



# The Cross Roads Times

## The Town of Cross Roads, Texas

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### Special Interest Articles:

- Revised Landscaping Ordinance
- History of Cross Roads
- Town Clean-up

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## From the Mayor's Desk by Harv Kitchens, Mayor



They say "Love makes the World Go 'Round". Here in Cross Roads our many citizen volunteers make Cross Roads "Go 'Round". One great example of this was our Town Clean Up in October. More than 50 caring citizens showed up at Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. on a Saturday and spent the morning picking up trash, moving logs, beautifying the Town Park, hauling debris and generally making our Town look great! Thanks to Alan and Naomi Hauf who coordinated the event, and to all of you who worked to make Cross Roads a bit better. Be sure to look at the pictures in this newsletter.

In these times of economic uncertainty, I want you to know that the Town of Cross Roads is VERY

financially stable. We have no debt and our monthly income covers our monthly expenses and allows us to keep money in the bank for any large expenses or emergencies. One of the ways we save money is by having only 2 paid employees. Katherine Ritchie, Town Secretary, and Judy Moudy, Administrative Assistant, do a great job. Much of the ongoing Town work, however, is effectively handled by volunteers with expertise in various areas and the willingness to contribute their time.

In addition to your Town Council members and the Mayor, which are all unpaid positions, we have numerous committees. These committees carry the load of making sure we function efficiently and cost effectively. Here is a list of the commissions and committees and the work that they do:

**Planning and Zoning Commission** – review and approve plans for development and building

**Road Committee** – identify road repair and maintenance needs and contract to have the work done

**Budget Committee** – develop and refine the annual budget for Council approval

*Continued on page 2.*

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



Work is progressing on the new Post Office in Aubrey behind FSB.

**Comprehensive Planning Committee** – responsible for land use review and recommendations

**Architectural Review Committee** – review building plans to ensure compliance with our Old Texas Country theme for commercial building

**Tree Protection and Preservation Committee** – review commercial development for compliance before any dirt work or building is started

**Park Committee** – developing and implementing plans for our Town Park

It is because of these committee chairs and members that Cross Roads continues to be a well run and cost effective Town. THANKS TO ALL.

**History of Cross Roads**

This is another article that is based on an article in the first Cross Roads newsletter, *The Cross Roads Citizen*, of which Eddie Cundall was Columnist. The date of the issue in which the original article was published was February 1992.

Ross Schraeder

**The Potter Shop**

Possibly the oldest house in the Town of Cross Roads is the Rock House next to the old Potter Shop at 600 Historic Lane, built between 1900 and 1902. Just east of the house is the old pottery kiln for which Potter Shop Road was named. Actually there were three kilns there. The first was built in 1860 and the last in the 1880's on top of the remains of the first one.

It is believed that there was a small settlement there with a gristmill, a blacksmith shop and winery. To the west of the Rock House is evidence of the remains of homes with root cellars and hand-dug wells. A creek ran near the house and kiln. Before the railroad came through Denton County the Indians would come to camp next to the creek, which had a small waterfall at the time, and would trade skins for large bowls, crocks and churns made at the Pottery Shop. When a typhoid fever epidemic struck the settlement just prior to the turn of the century, it wiped out many of the residents, and the rest moved away, abandoning the area.

Harry and Elizabeth Murray, who bought and moved to the house in 1978, researched the history of the area and the Potter Shop, and were instrumental in having it named a National Historic Site in 1982, but access to the site is not open to the public at this time. However, it can be viewed on the north side of Historic Lane as you are nearing the one lane bridge to Potter Shop Road.



Neighborhood Crime Watch  
**Informational Meeting at Cross Roads Town Hall**  
**Tuesday**  
**November 11**  
**7 PM**  
**Question and Answer Time with Aubrey Police**



# Remember to vote on November 4.

## Revised Article 3.10 Landscaping and Scenic Conservation

by Dick Weston

The Town of Cross Roads has amended Chapter 3 (Building Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances with a new Article 3.10 covering landscaping.

The purposes of this new article are to provide guidelines and standards that will 1) contribute to the visual quality of the community, (2) encourage continuity within and between developments, (3) provide screening and/or buffering between different land uses, (4) reduce soil erosion and damage resulting from storm water run-off, (5) be complementary to the Tree Preservation and Protection Ordinance and, (6) support the environmental quality of the town.

All new residential and commercial properties located within a subdivision and individual commercial properties will be covered by this landscaping article.

The following properties are exempted from the requirements of this article: (1) individual residential lots, when not part of a subdivision development, (2) residential subdivisions consisting of less than five lots, only upon the granting of an exception or waiver by the town council, (3) property of five acres or more zoned for agricultural use, and (4) property zoned PD – Planned Development, where the requirement of a landscaping plan is expressly waived.

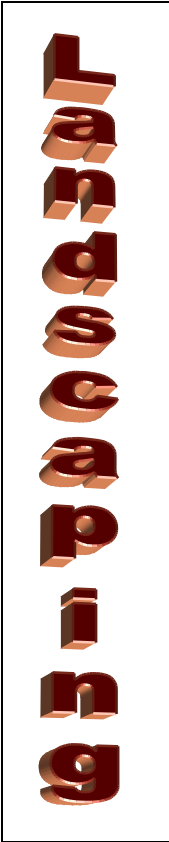
## Native Animals in Cross Roads

Lost and missing pets in our area are of concern to many citizens. From reports we have received, it appears that the native animals in our area – coyotes and possibly bobcats may be the cause of small animal disappearance. The native animals are being forced out of their natural habitat and are having to find places to live, eat and survive.

The high-density housing that is being built all around Cross Roads is eliminating the natural habitat for wild animals such as rabbits, squirrels, opossum, raccoons, armadillo, deer as well as coyotes. We can expect to see more of these animals in our area as they are forced to move from their established habitat.

We are not advocating that any harmful action be taken towards the coyotes or other animals. We do want to warn residents to protect their domestic animals.

If you have outdoor pets, be sure you have a secure place for them at night, and be aware if they are absent from your yard for any extended time during the day. Taking these precautions should let you, your animals and the native animals live together.



## **Villa Grande Restaurant by Larry Fisher**



**Villa Grande  
Restaurant  
26399 U.S. 380  
Cross Roads, TX  
940-365-1700**

As I relaxed in my booth savoring the last bit of guacamole on my fajitas lunch plate, David Gonzales, the gracious manager of Villa Grande, walked up smiling and offered me his friendly handshake. It was another typical day at Villa Grande where the staff focuses on fresh food, friendly service and comfortable surroundings that provide diners with a refreshing break from their daily activities.

If you've eaten at Villa Grande, you know what I mean. It's almost like eating with family. As I spoke with David about the history of Villa Grande as well as the history of his involvement, the concept of family in its broadest sense kept coming up. Edgar Suarez, the owner, began his apprenticeship in the restaurant business by washing dishes at the Prairie House while attending Denton High School. After graduating with a business degree from a local community college, Edgar followed his dream by establishing Villa Grande at the old Prairie House site next door. Surveying the ambience at the new Villa Grande, you quickly realize how far that dream has come! It was Edgar's wife who chose all the colors, decorations, and furniture for the restaurant. There's that family thing again.

David also started as a dishwasher at Villa Grande. Edgar quickly recognized David's abilities and over a period of time encouraged and taught him to be the restaurant's general manager. Today, David oversees a Villa Grande that is twice as large as the original, with a full service bar and a large flat screen television that's very popular with the restaurant's sports crowd. Outside the main dining room sits a large covered dining patio overlooking a heavily wooded area adjacent to the restaurant. On a pleasant day like this one with the aroma of freshly prepared food flooding the area, the spot is a favorite with regular diners.

When asked, "What makes Villa Grande unique?" David readily responds with a list of special Villa Grande characteristics. All of their food is prepared from fresh ingredients. Villa Grande makes their own tortilla chips from their unique recipe. Their salsa is prepared daily using their own combination of spices and fresh ingredients. Villa Grande also regularly offers daily dinner specials that are not part of the regular dinner menu. They even regularly offer their lunch patrons, lunch-sized portions of popular dinner menu items. In keeping with their goal of total freshness, the kitchen staff even prepares the salad dressings served at Villa Grande. Not content with the status quo, Villa Grande continues to improve old recipes and develop new ones. And for those of us who are health conscious, all of Villa Grande's cooking oil is non-transfat. As David says, it costs more but we value our customer's wants and needs.

David wants you to come and experience the new Villa Grande Restaurant. He knows you will enjoy your visit and welcomes the opportunity to turn you into a life-long Villa Grande customer. David has a special offer for all the Cross Roads residents. If you bring in your copy of this newsletter, he will initial it and give your table a free order of their marvelous sopapillas when you also order an entrée. Now isn't that just like family... a free dessert with your meal!



## Road Committee Report by David Meek, chairman

Another fiscal year has ended and the Road Committee has finished all of the road improvement goals we had slated for the year. We had a budget of approximately \$370,000 and we spent \$300,000.

First, we repaved New Hope Road from Fish Trap Road to the Town limits. That solved some drainage issues and should keep the road intact for quite some time. Then we placed a new culvert through the berm at Doc Sanders and New Hope Road. This allowed the water flow to continue over that closed road.

We have kept up with the pothole repair throughout town all year. At no time during the year were any of the potholes "car eaters". We have cleaned the ditches, added gravel and graded Moseley Road extension. This has provided significant improvement to this road and a tremendous benefit to the citizens that live in that area.

The Road Committee repaired culverts and the bridge on Historic Lane at Potter Shop Road. This bridge was significantly damaged in the heavy rains last spring. These repairs should last the next 50 years. We also made some repairs to Historic Lane near Naylor Road. We are still in the process of completing ditch work and repair of Mill Creek Road that extends the full length of the road. This includes creating ditches in many areas where there were no ditches. The entire road from Keyes Lane to Potter Shop Road is being graded. The culvert and concrete work to improve the drainage that we completed there several years ago are both holding up perfectly.

We are gearing up to spend the \$300,000 that we have budgeted for 2008-2009 fiscal year. We will continue the routine maintenance as well as some other larger projects. You are welcome to provide input on potential projects at any Town Council meeting. If you are interested in serving on the road committee, please feel free to contact me through Katherine or Judy at Town Hall.



Work being done on Mill Creek Road is a great improvement.

# Cross Roads Town Clean-up Day

## October 2008







Thanks to all the volunteers!

**Do You Know a “Mrs. Kravitz” in Your Neighborhood? by Christine Gossett**

We all remember the television show *Bewitched* starring Elizabeth Montgomery, who played a good witch named “Samantha”. She had a very observant neighbor, “Mrs. Kravitz”. Most of us probably considered her to be rude and nosy, but today she would be considered a great member of a neighborhood watch group. You see, we all need a Mrs. Kravitz on our street. She is that neighbor who rushes to the window and notices something wrong. She isn’t afraid to let you know about a strange situation, or check with law enforcement officials when something seems suspicious. These neighbors may seem obnoxious, but when you go out of town or have a neighborhood full of children, deep down you are really relieved knowing that there is an extra set of eyes watching out for you.

In today’s world there is no place I know where you can live that criminal activity is non-existent. We must be vigilant and proactive in order to protect ourselves, our families, our neighborhoods and our town. While we cannot always stop crime before it happens, we can prevent repeat crimes and we can send a message to criminals that we are a community that is watching out for each other.

Citizens of Cross Roads are interested in starting a Cross Roads Crime Watch Group. We will be working with local law enforcement to begin community meetings and start Neighborhood Watch Groups. Groups such as these are an excellent way to meet neighbors, communicate regarding potentially dangerous situations, and learn about prevention and safety.

Please look for future meeting postings and information on the Town of Cross Roads website, this newsletter, and fliers. Together we can keep Cross Roads safe and send a message to potential criminals that we aren’t going to stand for it. The first informational meeting will be Tuesday, November 11 at 7 PM.

**Remember the meeting at Town Hall on November 11, 7 PM.**

**TOWN OF CROSS ROADS, TX.**

*Harv Kitchens, Mayor*  
*Ross Schraeder, Mayor Pro Tem*  
*Michelle Meek, Council Member*  
*Dan Prins, Council Member*  
*Tony Russo, Council Member*  
*Virden Seybold, Council Member*  
*Katherine Ritchie, Town Administrator*  
*Judy Moudy, Admin. Assist.*  
*Jeanie Burch, Editor*

**Town of Cross Roads**  
**1401 FM 424**  
**Cross Roads, TX 76227**

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FAX: 940-665-6898

**Dates to Remember**

- Town Council Meetings are the second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- Town Council workshops meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- Park Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- Planning and Zoning Commission meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- Comprehensive Planning Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- Road Repair Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the Council Meeting.
- All meetings are posted on the Town Hall bulletin board 72 hours prior to meeting and are open to the public.

**Please call the Town Hall if you would like to serve your community by joining a committee.**



**Enjoy the season.**

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