

# The Cross Roads Times

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

## From the Mayor's Desk

by Ross Schraeder, Mayor

### THE ELECTION

Well, the election is over: I have been elected as your mayor. I succeed Harv Kitchens who has been mayor for eight years. There is no question that he deserves a break following his sixteen years of service as mayor and council member to this Town. Indeed, he and his wife Kay will be enjoying themselves out in cool Ruidoso, New Mexico from time to time this summer. Harv did a fantastic job and it is going to be difficult for me to replace him.

Tony Russo was re-elected to the council and has been appointed Mayor Pro-tem. Kim Dickey was elected to her first two-year term on the council. Kim will be replacing me as liaison on the Architectural Committee. Larry Fisher was elected to fill the remaining year of Becky Porter's term.

(Becky and her husband Robert moved out of Cross Roads for business reasons.) Larry writes most of the Cross Roads Times Newsletter articles on local businesses, and attends and has given talks at the Aubrey Chamber of Commerce meetings. One of his responsibilities will be to stay involved with our business program.

An additional item on the May 8th election was the re-authorization of a 1/4% sales tax designated for maintenance and repair of municipal streets. That item received more votes than did any of the candidates, even though all of the candidates were running unopposed. Most of the Town's citizens consider road maintenance and repair to be among the most important items in the Town budget.

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Town Council (L to R): Kim Dickey, Tony Russo, Mayor Ross Schraeder, Virden Seybold, Larry Fisher and Steve Smith

### PROVIDING LEADERSHIP

As mayor of Cross Roads, I plan to continue to promote the issues that have made our Town what it is today. The four most important are: one-acre minimum lot size, acceptable roads, no property tax, and no debt. Our single biggest source of income is sales tax

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

and with two major highways going through town the promotion of new and existing businesses must continue if we are going to meet our revenue needs. Even with the downturn in business and associated drop in income, we are continuing to maintain a profitable position. The key is to hold costs down until the business picture turns around.

Over the long haul, our one-acre minimum lot size, while providing a delightful place to live, supports our financial position, basically because high-density housing developments cost money. With respect to roads, road improvements made under the 2009-2010 budget were well done for the amount of money available. The chip and seal roads, approved by the town council, are going to take a few more months to settle in. Just slowing down to 20 mph will minimize the dust.

### THE FUTURE

The budget for next year, starting on October 1, 2010, is now being developed. Housing starts this year are up by a factor of six over last year and we are seeing some new business activity on Hwy 380, which may indicate the start of a financial turnaround. Keep your fingers crossed.

Cross Roads borders Lake Lewisville on the south and is the beginning of horse country to the north. You just cannot find a better place to live than what we have here. We need to make the most of it. Remember, all Cross Roads Town meetings are open to all citizens and postings of time and location are on the door of the Town Hall. I hope to see you there.

## Katherine's Corner...by Katherine Ritchie, Town Administrator



### THINK GREEN REBATE PROGRAM

CoServ Electric **Think Green** rebate program was established to help members make their homes more energy efficient. The program offers a wide range of eco-friendly options from complimentary lighting products to their HVAC tune-up rebate. CoServ also offers rebates to help members implement solar photovoltaic technology in their homes. Some details of the program are given below. More information is available on the CoServ website at [www.coserv.com](http://www.coserv.com).

### Energy Audits

An on-site energy audit is often the first step in making your home more energy efficient. CoServ knows it is easier said than done to reduce the amount of energy you use, so they employ a team of qualified technicians to help you be successful.

Their Energy Management team conducts free energy audits on their members' homes and businesses. They will inspect your windows, doors, attics, appliances, heating and cooling unit, and more – all to help pinpoint where your energy dollars are being wasted. They use a variety of monitors and tools, such as infrared cameras and energy consumption monitors during the audit to determine the best way for you to save energy dollars. A report detailing the findings is provided to you at the conclusion of the audit.

This service is just another benefit of being a member of CoServ and it is absolutely free. \* See **NOTE** below. Contact their Energy Management Team at [energyaudits@coserv.com](mailto:energyaudits@coserv.com) to schedule a time that is convenient for you.

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## Katherine's Corner (continued)

**\*NOTE: If another audit is requested at the same residence within a 12-month period, there may be a \$100 fee added to your bill for the second energy audit. If you schedule an audit and you are not at your home when their auditor arrives for the appointment, a trip charge of \$50 may be added to your bill.**

### Blower Door Program

If you would like a more detailed energy audit, CoServ offers the option to add a blower door test. This service costs \$75 and is added to your next month's bill. This test will identify exactly where the leaks are in your home and even estimate how much money per year you are losing due to the air leakage. If interested, contact CoServ to book your blower door test today.

### Think Green Rebate Program

CoServ now offers a range of rebates, including the following.

- ▶ CFL Program- Residential members who have an energy audit performed on their homes are eligible to receive up to \$50 worth of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) to be used in their most frequently used fixtures.
- ▶ HVAC Tune-ups - Residential members who have an energy audit performed on their home are eligible to receive up to a \$150 rebate on an HVAC tune-up performed by a qualified service professional.
- ▶ EnergyStar® Home Rebate - Members who build EnergyStar rated homes (that closed after June 1, 2009) are eligible to receive a \$550 rebate by submitting the EnergyStar certificate and builder verification that the home meets the EnergyStar standards.
- ▶ Heat Pumps - Members who replace existing

HVAC equipment (in electric-only, single-family homes) are eligible to receive a \$150 rebate for a 14 SEER High Efficiency Heat Pump and a \$300 rebate for a 15 SEER High Efficiency Heat Pump (or higher).

- ▶ Solar Energy Rebate - CoServ supports interconnected cogeneration with net metering – per the terms of our tariff. With our **Think Green** Rebate Program, they now offer a \$2.50 per watt rebate on solar generation (with a \$5,000 cap per member installation) until allocated funds are depleted.
- ▶ Commercial Lighting Rebate – Commercial / Industrial members who upgrade lighting fixtures can receive a rebate of .30 cents per watt saved (per fixture).
- ▶ Credits, Deductions and Programs – You may benefit from researching a variety of tax credits and deductions available for residential consumers, commercial buildings, home builders, small wind energy systems, solar panels, and by reading frequently asked questions on their website.

To apply for any of the above CoServ rebates, please complete the application available on their website and submit all required documentation to [energyaudits@coserv.com](mailto:energyaudits@coserv.com) or mail to CoServ at

CoServ Electric  
ATTN: Energy Management  
7701 S. Stemmons  
Corinth, TX 76210-1842

If you have questions about the **Think Green** Rebate Program, you can call CoServ at (940) 270-6860.

### CROSS ROADS INSURANCE RATING

Recently, there has been a subtle change that may

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**Katherine's Corner (continued)**

significantly benefit the business owners and residents of Cross Roads, Texas. The Insurance Services Office (ISO now recognizes the response of the Aubrey Fire Department into Cross Roads, Texas. This, in conjunction with the recent addition of Aubrey Fire Station 2 located at 220 Navo Road, will now allow Aubrey Fire Department to meet the criteria needed to extend the ISO Classification for Aubrey OPA, PPC – 6/9, in Cross Roads, Texas. These changes became effective on June 1, 2010. We encourage business owners and residents to check with your insurance companies to determine if or how this change will impact your insurance policy premiums.

Using the ISO *Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS)*, ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) program helps insurance companies measure and evaluate the major elements of a community's fire suppression system. The PPC program is based on an evaluation of a municipality's fire department (50%), fire alarm (10%) and water supplies (40%). ISO analyzes this information and assigns an advisory number from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents exemplary fire protection and Class 10 indicates that the community's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

A community can also receive a split classification, e.g.

6/9. When properties are located over 5 road miles from a fire station, Class 10 (unprotected) applies. In the split class example, all properties located within 5 road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 ft of a fire hydrant receive the Class 6. Properties located beyond 1,000 ft of a fire hydrant receive the Class 9.

The PPC program recognizes the efforts of communities to provide fire-protection services for citizens and property owners. A community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. So, insurance companies use PPC information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance — generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection. By offering economic benefits for communities that invest in their firefighting services, the program provides a real incentive for improving and maintaining public fire protection.

The program also provides help for fire departments and other public officials as they plan for, budget, and justify improvements.



**Congratulations** to Dalton Moore Arledge, whose Eagle Court of Honor was held on May 2, 2010. He is the son of Bruce and Dorian Arledge of Cross Roads, a member of BSA Troop 140 in Denton, and a senior at Ryan High School (Denton ISD). His Eagle Scout project was to lead scouts and volunteers in more than 80 hours of work to design and build special mounting blocks for the Aubrey Equestrian Center. The equestrian center works with mentally and physically handicapped children and adults through their interaction with horses.

**Congratulations**

The family of Shawn and Sebreana Ellis of Cross Roads, TX, was named Family of the Year in a ceremony held in Denton on May 12. The Denton city parks department, the Kiwanis Club and the Church of Latter-day Saints bestow the annual awards. Congratulations to Shawn, Sebreana, and their two daughters- Sarae, 15, and Monet, 12.

**Welcome to the New Residents of Cross Roads, TX 76227**

Richard & Brenda Ballard, 1630 Timber Ridge Tr.

Wilfredo Rojas, 474 Keyes Lane

Mark & Kathy Sutton, 3101 Oak Point Drive

Mark Conner, 901 FM 424

Tom & Cindy Clark, 1270 Stone Trail

## Hot Summer, Cool Library...by Jan Herbst

Hot Texas summers draw people to the cool calmness of the library. Did I say calm? Our June and July Summer Reading Programs brought seemingly masses of children to our doors, to enjoy the Tuesday entertainers and story-tellers. Adults and children were lined up at the circulation desk, checking out stacks of books. It has been a perfect summer for reading...too hot outside, but just right inside with a good book.



Speaking of Books, for adults, have you ever pondered the life of a bird? Ornithologist Don Grussing tells the uncommon story of one of the most common birds in The Seasons of the Robin. In his creative approach to presenting natural history, the author captures the high drama of a young male robin. He takes the reader through the bird's first year of life, using a fictional, yet fact-based story. From struggling to get out of the egg, to migrating, to establishing a territory, to finding a mate, and beginning the cycle again, we are held captive by the excitement. This new book is available and would appeal to all nature enthusiasts.

Mark Twain: Man in White by Michael Sheldon, receives high praise for being a lively, very readable, but historical and scholarly treatise of Twain's final years. The last four years of his life were focused on cementing his persona firmly in the public's mind. This was a tumultuous, dynamic period that would shape much of the now-famous image by which he has come to be known. This current biography is among our new books.

We continue to add new audio books to our collection. The Good Son by Michael Gruber, The Midnight House by Alex Berenson, The Bourne Objective, a new Jason Bourne novel by Eric Van Lustbader, and The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson are but a few.

The Aubrey Area Library has been offering **free computer classes and free computer tutoring sessions**. Call the library at (940) 365-9162 for the most current classes. Class content varies,

## Kernels from Kay

A cautionary tale for women-

I was not raised during The Great Depression, but I was raised by parents who were, and I am Scots-Irish, so perhaps that's why I am frugal. Before a trip to Cancun many years ago when I WORE a bikini I decided to give myself a bikini wax – not being able to imagine myself assuming the position required for the procedure for anyone other than my gynecologist. Therefore, I purchased the waxing kit from my local beauty supply shop and warmed it as directed in the first sentence of the instructions. Never bothering to read directions in their entirety ( I think it's an affliction of all teachers), I slathered the warm wax liberally on the entire designated area and applied the paper torture devices. Then I realized why women go to other people to do this FOR them. No one in her right mind could possibly do this to herself! It requires a sadist with a cosmetology degree. Now here I was with hardening wax on my tender private places. How to get the wax off without pulling off the torture devices?! After trying alcohol (I should have drunk it instead of applying it.), I finally succeeded in removing the wax by rubbing the aforementioned delicate area vigorously with fingernail polish remover. There was no caution on the bottle that it was not to be used for such purpose. Perhaps I could have sued. By now I did require the services of a gynecologist! Needless to say, I was the only woman on the beach in Bermuda shorts!

Kay Lamb



depending on the interest of the students.

**Story Time**, for ages 3-6, will be returning on Wednesday, September 8 at 11 am with stories, songs, rhymes, puppets, and crafts. **Toddler Time** is geared for ages 18-36 months with stories, movement, music, puppets, and a brief playtime beginning on Thursday, September 9 at 10:30. We'll be ready for a new season of friends!

**The Peanut Festival** is scheduled for the first Saturday in October. We are adding a **Photography Contest** this year! Check the Aubrey Area Library's website: [www.aubreytx.net/library](http://www.aubreytx.net/library) for updates and guidelines to enter your best shot!



## Business Profile- Jenny's Gym

...by Larry and Kae Fisher

940-594-6104

website: [www.jennysgymandcheer.com](http://www.jennysgymandcheer.com)

Jenny Sanders owns and operates Jenny's Gym here in Cross Roads, with a fully AACCA Safety Certified Coaching Staff. When you talk with Jenny you can't help but be impressed by the infectious enthusiasm, confidence, and positive attitude she radiates. These same characteristics instilled in her young participants by Jenny and her trainers have led to some amazing achievements by these young people.

On the wall in the gym rests a shelf full of trophies... with more to come! Recently, one of Jenny's cheer teams took 1<sup>st</sup> place in competition with 300 other Texas teams at the Gaylord. In Houston at the Fun Cheer Nationals, 31 girls participated and took 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Her team finished only eight/tenths of a point behind the national champions! And she's only been operating the gym for three years. If you check out Jenny's web site, you will find a whole page listing recent awards and trophies.

Competitive cheer and gymnastics are only a part of the activities available at Jenny's Gym. The full range of Jenny's Gym activities include recreational tumbling, recreational cheer, competitive cheer (2 levels), and show teams.

But what sets Jenny's Gym apart from the ordinary is the obvious love and care Jenny expresses when she talks about "her" kids. She and her team of trainers believe every kid is special and want each of them to come away from their gym activities with a positive experience and attitude. This special love comes out in the dedication Jenny shows by holding overnight "lock-ins" with the kids on selected Saturday nights. For just \$15 the parents can bring their child to the gym at 7 PM and pick them up at 9 AM. And the kids will have enjoyed a night of supervised playtime, a movie, and pizza!

If you have a child who might be interested in all the fun and fellowship of Jenny's Gym, Jenny invites you to arrange to bring your child in for a free trial class. Come to Jenny's Gym, where the fun happens!

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## Cross Roads Answers the Call

At about 6 PM on January 12, a massive earthquake struck the island nation of Haiti, devastating the capital city of Port-au-Prince in a matter of seconds. Like so many communities across this nation, the citizens of Cross Roads, Texas, were touched by the scenes of tragedy and loss, and wanted to help.

Oak Shores resident Gary Foss, Vice President of Planning and Marketing for AMR, parent of American Airlines, was uniquely positioned to help. By 10 AM the morning after the earthquake, three relief flights had been organized, each carrying more than 10,000 pounds of food, water and supplies to assist the residents of Port-au-Prince.

"American Eagle was the first airline to arrive in Port-au-Prince following the quake," said Foss. "In the days that followed, American and American Eagle were honored to provide relief supplies to the crippled city, and quickly partnered with the American Red Cross to funnel monetary donations from our customers and employees to speed necessary aid to the country."

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Cross Roads Answers the Call (continued)

Having accompanied relief trips to the devastated country, Gary noted to his wife, Cindy Foss, that so many of the quake's victims were children – left homeless and orphaned on the streets, many recovering in makeshift hospitals. Cindy, with her daughters- Ashlyn 13, and Mariah 7- decided to launch a campaign in Oak Shores to gather clothes, toys and other supplies for the children of Haiti. They passed out flyers and sent e-mails to their neighbors. Within a day, boxes began to pile up outside the Foss' Oak Point Dr. residence. Daughter Ashlyn penned a special message to the children by writing "Howdy from Cross Roads, TX!" on each box. Three days later, a 32-foot truck was filled to capacity and pulled out of Cross Roads, on the way to the airport.

"It was a labor of love," said Foss. "My daughter Ashlyn and I escorted three tons of toys and supplies donated through the generosity of the caring folks of this wonderful town. They were distributed directly to children and their mothers, gurney by gurney, in the largest field hospital for children in Haiti... to people who literally have nothing left in this world. I'll never forget the looks on their faces. It was heart-wrenching."

In the weeks following the quake, more than 30 additional AA relief missions were flown to Haiti's capitol city – all staffed by volunteer crewmembers and other employees who had given of their own time to offer assistance to those who had lost so much. But of all the relief missions flown by American, there was only one that had a plane entirely filled through the generosity and caring of a single town. A town that cared when it mattered, and provided comfort to the people of Haiti, as they struggle to rebuild their lives.



Foss at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port Au' Prince, Haiti, telling the story of the donations from Cross Roads that was broadcast to 17 countries in the Caribbean



The scene as one pulls up to the Field Hospital, reminiscent of the TV show "Mash"



Ashlyn Foss from Oak Shores as she passes out clothes in the Children's Field Hospital in Port Au' Prince



A 'Cross Roads Koala' making a little girls day- not the bruises on her face or her legs that were broken by falling debris



What matters



A Haitian child with a stuffed rabbit donated from Cross Roads and the paper at his head which reads, "A wall fell on him and he has no legs."

**Town of Cross Roads, Texas**

*Ross Schraeder, Mayor*

*Tony Russo, Mayor Pro Tem*

*Kim Dickey, Council Member*

*Larry Fisher, Council Member*

*Virdean Seybold, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month

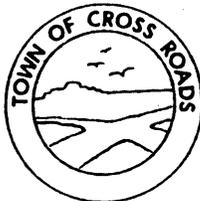
Road Repair Committee meetings the Thursday before the Town Council meeting

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

Town Council Workshop Meetings 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month

Park Board Meetings - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month

All meetings except Town Council Workshop start at 7:00 pm; Council Workshop starts at 5:00 pm. 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.



**Town of Cross Roads**

1401 FM 424

Cross Roads, TX 76227