

Water Rate Increase

The water company that currently provides water to the city of Kosse (Tri-County SUD) recently notified us they will be raising the cost of water by \$1.50 per thousand gallons. Tri-County SUD had no choice but to raise its rates due to expensive arsenic removal equipment and technologies they it was required to put in place by federal government regulations (regulations that many experts believe are unnecessary and excessive unfunded mandates). Please note that they have passed this cost on to their own retail customers as well, so it is not just affected Kosse or wholesale customers. The city council met to discuss the Tri-County increase with two special called meetings and decided that we must also increase the cost of water matching the \$1.50 per thousand gallons to cover the cost of the increase from Tri-County SUD. This increase will cost the average Kosse water customer about \$5.00 per month. While nobody wanted to raise the water rates, the city council decided they just had no choice, as we have to be able to pay the bills until our own water system is put on line.

Negotiations were also conducted with Tri-County for the extension of our service contract. The original 30-year service contract with Tri-County was set to expire in September of 2017. The engineers for our water well project estimated they would not have the system up and running by then, and an extension of the contract had to be made to ensure we maintain water service to the town. The extension negotiations went well, as we have made an agreement for a two-year extension. The two-year extension provides for a no penalty early termination allowing us to terminate the contract and start using our wells as soon as they are operational.

Water System Progress

Progress is in the works!!! The engineers have surveyed all of the sites for the new wells and water tower. Once all of the approvals are in from the State Water Development Board, the construction of the project will go out to bid. The engineers plan to use more than one contractor so that the tower, wells and waterlines can all be built simultaneously.

New Business Finally Out in the Open

Well we have some more exciting news. As many of you may have noticed we have a "Coming Soon- Family Dollar" Banner West on Hwy. 7. Construction will begin soon!! The Kosse Economic Development Committee along with the City of Kosse were very instrumental in getting a site to Kosse! It will be out in the open field on the west side of the Kosse Cafe.



Kosse Community Medical Center

Thanks to the vision of a better quality of life for our community by the Mayor and City Council, and the excellent work of the city staff, Kosse will be home to a new Medical Clinic located in the downtown area, opening in early 2018. Construction of the clinic is scheduled to start in August of 2017. Kosse has partnered with Limestone Medical Center,

Christmas Dinner at KCC

On December 15th at 630pm, the Center sponsored a Christmas Dinner complete with Christmas Hams. It was a great turn-out with Santa arriving on Kosse's new fire truck! The winners of this year's Christmas Yard Contest were 3rd place Clifford Johnson, 2nd place Christina Lockhart and 1st place Amanda Arabie. They all were presented decorative Christmas Wreaths, creatively crafted by Chamber President Diane Fraley, the prize money was also sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. We would like to thank our Public Service Workers Charles Dickerson, and Anthony Ramirez for stringing the Christmas Lights on the Kosse Water Tower and downtown.

Kosse Community Center News

The Kosse Community Center looks great, it is now 99.99% complete. On Feb. 4th there will be a Valentine's Dance & Dinner, with Gordon Collier. The cost for adults is \$10.00 per adult, kids under 12 are FREE. Bring your own snacks & ice chest for beverage of choice. This is a fund raiser for the center. For rental information please call the city office.

Kosse Volunteer Fire Department News

The Kosse Volunteer Fire Department has received two grants recently in addition to the grant that paid for 80% of the new fire truck that was recently put in service. A grant of \$1,000.00 was received from Entergy, our electricity provider. Another grant from the Texas Forest Service was received to replace the pump and tank unit on one of the brush trucks. The grant will cover 80% of the cost to put a new tank and pump on an existing truck.

The Fire Department also just purchased a new set of hydraulic rescue tools (Jaws of Life) for use in removing people trapped in vehicle accidents. The new set of rescue tools cost approximately \$30,000.00 and the fire department would be grateful for any donations anyone could make toward the cost of these tools. Donations can be sent to KVFD, P.O. Box 350, Kosse, TX 76653.

Eutaw Lodge #233 A.F & A.M

On February 11, 2017, the lodge will be hosting a spaghetti supper to raise funds for their scholarship fund. The dinner will be at the Kosse Community Center from 11am -to 7pm. You may purchase tickets at the door, at the Kosse City Office or from any lodge member. The Masons are dedicated to our community, and offer scholarships to our local Kosse students. There is nothing more important than investing in our future. Please come out and show your support, and aid the Masons in their endeavor of providing scholarships to our youth.

Kosse City Elections

Two City Council member positions are open for election. Opening date to file was Jan.17th closing date to file is February 18th. If you would like a chance to become a council person, come on down to the City Office and fill an application out. The hours are Monday thru Friday 8-4pm. You must reside inside the Kosse City Limits, and have a clean criminal history to apply.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Kosse Police Department has made several changes in order to better serve the public. The Police officers have all been trained in first aid and CPR and are responding to all medical emergencies and car accidents to provide aid. The police have also improved their safety and the safety of the public with new state of the art

and they will staff the clinic with a physician and a mid-level provider such as a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner, as well as a nurse and secretary. The clinic will accept insurance, and will see patients as a primary care provider and walk ins for urgent care needs. The following services will be provided; Pediatrics, Adults, Geriatrics, sleep study evaluations, well woman exams, breast exams, pap smears, pregnancy test, birth control, flu vaccines, immunizations, allergy injections, sports physicals, urine and blood lab work, sutures. The clinic was funded by a Department of Agriculture grant for rural development.



WE ARE HERE FOR LIFE

Automated External Defibrillators have been purchased and put in service around town. The health and safety of Kosse is our business, and we are taking it very seriously. One of the new defibrillators has been put in service by the fire department so they now have two trucks equipped with defibrillators. Another defibrillator is being carried by the police, who will be responding to medical emergencies when they are on duty, as they can be on scene very quickly and provide life support measures until the fire department arrives. The third defibrillator was placed at the Kosse Community Center and will be accessible to anyone in the center in the event of a medical emergency. The defibrillator in the community center is very easy to use and has a voice prompt as well as a simple directions flyer in the unit.

In addition to the strategic placement of defibrillators, all of the Kosse city staff, including office staff, public works and police officers have been trained and certified in CPR and first aid. The Kosse Fire Department first responders are also all trained and certified in CPR and first aid, as well as those members with EMT or Paramedic training.

KOSSE LOCAL NEWS PICK-UP

In an effort to get more Kosse news in the Groesbeck Journal, there will be news drop boxes at the city office. Locals can drop off their stories or their pictures for local news. Not all is guaranteed to make the news nor get your picture returned, so make a copy. The Journal will pick up news as needed. Years ago, our own local Louise O'Neal use to be on top of things, as she would make sure local stories went to the press with collection boxes, so maybe it's time to re-vamp this system. Your ideas will be welcome.

KOSSE RESALE SHOP

The Kosse resale shop, is open for business and has new hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The Oneal's have a little bit of everything for sale at a bargain price, Stop in and say hi and take a look around. They are located at the corner of South Narcissus street and East Washington.

equipment including a new police vehicle complete with audio and video recording, body camera's and body armor.

In addition to new equipment, the hours of police coverage have been steadily increased over the past year to provide more consistent and timely service and protection. The increase in police presence is proven to deter crime and make a safer community for all. Police Chief Paul Ensminger has been with the Kosse police department for 18 years and is a wealth of information on local law enforcement which he has been instilling in our new police officers.

Officer Mark Morris was upgraded from part time to full time this year. Officer Morris has several years of police experience and began working for Kosse in June, 2015 as a part time officer. He began working full time this year and has been an asset to the police department.

Officer Louis Lourcey began working part time for the police department last month. Officer Lourcey has many years of experience and is certified as a master peace officer. Officer Lourcey has experience as a detective and is also a licensed paramedic.

BUSTED

There have been several drug related arrests made by the Kosse Police over the last few months, including a drug bust this weekend. Saturday night Officers Lourcey and Morris were on patrol and conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of North Narcissus and East Washington. The stop resulted in an arrest for possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving without insurance and no vehicle registration, in addition to seizure of the vehicle. Thank You Kosse PD for keeping our streets safe.

REWARD \$100

Around Christmas two aluminum 12-unit cluster mail boxes were stolen from the Kosse Apartments. If you know anything about this, please call (512)773-4884. \$100 Reward is being offered for tips or information leading to the full recovery. Your identity will be kept anonymous.

Town Survey

The Kosse Economic Development Corporation would like the citizens to participate in a survey, you can mail this in, write your answers on a separate sheet of paper (or on back of water bill) and drop it thru the slot in the front door of the city office, or email cityofkosse@gmail.com. We would like you to rate on a scale on 1-7, what you would like to see in Kosse. If you have any ideas not present, or for the betterment of the town please share with us.

- ___ HOUSING
- ___ LIBRARY- INTERNET
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT- WHAT KIND? _____
- ___ BED & BREAKFAST
- ___ RESTAURAUNTS
- ___ DAYCARE
- ___ GROCERY STORE-MEAT MARKET
- Not listed: _____