

The Cross Roads Times

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

From the Mayor's Desk

by Steve Smith, Mayor



Fall 2013 Update

After many years of speculation and waiting, Walmart opened its doors in Cross Roads. Congratulations to Walmart and also to all of our property owners, because the sales tax revenues Walmart and the surrounding developments will produce will put our Town in a great position to be able to provide many additional services without the need to levy property taxes. Please join me in welcoming them to our Town.

With the beginning of a new fiscal year for our Town I would like to update you on where we stand financially. Before I discuss finances, I have many other updates to cover including Oak Grove Retail Annexation, Northeast Police Department and Court, Hwy 380 / Fishtrap and Moseley Rd. intersection, and updates on commercial and residential developments.

Oak Grove Annexation

I am pleased to announce that during our September Council meeting a voluntary annexation request was finalized for the Oak Grove retail complex. That brings our

eastern town limits to Oak Grove Rd. on the north side of Hwy 380. It also brings Villa Grande, Dominos, January's Salon, Rice Pot, Bakers Dozen Donuts, Classic Nails and Spa, Cornerstone Dental, future Taco Bell and the undeveloped lot into our town. While it was official and city services began on September 16th the .25% MDD taxes began October 1st and the additional 1.75% tax will go into effect on January 1st. Please go out and show these business owners how we support our local businesses in Cross Roads and welcome them to our Town.

Northeast Police Department and Court

After spending a majority of the year researching options, holding public workshops, and having council deliberations it was determined that the best direction for our police and court services was to move forward with creating entirely new multi-city entities. The Northeast Police Department and Northeast Municipal Court were created using 2-year inter-local agreements with Krugerville. The NEPD and court began serving Cross Roads and Krugerville on October 1, 2013. Based on public and council input, a separate commission was established to oversee the NEPD. The budget was formulated with little reliance on court revenues. The police department financial accounts and operations are with Cross Roads while the court financials and operations are with Krugerville. Susan Bradley oversees the municipal court and James Edland is the Chief of Police. Both Susan and Chief Edland have done a phenomenal job with the transition, and based upon the community feedback the first month has been a success. Chief Edland and his officers have a strong commitment

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to being a proactive department that interacts with the community they serve and one that we will take pride in having. In this newsletter you can read bios of the Chief, the current officers, and the appointed commissioners. As you see the officers at events or around town, please join me in welcoming them and thank them for their commitment to serve our community.

Hwy 380 / Fishtrap – Moseley Rd. Intersection

I can remember discussions and have found a number of articles concerning the Hwy 380 / Fishtrap – Moseley Rd intersection going back many years. I

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know that town officials and citizens have requested that TXDOT evaluate the intersection. The results of each evaluation have found that the cross traffic did not warrant a traffic signal. TXDOT did upgrade the intersection a few years ago by placing flashing lights at the intersection. In my prior discussions with TXDOT since becoming Mayor we had discussed the Hwy 380 corridor in general and the need to move toward a raised median throughout the entire corridor incorporating left turns only at specific locations. It was placed on a design wish list for future expansion.

After several recent accidents along Hwy 380 and no TXDOT funding allocations for expanding the highway, I requested another meeting specific to this intersection. On September 16th our engineer Jason Pool, and Chief Edland and I had a meeting with both area and district TXDOT engineers at the actual intersection of Hwy 380 and Fishtrap – Moseley Rd. The purpose of that meeting was to discuss options for improving the safety at that intersection as traffic counts increase. During that meeting a number of accident statistics were shared with TXDOT and we discussed all available options. They agreed to immediately add signage at the intersection, finalize striping and markings along the entire corridor and conduct a cross traffic study, only this time they agreed to include all driveways not just the roadway itself. I also met with the owner of the Shell gas station because one of the main concerns of adding a light would be the need to surrender the eastern driveway on Highway 380 into Shell. The owner agreed to voluntarily surrender that driveway if it would assist in improving the safety of the intersection.

TXDOT has since advised me that while the cross traffic warrants again fell slightly short of standard, they did take into account the historical data provided and the surrender of the driveway. Based on all of that information both the area and district TXDOT offices now support the placement at that intersection of a traffic light, which would be installed by TXDOT in early 2014. They are also finalizing the evaluation of options to push all left turns to the traffic light itself.

I want to thank TXDOT, Shell, Jason Pool, Chief Edland, and the citizens' support in this initiative.

Financials / Budget

The town is and will continue to be in great financial shape. We finished our 2013 budget year with a surplus of \$212,068 making it the second year in a row with a surplus in excess of \$200k. In the last two fiscal years we have grown our cash asset balance by 58% and that balance is now \$1,196,325. It is that conservative approach which has put us in a great position to be able to keep up with the demands of our growing Town.

Council passed our FY2014 budget on September 16, 2013 totaling \$1,793,260. While this budget is triple the prior year, primarily due to the Walmart opening, we took an extremely conservative approach in projecting our income while still allocating adequate funding for much needed projects and services and prepare for our Town's growth.

I have just been notified by our County Commissioner Hugh Coleman, that a deal we were working on has been approved by the Commissioners Court. We are to receive \$200,000 in road bond funds from the County. The budget will be amended to include an increase of \$200,000 to be used specifically for Doc Griffin and Mill Creek road construction. That amendment will put our total road expenditures for 2013-2014 at \$468,076 totaling 25% of our total budget. Those projects will go out for bid and construction will commence as soon as temperatures warm again in the spring.

Details of the new budget can be found in "Shannon's Shout Out" on page 5 of this newsletter.

Commercial / Residential Development

As I mentioned earlier in the article Walmart is open and sales the first few weeks have been higher than they anticipated. Whataburger is also seeing extraordinary sales above their expectations. Other area existing businesses are also benefiting from the increased traffic. Fuzzy Taco's, Sally Beauty, and SuperCuts have all executed leases with Lovett Commercial and we are working with Lovett to get that construction underway. You may have also noticed a building going vertical just East of Auto Zone. That will be a Taco Bell, which will open before the year ends.

Our residential permits are still up with no signs of slowing down. I reported in October 2012 that we experienced a 160% increase in residential building permit issuance in FY2012 from FY2011. And for FY2013 we saw another increase of 140% over FY2012.

Volunteerism / Participation / Staff Updates

After more than fifteen years of service, our Town Administrator Katherine Ritchie has retired. Katherine was instrumental in the success of our Town and she will be missed. In this newsletter you will see a wonderful retirement reception that was held in Katherine's honor. Thanks to all who worked to make that a special night for Katherine.

Kim Dickey has made the decision to give up her council seat to focus on other priorities. She served with us for three years balancing her various work, volunteer, and family obligations and we thank her for her commitment to our Town for those years. Council will be discussing either appointment of someone to fill her seat, which expires in May, or leaving it vacant. If anyone is interested in serving, please contact Shannon DePrater at Town Hall.

I would also like to welcome Suzan Zambrano who accepted a position to be our town Administrative Assistant and assistant to the NEPD. You will find Susan's bio in this newsletter.

On October 12th we had our Fall Roadside Cleanup with a great showing of residents. Thank you to Paul & Sheri Hudak for their hard work in organizing the event. I would also like to thank the Aubrey Fire Department, Northeast Police Department, and all

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From the Mayor's Desk (continued)

who helped clean our Town's roadways. A special thanks to Alan Hauf for grilling hot dogs and the Lerma family for providing brisket for our cookout.

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. We are always seeking new volunteers who want to help. Thanks to all of those who signed up for committees for this next year. We had an extraordinary response from those willing to help. It is an exciting time for our Town and we could not do the work needed without our dedicated volunteers. For electronic delivery of updates please visit our website at 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.

Cross Roads continues to be successful and admired due to the hard work and diligent efforts put forth by its citizens, staff and volunteers and for that I thank each of you.

Rainwater Harvesting Seminar

Sue Hudiburgh, Denton County Master Gardener and Rainwater Harvesting Specialist, was a guest speaker on September 21 at Town Hall. She presented a very informative seminar on Rainwater Harvesting. She offered explanations of various creative ways in which rainwater can be harvested and used. If you would like to know more about this seminar, including information about purchasing rainwater-harvesting supplies tax free, contact Kathy Langley at wildflowers@crossroadstx.gov



Speaker Sue Hudiburgh talks about rainwater containers.



Jan Nichols, Sue Hudiburgh and Kathy Langley

Welcome [New Residents](#) to Cross Roads Since July 2013

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| William D. Gibbs | Mike and Kelly Motague |
| Greg Spears | Todd Jolliff |
| Steve Tidwell | Jffrey Bockemehl |
| Eden Dankowski | |

It's almost time to plant your wildflower seeds! by Kathryn Langley

How and when do I plant seeds? Wait to plant wildflower seeds until after killing frost. Plant late enough to be sure your seeds will not sprout before winter. The point is to wait until the soil is so chilled that seeds cannot sprout, but will stay dormant until warming soil and moisture trigger germination in spring.

Burying the seed too deeply or casually broadcasting the seed over an unprepared area will only produce disappointing results. Soil preparation:

Select a site that drains well. Oftentimes we tend to plant seeds in areas that are low-lying or poorly drained, thinking that the wildflowers will flourish under these moist conditions. Moist locations are usually very weedy, because as water drains through the area, thousands of weed seeds that were collected upstream are deposited onto the site. Remember that most wildflowers thrive in well drained soils.

Use an herbicide to eliminate any vegetation, which may compete with your wildflowers (Optional).

Mow the existing or dead vegetation as short as possible. Collect the clippings and remove the material from the site.

To prepare the seedbed, **rake or lightly till the surface of the soil** to a maximum depth of one inch. Shallow soil preparation will limit the disturbance of dormant weed seed.

It is helpful to **thoroughly mix a carrier** such as masonry sand, perlite, potting soil, etc., **into the seed** to increase volume and aid in even distribution over your site. We recommend a minimum of 4 parts inert material to 1 part seed.

Broadcast one half of your seed as uniformly as possible over the prepared area. **Sow the remaining seed** in a direction perpendicular to the initial sowing.

Press the seed into the soil by walking or rolling over the newly planted area. Do not cover the seed any deeper than 1/16 of an inch. Some of the seeds will remain visible.

Resources:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wildseed/info/7.1.html>

<http://www.americanmeadows.com/wildflower-gardening/wildflower-how-to/wildflower-seed-planting-instructions>



Meet Susan Zambrano, Administrative Assistant for Cross Roads and NEPD

Susan Zambrano accepted our offer to be employed as Administrative Assistant with the Town of Cross Roads and the Northeast Police Department. Her first day with us was September 30, 2013. Susan came to municipal government after working in the medical and escrow fields. She is a Level One certified court clerk with three years of experience in the Municipal Court System. She currently resides in Denton with her husband of ten years, Lupe. Lupe brought three children to their marriage and now they have three grandchildren as well. She is a Denton native and graduated from Denton High School. In her free time she likes to read and spend time with her friends and family.

Aubrey Area Library Hosts Junior Gavel Club



Aubrey Area Library
 226 Countryside Dr.
 Aubrey, TX 76227
 (940) 365-9162

Pictured: Club President Erin West and Vice President Ashley Angulo

The Aubrey Area Library will be adding a new program to its list this November. Beginning November 7th, the library will play host to the recently formed Aubrey Junior Gavel Club. The Junior Gavel Club will be for teens grades 6th – 9th. The Junior Gavel Club will meet at the library from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and will continue to meet every Thursday following the start date. Spearheading the club is local resident Frankie West.

Gavel clubs are a division of Toastmasters and operate in the same way ordinary Toastmasters clubs do. They have the same club officer titles, use the same communication track manuals and follow similar club meeting protocols. The objectives of the Junior Gavel Club are to teach public speaking skills, leadership skills and help teens overcome their nervousness while speaking publicly.

To register for Junior Gavel Club, contact Frankie West at (972) 302-7213.

Shannon's Shout Out
 by Shannon DePrater

Commission/Committee Appointments: At the September 16th Council meeting, the Council appointed the following volunteers to the Town's Commissions and Committees:

Architectural Review Committee

Chair - Lad Doctor

- Bruce Birdsong
- Wally Kille
- Matt Jennings
- Shari Trusty

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Chair - Virden Seybold

- Pete Carrothers
- Lad Doctor
- Greg Gaalema
- Darell Herbst
- Kathy Langley
- Jan Nichols
- Herman Oosterwijk
- Diana Owens
- Terry Owens
- Jason Pool, P.E.
- LaToni Thomas
- Jordan Woodard
- Tony Russo

Municipal Development District

- Larry Fisher
- Sheri Hudak
- Danny Prins
- Bill Sheehy
- Ross Schraeder
- LQ Vann

Planning & Zoning Committee

Chair - Wes Moore

- Alan Hauf
- Tom Clark
- John Lynn
- David Meek
- Bill Sheehy

Road Clean-Up Committee

Co Chairs - Paul & Sheri Hudak

Northeast Police Department Commission

Chair - Mike Starr

- Dave Hill
- Noel Johns
- Jeff Parrent
- Jim Siano
- Steve Smith

Park Board

Chair - Gale Bacon

- Sal Fazzino
- Christine Orosco
- Sue Shelton
- Suzanne Weaver

Road Repair Committee

Chair - Bill Roberson

- Kathy Langley
- David Meek
- Jason Pool, P.E.
- Danny Prins
- Jordan Woodard

Thank all of you for your volunteerism!

November 5th Constitutional Election

Early voting began Monday, October 21st. Please visit the Denton County Elections website for information on the following.

- Early Voting Locations and Times
- New Photo ID Law Information
- Sample Ballots
- Voter Lookup

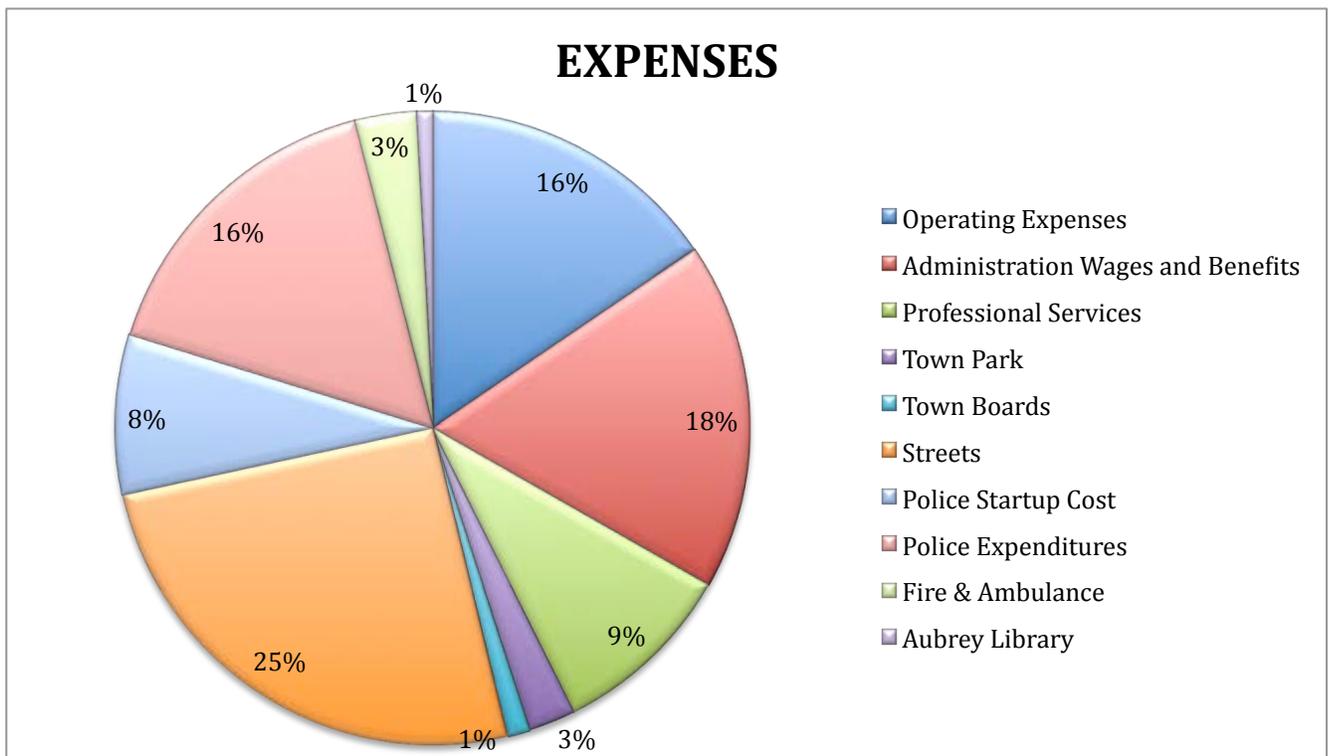
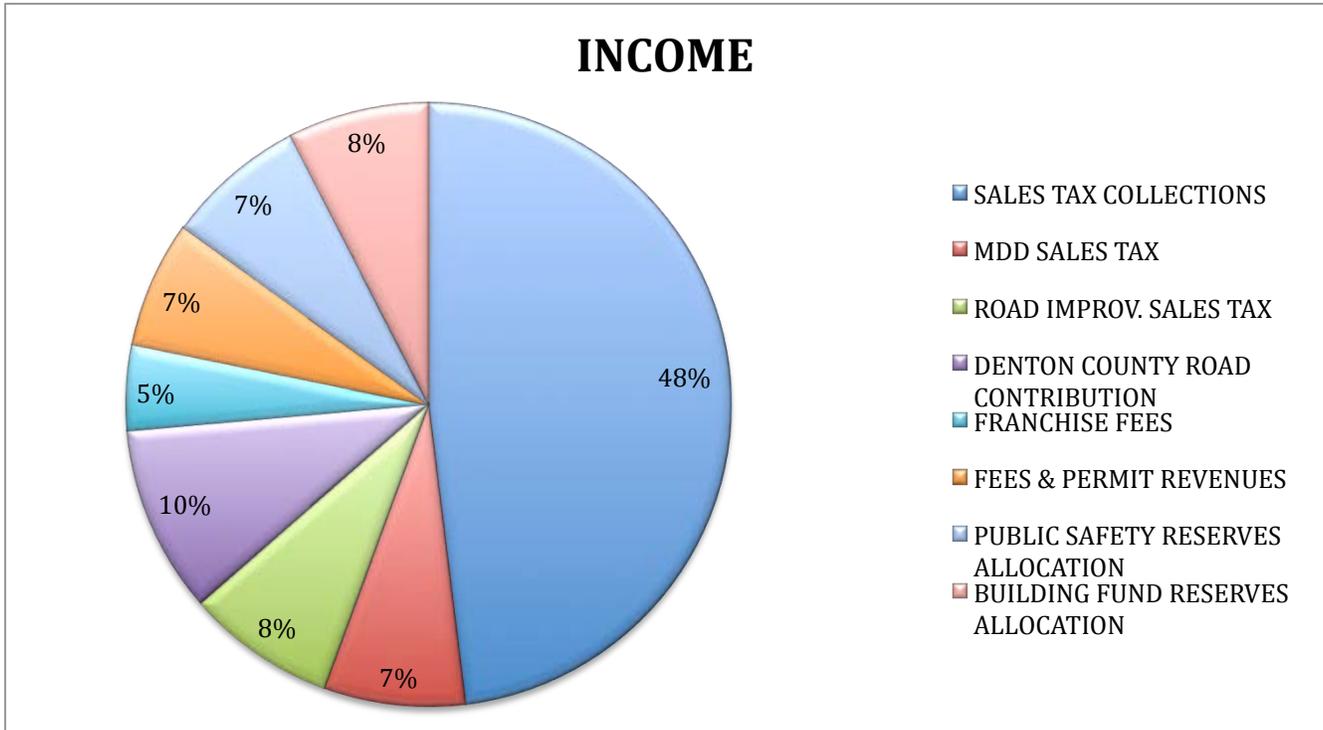
<http://www.votedenton.com/>

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Shannon’s Shout Out (continued)

Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget

The Town of Cross Roads’ Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget was approved by the Town Council at their September 16, 2013 meeting. Please visit www.crossroadstx.gov to view the budget.



Whataburger Grand Opening!

By Larry Fisher

You have, no doubt, discovered the newest addition to our expanding Cross Roads restaurant selection... Whataburger!

Aptly named for their fine selection of hamburgers and accompanying sides, Whataburger provides quick, satisfying meals to a growing community of long-time Whataburger fans as well as first-time diners searching for a new burger experience. For your dining convenience, you'll find the drive-through windows and inside dining area open 24 hours a day.

It doesn't stop there. Our new Whataburger not only serves up its well-known juicy selection of hamburgers that made it famous; you can experience a varied menu including: crispy onion rings, French fries, chicken sandwiches, breakfast meals, salads, apple slices, kids meals, cinnamon rolls, biscuits and gravy, a wide selection of drinks, and let's not forget their selection of desserts.

Whataburger's grand opening began early on the morning of September 10th. First, we celebrated by enjoying plenty of complimentary tasty food samples. Then, taking pride in its Texas roots, Whataburger made it a point to greet our community with welcoming talks by some of its key executives and the founder's daughter. The grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting concluded with a flag raising and pledge of allegiance ceremony.

I hope you'll join me both in welcoming Ryan Robertson, Store Manager, and his Whataburger team to Cross Roads, and in enjoying some of their fresh cooked meals. Served up just right!



Ryan Robertson, store manager

GRAND OPENING

**Wildflower
Seeds
Available**



NOTE:

A limited number of mixed wildflower and bluebonnet seeds are still available. Please contact Kathy Langley for information at

wildflowers@crossroadstx.gov

Walmart Grand Opening by Larry Fisher



It finally happened... Walmart opened for business in Cross Roads! It's the dawn (see photo) of a new business environment and a new level of shopping convenience for our Cross Roads residents.

Years of dashed development hopes and inactivity followed by a few months of frantic construction culminated in Walmart's Grand Opening on Wednesday, October 9th, at 7:30 AM. By the time the doors opened to the public, people were already lined up to experience shopping at the newest Walmart in America. And it happened right here in Cross Roads!

But Walmart did more than open their doors to the public; they generously opened their corporate wallet to the tune of thousands of dollars in donations to our new Northeast Police Department (serving Cross Roads and Krugerville), the Aubrey fire department, the Aubrey Independent School District, the Aubrey Area Library, and other community organizations. In his opening remarks, Walmart Store Manager Tony Quintero emphasized that he and Walmart want to be a continuing partner in service to Cross Roads and its neighboring communities.

Mayor Steve Smith (see photos) welcomed Tony, Walmart, and its 300 new employees to Cross Roads. He and other Council Members then joined the Aubrey 380 Area Chamber of Commerce and Walmart store management in a formal ribbon cutting ceremony outside an entrance to the store. Even as the ribbon cutting took place, hundreds of appreciative customers began streaming into the new Walmart, anxious to finally enjoy a comprehensive shopping experience right in our neighborhood... an experience that's now available when you need it, 24 hours a day.

Yes, it's been a long time coming and Walmart is just getting started. But it's a significant start to a new set of local retail services that will continue serving our growing needs well into the future.



Ribbon Cutting
and
Bargains Galore



In Honor and Gratitude to Katherine Ritchie for over 15 years of Service to Cross Roads



Katherine and Monnie Ritchie



Katherine served during the terms of 4 mayors.





Thank you, Volunteers, for donating your time on Saturday, October 12 to clean up our Town's roadsides.



Northeast Police Department by Susan Zambrano, Administrative Assistant

On October 1, 2013, the Town of Cross Roads and the City of Krugerville, through interlocal agreements, created the Northeast Police Department to serve our citizens, businesses, and visitors. This is a new venture and only the third of its kind in the State of Texas. This merger benefits each city by providing twenty-four hour coverage and a joint municipal court system. A Police Commission Board was formed with three representatives from each jurisdiction to oversee the Police Department. The commissioners have stated that this is a new and exciting time for residents and they look forward to serving their citizens. Continue reading for an introduction to your Board of Commissioners, Police Chief, and Police Officers for the Northeast Police Department, who were sworn in on October 17, 2013.

NEPD Board of Commissioners:

Michael Starr, Chairman of the Board, is a long term resident of the City of Krugerville. He is currently employed by the City of Southlake and the City of Aubrey where he holds the position of Fire Chief. He has served on the Krugerville City Council since 2005. He holds his advance firefighter certification, Paramedic Certification and Peace Officer License. He is married with four children and one grandson

Steve Smith, Vice Chairman of the Board, has his Criminal Justice degree from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX. He has spent the last 18 years in the retail loss prevention field and is currently employed by Apple Inc. as the Sr. Manager of Global Loss Prevention Operations. He has been involved with the Town of Cross Roads the last 8 years on Planning and Zoning, Council, and currently serving as Mayor. He is married and has three children.

Jim Siano, Commissioner, has his Undergraduate and Master's degree from Seton Hall University South Orange NJ. He was an Officer in the United States Marine Corps, Supervisory Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was involved in criminal investigations and was a hostage negotiator. Prior to retiring from the FBI he was supervisor of the Presidential task force on organized crime and drug trafficking. He was Director of Corporate Security for CellStar for 10 years. Currently he teaches a criminal justice class and is an assistant coach at Aubrey High School, Aubrey, TX.

Noel Johns, Commissioner, has over 30 years of experience as a law enforcement professional. He has served as city police officer, as deputy sheriff, and also was a highly decorated federal agent. As an agent he served on the FBI Joint Anti-Terrorism Force and was Manager of the Dignitary Protection and Security Detail Training for the U.S. Department of State. Johns serves as Senior Vice President, Director of Domestic & International Operations for STI Solutions, LLC.

Dave Hill, Commissioner, is a 35-year resident of Krugerville. He is a self-employed business owner. He has been deeply involved with the community and was a founding member and served as Commissioner for the Aubrey Area Youth Sports Association for Baseball and Basketball. He is a three-term city council member and is currently the Mayor of Krugerville. He is married with 2 children and ten grandchildren.

Jeff Parent, Commissioner, is a resident of Krugerville. He has been married for twenty-five years and has 4 children. He is currently in the process of getting a BBA in Management from Northwood University. He served in Retail Management from 1992-2000 and was an Aubrey ISD Trustee 2000-2006. He serves as the Krugerville Mayor pro tem, a position he has held since 2011. He is President of LTC Professional Builders, Inc and Deacon Chairman for First Rock Fellowship.



Northeast Police Commissioners (L to R) Dave Hill, Steve Smith, Mike Starr, Noel Johns, Jim Siano, and Jeff Parent

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Northeast Police Department *(continued)*

Police Department:

James Edland, Chief of Police, holds a Master Peace Officer Certification and has over 20 years of experience in law enforcement. He served as Chief of Police for the City of Pilot Point for six years. He came to Krugerville on October 1st, 2012 and has been essential to the success of the merger and the creation of the Northeast Police Department.

Mark White started his law enforcement career in 2002 with the Denison Police Department. He served with the Pilot Point Police Department from 2004 through 2012 and was promoted to Corporal in 2011. He is currently Lead Field Training Officer for the Northeast Police Department.

Robert "Bob" Wrobel is a Desert Storm Veteran and served six and a half years with the United States Air force. He started his law enforcement career in 1991 and served as a Dallas County Deputy Constable from 1995 to 2002. He has been an Officer for the Krugerville Police Department since 2010.

William Tinkle was a jailor for the Denton County Sheriff's office in 2006 and was promoted to patrol officer. He became a Reserve Officer for the Krugerville Police Department in 2010 and was promoted to full time Officer in 2011. He is currently a Field Training Officer.

Gary McCraw served in the United States Air Force from 2004 through 2008 serving tours in Iraq and Kuwait. He started his career in 2008 with the Oak Point Police Department, joined the Krugerville Police Department in August 2013 as a Reserve Officer, and was promoted to full time officer in September 2013.

Joshua Hawkins served in the United States Army from 2001 to 2004. He is a veteran, having served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He began his career as an officer for The Colony Police Department. He served there from 2005-2009. He became a reserve officer for the City of Krugerville in 2013 and was recently promoted to begin as a full-time officer starting in November 2013.



Officers: (L to R)
Chief James Edland, Gary McCraw, Robert "Bob" Wrobel, Mark White, Josh Hawkins, and William Tinkle

The Northeast Police Department website is www.northeastpolice.net

Main non-emergency number 940-349-1600
For emergencies call 911.

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

UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULE



Planning and Zoning Commission meeting 1st Tuesday of the month

Park Board meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month

Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting 2nd Wednesday of the month

Northeast Police Commission meeting 3rd Thursday of the month

Road Repair Committee meeting the Wednesday before Council meeting

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 Shannon DePrater at Town Hall if you would like to join a committee to serve your community.

Please sign up at www.crossroadstx.gov to receive agendas and updates delivered electronically.

Cross Roads Town Hall

PHONE: 940-365-9693

FAX: 469-375-5905

www.crossroadstx.gov



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