

RANSOM CANYON CITY NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Wildlife Woes</i>	2
<i>Country Living</i>	2
<i>Unlocking Cars</i>	2
<i>Library Reception</i>	3
<i>Holiday Mailing</i>	3
<i>Building Committee</i>	3
<i>Audit</i>	4

November City Council Meeting

- \$20,000 software purchase approved
- Audit Report Delivered
- Retiree Insurance Report Delivered
- Policy Manual Reviewed
- Mayor issues plea for citizens to respect Chapel Pond
- Concrete joints on West Lake Shore Drive will be resealed.
- Police commended for service to city in emergency.

SMALL TOWN BLESSINGS

Mayor Robert Englund began the November City Council Meeting with the usual moment of silence...This is a tradition for City Council Meetings.

Instead of launching right into the order of business, however, Mayor Englund took a moment to comment. He asked everyone to remember those in the city who had lost loved ones.

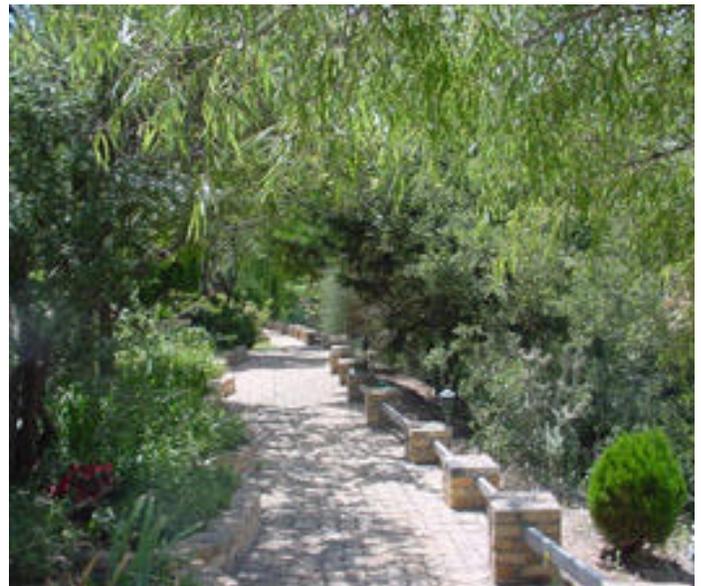
Ransom Canyon neighbors have been touched this past year by the passing of a number of friends and family members.

These events have touched everyone, and they continue to touch City Hall and the day-to-day operations of our Town.

Holiday plans are being made and it seems this year more than ever before, there will be loved ones who are missed.

The City Council wishes everyone a Happy Holiday season, and peace for all.

We are so fortunate to live in a place where neighbors know each other, watch out



One of the quiet paths at the chapel in Ransom Canyon.

for each other, and come together to help whenever they are needed.

The news is filled with stories of strife and sorrow.

Our small town has an advantage not to be missed. People care about each other, here.

For the most part, everyone respects their neighbor and tries to live in harmony and a spirit of good will.

From the City Council,

Happy Holidays, blessings of peace and comfort, and best wishes to all.

RANSOM CANYON POLICE HONORED

Ransom Canyon police know every one.

They have served this community over the past eighteen months at the scenes of over fifteen deaths. This is not work that can be easily set aside, but somehow they do,

and they go on to the next shift. They repeatedly see the families and friends of those who are gone, and they continue to provide emotional support for those families, just by their steady presence. Chief Wayne Rawls delivered

citations of service to Officer James Hill and Reserve Officer Vance Schuette for their recent outstanding achievement in crisis management. We salute all of our police officers and thank them for their work and continued sacrifice.

WILDLIFE WOES

A message from Police Chief Wayne Rawls

The police department has seen an increase in calls to deal with wildlife problems, mostly skunks.

Skunks, raccoons and foxes are a few of the animals on the Texas Department of Health rabies quarantine list. Strict State laws govern the handling of animals under quarantine.

The City stopped trapping fur-bearing pests for residents in 1997.

City employees do not have the necessary equipment,

facilities or licenses to remove these animals from your private property.

I am aware of one local pest control company licensed to handle this situation. I will be glad to furnish the name of this company should you need their services.



If you feed them, they will come.

COUNTRY LIVING GUIDELINES

Our local wildlife may come around your place looking for something to eat. Here are a few simple guidelines regarding the control of these pesky critters.

1. Do not place bread or leftovers outside. If you feed them, they will come.
2. Pick up remaining food

after your pet finishes eating.

3. Put out household trash on the morning of pickup, not the night before. The wildlife will get into the garbage.
4. Please remember that we do have carnivorous predators that will eat domesticated pets. A

spayed or neutered cat with no claws may not stand much of a chance against these hunters.

5. Vaccinate and keep your pet ID'd with a collar. This will protect them and will help the police take them home when they are lost.

TECHNOLOGY WINS

In the past, the police department has provided the service of unlocking vehicles.

As vehicles have become more complex, and with the addition of side airbags, it has become increasingly difficult and dangerous for our employees to continue this practice.

Severe damage and expense can occur if an untrained



person accidentally sets off your car's airbags.

This is a liability to the city and to the employee.

If you lock your keys in your car, you may be able to have the vehicle unlocked remotely

if your vehicle is equipped for it, or there are several professional companies that provide the service for a fee.

We no longer carry unlocking equipment in the police cars.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING

The annual Ransom Canyon Children's Library Christmas Gathering will be Tuesday, December 9, from 5:00 to 6:30.

Entertainment will be provided by the children, who will be reading their favorite stories. This should be delightful.

The Library Board is hosting the event. Board members Angie Rajcic, Terry Borman, Colleen Kendall and Novice Bartlett want every parent, grandparent and library supporter to come see what good work is going on at the library. There are many new books on the shelves. Many books have been purchased as me-

morials to friends and loved ones. These lovely reminders grace the shelves of this little library and no doubt will be enjoyed for a long time by young readers.

If you have missed this reception in past years, make it a point not to miss this one. It is truly a delight.

Everyone likes the library, and this is due in no small part to the efforts of Miss Kim Copeland, our staff librarian who is appreciated and loved by all



who know her. The little library that could is generously supported by the Town and by individual citizens in so many ways.

Don't miss this reception!

WATER BILL REMINDER

Just a reminder to everyone to be sure to allow plenty of time for the Christmas mail to deliver your water bill payment before the late charges are assessed.

Bills are sent out on the 24th, and payment is due the following month by the end of the day on the 20th. After the night deposits are credited,

late charges are assessed on the 21st. (Weekends do not count.)

Holiday mail delays your payment up to a week.

If you pay with a paper draft through your internet banking system, give the system and the mail an extra week to process and be delivered.

Automatic bank draft service is available here at Ransom Canyon for your convenience. Drafts are deposited on the 5th.

There is a night deposit box in front of city hall.

When your payment is late, you pay an extra 10%. This can be really expensive.

*Bill Payments are due
by the 20th, and
HOLIDAY MAIL
Slows everything by 2-5
days.*

BUILDING REVIEW COMMITTEE

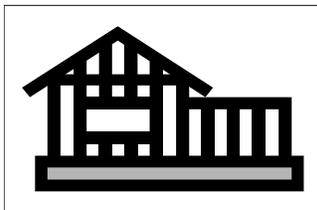
The Building Review Committee met in an extended work session to organize and clarify their operating procedures.

Robert Morris was chosen chairman and Jack Randorff as co-chairman. Other committee members are Berwyn Tisdell, Jim Bertram, Ron Childress, Billy Williams, and Chris Sims. A quorum of three is needed to review plans. This committee does not approve plans, they review them

for compliance.

Permits are issued by the city for any construction. Harold Needham is the Code Enforcement Officer.

The committee is covered by the city's Errors and Omissions liability insurance coverage, because they



New home construction slows in Ransom Canyon.

are a committee appointed by and financially supported by the city. This committee is hopping with decisions surrounding new building technology and trends, and these men constantly re-search the building code for laws governing their decisions.

City of Ransom Canyon

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**Ransom Canyon
City Council**

**Mayor
Robert Englund**

**Mayor Pro-Tem
Glen Robertson**

**Aldermen:
Richard Hulslander
David Peterson
Inez Speed
Leon Whetzel**

Happy Thanksgiving! Proud to be American!



CLEAN AUDIT REPORT DELIVERED

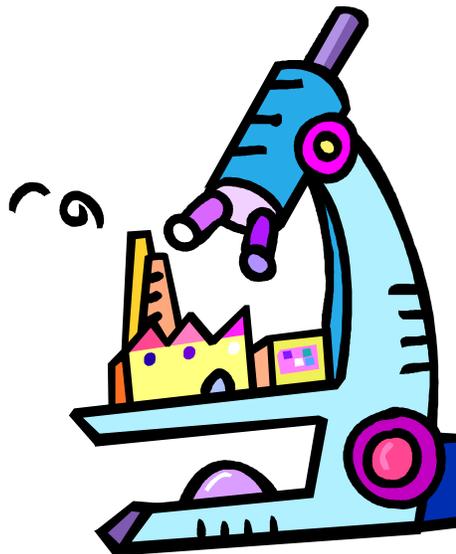
David Hettler delivered the annual audit report at the November 11 City Council meeting.

The City is in good financial condition, with an increase of \$400,000 in the general fund.

The audit is done according to generally accepted accounting principles. It divides the books in order to reflect the health of the water and sewer enterprise.

Auditor Hettler reported that revenues and expenditures were in line with the budget.

Ransom Canyon banks with Citizens Bank in Slaton, and the audit confirmed that the bank had enough assets pledged to cover the current \$1,637,854 in deposits, and the expected increase in tax deposits over the next two months of \$486,700 in prop-



erty tax payments.

Next year's audit will look a little bit different, as GASB 34 will be in effect .

Oddly enough, GASB 34 requires governments to report their revenues, assets and

expenditures as one fund. Since this is how Ransom Canyon is currently keeping books, we think this will be a welcome change for us.

As it is now, the council must divide and decipher the enterprise fund and the general fund, after having looked at one general fund all year long.

Now they will be able to skip this step and analyze the audit based on familiar territory.

GASB 34 also requires that cities inventory and depreciate all assets, including streets, water and sewer lines, and any other city property. Plans are being made and assembled for next year's audit, and we expect next year's audit to be lots more fun.