

# RANSOM CANYON CITY NEWS

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**March City Council Action**

- Vacation policy for new employees
- Roofs going back to 40 years
- Water storage complicated decisions require work sessions
- Junk Vehicle Ordinance says 30 days on private property, 24 hours on public property.
- Expected Buffalo Lake Revenue change with 10% fall in flow meter calculations.
- Exception taken to nepotism policy
- Trial held in Ransom Canyon Municipal Court

## NO CONTEST

Barring unforeseen circumstances, there will be no election in Ransom Canyon this year.

There were three positions open, and three men stepped forward to serve.

Monday the 15th was the deadline for applications to be included on the ballot.

An application was received Wednesday the 17th, but it was declared disqualified because it was not turned in on time.

The deadline for a write-in candidate to declare intent to run was Monday, March 22. No declaration was received at City Hall.

So, the three city council candidates this year are incumbent Dick Hulslander, former councilmember Earl Starks and newcomer Ron Cox.

The positions that were up for election were Dick Hulslander, Leon Whetzel and Glen Robertson.

Leon and Glen did not file for reelection.



Their terms end May 11, 2004 and the city thanks them for their service.

Earl and Sue Starks live on South Lake Shore Drive. Dick and Carol Hulslander also live on South Lake Shore Drive. Ron and Alice Cox live on North Rim Road.

The election was ordered in February, but Texas law provides for cancellation of the

election if there is no contest. The city will save \$1,000 by not holding an election.

It is always pleasant to work with election Judge Kevin Carlson, but Judge Carlson recognizes the value of an election dollar saved.

## FRESH WATER OPTIONS WORK SESSIONS

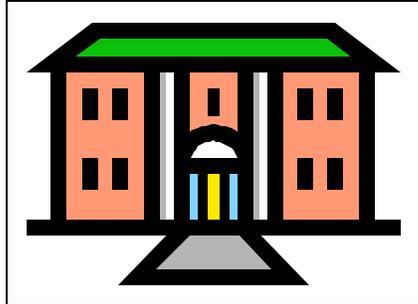
Potable water and fire fighting hydraulic engineering needs is on the agenda for a March 25 work session at city hall. The Fire Department will be there to offer input into the plans for the elevated water storage tanks and the future water demands for the ex-

pected growth of the town, and for emergency water events. Hugo Reed enlisted the aid of Dallas engineers Half and Associates to study and understand the bi-level water system and the confusing computer model results that Hugo Reed was reading.

Water is purchased from Lubbock, and there are booster pumps to insure pressure during seasonal demands. There are many variables and options, and many differences of opinions. The meeting is at City Hall at 7:00 PM.

## BRISK BUILDING BUSINESS

Combination smoke detectors that are required in Ordinance number 189 are not available, so the committee is recommending to the council that the city go by the smoke alarm regulations in the Inter-



Caption describing picture or graphic.

national Building Code. The Committee also is recommending to the council that Ordinance number 182 that calls for a 50-year roof be changed to require a 40 year roof. The committee finds that

the benefit gained by the increased warranty is not justified by the increased expense to the homeowner.

The committee also is making a procedural change. Their agenda will be posted on Wednesday prior to the second and fourth Monday, which is their meeting time. If no plans are received for

review by noon on Wednesday, no agenda will be issued, and there will be no meeting.

All construction requires a permit. No-fee permits are issued for small landscape projects, for 6' fence projects and for storage buildings under 200 square feet. These items do not require inspections, but must be described and declared via permit.

The committee gave preliminary approval for a new plat of Horseshoe Hill, preliminary dirt preparation for a home site on top of Horseshoe Hill, a new home on Foothill Drive, and an arbor for a Garden Home on Arapaho.

*Interviewing now for two jobs at Ransom Canyon.*

*Great jobs for a great town. EOE*

## RANSOM CANYON JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Wanted to add to existing staff: Receptionist with flex-time capabilities for Ransom Canyon City Hall.

This is an ideal job for a Ransom Canyon resident wanting part-time employment. High School Diploma, and basic spelling, writing and computer skills are required. This job will involve extensive contact

with the public, taking utility and property tax payments, and taking messages. Mail or e-mail resume to City Hall. Budgeted 20-35 hours per week @ \$6.25 per hour.

Ransom Canyon is a no-smoking environment.

General operations laborer needed to help with water,

sewer, operations and Roads and Grounds departments. Budgeted 30 hours per week at 7.25 per hour. Work hours are normal hours of operation, three to four days per week. Must have drivers license. Ability to operate heavy equipment is a plus. Pick up application at City Hall.

## PASSAGES

David Williams stopped by last week to report that his old friend and companion, Mo, died March 7. Mo was 27 years old. He foaled May 25, 1977. Mo was a handsome Bay. He stood 17 hands high and carried himself with grace and aplomb. David and Mo (More and More Leo) were seen often riding in Ransom Canyon in the 90's. Mo was an accomplished western stepper., skilled in western

pleasure and dressage. There was an old hitching rail

in front of the old city hall, but Mo never needed it. When the new City Hall was built, an honorary rail was installed, and was painted yellow.

Mo's career took him from the Williams to Turf Therapy, where he gently carried the handicapped and was greatly loved by all who knew this great horse. We extend our condolences to the Williams and take note of passages of our history.

## NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

What will \$20,000 buy? It will buy a new accounting system, new water billing system, new General Ledger, new check writing system, new A/P accounting program and new cash collections, 24 hour tech support, new computers to run the programs, and teachers to teach it all.

The week of March 8-12 saw some intense learning at City Hall as INCODE installed their program here at Ransom Canyon. Melissa Verett and Linda Williams spent many hours absorbing a boat load of information.

The end product has benefits that would be appreciated by

many small towns in Texas that have experienced book-keeping snafus or embezzlement in recent years. The new system has many reports for the city council, including daily checks and balances that detail who has done what, and when. Employee theft in small cities, (and school districts) happens. Good accounting systems help nail the events and the thieves.

Besides this obvious benefit, the new system reorganized city account revenues, expenses and assets, receivables and payables.

GASB 34 (Governmental

Accounting Standards Board ) requires city-wide depreciated assets this year, and this new system will make this easier to do. It will also make budgeting easier.

Thanks to everyone for their patience when they got the answering service instead of a staff member on the telephone during this time period. Stenocall offered a needed telephone answering solution. We apologize for any inconvenience. Stenocall relays messages via e-mail quickly, and we return calls as soon as we can.

Progress....

## POLYCARD MANNERS

Caprock Waste just delivered fifty new polycarts. If you have been nursing along a polycart with a broken wheel or bad lid, now is the time to call City Hall and request a change over.

Also, it bears mention that it is ill mannered to use a polycart that is not your own. Under extreme circumstances, if

you must, at least haul the polycart to the curb so the garbage people will know to pick it up. Speaking of garbage pick up, if you have problems, call City Hall, do not call Caprock Waste directly. City Hall will come nearer to resolving your problem, and we need to know about the issue anyway.

With curb side pick up our residents have a choice to polycart or to bag their trash. If you do polycart, please bag your trash anyway to keep it from blowing. The truck mechanism lifts the trash to the top of the truck, and trash that is not bagged will certainly blow away. Your help is appreciated.

*PLEASE,  
PLEEEZE  
PLEEEZE BAG  
YOUR TRASH!*

## TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BLASTS PERRY

Texas Municipal League is a powerful lobby for cities in the Texas State Legislature, and because they also insure Ransom Canyon, they keep us informed on State issues.

TML blasted Governor Rick Perry for his plan to 1.cap property tax revenues, 2. place a 3 % cap on annual increases in property tax revenue, and 3. require voter approval of tax revenue increases. TML explains that

the states that have these caps also have STATE FINANCIAL AID. This is true for Montana, Nevada, Michigan and Colorado, Idaho, Massachusetts, Washington and South Dakota. Texas cities have no state financial aid. Consider: Ransom Canyon has no property tax for commercial business. Ransom Canyon also has no sales tax, no hotel-motel tax., no restaurant tax. There is no revenue in Ran-

som Canyon except property tax and water and sewer sales. The Governor's plan would require sales price disclosure. Finally, the proposed make-up of the Appraisal Board would change from an elected body. The Governor calls for it to be: The county judge, the mayor of the largest city, the mayor of another city selected by all other cities, the president of the largest school board and the county tax assessor-collector.



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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



## PARK CHAMPION NEEDED

Jones- Warner Park began in 1981 with a rag-tag bunch of city parents who needed a place for their children to play.

The playa lake in front of city hall had a spot on the south side that mostly stayed dry in flood season, so that was the logical place to start.

The park limped along for years until the original equipment rotted and a new set of parents formed the Parks and Playground Committee, sold Christmas Ornaments and gathered donations and raised enough money to purchase and install the playground equipment, a few trees and a drip irrigation system.

The city does not own the park, but the city mows it. It is covered with goat heads even through Harold applies pre-



Reid and Jonelle Warner dig post holes for the original playground equipment at Jones Warner Park in Ransom Canyon. (1981 file photo)

emergent and some fertilizer. The Property Owners Association owns the park. It is actually heavily used. It also hosts the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Currently, thanks to the drought, the park is in dire condition. There is very little grass.

Vehicle tire tracks can be

seen all over the grounds on Monday mornings. A new road has been cut behind the mail boxes, through the only existing grove of trees.

In short, a champion to improve the park is needed. If you can help, call a city council member or a POA member. Thanks in advance.