

# Paxton representing cities' interests at State Capitol

By Jayson Knight  
editor@tuttletimes.com

Senator Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) represents the 23rd Senate District which includes a large portion of Mustang and surrounding communities.

Paxton works closely with city leadership, and explained the growth in the area Friday, September 8.

"When you look at the City of Mustang itself," he said, "it is a two-mile-by-six-mile rectangle, and it's completely surrounded by Oklahoma City, but the Mustang school district, of course, is much larger than that. The area north of Mustang, south of I-40, that's part of my



**Lonnie Paxton**  
*Oklahoma Senate District 23*

district. That area is just overwhelmingly growing and that's where we'll have hundreds of houses on it. That area is an attractive area. It's a desirable area

to live. People enjoy the communities. Both Yukon and Mustang have that appeal to the public and it's places that people want to live. As you go west out of Mustang, there's land available to be developed. That's part of what the growth is all about, just the desire of the population to be close to Oklahoma City, but maybe want somewhat of a smaller community. You can't call them small communities anymore, but they're not inside the metro."

Senator Paxton shared what it was like working with City of Mustang administrators, saying, "I think Mustang is very well ran all the way across the board. I guess you would

say the mayor leads the way and Brian Grider does a fantastic job in that role, and represents Mustang extremely well, both on the municipal level and then when he comes to the State Capitol talking about issues and he's a great advocate for Mustang and does a great job. If I have a municipal question, (City Manager) Tim Rooney is a great person to go visit with and he has lots of insights. He's been doing it long enough that he and I can have a great conversation. Being a former mayor, I do have I think a pretty decent perspective of of municipalities and we work together on a lot of things.

"I oftentimes have found

myself in the middle of running legislation on behalf of municipalities, because the municipal league comes to me to help me run some of their legislation, especially when it centers around the marijuana issue. When the state question first passed for the medical marijuana, there were people that started opening up dispensaries in neighborhoods and communities around the state, and when the cities would come to them and say, 'Hey, this is a residential neighborhood, you can't put a business inside that neighborhood,' they would basically hold up the state question and say, 'Here's my permit,' and because the state question

had no definition of what a city could and couldn't do, cities couldn't tell them no.

"Senate Bill 1030 was my legislation and it had a lot of aspects to it, but one of the big items in there was that municipalities did have the right to zone medical marijuana businesses the same way they would zone anybody else. We kept the spirit of the state question that the voters voted for, but we did say you can regulate them the same way you would regulate any other business. That allowed their zoning to take place, and inspections to take place, and all the things that you need to have to have a properly functioning city."

## Mustang Marketplace progressing with developments

By Jacob Sturm  
centraloklahomaweeklies.com

Mustang is marking progress with multiple developments set to come to town through the Mustang Marketplace Development east of the Walmart on State Highway 152.

Among the developments coming is Panda Express, with the development taking one of the frontage spots in the development that has been in the works for most of 2023.

Ryan Conner, the City Planner for the City of Mustang, said Panda Express has received building permits and have just finished selecting contractors.

"I don't have a definite on when it's going to start up there, but definitely everything's ready to go for

them," Conner said. "The permit's ready. So, hopefully that starts soon."

Mustang's latest City Manager's Report indicated the building will be approximately 1,350 square feet. The development is expected to include a drive-through and plenty of space for parking when it is completed.

The news on Panda Express was first reported by the Mustang Times in February. Currently, the restaurant chain has nearby locations in Yukon (1521 Garth Brooks Blvd) and at

500 S MacArthur Blvd in Oklahoma City.

The largest known building to be coming officially to Mustang Marketplace belongs to Hunker Terrace Retail Shell. The building will include four lease units in its massive 10,010

square feet of space.

It is also the building that is erected at the site, with masonry being installed on the exterior of the structure. According to the City Manager's report for September, the building is about 35% complete as of Sept. 12.

Conner also mentioned the possibility of the site including a business dedicated to drive through to go with the drive through window being built at the structure. That business has not been identified yet.

In recent weeks, The Mustang Times also reported that a Chili's Grill & Bar

would be coming into the development. Conner indicated the anticipation for Chili's to start construction rather quickly.

That building, according to the City Manager's Report related to the development,

**See MARKETPLACE, page 24**



Mustang is marking progress with multiple developments set to come to town through the Mustang Marketplace Development east of the Walmart on State Highway 152. PHOTO BY JAYSON KNIGHT