

October
2012

JAILHOUSE NEWS



FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL

I know it seems like the Red Top is dead, but believe me, there are many things happening in the sidelines. We are getting ready for filming our first feature length movie, we've been planning for the future museum at the jail, and working out the details of the restoration. Here's what's up...

Movie filmed at the Red Top Jail: KING CRAB. This full length feature film is a comedy about 2 guys who are the last inmates of the closing jail. It's kind of like "Home Alone", but takes place at the jail. The two inmates and the warden are the main characters. All of the filming will occur on the second floor of the jail, so they don't care that we don't have flooring on the first floor. Filming will occur the month of November. We are doing our best to show the film crew some Llano hospitality. They are paying the Friends \$5,000 to film at our locale, so this should fund another few piers. Sheri Zoch is the liaison with the film crew, so if you have questions, call (248-0284).

GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 14.

The annual meeting of the Friends will happen Wednesday, November 14 at 5:30, so please reserve the date. We are still working on the location. We will be serving chile and other good stuff. Look for an announcement of this meeting in the mail. It is very important that you come to this meeting to vote on new officers of the Friends.

Nominating Committee Formed. This committee is composed of Dave and Inell Franks, Mike Reagor and Cheryl Crabtree. Positions that are available are President, Secretary and Member-At-Large. President Tom Dalrymple and Secretary Frederica Dryer are stepping down. We thank them both for their service to the Friends. If you have a nomination, please quickly contact anyone on this committee.

The Historian position, previously held by Steve Roberts, has already been filled by Sarah Franklin. Steve resigned because he is in China for a year. We welcome Sarah to the Board and look forward to working with her.

Heritage Days October 20-21. The Friends will have a booth at the Llano Courthouse on both days. Jail Buck, the Red Top Jail Deer, will break parole again to appear at the festival. We need people to man the booth on both Saturday and Sunday (esp. Saturday). **PLEASE call Kim Webb at the Chamber (247-5354) to schedule a time to volunteer for this. We desperately need your help.**



RESTORATION UPDATE.

We are still on track to put in piers to stabilize the foundation, but the original plan had to be altered when the floorboards were removed. Our consultant, Sparks Engineering from Georgetown, came out to inspect the building with the floorboards removed from the first floor. This is what they found:

1. The building's outer granite facing is only 6-8 inches thick.
2. The inner, more structural part of the outer walls is composed of stacked rocks or rubble. These are mortared in places with a soft mortar.

Apparently, the use of stacked rocks that are mortared together with soft mortar was a very typical construction technique for old buildings, according to Zack Webb from Sparks Engineering. This is what we have to do to fix the building for this foundation phase:

1. Repoint the grout in places. Sparks will let us know where to do this and specify the composition of the soft mortar.
2. Remove the concrete in the front entrance and central tower, as well as the concrete sidewalk and ramp outside. The City has committed to do this.
3. Dig holes and pour 32 concrete piers. These piers are each 2 concrete cylinders going down to bedrock (up to 14 feet), one on either side of the wall, connected by stainless steel rod. The City will use their digger truck for outside piers, and the contractor will dig and pour interior ones.

"To Do List" for the Friends (Work Parties):

1. Remove and properly store the floor joists.
2. Remove nails, stack and properly cover the floorboards (already removed and left temporarily in back of the jail).
3. Remove junk (old pipes, trash) on the ground under the floor joists.

Sparks Engineering is preparing a bid package for this work, which will require both a qualified stone mason and a concrete contractor. We are hoping to receive this package this week. If you are interested in bidding, check the local paper ads coming up shortly.

Items for Sale. We now have new cool bumper stickers, Red Top Jail painted rocks and T-shirts for sale. Contact Kim Webb at the Chamber of Commerce (247-5354). All proceeds go toward the restoration of the jail.

Recent Volunteer Efforts Yield Dividends!

The mid-year Citywide Garage Sale netted almost \$500 for the Friends. A good portion of this was due to items (including a new Kerby vacuum cleaner) donated by Alice Hopf – thanks, Alice! Also, the Lantex movie hosted by the Friends brought in \$225. This, plus sales from the items listed above, continue to supplement our restoration coffers.

Remember, all that we do goes 100% into restoration – no one is paid any salary or fee for the enormous amount of work that goes into fixing this old jail. We just do it because we love it, and it's the right thing to do.

We especially want to thank all of you who helped us with the work parties, garage sale, Lantex movies and sitting at booths at festivals. You are appreciated.

Final Museum Interpretative Plan Available for Review.

This 100 page +/- document is available, if you would like to download it. Just send Sheri an email message (swzoch@gmail.com) and she will send you the link to download the document from YouSendIt.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FROM THE "FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL" BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (phone nos. 325 area code)

President: *Tom Dalrymple 423-2516*

Vice President: *Frank Rowell 247-4137*

Secretary: *Frederica Dreyer 512-497-6095*

Treasurer: *Ovetra Hartman 247-3188*

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Grantwriter/Editor: *Sheri Zoch 248-2084*

Membership Chair: *Kim Webb 247-2233*

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APPLICATION FORM

FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL

The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Llano Red Top Jail. Members are encouraged to assist in the restoration projects and attend an annual meeting to elect directors and discuss projects.

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Could you help us with: (circle one or more)

Work parties (cleaning/painting/demolition) Fundraising

Historical research Newsletter Events Marketing

Assisting with bids for contractors Woodworking

Masonry

Other _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: (Check one and enclose \$\$\$\$)

Personal: Individual (\$20) Family (\$35)

Business: (Includes your business name on donor sign)

Silver (\$100) Gold (\$500) Platinum (\$1000)

Adopt-A-Pier (\$1200) (Your name on a permanent plaque)

Please print out this form, enclose a check made out to the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail and return to Kim Webb PO Box 5613, Valley Spring, TX 78885. THANK YOU.