



THE CROSS ROADS TIMES

Volume 5 Issue 1

THE TOWN OF CROSS ROADS, TX.

January 2006



From the Mayor's Desk... By Harv Kitchens, Mayor

STATE OF THE TOWN

Each year at this time, it seems appropriate for us to review the previous year and set goals for the New Year.

The first thing that we like to review are our financials. Many would say that if your financials show improvement, you have had a good year. If this is true, the Town of Cross Roads has had a GREAT year! To be specific, on December 21, 2004, we had current assets (cash) in the amount of \$351,038 and on December 31, 2005, we had cash on hand in the amount of \$569,009. An increase of \$217,971. This gives us the money we need to implement road repairs and ensure that our Town continues to be a place we all enjoy living.

There are 3 different activities that created this large increase. First, we received \$100,000 from the Huffines Development Group in payment for the Town releasing acreage in our extra territorial jurisdiction. This money will be used to repair Fish Trap Road as needed due to the extra traffic. We also received \$69,000 in tax revenues from the State Comptrollers office. This money had been misallocated over the past 12 months and was due to the Town. We had not budgeted this type of

increase so it added to our increase in cash. The third activity was prudent spending and tight management of our funds. We ended the fiscal year \$50,000 under budget. Your Finance committee, Town Council and Administration are to be complimented for this fine job.

Another major accomplishment was the Development Agreements that the Staff and Council completed with the Allegiance Developers. This development will have approximately 67 acres of commercial and 137 acres of residential on the property at the North-east corner of Highway 380 and FM 424. The residential area will have 98 lots with homes starting at approximately \$300,000. The developer has donated to the Town of Cross Roads approximately 4 acres that the Town can use for expansion of parks and facilities. The developer has agreed to construct a "first class" center that our citizens can be proud of. They will follow the "Old Texas Country" guidelines. Ground breaking for the residential portion is planned for March 2006. The commercial should begin in the Fall of 2006. This center will bring many needed services to the citizens of Cross Roads.

One of the goals for 2005 was to establish a Municipal Court so that we could enforce our ordinances. This was accomplished as we now have an appointed Municipal Judge, Municipal Court Clerk and a Code Enforcement Officer. We have not had a court session as of this date, however, we have been able to correct several code violations through communication with

the owner without fines or court appearances. We will continue to contact property owners that are in violation of our ordinances to comply.

We had 13 Residential Building Permits this past year. This number of permits increases our population approximately 50 people. The estimated population for our Town is

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Mayor's Message ... (continued)

now in excess of 700.

The year 2005 was a very active year for road repair and replacement. We have spent over \$85,000 on repair and replacement of our roads. This includes filling of pot holes on a scheduled basis, mowing our "right of ways", and major replacement of a portion of Fish Trap Road. Your council recognizes the mandate from you, our citizens, to continue our efforts to improve all the roads in our Town.

Goals for 2006

- Clearly define our architectural theme of "Old Texas Country" to ensure we create a unique and distinctive town look as commercial construction continues.
- Create over-lay districts that will allow us to enforce the architectural theme in our commercial area. We will hire an architect as a consultant to ensure that we have the definitions complete and specific so that our architectural review committee can evaluate each application.
- Investigate the need to hire a City Planner as a consultant to ensure that we stay on track in developing our Town and to maintaining the vision that the citizens have for our Town. This includes the vision of residential lot sizes of one acre minimum, no property taxes and the creation of a commercial district that provides services, generates revenue for the Town and is an attractive area.

This next year we anticipate that the Allegiance Development will be moving forward with their plans and our goal is to manage this so that we will be assured of the commitments that have been made by the developer. We all want this development to be an asset to our community.

Again, I want to "Thank" our staff, Council Members, Planning and Zoning Commissioners and all the many commit-

CROSS ROADS ELECTION

Election Time for the Town of Cross Roads is approaching. This year up for election will be the Mayor's seat for a two-year term and two Council seats, each for a two-year term. If you are interested in being a candidate for this election and have any questions, please contact Town Hall at 940-365-9693.

The important election dates to remember are as follows:

- **February 11, 2006:** First day for filing an application for a place on the ballot.
- **March 13, 2006:** Last day for filing an application for a place on ballot.
- **March 20, 2006:** Last day for a write-in candidate to declare candidacy.
- **March 21, 2006:** Last day for candidate to withdraw.
- **May 1, 2006:** First day for early voting by personal appearance.
- **May 9, 2006:** Last day of regular early voting by personal appearance.
- **May 13, 2006:** Election Day.

FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, Katherine Ritchie.....

It is with regret that I announce Linda Harpold 's resignation. Linda has been the town's administrative assistant for the past year and a half and has been a wonderful resource for the Town. Linda has accepted another position with the Allen School District. We wish her well and appreciate all she has done for the Town.

DENTON COUNTY DROUGHT 2005-2006

According to State Forester and Director of the Texas Forest Service, Jim Hull, this winter's fire season is the worst he's seen in nearly ten years. In the first five days of 2006, 191,806 acres have burned in Texas, more acres than all of 2005. "Current fire threat conditions are so extreme that almost any wildfire has the potential to exceed local control", said Hull.

Denton County is currently under a burn ban. This ban, in effect since June 20, disallows controlled burns, welding, fireworks and campfires, in hopes of preventing wildfires here.

Denton County officials have suggested people water lawns to prevent grassfires. But residents are also being cautioned to conserve water. Denton County is experiencing its driest year on record since the 1960's. Our area lakes are below normal levels because of the lack of rainfall and. forecasters are saying there is no end in sight. "This is normally our rainy season and there no rain", said George Hanson, park ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lake Lewisville is nearly 8 feet below normal, and Lake Ray Roberts is about 4 feet below normal.

Below are tips to help you conserve water and also steps you can take to protect your home from wildfires.

Tips to Help Conserve Water

(Source: City of Denton)

- Install a low-flow showerhead.

- Take a shorter shower.
- Run dishwashers only when full.
- Use a dishwashers "light wash" setting.
- Turn off water when brushing teeth. Turn it on to rinse.
- Install faucet aerators.
- Fix faucets or toilet leaks.
- Sweep porches and driveways instead of hosing them down.
- When washing a car, wet it, scrub it from a bucket of soapy water and then rinse it off.
- The optimal time for watering lawns is between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. Avoid watering on windy days.
- The key to watering lawns is to apply water infrequently, yet thoroughly. Experts suggest a weekly 1-inch application, wetting the soil to a depth of 5 to 6 inches.

10 Simple Steps to Protect Your Home from Wildland Fire

(Source: Texas Forest Service
www.txforestsERVICE.com)

Wildfire can strike home if you have not taken some steps to protect your house and property. The actions and precautions listed below are designed to help you prepare your home and lessen the threat of wildland fire damage to you and your property.

1. LPG tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep area around the tank clear of

flammable vegetation.

2. Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings.

3. All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic tables, boats, stacked lumber, etc. should be kept away from structures.

4. Clear roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid build-up of flammable materials such as leaves and other debris.

5. Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet or more.

6. In rural areas, clear a fuel break of at least 3 times the height of the fuel around all structures.

7. Have fire tools handy such as: ladder long enough to reach your roof, shovel, rake, and a bucket or two for water.

8. Place connected garden hoses at all sides of your home for emergency use.

9. Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your home.

10. Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your neighborhood.

From Nancy Collins & Owen Yost, at Denton's nearby, family-owned Wild Bird Center

Several customers have told us that woodpeckers are all over their peanut feeders. We've also heard that American Woodcocks are hanging out in places all over town. Lots of waterfowl were seen at Hagerman NWR (east of Gainesville), including Canvasbacks, Common Goldeneye, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Pintails, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and a Common Merganser. An ever-increasing flock of Canada Geese (or Cackling Geese?) hangs out in a yard by Lake Ray Roberts, near Tioga. There have been a few reports of Great Crested Flycatchers overwintering in north Texas; they usually migrate farther south. Many of you in the Denton area are seeing "herds" of American Robins, Carolina Chickadees and White-throated Sparrows – especially when you water your yard or if you have a birdbath.



Name: Bill Bacon

Occupation: Software Application Developer since 1990.

Employer: Computer Sciences Corporation.

Education: BBA in Management Information Systems from University of Texas Austin, class of 1990.

Organizations I belong to: Cross Roads Road Repair Committee, Cross Roads Planning and Zoning Commission, USBC Bowling Association, and Diver's Alert Network (DAN) SCUBA Organization.

My immediate family includes: my wife Gale, a Border Collie dog

Citizen Profile BILL BACON

named Keeva, and two cats named Stretch and Milo.

How long have you lived in Cross Roads? Since August, 2001.

Before I moved to Cross Roads, I lived in: Based out of Irving and Dallas while living out of a suitcase traveling across North America to my company's client sites.

What do you like best about Cross Roads? Looking out of my front window and seeing horse and cattle ranches, trees, and rolling hills.

What would you change about Cross Roads? Better roads and more of a 'community environment'.

What is your favorite book? Most anything written by Tom Clancy.

What is your favorite movie? The Great Escape with Steve McQueen.

What is your favorite restaurant?

Yummy's in Denton.

My hobbies and interests are: Reading, watching movies, singing, landscaping, bicycling, traveling, SCUBA diving, and donating blood.

The person I most admire is: My wife, Gale. Watching her battle Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia and conquering it with grace, dignity, will-power and even humor.

Nobody knows: My first job was as a Corn De-tasseler in Minnesota, working the cornfields with my junior high classmates.

What are your hopes and plans for the future? To live a long healthy comfortable life in the arms of my wife. To start a car restoration hobby. Travel to Australia and SCUBA dive the Great Barrier Reef. And for the New Year's resolution...lose fifteen pounds!

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

By: Randy Wallace, P & Z Chairman

At the conclusion of the Commission's October meeting, Commissioner Rob Puma advised us that he would be resigning his position on the Commission. Rob had been juggling the responsibilities of running a business and raising a young family with his service on the Commission. It had reached the point where something had to give and certainly no one can fault Rob's priorities. Rob began his community service to Cross Roads as a member of the Road Committee. This is a hard working committee and Rob was always there when there was work to be done. He has been a conscientious P & Z Commissioner and his practical approach to issues has been an asset for the Commission. Thank you

Rob, for your service to our community

To fill the vacancy on the Commission we went back to the Road Committee. We asked Bill Bacon, another stalwart with a record of valuable service to our community, if he would be willing to serve. Bill said yes, the Council approved and the Commission moved on without missing a beat, replacing one capable member with another. Bill is featured in the "Citizen Profile" of this issue.

In the last newsletter I discussed the Supercenter Store. I anticipated that the New Years fireworks sales period would give us the leverage to resolve the outstanding issues. The

Council took the very responsible action to ban fireworks sales for that period due to the hazardous fire conditions that we have faced this winter. We have continued our efforts and have been able to make some progress. At its January meeting the Council approved a number of solutions to the problems I discussed in my article. The property owners have agreed to these remedies and have already taken some steps forward.

We expect that the remaining issues (screening of the trash storage area and screening of the roof mounted air conditioning units) will be completed soon. The landscape issues should be resolved in the spring.

OUR FEATURED BUSINESS...

Long Time Cross Roads Business has new home: *Cross Roads Station*

Doug Daffron, long time Cross-roads resident, has built a wonderful new addition to our town. Located at Hwy 377 and Hwy 380, the replica 1908 Santa Fe train depot is now home to *The Shed Shop, Denton County Surplus and Aunt Amy's Attic*



The Shed Shop builds wooden storage buildings, Log Cabins, garages, barns, etc. *The Shed Shop* is one of the few companies in the metroplex that moves storage sheds. Customers can choose from in-stock buildings for next day delivery, or have a shed built to order by choosing from the many available options. Doug and Linda Daffron started the company 20 years ago right here in Cross Roads. They liked the town so much that they moved here in 1987 as soon as their daughter, Amy, graduated from High School. Always active in the community, Mr. Daffron served the town for over 13 years on the Planning & Zoning committee and as mayor. In 1994 their son, Steven Mordecai joined the company to help build and sell the storage sheds. In 1997, they began selling surplus doors, windows and mouldings. After Steven graduated from UNT in 1999, he took over the surplus side of the business and re-named it *Denton County Surplus*.

Denton County Surplus offers entry doors, mouldings, decorative hardware, and fixtures at a substantial savings over retail prices. Owner Steven Mordecai began by buying scratch-and-dent, special order returns and discontinued items from local manufacturers at deep discounts and then passed those savings on to the consumer. "Most people think of surplus as used or salvage merchan-

hardware, metal carports, and 55 gallon barrels

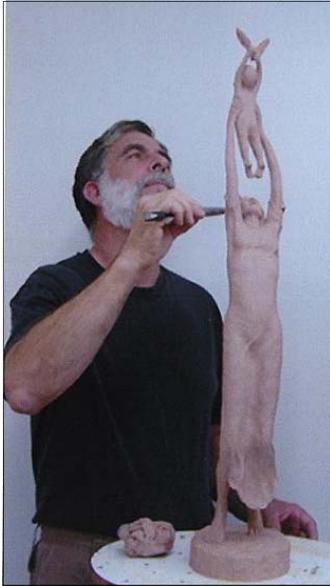
Steven and his wife, Dana, have expanded again by adding *Aunt Amy's Attic*—an antique shop and home décor boutique. Rich with color and detailed with Neo-classical trim work, the showroom has the feel of a turn-of-the-century front parlor. Aunt Amy's Attic offers hard-to-find decorative

hardware, home and garden accessories and antique furnishings. You'll find everything from glass canisters to concrete bird baths to decorative door bell buttons at Aunt Amy's Attic.

For more information, call Steven or Doug at 940-365-2889, or 940-365-9752.

Hours of operation are M-F 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m..





George working in studio on piece entitled "First Flight".

Last year my brother David and I spent several days driving around Cross Roads looking for spots of interest that we could photograph to make a collage for an edition of The Cross Roads Times newsletter. David spotted this very unusual structure so we stopped to find out what it was. We had the wonderful opportunity to meet George Cadell. The structure was part of a bronze foundry.

George Cadell was born on the Washita River in Ft. Cobb, Oklahoma, and lived in western Oklahoma for all of his boyhood. His friends and neighbors were the Indian and white families that settled the area around Ft. Cobb. He spent long hours listening to exciting tales passed down from generation to generation...some fact...some legend. In 1963, George married his wife Pat. They lived in Oklahoma City where George taught art. In 1973 George and Pat moved to Cross Roads. They have lived on their one acre ranch on New Hope Road for over 32 years. It is here they raised two children, a daughter Lisa and a son Wayne. Both children love art. It has become part of their personal and professional lives.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR... GEORGE CADELL, ARTIST/SCULPTOR

By Laurel Wallace, Editor

George retired after teaching art for 36 years at the high school level. Now he spends his time as a working artist in sculpture and operating the bronze foundry with his best critic, his wife, close at hand. Having established himself as a painter, George turned to sculpture in search of ways to express his feelings. He likes to work in welded steel and bronze, depending on the piece and what he feels needs to be expressed. In welded steel he attempts to bring out a sense of movement and form that almost goes against the nature of the material and its rigidity. In his representation of nature he attempts to bring the pieces to life, not so much with extreme realism, but with movements and interest created by superimposing almost hidden areas into the piece that support his theme. He believes that all worthwhile pieces in art must communicate the artist's feelings to the viewer. It is very important for the artist to receive personal satisfaction from his own involvement in his work, but George says his greatest thrill of accomplishment is when a piece of his work communicates to the viewer almost the exact feelings and thoughts that inspired the piece, without their knowing the sculptor or his motives.

In 1997 George was honored by the Greater Denton Arts Council and received the Community Arts Recognition Award (CARA). George's education includes a B.A. from Southwestern State University and an M.A. in Art Education from Central State University in Oklahoma.

While most of George's works have been exhibited outside the Denton area, George's art can be seen locally. Anyone who visits the Denton Water Park will be able to view George's sculpture fountain

entitled "Divers" at the entrance to the park. Additionally, George's art can be seen at the Denton County Firefighters Memorial Park, located on the corner of Mulberry Street and Carroll Boulevard in Denton. The bronze firefighters' boots and helmet were sculpted by George.

George is currently bidding to do a bronze casting of a 1 1/2 life-sized horse rearing on his back feet that will he estimates will take over 10 months to complete.

George's work are on consignment at Pat Wayman's Gallery in Dennison, Texas.



"Refining of the Apache"



"Pelican"

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

- **Welcome to our new neighbors in Cross Roads:**

- Nolan and Pam Meek, 4200 Keyes Lane
- Joe and Andrea Stillwell, 2201 Spring Mountain
- Steve Smith, 300 Spring Mountain
- Pete and Kathe Hamilton, 2900 W. Oak Shores Drive
- Michael and Pam Lawrence, 4301 Keyes Lane
- Philip and Wendy Mackey, 7700 Hwy. 380

The Town of Cross Roads celebrated their annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m. Citizens joined with their neighbors and friends to kick off the festive holidays. Refreshments were served and we were treated to Christmas carols sung by Cross Roads resident Kay Lamb. Kay is a well known artist and most definitely has "the voice of an angel". The regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. A special thank you to Monnie Ritchie for putting up all the lights and the Town Hall administrative staff for all their work and preparation to make this such a wonderful event.



NEW BUSINESS COMES TO CROSS ROADS... On The Bit—Saddlery and Mercantile

Native Coloradans, Bill and Judy Ambrosich spent 24 years in Colorado as owners of Franktown Feed and Tack, an English Saddlery store.

In 2001 they moved to a farm in Aubrey. Since that time they have been looking for just the right location to open an upscale English Saddlery Shop. They found just the ideal location in Cross Roads.

On December 7th, 2005 On the Bit had their grand opening at their new loca-



tion at 7500 Hwy 377, Cross Roads.

On the Bit features a complete line of riding equipment and accessories. They also specialize in household items and gifts in the English/Western theme.

Please welcome this new business to our community. Stop by and say hello. Their hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Town of Cross Roads
1401 FM 424
Crossroads, TX 76227



Harv Kitchens, Mayor
Ross Schraeder, Mayor Pro Tem
Michelle Meek, Council Member
Dan Prins, Council Member
Janis Russo, Council Member
Viriden Seybold, Council Member
Katherine Ritchie, Town
Administrator
Laurel Wallace, Editor

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Town Council meetings are the second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- Planning and Zoning Commission meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- Comprehensive Planning Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- Road Repair Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the Council Meeting on the second Monday each month at Town Hall.
- All meetings are posted on the Town Hall bulletin board 72 hours prior to meeting.

Town Hall will be closed in observance of the following Holidays: Monday, February 20th in observance of Presidents Day and Friday, April 14th in observance of Good Friday.

HAPPY VALENTINES
DAY

