



October-December 2015  
Volume 8, Issue 4

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

### In this issue

-1-

Mayor/City Manager

-2-

Library Director

Building Official

-3-

Fire Chief

-4-

Economic Development

-5-

I.T. Director

Press Release

### Council Meetings

are held  
at 6:00pm  
on the  
**1st & 3rd Monday**  
of each month  
@ 215 w. Sixth St.  
Ferris, TX 75125



## Micheal Driggars, Mayor



I would like to welcome Mr. Carl Sherman to the City of Ferris. Mr. Sherman was appointed by Council as the new City Manager on July 16, 2015. Mr. Sherman has been a community advocate for many years, both as an elected official and a private citizen. First elected to the DeSoto City Council in 2006, his fellow council members elected him as mayor pro-tem in 2008 and 2009. Prior to serving on the City Council, Sherman served as the SPAC chairman of the city's \$32 million general obligation bond in 2003, which voters overwhelmingly approved. Sherman also serves as an executive member of the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition Board and the TEX-21 Subsidiary of River of Trade, Agile Port and Trans-Texas Corridor.

Sherman has served the community in many other capacities, again as the first African-American in the position. Some of these positions include president of the DeSoto Rotary Club, board chairman of the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce (2006) chairman of the business and government affairs committee (2002), and board chairman of the Best Southwest Chamber of Commerce (2007). The Best Southwest Chamber is comprised of the mayors of the four partner cities - DeSoto, Cedar Hill, Duncanville and Lancaster – and the associate cities of Ferris, Glen Heights, Hutchins, Midlothian, Ovilla, Red Oak and Wilmer.

Sherman also has more than two decades of experience as an entrepreneur and businessman. In 2003, as a visionary 35-year old chairman and CEO, he navigated eTel-charge.com, Inc. onto Wall Street, where it traded on both the U.S. NASDAQ and the Frankfurt exchange in Europe.

Sherman has received several honors for his leadership and commitment to innovation, including AT&T Corporation's Alex Award for his patent application and recognition as one of the Dallas Urban League's "Most Promising Leaders of the 21st Century".

In 2007, Sherman accepted the call of the ministry to serve in God's Kingdom and became an ordained minister, after serving as bishop for two years. Today, he pastors two congregations as the senior minister of the Church of Christ in both Hutchins and Wilmer.

# WELCOME



## Kathy Harrington, Library Director



The Ferris Public Library had a fantastic and busy summer. During our Summer Reading Program we learned about everything from the science behind bubbles to the study of zoology. The Library was visited by 7,769 people in June, July, and August and 2,990 meals were served during this period. We send a huge THANK YOU to the following local businesses who contributed to the success of the 2015 Summer Reading Program: Dairy Queen, Ferris Donuts, Fresh Food Plus/Southern Maid Donuts, Fruit Stand, Javier's, and the Ellis County Press. Also, our appreciation to the Ferris Police and Fire Departments for the great job they did presenting their Safety Awareness Program. Congratulations to the top readers, pictured below!



The Library will be offering free adult computer classes during the weeks of October 20<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>. For a schedule of times and topics, call us at 972-544-3696. As always, we are happy to assist you anytime with any basic computer help you may need.



During the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks from school we will be holding Movie Matinees on the large screen in the Aubrey Trussell Memorial Meeting Room. To stay in touch with all the Library's programs and events visit our Facebook page or see our article in the Ellis County Press.



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).

## Bill Jordan, Chief Building Official



Summer is coming to an end and we should start hearing the sound of.....Hammers! Maybe the season doesn't have much to do with new homes, but construction is picking up. Endeavor Wall Homes has already been issued permits to build new homes in the Shaw Creek Subdivision, with about 100 total new homes planned. There has been new home construction near downtown and in the South Meadows subdivision as well. The secret may be out that Ferris is a great place to live!



## Tim Birdwell, Fire Chief

Fall is about to arrive with a hopeful reduction in the hot temperatures! But even with some of the rain the area has received and the cooler temperatures, the outdoor fire danger is still extremely high. Ellis County has the outdoor burn ban until further notice due to this hazard level. Outdoor burning is still prohibited in the area. Please remember just because it may have rained a couple of days ago, it still does not mean you can burn. Until the Commissioners Court of Ellis County end the burn ban it is still effective. Be sure and visit their web site for further information on the burn ban.



Again this year the firefighters displayed their pride and ownership in the department and America by going out and lining up the fire equipment on 9-11 and waving the American flag over I.H 45. I have received many positive comments from local citizens as well as commuters passing through extending their appreciation for this display. The volunteer's firefighters have done this since that dreadful day back in 2001. Please continue to keep those families that lost love ones in your prayers.

As we enter into the holiday season we need to keep safety in mind so everyone has a great holiday experience. It is also important to note that a major source of fires in homes are burning candles, please be sure they are well away from anything that could drop over them or be too close to some type of combustible materials. As the daylight savings time change approaches, use that date as a reminder to change the batteries in your smoke detectors!



As cold weather approaches it is also a good safe practice to have all heating units checked for proper combustion within the heat unit. Incomplete combustion can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning through inhalation. Symptoms include severe headaches, upset stomach, dizziness, and in some cases death. Call any ac/heat serviceman for them to come out and conduct a safety check. It is also important to have working carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors in your home as well.

*Pictured below to the left is Zach Grigsby Firefighter EMT displaying the American flag as it is waved over I.H. 45 this past 9-11. Pictured below and to the right was a welcome surprise visit by Pastor Michael Masek of Covenant Church, Ferris Texas. Pictured with him are our paid Firefighter Captain Arturo Hernandez, and Volunteer Deputy Fire Chief Tom Leverentz. Pastor Masek brought snacks and drinks for the firefighters, thank you Covenant Church Ferris, Texas.*



## Chuck Dart, Economic Development



### RECENT HAPPENINGS

**Metro Floral**, 216 W Sixth Street, has a new owner, Chris Oats. Come to their open house on December 5, 3pm-7pm.

**The Fant Company** opened at 214 W Sixth Street. Sandy Fant serves up cups of great coffee!

**Wall Homes** purchased the 104 remaining lots in Shaw Creek subdivision and plans to begin construction of four spec homes in the fall. The increase in homes will increase opportunities for retail establishments in Ferris.



**City boards** develop Work Plans from their goals every year. Details on the 2015-2016 work plans can be found on Ferristx.org. Boards consist of volunteers from the community.

### 4A EDC WORK PLAN

1. Identify the best utility to develop a fiber based infrastructure for high speed internet.
2. Develop Ferris retail parcels fronting IH-45 to compliment downtown commerce.
3. Build an industrial park or neighborhood innovation district.

### MAIN STREET WORK PLAN

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Develop a pavilion improvement plan      | 4. Produce a plan for "Flags of Fifth Street"      |
| 2. Submit candidates for historical markers | 5. Investigate restaurant incubator/farmers market |
| 3. Implement alley park                     | 6. Choose next designs for downtown banners        |

### PARK BOARD WORK PLAN

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Organize 2016 Earth Day (April 9)       | 4. Plant four new trees in Fall 2015 |
| 2. Mosquito reduction measure in Mutz Park | 5. Holly Park plan                   |
| 3. Phase 2 of Mutz Park rose garden        |                                      |

### FALL EVENTS

The **Ferris Lions Club** dedicates this year's **Great Pumpkin 5K Run/Walk** to Evette Quezada, the 2014 Ferris High School graduate killed in July.



Saturday, October 31 at 9am. Registration forms on ferristx.org

**Pioneer Day** is on Saturday, October 3. Come support the Lions' mission of providing vision care for youth, feeding the hungry, and giving scholarships to worth students. Information on ferristx.org

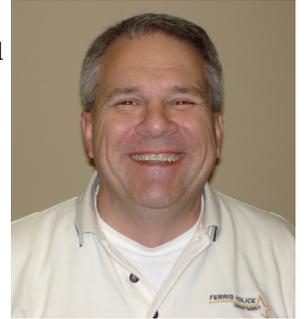
**Christmas on the Square** will have Santa photos, an expanded live auction, holiday music, and lots of good cheer. Saturday, December 5. Information on ferristx.org



## Doug Childers, I.T. Director



Technology is only successful when it makes your life easier and more productive. So often our world gets so caught up in advancing that our life actually becomes more complicated because of the very things that are supposed to make our life easier. With that thought in mind, you will notice a change in our water department and court over the next couple of months. During this time we are installing a new Kiosk machine in the drive-through of the Finance Building. This Kiosk will take credit cards and cash for your water bill payments. It will also



be set up to receive court payments. There will also be changes to the Kiosk located inside the building. The machine will now have a credit card swipe and you will no longer be required to have a username and password to pay your bill. We are also making some major upgrades to this area of our website. Our goal is to make your experience and interaction with technology at the city as pleasant and as enjoyable as possible. We hope that these changes will help accomplish both of these goals.

**Doug Childers**  
**Doug.Childers@ci.ferristx.us**  
**Information Technology Administrator**  
 104 S. Central 972-842-2752



### PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

Subject: FERRIS POLICE CHIEF SAM LOVE ANNOUNCES HIS RESIGNATION

Ferris Police Chief Sam Love has announced he is resigning effective September 1, 2015. The City of Ferris thanks Chief Love for his service to the community and extends its best wishes to him.

On September 1, 2015, Sam Love resigned from his position as Chief of Police for the Ferris Police Department. Ferris City Manager Carl Sherman says Ferris Police Chief Sam Love tendered his resignation Tuesday morning effective immediately. Sherman noted, "Chief Love has endeared many in the community and leaves many friends behind in Ferris."

Sherman stated Love has offered to provide help during the transition. "The Mayor and Council would like to thank Chief Love for his many years of service to the community, and we wish him well in his future endeavors," said Sherman.

In the interim, Fire Chief Tim Birdwell has been appointed Acting Police Chief of the Ferris Police Department. Chief Birdwell, a 37 year veteran firefighter and current fire Chief since 2013 holds a masters peace officers proficiency license.

Ferris Mayor, Micheal Driggers noted, "I have all confidence that the Police Department will continue to provide excellent police services to our community during this time of transition."

Details regarding a nationwide search for a new Police Chief will be forthcoming.



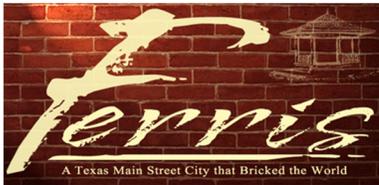


100 Town Plaza

Ferris, Texas 75125

WWW.FERRISTX.ORG

-----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>972-544-2323</b>
<b>Police (Non-Emergency)</b>	<b>972-544-2233</b>
<b>Police (Emergency)</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Senior Citizens</b>	<b>972-544-3071</b>
<b>Public Works Director/Water Department</b>	<b>972-842-2786</b>