



December 14, 2018

Dear Citizens:

Like many of you, I attended some of the City's seasonal events during the past few weeks. I felt compelled to take a moment to recognize local businesses and City staff who worked tirelessly to make everything an authentic, fun and safe series of special times.

First of all, Small Business Saturday – thank you to the dozens of businesses who participated in Small Business Saturday by creating fun and enticing reasons to shop locally and keep our sales tax dollars right here in Corsicana. This event grows bigger every year. This year, it was bolstered by a sophisticated 64-page magazine showcasing Downtown shopping. Called Interurban, its pages revealed everything that can be purchased Downtown within walking distance of your parking spot. While I feared for the overuse of our credit cards, acknowledgement goes to Karie Denny and her talented creative team for producing a publication which rivals that of any major city or shopping district.

Our Annual Tree Lighting had the largest attendance in my memory. Thank you to Sharla Allen and her team at the Parks & Recreation Department of the City for the wonderful decorations in Pocket Parks, throughout the City and park areas, and the installation of our three-story Christmas tree. Thanks to Chief Paul Henley and the Fire and Rescue Department and Chief Robert Johnson and the Police Department for their street management and safety measures, and Karie Denny and Main Street for the music and fun along Beaton Street at the event. This year's fireworks display was bigger than ever, thanks to Sharla, Karie, Paul, Robert, their staffs and volunteers.

In the middle of all of this was the Corsicana Bowl, a Division II football game bringing teams from Kansas and Arkansas. Bands, cheer teams and family traveled here and enjoyed part of our Downtown events before and after the Bowl game. I was proud to be part of the warm welcome our hotels, Chamber, Corsicana Bowl volunteer committee and Corsicana ISD Athletics created for these two teams. While it appeared to be just another football game to many, to some players, it was the last time they played college football—something I can relate to—and the last time their family might see them in a football uniform—something I am not looking forward to anytime soon with my own family football player.

The Festival of Lights parade organizers estimated that 7,000 people witnessed the 368 entries, not counting livestock, that joined the almost two-hour lighted procession.

Last weekend, children in Corsicana were treated to three free Christmas movies at the Palace Theatre, another winning Main Street program. They received free popcorn, gallons of hot chocolate, and jingle bell bracelets as they were leaving the theatre. This indicates a Mom was involved in the timing.

Now we turn to the joyful and loving presentations we see at our places of worship, our schools and our non-profit organizations. We greet family at airports, or bundle everyone into cars for holiday road trips. I wish the spirit of the season could stay with us all year.

Many of my letters to citizens end with an invitation to let me know what we can do better and any other ideas. This time, I think our celebration of Christmas was just perfect.

Merry Christmas. Thank you for your loyalty to Corsicana and to the Corsicana Daily Sun which allows me to share my views.

Sincerely,

Don Denbow
Mayor