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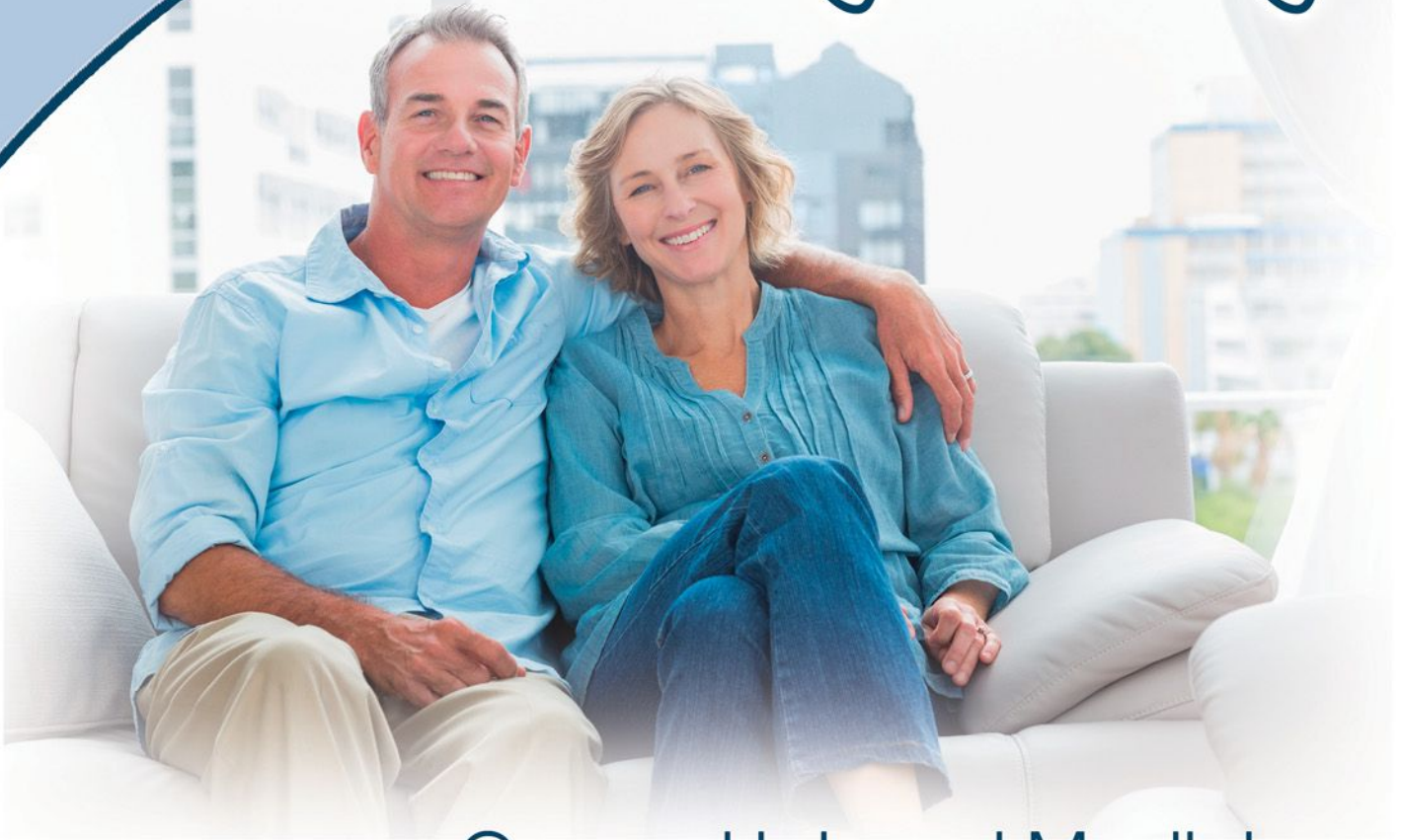


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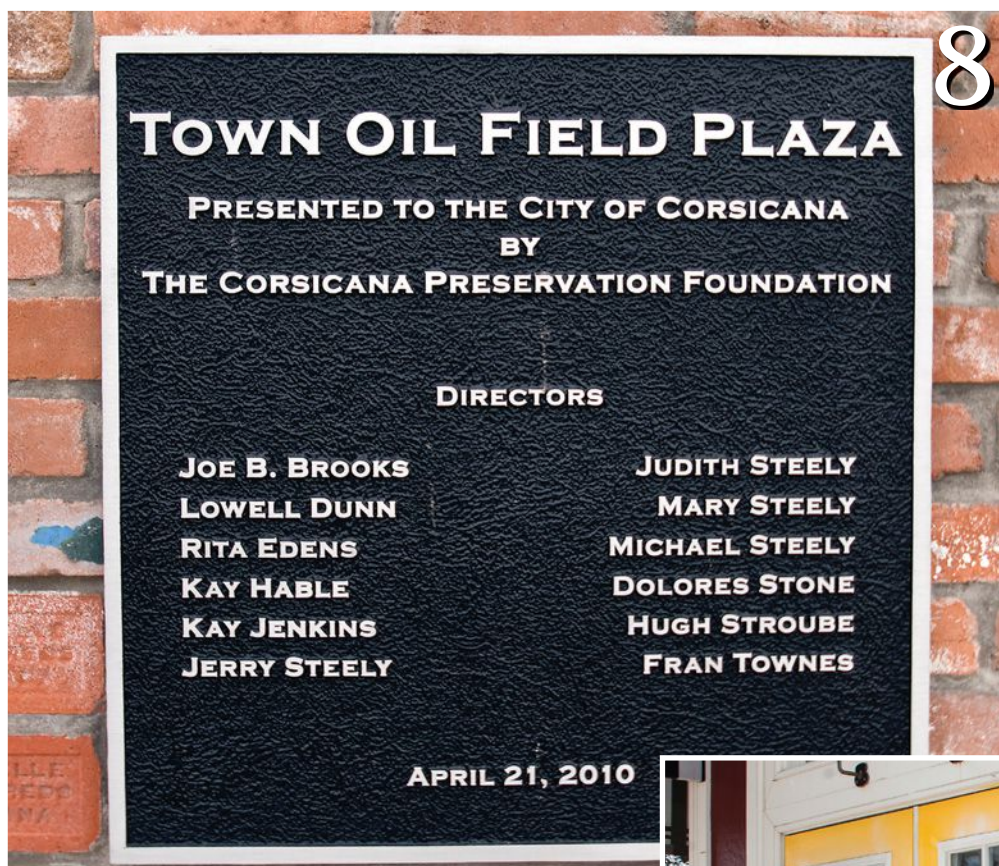


Now into a third century,
oil "pumps" Corsicana's economy.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Friends!

Oh, how I love these beautiful spring days in my garden! April is both Keep America Beautiful Month and Lawn and Garden Month. Our Texas wildflowers are starting to really "show their stuff" along our byways, while our fruit trees are blooming along with spring bulbs. What a show!

Library Week is also celebrated during April. As a reading specialist and instructor at Navarro College, I encourage everyone to visit their local library. One of the newer features at the Corsicana Public Library is the free downloading of books that can be obtained on patrons' personal laptops and tablets. Join me and relax with a "good read" in a beautiful garden spot this month.

Virginia

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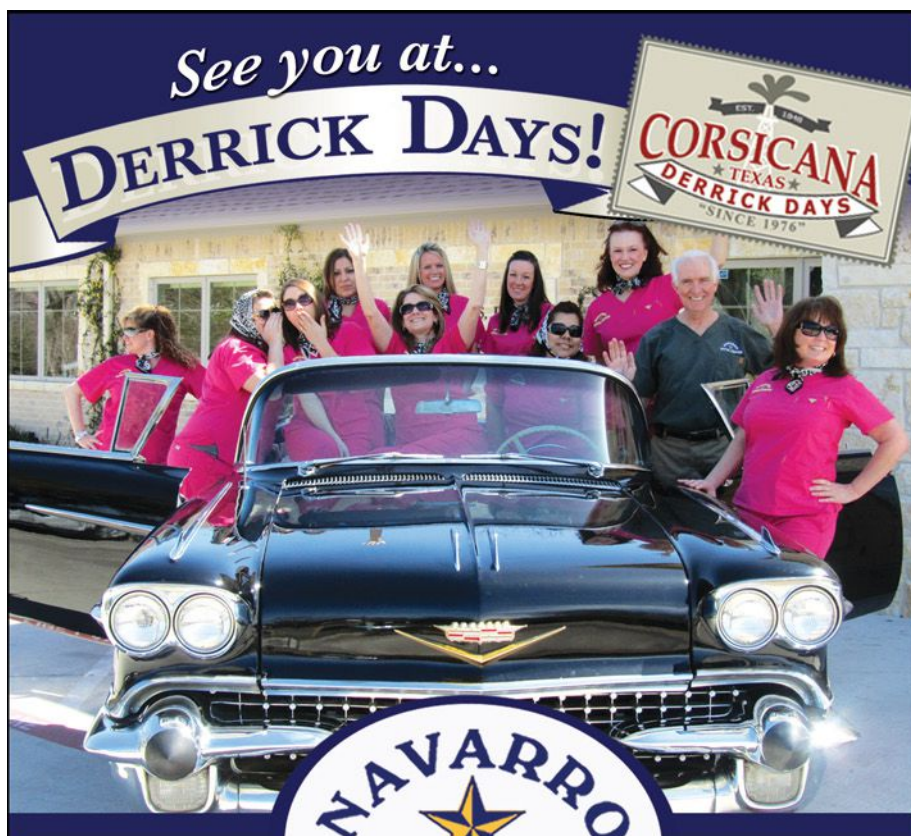


DERRICK DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

— By Virginia Riddle

Recently, it was announced that Midland, Texas, has the highest per capita income of any city in the country, but in 1953, Corsicana earned the same honor among all cities in the Lone Star State. The reason for such an economic boom remains the same — oil! In 1976, Corsicana residents celebrated the city's rich oil boom heritage by holding the first Derrick Days celebration. Now an ever-growing and much anticipated annual event, Corsicana will once again “boom” during the week





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of April 23-26, 2014. With a variety of almost nonstop event offerings, there will be activities for everyone to enjoy. "We will be adding some events, bringing back some events and changing things, but we'll keep what has become popular," said Fran Townes, 2014 president of the Derrick Days Board of Directors.

Founded in 1848 to serve as the county seat of Navarro County, Corsicana was named by Jose Antonio Navarro, a Texas Revolution hero, for his parents' birthplace, the Island of Corsica. The first population and financial boom came to Corsicana when the Houston and Texas Central Railway line was completed through town. Corsicana became a major trade hub, especially for cotton. This expansion prompted town leaders to look for a better water supply to support the growth. In drilling for water in 1894, the Corsicana Water Development Company hit oil and gas instead, leading to Texas' first oil boom. Seemingly overnight, Corsicana was transformed from an agricultural town to the industrial center of this new industry.

Signs of prosperity were everywhere. Construction of homes and businesses sprouted, leading to the Historic Carriage District of today. From churches to saloons, the town's commercial district saw rapid growth to support the more than 28,000 residents at the peak of the oil boom. At that time, Corsicana produced an estimated 354,000 barrels of oil daily in the Powell Field from 550 wells in and around the city. While businesses diversified in later years, the oil and gas industry remained a mainstay of the city's wealth into the 1950s, when a new field was discovered in East Corsicana. Today, with new extraction methods, oil and gas is once again an active part of the town's economy.

As this rich history is revisited, Fran, along with fellow board members Andy Williams, vice president; Paul Hooper, treasurer; and Amber Richardson, secretary, have been hard at work since the close of last year's celebration. The 2014 celebration will be bigger and better

than ever, aided by many volunteers from area businesses and organizations who sponsor and take part in the planned events. Brad Haynie, Derrick Days president for many years, still serves as the “go-to advisor” for the board. “Brad is Mr. Derrick Days,” Fran said. “He knows everything and comes to every meeting. I email 41 volunteers every week with some of them doing double duty.”

Derrick Days board meetings are open to the public and are held at the Chamber on the third Tuesday of each month from September through February. From March onward, meetings become more frequent. “Derrick Days has to be for everyone, so everyone must be considered,” Fran pointed out. “Derrick Days is always a work in progress, even up to 5:00 p.m. the day before it starts!”

Coming back into the event lineup, after a lengthy absence, will be the Business Olympics. New to the event schedule will be stepped-up participation by school groups, showcasing the student talent that is so abundant in area schools, and a downtown Wine and Cheese Stroll. “The idea is to give everyone the chance to become involved,” Fran explained.

Popular returning events include the Oil Baron’s Ball, Biker Bash, Street Dance, the 10th Annual Shakers & Scrapers Car Show and the Horseshoe and Washer tournaments. Also coming back are the Oil Town Mini-thon, the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, the Humane Society of Navarro County Pet Adoption and the Gospel Stage.

Fran and her husband, Ralph’s, first experiences with Derrick Days came while the couple was living in Dallas and spending weekends on their Emhouse area ranch. “I was so impressed that Beaton Street was closed down, and there were so many vendors,” Fran remembered.

Andy, a native of Corsicana, has memories of past Derrick Days celebrations. “I always liked the carnival when I was a kid, with the Business Olympics events a close second. I remember eggs on spoons races, men in high heels and that the teams built their own bedframes for the bed races.”

As a Derrick Days volunteer, Andy enjoys organizing the cook-offs since they are one of his own hobbies. “I’m really a people person, and do about five to six cook-offs a year as a judge or



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cook," Andy revealed. "Fundraising is fun, and the money raised goes to the United Way and college scholarships." Family and friends are Andy's self-described "cook-off slaves." "My mother-in-law can run a table and Ethan, my 3-year-old, thinks he's cooking," Andy added. This will be Andy's fifth year to be in charge of the Derrick Days Cook-off.

A real right-hand man, Fran said of Andy, "He's really good at the organization part."

For three years, Fran has volunteered for Derrick Days, and was Brad's assistant during his last year as president. Added to her prior experience in Dallas restaurant, hospitality and catering work, Fran is uniquely qualified to lead the Derrick Days' board. An experienced fundraiser for several organizations such as the Palace Theatre, Fran loves the planning part of fundraising. "I have the time to do it, and it is the right thing to do," she said. "People really enjoy Derrick Days, and it's a fun time, with the whole city involved." One of her biggest supporters is Ralph. "He has worked with me every year," she added.

"We are fortunate to have so many of this area's businesses supporting the events," Fran commented. Derrick Days also gives many of the area's nonprofit groups a chance to raise money through a food concession or vendor booth. "Last year, \$30,000 was raised at the Oil Baron's Ball, and we sold over 40,000 food and beverage tickets," Fran shared.

It's spring and time for Corsicana to celebrate its rich heritage and sense of community spirit with fun, food and friendly competitions. May Derrick Days begin! **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.derrickdays.com.



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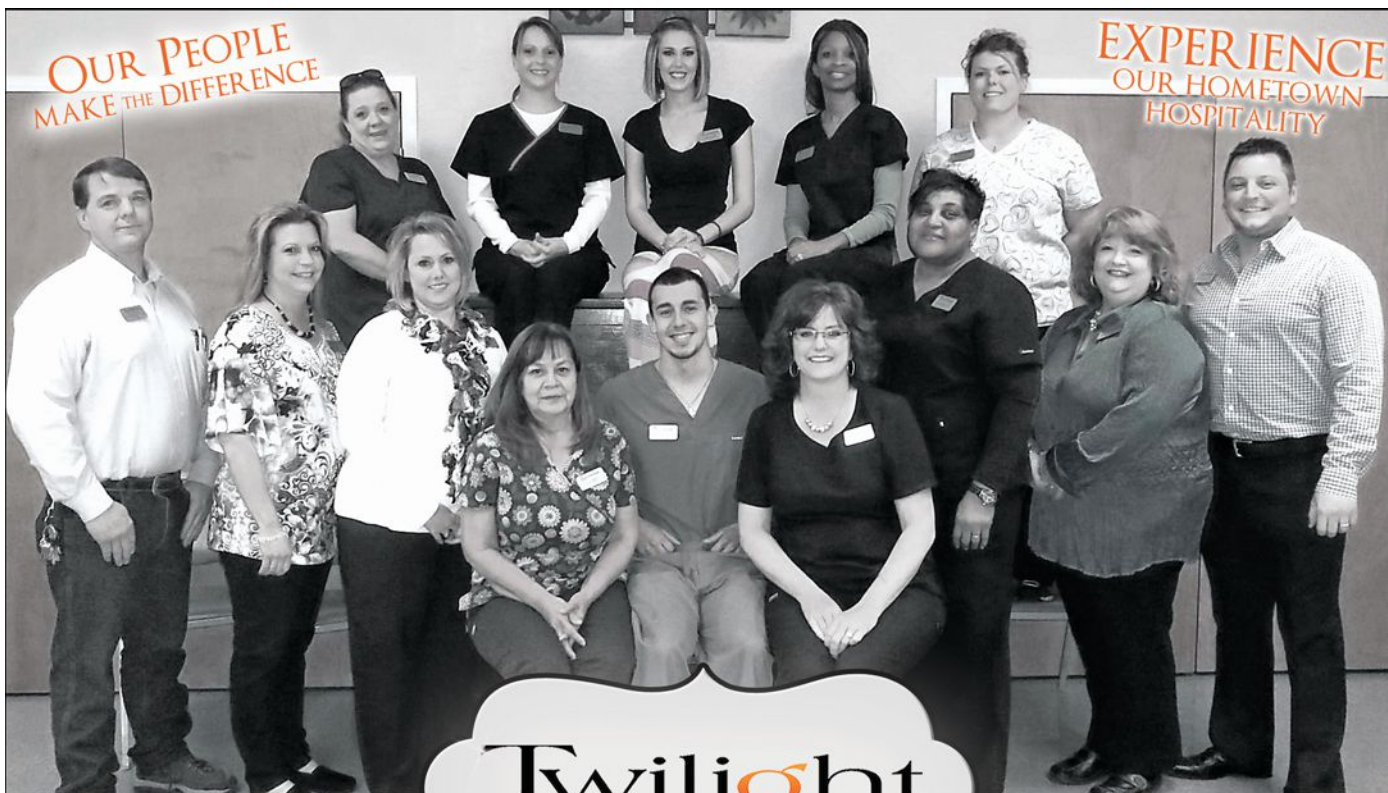
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Honoring the Past

— By Virginia Riddle



Ray and Alicia Rogers didn't renovate their circa 1890 Classical Revival home, but they honor its past by beautifully furnishing it with a collection of antiques that represent their fondness of history. "We have known people who have lived here, and we used old city directories to track former residents, but we still don't know who built the home," Alicia said.

The date of the home's construction is noted in the National Register of Historic Places, in which Corsicana's Carriage District is listed. The date coincides with Corsicana's oil boom, when families were prospering and could afford to construct such lovely homes.

"It had always been our dream to buy an old home and restore it," Alicia revealed. That dream had to be put on hold



At Home With Ray and Alicia Rogers

indefinitely when Ray was diagnosed in 2007 with lymphoma. After going into remission in 2009, he suffered through liver cancer and open heart surgery, all necessitating an early retirement from Watkins Construction and the Corsicana State Home. Alicia's mom, Dessie Nichols of Corsicana, wasn't in good health either, so the couple and Dessie decided to put their respective homes on the market, and look for a home they could all live in with safety and easy access.

Dessie's home sold soon, but Ray and Alicia's house was still awaiting the sale that would make the purchase a reality. "We prayed and prayed, and what happened was a God thing," Alicia explained. Jim and Diane Cooley, the owners and renovators of the home Ray and Alicia wanted to purchase, had been told by a friend that when the right family

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came along for the home, they would know it. The Cooleys must have felt that Ray and Alicia were the right ones, because they agreed to finance the home, with no payments due for the first year or until the Rogers' home sold, whichever came first. "It was like God pulled this out of a hat and said, 'I have a better deal than you ever thought of,'" Alicia said. "This has been a true blessing."

Ray, Alicia and Dessie moved into the home in September 2011, along with now 13-year-old Addie, the couple's daughter. The multigenerational living

plan has worked well for the family and their pets — Tiger, the cat, and Brandy, the dog. Alicia, director of marketing and admissions for Twilight Home, can focus on her job, knowing that someone will be there when Addie comes home from her school, Legacy Bible Academy, in the afternoons. Likewise, Addie is there if her grandmother or dad need help. "We've had so many health problems," Ray confessed, "but we have had a wonderful marriage of 22 years."

Alicia is a native of Corsicana and attended Navarro College and East

Texas State University, now Texas A&M University-Commerce, where she majored in education. Ray was born in Mexia and grew up in Angleton. His job brought him to Corsicana, and the couple met when Alicia was his secretary. Their family is a blending of yours, mine and ours. Besides Addie, the couple's grown children include Alicia's daughter, Brooke, and Ray's son, J.C., and daughter, Amber. Together, Ray and Alicia have 11 grandchildren.

The couple has made some changes in the front of their two-story, gabled home

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by removing trees to open the view and installing gingerbread trim around the broad porch, which hosts a comfortable wicker seating area. Upon entering through an etched glass and wooden door, visitors step back in time. Two hall trees preside over the entryway, which is decorated with a 1921 photo of the home and pictures of Alicia's grandfather and Ray's mom as children. One tree actually marks the doorway to what has been termed "the bootlegger's closet" from Prohibition Days. Today, it's a great "hidey hole" when tornados threaten, and the grandkids love the scary squeak as the closet is revealed.

Bright red walls and hardwood floors painted with a custom design are lit by an ornate, electrified gas chandelier, circa 1800s. The formal dining room has its own chandelier as well as natural light from floor-to-ceiling windows. One full wall features the couple's antique glassware collection. Some pieces belonged to Ray's mother, while others have been found at the estate sales Ray and Alicia love to frequent.

The kitchen is decorated with Dessie's chicken collection, and antique aprons hang above the doorway along with a painting gifted from a friend. A quilt tied with ribbons serves as the window covering.

A bathroom under the staircase is a perfect showcase for more of the couple's glassware collection, and a painting done by Diane Cooley hangs by the stairs. "It's a little of them left here," Alicia said.

Dessie's very private first floor suite includes a bedroom, living room, sunroom and bathroom with a claw-footed tub. Referring to her mom, Alicia quipped, "We have an antique lady that comes with the house." The couple

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devised a way to install a flat-screen TV for Dessie in the transom of a door, thus perfecting a marriage between old and new technology. Dessie has decorated her area with family photos and collections of her own glassware.

The attic has been transformed into three bedrooms — the master, a guest bedroom and Addie's retreat. A landing hosts another estate sale find — an antique trunk. "There's no telling the stories it could tell," Alicia said.

Ray is still renovating the attic bedrooms and a bath, starting with the guest space, which features a motif of constellations that glow in the dark. "I like shabby chic, and the grandkids love the constellations," Ray said.



Addie's room reflects her love of Justin Bieber, and is a cozy, private hideaway. "It's fun being with all the old," she said, including people, home and decorations in her statement.

Another hobby the family shares is researching the paranormal, but only Dessie has felt a spirit in her suite. However, an opossum did "haunt" the couple's bed one night causing a *big* disturbance. The couple does not believe in ghosts, but they do enjoy learning about the people of the past.

One unhappy event occurred when their 2012 Christmas yard decorations were destroyed, but it turned into a heartwarming experience. "The next Saturday, our entire yard was full of friends and fellow members from First Baptist," Alicia remembered. "They were putting decorations back up. That has been the most special moment in this home." **NOW**

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2014 Derrick Days

Shopping Guide & Event Schedule



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SATURDAY APRIL 19, 2014

7:00 AM Oil Town Mini-Thon Registration at the Corsicana YMCA 400 Oaklawn.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 2014

Derrick Days kick-off Hot Dog lunch and dinner Pocket Park
11AM to 1PM Entertainment by Byron Haynie
5PM to 7PM Entertainment by Caleb Grant

THURSDAY APRIL 24, 2014

Wine and Cheese Stroll
5PM to 7PM- Wine and Cheese Stroll- Walk through downtown Corsicana, sip some wine, enjoy some snacks while shopping with some of our local merchants

FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2014

6:00PM- Doors open at Youth Expo for Navarro County Derrick Days Pro Rodeo
6:30PM Chili's Wing Eating Contest Main Stage on 6th Ave
7:00PM-Oil Barons Ball at the new Corsicana Opry and Event Center
7:00PM- Navarro County Derrick Days Pro Rodeo Mutton Bustin & Horse Raffle
7PM-8PM MeMaw's Misfits Line Dancing and Clogging Main stage on 6th Ave
8PM to 10:30PM FREE Street Dance featuring IRA BRADFORD and Bustin Loose. The Remington's Kick Off Dance with Cody Johnson

SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2014

7-10:00AM-Pancake Breakfast
8:30-9:30AM- Biker Bash registration: The Registration will be held at the Corsicana Government Center
9:00AM- Chili and Barbeque Cook Off Starts
9:00AM- Derrick Days Parade Begins with Grand Marshal Honorable Byron Cook
Prizes immediately following Ideal Self Storage parking lot
9:00AM to 3PM- Shakers and Scrapers 11th Annual Car Show
9:00AM-3PM 106.9 The Ranch Tent -Raffle of 50" Flat Screen TV benefiting the Food Pantry
9AM-5PM- Marketplace Vendors and Food Vendors (must have tickets to purchase food and drinks)
10:00AM- Biker Bash Starts- Kick Stands up
10AM-1PM - Jamie Richards at The Remington Stage
10AM-5PM- Corsicana School Choirs at the Corner of Beaton and 6th
10AM-4PM- Pet Adoptions sponsored by the Corsicana Animal Shelter and Humane Society of Navarro County. On Beaton next to Chase Bank
10AM-5PM- Gospel Music Stage Beaton and 6th, Summertime Amusements Carnival. Also pony rides, Bungee Jump, Clowns. Commerce and Collin
10:30AM- and again at 1:00 Corsicana Oil History Field Tour- Hosted by former mayor Buster Brown.
Bus leaves from Main Street side of Warehouse Living Arts Center (6th and Main)
11:00AM- Chili and Barbeque Cook Off Judging **Beans**
11:00AM - Corsicana Cloggers in front of Withrow's Furniture, Beaton and 4th
12:00PM-Horseshoe Tournament at the Corner of E. 4th and N. 9th
1PM-4PM- Bando Los Ultimos at The Remington's Stage
1:00PM- Washer Pitch Tournament Corner of E. 4th and N. 9th
2:00PM- "Corsicana's Oil History" short film ***Free Admission*** at the Warehouse Living Arts Center
4:00PM- Chili and Barbeque Cookoff Awards at the Corner of 2nd Ave and Commerce St
6:00PM- Doors open at Youth Expo for Navarro County Derrick Days Pro Rodeo
9:00PM-The 106.9 The Ranch's Drillers Dance at The Remington with Eleven Hundred Springs w/special guest T-Bone Stearn
10:00PM-2:00AM-After Party at Napoli's with DJ Slicky D

Derrick Days

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Derrick Days

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WINE & CHEESE Stroll



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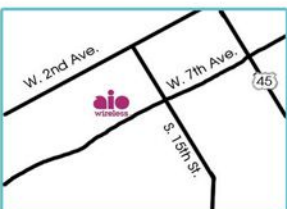
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Derrick Days

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MAKING A

New History

— By Sara Edgell

Have you walked the brick streets of historical downtown Corsicana lately? Have you seen the various storefronts featuring the goods of the trendy boutiques and nostalgic antiques stores? What about the hardware and auto parts stores, or perhaps the many eateries? Pass by the windows boasting scrumptious pastries, delectable meats and old-fashioned beverages — you won't be sorry. In the mood to be entertained? The local theater can fix you right up. No matter what you may be strolling the avenues for, odds are you will

find it here. With the ever-changing needs and wants of the community, it is no wonder the area is growing. The growth is obvious, but what is less obvious is all of the work and planning that goes into it. That's where Susan Johnson enters the scene.

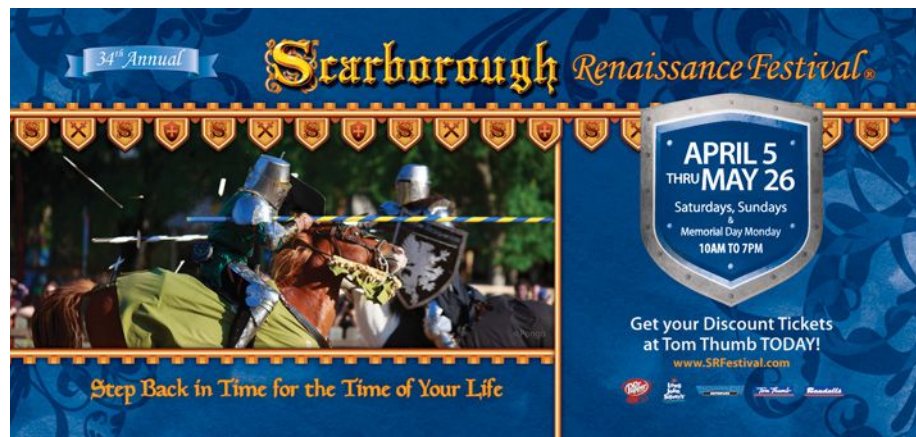
Susan, a Corsicana native, is intimately connected to the town and all the history that exists here. She was born and reared here. She is a proud graduate of Corsicana High School, and Corsicana is where she met her husband. Susan began her college career at Navarro College, and to top it off, she currently works for CISD as the executive director of communication,

marketing and public relations. Coming full circle, this is now where she is rearing her own family, and is, naturally, instilling in her children the same love for and pride in Corsicana that she has. All things considered, Susan was an obvious choice when the Main Street Task Force was formed last year to re-brand the downtown area. "I've always had a love for my hometown. There's a lot that I love about Corsicana — the size, the location, but especially the people," Susan explained.

The Main Street Task Force is a branding task force made up of a small group of people with the intention of drawing attention to the historical downtown area of Corsicana. In addition to Susan, the team is made up of three other members including Steve Dieterichs, director of Corsicana Main Street; Lee McCleary, former economic development director; and Heidi Frieder,

"The colors we went with, the image of the bank building, even the font, were all selected with the art deco feel in mind."

new downtown resident and graphic designer. With this unique blend of different perspectives, experience and enterprise, the common passion for renovating the downtown area that binds these four together makes for a truly dynamic team. According to Susan, "We set out to develop a concept to encourage people to come downtown whether it is for shopping, business or house hunting. Our whole operation is based on the motto: Create History Here."



A poster for Easter Sunday worship services. The top features a green background with three white crosses and a yellow lily flower. Below the crosses, the website "fbccorsicana.org" is written. The main text reads "Join us for morning worship services at 8:30 am & 11:00 am". Below that, in large white letters, is "Easter Sunday" and "April 20, 2014". At the bottom, the logo for "First Baptist church" is shown, with "Corsicana, TX" below it. The address "510 W Collin St" and phone number "(903) 872-7473" are at the very bottom.



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Specifically, Susan takes a great deal of pride in what is happening in the town she calls home. Her participation with the task force is really just the tip of the iceberg concerning her communitywide involvement. She also serves on the Corsicana Convention and Visitors Bureau, Child Advocacy Center board of directors, Warehouse Living Arts Center board of directors and the Corsicana Education Foundation. Her love for not only preserving, but also creating history in Corsicana, is strong and purposeful. Hence, she helped to inspire Create History Here, which is a new downtown Corsicana brand and a finalist last year for the Best Marketing Program by the Texas Downtown Association. Susan also played an integral part on the team concerning promoting and advertising. Working in tandem with Heidi and the other members of the group, she helped design the art deco-themed logo for the downtown re-branding initiative. "The colors we went with, the image of the bank building, even the font, were all selected with the art deco feel in mind," Susan explained.

Following a proven process, the task force formed a positioning strategy for future marketing efforts and developed eight marketing messages that all follow the same formula: Present a historical fact. Make it relevant to the

21st century, and follow up by creating a thought-provoking question. Through this process, the campaign that emerged is more business development oriented than tourism focused, however, the overall message is that there is something in downtown for everyone. After all, downtown Corsicana has a heritage of corporate innovation. It's the birthplace of such industry giants as Collin Street Bakery, Wolf Brand Chili, Texaco, Mobil Oil and Sanger Bros., just to name a few. High-rise architecture in Corsicana developed on par with that in Dallas and Houston, and as time marched on, the grand old buildings of downtown developed unique stories that naturally invite curiosity. This is an aspect the task force finds advantageous. "We want downtown's image to be reflective of the fun and creative place it is," Susan shared.

When visitors come to town, they have the option to attend an art gallery opening or to watch a live theater production performed by either world-renowned artists or local community theater supporters. They can find unique treasures in quaint shops or enjoy a cup of coffee and a cupcake at a local eatery. The great appeal is that all of these offerings can be found within a few blocks of one another. The thriving arts district, tasty dining locations and trendy shopping spots all support a distinctive



character and charm that only Corsicana can create. "The image we are trying to portray is hip and eclectic, but grounded in history," Susan said. With all this in mind, it's easy to understand the image Susan and the others on the task force wish to portray.

The urban lifestyle that is available downtown was definitely one of the elements the team focused on. "Corsicana is really the only 'walkable' downtown district between Dallas and Houston," Susan said. "There are restaurants, entertainment venues, dry cleaners, houses of worship, even a full-service grocery store, all within three blocks of the heart of downtown." And because of this, among other things, developers have taken note. The housing stock downtown has doubled since 2011, with more projects in the planning stages. "Downtown living is definitely a point of differentiation for Corsicana," Susan explained.

Susan said the group started with completely open minds. "We couldn't get away from history. But that history hasn't stopped with time," she explained. In fact, it's evolving. Susan and others like her are creating it by investing time, resources and work to showcase the wonderful town in fresh, new and interesting ways. "It's important for good people to stay involved and active with growing communities like this one — to continue to make our city something we can all be proud of," Susan added. As long as Susan plays a role in the Main Street Task Force, she plans to work toward that goal. **NOW**

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A CLASSY HOOD

— By Jill Rose

When it comes to home improvement, most people believe you have to spend a large amount of money to make much difference. The reality is, some of the projects with the most impact on your home have the least impact on your wallet. One such project around my house involved replacing an over-the-stove microwave cabinet with a custom hood for the range for less than \$50.

The inspiration for this project came from a beautiful range hood I saw online. As beautiful as this range hood was, the price was not. The cost of this particular range hood was around \$700. With a few materials, you can create a similar hood for a fraction of the cost.



What you need based on a 16-inch range hood:

- 1 4 ft. x 8 ft. birch plywood panel: **\$10.67**
 - 1 1 in. x 2 in. x 8 ft. support board: **\$2.61**
 - 1 1 in. x 3 in. x 8 ft. pine board (for top front facing): **\$5.43**
 - 1 1 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. pine board (for bottom front facing): **\$8.64**
 - 2 8 ft. lattice pieces: **\$7.28**
 - LIQUID NAILS construction adhesive: **\$2.52**
 - 8 ft. trim pieces (quantity and style based on personal preference): **\$8.52**
- Vent: N/A

Total: \$45.67!

Note: The cost of the vent is not included in the project costs as it varies by make and model. Also, this cost doesn't include the crown molding. I was replacing all of that on my cabinets anyway, so I already had it on hand.



Step 1: Determine and purchase the type of vent you need.

Depending on the type of venting currently provided by your microwave, you will either need a recirculating vent or an external vent. A recirculating vent takes air, steam or other materials, passes them through a filter and reintroduces them into the room as fresh air. An external vent takes these same materials and removes them to the outside of your home using a venting system. For my particular situation, I needed a recirculating vent. To determine the correct size, measure the width and depth of your space, subtract approximately 4 inches from the depth and width and use that number as a guide.

Note: You do not want a vent the width of your cabinet, because you will be unable to build a box to hold it.





Before



After

Step 2: Remove the existing microwave and cabinet structure.

Note: Before beginning this project, move your stove so it does not get damaged.

After removing the microwave, remove the cabinet doors. Next, remove the bottom of the cabinet, as well as the front support piece. If your cabinets are individual units, you can simply take the cabinet off the wall. In my situation, the

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Left to right:
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Wesley Tryon,
Ashley Viator,
David Wilson,
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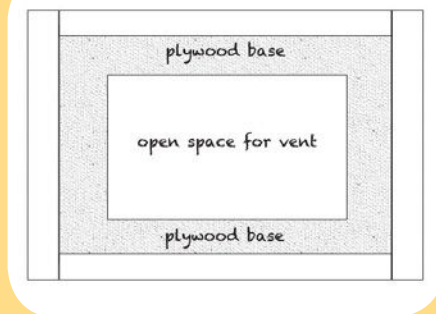
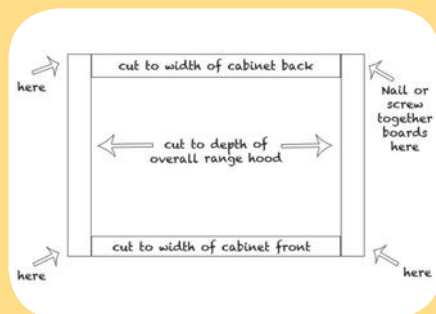


middle cabinet was a part of a single
cabinet unit.

**Step 3: Determine the depth of
your range hood.**

Most range hoods have a depth
between 16 and 24 inches. The size you
pick will be based upon your preference,
but generally you want to make sure it
extends far enough to partially cover your
front burner.

**Step 4: Build a box for
your vent.**



Measure the width of your cabinets in
the front and the back. (They should be
the same, but can be off by about 1/2
inch.) Cut two support beams to this
width. Next, cut two support beams to
the overall depth you decided on for the
range hood. (For me it was 16 inches.)
Attach the supports together, creating a
box frame. Do this outside of the cabinet
space (in your workshop).

Next, cut a 3/4-inch thick piece of
plywood to the overall width and length
of the finished box frame. Set the vent
on top of the plywood and draw an
outline. Cut out the outlined section.
Attach the plywood to the bottom of the
box frame.

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Step 5: Attach the vent.

Attach the box frame to the cabinet. Attach the vent to the supports. (Your user's manual should suggest the best way to do this.) Install the vent, i.e. plug it in, attach the outside venting, if needed, etc.)

Step 6: Create the front facings and supports.



Using the 1 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. pine board, create the front facing for the bottom support. The front facing should be roughly 1/2 inch longer than the support and should be mitered to 45 degrees on both ends. Next, measure the amount of exposed supports on the side and cut front facing for each side (continuing to use the 1 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. pine board). Miter the edges. Attach the facing to the support using a nail gun.

Using the 1 in. x 3 in. x 8 ft. pine board, create the top front facing for your cabinet frame. (The top face front should be the same length as the bottom face front and should also be mitered at the ends.) Depending on how far the top face front sticks out, you will need to cut side face fronts for the upper section as well using the remaining 1 in. x 3 in. x 8 ft. pine board. Attach the facing to the support using a nail gun.

Measure the length between the top and bottom face front, and cut three support beams to that size using the 1 in. x 2 in. x 8 ft. support board. Attach them to the back of the face fronts using a nail gun. (I mitered the ends of the boards, so they can be attached just behind the face fronts.)

After adding the supports, measure the open area from the outside of the left support to the outside of the right support and from the top face front to

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the bottom. Using these measurements, cut out a plywood square. Attach the plywood to the supports using a nail gun. Because the hood is slanted, the plywood should sit right behind both the upper and lower face fronts.

Next, determine the angle of the side pieces. For lack of a better option, I folded a piece of cardboard over the side and then cut the cardboard to size. Trace out the pattern on a piece of plywood and cut. Attach side pieces to the supports using a nail gun.

Step 7: Add the finishing touches.



After attaching the sides, sand the entire range hood. Next, cut two pieces of lattice to the width of the center plywood area, making sure to miter them on the edges.

Measure the length between the upper and lower lattice pieces and cut five pieces of lattice to this length. Attach in equally spaced segments across the front of the plywood. Make sure you have a piece of lattice on each edge — this will help disguise those imperfect side pieces.

After caulking and filling in the nail holes, sand, prime and paint. That's it! Total time, start to finish was about four hours. **NOW**

Editor's note: For more information, please visit: www.therozyhome.com/2013/09/26/custom-range-hood-for-less-than-50/.

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Decades of Dependability

Walker Realty sells trust, honesty and knowledgeable, professional service.— By Virginia Riddle

In 1977, Ernest Walker, a real estate agent for Wallace Pryor, started his own agency, Walker Realty, at the same location. Jo and Ernest Walker have been the principal broker-owners for many years, but have now turned everyday business operations over to their daughter, Denna Green. “Dad is 89, and he still comes into the office several times a week,” Denna said. Growing up in the business, Denna, a broker associate, obtained her own real estate license in 1984. “My mom and dad are very proud that after handing the office over to me, we are sustaining and maintaining the family name and business,” Denna said. “That makes me proud.”

The brokerage handles residential, commercial, foreclosures, farm and ranch properties and can represent buyers, sellers and act as an intermediary agency in a five county area — Navarro, Ellis, Freestone, Limestone and Henderson. Rentals are also available.

“This is a locally owned real estate company and most of our business is from referrals from past clients, because they trust us,” pointed out Judy Riley, a Walker Realty sales associate.

Office assistant Tammie Brazier greets customers and clients who drop in or call. Jeff Smith is an agent who primarily works with farm and ranch land and is Denna’s husband. “I graduated from Tarleton State University, came in to buy a house, married my agent and never left,” Jeff explained. Agents Amanda Morrison and Tim Green (Denna and Jeff’s son), along with Dan Owen and Ross Washington, round out the office.

“Ross can fix anything,” Denna revealed. “Our first priority is our family, both at home and our office family. We do whatever we can to promote each other and have complete trust in each other.”

Business **NOW**

With real estate laws and practices changing constantly, the Walker Realty team of agents meets all continuing education requirements vigilantly and serves on boards and committees. "We are very active on the Navarro County Board of Realtors®," Denna maintained. "We are a

"We are a family-owned and family-oriented business, that emphasis has obviously been successful for us, since we have been in business so long."

small office, but someone is always serving on the board." Judy has been president of the Navarro County Board of Realtors® and is now its secretary, while Jeff is the current president. He has earned the ABR (accredited buyers representative) designation and is a certified Veterans' Administration representative. Denna specializes in Freddie Mac, VA and Fannie Mae foreclosures. "We are a team of professionals who strive to maintain and support the real estate industry and at the same time value the relationships we have developed with our clients and others in the profession," Denna said.

Additionally, the agents are members of the Texas Association of Realtors® and the National Association of Realtors®, and Jeff serves on the Navarro County Lake Planning and Zoning Commission. Walker Realty is also a member of the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce and makes annual donations to The Humane Society of Navarro County.

Even these busy agents' spare time is related to real estate. Jeff and Denna bought a home a year ago and spend time attending estate sales and remodeling their home. "My time is spent on 'honey-do projects' and golf," Jeff admitted. Jeff and Denna enjoy time with their children and grandchildren, as do Judy and Tammie.

"We are a family-owned and family-oriented business," Denna concluded. "That emphasis has obviously been successful for us, since we have been in business so long." **NOW**



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CHS teacher Phillip Keltner congratulates student, Makenzie Lee, and her parents, Paula and Danzell Lee, after she presents her winning essay to the James Blair Chapter, DAR.



Derwin Price, Debra Ballard and Frances Breazeale bake and serve at Kinsloe House luncheons.



Gary and Sarah Farley display some of the memorabilia from the Cumbie Museum at the Corsicana Airport.



Paul Hooper and Maxine Moore present Brenda Stubbs with the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce Banquet.



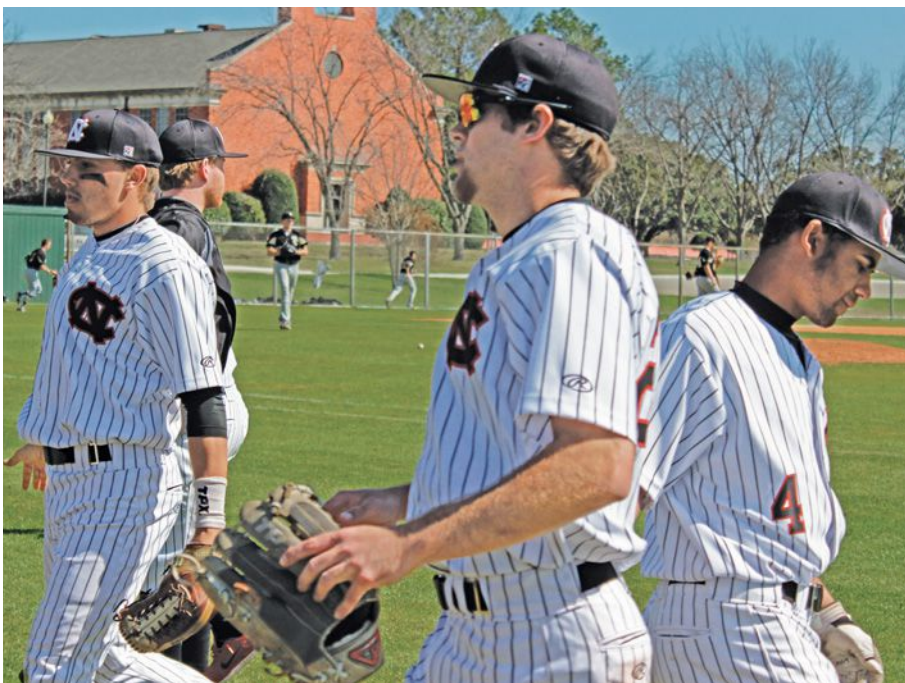
A ribbon cutting is held for Insurance One with agent Lori Armstrong.



The Corsicana Swing Orchestra entertains at many area events.



Navarro Regional Hospital's Healthy Woman staff host the group's annual workout event at the Corsicana YMCA.



The Navarro College baseball team takes to the field with their eyes on another winning season.



Several attend the Western Art Show.

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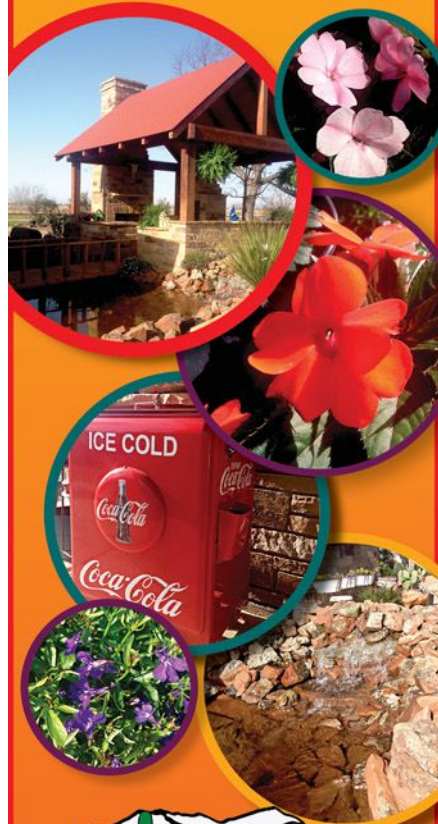
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Tips for Retirement Investing

Saving for retirement is a huge financial responsibility, and it does not end when you collect the last paycheck from your employer. You will need to make sure your retirement investing plan meets your changing needs in the future.

The money you've saved will need to last a while. According to a September 24, 2012, report (PDF), the National Center for Health Statistics reports that a 65-year-old man is expected to live another 17.3 years, to just over age 82. A 65-year-old woman is expected to live another 20.0 years, to age 85.

In retirement, your financial needs may change. Most retirees want their money to last throughout their lives, to keep pace with inflation and to support their current spending needs.

Investment Funds

Bond funds are one choice for many retirees, because they are managed to generate regular income payments. This money can be used to help fund your retirement spending needs. Bonds generally have less risk than stocks, although they do have some risk.

Stock funds are designed for long-term capital appreciation. These are often used to help people save for retirement, and they may make sense for many people after retirement. That's because in the long run, stock funds are better at outperforming

inflation than bond funds are. Because the prices of the things you buy are likely to go up while you are retired, you'll want your income to go up, too. Incorporating investments that have the potential for capital appreciation into your retirement investing can help your overall portfolio keep pace with inflation. Keep in mind that all types of investing involve risk, including potential for loss.

Educate Yourself

Because investing is a lifelong pursuit, you'll want to learn as much as you can so that you can adapt your investments to your changing life needs. Whether you are currently retired or just hope to be some day, your investments will need your care and attention. **NOW**

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Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

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Calendar

APRIL 2014

April 3

Be Fashionable, Live United Style Show and Expo: 6:00-8:00 p.m., The Cook Center. Tickets are \$20. For more information, call (903) 874-5253.

April 4

"Glorious": A Celebration Benefiting the House of Refuge: 7:00-8:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Corsicana. For more information, call (903) 874-3421.

April 5

"Holy Smoked" BBQ & Music Fest: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Lakeside United Methodist Church, 515 FM 416, (12 miles east of Streetman). BBQ meal begins at 5:00. Concert begins at 6:20 p.m. For more information, email Texschutz@aol.com.

April 5, 12, 26

"The Planets": 1:30 p.m., Cook Center Planetarium. Cost is \$2 per person. For more information, call (903) 874-1211.

April 5, 12, 26

"The Endless Horizon": 2:30 p.m., Cook Center Planetarium. Cost is \$2 per person. For more information, call (903) 874-1211.

April 8

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 meeting: 7:00 p.m., Sirloin Stockade. For more information, contact Ron Wright at (903) 229-0497.

April 10

Kerens Library and Kerens Pioneer Literary Club Annual Author's Luncheon: Noon, KESA Building, Kerens. Tickets are \$10. For more information, contact Betty Partain at (903) 396-7337.

April 11

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association meeting: 9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community Center. For more information, email pk2@airmail.net.

April 12

Saturday Paint Class: 3:00-5:00 p.m., 508 N. 19th St., Corsicana. To register, call (903) 602-5032 or email twystpaint@gmail.com.

April 17

The Hop Downtown: 3:30-5:30 p.m. (weather permitting), 101 N. Beaton. This event will star the Easter Bunny. For more information, call (903) 654-4852.

April 24

Corsicana Newcomers' Club: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. For more information or confirmed reservations, contact Marge Oslick at (903) 872-3508.

April 25

Second Annual Oil Baron's Ball: 7:00-11:00 p.m., Corsicana Opry & Event Center, 205 E. 5th Ave. For more information, contact Gina Dieterichs at (903) 872-0180.


April 26

Biker Bash III/Poker Run: 8:30-9:30 a.m. registration; 10:00 a.m., kickstands up; begin at Corsicana Government Center, end at O.T. Sports Bar and Grill. For more information or to pre-register, call (903) 654-4874.

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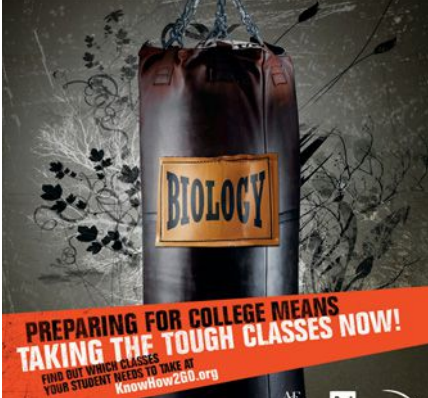
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In the Kitchen With Esther Boyd

— *By Virginia Riddle*

Having a mother who valued learning and was a superb cook inspired Esther Boyd. She taught first grade in Corsicana ISD for 27 years and still experiments with recipes while continuing to learn about healthy, nutritional choices. “I learned from my grandmother and mother, both of whom were great cooks,” Esther revealed. “My mom was a pro who cooked for Head Start when it was located on 10th Street.”

Esther enjoys cooking for her daughter, Karen Williams, of Corsicana; a son who lives in Addison; and three granddaughters. “I love spices — nutmeg, ginger, cloves — they are good for you,” Esther said. “I like to ‘soup recipes up’ and take some chances.” **NOW**

Chicken Sausage Jambalaya

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut in small pieces

Bacon drippings

1 lb. smoked sausage, cubed

3 Tbsp. flour

2 green peppers, chopped

2 medium onions, chopped

1 bunch green onions, chopped

2 garlic cloves, minced

2 1/2 cups water (divided use)

2 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. marjoram

1/4 tsp. thyme

1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper

2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

1/2 cup ripe olives, finely chopped

2 cups rice

1. Brown chicken in drippings, drain and set aside.

2. Brown sausage, drain and set aside.

3. In a large pot, add flour to drippings; stir constantly into a dark roux.

4. Add peppers, onions and garlic; cook until soft.

5. Add 2 cups water; bring to a simmer.

6. Add spices, Worcestershire and olives; stir well.

7. Add sausage, chicken and remaining water; bring to a boil.

8. Add rice; stir well. Cook over low heat, covered, for 1 hour; stir occasionally.

Spicy Spaghetti

1 large onion, chopped

1 large bell pepper, chopped

2 ribs celery, chopped

1 clove garlic, chopped

1/2 cup mushrooms, sliced

1/4 cup olive oil

1-2 lbs. ground beef

1/2 cup red wine

1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

2 tsp. Tabasco

1 1.5-oz. pkg. powdered Italian spaghetti sauce

1 1-lb. jar Ragù spaghetti sauce

1 14.5-oz. can whole stewed tomatoes

1/4 cup sugar

Salt and pepper, to taste

1 14.5-oz. pkg. spaghetti noodles

1. Sauté vegetables in olive oil.

2. Brown ground beef; drain. Add to vegetables.

3. Cook 10 minutes on medium heat; drain.

4. Add remaining ingredients, except pasta.

Simmer over low heat 2-3 hours.

5. Serve over pasta cooked according to package directions.

Mississippi Mud Cake

Cake:

2 cups sugar

1 cup shortening

4 whole eggs

1 1/2 cups flour

1/3 cup cocoa

1 cup pecans, optional

3 tsp. vanilla

1 13-oz. pkg. small marshmallows

Icing:

1 16-oz. box powdered sugar

1/3 cup cocoa

1 stick oleo, softened

1/4 to 1/3 cup canned milk

1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup pecans, chopped

1. For cake: Mix all ingredients except marshmallows by hand, adding pecans and vanilla last.

2. Pour into a greased and floured oblong pan. Bake at 325 F for 25-30 minutes.

3. Cover cake with 1/2 of the bag of marshmallows. Return pan to 300 F oven for 5-7 minutes. Cool for 1 hour.

4. For icing: Mix sugar and cocoa.

5. Add remaining ingredients; spread on cooled cake.

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