

## **Our Wonderful Titus County ... and the County Officials who Help to Make it So:**

**Our Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce states on its web-site: "Located in the heart of North East Texas, Mount Pleasant, (Titus County) is a dynamic community center where people, ideas, and opportunity mold exceptionalism! From manufacturing, to boundless shopping, to culinary variety, Mount Pleasant serves as the economic center for North East Texas and is referred to as the "Hub of North East Texas."**

**This factual and correct observation did not "just happen".**

**Good government, including our county government; have made large contributions of time and money to the allow the these well-earned accolades.**

**I will briefly summarize some of the very wise decisions that have been made on behalf of county residents by our county commissioners; and at times with in and collaboration with other county/city, state, and federal officials.**

**Some of the Titus County Commissioners' actions are as follows: ~a new county jail;~ a central maintenance facility, ~a county extension center, ~a seniors' citizen meal center, ~a weigh station for use by the Texas Department of Public Safety, ~a new justice center, ~downtown parking lot; ~remodeled the courthouse, ~acquired and remodeled the county house annex, ~purchased the Witt building, which is adjacent to the annex, ~replaced 30 old bridges with new, safer ones, ~currently constructing a new loop with multiple exit and entrance ramps.**

**These type of accomplishments take more than just showing up for a commissioners' court meeting twice a month; ingenuity, skill, forward-looking planning, and the ability and willingness to work with many entities, are some of the qualities needed for a highly performing county commissioners court.**

**To emphasize how these qualities of our current commissioners have enhanced the quality-of-life for county residents, I would further comment that:**

**\*All county facilities are handicap accessible. The county received a grant (\$254,000.00) to aid in this process. The county also received \$200,000.00 in grants for the senior citizen center.**

**\*Titus County cooperates with the cities of Mt. Pleasant, Winfield, Talco and surrounding communities, and continues to upgrade; city and county volunteer fire departments.**

**\*As a result of the bridge program, mentioned above, 30 new bridges have been completed. The county received over \$7 million from the state and federal government to assist the county in having safe bridges for our citizens.**

**\*The commissioners' court had turning lanes built at NTCC, and will be putting in turning lanes at Harts Bluff School. [The money has already been set aside for this purpose.]**

**\*Because the commissioners do the proper paperwork, the county receives free material from the state each year to be used in road construction, in addition to materials purchased by each precinct.**

**\*The commissioners hired an election administrator which has facilitated elections and saved money.**

**\*As a court, the commissioners voted to freeze taxes on those 65 and over who have applied for the exemption. Individuals who are handicapped and handicapped veterans also qualify for the tax freeze.**

**\*The commissioners, community, and various individuals took on the task of having a veterans' memorial and bell tower installed.**

**\*The commissioners latest construction project is the loop, which Titus County voters approved, to relieve traffic congestion in town, especially 18-wheelers. The loop will also enable further growth for the county and the city. Although the county had to borrow money to fund the project, once it is completed, the State of Texas will pay Titus County \$8 million a year, for the next 20 years.**

**\*\*\* With all of these accomplishments, Titus County continues to have one of the lowest tax rates in the State of Texas.**

**\*\*\* We have much to be proud of in Titus County, Texas. AS I STATED AT THE BEGINNING OF MY PRESENTATION: "These activities/accomplishments ... did not 'just happen'."**

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**In comparison with our commissioners, it is reported that the UpShur County commissioners draw a salary of \$40K, meet up a couple of times a month ... however, they do not fix their roads! And, the county is basically broke! They are \$1 million in the red.**

**Further, it was reported recently that some in the Texas Legislature suggested we might go to fixing the roads with gravel ... to save money!! I don't think we want to do that in Titus County.**

**I say, "Thank You" to all of our county commissioners, judges & justices of the peace ... who are on call 24/7, law enforcement, constables, county and district clerks, and county treasurer, tax assessor, and elections administrator, for the fine, hard-working job they do each and every day. They all deserve a raise!**

**Trish Scarborough  
Chapel Hill Community.  
26 August, 2013**