



January - March 2014
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Bill Pardue, Mayor

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I hope that everyone had a **wonderful** holiday experience. I want to share with you a few items of interest that will begin taking shape as we go into the new year.

We are very pleased that four new homes will be built in the **Shaw Creek Ranch Subdivision** in 2014. The new homes will be built by Mango

Homes, a part of the East Texas Pinnacle Properties organization. Construction should begin in January.

The 5th Street Sidewalk project will begin construction in the **Spring of 2014**. These improvements will include new sidewalk and ADA ramps along the north side of 5th Street from Central to Church and along the south side from Main to the alley between Main and Church.

TxDot will begin performing **drainage improvements** in the drainage ditch along the west side of IH45 between 5th and 8th Streets and the ditches/drainage along both sides of Central at 8th.

The weather affected our last two community celebrations, Pioneer Day and Christmas on the Square. Pioneer Day did progress as planned but was hindered by a steady day of rain. Christmas on the Square did not happen at all due to the frigid and icy conditions. I really **appreciate** the efforts of all the volunteers and city staff that went in to both events.

There will be elections this year for three positions on the City Council. Those three positions are for Mayor, Alderman Place 1 and Alderman Place 4. Should you be interested in running, please come by City Hall and see the **City Secretary** for information.

Council Meetings

are held on the
1st & 3rd Monday
of each month.

215 w. Sixth St.
Ferris, TX 75125

Dennis Burn, City Manager



Now with the new year upon us I want to share a few **items of interest** with which we will be proceeding.

We have been awarded a grant for sanitary sewer improvements on several lines throughout the city. These improvements will consist of **improved** sewer mains and manholes. This will reduce the amount of water that flows into our lines thus lessening the amount of sewer we send to the TRA Ten Mile Creek wastewater treatment facility.

TxDot will begin the reconstruction of the two underpasses at IH45. These locations are 5th Street and 8th Street. The concrete pavement has deteriorated at these two locations and they are in need of improvement. This will greatly enhance drivability and improve **our image** with visitors.

Again this year we will undertake various paving and drainage improvements throughout the City. These improvements will enhance our ability to handle storm water runoff and will improve our paved surfaces.

Waste Management

Citizens residing within the Ferris **city limits** have the following options to dispose of trash:

- 1) Residential trash pickup is on **Monday and Thursday**. Each residence is provided a trash toter (green can with lid). Please roll your toter out to the curb by 7:00 A.M. to prevent a missed pickup. If your toter is damaged, please call 972-842-2752 to request a replacement.
- 2) **Bulky trash pickup** is on Friday. Items such as old mattresses, couches, brush and limbs can be placed at the curb for pickup. To be placed on the bulk trash pickup list, please call 972-544-2110 by Thursday.
- 3) Landfill passes are issued Monday through Friday at City Hall. With a **landfill pass**, the citizen can dispose of trash directly at the Waste Management facility. To obtain a landfill pass, stop by City Hall with your water bill or driver license.
- 4) **Recycling** is available at the Waste Management facility. Call 817-505-1352 for more information.

Currently, the above trash services are provided at **no cost** to our citizens!

Kathy Harrington, Library Director



Events for the upcoming months include: **National Belly Laugh Day** on January 24 - A contest where you can come and tell your funniest joke; **Take Your Child to the Library Day** on February 1 - Free library membership to non-resident children whose parents bring them to the Library and complete an application form; Movie Matinees during Spring Break.

Fax Free February will be held again this year for all employment related faxes. Black History Month will be celebrated in February and in March we celebrate Read Across America. Become a **fan** of the Library on our Facebook page and receive announcements on all of our programs and events.



The Ferris Public Library's **Zombie Zone** was enjoyed by nearly 100 children and adults. Our staff members are always trying out new programs for our children and teens and this one was a winner.



The Library is located at 301 E. 10th St. Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. For more information call 972-544-3696 or email: kathy.harrington@ci.ferristx.us.

Fire Chief

We have a new fire chief. **Tim Birdwell** is a lifelong resident of the area and has much valuable experience in firefighting, emergency management, code compliance and arson investigation. Please stop by the Fire Station and greet our new chief. We are all **very fortunate** to have him here.



Chuck Dart, Economic Development



Economic Development Web Page

Have you ever wondered what city boards do? What is the difference between the 4A EDC Board and the 4B EDC Board? What is the profile of Ferris? What has the Park Board accomplished? These and many other questions can be answered on the Economic Development tab of CityofFerris.org. There are over 50 volunteers serving on various boards. If you would like to participate, give me a call at 972-842-2923 to discuss involvement with one of the boards.

When it comes to reasons why people visit historic downtowns, “downtown parks” lead all other reasons when “shopping” would be the obvious choice. Does that sound odd? Today’s consumers want pleasant environments to spend time and money. The competition for the consumer dollar is fierce. Over the next few months we hope to find out what the people of Ferris want in their downtown, and what features people would enjoy and find most useful.

The **Fourth Annual Great Pumpkin Race 5K Run/Walk**, benefiting the Ferris Lions Club, raised over \$1,700 this year, a 35% increase over 2012. The Lions Club also raises funds with its annual broom sale and by hosting Pioneer Day. The club helps the community by providing no-cost vision care, contributions to North Ellis County Outreach, and scholarships for worthy Ferris High School graduating seniors. FHS Seniors should check with school counselors for rules and the 2014 essay due date .



Logo design modifications by Mrs. Hunters’ advanced art students Jose Mendoza and Robert Coronado .

2014 Events:

Earth Day, April 12
 Brick Festival, April 26
 Race for the King 5K, May 3
 Juneteenth, June 14
 Pioneer Day, October 4
 Great Pumpkin Race 5K, Oct 25
 Christmas on the Square, Dec 6
 Ferris TradesDay, every third Saturday



Local Facebook Pages

Ferris Animal Shelter
 Ferris Downtown Association
 Ferris Fire Department
 Ferris Garden Club
 Ferris ISD
 Ferris Main Street
 Ferris Park Board
 Ferris Public Library

Doug Childers, I.T. Director



With every New Year comes exciting changes and additions to our city's tech area. Around the 3rd week of January we will be launching our new **city app** that will give you direct access to city services and information at your fingertips. This new app will allow you to report issues, ask questions and pay for services. It also gives live access to our 911 CAD system for police and fire, as well as notification of emergencies that may occur in our city, tracking your service request status, and much more.

These **new features** will also be available on our newly developed website which is also set to launch at the same time this app is available. Over this last year we have had over 41,000 unique visitors to our city's website. That includes over **2.9 million page hits** in 2013!

Coming Soon

Launch date will be in January 2014!!

City of Ferris will have it's own app!

Made for iPod iPhone iPad

ANDROID Windows Phone BlackBerry



As I mentioned previously, we plan on launching our **newly designed** website around the 3rd week of January. The new website will contain all the information and interactive choices that we currently have on our website but it will contain a more extensive menu to help you find exactly what you are looking for in our city. It will also contain a **searchable** knowledge database that provides answers to your questions. Plus, the new design will reflect our city's new colors and our new logo that the City Council chose.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at doug.childers@ci.ferristx.us and thanks again for allowing me to serve our city.



100 Town Plaza

Ferris, Texas 75125

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-----City of Ferris Contact List-----Cut Here & Hang on your Refrigerator!-----City of Ferris Contact List-----



Contact List

Animal Control	972-544-2225
Building Official/Public Works Director	972-544-2965
City Hall	972-544-2110
Economic Development/Main Street Director	972-842-2923
Customer Service	972-842-2752
Fire Department (Non-Emergency)	972-842-2898
Library	972-544-3696
Municipal Court	972-544-2323
Police (Non-Emergency)	972-544-2233
Police (Emergency)	911
Senior Citizens	972-544-3071
Water Department	972-842-2786