

RANSOM CANYON CITY NEWS

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June 3 City Council Meeting

- Mayor presents First Cut at Budget
- Council will not set tax rate until September
- Water expense studied
- New Building Committee Members appointed
- Council authorizes grant application for third Policeman
- Emergency Operations Center studied
- Corporate Sponsorship of city vehicles considered through Government Acquisitions, Inc.

THUNDERSTORMS CREATE OASIS, SPELL NEW ROOF DAMAGE

Marble to golf ball sized hail blasted Ransom Canyon on June 3, between 6:00 and 7:00 P.M.. The thunderstorm contained high winds and up to 3" of rain fell in a short period of time.

Storm water drainage easements rushed and flooded, and there was more than one waterfall over the Canyon rim.

The next morning City crews busily removed mud and drainage debris from city streets.

Roofing signs are going up all over the city, and residents are reminded that a permit is required for all construction. Contractors must have a performance bond, and new architecture comp roofs must have a 50 year warranty.

Many year-old roofs have been totaled again.

Ransom Canyon is an oasis in a season of regional and statewide drought notices. Ransom Canyon lake is full and water is running over the weir. At times, the water laps the roadway across the dam.



Water cascades from the Canyon Rim. June 3, 2003 Photo captured by Officer James Hill.

Ransom Canyon has three dams between Pig Squeal Spring at the Chapel Pond and the lake, and all four ponds are full.

The water at Buffalo Lake, Ransom Canyon's upstream neighbor, is at full pool, and water regularly runs over Buffalo dam.

All the water hatched a new round of mosquitoes. Lubbock County has sprayed twice, and Everitt Flying Service has sprayed once for the pesky critters.

The next mosquito spray event is scheduled for 8:00 A.M., July 1-3, weather permitting.

SPAG HOMELAND SECURITY \$22,278 GRANT

The TEEX assessment through SPAG awarded \$22,278 in first round equipment to the fire department for first responder equipment for disaster recovery and anti-terrorism equipment. Hazmat suits, SAT phones,

decontamination equipment, microphone equipped respirators are sample items that are on the list. The fire chief can choose from hundreds of items, up to the Grant amount. The equipment will be shipped to Ransom Canyon. No money will change

hands.

This grant is part of the Homeland Security funding program. This was a lengthy grant application that was carefully prepared by Chief Wayne Rawls.

BULDING COMMITTEE ACTION

The City Council approved the appointment of six new building committee members. These men will review plans for new homes, landscaping, fencing, remodel work, and driveway work, as well as

plats and subdivisions.

Mayor Englund has also asked them to study and make recommendations to the council about the 50-year roofing requirement, the need for zoning regulations and

identification of the types of permits that can be approved by city hall without having a full meeting of the committee.

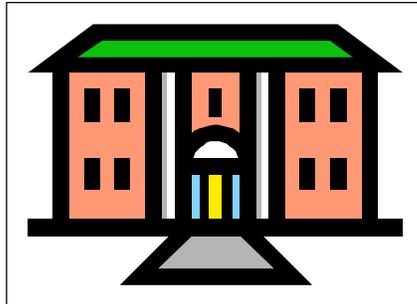
These meetings are generally held the second and fourth Monday at City Hall, at 7:00 P.M. The meetings are open to the public, they are posted, and min-

utes are kept.

The new members are Jim Bertram, Ron Childress, Chris Sims, Robert Morris, Billy Williams, Berwyn Tisdell, Jack Randorff and Sanford Whitaker.

A member of the city council usually attends each meeting as well.

Builders must advise City Hall in advance if they want to meet with the committee. If there are no plans to review, the committee does not meet.



Construction permits are required. See City hall for details.

Swimming in the lake is prohibited!



JULY 4TH EVENTS

July 4th events in Ransom Canyon start Thursday, July 3rd. That evening on the island the Ransom Canyon Volunteer Fire Department will host "More than a Fish Fry." They fry both chicken and fish, and donations are accepted.

The Parade will be held on July 4th and the Fire Depart-

ment will serve brisket lunch on the island.

Buffalo Lake is scheduling a concert for Friday, July 4th and fireworks are scheduled at Buffalo Lake on Saturday, July 5th.

Boats must have permits, and these can be purchased from either police officer.

Mayor Englund reminds drivers to "Slow Down" and watch out for the children who are out of school and also the walkers who routinely travel the streets of our fair city.

All of the Architecture Comp roofs in Ransom Canyon are at least a 40 year warranty product.

HOMEOWNERS HEADS-UP

In the roofing industry, what used to be called a 40 year roof is now called a 50 year roof. The old 35 year roof is now called a 40 year roof.

Some homeowners in Ransom Canyon are studying roof replacement.

All homeowners should know that the former roofing ordinance in Ransom Canyon called for a 40 year warranty.

This roofing material was

installed and inspected under the watchful eye of Ransom Canyon's building inspector, and all of the architecture comp roofs in Ransom Canyon are at least a 40 year warranty roof.

If your roofer or insurance company contends that you have a 30 or a 35 year roof, especially with no allowance for upgrading, homeowners are encouraged to get a second opinion. The different

manufacturers treated their products differently, so one rule does not fit all.

One thing is for sure, however, and that is that the former building inspector made certain that the roofing material was a 40-year warranted product.

“SHAFT” RESCUED

Officer James Hill noticed something odd about one of the pet island ducks. It had an arrow through its neck. Somehow it had escaped the hunter and had survived, and was trying to go about its business in a normal fashion. Officer Hill called the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, and Mark Luchsinger agreed to take the case.

The Ransom Canyon Police boat cornered the duck in the shallows by East Lake Shore Drive, and James jumped in the water and grabbed “Shaft”. The Rehabilitation Center removed the arrow, and stitched up the wound. Carol Lee, from the SPWRC reports that Shaft is doing well after some serious veterinary care. The volunteers had to clean up the wound, but Shaft is now on the mend. She is “the neatest bird”, according to the volunteers. When they clean out her cage, she seems so sweet and so grateful. She should be well enough to be released into the duck enclosure soon. When she is recovered she will be released back to Ransom Canyon, where, according to Officer Hill, her mate is missing her terribly.

The South Plains Wildlife Re-



hab Center can be found on the web at spwrc.org. This non-profit organization survives through donations, with the help of volunteers. They routinely rescue animals that have been injured or trapped. They need funds and sponsors, and also various items such as baby blankets, baby formula, cat food, etc. They can be contacted at:

SPWRC, Inc
 c/o Carol Lee
 3101 77th Street
 Lubbock, Texas 79423
 Donors should mention

“Shaft” in their letter, and the center will respond with an update on her condition.

Shaft is one of the ducks that live on the island. They do not migrate, but they do mate and have families. This rescue was featured on the local news, and this photo of Officer Hill is featured on the SPWRC’s website.

The center is located at 95th and Indiana, and is open for visitation Saturdays from 11:00–2:00. For more information on how you can help, call them at 799-2142.

James jumped in the water and grabbed “Shaft”

Chad Crow, age 7, is in the 2nd grade in Cedar Park, Texas. He is the Grandson of Fred and Sandy Jones. He loves to come to the Ransom Canyon library! Chad is shown here with Miss Kim during a recent visit.

Summer Library Hours:

Tuesday 2:30-6:30

Thursday 10:00-2:00

Saturday 10:00–1:00

Summer reading club bonus on Saturdays June 21, June 28, July 4, July 12, July 19 and Swim party at the end of the summer.

Parents and Grandparents are always welcome, also!



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Council
Mayor
Robert Englund

Aldermen
Richard Hulslander
David Peterson
Glen Robertson
Inez Speed
Leon Whetzel

This is Reunion Summer for both the Ransom Canyon Chapel and for the Ransom Canyon Fire Department. The Chapel is celebrating 15 years with a program starting at 4:30 on Saturday the 5th. There will be a catered meal, and an evening of fine music. Many old friends and new will gather to remember and reminisce.

The Fire Department is celebrating their 25 Year Anniversary and they have minted a Commemorative coin for the event. See a Fire Department member for information.

BOBCAT ON THE LOOSE!

Nazi Wigmans and her guests were awakened by a large crash at 5:00 A.M. Sunday morning when a large bobcat slashed the lakeshore window screen and helped himself to a bowl of cherries on the dining room table. We understand Nazi shooed the large cat out of the house and alerted the police to the intruder! The Wigmans thank Chief Rawls for his speedy response to their 911 call!

03-04 BUDGET CHALLENGE

The City Council met in a marathon budget work session June 17. They examined line item budget requests, income and tax projections, necessary capital improvements, and they began to weigh and make decisions about necessary services, and necessary tax rates.

The city council has not decided on a tax rate.

The budget plans for a 78 million dollar tax base, which is 2 million higher than last year, and new property makes up 1.2 million of that amount. This is the lowest increase in property values that Ransom Canyon has had in several years.

The budget work-in-progress shows a marked reduction in earned interest income. The council installed a new water meter on the Ransom Canyon

side of the Lubbock water delivery intersection, and the council believes they have a handle on the projected increased cost of water. There were several special requests from the departments.

The CIP calls for the purchase of a new car for the police department, water tank repair, and street seal coating. There are other CIP repairs to the water pump house and to the old sewer plant. The fire department requested a replacement Fire truck. All departments requested technology-related equipment, and the water billing department requested new billing software. Admin asked for General Ledger, and A/P software.

The Council considered hiring a third police officer, with the expense supported by another Federal Grant. The grant would pay \$75,000.

The police and fire had dual requests for the Emergency Operations Center. There is a need for 3 new fire hydrants.

The council discussed raises, and a request to adopt TMRS retirement for the city employees.

Money has been budgeted for reserve funding by previous councils, and the city is in sound financial condition. The council is considering using part of these funds to pay for CIP infrastructure repairs and maintenance, and help balance the budget. This is an important way to give some money back to the taxpayers.

The council meets July 1 for another budget session prior to the budget hearing at the July 8 Council Meeting.

The Preliminary Budget hearing will be at 7:00 P.M. at the fire station.