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The Cross Roads Times

Quarterly Publication of the Town of Cross Roads, Texas (Denton County)

From the Mayor's Desk

by Ross Schraeder, Mayor

The Mayor's First year

When I was running for mayor of Cross Roads last year, I made it clear that I supported the major objectives that the past mayor and most of the town council had also supported over the last nine years. They are:

1 - One acre minimum lot size. This is important to maintain the quality of life that is a large step above what is found in high density developments throughout the state, and to keep the costs of town services to citizens to a minimum.

2- No property tax. The town administration should have the ability to control the costs to meet the citizens' needs at no cost to them. Cross Roads is in a commercial corridor, and if properly administered, should get income from sales tax and fees.

3- No debt. Borrowed money costs not only the expense of the project for which it was borrowed, but also interest on the loan. It is the opinion of your mayor that this is not what the citizens of Cross Roads want.

4- Acceptable roads. Roads can always be improved and rarely do two people agree on exactly what should be done to the roads at any one time. Cross Roads has a history of very responsible road committees, and the roads are presently acceptable and upgrading continues under the scrutiny of the current competent road committee.

Obviously these are not the only important objectives to support the needs of our citizens, but I think they are the most important. The following subjects will show how the town is supporting these objectives and others of importance to the town.

2011 Financial Performance

For the first nine months of Cross Roads' 2011 fiscal year, the town has received $33,000 more income than was budgeted (11%). The increase was in both sales tax and fees categories. Expenses were $93,000 below budget (31%). Performance of the Town Staff and Council has been outstanding in holding these costs down.

Pottershop Road Upgrade

As you remember from the previous issue of the Cross Roads Times, our town, along with Denton County,

continued on page 2

Special Interest Articles

Kernels from Kay 3
Katherine's Corner 4

Individual Highlights

Commissions/Committees 3
Kids for Community 5
Fiber Optic U-Verse 6
Palio's Pizza Café 7
Aubrey Area Library 9
Dates to Remember 9
Phone Reference 10

Appreciation Dinner

From the Mayor's Desk *(continued)*

agreed to share the cost of upgrading the drainage and surfacing of Pottershop Road. The cost of the project was estimated at $192,000. The town has now received quotes from five different contractors and selected the lowest from Advanced Paving, a contractor that we have used previously. The total cost of the project, including engineering and supervision, is now estimated at $175,000 or $17,000 below the original estimate. When your mayor met with Hugh Coleman, our County Commissioner, he expressed his appreciation for this savings and said that the County's half of the savings could be added to any grants for which Cross Roads qualifies in 2012.

Jason Pool, our town engineer, said the Pottershop Road upgrade should start on August 1, 2011, and be completed by August 15, 2011.

Wal-Mart and the old Allegiance Development

Anything we can say about this development is speculative, but here is the latest news. Remember that the original developer went bankrupt because of the downturn in the economy. BBSSI, the banking operation that supported the development, is trying to get as much of their investment back as possible. I do not have any exact numbers on financing or what they want back, but fully understand that they will try to get as much of the loan back as possible. The way to do this is to find a developer that will buy the property at a price acceptable to BBSSI and continue with the development.

Several possible developers have come and gone. According to the latest information we have, there is one that is close to purchasing the property, and there also is a backup. This is good since it came from both BBSSI and the developer. The town plays a role in this since we have and can approve state agreements to reimburse developers for part of their development cost from sales tax rebates. It is important that we do our best to get this development going, because it can mean additional sales tax income for the town.

AT&T Fiber Optics Installations

Fiber optic installation and activation have been completed from Hwy 380 down to Pottershop Road and across Tips to Keyes. Citizens in that area should be able to contact AT&T to initiate hook-up, if desired. Following completion of that project, AT&T has now been laying fiber optics down Keyes Lane to Oak Shores. The best estimate of installation completion is July 23, 2011. Following the completion of the installation, activation will probably take another month, so actual use will begin in late September. It makes sense that once activation is complete AT&T will be promoting sign-up for the service, but no commitment has been made yet.

Elections and Committees

As you can see elsewhere in this publication, Larry Fisher and Steve Smith have been re-elected as members of Cross Roads Council. Wally Kille has been added to the Council to fill the seat that Virden Seybold has vacated. Official installation was made at the June council meeting. In addition to congratulations for those elected, the mayor and council expressed their appreciation to Virden Seybold for his contributions over the past ten years on Town Council.

In addition to acceptance of the elected officials, it is important that the 2011-2012 Commissions and Committees be recognized. I am convinced that the economy is turning around. For that reason, the leadership and contributions of the town committees are critical to our town's future. Space does not allow me to list all of the members here, but it is important that the committees be recognized.

Commissions and Committees listed on page 3

Commissions/Committees of the Town of Cross Roads

Planning and Zoning Commission, Wes Moore, Chairman

Comprehensive Planning Committee, Virden Seybold, Chairman

Road Repairs Committee, Bill Roberson, Chairman

Architectural Control Committee, Lad Doctor, Chairman

Park Board Committee, Gail Bacon, Chairwoman

Road Clean-up Committee, Alan & Naomi Hauf Co-Chairs

Budget & Finance Committee, Carol Roberts, Chairwoman

Economic Development Committee, Bill Bacon, Chairman

It is important to note that no person on any commission or committee is paid for their services.

They are all volunteers, like the mayor and all of the council.

Kernels from Kay

Things I Know To Be True:

The first bite of pizza or first sip of hot cocoa will scald the roof of your mouth so badly that you can't enjoy the rest of it.

Whichever line you are in at the grocery store or the bank will be the slowest.

Nothing smells better than a freshly bathed baby or puppy breath.

When you are looking for something you have lost, someone will always ask "Where did you lose it?" If I knew where I lost it –you know the rest.

You cannot kiss your elbow. (I know you are all now testing this.)

Only a certain percentage of the world's population can roll their tongues. I think this can actually be used for paternity tests.

The day after you mulch the leaves in your yard all your neighbor's leaves will blow into yours.

Cats will invariably gravitate toward the cat hater in a group of people.

KATHERINE'S CORNER…by Katherine Ritchie, Town Administrator

ODDS & ENDS

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE QUARTERLY UPDATE

1. Town Council adopted Ordinance # 2011-0627-01 Amending Ordinance #2010-0816-02 The 2010 – 2011 Fiscal Year Budget by moving $100,000.00 from reserves to match funds granted to the Town of Cross Roads from Denton County to make drainage and road improvements to Pottershop Road.

2. Town Council adopted Ordinance # 2011-627-02 Amending Section 502.2.2 of the International Energy Conservation Code, 2003 edition, to allow the use of R6 duct insulation in both supply and return ducts where the building envelope demonstrates compliance of at least 10% better than code. (This amendment was recommended by our Building Official Rodney Patterson. If you have any question please contact Town Hall.)

3. Town Council approved Resolution # 2011-0627-01 Canvassing the May 14, 2011 Election returns.

FALL ROADSIDE CLEANUP

The fall Roadside Cleanup will take place Saturday, October 8th. Please plan to participate. We will have a large roll-off container provided by IESI, the town's waste collection contractor. Landscape debris and other disposal items that are not recyclable will be accepted. Alan and Naomi Hauf will be hosting a hot dog roast in the Town Park at 1:00 PM so please plan to attend.

TOWN ELECTIONS

If you are not aware, the Town re-elected Steve Smith and Larry Fisher and also elected Wally Kille to the Town Council. Thank you to all who ran for office and willingly offered their dedication to serve this community.

COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Town encourages its citizens to express their thoughts, to volunteer their time and talents, and to actively participate in their local government. Citizens interested in volunteering to serve on a committee are encouraged to attend a meeting of the committee of interest and to make an application for appointment. If you have any questions concerning service to your community, please call Katherine at town hall at 940 365-9693.

FALL COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The Town of Cross Roads will hold its third community re-purpose/yard sale at the Town Park, Saturday, September 24th, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you would like to participate, please contact Katherine at the Town Hall by Thursday, September 12th.

UNDERSTANDING COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE

The Town of Cross Roads has adopted Town Codes (laws) specifically designed to address health and safety issues, nuisances, and to maintain a clean environment for all citizens in our community. Town of Cross Roads does this by working in partnership with the people of Cross Roads.

Code Enforcement responds to concerns from citizens that affect the quality of life within the Town, such as zoning, overgrown lots or yards, inoperative vehicles, maintenance of structures, illegal signs, and public nuisances. Each quarter I will highlight one common code violation.

continued on page 5

Katherine's Corner *(continued)*

Junked Vehicle. A vehicle that is self-propelled and:

(1) Does not have lawfully attached to it:

(A) An unexpired license plate; or

(B) A valid motor vehicle inspection certificate;

(2) Is wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled, or discarded; or

(3) Is inoperable and has remained inoperable for more than:

(A) 72 consecutive hours, if the vehicle is on public property; or

(B) 30 consecutive days, if the vehicle is on private property.

The term "junked vehicle" does not include (1) a vehicle or part thereof which is completely enclosed within a building in a lawful manner where it is not visible from the street or other public or private property, (2) a vehicle or part thereof which is stored or parked in a lawful manner on private property in connection with the business of a licensed vehicle dealer or junkyard, or (3) an unlicensed, operable or inoperable antique and special interest vehicle stored by a collector on his property, provided that the vehicle and the outdoor storage area are maintained in such a manner that they do not constitute a health hazard and are screened from ordinary public view by means of a fence, rapidly growing trees, shrubbery or other appropriate means.

Code Section 8.03 Junk Motor Vehicles

What should you do if you receive a yellow door-hanger warning sticker?

If you receive a yellow door hanger warning sticker, this indicates your property has been inspected by the code officer. Any violations found on your property will be noted on the card or sticker; if you have questions please contact the Town Hall.

Kids for Community…by Kim Dickey

As a resident of Cross Roads, I know I'm not alone in feeling the need to be involved in our community. We all pick and choose what organizations, groups, events, causes or friends we are going to support at different times throughout our lives. Sometimes our participation can be as big as stepping up for an elected position or running an event. And, sometimes it's as little as walking a mile, attending an event, casting a vote or even writing a check. Every piece of the community puzzle is important and it takes all different types and levels of involvement to make the world go round.

As a parent, I try to convey the importance of community involvement to my children. I drag them around with me to the different organizations and events that I support. Subconsciously, I'm hoping that it will eventually spark a sense of volunteerism in them and they will walk away with a greater awareness of what the event is supporting. Realistically I consider the event a success for my children if no one complains about the heat, the cold, the food or begging to leave early. This has gone on status quo for quite a while and I think I'm ready to make a change.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with one of our young residents, Cody Hemming, while he was interviewing me as part of a Boy Scout project. One of the questions he asked was "What can I do to help?" We talked about a few

continued on page 6

Kids for Community *(continued)*

ideas but realistically none really sounded all that exciting or involving for kids.

Well, about a month passed after I spoke with Cody and I finally had an idea. I've now started a group just for the kids that will give them a chance to participate in our Town. The group will be called **Kids for Community** and the meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month 4:15-5:00 at the Cross Roads Town Hall. I've already received some fabulous ideas ranging from helping families in need, collecting school supplies, visiting local businesses and meeting local citizens with unique talents and experiences. Our first meeting was a short meet and greet for the kids to discuss the program and let the kids start contributing ideas for projects that would interest them. I had an initial easy "project" for the kids to work on for the first meeting, but after that I wanted a lot of input and direction from the kids. Please let me know if you want to get involved. You may contact me at any time with questions. ***Come join us!***

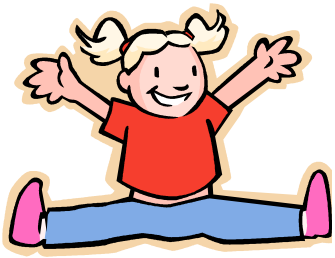
Kids for Community

First Friday of each month

4:15- 5:00 PM

Cross Roads Town Hall

1234 FM 424



Contact:

Kim Dickey

Cell: 940-597-4988

Home: 940-440-0082

E-mail: kim@ntxproperty.com

Fiber-Optic U-Verse ...by Bill Bacon

New high speed internet, phone and television is coming soon to the south side of Cross Roads, TX. In order to provide U-Verse to this area, AT&T is running fiber optic cable to the big green phone substation at Tipps and Keyes. From there, this service will run through the standard copper phone lines to your home. You must be within 3500 feet of the substation to receive service. This footage includes not only the actual copper wire length leading to your home, but also wiring within your home where new components will be installed by an AT&T technician.

You may have the choice of television, internet, or landline phone service, or any combination of these. Depending on the distance to your home, not all of these options may be available. When AT&T U-Verse became available at Arvin Hill and New Hope just north of Cross Roads, AT&T sent out solicitors to sign up the nearby residents. The solicitor scheduled a date for a technician to check the home for eligibility. This technical visit is free of charge, and the technician will inform you which services are available for your home. As an example, our home was just a little too far away to receive the television option, but we currently are enjoying internet and the landline phone U-Verse services.

Once you decide which services you like, the technician needs to alter a phone jack inside the home, and run a line to a new device or devices (wireless gateway, battery backup, DVR or standard receiver), to decode the various signals. In our case, we now have an internet wireless gateway and a back-up battery for the phone service. For

continued on page 7

Fiber-Optic U-Verse *(continued)*

additional security, we turned off their unsecured wireless functionality and plugged our existing secured wireless router into it.

As expected, the more services and options you select, the more expensive the monthly bill. **Internet** download speed options are 3 meg, 6 meg, 12 meg, and 24 meg.

For **television**, AT&T needs to guarantee a 30 meg download speed. There are multiple television packages available. The **landline phone** service is a Voice-Over-IP (VOIP) feature. Many of the standard phone options are included, such as: voice mail, caller id, three-way calling, call forwarding, unlimited national long distance service, etc.

We chose the 12 meg download internet speed. We are able to easily watch two different streaming movies concurrently, or just as easily have multiple active internet connections.

For more information, please visit: **http://www.att.com/shop/index.jsp.**

As a reminder, all sales solicitors need to be registered with the Town of Cross Roads and should have a Cross Roads badge identifying them.

Substation at Tipps and Keyes

Wireless Gateway

Battery Back-up

Palio's Pizza Café …by Larry and Kae Fisher

Do you remember the first time you tried pizza? I still vividly recall that experience. I was a brand new college freshman and my more seasoned college roommate suggested we try out something called a pizza restaurant. Though somewhat skeptical I was also hungry, so I agreed. After all, it was an opportunity to try something brand new. That evening I experienced fresh from the oven pizza for the first time in my life and … I loved it!

Palio's Pizza Cafe
9900 US Hwy 380
Crossroads, TX
76227
Business
(940) 365-0600

continued on page 8

www.paliospizzacafe.com/locations/palios_crossroads

Palio's Pizza Café *(continued)*

Cross Roads boasts a brand new pizza restaurant. Palio's Pizza Café opened its doors to an appreciative crowd of pizza lovers earlier this year and has seen a marvelous growth in dining guests over the subsequent weeks. These guests quickly discovered what Kae and I enjoyed on our opening day visit- Palio's excels at providing tasty, freshly prepared meals in a friendly attentive atmosphere.

Guiding this remarkable restaurant stands a trio of experienced hands-on owner/managers. Tony Smith (Managing Partner), Sarah (Tony's wife) and Preston Lancaster (cofounder of Three-Three Restaurants, Inc.). Tony provides most of the day-to-day oversight for both the Little Elm and Cross Roads Palio's restaurants. Tony and Sarah gained their initial experience in the food service industry working for a country club restaurant. That experience shows itself not only with their food preparation knowledge but also in their attentive guest services at the Cross Roads Palio's Pizza Café.

Much of the spacious, friendly, and attractive interior design at Palio's directly results from Sarah's influence. In our discussions Sarah indicates that she's not finished because her design vision includes even more elements yet to be installed. So keep your eyes open for changes she makes as she progresses with her vision for outstanding Cross Roads family dining!

Several key elements combine at Palio's to create a unique family friendly dining experience. Palio's prides itself on engaging its well-trained staff in providing personalized and attentive service to every dining guest, as Palio's likes to call them. Freshness and quality of the food preparation provide an edge over more common pizza dining establishments. Palio's cooks prepare their pizza dough from scratch twice daily using only the finest ingredients available such as high protein, red bran, spring harvested wheat (with whole wheat dough available for those that enjoy a fresh made whole wheat crust). They craft their gourmet pizzas with fresh, never frozen 100% mozzarella cheeses; all natural marinara and pizza sauce; and farm fresh vegetables. Given the focus on pizza you might think these delicious gourmet pizzas were all that Palio's offers, but they also offer meal selections of pastas, sandwiches, salads, and even special kids meals. You'll find that they have added gluten-free pizza selections for their celiac customers. Even the soda machine speaks of Palio's uniqueness. Designed by Ferrari (yes, <u>that</u> Ferrari) it allows you to select from a number of different Coca-Cola products and mix them together into your custom soda. For adult beverages, Palio's is BYOB friendly and will even provide a bucket of ice to cool your favorite wine. Check out Palio's full menu at their new web site. Please note that they now offer home delivery service to our local Cross Roads residents!

One more thing that Palio's is offering to our Cross Roads residents… a <u>free pizza</u>! Bring this newsletter into the Cross Roads Palio's before the end of August, ask them to autograph it, and enjoy a free medium gourmet pizza of your choice! Dine-in only.

Don't delay. Visit the brand new Cross Roads Palio's Pizza Café, re-live that first pizza experience, and fall in love all over again with a delicious flavorful slice of amazing Palio's pizza! You will thank me later.

Come meet Tony, Sarah and Preston.

Welcome New Resident

Ciara Watson

7900 Highway 380

Cross Roads, TX 76227

Important Dates to Remember

(Mark your calendar.)

First Friday each Month – Kids for Community

September 12 – Due date to reserve space for Community Yard Sale at Town Park

Saturday September 24 – Fall Community Yard Sale at Town Park 9AM–4PM

Saturday October 8 – Fall Roadside Clean-up

Aubrey Area Library

~ A place of possibilities

Our library is not only a place of possibilities, but also a popular place to visit, hang out, and learn new things. June was a busy library month; 189 new member cards issued, 1,974 library visits (over 13 people per hour!), 3,035 items checked out, 40 e-books downloaded, and 570 computer sessions logged!

We have clubs for book lovers, crafters, game players, senior citizens, and more.

We have e-books, real books, magazines, and a fabulous Summer Reading Program for all ages. Read with us and win prizes.

Visit us in person or in the virtual world:

226 Countryside Drive

Aubrey TX 76227

(940) 365-9162

www.facebook.com/aubreyarealibrary

http://www.ci.aubrey.tx.us

aubreyarealibrary@gmail.com

Quick Reference to Useful Telephone Numbers

Gas

Texas Utilities- 800-242-9113 (some areas)

Electricity

Co-Serv- 800-274-4014

Texas/New Mexico- 940-686-2211

Texas Utilities- 800-242-9113

Telephone

AT&T- 800-464-7928

Verizon- 800-483-4400

Trash Pick-up

IESI- 469-452-8000

Water

Mustang Water Supply- 940-440-9561

Mail

U.S.Postal Service (Aubrey station)- 940-365-2621

Hospitals

Presbyterian Hospital of Denton-

940-898-7000

Denton Regional Medical Hospital-

940-384-3535

School Districts

Aubrey ISD (N of Fishtrap Rd.) 940-365-2721

Denton ISD (S of Fishtrap Rd.) 940-369-0000

In Grateful Appreciation for Service Rendered to the Town of Cross Roads

On Thursday, June 30, 2011, a celebratory dinner was held at the local Prairie House Restaurant. Guests were served a delicious barbeque meal and cobbler. The evening closed after tokens of appreciation were given to those people who have dedicated their time and energies to serving the Town of Cross Roads through this last year.

A photographic collage recording the evening's events follows on the next page. Enjoy.

Thanks

Town of Cross Roads, Texas

Ross Schraeder, Mayor

Tony Russo, Mayor Pro Tem

Kim Dickey, Council Member

Larry Fisher, Council Member

Wally Kille, Council Member

Steve Smith, Council Member

Katherine Ritchie, Town Administrator

Judy Moudy, Admin. Assist.

Jeanie Burch, Editor

Cross Roads Town Hall

PHONE: 940-365-9693

FAX: 940-665-6898

www.crossroadstx.gov

TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULE

Town Council Meetings 3rd Monday of the month

Planning & Zoning Commission meetings 4th Tuesday of the month

Road Repair Committee meetings the Thursday before the Town Council meeting

Comprehensive Planning Committee meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month

Town Council Workshop Meetings as needed

Park Board Meetings – 2nd Tuesday of the Month

All meetings start at 7:00 pm, or will be posted if different. All meetings are open to the public and held at Town Hall unless specified otherwise on the agendas, which are posted on the front window of Town Hall. Please call Katherine Ritchie at Town Hall if you would like to join a committee to serve your community.

Administrative Staff Meetings 1st Tuesday of the month at 9 am

Municipal Court held 1st Tuesday of the month at 9am

Town of Cross Roads

1401 FM 424

Cross Roads, TX 76227