



The Cross Roads Times

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THE TOWN OF CROSS ROADS, TX.

April 2022

From the Mayor's Desk

By T. Lynn Tompkins, Jr., Mayor



T. Lynn Tompkins, Jr.
Mayor of Cross Roads

Commitment to **NO PROPERTY TAX** and **Fiscal Responsibility** are two of the biggest priorities that I have as Mayor of Cross Roads. Only a handful of municipalities in Texas have the ability to function without levying a Town/City property tax to provide services needed by the community. **The Town of Cross Roads Vision 2035 survey showed that NO PROPERTY TAX** was the number one reason residents chose to live in Cross Roads and this allows the average Cross Roads homeowner to save over \$2,000 a year.

Prior to my administration, the Town of Cross Roads budget philosophy was based on maximum development in an attempt to stay ahead of growth in expenses. Annual cost of staff and public safety expenses were increasing at a significantly greater rate than our revenue from sales and beverage taxes and franchise fees. From 2015 to 2019, annual revenue from Sales and Beverage Taxes and Franchise Fees increased 9.4%. During this same time frame annual cost of Town services increased 18.3%, more than doubling in 5 years.

At my direction Town staff and Council reviewed every financial aspect of the Town to reduce costs while simultaneously promoting

business interests to expand the sales tax base. Budgeted revenue for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 is \$3.6 million, and at this time, each reporting period has shown significantly higher actual sales tax revenue than budgeted. Sales Tax revenue for January 2022 was the highest ever in the history of the Town of Cross Roads at \$316,000, a 52% increase over January 2020!

January 2022 Sales Tax Revenue
Best Month in the HISTORY of Cross Roads!



Another positive for the Town budget was that a review of the Town fee structure in 2021 revealed that it had not been reviewed or adjusted for many years. **In September 2021, the Town Council approved a new fee structure that aligns with the fees charged by surrounding communities, which also will result in net revenue gains.**

The flipside of revenues in the Town budget is expenses, and performing due diligence helps prevent situations where expense growth outpaces revenue growth. **Council voted for the creation of the Cross Roads Police Department (CRPD).** This has increased our cost for public safety, but the advantages of having our officers actually in Cross Roads instead of splitting them with another municipality has many benefits. I have had many compliments from residents on the increased presence of officers and faster response times.

One of the next highest expenses for the Town is road repair and maintenance. The Town recently identified the top 10 roads that needed to be repaired and the Council held discussions with regard to which roads would be appropriate to send to Denton County to request for their upcoming Road Bond Project. **I am starting a Roads Task Force** that will allow residents from across all of Cross Roads to have a voice in road planning. Please fill out a Town volunteer form if you are interested in serving on this task force.

The bottom line on budgets is following the simple laws of mathematics. **My philosophy is to spend less than what we bring in through revenue.** The Town budget is available on-line as well as monthly finance reports to provide maximum transparency to Town financials. www.crossroadstx.gov/finance-department/pages/fiscal-transparency. **As Mayor of the Town of Cross Roads, I remain committed to fiscal responsibility.**

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RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Blanche Cundall Dillon

Renaissance woman?

You've heard of Renaissance Men... what about Renaissance Women?

There is one in our Town of Cross Roads, and she grew up here. She owns the Cundall homestead, 3.6 acres, and has horses, chickens, and quite colorful roosters there.

The definition of a Renaissance woman is one who is well educated, sophisticated, and who has talent and knowledge in many different fields of study. Blanche epitomizes that definition.

Former Mayor of Cross Roads James M. Cundall

Blanche Cundall Dillon is the daughter of **James M. Cundall, who was one of the first Mayor's of our Town of Cross Roads** in the early 1970s.



James M Cundall

In the 70, 's Blanche studied Wildlife Science and Horticulture while at A&M.

"During my four years there, I was much more interested in taking courses that I was interested in than "earning a degree," she laughingly said.

In the 80's, Blanche refined her pastry chef skills, make that all-around chef in capital letters, and owned a restaurant in The Woodlands. She was a construction accountant for a nationwide homebuilding company. She sold both Apple and IBM computers for Macy's in Humble. "I would

find out the customer's needs and then demonstrate how one type of computer or the other would best meet their needs"

Blanche is a computer whiz with hardware and software AND design programs. She can take a computer apart to find out its problem and then put it back together (the real trick).

Blanche is an artist. As Chair of the Jewelry Department/ Instructor for the Craft Guild of Dallas from 1995 to 2001. She taught lost-wax casting and jewelry design. Even now, she has her own equipment to make jewelry.



Blanche Cundall Dillon

From 1988 to the present, her "working" focus has been on graphic design and photo editing. From teaching Dallas Cowboy Bob Lily to use Adobe Photoshop tools to designing a display door for Ford Motor. She even designed a mitt and ball hot pad set to be used as a giveaway at a Texas Rangers baseball game.

Blanche is a graphic designer who has designed consumer product labels, advertising, and complete company graphics programs, from letterhead to employee manuals.

As if that was not enough, Blanche was a caretaker from 2014 to 2020 for her father. She notes, "I took care of my father, who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and moved in with him in 2015.

Blanche is a historian who remembers the early days of Cross Roads. "I grew up in Cross Roads, horseback riding the one-lane dirt roads where Naylor and Pottershop are now. I loved riding down Rockhill Road. It was dirt then and had a rickety wooden bridge with sides that creaked as I took the horse over it. It was a great dirt road to let a horse run on".

Blanche oversees finances for the Parks Committee. "Preserving land for all to enjoy now and in the future is one of my commitments. We need areas of relaxation, and the Town of Cross Roads has some unique topographical features that should be preserved. Taking care of what we have and planning for the future is most important," she said.

Historic Task Force

As a repository of Cross Roads history, she is serving on Mayor Tompkins's newly created Historic Task Force. "It is a blessing to be able to work with people in that group such as Kathryn Langley, John Murray, Dorian Arledge, and Diane Bartek" noted Blanche. *Read more about a Cross Roads Historic site on the next page.*

Blanche Dillon embodies the spirit of the Renaissance woman. With her vast interests and ability to apply her accumulated knowledge across so many areas, she is a treasure for the Town of Cross Roads.



The Town of Cross Roads Historic Site

If you drive along Historic lane, you'll be able to see a historic landmark, a so-called beehive kiln, which is preserved by the current owner, John Murray.

We are fortunate to have such an asset in our town, as it is the last surviving beehive kiln in North Texas and possibly in the entire state. At the time of operation (1871-1900) it provided a significant function as many settlers who were migrating to North Texas were not able to bring with them the typical housewares needed for food preparation and storage such as pitchers, bowls, preserve jars, crocks and churns and had to rely on local sources for those.



The kiln is known as the Roark-Griffith Pottery after their owner/operators.

Roark was a master potter from Missouri who with his partner Smith purchased seven acres of land in 1871. They then sold it to Monterville Griffith and son James in 1884 who most likely built the kiln as it still stands today. Next to the kiln you can still see the foundation of the pottery workshop itself.

The reason for the kiln is the excellent quality of stoneware clays in our region. It is therefore no coincidence that we still have a big clay pit from ACME brick in our town at the SE intersection of 380 and 377.

There is a huge pile on the kiln site where the broken jars and other pieces were dumped that broke during the firing process in the kiln and their quality is amazing, especially considering that **those pieces are 120+ years old. Some of the broken pieces show handles and most of it is glazed**

The city of Denton was established in 1857. During the 19th century there were five dominant potteries operational in Denton county that provided the stoneware vessels that were an important part of the emerging economy in Texas. Instrumental to the development of these potteries was John Cranston, a master potter from Ireland who settled in the region in 1885. Roark, the initial potter of the Cross Roads kiln, was considered an apprentice from Cranston. Pottery was one of the initial and important industries in Denton county.

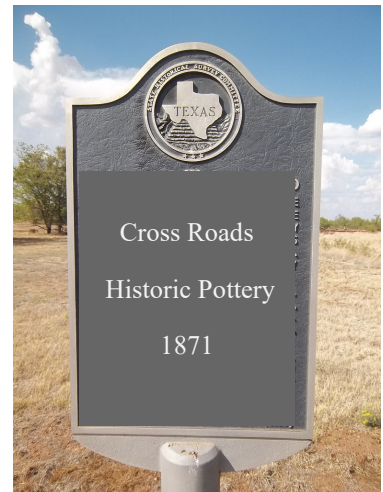
Not only are we lucky that we have a historic site in our Town, we are also fortunate that the current owner, John Murray, whose parents bought the property in 1979, is committed to preserve this landmark by protecting it from the weather by erecting a metal enclosure, which allows for spectators who are passing by to see it from 2 sides.

If you happen to see John, when you are passing by, make sure to stop and talk to him, he has a wealth of historic knowledge which he is more than happy to share. And if you are fortunate, you might be able to take home a



small piece of his broken pottery pile, knowing that you get a piece of history that is more than 100 years old.

There is a historical marker coming at the site in a few months as soon as the final text is approved and sent to the foundry. If you have not seen the kiln,



it is worth taking a small detour next time you are close to the South-East part of our town, enjoy!



Parks & Rec. Board Updates

On April 17th the Cross Roads Park Board will be hosting the Second Annual Spring Egg-stravaganza in the park for Cross Roads children.

We are planning a cake-walk, painted friendship stones as attendance gifts, a candy Easter egg hunt by age divisions, face painting, possibly a puppet show, and other Fun-filled events! Plus, the Easter Bunny will be present to give all the kids hugs and photo opportunities.

Last year was a great success and we expect this year to be even better. We are asking that you register your children with their ages by emailing the information to: CrossR.Parks@gmail.com so we may have the appropriate number of eggs available for the hunting age



group.
Cut off date of registration for the Easter Egg Hunt and friendship stones is April 11th to insure we have enough eggs and painted stones.

There is open participation for all other events. If you have any questions, please text to (940) 395-7089 for a prompt response.

You may also check the Town website by going to <https://www.crossroadstx.gov/parks>
Keep checking here for updates.

- *Computer Crusher
- *Paper shredder and more



We also are planning a **Mother's Day coloring event in the park on Saturday May 7th**. Kids will be able to color or paint a picture for their moms. It will be tons of fun! Check the calendar for more information.

*Parks and Recreation Board
Ron Zofield, Chair.*



April 23 Annual Spring Cleanup,

- *We will have Hazardous waste (limited list of items accepted)
- *Waste Connections
- *Chipper/Mulcher

US 380 Improvement Project Updates

WHERE: 10.5 miles of roadway from US 377 to west of County Road 26 (Collin County line).

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will close various, alternating lanes of east- and westbound US 380 from Fish-trap Road to Providence Boulevard from 2/28 till 4/1/2022



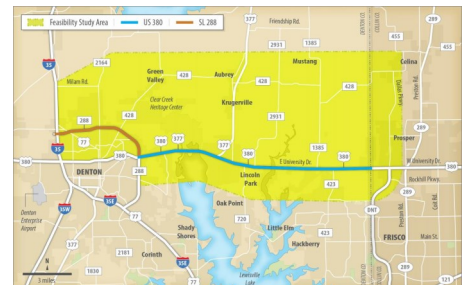
Drivers should expect delays and plan ahead for extra travel time in this area.

Message boards will be placed to alert drivers of upcoming construction activities.

Backups are possible and motorists are encouraged to seek alternate routes.

This work, as part of the US 380 Improvement project, will improve mobility by increasing capacity and re-

ducing congestion, bring the roadway to current safety design standards, and improve pedestrian access to businesses and schools in the corridor



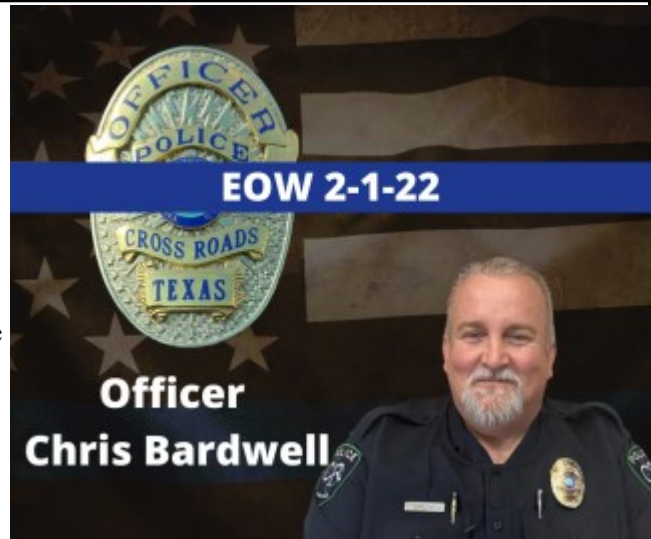


Officer Chris Bradwell

The Town of Cross Roads Police Department is mourning the loss of Officer Chris Bardwell who passed away following a battle with COVID-19. Officer Bardwell was employed by the Cross Roads Police Department since its inception in September 2021.

“Officer Bardwell was a valuable member of our Cross Roads’ team and dedicated to the self-less service to our community,” said Chief Shaun Short. “We are heart broken by the loss of Chris, the humor he brought to everyday life always made working with him so enjoyable. Everyone loved working with Chris.”

“Officer Bardwell was one of the first to be hired by the Cross Roads Police Department and was very instrumental in the standing up of our new department,” stated Mayor T. Lynn Tompkins, Jr. “His dedication to law enforcement over the past three decades demonstrates his commitment to serving the public. The Cross Roads community mourns this great loss and asks that his family, friends and fellow officers be kept in your thoughts and prayers.”



THE COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

BITS AND PIECES Did You Know???

- The Town of Cross Roads moved into their new office at 3201 US Hwy 380, Suite 105, Cross Roads.
- Mod Pizza, Baskin-Robbins and Bakers Brothers Cafe will be opening soon.
- The Mayor is creating a Roads Task Force to provide input to Town and Council on Road issues.
- 2nd Annual Egg-stravaganza will be held on April 16, 2022
- Town elections are May 7, Early Voting: April 25—May 3, 2022
- Spring Cleanup planned for April 23rd.
- To be considered to serve on the Roads Task Force committee or any other Town Committee, please complete a volunteer application, available on the Town website.

We love your input and any other suggestions. Please email to editor@crossroadstx.gov.



THE TOWN OF CROSS ROADS, TX.

*T. Lynn Tompkins, Jr. Mayor
David Meek, Mayor Pro Tem
Wendy White Stevens, Council
Member*

*Bobby Phillips, Council Member
Ron King, Council Member
Greg Gaalema, Council Member
Kristi Gilbert, Town
Administrator*

The Cross Road Times
3201 US HWY 380,
Suite 105,
Cross Roads, TX 76227

Phone: 940-365-9693
Fax: 940-665-6898

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Town Council meetings are on the third Monday of each month. Workshop, when necessary, at 6:15 pm. Council meeting 7:00 pm. at our old Town Hall/Police Station and on Zoom. Please join us and become involved in your Town.
- Planning and Zoning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm. at our old Town Hall/Police station and on Zoom.
- Park and Recreation Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. at our old Town Hall/Police Station.
- Municipal Development District Meeting meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. at our old Town Hall.

All meetings are posted on the Town Hall bulletin board at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. For additional information, please contact the Town Secretary.

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