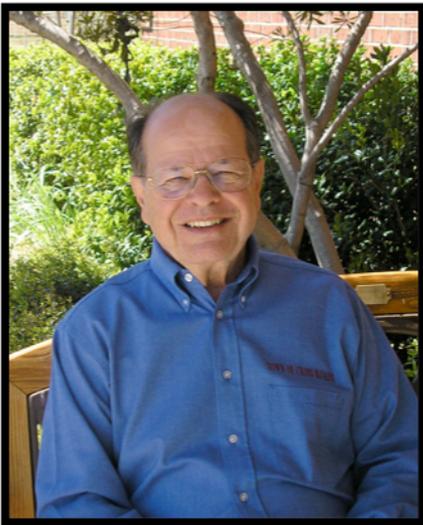


# The Cross Roads Times

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

## From the Mayor's Desk

*by Ross Schraeder, Mayor*



### Cross Roads Financial Position

As you know, the Town of Cross Roads' current fiscal year goes from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012. Therefore, at the end of March the fiscal year was halfway completed. I am happy to report that the Town of Cross Roads is in a good financial position. The Town's income for the first six months was \$280,576.39 and expenses totaled \$184,538.79 resulting in a net income year to date of \$96,037.60. The Town has no debt and no pending financial problems.

### Lovett/Wal-Mart Development

The Town continues to work with Lovett Commercial, developer,

who is trying to put a Wal-Mart on the old Allegiance property, now designated by Lovett as Sage Crossroads. As of the writing of this article, Lovett has closed the deal with BBSSI to purchase the commercial property. The next step is to complete the agreement with Wal-Mart. Following that closure, Wal-Mart is expected to start construction very shortly. The planned Wal-Mart is going to be one of its biggest stores. Completion of construction and the opening is, of course, up to Wal-Mart. Other developers and individual businesses have already started contacting the town with their plans to build businesses on the same site as Wal-Mart, as well as on surrounding properties.

### The 2012 Survey

The 2012 survey has now been completed and a summary of the results is included in this newsletter. The last survey was executed ten years ago. This survey is much more comprehensive than the last, but covers many of the same issues. Essentially 50% of the households that received the survey responded, which was about the same as the survey done 10 years ago. Also, the opinions on similar issues were essentially the same.

Country living and one-acre minimum residential lot size were

### Articles

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### Farmers Market and Vendor Fair

highly desired, as was a full service grocery store. Good roads came in third. Since we already have one-acre minimum on all lots that are not grandfathered and the quality of roads was described as being "Good", it looks like a local grocery store will meet the most important need. Indeed, 88% of those submitting the survey rated the quality of life in Cross Roads as "Good to Excellent". Bringing Wal-Mart into the town on a major

*Continued on page 2*

From the Mayor's Desk (continued)

highway and getting the surrounding businesses should meet nearly all of the citizens' needs.

Other Important items that were emphasized in the survey were better water supply, fire and ambulance service and sewage service in potential commercial corridors. But, essentially nobody was willing to approve property tax to support these desires. Working with Mustang Water, who is responsible for our water and sewage, and producing greater sales tax income will improve these items.

Property Tax

Cross Roads gets a half percent of sales tax because we have no property tax. This income comes not only from citizens of Cross Roads, but also from people outside of the Town. As you have seen from our financial position above, the Town of Cross Roads knows how to control our finances without property tax and once Wal-Mart and the surrounding businesses open, we will be able to fund more expensive needs as necessary without adding a property tax.

Kernels From Kay

A Message from Mini Maxine

A friend of mine has a six-year-old granddaughter whose wisdom rivals that of "Maxine". The following is a conversation between her and her four-year-old brother overheard by the grandparents:

Bro: When I grow up I'm going to marry Momma.

Sis: You can't marry Momma. She's already married, and besides...There are rules, like you can't marry your cousin.

You have to marry a stranger and then try to get used to them.

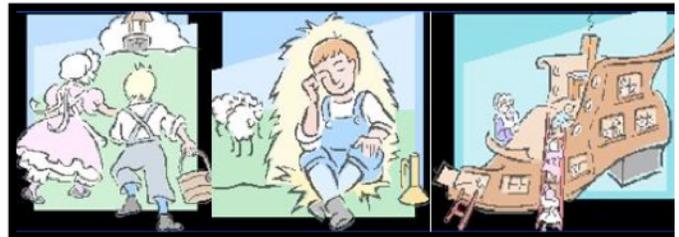
Truer words were never spoken!

Kay Lamb



Aubrey Area Library Story Times

226 Countryside Drive
Aubrey, TX 76227
940-365-9162
www.ci.aubrey.tx.us



Toddler Time

Tuesdays at 11:00 am
For Children 12 months to 3 Years

Preschool Story Time

Tuesdays at 11:30 am
For Children 3 - 5 Years



Cross Roads Community Market

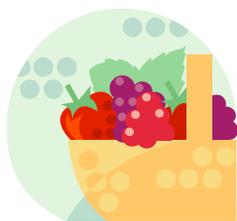
Town Park
Corner of Fishtrap and FM 424

8 AM- Noon

Every Saturday

Dates

June 2 Grand Opening
through August 25





## Hello from Harvey

# Katherine's Corner

by Katherine Ritchie, Town Secretary

### ODDS & ENDS

#### ELECTION RESULTS

I would like to congratulate Mayor Elect Steve Smith, and Council members Kim Dickey and Tony Russo on their uncontested election to the Town Council. With the election of Mayor Steve Smith the Town Council will be short one member. All citizens interested in serving their community as an appointed member of the Town Council for a 1-year term are requested to contact Town Hall.

#### SPRING ROADSIDE CLEANUP THANK YOU

I hope all who could participate in last month's Spring Roadside Cleanup remembered to clean out their garages of unwanted recyclable items such as paint, batteries, and used motor oil. The Town of Cross Roads each spring contracts with Upper Trinity Water District to provide a safe and environmentally friendly way to dispose of these household waste items. In addition, the Town contracts with Computer Crushers to be on site to collect unwanted electronics such as televisions, computers, and monitors. The Town's contract waste disposal company, IESI, provided 2 large roll off containers and one manned crusher unit to collect all the road and yard collection items for disposal. The next community cleanup will be held in the fall. Please, if you get a chance, thank Naomi and Alan Hauf for their leadership and planning of the cleanup events for the past 6 years.



## Swimming Pools

#### 4<sup>th</sup> INSTALLMENT - UNDERSTANDING COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE

In the first installment, I highlighted the **JUNKED VEHICLE** regulations, in the second I summarized another common code violation **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**, and in the last installment it touched on **PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS REGULATIONS**. This issue I will outline the town's **SWIMMING POOL REGULATIONS**. The complete ordinance regulations can be found online at the town website (<http://www.crossroadstx.gov/documents/code-of-ordinances>).

#### ARTICLE 3.09 SWIMMING POOLS

##### *Sec. 3.09.001 Purpose and intent*

The purpose of this article is to regulate, control, and administrate the construction of pools and their enclosures within the boundaries of the town and to provide for the safety and wellbeing of town citizens by providing safe pools and enclosures without causing undue hardship or burden on the business or homeowner.

##### *Sec. 3.09.002 Applicability*

This article and the provisions set forth herein shall apply to a pool, herein defined as any pool, spa, hot tub, or other water-containing device used, designed, or intended for recreational or therapeutic use that has a depth of water of at least twenty-four (24) inches, and a capacity of at least 5,000 gallons. Unless otherwise expressly provided, this article shall not apply to a tank or cistern that has a fixed roof or top, which is designed, used and intended for use for solely irrigation purposes, or to ponds, lakes or bodies of water in a natural state.

*Continued on page 4*

**Katherine’s Corner (continued)**

**Sec. 3.09.003 Definitions**

For the purpose of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them:

Aboveground/on-ground pool. See “swimming pool.”

Barrier. A fence, wall, building wall or combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

Hot tub. See “swimming pool.”

In-ground pool. See “swimming pool.” That is situated on the premises of a commercial building, community grounds, or any type of residential dwelling.

Spa,non-portable. See “swimming pool.”

Spa, portable. A nonpermanent structure intended for recreational bathing, in which all controls, water-heating and water-circulating equipment are an integral part of the product.

Swimming pool. Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains a minimum of 5,000 gallons of water and is over 24 inches deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

Swimming pool, indoor. A swimming pool which is totally contained within a structure and surrounded on all four sides by walls of said structure.

Swimming pool outdoor. Any swimming pool which is not an indoor pool.

**Sec. 3.09.004 Permit required**

(a) No person, firm or association shall install, construct, equip, operate or maintain a pool without first having applied for and been issued a valid permit. Permit applications shall be made on a form furnished by the town and shall be accompanied by the appropriate permit fee as set by the town council.

(b) All existing pools filled prior to the effective date of this article are required to apply for a permit but are exempt from the permit fees. Existing pools which are not in compliance with this article will have 90 days from the effective date of this article to make necessary repairs or improvements to become compliant.

(c) The mayor or his designee may deny, suspend or revoke a permit if the applicant or occupant or owner of the property on which the pool is situated is in violation of any of the terms of this article, if the mayor or his designee determines that the pool is kept or maintained in a condition that presents a risk of danger or injury to persons or property, or if a property owner or occupant fails to allow access to the premises on which the pool is or may be situated for the purposes of inspection.

(d) If a permit is denied, revoked or suspended, a new permit application may be made, and the appropriate permit fee paid, or a request to lift the suspension may be made, if the violation or condition that caused the denial, revocation or suspension is corrected.

(e) The denial, suspension or revocation of a permit by the mayor or his designee may be appealed to the town council. Action by the town council shall be final and binding.

**Sec. 3.09.005 Site requirements**

(a) For new pool construction the minimum distance from the water’s edge to the side and rear property line of the property on which the pool is situated shall be not less than fifteen (15) feet. The minimum distance from the water’s edge to any structure (dwelling or accessory building) shall be not less than fifteen (15) feet.

(b) No newly constructed pool shall be located within the required front yard setback or within a public or private easement.



**Sec. 3.09.006 Barrier requirements**

An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, aboveground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa, shall, prior to filling with water, be provided and continuously maintained with a barrier, with gates or doors equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices designed to keep and capable of keeping such gates or doors securely closed at all times when not in actual use, which barrier shall comply with the following:

(1) The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is abovegrade, such as an aboveground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.

(2) Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.

(3) Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

(4) Access gates shall also comply with the barrier requirements (1), (2), and (3), and shall be securely locked with a key, combination or other childproof lock sufficient to prevent access to the swimming pool through such gate when the swimming pool is not in use.

(5) Pedestrian access gates shall also comply with

barrier requirements (1), (2), and (3) and be self-closing and have a self-latching device.

(6) Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier for newly constructed pools, all doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with self-closing doors with self-latching devices, and one of the following conditions shall be met for newly constructed pools only:

(A) The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover which complies with American Society for Testing and Materials F1346 as such exists on the effective date of this article, copies of which shall be kept and maintained in the offices of the town secretary; or

(B) All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the doors are opened.

(7) Where an aboveground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then:

(A) The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or

(B) The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets barrier requirements (1) thru (3). When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.

(8) Indoor swimming pool. All walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with the requirements of the foregoing subsection (6).

(9) Prohibited locations. Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers

(10) Barrier exceptions. Spas or hot tubs containing less than 5,000 gallons of water and which have a safety cover that complies with American Society for Testing and Materials F1346, as such exists on the effective date of this article, copies of which shall be kept and maintained in the offices of the town

*Continued on page 6*

**Katherine’s Corner (continued)**

secretary, shall be exempt from the provisions of this article.

**Sec. 3.09.007 Energy conservation, mechanical, electrical requirements**

(a) All newly constructed swimming pool, spa and hot tub pumps shall be equipped with a time clock or timer, maintained in good working order, so that the pump may be set for the minimum time necessary to maintain the water in a clean and sanitary condition.

(b) No electrical equipment shall be placed within five (5) feet of the water’s edge without prior approval by the town.

(c) No exterior convenience outlet shall be closer than ten (10) feet horizontally from the water’s edge. Existing exterior convenience outlets that are within ten (10) feet of the water’s edge shall be removed or permanently disconnected and covered. Pools filled and in operation prior to the effective date of this article are exempt from this requirement.

(d) Ground fault circuit interrupters shall be installed so as to protect all exterior convenience outlets.

(e) Overhead conductors shall not be closer than twenty (20) feet horizontally from the water’s edge.

(f) All electrical work shall be performed by a licensed electrician. The installation of a P-trap and any gas heater or other appliance using natural gas or propane shall be performed by a licensed plumber.

**Sec. 3.09.008 Inspections**

(a) The following inspections shall be required for newly constructed pools prior to the issuance of a final permit:

- (1) Belly steel inspection for swimming pools;
- (2) Electrical, plumbing, gas, fence and decking inspections;

- (3) Underground electrical inspection; and
- (4) Gas line and P-trap inspection.

(b) The town may inspect any pool at any reasonable time and has the authority to enter upon the premises where a pool is located to the extent necessary to make a full examination. Water samples from a pool may be taken.

**Sec. 3.09.009 Offenses; remedies**

(a) It shall be unlawful to maintain any pool which does not meet the barrier requirements of this article or this code.

(b) A pool shall be continually kept and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free of algae and harmful bacteria. The water clarity of a pool shall be continually maintained so that the bottom surface of the pool is visible.

(c) Any person, individual, firm, corporation or association violating any provision of this section or article shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall upon conviction be fined a sum not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).

(Ordinance 2008-0310-01 adopted 4/14/08)

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**TOWN SURVEY RESULTS**

The compiled results of the town survey are as follows.

- Number of surveys distributed 334
- Number of surveys returned 171
- 51% response

*Details of Survey are on pages 7-13.*

Town Survey Results

1. Are you a resident of Cross Roads?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	88.17%	11.83%
Cross Roads residential property owner?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	88.69%	11.31%
Cross Roads business property owner?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	10.91%	89.09%
Do you operate a business in Cross Roads?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	12.65%	87.35%

2. If you are a resident, how many years have you lived in the Town of Cross Roads

Less that one year	2.47%
1 to 3 years	14.20%
3 to 5 years	5.56%
5 to 10 years	23.46%
Over 10 years	48.15%

3. Please check your approximate age.	Under 30	1.80%
	30-40	3.59%
	40-50	21.56%
	50 -65	38.32%
	Over 65	28.14%

4. Do you have school age children living in Cross Roads?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	26.19%	73.81%

5. Have you attended a Town Council meeting?	<b>Never</b>	30.36%
	<b>Occasionally</b>	52.98%
	<b>Frequently</b>	10.71%



Check out the

**Kids for Community**

**May- July Plans**

on page 15. There are a bunch of really terrific things listed.

**Town Survey Results (continued)**

6. For the following goods and services, choose the top three priorities for you and your family. Please number your priorities 1 through 3, with 1 being your top priority

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Country living	53.02%	6.71%	9.40%
Faster response for Fire and paramedics	8.72%	14.09%	8.72%
Full service grocery store	19.46%	19.46%	19.46%
Good roads	6.71%	33.56%	22.82%
Improved police protection	2.01%	11.41%	10.07%
More local restaurants	2.68%	6.71%	14.09%
Other	0.67%	0.67%	6.04%

7. How would you rate the overall quality of life in Cross Roads today?

Excellent	40.24%
Good	47.93%
Fair	5.92%
Poor	0.00%
Very Poor	0.00%

8. How satisfied are you with the customer service you and others receive from the Town Staff?

Excellent	46.06%
Good	36.36%
Fair	9.09%
Poor	1.82%
Very Poor	0.61%

**Welcome New Residents to Cross Roads**

Since January 2012

**James & Carol Whitmer**

4001 W. Oak Shores

**Dalia Garcia**

2901 Naylor Road

**William and Rue Wright**

4200 Keyes Lane

**Mark and Elise Lewis**

183 Las Colinas Trail

**Kendall and Carol Humphrey**

10 Oak Bluff

**Brian & Cherilyn McMillian**

117 Las Colinas

**Darell Younger**

8600 E. Hwy. 380

**Scott Rustan**

118 Las Colinas

**Steve Elaczny**

1003 Tipps Road

**Pete and Nancy Carrothers**

2170 Forest Hills Drive

9. How satisfied are you with the performance of your Town's elected officials?

<b>Excellent</b>	35.15%
<b>Good</b>	45.45%
<b>Fair</b>	11.52%
<b>Poor</b>	2.42%
<b>Very Poor</b>	0.00%

10. Do you believe Cross Roads should maintain its one acre minimum for residential properties?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
88.17%	11.83%

11. Do you believe Cross Roads should maintain its one acre minimum for commercial properties with sewer line access?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
64.78%	35.22%

12. Would you like the option of receiving the Cross Roads Times newsletter or other Town communications delivered electronically through email?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
52.76%	47.24%

13. Should Cross Roads "consider/start working" toward building the following?

Community Center for Cross Roads residents to rent for special occasions:

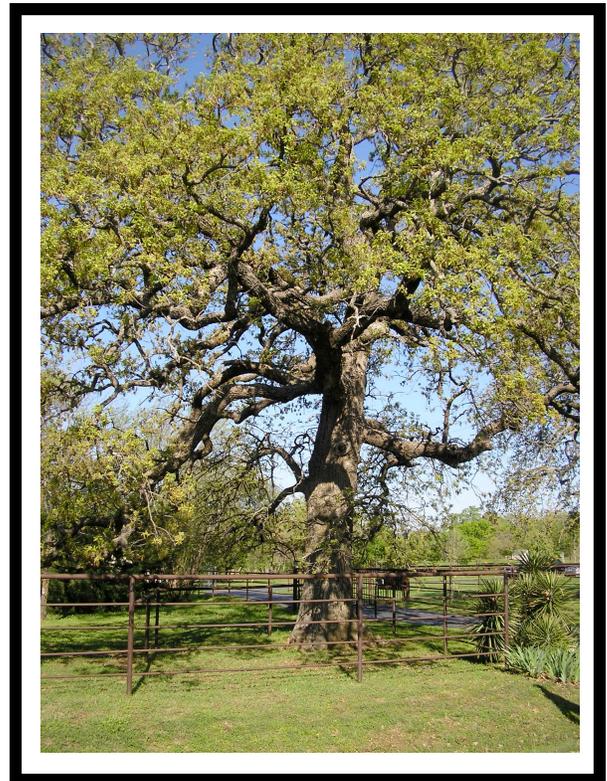
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
24.20%	75.80%

Expansion of Town Hall to provide more/larger meeting rooms:

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
15.03%	84.97%

Fire/EMS station:

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
62.11%	37.89%



This beautiful tree was photographed on Clean-up Day at Cross Roads. What a wonderful welcome to Spring!

Featured  
Business  
See Page 18



8801 Hwy 380 Cross Roads, TX 76227  
Main: 940-365-1900 Fax: 940-365-1969  
www.elementsnursery.com

**Town Survey Results (continued)**

Sewer lines extending along our highways in order to promote business development in our Commercial Corridor:	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	78.05%	21.95%

Upgrading our undersized or inadequate fresh water lines:	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	78.66%	21.34%

Would you be willing to accept a property tax to pay for any of these?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	17.61%	82.39%

14. Please rate how well the following Town services are being provided by circling the appropriate description:

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
a. Code Enforcement:	8.13%	42.50%	15.63%	5.00%	1.88%	20.63%
b. Fire services:	5.63%	50.00%	13.75%	1.88%	0.00%	21.25%
c. Garbage/trash pickup service:	25.47%	48.45%	8.70%	0.62%	1.86%	8.07%
d. Inspection Services:	6.88%	31.25%	16.25%	3.13%	0.00%	35.00%
e. Parks/Recreation:	7.69%	34.62%	19.87%	5.77%	0.64%	23.72%
C. Permit processing services:	7.05%	30.77%	10.90%	2.56%	1.28%	40.38%
g. Police services:	6.21%	45.34%	14.29%	3.73%	1.86%	21.74%
h. Recycling program:	23.27%	41.51%	11.95%	2.52%	2.52%	11.32%
i. Roads /Maintenance:	13.41%	53.66%	20.73%	1.83%	1.22%	1.83%
j. Sanitary sewer service:	6.00%	21.33%	9.33%	2.00%	4.00%	49.33%
K. Street lighting:	3.73%	31.68%	26.09%	11.80%	7.45%	11.80%
l. Water service:	9.38%	51.25%	22.50%	4.38%	1.25%	6.88%

15. Do you believe Cross Roads should establish a committee to work on a community event, which would highlight our Town (e.g., Aubrey's Peanut Festival)?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
31.37%	68.63%

Would you be willing to serve on such a committee?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
20.97%	79.03%

16. Please indicate your opinion on the sale and use of Fireworks:

(a) Should the Town of Cross Roads allow the sale of fireworks within the Town limits?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
40.72%	59.28%

(b) Should the Town of Cross Roads allow individuals to use Fireworks in the Town limits?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
38.55%	61.45%

(c) Should the Town allow special event Firework displays with a Town permit?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
73.46%	26.54%

17. Please indicate your area of residence to help us gain a more accurate picture of the responses:

Along Hwy 380	3.77%
Along Hwy 377	1.89%
FM 424/Naylor Rd	4.40%
Spring Mountain Rd	5.66%
Bridle Ridge Ranch Rd	5.03%



Town Survey Results (continued)

Fish Trap Rd.	4.40%	
Forest Hills Development	3.77%	
Historic Lane	1.26%	
Moseley Rd	5.66%	
Oak Bluff Area Development	3.14%	
Oak Shores Development	39.62%	
Pottershop Rd	1.26%	
Tipps Rd	5.66%	
Villages at Cross Roads Dev.	3.77%	
Other	3.77%	
18. Should Cross Roads allow future light industry (e.g., machine shops, assembly business, commercial warehouse, etc.) in the Town?		
	Yes	No
	62.50%	37.50%
19. What is the most important factor to you in attracting new business to Cross Roads? (select one)		
Creating local jobs	7.53%	
Ensuring quality commercial development	20.55%	
Additional sales tax revenues	28.08%	
Providing goods and services to the community	35.62%	



**During the Month of June**

**Donate**

**PET FOOD**

**To help the Denton Humane Society feed the hungry animals.**

**Drop off location will be**

**Cross Roads Town Hall.**

**Kids for Community will deliver all donated items to the Denton Humane Society.**

**So, grab an extra bag of dog or cat food, and do a good deed for the rescue animals.**

**See pages 15-16 of this newsletter for more ideas and information.**

20. Please rate how important it would be to attract more of the following businesses to Cross Roads.

With 5 being very important and 0 being no interest at all

	5	4	3	2	1	0
Bank	21.34%	10.98%	21.95%	10.98%	7.93%	20.12%
Car Wash	5.52%	7.36%	16.56%	16.56%	14.72%	32.52%
Cleaners/Laundry	6.10%	11.59%	28.05%	15.24%	9.76%	22.56%
Coffee/Donut Shop	5.52%	6.25%	23.31%	18.40%	15.34%	23.93%
Day Care Center	7.50%	6.88%	17.50%	13.13%	12.50%	34.38%
Department Store	18.01%	11.80%	18.63%	11.80%	9.94%	20.50%
Drug store/Pharmacy	26.71%	24.22%	18.63%	7.45%	3.11%	11.18%
Grocery Store	55.09%	15.57%	10.18%	2.99%	1.80%	5.99%
Home Improvement Store	25.15%	18.40%	25.15%	6.75%	4.29%	11.66%
Professional Services [dentist, lawyer, etc.]	9.82%	15.95%	26.38%	15.95%	7.98%	16.56%
Restaurants – Fast Food	19.02%	17.18%	20.25%	9.82%	9.82%	16.56%
Restaurants – Full Service	36.36%	22.42%	20.00%	7.27%	4.24%	4.85%
Specialty Retail Shops	18.01%	16.77%	26.71%	15.53%	4.97%	11.80%
Tractor/Farm Supply Store	10.37%	20.73%	23.17%	14.02%	8.54%	16.46%

21. Do you believe the Town of Cross Roads' ordinances and regulations are:

Not restrictive enough	About right	Too restrictive	Don't know
3.68%	63.19%	18.40%	7.98%

Questions 22-24 required narrative answers.

25. Would you be interested and willing to serve on one of the various commissions and committees established by the Town of Cross Roads?

% Yes	% No	% Maybe
19.48%	35.06%	38.31%

End of Survey

*Katherine Needs to Know*

If you would like to receive email notification of Town meetings and community activities, please email her so that she may add you to her Notifications list. When you send her your request to be added to this service, put " Add me to your email distribution list." in the Subject line. Her email address is [townsecretary@crossroadstx.gov](mailto:townsecretary@crossroadstx.gov).

She will always email meeting agendas and any public notifications/information using **blind copy** status so that your email address will not be displayed in the address box.

**Scout Troop Improves Town Park**

*by . . . Gale Bacon*

The Town Park in Cross Roads now has a few new park amenities, thanks to Scout Troop 45.

Led by Cole Anthony, the scouts entrenched the logs bordering the park driveway entrance, installed a pet waste station, a waste receptacle and an outdoor cooking grill. As a result of his leadership of this project, Cole has now achieved the rank of 'Eagle Scout'.

The Mayor, Town Council, and Park Committee members extend their appreciation to all the troop members who participated in the project:

Cole, Kristin and Tim Anthony, Josh, Leona and Mark Balding, John Greter, Micah Harter, Jeff and John Heselton, Grayson and Mike Holmberg, Aaron Kipp, Brandon, Ethan, Jeremy andf Tim Malmer, Francisco Martinez, Dylan Meadows, Austin Porter, Aubrey Robison, Arnold Santos, Jake, Matt and Todd Siefeman and Brandon Warford.

*Thanks, Scout Troop 45,  
And  
Congratulations, Cole!*

Eagle Scout Cole Anthony in photo



## Kids for Community May-July Plans 2012



The **Kids for Community** program has a lot of exciting things planned for May-July! Please join us for any of the upcoming activities below. All questions and responses can be directed to **Kim Dickey** at 940-597-4988 or [kim@ntxproperty.com](mailto:kim@ntxproperty.com). Thanks!

### Elements Nursery Visit

**Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

8801 Hwy. 380 in Cross Roads

We will be visiting with master gardener, Sara Roland, at Elements Nursery's new location in Cross Roads! Parents, please come bring your kids to learn a little about gardening, get a tour of the new nursery and at the end, each child will walk away with a small plant of their very own!

### “Ring of Fire” Eclipse Twilight Program

**Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

Ray Roberts Lake State Park- **Johnson Branch Unit**

8:00pm – 9:00pm

On May 20th a unique astronomical event will take place across the southwestern United States, including Texas; the moon will partially obscure the sun at twilight creating a “ring of fire” around the moon. We will attempt to view the eclipse at the Day Use area of the Ray Roberts Lake State Park- **Johnson Branch Unit**. (For further directions, stop at the park office the day of the program.) This event is open to the public; there is no fee for the event – only park entrance fees are required (\$7/person 12 and older, or free with valid Texas Park Pass). Please dress appropriately for the weather. Aids for viewing an eclipse safely will be provided. Event will be held at Ray Roberts Lake State Park, **Johnson Branch Unit, 100 PW 4153, Valley View, TX, 76272**. No reservations are necessary but let us know if you are coming so we know to be looking for you.

### Denton Humane Society Collection

**Month of June**

Cross Roads Town Hall

The Denton Humane Society provides a valuable service to Denton County and we know the kids always have such a soft spot for animals that we just had to plan this activity to help support their animal rescue program. Denton Humane Society (DHS) is a small, volunteer animal help organization - solely dependent upon public donations and fundraisers. During the month of June, we would like to collect supplies to be donated to DHS. Please drop off all items at the collection box located inside the Town Hall of Cross Roads. **The most important item needed is pet food**. They have a lot of people who request help feeding their pets

*Continued on page 16*

## Kids for Community Plans *(continued)*

and they sometimes run out of food to help. The dry food is the most economical—any size bags are fine and the brand does not matter. In addition, they can always use bedding items—old towels or blankets, pet toys—can be used. A donation of flea products, gift cards to Wal-mart or pet stores is also always helpful. **Kids, this is a great opportunity for you to ask your neighbors, friends and families for donations** or come up with other creative ideas for helping collect donations for the Denton Humane Society. Please let us know if you need any help – I'm sure your Kids for Community friends would be happy to lend a hand if you need help!

## Rough Riders Baseball Games

**Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Kids - we have reserved two dates for the **Pool Zone** during the local Rough Riders games in **Frisco** – June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup>. What could be more fun than watching a baseball game in the summer while sitting in a swimming pool? The tickets are \$26/pp and we still have a few spots left for each game so please let us know ASAP if you're interested in attending with us!

REMEMBER- All questions and responses/reservations can be directed to **Kim Dickey** at 940-597-4988 or [kim@ntxproperty.com](mailto:kim@ntxproperty.com). Hope you can join us.

**NOTE: Kids for Community is a new organization that had its first meeting last fall. The kids who have participated are of varying ages, so if you are interested in being a part of this fun group, please contact Kim with any questions you may have regarding the activities planned.**

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## Xeriscaping . . . by Bea Pena-Reames

"It's hotter than the hinges on the gates of hell." That adequately described Texas' summer of 2011. The National Weather Service confirmed that Texas' months of June through August were the hottest three months ever recorded in the history of the United States. The Texas Forest Service estimated that the historic Texas drought led to the demise of 100-500 million trees while Texas AgriLife Extension Service economists estimate a record \$5.2 billion in agricultural losses, making it also the most costly drought on record.

**Xeriscaping** helps battle the effects of a drought's onslaught. This method of landscaping utilizes indigenous, drought-tolerant plants that minimize

use of our most precious natural resource, water. It's been said that Texas has four seasons: drought, flood, blizzard, and twister. Indigenous, native plants help lessen the severity of each "season" by possessing a natural adaptability to temperature extremes. Dr. Ron Mittler of the University of North Texas is studying desert plants and their ability to tolerate extreme combinations of heat and drought. His research seeks to identify the specific genes responsible for the survival of desert plants. He would then transfer those genes into other crops, thereby improving yield productions and

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saving billions of dollars. Dr. Mittler stated, "I just need to teach the crops to be like the desert plants." While we await science's answer to "super plants," we have xeriscaping. The term "xeriscape" was coined by Denver Colorado Water Department employees. It is a combination of the terms, "xeros" ("dry" in Greek) and "landscape," hence "xeriscape." Xeriscaping holds to seven principles, as explained below.

## Plan and design

Draw a schematic of your yard, including hard structures, slopes, sidewalks, play areas and existing trees and shrubs that will remain in the landscape. Considerations should always include the needs of children and pets such as playgrounds and dog runs. Consider curb appeal as well as function. An orchard, blueberry bushes or edible shrubs can easily be integrated into an aesthetically appealing landscape. Create a plan that delineates areas for turf, perennial beds, vegetable gardens, play areas, slopes and etc. Consider water requirements for plants in each area and decide where each would best be located. Example: pomegranates don't like "wet feet" (their roots submersed in water for long periods of time), so they should be planted in an area where water drains easily.

## Soil Analysis (and amendment)

Soil testing should ideally be done prior to planting. Soil testing will help determine which plants are best adapted to each location within your design. It will also identify which soil amendments should be utilized for improving the soil for each plant. To help your plants conserve water, add compost or other organic material around the base of the plant. Remember that different plants prefer different types of soil. Some desert plants prefer gravelly, high alkaline soils instead of well-amended soils. Texas' state flower, the bluebonnet, is very drought tolerant and requires soil that is well-drained, so mulching would not be required.

## Turf

According to the king of Texas horticulture websites, [www.aggiehorticulture.com](http://www.aggiehorticulture.com), "Most lawns receive twice as much water as they require for a healthy appearance. The key to watering lawns is to apply the water infrequently, yet thoroughly." Turf is beneficial in the xeriscape landscape because of its

aesthetic appeal, its usefulness in play areas, its ability to cool the environment, and its ability to prevent erosion when a "toad strangler gully-washer" occurs. Many grass varieties are available for different applications and with different water requirements. Bermuda grass does not require as much water as Saint Augustine. It is estimated that 60% of DFW municipal water usage is for maintaining turf and plants. Native grasses such as buffalo grass and blue grama can survive on only 25% of the water requirement of other varieties.

## Plant Selection

Select plants that are adaptable to your soil and climate. Texas summers can get hot so consider carefully a tree's water requirements. As farmers have said, "It was so hot, trees were bribing dogs to visit." Select plants with similar water and light requirements that are suitable within each area of your landscape design. Group these plants together to minimize water usage. "Texas is blessed with an abundance of beautiful native plants which are naturally adapted to the region. Most have lower water demands, fewer pest problems and less fertilizer needs than many non-adapted, exotic plants brought into Texas landscapes." Aggie Horticulture maintains a wonderful, colorful, informative website to aid you in your plant selection. Visit <http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/extension/xeriscape/xeriscape.html>

Denton's own Painted Flower Farm is a small family-owned nursery that specializes in herbaceous perennials, either native or adapted to the rigors of growing in North Texas. Their plants, selected primarily for resistance to the hot dry summers in North Texas, are propagated at their nursery.

## Irrigation

Irrigation is an integral part of xeriscaped landscapes. Knowing your plant's water requirements is important. Many xeriscape enthusiasts attempt to limit areas of turf due to their elevated water requirements. Utilizing a zoned irrigation system often allows for watering

*Continued on Page 18*

## *Xeriscaping (continued)*

plants of differing water requirements more efficiently. Avoid watering during the heat of the day to reduce evaporation of our precious, liquid commodity. Also, avoid sprinklers that deposit water high into the air. Sprinklers that produce big drops or drip irrigation systems are best around trees, shrubs and garden beds since water is not readily lost to evaporation. Most Texas gardeners agree that efficient irrigation is best achieved between late evening hours and early morning hours. Account for any slopes in your landscape that will increase the amount of runoff. Not everyone's property is "flatter than a gander's arch." If a slope is present, irrigate more slowly so that the soil can more readily absorb water. Runoff is something to consider if you have a pond on your property. Whatever fertilizers and pesticides you use in your landscape could end up in your pond, thereby affecting birds, fish and other aquatic wildlife. Drip irrigation systems are ideal for flower and vegetable beds. Water is applied slowly, under low pressure and is at little risk of being lost to runoff or evaporation.

### **Mulching**

Mulch minimizes evaporation and reduces weed growth and weed's competition for water and nutrients. Mulch can be composed of organic materials such as pine bark or wood chips, or inorganic materials such as rubber or permeable fabric. Many gardeners use flattened cardboard boxes as weed block. Cardboard cools the area

around the plant and encourage the introduction of earthworms. Rocks, lava rock and gravel are occasionally used as mulch but may inhibit surface root expansion and also make the area around the plant hotter. Beware in our Texas heat.

### **Maintenance**

The time you spend maintaining your xeriscape often is determined by your original landscape design and plant selection. Mowing turf to its proper height conserves water but may increase time spent on maintenance of your landscape. Aggie Horticulture suggests applying fertilizer to the lawn at the proper time and in the proper amount in order to save time, effort and money through reduced mowing and watering. "Fertilize the lawn once in the spring and again in the fall to produce a beautiful turf without excess growth which demands frequent watering. Use a slow-release form of nitrogen in the spring application and a quick-release form in the fall. Apply only 1 pound of actual nitrogen fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of lawn at one time. By using this fertilizer schedule, no other fertilizer is needed to maintain most shrubs and trees in the lawn area."

So, if you see a funeral procession pull into a Dairy Queen, see cows begin giving evaporated milk, you inadvertently use your seat belt as a branding iron, or you think it's hotter than Hades...think xeriscape! Thank you to those who contributed their favorite Southern colloquialism. We're in the South where everyone knows the other word for sushi is...bait.

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## **Featured Business, Elements Nursery and Outdoor Living**

**by Larry and Kay Fisher**

This isn't your usual nursery. As Kae and I looked around the nursery and marveled at the collection of unique plants, trees, scrubs, and garden items, we were impressed by the rapid transformation of an overgrown property and empty building into such a thriving business.

Mike and Erica McCrary developed their Elements Nursery with a vision that sets them apart from the mass gardening retailers. Their carefully selected plants and trees not only combine for uniquely

beautiful landscaping, but can also flourish in the sometimes harsh and always changing North Texas climate. One of their unusual specialties is xeriscaping - low-water-use landscape design. During North Texas summers, that's an important difference!

But beautiful plants and savvy landscaping design and advice are not the end of the story of how

*Continued on Page 19*

Elements Nursery serves its customers. It's only the beginning. Mike's roots (if you'll pardon the pun) go back into the flower business his parents owned and operated in Dallas. His developing love for the nursery business led him to purchase Scott's Nursery in Krugerville, which they still own and operate.

Their entrepreneurial spirit, however, soon steered them to expand their business vision on the busy commercial corridor of US 380 in Cross Roads. When we asked them why they selected Cross Roads, their answer was a simple one. Cross Roads selected them! They recognized the business potential of this Cross Roads location several years ago. It continued calling to them to open a nursery business here... and now their vision has begun to materialize.

I say, "begun" because Mike and Erica have more in store for their customers. Outdoor living area design and construction combined with appropriate landscaping will become part of their expanded business offerings over the next few months. This means you can come to one place right here in Cross Roads for your complete landscaping solutions. Working with you, they create custom designs for patios, stonework, gazebos, outdoor kitchens, water features, and swimming pools. And you can rely on Mike and Erica's expertise from the initial design concepts to your final project construction and landscaping.

If you haven't yet been inside their onsite building, I suggest you take a look. Erica has begun gathering and offering for sale an increasing number of lovely decorative gift items that will add unique interest

and style to your home's interior. Here again, you will want to check back regularly as the seasons change and as they add more and more items to their growing retail space.

Outside, in addition to the nursery items, you will find an attractive array of unique porcelain pottery for container plantings and decoration. The large variety of sizes, colors and designs means you can find just the right container for that special spot at your home.

Mike and Erica invite you to stop by, say "Hello!", and treat yourself to their unique landscape shopping experience. And when you do, bring your copy of this Cross Roads Times Newsletter, have one of them sign it and they will give you 10% off your order! It's just their way of welcoming their Cross Roads friends and neighbors to a brand-new shopping experience.



Erica and Mike McCrary



## Thanks!

Roadside Clean-up  
Volunteers

Your efforts on Saturday,  
March 24 are greatly  
appreciated.

(See more pictures on  
page 11.)

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

**TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULE**



Town Council Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

Planning & Zoning Commission meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month

Road Repair Committee meetings the Thursday before the Town Council meeting

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

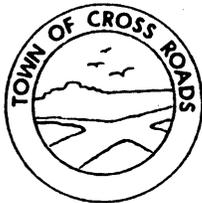
Town Council Workshop Meetings as needed

Park Board Meetings - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9 am

Municipal Court held 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9am



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