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## **Council Member — District 2**

### **Pete Kamp**

#### **Kamp's Dream in 2003, Our Reality in 2025**

Interviewed by: Pam Rambo-Estill

On September 3, 2003, in preparation for a monthly Denton City Council Long-Range Planning Session, then Council member Pete Kamp, a long-time Denton resident who at that time had been elected to her first term in office only four months earlier, shared her dream for Denton in the year 2025. On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this date, I for one am shocked not only by how accurate her dream was, but by her undying dedication to seeing it to fruition. In honor of her dream, and all she did, and continues to do as a citizen, community member, business owner, and public servant in and for the city of Denton, I feel it is a good and fitting tribute to reprint that dream in its entirety here today (2003).

"I have a dream, a dream for Denton, Texas, in the year 2025. I dream of a Denton in 2025 where my husband and I still live, where although there are still transportation issues to solve, Loop 288 is finished, and mass transit has fulfilled all the dreams and desires we envisioned in 2003 — a Denton with a transit system that has attracted major economic development, fixed our congestion problems, and improved our air quality. A Denton that is easy to get around, where there is efficiency in daily activities with even more choices, such as large stores with personalized ways to order and get what you need. A Denton where the police blotter in the *Denton Record-Chronicle* (DRC) is still humorous just like 2003, and crime is not a problem.

I have a dream for a Denton in 2025 with a downtown that has a fabulous mix of shopping and restaurants, with four destination restaurants with world-class chefs included. A downtown where people work and live, with an active courthouse that is used by the entire community for festivals and events. A downtown that consists of not just the Square, but extends to the secondary streets, to Hickory and the art district, to Texas Woman's University (TWU) and the University of North Texas (UNT), from Locust and Elm to Eagle. A downtown with a convention center and interactive fountain, with an active art and music community; where the Campus Theatre has been redone and the Fine Arts Theater has been built and there are so many productions, both are in constant use year-round. A downtown in 2025 that is truly the heart of Denton.

I have a dream for an environmentally cared-for Denton, where the trees are protected and there are numerous natural areas with native vegetation that require no pesticides or fertilizers and are maintained by the City, universities, and private citizens in their yards. A Denton where the new Marriott (where the Radisson was in 2003) sits among new university dormitories, administrative offices, and a state-of-the-art football stadium, with wide-open areas where the students, the neighbors, and the community have found full benefit from the opportunities to hike and bike, or picnic by the well-preserved ponds in aesthetically-pleasing surroundings where nature has taken over and the greenbelt thrives, full of native vegetation. A Denton where 80 percent of all business and industry recycles, and solid waste advancement through recycling and reuse are so great we don't even need the landfill capacity we had in 2003.

I have a dream for a Denton in 2025 where economic development has provided a wonderful mix of family-owned and small businesses, as well as corporate and large-chain businesses. I dream of a Denton where strong partnerships with the universities, the chambers, the school district, and the county have produced wonderful results such as the convention center and the interactive fountain downtown. A Denton with a very successful business park that is full to capacity with tenants, where hundreds of jobs have been created, and nanotechnology has come and gone but Denton was a huge part of that evolution; where the UNT Engineering program has made exceptional discoveries and produced Nobel Prize winners. A Denton with an extremely busy regional airport used by private jets and larger companies and industries with travel needs; an airport with complementary business built around it. I dream of a Denton, where six and counting, corporations have chosen to locate their world headquarters.

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I dream of a well-preserved Denton that is a well-known heritage-tourism destination, famous for its preservation and renovation of property all over town. I dream of a Denton in 2025 where the newer development, north and northeast of Loop 288, is full of wonderful neighborhoods for new families moving to Denton. I dream of a Denton with a park system twice the size it was in 2003, with a town lake full of facilities, where the community goes for picnics and outdoor activities. A Denton where the police and fire departments are exceptional and continue to grow and diversify with an additional four fire stations and three community policing offices.

I have a dream for a Denton where UNT has not only maintained their international reputation of 2003 for music and academics but has become a highly regarded school in the realm of athletics. A Denton where women's athletics at UNT are given as many opportunities as men's. A Denton where TWU in 2025 has maintained its 2003 academic and sports reputation as well. A Denton Independent School District (DISD) where every campus is exemplary, with a school board just as conscientious as they were in 2003, where there are ample programs to take care of all our children's needs, from academics to nutrition and health.

I dream of a Denton whose medical community is nationally renowned for both its programs and facilities, where its reputation draws people from around the world to be treated. A Denton whose aging population, made up of both those who lived here in 2003 and those who specifically moved here as seniors, not only has its medical needs met but has wonderful facilities for golf, tennis, hiking, biking, and social opportunities. A Denton in 2025 that has the most active senior community in the region.

Most importantly, I have a dream of a Denton full of people who are diversified, eclectic, educated, talented, creative, and civic-minded. A Denton of all ages, all races, all religions, and all classes who have a variety of interests; and a Denton that can support all those interests from jobs to art to sports to nature. I dream of a Denton in 2025 with an overall exceptional quality of life!"

On behalf of the City of Denton, on September 5, 2025, we thank you, Pete Kamp, for your vision, for your dedication, for your love of the city of Denton and everyone who works, lives, visits, and conducts business here. We thank you for your previous efforts and for your continuing efforts. We thank you for growing Denton to its present-day status, the city of choice in North Texas!