



April 24, 2014

First let me say, thank you for all the positive comments on my newsletter. The goal is to share facts and thoughts that may otherwise not be heard.

Corsicana continues to be blessed with increasing sales tax numbers. Sales tax is a barometer of the condition of the local economy. As of today, the City is currently 7.0 percent above collections for the same time period last year. While this number can change throughout the year, it is very positive so far.

The Downtown continues to boom. There are several new lofts with residents occupying upstairs and retail on the bottom floor. The new Offices at Pocket Park at the corner of West 5th Avenue and North Beaton Street is open and is full. VOICE has leased office space and several other tenants occupy the street level offices. Jimmy Hale is now starting another project on the building across the street. The former soda fountain will become a restaurant with a bakery and a wine bar. Envision Eyecare Center has submitted plans to build an office downtown at 202 West 5th Avenue. As I had mentioned in a previous letter, the Annual Oil Baron's Ball will be held this week in the restored Corsicana Opry and Event Center Building (the former location of Smith General Store). Carolyn McCombs has done a great job of repurposing the building and adding life to the music scene downtown.

Moreover, the activity is now extending outside of downtown. The former Blockbuster building on West 7th Avenue is being renovated to house a Title Max business and another business next door to be announced later. The property to the west at the intersection of South 18th Street and West 7th Avenue will be cleared. A new shopping center will be constructed with the anchor store being a Pizza Hut restaurant. Things are booming west of town as well. Aldi, located at 3623 West State Highway 31, will host a ribbon cutting at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29. Jehovah's Witness Church is under construction at 4124 West Highway 31. A new foot clinic is under construction just west of the H&R Block office on West 7th Avenue and is almost ready for business.

On the interstate, Panda Express is moving along at lightning speed. The new building is located between Collin Street Bakery and Whataburger in the Corsicana Crossing area. The new waterpark will have a naming contest beginning soon. Please notice the booth at Derrick Days and please support this important project.

Many companies are expanding and doing well. Oil City Iron Works is planning an expansion as is Nalco Champion, and Corsicana Bedding is developing a new mattress recycle business. The new Corsicana Cancer Center next to Navarro Regional Hospital is open and working with the hospital to treat new patients. Of course Pactiv is going strong and making great progress toward the \$58,000,000 investment and hiring of 200 new employees. The Texas Capital Fund deceleration lane project at that location will begin soon. Community National Bank & Trust, Trisun and Medical and Surgical are all doing interior remodel work. Cotton Patch is considering a new project and Navarro Dental is considering construction of an addition.

The City is in the final inning of building a new baseball complex. The complex will provide a restroom and concession stand which is nearly complete. There will be six fields, a playground, sand volleyball area, walking track and a basketball court. Thanks to a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant, the Navarro Community Foundation, individual businesses, and citizen support a beautiful facility will serve the community for years to come. There are some items to be completed and additional funding is needed. There is a great opportunity for a business to advertise by sponsoring a scoreboard or outfield sign. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 903-654-4874 for information.

The other City projects include construction of new hangars at the airport. Bids will be received this week. This project is funded through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division. There are new kennels under construction at the animal shelter. This is part of a specific fund balance designation made recently by the Council. This project will also include expansion of the yard area to the north of the shelter. The City continues to be busy with lots of ongoing projects.

I am always looking for opportunities to improve the City and for positive things about Corsicana. Please join me. My next letter will be an update on streets.

Sincerely,

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor