

## **St. Rose Community Development Corp. – 50 YEARS OF PROGRESS THROUGH UNITY AND COMMUNITY TEAMWORK**

The following are highlights covering the 50 years of the secretary's minutes:

Jan. 27, 1959 – The first organizational meeting of the St. Rose Community Improvement and Development club. 43 people were in attendance; 38 members joined that evening. Election of officers by secret ballot was held. Of nine nominations, those elected were: President: Mr. Jerome Rehkemper; Vice President: Mr. Cletus Tebbe; Secretary: Mr. Albin Schrage; & treasurer: Mr. John Henrichs.

Meetings were to be held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month and dues were set at \$3.00/year. From its humble beginning on the at cold, wintry night, there was evidence that the parish, local government and the Development Club would have to work hand in hand to accomplish the ideas and improvements that could benefit and enhance our community. The parish donated the use of the hall for the monthly meetings and have always allowed special notices to be put in the parish bulletin. Local township officials worked with the SRDC in contacting county and state officials for local road improvements. The treasurer started out with \$158.00 on hand after the first meeting, with expenditures of \$40.00.

July 1960 – The Club was officially incorporated as the Sr. Rose community Development Corporation (SRDC). The club contracted to have street lights installed in our village and assume the monthly rental and in November, 1960, 16 lights were installed. 1984 – There were 27 lights, and today, 2009; we have xx lights shining in our community.

October 18, 1961 – a special meeting was called to vote on the acquisition of land and construction of a building to house a fire truck, which was approved.

February 1962 – Aviston Fire Dist purchased a ¾ ton dual wheel fire truck, 300 gallon tank and 14 ft. ladder to be housed in our new fire house and Development Club building.

October 1962 – first loan of \$1,000 was made to pay for the St. Rose Community Building, cost was \$4,942.00.

August 1963 – Dedication of the Community Building and community's First Picnic and group picture taken

February 1964 – Discussion centered on the possible formation of a St. Rose Fire Protection District and September, 1964 a judge granted the formation of the St. Rose Fire Protection District. A 1953 Ford Fire truck was purchased in Oct. 1964.

April 1965 - voting 60 for and 3 against the membership voted to build the Beauty and Barber Shop Building.

June 1965 – membership voted unanimously to secure a \$15,000 loan and proceed building a medical clinic.

November 1965 – the possibility of a water district to serve St. Rose township was brought up and the following month approval was given to hire engineers to conduct a feasibility study.

July 1966 – a new doctor for our clinic, Dr. Theo. Little, was introduced to the membership by John Rehkemper.

January 1968 – special meeting was held, the parish and the SRDC combining to put on a two day festival to honor our parish's centennial celebration in the fall.

March 1968 – The St. Rose Fire Protection District presented their plans of constructing the present day fire house.

April 1969 – 10 year anniversary of the SRDC held in parish hall with dinner and dance. Also, SRDC helps to finance the organization of the future, the St. Rose Little League. Members were instrumental in backing the proposed street additions, one to the east of the parish property, and the other west of the cemetery.

April 1970 – SRDC working with the parish to purchase and erect lights on the school diamond for the Little League and softball teams.

May 1970 – first discussion on possibly getting a sanitary sewer district established. (March 1976, St. Rose Sanitary Sewer District formed, and in May 1983, F.H.A. awarded \$170,000 loan to the district and a \$660,000 grant from E.P.A.)

May 1971 – St. Rose Public Water District signed a contract for water with city of Breese, having finally received a grant and loan from the F.H.A. Construction of the water system started in August, 1971 and completed in 1972. (This is six years of unity and persistence to accomplish a goal for the betterment of the community). Dedication takes place August, 1972.

September 1971 – county highway officials attended meeting stating that the St. Rose Road from Route 50 to St. rose would be improved and widened to 34'. (Again, patience, persistence, & unity pay off for this accomplishment).

April 1972 – discussion of possibly purchasing land for a park was first mentioned.

September 1972 – first indication that local mortuaries may want to get out of the emergency ambulance service.

January 1975 – 15 acres land purchased for park facilities for community of St. Rose.

July 1975 – 1<sup>st</sup> softball tournament sponsored by the SRDC with post-humus recognition to John Fischer, instrumental in the planning of a softball tournament as a successful, large fundraiser.

November 1975 – large pavilion at park under roof, total cost: \$25,900.00.

January 1977 – St. Rose Firemen donated 20 picnic tables to be used at the park

June 1977 – Lights were installed at park diamond.

September 1977 – Grand-opening held at St. Rose Park

February 1978 – first cancelled monthly meeting due to heavy ice storms with power outage.

Sidewalk Committee formed to improve existing sidewalks and get a walkway to the park from town. May 1980, work actually beginning with up to \$2,000 per year appropriated. 1983, walks completed to edge of town and shoulder of road improved to get to park.

September 1980 – need of emergency ambulance service, with SRDC, parish, and township each paying 1/3 of 1982 and 1983 contract until Special Service Area could be created. September 1983, S.S.A. set up by County Board to levy for monies needed for emergency ambulance service, payable beginning in 1984.

December 1981 – Beauty & Barber shop sold to present owner.

July 1982 – second pavilion was erected at the park, an addition that truly makes it a park, picnic, and family get together place. Six more picnic tables were donated to this pavilion by the St. Rose Firemen.

May 1983 – grandstand addition at the park received the most votes concerning future projects. May 1984 erection of grandstand began, with completion and dedication of 25 years of continuous progress set for September 1984.

June 1983 – electric scoreboard was purchased and erected in time for the annual softball tournament.

*(The above excerpts were taken from a SRDC “25 years of progress” report typed in 1984.*