

RANSOM CANYON CITY NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Water Conservation</i>	2
<i>LP&L rates</i>	2
<i>Water Bills</i>	2
<i>Traffic & Ice</i>	3
<i>Dogs At Large</i>	3
<i>New Sewer Plant</i>	3
<i>Texas Independence</i>	4

February City Council

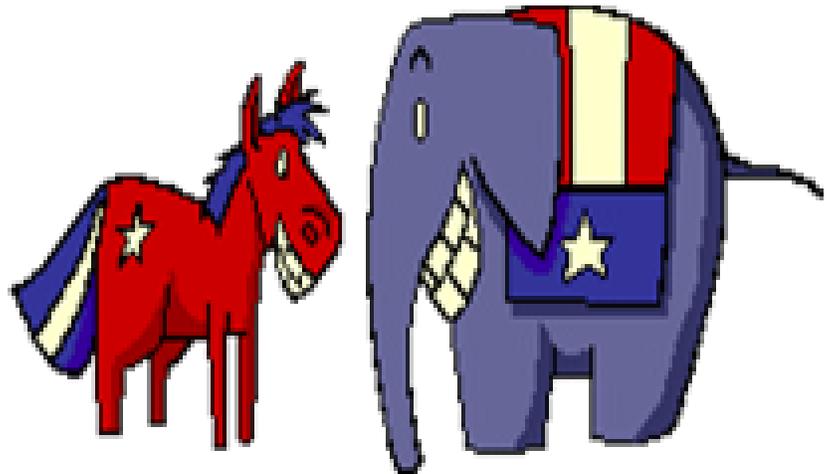
- Atmos Rate Increase Case is bolstered as the City of Lubbock joins with small cities in negotiations.
- Water conservation measures mulled.
- Junk vehicle ordinance ready for adoption in March.
- New Sewer Plant is online, on budget.
- Fire Department Officers approved.
- New Bunker Gear Arrives

ELECTION FEVER

Tuesday, March 9 is Texas Primary Election Day. The Texas Democratic and Republican Parties will choose their candidate choices on that day. Early voting is going on right now. Both parties can vote at any of several locations in Lubbock County. Early voting can be done at 5 United Supermarkets, the South Plains Mall, the Slaton annex or the Lubbock County Courthouse.

In addition, there will be a special early voting polling place and time offered at Ransom Canyon City Hall. This will be on March 2, from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. We have never had the opportunity to hold precinct elections in Ransom Canyon, so this is really very exciting.

There are more changes: Ransom Canyon residents live in either precinct 35 or 39.



Precinct 35 is South Lake Shore Drive. Precinct 35 voters will not go to Posey this year to vote!

These voters have a new place to go vote this year. This year, both Democrat and Republican party elections will be held at the Slaton clubhouse on Texas primary election day, Tuesday, March 9.

Precinct 35 voters will go to the Roosevelt clubhouse to vote, just as they have always done. Both parties vote at the

same location.

The voting precinct line runs along the lake. Voters who live on Sunrise Lane, and on West and East Lake Shore Drive live in the Slaton school district, but they are in precinct 39, and will vote at Roosevelt. For more information about this thoroughly confusing subject, call city hall at 829-2470, or the Lubbock County Voter Registration office at 775-1339.

MAY 15 RANSOM CANYON ELECTION

Two candidates have filed for a place on the ballot for the 2004 City Council. Incumbent Dick Hulslander has filed for reelection, and newcomer Ron Cox has thrown his hat in the ring. Dick Hulslander has served two years on the council. He is a retired H.R.

director, retired Marine Corps combat Veteran, and avid bicycle rider. His wife, Carol, is on the Property Owners Association Board.

Dr. Ronald Cox has lived in Ransom Canyon two years. He is an engineer retired from

Texas Instruments, and is in a second career teaching engineering at Texas Tech.

There are places for three aldermen. See City Hall for information and application.

COUNCIL MULLS WATER CONSERVATION

At the February City Council Meeting the council discussed possible measures that the city could take to conserve water.

The sprinkler system on the



front hill is fairly inefficient, and Harold Needham suggested changing to a drip system. This would eliminate water being blown into the street to run down the front hill. The council commented that this was not in the budget, and close monitoring of the front hill was the best we could do this season.

The new sewer plant is using an average of 300,000 gallons of water each month. At \$1.30 per thousand, this equates to \$4,000 per year. Engineer Bernie Gradel said a wet well could be installed to collect the stream dis-

charge, finished product in order to recycle this water to use again in some areas of the plant.

This water has been chlorinated and treated, with solids removed, and is stream discharge quality water, so this is a good first step that the town can realistically take to help conserve water for the town as a whole.

The council discussed Stage 2 measures in the drought contingency plan. These measures are fairly imposing, and residents are cautioned to plan for conservation this summer.

LP&L MAY RECONSIDER WATER RATE

Ransom Canyon purchases water from the City of Lubbock for \$1.30 per thousand gallons. By contract this rate is 81% of Lubbock's wholesale commercial rate. We have experienced a 3-4% increase for the past several years. Our residential rate is \$2.17 per thousand, which protects the utility enterprise.

Lubbock has hired an engineering firm to study the rate configuration, considering that a higher rate for high-end users will encourage conservation. This is the billing method that has been used by the energy companies for a long time.

Ransom Canyon could also be faced with an increase

greater than the historical 3%. High-end water customers could plan now for sprinkler systems tailored to landscape plantings. Desert planting are recommended for this growing season. See your local nursery to plan for the best use of water this summer. Thanks in advance.

“\$2.17 per thousand keeps the Ransom Canyon utility enterprise in the black.”

DUE DATES AND DEADBEATS

Water bills are generated on the 21st, after the last possible chance to gather in last minute payments. We wait as long as possible in order to gather in these lost sheep. If the envelopes are not here, 10% late charges are added.

Bills are due on receipt. Late charges are added on the 20th. This is a full thirty days from the day the bills are mailed. Considering that the bills measure water for a full

thirty days prior to billing, customers actually have use of utilities for sixty days before any payment becomes delinquent.

Fully 10% of the homes in Ransom Canyon are delinquent with their payments. This is on a regular basis. Unfortunately, some residents don't pay their bill until the employees arrive on their doorstep to turn their water off.

If you use an internet bank check system, be sure to give the mail at least a week to deliver a paper bill.

Night deposits are gathered every working day. For security reasons we have no mail delivery on Saturday. Also, mail to City Hall does not arrive until late in the afternoon, so Monday mail is usually posted on Tuesday. In short, don't wait till the last minute to pay your bill!

TRAFFIC REPORT

CHIEF WAYNE RAWLS

During the last sixty days, there have been three traffic accidents reported on Ransom Road. Ransom Road is the road coming into the Canyon from East 50th Street, also known as the "Front Gate Road". The accidents did not result in serious injury to the drivers, however damage to the vehicles and the trees was substantial. The road does not have curbs and gutters, and the trees planted along both sides of the road do not allow drivers very much time to take defensive action should their vehicle leave the pavement. New retail development in the area

may also be causing some distractions. Please slow down and be observant of increased vehicle traffic from the East Side of the road.

As you may have noticed, there are new signs on the dam stating "Watch for ice on roadway." After the recent rains, we had water flowing over the road on a cold morning. Even though the flowing water did not freeze, the ramps at the East and West ends of the dam did freeze. We observed several vehicles slip and slide as they turned onto East Lake Shore Drive. As we continue to experience freez-



ing temperatures, please be observant of any wet spots on the road as you drive.

FREE RANGE PUPS

One of the first ordinances in Ransom Canyon required that dogs must be confined or on a leash.

The most recent "wild animal ordinance" says that if the health officer determines that the dog is a danger, the officer can pick the dog up and confine it if the owner does not.

Older Ransom Canyon residents enjoy walking their dogs, but a tussle between their pet and an unleashed dog could pose a real danger. Older people fall easily, especially if they are thrown off balance in the middle of a dog fight.

Please keep a close eye on your pets. Thanks



SMOOTH MOVE AT THE SEWER PLANT

The new sewer plant is on line! Valentines Day greeted the inauguration of this new administration.

The plant contents were pumped in separate sections, so the digesting process was not interrupted. All of the "bugs" lived, and the transfer of the mix was done in an orderly fashion.

The final bill is in and we are happy to report that it came in

on budget. The original bid was \$765,623. The final bill was \$756,971.

Only \$14,600 in change orders were issued throughout the process.

The old sewer plant has three feet of sludge in the bottom of the chambers. This sludge will need to be pumped out so the plant can be examined for needed repairs. Harold Needham commented that



there were remnants of the "meth lab" incident still in the mixture.

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

March 2 , 1836 is Texas Independence Day. William Barret Travis and almost two hundred other defenders found themselves surrounded at the Alamo Mission in San Antonio in late February of 1836. Refusing to surrender, they held off the invading armies of Mexican Dictator Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna for almost two weeks.

On March 6, the courageous Texans were overrun and slaughtered by well over 2000 Mexicans. The resulting delay of Santa Anna's eastward movement gave other Texans more time to organize, both politically and militarily, and to ultimately defeat and capture Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto, fought April 21, 1836.

The letter below was written by Travis soon after the Mexicans first appeared in the area around San Antonio. It is often referenced as a supreme example of the virtues of courage and self-sacrifice.



TRAVIS' APPEAL FOR AID AT THE ALAMO (24 FEBRUARY 1836)

Commandancy of the Alamo

Bexar, Fby. 24th, 1836

To the People of Texas & all Americans in the world,
Fellow Citizens & Compatriots

I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise the garrison are to be put to the sword if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender nor retreat.

Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism, & of everything dear to the American with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country.

Victory or Death
William Barret Travis
Lt. Col. Comdt.