

Town Crier

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CITY OF KOSSE NEWSLETTER

February 2018

FAMILY DOLLAR STORE OPENS!!

October 12th was the official opening date of the Family Dollar. We are elated it is finally here!! Recently an employee at Family Dollar initiated a toy drive for the local kids in Kosse for Christmas, we are pleased to know they are community oriented, and willing to help out our youth.

The Family Dollar Store has already had a positive impact on city sales tax revenues. Bringing the Family Dollar to Kosse was a long time project of the Economic Development Committee, Mayor and City Council. Special Thanks to Karen Partin for her above and beyond work ethic that brought it all together.

STREET REPAIRS IN KOSSE

The City of Kosse have a few streets that are now a little smoother. Please be patient with us as the county is working on this endeavor. Many factors slow progress, weather, other work orders, ect. but work will resume as soon as they can. All of the streets in Kosse are scheduled to be resurfaced.

Kosse Community Medical Clinic

There have been some setbacks with the Medical Clinic. The bids for construction came in extremely high, and well over budget. The clinic bids came in around \$800,000, which is approximately \$300,000 over budget. The engineers for the project initially recommended downsizing the project and get rid of the parking lot to bring the project into budget. Mayor Eno has had several meetings and phone conferences with engineers, builders and grant works and we believe they have found a solution to keep the clinic and site at its original size without going over budget using a modular structure like the Limestone Medical Facility in Groesbeck.

What's the Hold Up!!

The water project has been on hold for several months due to the remote possibility that a Houston Toad may have wandered into the area in the back of a truck from Houston, and jumped out at the water tower site. There has been no documentation of the presence of this toad in Limestone County; however, the Environmental Protection Agency has ordered a three years study to determine if the toad has or has not made the journey to Limestone County, and any impact the water tower may have on the mating habits of the toad. This order put us at a temporary stand still as we weighed our options and attempted to plead with the EPA. This notice came while we were preparing to bid the construction. In the meantime, we got notice from the Texas Water Development Board they will not fund the water tower construction unless we conduct the study and comply with the EPA.

The Mayor and engineers have been in constant communication to find a way around waiting three years and have found a viable solution. Instead of constructing a new water tower, we can use pressure tanks and ground storage water tanks with large pumps that will pressurize the water system and eliminate the need for a water tower. Engineers are working out all the specifications, more news on this soon.

Kosse Travel News

Local council member LB Perry & wife Dovie recently traveled to Fresno, California to visit the kids & grandchildren. After a two-year absence of not seeing them. It was reported they had a blast!

Long- Time Teacher Gets a Promotion

Kosse's very own Kelly Self Young, longtime school teacher at Groesbeck has recently been promoted to Assistant Principal at Enge- Washington Intermediate campus for grades 3-6. Congratulations Kelly on your promotion! Kelly has been a Kosse Resident for many years! We are very proud of you!

Community Center News

The Kosse Community Center recently hosted the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners complete with the arrival of "Santa". Christmas Yard winners were: 1st Place the Johnson's on North Mignonette, 2nd Place- The Johnson's on South Mignonette, and 3rd Place the Funderburk's East Hwy. 7. Kosse Griswold Awards were awarded to City Workers Charles Dickerson, Robert Mosley & Carlo Salvato, for the great job they did hanging lights around town and on our water tower. The main Griswold award went to.....our very own Mayor Eno, what will he do next year???

Senior Citizen's New - Site Manager

Longtime site manager Martha Keller has given up her site manager position at the Kosse Senior Citizen Center, only to relinquish it to Mrs. Glenda Oneal and her number one helper Robert Oneal. Martha will be missed but hey.....she is still around and attending at the center. If more information is wanted on Seniors please contact Glenda at 254-747-9004.

DUMPSTER NEWS!!

There will be a dumpster provided on the first week end of the month for all Kosse residents, located beside the Kosse Fire Station. Please don't place paint, herbicides, tires or batteries inside this container. We are working on a solution for old tires to be disposed of at this time.

WHOOPS!!!

Due to a lot of mangled mail thru the U.S Postal service, we ask for your understanding. Some of you are not receiving a water bill at all. They are all automated and sent out in a mass mail out at one time. Just a reminder all water bills are due the 10th. So, if for some reason you do not receive it, please be aware this still needs to be paid. You may also call us and we will gladly tell you the amount owed if need be. We would also like to remind you that auto-draft is available for this service. Thank you.

Kosse Volunteer Fire Department

All area residents should have recently received letters in the mail, it's the KVFD annual appeal for much needed donations. Remember our Fire Department is based on all volunteer help. They also consist of first responders, which are some of the first people to help us out in case of an accident. What better people to help you than your own! So, remember them. These donations help fund much needed supplies and equipment. Donations may be sent to the Kosse Fire Department at P.O. Box 350, or dropped off at city hall.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Kosse firefighters have been very busy putting out fires, and helping with medical emergencies. On a couple of occasions while firefighters were fighting fires for extended periods of time, local restaurants made and donated food for all the firefighters at the scene. Thank you to Kasa Kosse and to Austin's Steakhouse for your generosity and support. Also thank you to the Kosse Police for responding and assisting at fire and EMS calls, and to the Kosse Public works crew. At a recent large fire incident, the Kosse Public Works crew came to the aid of the Fire Department and assisted with water and fueling operations. The help was much appreciated and goes to show how good-hearted people come together and get things done when needed.

WE ARE HERE

One of the major goals of our Mayor and City Council has been to improve and promote city services. We have all been on a continuing mission to make Kosse the best it can be. With that in mind, please know the Public Works Crew (water, sewer etc) are available 24/7. This was a huge undertaking and is possible thanks to the incredible work ethic and responsibility of our employees. During business hours all calls for service should go through city hall. If for some reason you cannot get through, or after hours please call the 24-hour response phone at 254-420-9193. The Kosse Police are also making every effort to answer all calls, even taking calls when they are off duty, and taking turns being on call. We are here for you.

Spaghetti with the Masons

The Kosse Masonic Lodge #233 will be hosting a spaghetti dinner with all the fixins at the Community Center on Sunday February 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with or very own Mayor, Jarrod Eno cooking. The masons are a non-profit community service organization and they rely on donations to carry out their charities. The money from the Spaghetti dinner will go to the scholarship fund, which gives scholarships to local children to help pursue higher education. The masons are responsible for many local charitable projects such as building handicap ramps at the Kosse heritage house, and some local residents who had become ill or injured. Come on out and support our local charities with a good time and great food.

Property Tax

Our Local property tax rate has gone down two years in a row and will go down again this year. This is a great trend. The rate has been going down due to new homes and businesses, improvements and restorations town wide. We are among very few in this category, most towns and counties have been depreciating and having to raise their tax rates to maintain their budgetary income. Improvements such as the restoration of the Winn building, Kosse Apartments, the Family Dollar Store, addition to the Kosse Cafe and many more have added value to our town making everyone's share of the cost less. Thank You to all those that invested in your businesses or homes and our town. Some new projects are in the works!!! Keep an eye out for great things

ISO Grading

The City of Kosse was recently audited by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) for the first time. The ISO scores towns on a scale from 1-10 to categorize risk and fire protection ability. The 1-10 scale is best to worst with 1 being the best. Kosse previously had a score of 10 by default because we had not been evaluated. That score of 10 had a negative impact on insurance rates in Kosse because of higher risk.

Our community was evaluated and graded in many categories including water supply, dispatch, water works and utilities, fire protections systems and the fire department's equipment and abilities. We received extra points because the water department keeps excellent records with for fire hydrants and they are all maintained in working condition, and we have our own fire investigator.

The fire department scored very high for equipment and response times. All in all, we did very well, and we are proud to say, we received the best score of any volunteer fire department in Limestone County. Kosse received a score of 5 out of 10, which will take effect some time after February. Once this takes effect, you should contact your insurance carrier for a reduction. If they tell you they do not give reductions based on ISO grading, you might want to shop around. Most insurance companies use the ISO scoring to determined the insurance rates for the area you are in. The next lowest ISO score for a volunteer department in Limestone County is a 6 out of 10.

Go Kosse Fire Department, setting the bar in Limestone County!!!

Come On, Lets Dance

Gordon Collier will be performing at the Kosse Community Center on March 24, 2018. The event will be a fundraiser for the Community Center to help raise money for the payments on the restorations to the Community Center. Brooks Valls had been doing a tremendous job bringing the Community Center up to date with repairs and making the center a more desirable venue. Please come out and support the Community Center, as well all know how much these kinds of thing cost.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.....

RESOLVE TO KEEP HAPPY, AND YOUR JOY AND YOU SHALL
FORM A INVINCIBLE HOST AGAINST
DIFFICULTIES.....HELEN KELLAR

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