

Spotlight on a Colleague: Cameron Councilmember Roselee Mondrik



Cameron Councilmember Roselee Mondrik is an example of the hundreds of hard-working, dedicated officials serving small cities in Texas. We think it is important to profile these public servants from time to time.

The City of Cameron, Texas, located in Milam County, is home to approximately 6,000 residents, one of whom is a straight-talking and hardworking public servant, Roselee Mondrik.

Roselee Mondrik has served on the Cameron City Council for 19 years and always strives to make a difference

in whatever she takes on. In addition to her serving on the city council, Roselee sits on the Cameron Economic Development Corporation Board and the TML Board of Directors. Roselee is a past president of TML Region 10 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #9.

When she has time, Roselee likes to help out at a local embroidery shop, takes call-in orders at a neighborhood barbeque restaurant, and photographs high school football games. Roselee even finds time to create some original art, using oil paints on canvas. She enjoys painting country scenes, old churches, windmills, and clowns.

And did I mention she has a paying job as well? Five days a week, Roselee does a talk show at the local radio station, KMIL 105.1 FM, with station manager Joe Smitherman. It's called *The Breakfast Club with Rose and Joe*. "I love doing the show," Roselee said. "We have a daily trivia question, a recipe on Wednesday (which is almost a joke because I do NOT cook), and other tidbits of sometimes useless information. Occasionally, we have a special guest. Mostly, there is a lot of talking and laughing." On Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, you can also tune in to Roselee's country classics show.

Roselee was born in Los Angeles, California, and spent most of her childhood in Oakland, California. Upon graduation from high school, she enlisted in the Navy and graduated from the Hospital Corps School in Bainbridge, Maryland, as a physician's assistant. When stationed at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland, Roselee met Joe, now her husband of 52 years. Roselee and Joe have six children, four boys and two girls.

The Mondrik family settled in Cameron in 1966 and began operating the family business, the Lone Star Beer Distributing Company. Today, the business remains in the family and is run by one of their sons. Roselee pointed out, "Our son James now runs the routes and does all the ordering, but somehow I'm still doing all the reports. I'm not sure I have a professional occupation besides motherhood."

Running for city council was something that Roselee always had a desire to do, but she didn't have the time to serve until her kids were older. "Joe's dad Lincoln served on the city council in Cameron for many years, and I always admired him for that," she said. "After the kids were mostly

A vertical advertisement for SAMCO LEAK DETECTION. The top features the company name "SAMCO" in large blue letters with a wave graphic underneath, followed by "LEAK DETECTION" in smaller blue letters. Below this is contact information: "Office/Fax: (512) 263-7043", "Mobile: (512) 751-5325", and "sgodfrey@samco-leakservice.com". The website "www.samco-leakservice.com" is listed. The main service is "Acoustic Water System Leak Detection" in bold black text. Below that, a list of services includes "Complete & partial water system leak surveys", "Annual leak detection preventative maintenance programs", "Leak detection program consulting", "GPS/GIS leak mapping programs", and "Meter Testing & Water Audits". The bottom of the ad features a close-up image of a water droplet hitting a surface, creating ripples. At the very bottom, it says "Sam Godfrey, Owner" and "1308 Daytona Drive, Austin, Texas, 78733".

on their own, I felt like I could devote some time to city government. So in 1990, I was elected to a seat on the council representing Ward 4.”

“As a councilmember, it is my responsibility to be at every meeting, representing the people who elected me,” she continued. “It is my responsibility to assure my constituents that their money is handled with the utmost integrity and that their best interest is at hand with every vote I cast.”

Every day brings new opportunities and challenges to Cameron, just like every other city across the state. Economic development is at the top of Roselee’s to-do list. “Cameron has three manufacturing plants that are providing jobs to our citizens,” Roselee explained. “We have two industrial parks with space available. We would love to see a new business take up residency here in Cameron. The city has a lot to offer any new prospective business. Our schools are fairly new, and we have a performing arts center at the high school that is second to none. Our civic center is quite nice for receptions or business meetings. We have a volunteer fire department that is top notch and an ambulance service that covers all of Milam County.”

Over the past several months, Cameron has accomplished several noteworthy tasks. “We hired a new city

manager in July 2008, and he is fantastic,” Roselee said. “We recently dedicated a new hike and bike trail, dedicated a new swimming pool and park area, made renovations to the city library, painted and repaired our water towers, and renovated our water and wastewater facility. This is what I would call everyday TCB (taking care of business).”

Can Roselee offer any advice to a newly elected official? You bet she can. “Always be honest, straight forward, and ask lots of questions,” she said. “Don’t be afraid to stand up for what you believe, because your constituents expect that from you. After all, you were elected to represent them. Do your best, and be willing to always learn new things. Be visible to the people, and always be ready to listen with an open mind. Try to be knowledgeable in the affairs of the city, and stay on top of legislation that will affect your city. As a TML member, you already have a head start, so use the information the League provides. And last but not least, never take yourself too seriously, and dance like no one is watching.”

Anyone who has the privilege of knowing Roselee would agree that she certainly practices the good advice she gives out. ★

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