



April 26, 2018

Dear Citizens:

Last week during one of the Derrick Days Volunteer Committee meetings I had the opportunity to present them with a Mayor's Proclamation in recognition of their service. The Proclamation coincided with National Volunteer Week, a movement in the United States since 1974. As Mayor, I proclaimed these four key elements occur in our city when volunteers work together:

- We join our strengths to those of our neighbors to achieve more and better results,
- We address needs, rather than defer or forget them,
- We demonstrate our care and concern for people, material things and history beyond ourselves,
- And show respect for the public domain in which we partake; in doing so, we enrich our lives and the lives of others.

Derrick Days began just two years after the U.S. recognized volunteers at the national level. You might say that Neil Haynie was volunteering to create the event even before it was a popular movement. He began what is now the 43rd annual Derrick Days and his son Brad has directed the efforts for more than 25 years. In fact, the entire Haynie family contributes greatly to this civic event. Lori spends countless hours organizing it with Brad, Byron provides entertainment, and Carly lends her graphic design talent. The Haynie family, and many others who work side by side all year long to produce Derrick Days, are our unsung heroes. They keep our oil history alive while also striving to improve our event each year with new volunteer energy and ideas.

Next Saturday you'll be able to visit with more than 80 vendors at the "new-old" Marketplace and enjoy a variety of cuisine from 23 food trucks. More than a dozen unique entertainment groups will take the stage to entertain from Friday night and all day on Saturday. There is a renewed focus on old-fashioned fun and activities for children. For the first time, our Parade Grand Marshal was chosen by nominations and votes. Community business leader and Volunteer Larry Morrison will take his seat to lead the Parade. This promises to be one of the best Derrick Days events since Neil and his committee conceived of the idea.

Our Committee will be wearing special Derrick Days T-shirts this year. When you spot one of our Committee members, please thank them for their service. The City of Corsicana is a better place to live because of their efforts.

Sincerely,

Don Denbow
Mayor