



—Staff photo by Ryan Horton

The original Jim's Famous Fried Chicken opened in Nicoma Park in 1971. The restaurant reopened in 2014 following a serious remodel and ownership change.

Jim's Fried Chicken serving up favorites

By Ryan Horton
Contributing Writer

A Nicoma Park landmark and fried chicken destination could soon spread its famous recipes across the nation.

The original Jim's Famous Fried Chicken opened in Nicoma Park June 28, 1971, and then in November of 2014 Jim's Famous Fried Chicken reopened after a serious remodel and change in ownership.

Founder Jim Moore sold his restaurant and recipes to the Swadley family, which is well known for their long history in the Bar-B-Q business, and they hope to make Jim's a recognizable national brand.

"Our family has been smoking meat for 90 something years. We have several Bar-B-Q restaurants around Oklahoma and are also the largest caterer in the state of Oklahoma," said Ron Swadley.

"This is our first venture into the chicken industry. Jim has a great reputation, product and restaurant. He had a dream in 1971, and now we're capitalizing on his dream."

Guests can expect the same great chicken they've enjoyed in Nicoma Park for years in addition to some Swadley favorites.

"This is great. The new Jim's Fried Chicken is about twice the size of the old place, and the recipes are spot on," said Moore.

The Swadley family is excited to expand their restaurant line into the chicken industry and have plans to be committed to Nicoma Park for a long time, while taking Moore's original dream further than he could have imagined.

"Nicoma Park is a great market for us. These are people who like our type of food, which is just down home southern cooking. We have a 20-year lease and plan on being here for a while," said Swadley.

All of Jim's Famous Fried Chicken food is made fresh at the restaurant every day. So guests can expect fresh southern style cooking and a nice a family dining atmosphere.

"I want people to come in and feel like they're going to my grandma's house. We give praise to the glory of the lord every day. This is his business and we're just his servants," said Swadley. "We're here to serve people. We're not in the Bar-B-Q business, and we're not in the chicken business we're in the people business."

After over 40 years Jim's remains located at 10811 NE 23rd St. in Nicoma Park.

A second location was opened at 824 SW 89th St. in Oklahoma City to help get Jim's famous recipes out to the public, and the Swadley family has plans to spread those recipes across the nation.

For more information, call 769-4412.

Growth in sight for Nicoma Park

By Ryan Horton
Contributing Writer

With almost 4-square-miles of land and about 2,000 residents, it's safe to say Nicoma Park is a small community when compared to its eastern Oklahoma County neighbors.

Those numbers have held true since about 1980, but city officials say that could soon change as development in Nicoma Park is currently at a level unseen for more than 35 years.

The lack of water and sewer lines has been the major factor that has caused little development in the conveniently located city, while communities to the west and east have been able to take advantage of commercial development and the sales tax dollars that follow.

However, on Nov. 4, 2014 the citizens of Nicoma Park voted to approve a one cent sales tax to fund the construction and maintenance of a water line along NE 23rd Street.

Since then visible changes have started to appear in the previously idle city.

"There's more dirt moving right now in Nicoma Park than in a long time. We're trying to get our infrastructure in because the city kind of fell behind. A lot of good parts are being refurbished,

and a lot of people got behind the effort of getting the city updated," said Mayor Mark Cochell.

"A tax we passed on ourselves two years ago to get water down NE 23rd Street is working, and by the end of next year we should have city water down all of 23rd."

Water is essential for life, and that proved true when the vote was a resounding 81.2 percent in favor of the one cent sales tax that would help replenish and grow Nicoma Park.

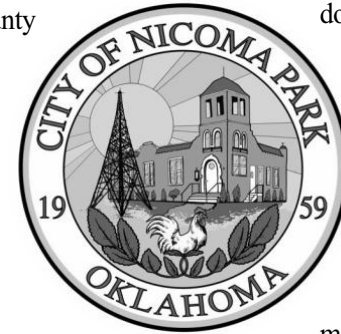
"This was probably the most important vote ever

held in Nicoma Park. It gives the citizens much better fire protection, and it gives our city a chance to grow. We had no water on 23rd Street, and without water, you have no chance for growth," Cochell said.

The tax went into effect April 1, 2015 with an estimated project cost in excess of \$3 million.

With over 30,000 cars a day passing through Nicoma Park on NE 23rd Street alone, city leaders are in hopes the community is becoming more appealing to business.

"We work hard to provide quality services to our residents while also preparing for our future ability to serve the expected growth throughout Nicoma Park," said Cochell. "If you know anyone looking to move to Nicoma Park, now is a great time."



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— Mark Cochell, Mayor of Nicoma Park

