canopy environments and produce colorful blooms in the spring, were planted along the creek. Shade producing Red Oaks were planted throughout the park.



Earth Day, April 13	Brick Festival, April 27
Race for the King 5K, May 4	Juneteenth, June 15



Ferris Main Street is on Facebook



Ferris Downtown Association is on Facebook

## Clean-Up Events

# Annual Spring Clean-Up Week

### **SPRING CLEAN UP WEEK –APRIL 8-12, 8 AM to 5 PM**

The City's annual Spring Clean-Up week is scheduled for Monday, April 8 through Friday, April 12 from 8 AM to 5 PM daily at 409 S Main Street (Public Works Facility). This event is limited to citizens residing within the Ferris City Limits.

Acceptable items include unwanted furniture, trash, tree limbs, and cans of dried paint. Unacceptable items for Clean-Up week include tires, batteries, computer monitors, wet paint, anything containing Freon, or any other bio-hazardous materials.

## Electronics Recycling

### **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING –APRIL 13, 10 AM to 2 PM**

The City of Ferris will host its first ever electronics recycling event on Saturday, April 13 from 10 AM to 2PM at 100 W Sixth Street (Downtown Pavilion). This event is sponsored by Waste Management and will provide a free, convenient and secure way to dispose of and recycle your residential electronic devices. The WM team will remove all acceptable electronic products from trunks or pick-up beds.

Acceptable items include Computers, monitors, computer peripherals, printers, fax machines, keyboards, photocopiers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, telephones, cell phones, and other consumer electronics. Unacceptable items for e-cycling include microwaves, smoke alarms and detectors, fire alarms and detectors, thermometers, dehumidifiers, and large appliances such as refrigerators and clothes washers.



## Yard of the Month



The City passed Resolution 142 last year approving an official City sponsored Yard of the Month program. We want to recognize those of you that keep your property well maintained and pleasing to the eye.

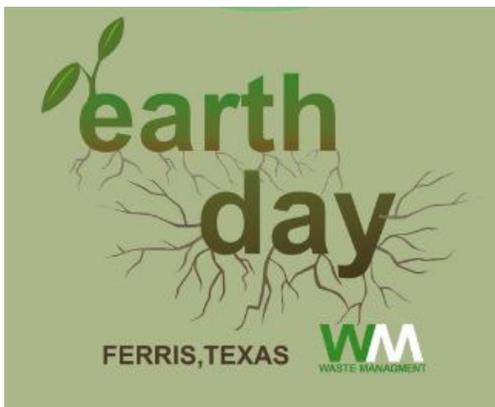
Nominations can be made by anyone! The winner will be determined by members of the City Council and will be given the official “Yard of the Month” sign to display in their yard the following month.

Nomination forms are available at the Finance Department, Library, and City Hall. Please return to Destiny Wright at City Hall no later than the 20th of the month. You can also submit your nomination on our website [www.cityofferris.org](http://www.cityofferris.org) Our next issue of the Newsletter will feature winners from the upcoming quarter.



## Earth Day

**Saturday April 13, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Mutz Park**



ART - MUSIC - FACE PAINTING - FOOD

FREecycle

RECYCLE GAMES

ORGANIC PRODUCTS

INGRAM UNIFORM EXCHANGE

**SEE THE FERRIS LONGHORNS AND PET ONE TOO!**

Presented by: City of Ferris Park Board, Ferris ISD, Boy Scout Troop 206  
Sponsored by: Waste Management



100 Town Plaza

Ferris, Texas 75125

WWW.CITYOFFERRIS.ORG

## Doug Childers, I.T. Director



Several months ago we started to look at a new design for our city logo. During this search we received several logo designs from individuals, professional design companies, and staff. At that time we posted 5 of those logos on survey monkey to get your opinion on which logo to move forward with. Out of all the logos presented the one below was by far the favorite among the choices. During the March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Council meeting the logo

below was officially voted in as the city's new logo. During the next month you will begin seeing this new logo replacing the old logo, which was the green color gazebo. In the new design we kept the gazebo as a watermark to remind us of our past also with the slogan that best described our city. I hope you enjoy this new logo, colors, and slogan. If you have any questions or need to get a hold of me, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Doug.childers@ci.ferristx.us

