

July-September 2015  
Volume 8, Issue 3

[WWW.FERRISTX.ORG](http://WWW.FERRISTX.ORG)

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## Micheal Driggars, Mayor

As everyone knows we have been experiencing extremely wet weather this Spring and it has been very helpful to alleviate our severe drought conditions but it has also hurt us in other ways. It has caused delays and damages to our newly constructed soccer fields which has prolonged the completion of the project. The fields will be completed by the middle of summer but will not be ready to play on until the beginning of 2016. The turf needs time to establish prior to having activities on it and causing damage to them that it can't recover from. We will be able to then turn over the fields to the youth soccer association to start competition in Spring of 2016.

The Yellow Jacket Trail design and planning is under way but there have been several unforeseen obstacles that have posed us many challenges. The right of way on each side of FM660 (8<sup>th</sup> street) is not wide enough to install a ten (10) foot wide multi-use trail due to the elevation changes from the roadway to the drainage ditches and utility pole conflicts. To be able to construct it we will be working with the land owners on the south side of FM660 (8<sup>th</sup> street) to grant the City an easement to install the new multi-use trail. This trail will not only benefit the students from the Ferris High School and Junior High School but also any person that would like to use it for exercise, the City is already exploring ways to connect it to the existing walking path at Mutz Park.

*I would like to wish everyone a fun and safe  
July 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day holiday!*

## Council Meetings

are held  
at 6:00pm  
on the

**1st & 3rd Monday**

of each month

@ 215 w. Sixth St.

Ferris, TX 75125

You can now view the City of Ferris annual water quality report online at  
[www.ferristx.org/forms/2014CCR.pdf](http://www.ferristx.org/forms/2014CCR.pdf)

*This report contains important information about the  
source and quality of your drinking water.  
Please call 972/842-2752 if you would like a paper report.*

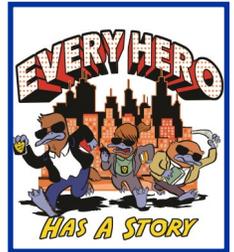
*Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable.  
Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien  
que lo entienda.*



## Kathy Harrington, Library Director



At the time of this publication the Ferris Public Library's Summer Reading Program "Every Hero Has a Story" will be in full swing. We have enjoyed learning about everything from the science behind bubbles to zoology. There is still time to join in on the fun! *Xtreme Nertainment* will be here on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11:00AM with an entertaining show highlighting the Fourth of July, America's Independence Day. On the following Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, *Marty the Magician* will be here at 11:00AM with his magical bag of tricks.



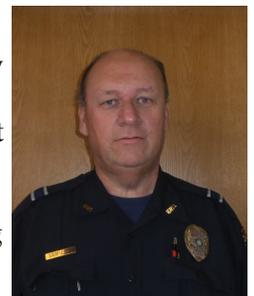
All reading logs are due by Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, to be eligible for the top reader's prize drawing. The children who have turned in reading logs have their names added, by age group, for the drawing at the end of our Summer Reading Program. This year we are holding the Finale Party for the "Every Hero Has a Story" Reading Club on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 11:00AM – 1:00PM. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers for volunteering and spending time with some of our favorite patrons, the young citizens of Ferris. Your time and effort has contributed in making this program a success. Children can earn a free ticket to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus by reading 5 books. The circus will be in Dallas at the American Airlines Center from July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>th</sup> and in Ft. Worth, August 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Ft. Worth Convention Center. Up to three children can get in free with one paid adult. You can pick up the coupon here and exchange it for a ticket at the box office. We also have free children's tickets for LegoLand and Grapevine's SeaLife Aquarium. These tickets are one free child's admission with a paid adult ticket.

When it's time for school supplies, stop by the Library for the supply list for Ferris ISD students. We are happy to give you a copy at no charge.

**The Ferris Public Library is located at 301 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street.**  
**Open: Tuesday - Friday 9:00AM – 6:00PM; Saturdays 10:00AM – 2:00PM.**  
**Contact us at 972-544-3696 or email [Kathy.Harrington@ci.ferristx.us](mailto:Kathy.Harrington@ci.ferristx.us).**

## Sam Love, Police Chief

A reminder about The City of Ferris emergency notification system, called [CodeRED](#), to notify citizens about severe weather threats and other urgent notifications. This system notifies the community via telephone of any potential impending event that might affect the safety of our citizens. When we launch this notification system it calls all landline telephones in the city of Ferris and cell phones that have been registered with the system via the website. It plays a recorded message alerting the person answering the phone that there may be potentially dangerous weather or other hazards affecting Ferris. It also displays a message on any phone with a telecommunications device (TDD) for the hearing impaired.



**Opt-in to Get the Call:** You should go to our city website, <http://cityofferris.org>, and find the link to sign up and register your phone number(s). You may also go to <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFB7CC4C6C0A>. We suggest you register your wireless phone numbers too. If you do not have a computer you may use one of our public use computers at the Ferris Public Library. If you need any help getting signed up and registered please call Chief Sam Love at the police department.

We are still using the warning sirens located throughout the city for those who may not be near a telephone when we need to make a notification about tornadoes or severe weather with high wind and/or hail. We test them the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of each month at 2:00 PM except days that are cloudy or raining.

**School is out** so please be more attentive to children out during the day.

**Remember school with restart in late August** when we will need to be aware of children walking, crossing streets and more vehicle traffic.

We still need more Neighborhood Crime Watch Groups in various areas of town. We have one in Shaw Creek and North Ferris now. These groups learn how to detect crime, watch their neighborhoods and how various parts of police services work. Please call the police department and talk with Investigator "Gator" Weiss for information.

Visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/FerrisTexasPoliceDepartment?rf=166041396748459>

We are here "Serving the Needs of Our Community".

If you need any more information please call Sam Love, Chief of Police, at 972/544/2225.

## Tim Birdwell, Fire Chief

**FERRIS  
FIRE  
RESCUE**

Summer has arrived! Please be safe as you enjoy summer activities. Be sure and use personal floatation devices (life jackets) when participating in water activities, especially around area ponds and lakes. Remember to tell the children it is important to always have a swim buddy alongside them whenever they go swimming. Equally important is to know Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).



Both the paid personnel and volunteer firefighters have been busy this spring and summer checking fire hydrants and placing blue hydrant markers on the city streets. The blue hydrant markers will assist the crews in identifying where the fire hydrants are located within the city and are also reflective which helps at night locating fire hydrants when needed. Thus far this year the volunteer firefighters have put in over 15,000 man hours to help protect the citizens of Ferris and ESD # 5. These individuals are an outstanding group who have placed service to the public as their number one priority. Please remember as a fund raiser they are promoting and selling reflective address number signs for a price of \$15.00. Stop by the fire station and get yours today. We need to be able to find you in order to help you. Please make sure you have a visible address number on your residence that can be seen from the street.

Equally important are smoke detectors, every home should have them. We still have a supply of them at the fire department for free. However, the fire department must install them to be sure they are mounted in the proper positions and are working correctly. Also after the free smoke detector installation if you would like a free home fire inspection we will be more than happy to go over any home hazards we might find. If you know of someone who needs a smoke detector please notify us at 972-842-2898 or leave a message. We want to get these detectors in every home of the service area we protect.

We would also like to congratulate our new council members, Carol Wright, Bobby Lindsey, and Jay Walsh, mayor pro tem. We look forward to working with these council members to make Ferris a safer place to live.

Please take the time to stop by and ask for a tour of the fire station and fire equipment anytime. I feel that it is important for the citizens to know what they have in place for their protection. Equally important is that the Ferris City Council members and the Fire Commissioners of Emergency Services District # 5 are working together to make Ferris and the surrounding community a lot safer.

Tim Birdwell  
Fire Chief  
Ferris Fire Department  
*"Brick Tempered Pride"*



# Chuck Dart, Economic Development

## Veterans Memorial



Plans are underway for a Veterans Memorial by the pavilion facing W. Sixth Street. Privately funded by an anonymous benefactor, the sculpture will honor all five branches of the military. The Dallas-based sculptor will obtain TxDOT and Union Pacific permissions and provide the design and construction services. The 4B Economic Development Corporation has agreed to fund pavilion facade improvements to enhance the memorial. City Council voted to accept the gift which will be complete by Veterans Day.

Watch for the new Patriotic banners in downtown Ferris!

## Strategic Plan



The City of Ferris began its first strategic planning process in March. Eighteen people representing a broad spectrum of residents, business people, and local officials participated. The process starts with a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis and results in a set of priorities for the future. The plan will be presented to City Council this summer.

## Mixing It Up

Economic Development focus should increase after recent changes approved by City Council. Previously two city council members sat on the Main Street Board, which focuses on downtown, while no members belonged to either the 4A Economic Development Corporation (EDC) or 4B EDC Board. Council approved reducing Main Street by one member, freeing a council person to serve on an EDC board.



## Fall Events

Have you ever wanted the satisfaction of helping others while meeting some great folks? Ferris area events are being planned now!

**Pioneer Day**, October 3

**Great Pumpkin 5K Run/Walk**, October 31

## Doug Childers, I.T. Director

There is so much being put out on social media and we have grown accustomed to get our news and information almost instantly. With that said I wanted to list all the ways that our city is meeting those needs in the hope of getting more accurate information to you in the quickest manner. Of course, there is our city web site that is ferristx.org. This site is updated on a weekly basis or as needed. Our site has a wealth of information and interactive apps in the effort to give you the most information possible about our city. Also, our city has a facebook page that also has information about our city. This page is listed below along with many other department facebook pages which tell more details of up and coming events in those departments. Please note that the pages below are the only authorized pages that are linked to the City of Ferris. There are many others that have the Ferris name in them but they are not an authorized city page. To give even more up to the minute news I am adding a live feed connecting our twitter account to our web site. If you have a twitter account please follow us @cityofferris or go to our city web-site and see the current twitter feed there.



The links below are available on our website:

City of Ferris Official Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/cityofferris">https://www.facebook.com/cityofferris</a>
Ferris Animal Shelter	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ferrisanimalshelter">https://www.facebook.com/ferrisanimalshelter</a>
Ferris Fire Department	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ferris.firedept">https://www.facebook.com/ferris.firedept</a>
Ferris Police Department	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/FerrisTexasPoliceDepartment">https://www.facebook.com/FerrisTexasPoliceDepartment</a>
Ferris Main Street	Search for Ferris Main Street
Ferris Park Board	Search for Ferris Park Board
Ferris Public Library	Search for Ferris Public Library



Doug Childers  
 Doug.Childers@ci.ferristx.us  
 Information Technology Administrator  
 100 Town Plaza 972-544-2110

## Bill Jordan, Chief Building Official



**RAIN! RAIN! RAIN!** We are finally out of drought conditions and the grass is growing! Be sure to help keep down snakes, rats, and insects by keeping all your property mowed below 10 inches. Also, anything that holds water is a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes.

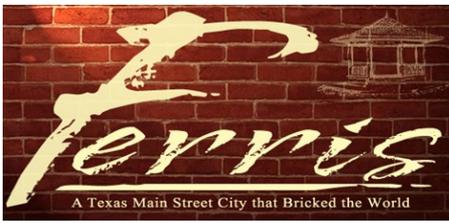
To reduce your chances of being bit, be sure to remember the **4 Ds**:

**Drain** all free standing water. Mosquitos LOVE free standing water. The murkier the better. It is their favorite breeding ground. Check flower pots, bird baths, swimming pools, gutters, drain pipes. Drain or clean out anywhere water collects.

**Dress** in long sleeves and long pants. Easier said than done in 100 degree Texas heat but the reality is mosquitos only bite skin they can reach. Maybe opt for longer shorts and wear socks and tennis shoes instead of sandals.

**Dusk (and Dawn)** is the mosquitos' favorite time of day so take extra precautions if the kids go outside during these times of the day.

**DEET** Use insect repellent. DEET has been tested and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Remember you only want to apply repellents to exposed skin or clothing and avoid contact with your eyes and mouth. DEET concentrations vary from product to product from less than 10 to more than 30 percent. The higher the concentration the longer lasting the repellent.

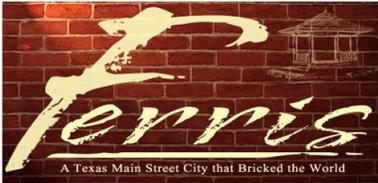


100 Town Plaza

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

<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>972-544-2225</b>
<b>Building Official</b>	<b>972-544-2965</b>
<b>City Hall</b>	<b>972-544-2110</b>
<b>Economic Development/Main Street Director</b>	<b>972-842-2923</b>
<b>Customer Service</b>	<b>972-842-2752</b>
<b>Fire Department (Non-Emergency)</b>	<b>972-842-2898</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>972-544-3696</b>
<b>Municipal Court</b>	<b>972-544-2028</b>
<b>Police (Non-Emergency)</b>	<b>972-544-2225</b>
<b>Police (Emergency)</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Senior Citizens</b>	<b>972-544-3071</b>
<b>Water Department/Public Works</b>	<b>972-842-2752</b>