

# The Cross Roads Times

Quarterly Publication of the Town of Cross Roads, Texas 76227 (Denton County)

## From the Mayor's Desk

by Steve Smith, Mayor



### Winter 2014 Update

I hope each of you had an enjoyable holiday season with friends and family. Now with the visitors gone and kids back to school, 2014 is in full swing and as busy as ever.

During my holiday downtime I found myself thinking about this article and how to compete with the October newsletter. The problem was simply due to the vast number of exciting developments I was able to share in the last newsletter- many of which the town has been waiting on for a decade or more. Those developments included the Walmart opening, TXDOT's light approval at Hwy 380 / Moseley-Fishtrap Rd., Oak Grove annexation, and closing the year with yet another strong surplus in revenue.

I began to think about the way we communicate with our citizens and businesses. I will dedicate a majority of this article to the communication

strategies we have in place and what we are planning to do this year.

### Communication Strategies

Communication has always been a top priority for the current Council and me. It is important to be a completely transparent government and provide accurate and timely updates and information to our citizens and businesses. We set our meeting dates and stick to them throughout the year, allowing for those who want to attend to plan in advance. We have completely revamped our website and have posted virtually everything online. We instituted weekly email blasts to all of the 200+ citizens who have signed up to receive them. We have encouraged and received participation from our citizens and local news outlets. Our official paper of record is Pilot Point Post Signal and they run almost weekly stories on our town to the extent that people often joke about how often we are in the paper.

One of those articles was dated October 5, 2012 written by Editor David Lewis in his viewpoints column. It was titled "*Transparency: Cross Roads gets it.*" In that article he explains the Open Meetings Act that applies to government entities and compliments Cross Roads for our open government: open monthly staff meetings, open citizen committee meetings, and posting virtually everything we do online.

We have mailed this quarterly newsletter for many years, which has

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proven to be a good and reliable communication tool. The newsletter is limited due to the fact that it is quarterly, has to be edited, printed, and then mailed, all taking time making some of the information already outdated by the time you receive it. We began posting the newsletter online with links to it in our email blasts last year, which helped.

Many council members and I make it a point to attend as many community events as possible. I attend monthly Aubrey Area Chamber of Commerce luncheons, and on a few occasions other area mayors and I have had the pleasure of being guest speakers,

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## From the Mayor's Desk *(continued)*

allowing us to update the business community on events within our town. In spite of these efforts I still hear, while seldom, second hand comments about people not knowing what is going on in our town.

Someone told me recently that he/she was unaware of a recent item concerning the town. I took the opportunity to discuss the issue in detail with this citizen. What I discovered was that person had not signed up for email alerts, had not visited our website, and did not read the Pilot Point Post Signal, Denton Record Chronicle, or our quarterly newsletter. The citizen also had never attended any of our meetings or workshops.

This person went on to express frustration because several council members were included on email chains and never discussed any details. I explained that as elected officials we are prohibited by law from replying to and joining in on conversations outside of posted public meetings on items that concern the town or require council approval. Sometimes our governmental regulations can be somewhat behind the times in respect to technology, but it is an effort to give all interested parties an opportunity to participate in a conversation in a posted public forum rather than just those on a particular email chain.

After our conversation the citizen agreed to come to a meeting, go to the Cross Roads website, sign up for alerts, and also subscribe to the Pilot Point Post Signal. I encourage each of you to do the same.

In November I began testing a communication strategy of "coffee with the mayor." My current plans are to do this monthly on a Saturday morning at Town Hall. This will give citizens and business owners the opportunity to come and discuss in an informal setting any topic concerning our town. The next scheduled Saturday is February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. Please come join me and ask any questions or express the concerns you have.

Throughout 2014, we will be looking for more ways to effectively communicate with each of you. We will explore the use of social media outlets, will continue to update our website, and will be revising our meeting agenda postings and packet process. We will also be working toward getting Cross Roads into the Texas Comptrollers Leadership Circle program, which recognizes local governments that meet high standards for financial transparency online.

If you have any ideas please feel free to forward them to us. We need your feedback and suggestions in order to continually improve.

### **Commercial / Residential Development**

Taco Bell opened its doors in December, please go by and

welcome them to the town. You have probably noticed lots of dirt movement next to Whataburger. That is two buildings known as OP3 and OP4 and where Starbucks, Fuzzy Taco's, Sally Beauty, Mattress Firm, SuperCuts and the UPS Store have all executed leases and will open this summer. Please remember to shop locally whenever possible to support all of your local businesses.

From a residential standpoint we have a preliminary plat application which has been approved for 142 one acre lots on the East side of Naylor Rd. It is scheduled to go thru final plat process in March. We continuing to see a high number of home starts throughout all areas of our town.

Mark your calendars for our Spring Road Cleanup, which will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

As always, I truly encourage and invite all of our citizens to get involved in some fashion within our town. That start could be by simply attending a meeting that most interests you. For updated electronic delivery of updates please visit our website of [www.CrossRoadsTX.gov](http://www.CrossRoadsTX.gov) and sign up for alerts on the home page. This allows us to quickly and effectively communicate events and updates to all interested parties.

## Atmos Pipeline Update

By Steve Smith

### **Fishtrap Road Atmos Energy Pipeline Replacement Project**

You may be aware of recent utility activity being done by Atmos Energy and their contractors along Fishtrap Rd from Hwy 380 east through our entire town and beyond into neighboring jurisdictions. It involves the clearing of trees and brush along their easement, and the replacement of a steel gas pipeline, which was installed in the early 1900's.

The town received notification concerning this work via a letter on December 23, 2013, and work began on January 3, 2014. Progress was immediately stopped until all requested legal documentation could be provided by Atmos. Atmos did provide the required documentation, and also agreed to make slight adjustments to line placement to accommodate our existing thoroughfare plan in an effort to avoid future line moves. Atmos also drove along the pipeline with town staff in order to identify and save trees based on their location and proximity to the line.

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### Atmos Pipeline *(continued)*

It is an extremely unfortunate situation to have such a large section of trees and other vegetation removed from our town. Neighboring property owners have requested voluntary mitigation or tree replacement be funded by Atmos, which has been communicated to Atmos. The topic was covered as announcements in our Staff and Council meetings in January. We will also place it on the 3PM February 3<sup>rd</sup> Staff meeting as an agenda item. That agenda item will be for discussion of the requests from neighboring property owners concerning tree replacement and to determine if any viable areas exist, other than on the pipeline easement, for possible tree planting. As with all of our staff meetings they are open to everyone and we encourage you to attend.

### Roads Committee Report

by *Bill Roberson*

This spring will be a very busy time for road repairs, due to several things happening in our town. The increase in sales tax revenues from new businesses have allowed for growth in the road repair budget. In addition, we received some matching funds from Denton County Commissioner Hugh Coleman. All of these factors combined will allow Cross Roads to do some much-needed repairs to Mill Creek, and to complete Doc Griffin from New Hope to state Highway 377. In addition, TXDOT has approved the request for a traffic signal and raised median at the intersection of state Highway 380 and Moseley/ Fishtrap. As you probably know, there have been numerous accidents at this location. We thank TXDOT for this approval. We anticipate the work to be completed by late spring.

**Welcome New Residents to Cross Roads Since October 2013**

Marlys Collins, Stephen Faulkner  
Cecilia Luna  
Joshua Norris  
William George  
Frederick Luman  
Michael and Sharon Baca

Remember to subscribe to CR mailing list at [crossroadstx.gov](http://crossroadstx.gov)

### *Kernels From Kay*

Well, I have to admit to a very large “senior moment”, although I’m not really sure it should be called that – rather just monumental stupidity! I recently experienced a wonderful trip to Russia on a river cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg with a longtime friend. We had planned and prepared for this trip for over a year-being sure that our passports were current enough for Russia and visas were in place in a timely manner. Securing a visa for Russia is rather like qualifying for a job with the CIA. Who can remember the name of your supervisor/manager at your first place of employment 50 years ago?! The day before our flight my friend called to say she was trying to print our boarding passes and needed for me to check my passport and visa as she was having some difficulty. In perusing my visa I looked at the date of issue and discovered that it read 11/9/13. Oh no! We were due to arrive in Russia on Sept. 19 and my visa was not even valid until November. We both had panic attacks, and as it was a Sunday were unable to reach the visa service to see what had happened. I had such a crying fit that my husband was considering taking me to the ER. I finally slept after crying myself into an exhausted state, planning to call the following morning to see what could be done. Well... as often happens when I calm down enough for my guardian angel to get through, it occurred to me in the early morning hours that Russians write their dates differently than Americans! My visa was valid on 9/11/13!!!!

*Kay Lamb*



### Shannon’s Shout Out

by *Shannon DePrater, Town Secretary*

#### May 10, 2014 General and Special Election

The Town of Cross Roads will be holding a General Election on Saturday, May 10, 2014 for the purpose of electing the following Town Officers:

- Mayor- currently held by Steve Smith
- Council Member – currently held by Tony Russo
- Council Member – currently held by Alan Hauf

The Town of Cross Roads will also be holding a Special Election to re-authorize the Town of Cross Roads to adopt an additional Sales and Use Tax at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to be allocated to Street Maintenance and Repair.

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**CCF DISTRIBUTES \$20,000 GRANT TO TOWN OF CROSS ROADS**

CORINTH, TEXAS – Jan. 17, 2014 – When **Cross Roads** and **Krugerville** created a joint police force in October 2013, they began with three patrol vehicles. Thanks to a \$20,000 **CoServ Charitable Foundation (CCF)** grant for squad-car equipment, the new **Northeast Police Department** can now add a fourth.

“It worked out really well,” said Northeast Police Chief James Edland. “With four vehicles, we have two for day patrols and two for nights.”

The funds will be used to help outfit a new Chevrolet Tahoe for police use, which will mean officers can be in the field more often protecting citizens instead of returning to police headquarters.

**CCF Executive Director Dennis Engelke**, who presented the check at Northeast Police Commission meeting Jan. 16, said police officers deserve the latest technology to protect themselves as they work to keep us safe.

“We’re thrilled to assist first responders in our service territory,” he said of the first-time grant recipient.

For more information about the Northeast Police Department, please visit the department’s website. For details about CCF and its stewardship, including how to apply for a grant and/or make a tax-deductible contribution to the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization, visit [CoServCharitableFoundation.org](http://CoServCharitableFoundation.org) or click the CCF tab at [Facebook.com/CoServEnergy](https://www.facebook.com/CoServEnergy).



**CCF Executive Director Dennis Engelke with Mayor Steve Smith, Police Chief James Edland, and Northeast Police Commissioners Jeff Parrent, Jim Siano, Noel Johns, Mike Starr, and Krugerville Mayor Dave Hill at the Jan. 16 check presentation.**

*The CoServ Charitable Foundation (CCF) supports activities and organizations making a difference in CoServ communities throughout North Texas. Since its creation in 2004, CCF has provided \$5.3 million in grants to more than 160 different organizations in 53 area communities. The foundation is supported by CoServ Electric, and funding is made possible by donations from residential CoServ Electric Members and CoServ Gas Customers who donate to Operation Roundup® by rounding up their bills to the nearest dollar. All the extra pennies are used every month to directly support social, charitable and civic programs in the CoServ service area. Other funding sources include CoServ Employee contributions via payroll deductions and onetime gifts throughout the year, and Employee events.*

**Shannon’s Shout Out (continued)**

The Town currently collects this Sales and Use Tax, and needs to re-authorize the adoption every four years. Candidate Packets and Applications will be available online and at Town Hall, 1401 FM 424, Cross Roads, Texas, beginning Wednesday, January 29 through Friday, February 28.

All forms within the packet must be completely filled and returned to Shannon DePrater, Town Secretary at Cross Roads Town Hall, 1401 FM 424, Cross Roads, Texas, by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 28, 2014.

Additional information will be placed online at [www.crossroadstx.gov/elections](http://www.crossroadstx.gov/elections) when available.

Please contact Shannon DePrater, Town Secretary, at 940-365-9693 with questions.

**Save the Date!**

The Town of Cross Roads will team with the Cities of Aubrey and Krugerville on Saturday, March 29, for the Great American Cleanup / Don’t Mess with Texas Trash Off. More information will be available online and through our weekly e-blasts as details are confirmed.

## Ever Wonder Why It's Called Potter Shop Road?

By Bruce Arledge, Cross Roads citizen, 5th generation Texan, and Texas Historian

I came to Cross Roads in 1994 with my wife and young son. Shortly after we purchased our property, which sits between Potter Shop Road and Historic Lane, we discovered some history about it that revolved around an old pottery kiln. I have always been a student of history- especially Texas history- and I started "digging" for more information. What I learned was fascinating to me and over the years I have continued to discover more facts and fiction surrounding the Roark/Griffith kiln. The most amazing fact of all is that it is the only intact beehive kiln existing in north Texas today. (Originally, there were 6 historic pottery kilns in Denton County.) I imagine that not many people are aware that we have in our community such a rare piece of Texas history. The most amazing fiction I uncovered involves the ghost of a Civil War scout, a Native American named Rabbit Foot John.

One hundred forty-nine years ago in 1865, the Civil War had ended and devastated the entire country. A Civil War scout named Rabbit Foot John brought James Roark and J.A. Smith to this area to explore the Cantrell Slough in search of the perfect site for their groundhog, up-draft pottery kiln. Roark and Smith's plan was to create and build a source of pottery production to supply the throngs of settlers already migrating to the new Texas frontier and beyond. At the same time, this area of the new Texas was a wild and wooly place.

Outlaws like the Bass brothers and Jesse James called Denton County their playground. Drinking, womanizing, gambling and shootouts were daily events. These are the facts, but I have gone off track.

Construction of the Roark kiln was completed and production of pottery began. Along with several other potteries in north Texas, they were successful manufacturers of utilitarian pots and vessels for 17 years. In 1882, Roark sold the pottery business to Griffith and sons. Griffith increased the pottery production by constructing a beehive kiln with considerably higher capacity. This potters' settlement (shop) consisted of potters, craftsmen, farmers, laborers, families, woodsmen, homes, workshops, barns, hand-dug wells and quarries. Again, the manufacture and sale of pottery was extremely successful until the newly developed railroad delivered a more refined and durable product from

the east. The Griffith and Sons Pottery Shop closed in 1904, 110 years ago.

Today that pottery production site and surviving kiln is located in the area we know as Potter Shop Road and Historic Lane in Cross Roads. The recognition in 1982 by the U.S. Dept. of Interior of this 50-acre site honors the first manufacturing industry in north Texas. To this date, it is the last remaining intact site in north Texas. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Surviving scavenging, as well as onslaughts of drought, flood, neglect, and political upheaval, it is a truly amazing place. There were six other important pottery kilns in Denton County, but through neglect and expansion (progress), they no longer exist. What a unique distinction for the town of Cross Roads!

For more information about our town's historic site, please contact our Town Secretary or search **Roark/Griffith historic site** on the internet.

## Trivia Night at Aubrey Area Library

By Jordan Woodard

Dust off your pub quiz skills, save the date and get your teams together! The Aubrey Area Library's annual Trivia Night will be held March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Be sure to call (940-365-9162) or email [aubreyarealibrary@gmail.com](mailto:aubreyarealibrary@gmail.com) to reserve your spot.

Last year 9 teams competed for cash prizes in the Aubrey Area Library's annual Trivia Night. The first place grand prize of \$160 was won by team Trivial Pursuits. Teams Book Smart and Odzn N's took 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively for \$80 and \$40. Last year 2013 was the first time a prize was awarded for Best Decorated Table. 7 Chicks and 1 Rooster won the \$40 prize, after much debate among the judges.

We look forward to seeing you on March 15, 2014, and remember to bring your table décor and thinking caps!

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### 2013 Aubrey Area Library Trivia Night Winners



Team Trivial Pursuits won First Place Grand Prize.



Team Book Smart won Second Place.



Team Odzn N's won Third Place.



7 Chicks and 1 Rooster won Best Table Decoration.

### NEPD's Vacation Watch Program



The Northeast Police Department offers a Vacation Watch Program to its citizens who will be away from their residences for an extended period of time. It requires the completion of a quick form that gives officers pertinent information such as departure and return dates, names of those who have permission to be on the property, and contact numbers. Once the form has been submitted officers will patrol the residence and watch for any suspicious activity. Submitted information is entered into a secure system so residents can feel safe in submitting sensitive information. There is no cost to residents and we encourage you to use this program if you will be away from your home. You can obtain the form on line at [northeastpolice.net](http://northeastpolice.net) or pick one up at either the Town Hall of Cross Roads or the Northeast Police Department. Once the form is completed you may return it to either of these locations, fax it to 940-365-0664, or you may e-mail it to [jedland@northeastpolice.net](mailto:jedland@northeastpolice.net).

The Northeast Police Department strives to provide our citizens with the highest quality of protection and service possible. If you have any questions about the Vacation Watch or any other police services, please feel free to contact Chief Edland at (940) 365-2029.

Anytime you need a police response, please call the dispatch 24/7 non-emergency number at (940) 349-1600. Always dial 911 for any and all life threatening emergencies.

**Northeast Police Department**

**100 Kruger Road, Krugerville, TX 76227**

**[www.northeastpolice.net](http://www.northeastpolice.net)**

Great American Cleanup  
Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off  
Spring Roadside Clean-up  
March 29, 2014  
Mark your calendars now. Don't miss it!

## Taco Bell... by Larry Fisher

What's in a name? In this case, a good deal more than you'd expect!

Taco Bell enjoys name recognition throughout the United States with 5600 restaurants, 350 franchises and 150,000 employees. The founder, Glen Bell, was born in 1923 and grew up poor during the Great Depression of the nineteen twenties and thirties. Even as a boy he had to work to help support himself and his family. That early life experience laid a valuable foundation of hard work, innovation, and overcoming failure.

Several of his initial efforts were either stalled by partners unwilling to take risks or by the failure of his business to produce adequate financial results. However, once Glen Bell conceived and built his first Taco Bell fast food restaurant and introduced Americans to the idea of quick, readily available Mexican food, his fortune quickly changed.

In fact, according to the Taco Bell website: *"Only five years after opening his first Taco Bell (in 1962), Glen's little food stand was ready to become a national corporation. After a major Wall Street bidding war, PepsiCo won the right to keep Glen Bell's legacy alive. The boy who once went to school wearing cement sacks, was now one of the wealthiest men in America."*

But that's not the end of the story. The rapid expansion of Taco Bell in the sixties raised the need to hire more store managers willing to continue the tradition of innovation and service. Taco Bell became the first national food chain to expressly seek qualified female managers at a time when others only looked for male managers.

What else is in a name? That's where Cross Roads Taco Bell store manager, Ana Davila, comes into the picture. As I sat with Ana engaged in conversation on a bright January morning, it became immediately apparent that the sunlight wasn't the only bright aspect of that day.

Ana began her journey with Taco Bell at a youthful 16 years of age. Her sister was already working at the Farmers Branch Taco Bell and encouraged her to make her initial start as part of the Taco Bell team. In the years since, although Ana has worked in other jobs, she kept being drawn back to Taco Bell. Ana says she loves the business, its people, and the opportunities it presents for growth. After approximately 15 years of working with Taco Bell, including time in the Taco Bell corporate organization, she landed the opportunity to open/manage the Cross Roads Taco Bell, the newest of 21 Taco Bell locations belonging to North Texas Taco Bell franchise owner, Troy Morrison.

Ana tells me one of the things that makes the Cross Roads location unique is their location's experience with business done in the evenings versus lunch time. Most Taco Bells get the majority of their business from lunch customers. Ana's Taco Bell does most of its business serving the family dinner crowd. As a result, this location is currently running at 140% of its business plan. Following the trend enjoyed by all new



businesses in Cross Roads, business is very, very good, far exceeding management goals and expectations.

But Ana and her team are not done. You can expect additional innovations at Taco Bell. Beginning sometime in March, Taco Bell expects to introduce new menu items covering breakfast, which will mean new store hours and additional workers needed to cover the requests made by those seeking a quick, new, Mexican breakfast experience.

Our Taco Bell already employs 28 people and over 50% are full-time. And Ana tells me she is still hiring. If you know of someone wanting to start working with an expanding fast-food operation, contact Ana. She's worked in those entry-level jobs and can personally relate both to those starting out and those seeking advancement.

One more thing, Ana has a very special offer for Cross Roads residents. Bring your copy of this newsletter into our new Cross Roads Taco Bell, have them sign this article, and select a single item from their menu (taco or dessert) for **FREE!** Try it. You may find a new dining experience.

Taco Bell is where Mexican fast food meets country living convenience.



Ana and her team

**Town of Cross Roads, Texas**

*Steve Smith, Mayor*

*Tony Russo, Mayor Pro Tem*

*Larry Fisher, Council Member*

*Wally Kille, Council Member*

*Bruce Birdsong, Council Member*

*Shannon DePrater, Town Secretary*

*Becky Ross, Planning Director*

*Susan Zambrano, Admin. Assistant*

*Jeanie Burch, Editor*

**Cross Roads Town Hall**

PHONE: 940-365-9693

FAX: 469-375-5905

[www.crossroadstx.gov](http://www.crossroadstx.gov)

**UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULE**



**Planning and Zoning Commission** meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month

**Park Board** meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month

**Comprehensive Planning Committee** meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

**Northeast Police Commission** meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

**Road Repair Committee** meeting the Wednesday before Council meeting

**Staff** meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 3 pm

**Town Council** meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 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. Please call Shannon DePrater at Town Hall if you would like to join a committee to serve your community.

Please sign up at [www.crossroadstx.gov](http://www.crossroadstx.gov) to receive agendas and updates delivered electronically.



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**Cross Roads, TX 76227**