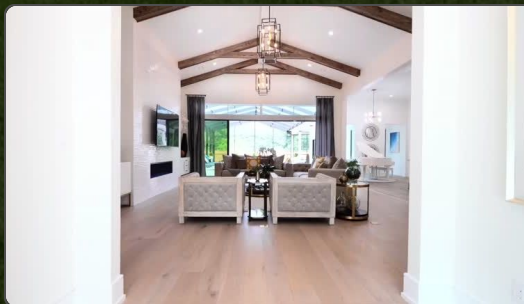


# NAVARRO COUNTY INSIDER LIVING GUIDE

The Local's Handbook for Newcomers

**By Katie Foley**

*Realtor / Serving Navarro & Ellis Counties*



[Katiefoleyrealtor.com](http://Katiefoleyrealtor.com)



## Find Your Dream Home

Search all area real estate for sale on one easy-to-use site.  
Including homes, condos, townhomes, land, and foreclosure...



*The things that make Navarro County special aren't on any tourist brochure. This guide is what I'd tell a good friend who was moving here.*

**- Katie Foley**



# SECTION 1: HIDDEN LOCAL GEMS

## Places Locals Love That Newcomers Rarely Find Right Away

**The Reservoir:** Richland Chambers Reservoir is one of Navarro County's crown jewels. It's one of Texas's largest reservoirs by surface area, and local fishermen will tell you the bass and crappie fishing is exceptional. There are multiple boat ramps and access points around the lake — ask locals which they prefer for different types of fishing or recreation.

**Navarro Mills Lake:** Smaller and less known than Richland Chambers, Navarro Mills is a quieter escape for fishing, kayaking, and picnicking. The Army Corps of Engineers manages the lake, and there are multiple primitive camping spots that fill up with regulars every spring.

**Pioneer Village (Corsicana):** An outdoor living history museum featuring original 19th-century Texas structures moved onto a single site. It's a unique Texas experience that even many longtime locals haven't visited. A hidden gem worth an afternoon.

**The Small Town Drives:** The rural roads between communities like Blooming Grove, Barry, Angus, and Streetman reveal the quietly beautiful Texas landscape that drew settlers here in the first place — wildflowers in spring, rolling hills, old farmsteads, and surprising stretches of the Trinity watershed. Drive them slowly.





## SECTION 2: BEST RESTAURANTS & LOCAL DINING

### Where Locals Actually Eat

**In Corsicana:** Corsicana has a growing local food scene anchored by a handful of genuinely good local spots. The Corsicana area has Texas-standard BBQ joints, Tex-Mex staples, and a coffee shop culture that's developed notably in recent years. Ask a local what's opened recently — new spots continue to emerge.

**The Small Town Diners:** Some of the best meals in Navarro County are in the smallest towns. Country diners, local BBQ shacks, and family-owned Tex-Mex spots scattered through the county often deliver better food than anything in a strip mall. When you're in a small community, look for the spot with the most local trucks out front. That's where you eat.

**Worth the Drive:** For a broader dining experience, Ennis (just to the north) and Waxahachie (in Ellis County) have more restaurant variety and are popular dinner destinations for Navarro County residents.

**Practical Tip for Newcomers:** Join the local Facebook groups for Corsicana and Navarro County. Restaurant recommendations, new openings, and local food events are shared constantly. This is the fastest way to discover what's new and where to eat.





## SECTION 3: WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

### Things to Do in and Around Navarro County

**On the Water:** The reservoirs are the center of outdoor recreation in the county. Weekend mornings on Richland Chambers are a Navarro County tradition. Bring your boat, your kayak, or just your fishing rod and a camp chair.

**County and Community Events:** The Navarro County Fair, local rodeos, high school sporting events, and church fundraisers form the backbone of the social calendar here. Get plugged into community calendars — your local newspaper (the Corsicana Daily Sun) and neighborhood Facebook groups are the best sources.

**The Bluebonnet Festival (Ennis, April):** This is a can't-miss Texas spring event. The city of Ennis is designated the official Texas Bluebonnet City, and in April the surrounding farmland erupts in blue. The Bluebonnet Festival and accompanying driving trails draw visitors from across the state. Plan to go in April your first year here.

**Day Trips from Navarro County:** You're well-positioned for day trips to:

- **Dallas/Fort Worth (55–65 min)** — World-class sports, dining, arts, concerts, and shopping
- **Waco (50 min)** — Growing food and culture scene; Magnolia Market; Baylor University campus
- **Canton (40 min)** — First Monday Trade Days; one of the largest flea markets in the world
- **Cleburne State Park (60 min)** — Camping, fishing, swimming, hiking
- **Lake Whitney State Park (75 min)** — Camping, boating, and outdoor recreation





# SECTION 4: FAMILY-FRIENDLY PLACES

## Building Family Life in Navarro County

### For Kids:

- **Corsicana YMCA** — Youth programs, summer camps, swim lessons, and after-school activities
- **Local parks and playgrounds** — Multiple well-maintained parks throughout Corsicana
- **Little League and youth sports leagues** — Active and community-centered
- **4-H and FFA programs** — For families with agricultural interest; exceptional for kids
- **Navarro College events** — Many public events open to families throughout the year

**For Families with Faith:** The church community in Navarro County is strong and diverse. From large First Baptist and First United Methodist congregations in Corsicana to small rural country churches serving farming communities, faith is a central organizing principle of social life here. Visit a few — you'll find community quickly.

### **Seasonal Family Fun:**

- County fairs and local rodeos (typically fall)
- High school football games (Friday nights in the fall are a genuine community event)
- Pioneer Village special events and demonstrations
- Community Christmas celebrations in Corsicana and surrounding towns





## SECTION 5: LOCAL FAVORITES & INSIDER TIPS

### The Things You Learn Over Time — Now

**The Friday Night Football Ritual:** High school football in Texas is not a sporting event. It's a community gathering. Whatever team your school district fields, attending the games is one of the fastest ways to meet your community and feel connected. Go to the games.

**The Wave:** On rural roads in Navarro County, it's customary to give a brief wave to oncoming drivers. Doesn't matter if you know them. This is the way. Participate. If you forget, no one will hold it against you — but it's a small thing that means something here.

**The Long-Timer Discount:** Many local businesses and service providers operate on reputation and relationship. Being a friendly, consistent customer leads to the kind of service you don't experience in big cities. Take time to build relationships with your local mechanic, feed store, hardware shop, and grocery staff. It pays dividends.

**Weather Reality:** Texas weather in Navarro County spans extremes: scorching summers (100°+ is not unusual), mild winters most years, and occasional severe weather events including tornadoes, ice storms, and hail. Have an emergency kit. Know your county's emergency alert system. The National Weather Service Ft. Worth covers this area and broadcasts on NOAA weather radio.

**The Growing Season:** If you have any interest in gardening or small-scale food production, Navarro County's growing season is long and favorable. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, and most common vegetables thrive here. Connect with local gardeners — there's a culture of sharing seeds, advice, and surplus produce.





# SECTION 6: COMMUNITY EVENTS

## CALENDAR (Annual)

| Month     | Event                                                     |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| March     | Severe weather season begins — review storm preparedness  |
| April     | Bluebonnet Festival, Ennis (check exact dates)            |
| April–May | Wildflower season — drive the rural roads                 |
| Summer    | Summer markets, community events, lake season             |
| September | Navarro County Fair (check current dates and location)    |
| October   | Fall festivals; high school football playoffs approach    |
| November  | Community Thanksgiving events and church gatherings       |
| December  | Corsicana Christmas on the Square; community celebrations |

*Dates and events vary annually. Check the Corsicana Daily Sun and Navarro County social media groups for current calendars.*



# SECTION 7: LIFESTYLE RECOMMENDATIONS

## Making the Most of Life in Navarro County

### Join Before You Move (or Immediately After):

- Facebook groups for Corsicana, Kerens, Navarro County Neighbors — gold mines of local information, recommendations, and community connection
- Nextdoor (neighborhood-based) — good for hyper-local info

**Find Your Third Place:** In every community, there are gathering spots where people connect: a coffee shop, a barbershop, a diner. Find yours early. It becomes your anchor.

**Give It Time:** Most transplants report that Navarro County took 3–6 months to start feeling like home, and 12–18 months to feel deeply connected to the community. That's normal. The community is welcoming, but connection is earned through presence and participation, not just proximity.

**Embrace the Pace:** Things move slower here. The post office is less efficient than Amazon Prime. The drive-through has actual humans working it who might know your name. Things close early in small towns. Lean into the pace rather than fight it — most people who move here find this adjustment to be one of their favorite things about the move in retrospect.



# Welcome to Navarro County.

You've made a choice that more and more people are making: to trade density for space, speed for pace, and anonymity for community. It's a trade most people who make it say they wish they'd made sooner.

I've seen this county welcome family after family — and I've watched people who started as strangers become exactly the kind of neighbors they hoped to find.

When you're ready to find your home here, call me. Let's find you the right piece of Navarro County.



## Katie Foley

 (903) 879-0580  [katiefoleyrealtor@gmail.com](mailto:katiefoleyrealtor@gmail.com)  [katiefoleyrealtor.com](http://katiefoleyrealtor.com)

*Realtor / Serving Navarro & Ellis Counties, Texas Your Realtor For Life.*