

April - June 2014
Volume 7, Issue 2

WWW.CITYOFFERRIS.ORG

Bill Pardue, Mayor

In this issue

-1-

Mayor

-2-

City Manager

Library Director

-3-

Fire Chief

-4-

Economic Development

-5-

I.T. Director

Public Works

-6-

City Contact List



Pat Bradley began her employment with the City of Ferris on 12-24-1986 as a relief dispatcher, on rotating shifts, for the Police Department. In 1987 she attended Cedar Valley College police academy and received her certification as a police officer. She worked as a reserve police officer for approximately five years. In 1989 she attended EMT training and gained certification as an EMT for serving on the ambulance.

She continued working with Police and Fire Departments until April of 1990 when she transferred into Public Works as the water clerk. Other duties in this position were tax collection and issuing building permits. She continued in that position until April of 2005 when she was appointed City Secretary. She remains in that role until her retirement on May 30, 2014.

Pat has been the face of city hall for numerous years. She was the one that you first met when coming into city hall to conduct business. She always treated anyone coming in with courtesy and had a customer service attitude to try to resolve any issue the customer had while strictly adhering to the policy of the city. She loves the City of Ferris and its residents and has served them in the highest professional manner possible. She has made many friends during her career with the City. Her retirement will leave a huge hole in the area of institutional knowledge gained over her career. This is a big loss for city government and cannot be replaced.



Pat will be on the job, as normal, until the end of May 2014. Please take the opportunity to drop by City Hall and thank her for her years of service and caring for the citizens of Ferris and wish her well in her retirement. What a wonderful Christmas present she was to the City of Ferris on that Christmas Eve 28 years ago.

Council Meetings

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

215 w. Sixth St.
Ferris, TX 75125

Dennis Burn, City Manager



We have recently approved a new fee schedule. This fee schedule replaces the one we had in place back in 2005. This new fee schedule establishes permit fees for new home construction, commercial development and remodeling. Please remember that if you plan on building a new house, remodeling your existing house, adding a carport or storage building or building a new fence you will need a permit. Come by City Hall to apply for a permit and we will explain the process to you.

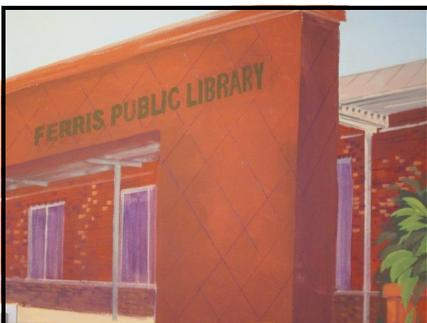
Very soon there will be a new sidewalk constructed on both sides of 5th street here in the downtown area. The old sidewalk will be removed and a new sidewalk with upgraded ADA ramps will be installed. This will be a great improvement to the City and will enhance pedestrian foot traffic in the area.

Also, very soon, new sanitary sewer lines will be installed around the City by a method called "pipe bursting". Pipe bursting allows the installation of new sewer lines through the existing lines without digging a trench. These new lines will improve our overall flow by reducing inflow and infiltration.

As you know from the Mayor's Message, Pat Bradley our City Secretary, is retiring. On a personal note, I have known Pat for only two years. I can tell you that she is a wonderful lady and has always been there for me. Pat, I will miss you.

Kathy Harrington, Library Director

SAVE THE DATE!! On Saturday, May 17th, the Ferris Public Library will be hosting our Open House/Mural Unveiling from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Artist, Jerry Giles, has been capturing Ferris' past history and present day accomplishments on the walls of the Library. Each day he adds another feature and it looks great. This event will be formally announced in April. Please plan to come, RSVP, and enjoy an adult evening.



At the Library we never forget the children!

Our Summer Reading Program will begin on Wednesday, June 18th. A schedule of events and educational programming will be in your child's end-of-school-year-packet and available at the Library. Teen Time will be held on Fridays starting June 20th.

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

Tim Birdwell, Fire Chief

I would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to all who came by the fire station to say hello and wish me good luck as the new Fire Chief for the City of Ferris, Texas. It has been so nice to see so many old friends and make new ones as well.



We have a new fire engine at the station and her name rightfully so is “The Brick House”, she is a beautiful 2013 Metro Fire Apparatus. This engine replaced our old 1994 Boardman pumper, “White Lightning”. This apparatus is equipped with the latest technology for firefighting capabilities. Next time you see her coming down the road see if you can find the yellowjacket emblems on her. The Ferris Fire Department would like to thank our Fire Commissioners from Emergency Services District # 5 for the purchase of this piece of apparatus. These individuals are an outstanding group that works hard for all the citizens



within Emergency Services District # 5 to provide the best emergency service possible. ESD # 5 meetings are held monthly at fire station 2, located at 101 Ewing, Ferris Texas, usually around the 10th and agendas are placed at Ferris City Hall, Fire Station 1, and Fire station 2. Please attend and see how they are working to protect you.

We are currently into the spring season and with this we have to be prepared for all sorts of severe weather. It is important to remind citizens that we have Early Warning Sirens placed throughout the city. The one most important point to remember is that the Early Warning Sirens are for those people who are outside, this alerts them to the fact that they need to take immediate cover inside a safe structure in the event of tornados, large hail, and winds over 80 mph. Any severe weather alerts reported by the news channels should have close attention paid to them. It is a good idea to purchase a weather radio as well. Weather radios can be purchased reasonably at most hardware stores, Radio Shack, and Walmart. It is also significant to stay tuned into your local TV channels for current severe weather updates. Remember any small room within your home, away from exterior walls will be the safest place to take cover if faced with a tornado event. It is also a good idea to have a “go kit” ready for any emergency in which you may have to evacuate.

I want to remind everyone to be sure and register with our ambulance provider CareFlite. The Emergency Service District # 5 has paid for citizens within the City of Ferris and the ESD # 5 an annual ambulance subscription for everyone. The number to register is (877) 339-2273. Another way ESD # 5 is providing assistance to the district with the tax monies they are receiving.

In closing, please come by the fire station anytime. I’m located at 203 S. Church, Ferris Texas. Anyone is welcome to come by and take a tour of the fire station, fire apparatus, or just to talk.

Tim Birdwell
Fire Chief

Ferris Fire Department
“Brick Tempered Pride”

Chuck Dart, Economic Development



The City installed thirteen (13) new way-finding signs designed to help visitors get to common destinations. This was a **Main Street project** intended to help commerce in historic downtown. Additional destinations were added.



Ferris Main Street will next investigate ways to get people off of the Interstate and into our local businesses.

Ferris welcomes Huntsville-based **Empire Truss** as it expands into the DFW market. Choosing the former Gatlin Cabinet plant in Ferris as its second home, they will employ 25 people initially and as many as 50 later. Welcome Empire Truss!



Mango Homes began building in Shaw Creek, a subdivision that, like many, experienced slow growth due to foreclosures. Now the home market is heating up all over Ellis County. Mango intends to partner with a mortgage lender to make speedy, red-tape-free loans. Homes are in the 1,400 - 1,800 square foot range.

Construction on the **W. Fifth Street sidewalks** between Church and Main will begin this spring. The Texas Capital Fund grant can be attributed to Ferris Main Street and its recognition by the state organization. Look for completion by end of summer.



Ferris City **Public Works** did a bang up job painting the curbs in downtown Ferris. Amazing what a coat of paint will do!

Spring 2014 Events:

Earth Day, April 12
Brick Festival, April 26
Race for the King 5K, May 3
Juneteenth, June 14

City Facebook Pages

Ferris Animal Shelter
Ferris Fire Department
Ferris Main Street
Ferris Park Board
Ferris Public Library

Doug Childers, I.T. Director

I want to thank all those who were our beta testers for our city's mobile app. During the last months we have enhanced our app tremendously and we are now ready to announce its full release for the Apple and Androids phones and the Apple iPad. Below is a list of features:



* *Pay your water bill and traffic tickets*

* *View Job Openings, Newsletters, and all Agendas*

* *View live Police calls, Fire/Ambulance calls, and Arrests*

* *View the city Calendar*

* *Ask a Question or make a request which will be directed to appropriate department*

* *Track your request to see the progress*

* *Find an answer to your questions*

* *Contacts at a glance with all the phone numbers for every service that can be called by one click*

* *Get eBooks directly from our Library*

* *View 7 day weather forecast. We have teamed up with WFAA channel 8 for the latest forecast for Ferris*

* *Request any form and email it or print it directly from our app*

Thanks again for allowing me to serve our city!

Doug.Childers@ci.ferristx.us



Charles Brewer, Director of Public Works

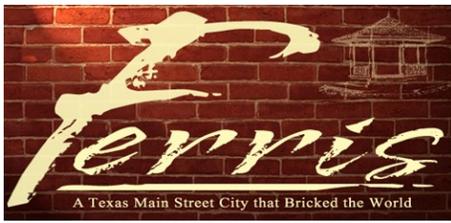


Since joining the City as its new Public Works Director on September 3, 2013, I can proudly say that the City's Department of Public Works has taken the lead to ensure that its program services are being provided to the citizens and businesses of the city in a timely and cost efficient manner. My staff and I have accomplished several tasks in order to ensure that everyone receives safe drinking water and can drive safely over our city streets. We have also successfully completed several work assignments in order to improve the overall appearance of this city. Some of the work assignments that have successfully been completed since September 2013 are:

1. Trimming of low hanging tree limbs in the Downtown area and in Mutz Memorial Park.
2. Painting raised curbs and ADA access ramps within the Downtown area.
3. Replacing inoperable submersible wastewater pumps at the City's FM 660 Lift Station.
4. Repairing a collapsed section of wastewater line within S. Mabel Street.
5. Repairing water main leaks on FM 664 (at Shaw Creek) and behind the Methodist Church on Redbud Street.
6. Repairing a broken section of stormwater drainage pipe along the south side right-of-way of E. 8th Street.
7. Contacting TxDOT in order to bring TxDOT crews to the city to clean out the high weeds and vegetation overgrowth within the open stormwater drainage channel along the southbound I45 frontage road (between E. 5th Street and E. 8th Street).

My staff and I will continue to be proactive in order to make the city of Ferris one of the best cities to live, work and play.



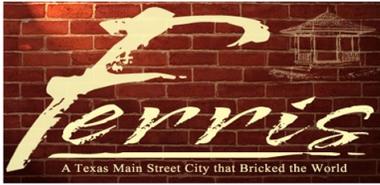


100 Town Plaza

Ferris, Texas 75125

WWW.CITYOFFERRIS.ORG

-----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