

# RANSOM CANYON CITY NEWS

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August City Council Meeting

- 62 cent tax rate proposed
- 78.5 million appraised value
- David Hettler wins audit
- SPEC and Operation Round-Up donate truck to First Responder Service
- Progress Report on Water Tower
- Sewer Plant Blowers
- September 13 Pancake Breakfast
- City supports Lubbock County Hazard Assessment Resolution
- City EMS status certified
- Staff Development brisk

## FIRST RESPONDER GRANT

Thanks to a generous grant from South Plains Electric Cooperative and Operation Round-Up, the Ransom Canyon Fire Department is the proud owner of a gently used 1996 3/4 ton Chevrolet truck. This truck has new transmission and new rear axle. It is a 4x4, automatic, and it will be outfitted to serve the fire department as the point vehicle for every medical or fire call.

With some new paint and a good deal of customizing, the fire department will soon put this truck to work.

Operation Round-Up has assisted with other Ransom Canyon programs. They contributed playground equipment to the Parks and Playground association. Ransom Canyon students have received college scholarships, and Operation Round-Up faithfully supports the library activities and fund raisers, and also the annual Christmas Home Show that is put on by the chapel.

At one time nearly 100%



**Mayor Robert Englund (left) presents Fire Chief Rand McPherson the keys to the new First Responder truck from Operation Round-Up.**

of homes in Ransom Canyon participated in Operation Round-Up. At this time, only 161 homes out of 455 participated.

The City Council presented the truck to the fire department at the August meeting. The Council voted to urge homeowners to choose

to participate in this worthwhile program. A flyer from Operation Round-Up is included with this month's City News. Residents are encouraged to look into all the good things this program does, and sign up. Ransom Canyon thanks all the individuals at South Plains Electric who helped make this happen.

## SEWER PLANT DISTURBANCE MYSTIFIES OFFICIALS

In the month of July the sewer plant was blasted on at least two occasions by a foreign substance that mucked up the works and killed many of the good bugs in the system. Ransom Canyon's Harold Needham worked steadily to investigate and identify the

source of the white, scummy, filmy substance that appeared in the raw sewage stream over a six week period.

The plant "died" at one point and Harold imported healthy sludge bacteria from

the City of Lubbock to bring the plant back to norm. The scum looked like paint, but did not have a paint "smell".

Harold and his staff took many lab samples and Ransom Canyon did stay within

*(Continued on page 2)*

## BLOWERS HELP, NEED BIGGER SILENCERS

The smell from the struggling sewer plant was surpassed only by the noise from the new 40 hp blower.

The new blower helped heal the plant when some unknown chemical hit the plant and killed the good bacteria. The color and consistency of the sludge mixture is distinctive in a healthy plant and this color becomes murky and cloudy when the bacteria die. The new blower helped move this murky material and mix in the re-seeding material.

"It's a good thing we had the new blower installed. When we turned it on the mix started changing color almost

immediately", said Harold Needham.

The plant is designed with two blowers. The old plant had two 15 hp blowers. These blowers alternate.

With the new plant both 15hp blowers will be replaced with 40 hp blowers. One of these new blowers was installed after the first chemical shocks were detected.

The new 40 horse blowers come equipped with an "intake muffler" and a silencer, but even with this, they are louder than expected.

City engineer Bernie Gradel suggested installing

bigger silencers.

The motor noise should not continue to disturb, because the new 18" silencer should be installed within two weeks.

Only one of two new blowers is installed presently.

These new 40 hp blowers will alternate. They will not operate at the same time.

City crews have worked constantly this summer to keep the plant operating at acceptable levels. They have been challenged at every turn with both construction and the nasty chemical kill. They even tried feeding dog food to the plant at one point.

## A PAGE FROM HISTORY

This fisherman is a very young Jack Parchman fishing on the Johnston Ranch in the early 50's. Johnston Ranch was to become Ransom Canyon as we now know it.



*Reader's photos and snapshots are welcome additions to the City News.*

## SEWER PLANT MYSTERY

*(Continued from page 1)*

the permit requirements, but the quality of the discharge was not as good as it normally is.

"The stream discharge continued to be within permitted levels, but it just was not as good as we like it to be," stated Harold.

"We'd like to ask everyone to just be real careful about

what they dump into the sewer from their homes, their pools and from their RV's. This stuff was really nasty. It killed the good bacteria, and this causes odors. Also it would be helpful if people could keep an eye out for anything suspicious in this regard."

TCEQ was called in. At their suggestion, because the stream discharge was so bad at one point, the Mayor or-

dered a "downstream flush."

The weir on the lake was opened and the creek and out-flow area below the sewer plant was allowed to clean itself. The weir was closed with only a slight drop in the lake level.

# HOW OPERATION ROUND-UP WORKS

Operation Round-Up receives contributions from voluntary participation by electric cooperative members who ask to have their monthly electric utility bills rounded up to the next dollar. For example, if your monthly bill was \$35.64, it is automatically rounded up to \$36.00. The extra pennies collected go into the Operation Round-Up fund.

Ransom Canyon is served entirely by South Plains Electric Cooperative, who is the sponsor for Operation Round-Up.

The enclosure is from Operation Round-Up, and can

be sent directly to South Plains Electric with your electric bill payment, or you can enclose it with your water bill and Ransom Canyon will forward it to SPEC.

We wish to thank SPEC for their continued fine service in Ransom Canyon, and for their generous donation this month of the newest fire truck to the Volunteer Fire Department fleet.

If you have questions about Operation Round-Up, call Lynn Simmons at SPEC.

The City Council thanks



the board members whose effort and work helped make this contribution possible.

Perhaps Ransom Canyon can regain a 100% participation rate to this program.

## RANSOM CANYON FIRST RESPONDER

Police Chief Wayne Rawls or Officer James Hill are usually the first to reach the scene when a 911 call is dispatched by the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office. The next to reach the scene is the Ransom Canyon First Response team, and the First Responder vehicle. This vehicle carries medical emer-

gency supplies, the defibrillator, backboards and an ever ready cell phone to call local physician assistance.

There are seventeen individuals on the Volunteer Fire Department team, and the First Response team has been dispatched at least once per month for the past several years. Several certi-

fied nurses and EMT's serve on this department. All of the team members volunteer their time for meetings and continued training and certification. This is a professional team of volunteers. They also make great pancakes! The next fundraiser breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, September 13. Ya'll Come!

*The next Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, September 13*

## A RIVER RAN THROUGH CITY HALL

Ransom Canyon officials are still drying out from flooding which occurred June 3. Water swirled around the North West corner of the building and "chunnelled" under the foundation. Up to 10" of water was captured in this solid cement block structure.

Air vents were drilled this week to alleviate the mildew, and large fans are helping to dry out the mud.

This section of town was designated a flood zone on the last FEMA maps. City Officials have seen water run-off before in this area.

In the old city hall building the water would run straight through the building. It left the concrete floor wet, but it



never left a 10 inch pool. City Hall is built up to keep the building itself out of the water.

With the new air vents, the mud should dry up, soon.

## 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



This Ransom Canyon Lakeshore Snapshot is courtesy of Ralph Bravoco. How beautiful it is!

## 03-04 BUDGET

The 03-04 Budget looks much as it did in June when the council hammered out the document in two marathon sessions.

**The proposed tax rate is \$.62.**

The proposed new tax rate is the same as last year, \$.62. The property values are certified at \$78.5 million dollars, which is 2 million higher than last year. Of that 2 million, there is 1.2 million in new property. The new budget calls for an additional policeman, and one new police vehicle. The water tanks will be repaired and painted and streets will be sealed. Major repairs will be made to the existing sewer plant, and the water pump house will be refitted with new piping and pumps. There



Western panorama of Lake courtesy Ralph Bravoco.

will be increases in all departments for Information Technology. Three new fire hydrants are planned, and there is initial funding to equip the Emergency Operations Center.

\$15,000 is allocated for new bunker gear for the fire department.

Another major change this year is the adoption of a retirement program for the city employees through the Texas Municipal Retirement System. The city has participated in matching 5% salaries in a 457 deferred compensation program for several years. This 5% match will shift to the 1-1 5% level for a defined benefit retirement program. \$44,000, in addition to next year's budgeted \$80,000 contribution, will be transferred from the \$318,000 CIP Fund. This transfer will achieve a zero budget. The reserve fund balance is \$295,000. The total annual operating budget is \$950,000.

The council will adopt the budget at the September 9 city council meeting.