



**Robert Lee Community Watch Blocks!** These are the division lines separating Robert Lee into four Community Watch blocks. Each block has a block captain.

# Robert Lee's Community Watch hosts officials

Coke County Judge Roy Blair presented the program at this month's meeting of Robert Lee's Community Watch. The well-attended meeting was held at 6 pm Tuesday, June 19, 2018, at the Family Life Center of First United Methodist Church in Robert Lee. The group's organizer Shaunna Grantham welcomed the crowd and introduced Judge Blair and Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen (above photo).

Judge Blair and Sheriff McCutchen provided information to the assembled members and answered many of the group's questions. A brief description of the items discussed is listed below.

They discussed our judicial system and explained the difference in the cases heard between county courts and district courts and the attorneys charged with prosecuting defendants in each of these. Law enforcement is responsible for investigating criminal activities. They present their cases to the court's attorney who decides either to move forward with prosecution or not. The county court handles misdemeanors and in Coke County is presided over by Judge Blair. The decision to move forward and prosecute a case is made by County Attorney Nick Arrott. Coke County belongs to the 51st Judicial District in Texas and is presided over by District Judge Barbara Walther. The decision to move forward with obtaining indictments for prosecution in this court is made by District Attorney Allison Palmer. The District Court hears felony cases.

When asked about the crime rate in Coke County, the elected officials pointed out that most of the local crime was property crime tied to the drug problem. Almost all violent crime in Coke County was the result of a domestic dispute. They explained that Coke County was adversely affected by drugs, but not more or less than the surrounding areas.

They urged the attendees to report suspicious behavior immediately – in most cases by

calling the Sheriff's Office 24/7 number (325-453-2717) that is answered by a local dispatcher. 911 is answered by dispatchers in San Angelo working for the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office. They pointed out that it was also a violation of the law to call 911 for a non-emergency. They also requested that citizens get photos or videos of the suspicious behavior if they could do so safely. They urged citizens to lock their vehicles and their homes.

When asked about the right to shoot someone in your home, they detailed the different laws surrounding this issue. The Sheriff gave a description of a person entering someone else's home, making a snack and sitting down to watch television. This person is apparently not threatening the homeowner. In this case, the homeowner should leave the residence and call law enforcement. He explained about an "avenue of escape" and how citizens are obligated to use this option if possible. However when pressed with questions about protecting additional residents in the home, such as children, the men said you are not obligated to leave these residents and escape. Force is warranted when you feel your life is being threatened or by protecting another life you feel is threatened. Common sense has to prevail in these situations.

Grantham took over at this point and discussed the different sections in Robert Lee and future patrols. It was determined that normal golf

carts are not allowed for patrols on city streets due to state laws. Future meetings and activities for the group were discussed before the meeting ended.

## Bronte City Council meeting minutes told May 18, 2018

The Bronte City Council held a special meeting on Friday, May 18, 2018, at 3:30 pm.

Those in attendance included Council Member Paul Gohman, Council Member Lee Wommack, Council Member Santiago Rodriguez, Council Member Steve Hines, Council Member Stormy Vaughn, Utilities Director Ricky Royall, and City Secretary Crystal Blevins.

Mayor Pro Tem David Bedford and City Attorney Eileen M. Hayman were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Prayer was given by Council Member Lee Wommack.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee Wommack to accept the resignation of City Secretary Crystal Blevins. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stormy Vaughn and the motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

The Council discussed considering City staff to advertise the City Secretary position and to appoint council member(s) to interview applicants. It was discussed to advertise in newspapers, social media, TML, Abilene, San Angelo, TMCA, Texas Workforce, etc.

Discussion also took place regarding who would be on the interview panel. It was decided to include Council Members David Bedford and Stormy Vaughn, with Santiago Rodriguez as first alternate and Lee Wommack as second alternate. Paul Gohman, Ricky Royall, and Crystal Blevins would also be on the interview panel.

Salary range for the position was also discussed.

Discussion was also held in regards to municipal judge duties possibly being contracted out.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee Wommack to advertise for the City Secretary position and he was seconded by Council Member Santiago Rodriguez. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

A motion was made by Council Member Stormy Vaughn to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 pm. Council Member

Santiago Rodriguez seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

## June 7, 2018

The Bronte City Council held a special meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 6:30 pm.

Those in attendance included Mayor Paul Gohman, Council Member Lee Wommack, Council Member Santiago Rodriguez, Council Member Steve Hines, Council Member Stormy Vaughn, Utilities Director Ricky Royall, and City Secretary Crystal Blevins.

Mayor Pro Tem David Bedford and City Attorney Eileen M. Hayman were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Prayer was given by Mayor Paul Gohman.

The Council discussed considering hiring a City Secretary for the City of Bronte.

The Council exited into Executive Session at 6:31 pm and returned at 7:38 pm.

*(Continued on next page)*

# HOLIDAY CLOSING

*All facilities of this bank will be closed Wednesday, July 4th.*

In Observance Of

# The 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY!



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