

The Cross Roads Times

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

From the Mayor's Desk

by Steve Smith, Mayor

Summer 2013 Update

I hope everyone is enjoying our warm Texas Summer; it seems to be going by amazingly fast. I want to use this article to discuss law enforcement in general as well as our options, and explain why the topic has come up in recent months.

Law Enforcement Discussions / Options

While we once had a Town Marshal years ago, those days have long passed and we find ourselves in a position of needing to plan for our future. Councilman Tony Russo told me recently that he was reviewing some of the early Council meeting minutes and found some discussions in which they were unable to find the Marshal's shotguns. That being the case, whatever we do we will need to start from scratch. Tony found a number of other entries where law enforcement and department consolidation with neighboring towns was mentioned. We did have a brief period in more recent history where we contracted out with Oak Point DPS for law enforcement services, but that was short lived. Some ten years ago when the Walmart conversations first began, the plan was to contract out law enforcement services with Aubrey. As all of you know that development sat dormant for a number of years and never matured. Now that development is well underway and in an effort to ensure our citizens, visitors, and businesses are adequately protected we began researching historical and projected call volumes as well as the best options for our town.

Currently the Town of Cross Roads is the largest municipality within Denton County that relies solely on the Denton County Sheriff's Department to respond to calls for law enforcement services without subsidizing dedicated deputies. Denton County has always done a phenomenal job assisting our citizens and businesses. I met with Sheriff William Travis and his command staff early on in our research to get their thoughts and opinions. They have never approached the town to subsidize deputies, as our historical call volumes were low enough not to warrant it. More recent discussions though have been about planning for our impending commercial developments and the inevitable conversation about subsidizing was included. The sheriff's department was, and continues to be, extremely accommodating and are willing to assist and support us in any way. They will always be a great partner and resource to the town.

Just to give you a brief snapshot of our call volume over the last couple years for the Town of Cross Roads, I have listed annual calls from 2010 to present. Keep in mind that these are all calls for service and radio calls within the town and many are traffic related. While we are currently seeing a slight increase in property crime, particularly in theft and burglaries, it is not alarming considering our increasing population and active construction projects. Neither the slight increase in activity, nor a dissatisfaction with

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existing coverage was a factor in beginning to look at law enforcement options as it was simply planning for the future. In fact quite the opposite is true; we have always been completely satisfied with the service received from DCSO.

- 2010 – 953 Calls
- 2011 – 1894 Calls
- 2012 – 1597 Calls
- 2013 – Trending to +/- 2000 Calls

We also researched projected call volume specifically as it relates to a Walmart alone. That research shows that police are called to similar area Walmarts on average 1.66 times per day or about 50 times a month. This is not saying that Walmart actually drives crime but simply due to the increased amount of customers and activity a big box

From the Mayor’s Desk (continued)

retailer brings does require police response on a regular basis. We also determined that this year alone all but one of the businesses within our town, with the exception of office space, have called DCSO for law enforcement services, including the new CVS. These businesses fund everything we do as a town through the sales tax revenue generated, and a primary responsibility of any town is public safety.

Based on that research and data, it was prudent to begin to explore our options and begin to put a plan in place. Those options include creating a multi-agency with neighboring cities, subsidizing Denton County Deputies for dedicated patrol, creating our own police agency, or finally making an agreement with another area city for coverage. We held a multi-council meeting in March to present the concept of a multi-city agency, since we have discussed all of our options in a number of public staff meetings and held two public workshops. In researching the cost and benefits of all the options we determined that we could get the most coverage with the least amount of money by exploring the creation of a multi-city agency. Therefore, Council agreed last month to participate in negotiations, and commit funding if an agreement is reached, with Aubrey and Krugerville. Those negotiations are currently underway but far from being a reality, as all three cities need to work out all the particulars and determine if each town’s concerns are adequately addressed. We also have figures from Denton County to add four dedicated deputies to the town. This option is not only more expensive but it also has one third of the number of officers than the multi city agency plan.

As with all options each has pros and cons and those must be weighed ultimately in deciding what is best for our citizens, visitors, and businesses. I will keep you updated as those discussions progress.

Election

Cross Roads has always had high voter turn out and May was no exception. We had 297 ballots cast or about 1/3 of our entire population vote. It was reported as being the highest turn out in the entire County. I want to personally thank every one of our citizens for casting your vote and making your voice heard. Please join me in congratulating the three re-elected incumbents and I look forward to working with them again through the next year. The MDD easily passed by almost a two to one margin. Again thank you to everyone who voted and hopefully as we continue to grow we will continue to have great voter turn out and participation.

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Katherine’s Corner...by Katherine Ritchie

Denton County Health Department Update

WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE - Employees from the Denton County Health Department’s Environmental Health division began trapping and collecting mosquitoes in mid-April. The initial start date of May 1 was pushed up after it was requested that the Department of State Health Services lab start testing earlier. There have been zero positive mosquito pools from Denton County traps.

For more information please visit the Denton County Health Emergency Alert Response Team website (<http://www.dentoncounty.com/WNV/>).

Drought and Water Restriction Update

As of July 11th those of you in town who are serviced by Mustang Special Utility District are in a “Stage 1 – Water Wise” restriction. You are restricted to two days per week irrigation schedule. No irrigation between 10am-6pm. For more details please call Mustang SUD or visit their website to view the complete “Drought Contingency Plan.”

(http://www.mustangwater.com/images/Drought_Contingency_Plan_05-13_final.pdf)

Shannon’s Shout Out

by Shannon DePrater

Volunteers Wanted!

The Town Council is seeking residents who are willing to spend a few hours a month to serve our community. Cross Roads is blessed with amazing volunteers and the tradition of active resident volunteers is what has made our community strong. If you have the time, passion and/or interest in any of the board or commission positions below, please apply.

Thank you for serving the Cross Roads Community!

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From the Mayor's Desk (continued)

Commercial / Residential Development

Walmart is still on track to be open by October and Whataburger has broken ground and has quickly gone vertical. Both P&Z and Council have conditionally approved two additional out buildings. Fuzzy Taco's, Sally Beauty, and Super Cuts have all executed leases with Lovett Commercial.

The New Hope Baptist Church Family Life Center is also coming along nicely. A team of volunteers was recently in town donating time and energy to help with construction. The new facility will include a gymnasium, a basketball court, a fellowship hall, and kitchen.

From a residential standpoint we are continuing to see a steady stream of new build starts.



The Little Free Library website (www.littlefreelibrary.org) tells us, as of the end of 2012, approximately 4000 Little Free Libraries are spread across our nation with the closest one to Cross Roads being located at The Real Estate Station at 415 US Hwy 377, Argyle, TX 76226. With your support, Cross Roads can join this worldwide community enrichment movement.

What needs to be done to open Little Free Libraries in Cross Roads?

- Select and prioritize potential sites such as:
 - Town Hall (both inside the foyer and near the parking lot).
 - Cross Roads Town Park.
 - Neighborhood parks in Village at Cross Roads and Oak Shores.
 - Local businesses.
- Recruit individual volunteer "Little Free Library Stewards" willing to maintain each site.
- Using volunteers, build, install (with Town assistance) and maintain the Little Free Libraries.
- Collect and distribute books to the individual libraries.
- Build support in the community through website, newsletters, and direct mail.
- Consider forming a Cross Roads Library Support Committee to encourage both the Little Free Libraries and the Aubrey Area Library.



Mayor Steve Smith

Little Free Libraries... Is Cross Roads Ready?

by Larry Fisher - CR Council Member

The story of the Little Free Library movement began in 2009 as a local small-town effort in Wisconsin with an ambitious mission-

- To promote Literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide.
- To build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations.
- To build 2,510 Libraries--as many as Andrew Carnegie--and keep going!

Little Free Libraries express themselves with varying designs and locations to the same degree as the communities they support. These pictures represent just a very few of those unique communities!

The Town expects to further discuss this concept at a future open meeting in the next few months. Stay tuned and let Katherine Ritchie, or me know of your questions, thoughts, and ideas. With your support Cross Roads can join thousands of other communities in developing both an increased sense of community and additional reading awareness through Little Free Libraries.



Walmart Business Profile. . .by Larry and Kae Fisher

Walmart has created a history of growth and success. Many of us have some familiarity with the products and services of Walmart but a few minutes spent on the internet reveal a few surprises about the Walmart we think we know. Here is some interesting information that might have escaped our notice until now.

- Walmart is not only the most successful retailer in the U.S., but it is the most successful one in the world.
- Walmart sells more groceries than any food retailer in the U.S.
- Along with other charitable work, Walmart provides considerable support to a number of national and local charities fighting hunger.
- Between 2010 and 2015 Walmart will have donated \$2 billion to fight hunger in America.
- Last year alone, Walmart donated over 1 billion meals to the Feeding America program.
- Walmart currently has over 1.3 million employees. Approximately two-thirds of these employees work full time for Walmart.
- Walmart will hire approximately 300 employees for work at the Cross Roads store.
- Forbes Magazine reports Walmart to be one of the 100 best corporations for whom to work.

Some of this may have surprised me, but it certainly was no surprise to the new Cross Roads Store Manager, Tony Quintero, and his Shift Manager, Jared Turner. Kae and I met with Tony and Jared at The Prairie House Restaurant to discuss our new Walmart. Both of them emphasized Walmart's commitment to the local community in terms of local giving as well as its giving to national programs. Tony and Jared will soon be hiring approximately 300 employees to staff the new Cross Roads store. While some will be transfers from current stores, many will be fresh hires into Walmart. If you know someone who is interested in joining the Cross Roads Walmart team, have him/her contact Walmart for more details.

Tony talked to us about his transition from being a high school graduate to being in the construction business and then to having his first job with Walmart, collecting and pushing the store's shopping carts around. Using the opportunities Walmart provided him at several stores in North Texas, he worked his way up in the organization, becoming Store Manager of the Denton Walmart on Loop 288 where he has been for the past 4 years. He speaks with excitement and anticipation about the opportunity to open and manage his first new store and to do it here in Cross Roads.

Jared has been with Walmart for a much shorter period of time, but their stories have some remarkable similarities. Jared, too, started working construction shortly after graduating from high school. He graduated from Aubrey High School. He began as a cart gatherer and part-time cashier. As a local boy who grew up in the area, Jared has been delighted with both the career opportunities at Walmart and a chance to come back home.

Walmart has developed a successful business model, and that model has led the business to Cross Roads, after establishing new stores in Frisco and Denton. Is our community different from Denton and Frisco? Will our Walmart differ as well? The answer to both questions is "yes!" Compared to the other Walmart stores nearest to us, the Cross Roads' Walmart will devote more floor space and emphasis on food and hardware to meet the unique needs of the surrounding marketing community. It will be ready to meet your shopping needs in early October.

Get ready to welcome Tony and Jared as they bring their shared vision of community support, convenient shopping, and product value to Cross Roads. It will include groceries, hardware, banking, prescriptions, sandwiches, and a whole lot more!



Tony Quintero, store manager, and Jared Turner, shift manager

Shannon's Shout Out *(continued)*

Applications will be accepted beginning Monday, July 22, 2013 through 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 16 for the following Committees:

- Comprehensive Planning Committee
- Road Repair Committee
- Park Committee
- Planning & Zoning Commission

Applications will be available online beginning Monday, July 22 and will also be available at Town Hall located at 1401 FM 424. Inquiries or questions should be directed to Shannon DePrater, Town Secretary at 940-365-9693 or s.deprater@crossroadstx.gov

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Wildflower Workshop

Last spring, we brought you our first Cross Roads workshop. We discussed the wildflowers common in Texas and particularly in the area of northeast Texas. Now, we look forward to bringing the citizens of Cross Roads another informative workshop. Our next workshop will present ideas combining the topics of collecting and utilizing rainwater and planting landscape that survives in low water or drought conditions.

Workshop: Rainwater Harvesting & Xeriscape Gardening

Date: September 21, 2013

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Cross Roads Town Hall

1401 FM 424, Cross Roads, TX 76227

Rainwater harvesting is the accumulation and deposition of rainwater for reuse before it is absorbed into the ground <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquifer>. Uses include water for gardens, livestock, irrigation around building foundations, etc. In many places the water collected is just redirected to a deep pit with percolation. The harvested water can be storage in a tank and accessed and cleaned when needed.

The term **xeriscape** is derived from the Greek word xeros meaning dry, combined with landscaping. The Front Range Xeriscape Task Force of the Denver Water Department coined the term in 1981. The goal of xeriscaping is to create a visually attractive landscape that uses plants selected for their water efficiency.

Join us for the workshop and consider joining our committee. We are looking for members for our Wildflower Committee to help with developing a Cross Roads Garden Club and plan future workshops. For information about the workshop, Wildflower Committee or Garden Club, please contact Kathy Langley at wildflowers@crossroadstx.gov

Kernels From Kay

Sometimes you have to realize that there are things that you cannot do. I have identified some of these during the course of my life. Among the things that I cannot do which I am willing to admit publicly are:

I cannot play tennis - tried it – couldn't get the racquet to make contact with the ball.

I cannot play golf – tried it – rather watch paint dry.

I cannot play volleyball – try it every year on family vacation and spend most of the time laughing, screaming and picking myself up off the grass.

I cannot do math in my head – I still count on my fingers when balancing my checkbook.

I cannot balance my checkbook – haven't done it in years. I always give the bank a bit extra to work with. Makes my husband crazy.

And now I must add something else to my list of non-accomplishments; I cannot garden. For several years now my husband has spent hundreds of dollars preparing a plot, enriching the soil, plowing the ground. I buy seeds and baby plants and put them out in rows with little labels so I will recognize whatever comes up. Nothing comes up – or rather sometimes little seedlings come up, but they expect to be weeded and watered!

I cannot weed and water.

Kay Lamb



Denton ISD Growth Requires New Schools ...by Larry Fisher

The 380 corridor continues to experience strong residential growth. With the currently expanding school-aged population Denton Independent School District, which serves Cross Roads south of Fish Trap, finds itself facing an immediate and growing need for new or expanded schools at every level.

The DISD Board of Education appointed a 2013 Bond Advisory Committee to study the needs and make recommendations to the school board. U.S. HWY 380 corridor residents made up a substantial portion of the committee. Representing Cross Roads were Larry Fisher, Council Member and current member of the 2007 DISD Bond Oversight Committee, and Harv Kitchens, former Mayor of Cross Roads.

Consultants to the Denton ISD provided the following planning information to the committee:

- Denton ISD is ranked fourth in North Texas - based on its annual closings of new homes.
- Denton ISD saw sales of 893 homes in 2012 and construction started on 990 new homes.
- It has 2,336 vacant developed lots and 13,751 future lots planned.
- The district currently has almost 700 more kindergarten students than 12th-graders.
- There are almost 10,000 lots in future and current developments in its current Top 10 subdivisions.
- On the 380 corridor there are 7,368 occupied homes and 5,032 future lots planned for single-family homes.
- The district is anticipated to grow by more than 900 students next year
- By 2022-23 the districts anticipates having 35,766 students.

The table below shows current student enrollments and expected growth of the schools that serve our area. This data clearly demonstrates the pressing need for not only a new high school to serve our local students but also a new middle school and a new elementary school.

Denton Independent School District
Enrollment Reports

| SCHOOL CAMPUS ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Campus Name | Capacity Functional | Current | Projections | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
| Cross Oaks Elementary School | 740 | 466 | 508 | 549 | 571 | 626 | 686 | 734 | 782 | 830 | 884 | 938 |
| Paloma Creek Elementary School | 740 | 743 | 661 | 716 | 760 | 789 | 822 | 828 | 834 | 840 | 846 | 851 |
| Providence Elementary School | 740 | 502 | 671 | 718 | 764 | 829 | 902 | 973 | 1,046 | 1,126 | 1,212 | 1,304 |
| Savannah Elementary School | 740 | 629 | 655 | 730 | 800 | 922 | 984 | 1,056 | 1,142 | 1,233 | 1,318 | 1,408 |
| Navo Middle School | 1000 | 904 | 988 | 1,047 | 1,149 | 1,195 | 1,296 | 1,420 | 1,602 | 1,760 | 1,883 | 2,013 |
| Ryan High School | 2000 | 2,288 | 2,401 | 2,464 | 2,598 | 2,758 | 2,914 | 3,043 | 3,149 | 3,295 | 3,486 | 3,683 |
| Denton High School | 2000 | 1,998 | 2,043 | 2,099 | 2,138 | 2,253 | 2,390 | 2,484 | 2,565 | 2,656 | 2,785 | 2,930 |

Welcome New Residents since April 2013

Ronnie Shelton
 Melissa Ashby
 Peter and Korinne Vanderpool
 Milad Zarei
 Stephen and Yvonne Wernecke
 Billy and Kathy Ingram
 Brandon and Erin Zachry

Building and equipping new schools will require the DISD School Board to call for a Bond Election to finance this needed expansion. Texas law limits every school district to no more than \$0.50 per \$100 of property evaluation for the purpose of funding the repayment of school bonds. DISD currently spends \$0.49 per \$100 in valuation on its existing bonds. Property taxes have been falling over the past five years due to the economic recession. However, tax values are currently rising, which may allow the District to fund this much needed school construction. The School Board has heard the committee's recommendations (summary below) and will likely approve a bond election in November. Included is a \$149 million recommendation for a new high school to serve our area.

Denton ISD Growth (continued)

BOND PROJECT BREAKDOWN

| 2013 Bond Planning | | | Bond Priority | Bond Priority Cumulative Total |
|---|-----------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Comprehensive High School #4 | 2015-2016 | \$149,634,067 | 1 | |
| Elementary School #23 | 2015-2016 | \$23,137,496 | 1 | \$172,771,563 |
| Total Cost For Renovations | | \$11,366,073 | 1 | \$184,137,636 |
| Total Cost For Energy Conservation | | \$1,583,000 | 1 | \$185,720,636 |
| Middle School #8 | 2017-2018 | \$48,235,473 | 1 | \$233,956,109 |
| Guyer High School addition / 9th grade center | 2018-2019 | \$49,903,352 | 1 | \$283,859,461 |
| Elementary School #24 | 2019-2020 | \$27,705,288 | 1 | \$311,564,749 |
| Land Acquisitions | | \$18,000,000 | 1 | \$329,564,749 |
| Elementary School #25 | 2020-2021 | \$29,090,551 | 2 | \$358,655,300 |
| Elementary School #26 | 2021-2022 | \$30,545,079 | 2 | \$389,200,379 |
| Middle School #9 | 2023-2024 | \$63,664,219 | 2 | \$452,864,598 |
| Elementary School #27 | 2023-2024 | \$33,603,023 | 2 | \$486,467,621 |
| Total Cost For All 2013 Bond Planning | | \$486,467,621 | | |

* Items highlighted in blue indicate recommended projects

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For this bond package to be approved by the District, a high voter turnout in the 380 corridor will be required since the most visible benefits are focused on our 380 corridor students. The primary benefits to the other parts of the District are relief from overcrowding and a future ninth grade center at Guyer High School.

Watch your local newspapers for updates. The Town will also post a notice on the website if the DISD School Board approves an election. Stay alert for more information.

Shannon’s Shout Out (continued)

Applications will be available online beginning Monday, July 22 and will also be available at Town Hall located at 1401 FM 424. Inquiries or questions should be directed to Shannon DePrater, Town Secretary at 940-365-9693 or s.deprater@crossroadstx.gov.

Cross Roads 5-Year Vision Statement

The Town Council has been diligently working on a 5-Year Vision Statement and want you to share your comments!

Proposed 5-Year Vision Statement:

Cross Roads will be recognized by its citizens as one of the best small towns in Texas for families and businesses, with a unique quality of life that combines Texas country living with quality shopping conveniences and accountable, fiscally responsible governance.

The criteria presented to the Town Council to use as a starting point for the Vision Statement included:

- Is the vision clear: Will people understand it?
- Is it challenging: Does it move people to action?
- Does it create a picture: Can people see it in their heads?
- Future oriented: Does it present a picture of Cross Roads future?
- Do you believe that it can be: Is it feasible?
- Are you convinced that it must be: Are you passionate about that specific vision?
- Do you believe that our vision is inspired and inspiring
- Please share your comments with the Town Council. Send your comments by Wednesday, August 14, to visioncomments@crossroadstx.gov.

The Town Council will discuss the Proposed Vision Statement and your comments at their August 19, 2013 Meeting.

Town of Cross Roads, Texas

Steve Smith, Mayor

Tony Russo, Mayor Pro Tem

Kim Dickey, Council Member

Larry Fisher, Council Member

Wally Kille, Council Member

Bruce Birdsong, Council Member

Katherine Ritchie, Town Administrator

Shannon DePrater, Town Secretary

Becky Ross, Deputy Town Secretary

Jeanie Burch, Editor

Cross Roads Town Hall

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www.crossroadstx.gov

UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULE



Planning and Zoning Commission meeting 1st Tuesday of the month

Economic Development Committee meeting 1st Monday of the month

Park Board meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month

Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting 2nd Wednesday of the month

Road Repair Committee meeting the Thursday before Council meeting

Special Town Council meeting August 5th following Staff Mtg. at 7 pm

Staff meeting 1st Monday of the month at 3 pm

Town Council meeting 3rd 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 Katherine Ritchie at Town Hall if you would like to join a committee to serve your community. Sign up at www.crossroadstx.gov to receive agendas and updates delivered electronically.

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



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