

RANSOM CANYON CITY NEWS

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City Council Business
December 9th

- Annual Audit Approved
- Operations and Personnel Manual Approved
- Sewer Plant to go on line Jan 1
- Council concerned about engineering delays at Water House
- Library hosts reception for 125 parents and children
- West Lake Shore repairs still under inspection



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

“ The lamps are lit, The fires burn bright,
The house is full of love and light.”

Greetings of the season
With a wish for nothing less
Than all that fills your holidays with
joy and happiness.

Have the Happiest of Holidays
And Wonderful New Year
From
The Ransom Canyon City Staff.



Looking Back

It's a hat's off year for the city council. The following makes the short list

We built a sewer plant.
We built a new SLS lift station
We established the EOC.

The Police wrote a Disaster Plan and won a \$23 K grant for the Fire Department.

The tax rate stayed the same.
We adopted a land-use plan and a subdivision ordinance.

We have a new web-site that has minutes and agendas

with word-search capability.

We survived another hail storm and reconstruction of another 200 roofs. We have a new building committee.

We survived a computer melt-down and a nationwide virus.

We kept water in the lake.

We bought a new back-hoe, a new wood chipper, a new city pick-up, and a new salt spreader. We recalled why we don't use prisoner labor.

We have a new Rescue One fire truck. New firefighter suits

are on order. New fire hydrants have been approved.

The city approved an employee retirement plan and updated the policy manuals

The library flourishes.

Home sales and refinancing is brisk.

We had no scandals.

We said goodbye to many dear friends.

All of this was done with grace and aplomb. Kudos to all.

HOLIDAY HOUSEKEEPING

When Christmas is done and the decorations are packed, remember to bring your Christmas tree to the collection site by the open-top container in the field east of City Hall.

These trees, along with branches and brushy debris, will be ground up in the wood chipper, and will be recycled into ground cover material.

Caprock Waste will collect garbage on the regular pick up days, Tuesday and Friday. If you have an overflow of garbage, put it into heavy duty garbage bags and set it out beside your polycart, and the crews will pick it up along with

the polycarts.

The mid-week holidays and the clean-up housekeeping that will probably follow will create extra volumes of trash for the trucks. If the trucks don't get to your house on Tuesday or Friday, they will finish the scheduled pick-up on the following day.

Caprock tries to schedule our pick-up for a single day, but extra volumes of trash and other problems such as equipment breakdowns, absenteeism and injuries are constant challenges for this service company that contracts with Ransom Canyon.

We can help by keeping

Christmas trees, grass clippings and brushy debris out of the dumpsters. Thanks for your cooperation.



RANSOM CANYON HOSTS SLATON UTILITY CREWS

The City of Slaton continues to be a good neighbor and friend to Ransom Canyon, especially when a sewer line needs to be cleaned out.

Problems seem to happen after-hours and on the weekend, but if it is at all possible, the crews from Slaton bring their machine and help.

In a gesture of thanks, Harold Needham, Kyle McCoy, and Bennie Garcia hosted twenty-two Slaton employees for a BBQ lunch Friday, December 14th. The lunch was held in the shop and was catered by Bigham's.

Everyone had a great time. We are always happy to recognize the coordinating efforts

of our neighboring towns and cities. Slaton has been a good friend to Ransom Canyon through the years. Salud!

Slaton has been a good friend to Ransom Canyon through the years.

WHITAKER AFFORDED EMERITUS STATUS

Long-time resident and city architect Sanford Whitaker was recognized at the December city council meeting for his long years as a consultant for the Town of Ransom Canyon. Mayor Englund gave Sanford the Proclamation that declared he had standing Emeritus Status on the Architect Control Committee. He was recognized for his long years of work both as an active community member and

in an advisory capacity. Sanford and Diane Whitaker live in the fifth home to be built in Ransom Canyon, and he has been involved in the development of the town since the original developer, Houston Pearson, saw him in a grocery store in Lubbock and asked him if he wanted to do a town, and Whitaker said, "I'd love to!"

Whit has the original sketches

of Ransom Canyon and is thinking about writing a book about the early days in the late 60's and 70's. He has lived here since 1967.

Whitaker will continue on in a consulting capacity on the committee. His Emeritus status will allow him some freedom from the meeting schedule.

Many thanks to Whit and Diane for many years of service to the town.



CITY STAFF FOCUS: HAROLD NEEDHAM

City Operations Manager Harold Needham has his hands full these days with major construction at the sewer plant and at the water house.

Harold holds many state and local offices in his water and sewer utility organizations. He is past President, currently Program Chairman of the Caprock Water Utility Association. He is past president of the West Texas Regional Water Utilities Association. He is always busy with these demands.

Harold hopes this will be a quiet holiday, with no emergencies.

Somehow, though, there is always something, so the water department does their best to head problems off at the pass.

The Operations staff, including Kyle McCoy and Bennie Garcia, are on duty every day, weekends and holidays, and we just thank them for their selfless work.

Harold is also the building inspector, and he is kept hopping in this capacity.

Harold also works with Caprock Waste to keep them in line with garbage collection.

Harold doesn't waste time with needless chatter, he is quiet and soft spoken, and he comes and goes like his nickname, "Lightning!".

Harold is married to Laurie, and has four children, Jason, Cory, Katy and Caleb.

He's been with Ransom Canyon since 1998. He served Hale Center from 1976 to 1998. We are lucky to have Harold on staff.

JUNK VEHICLE CRACK-DOWN

The City Council agreed to change the current ordinance that regulates junk vehicles. The city will adopt an amendment at the January meeting that will adopt the current state guidelines for determining if a vehicle has been abandoned.

The current limit is 3 days on a city street, 10 days if on public property, and 30 days if on private property.

The police can determine the junk vehicle status after this time, and can legally have a vehicle towed away.

To avoid this, make certain that your vehicles have current inspection and current license plates.

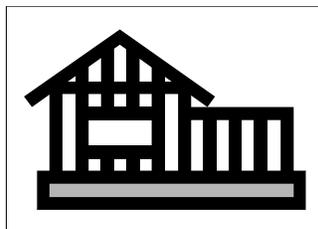
The current State limit is thirty days on private property for a junk vehicle.

BUILDING REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Building Control Committee has requested a change to the ordinance that governs their operation. They wish to be known as the Building Review Committee, with a membership of eight and a quorum of three.

No new housing permits were issued in October or November, which brings the total permits issued in 2003 to ten new homes.

The committee has been wrestling with many building materials issues and many requests for remodeling. They also were kept busy this year with plat issues. There were two new home sites platted and approved for home construction



Ten new homes were built in 2003.

in 2003. The property in and around Ransom Canyon continues to undergo development of both commercial property and neighborhood homes. The committee will be busy next year with platting and development inside the city's ETJ.

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Data Archive Retrieval at your fingertips.



**Ransom Canyon
City Council**

Yes! I want to be a part of Operation Round-Up

Complete this form and mail it in with your water bill payment or with your next electric payment.



Name

Account #/Address

Phone #

Signature

If you have more than one meter in your name, how many meters do you want to sign-up?

All *One*

OPERATION ROUND-UP

**Mayor
Robert Englund**

**Mayor Pro-Tem
Glen Robertson**

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

The Fire Department has a brand new rescue-one truck thanks to a generous donation from the Operation Round-Up organization at South Plains Electric Cooperative.

Ransom Canyon at one time had 100% participation in operation round-up.

Through the years this support has dwindled to less than 30%. We made mention of this before, but

Only nineteen more Ransom Canyon accounts have signed up.

Consider the other good things Operation Round-Up does for Ransom Canyon. SPEC made and installed the sign at the front entrance. They contribute annually to the library. They pay

considerable city taxes.

Twenty \$1,000 college scholarships are available this year from Operation Round-Up. They are taking applications at this time. Applications are available by e-mailing Lynn Simmons at lynn@spec-lbk.org, or calling (806)775-7826. All applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2004. Scholarships are available to entering freshmen attending a technical training school, college or university. You must be an SPEC member, spouse, child or stepchild of a member, or child whose guardian is a member of SPEC and a participant in Operation Round-Up. Students must possess the qualities of honor, integrity, thrift, good moral character and a sincere desire to

achieve their educational goals. Grades are not the sole criteria in awarding the scholarships, however, grades may determine the final award if all other things are found equal by the Selection Committee.

Won't you take the time to support Operation Round-Up? The effect on your electric bill will be less than \$6.00 per year. Fill out the application printed above and send it to city hall with your water bill.

We will be sure the application reaches SPEC.

Thanks to Operation Round-Up for our wonderful new Rescue One truck, and thanks from all of the scholarship recipients who hail from Ransom Canyon!

Merry Christmas!