

RANSOM CANYON CITY NEWS

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May City Council Meeting

- Incode migration is on schedule for GL and Utility Systems.
- Budget Amendment approved.
- Third Policeman approved
- Subdivision Committee Reactivated to study City Planning Issues.
- City Attorney declares water contract drought contingency measures are binding on Ransom Canyon, also.
- No resolution yet for Cingular Wireless billing issues.

XERISCAPING ON TAP

The future of water in Ransom Canyon is tied to rainfall and drought in West Texas. More specifically, it is tied to the City of Lubbock, and the regulations about the use of water that the City of Lubbock deems necessary.

The City of Lubbock just passed a new irrigation ordinance. According to the contract that Ransom Canyon signed with the City of Lubbock providing for the purchase of all of Ransom Canyon's drinking water, Ransom Canyon must comply with this new law in the same way that the citizens of Lubbock must comply.

The point is to conserve a natural resource. Homeowners are encouraged to plan with conservation in mind. Choosing drought tolerant plants is made easier with a visit to the local nursery for suggestions.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin has a great website.

Native plants are naturally



Bluebonnets courtesy Lady Bird Johnson's Wildflower Center in Austin file photo.

drought tolerant. Other drought tolerant plants from around the world can help round out personal choices that will provide shade, color and unexpected beauty.

Several homes in Ransom Canyon already sport native wildflowers, along with flowering desert willows, butterfly

shrubs, Spanish broom and Dusty Miller.

The new rules are outlined on page four. Lubbock's web site has the new ordinance in detail. The homes that have "gone native" are beautiful. Thanks to all who are trying to make this transition pleasant for everyone.

BUDGET AMENDMENT USHERS IN NEW ERA FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

The City Council ended a year-long debate last month with a unanimous vote to hire a third police officer and to buy a third police vehicle.

This action was taken as part of a routine budget amendment agenda item.

The sitting city council budgeted in October for this position, but delayed action on actual staffing, pending word from the Cops-Fast Grant Award, which was eventually denied. The budget amendment called for funding the position without

the help of the grant. The actual 03-04 impact will be less than \$10K.

This job will increase the police presence on the streets, and will also relieve Wayne and James from the 24-7 on-call demand.

THE LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

The Wildflower Center is a botanical garden in Austin, Texas, dedicated to native plants. Their vision for the future is to preserve and restore the natural beauty and biological richness of North



From the Wildflower web site

America by inspiring people to love the land. They want people to think differently about the plants around them. Their philosophy was voiced by former First Lady Lady Bird Johnson and actress Helen Hayes:

☞To honor and respect the natural beauty and biological heritage of each region of the country.

☞To commit to conserving and restoring wildflowers, native plants and the biological communities on which they depend.

☞To encourage native flora through artful, naturalistic plantings in public, private,

urban and suburban landscapes.

☞To use native plantings with regionally appropriate architecture to integrate the human community into the natural world in a responsible and respectful manner.

☞To recognize that the health and well-being of human communities is directly related to the health of the land which sustains human life.

...Taken from the Wildflower Center web site..

www.wildflower.org

SLOW DOWN

WATCH

Children are moving about in the city.

CHILDREN LOOSE ON THE CANYON

Drivers are cautioned to slow down and watch carefully for children. They are out of school and they are loose on the Canyon.

Children go to and from the lake, the pool, the library, the park, the meadows, and the neighborhood ball game. They travel in and on the city streets.

As the town has developed and the empty lots have been filled, so has the play area for our children. There are no sidewalks, so the only way for children to get from one place to another is in the city streets.

Watch out for them.
Slow down.

Take the curves slower.

The streets are narrow. There is barely room for parking and traffic both.

Adding mobile children to the mix is very dangerous. Watch for them carefully and cautiously.

Mayor Robert England

MOSQUITO ROUTINE

Ransom Canyon has contracted with Everett Flying Service to spray for mosquitoes. This is the same company that did the spraying last year.

This service is likely to continue throughout the summer, so here are some things to watch for.

The plane will fly as close to the ground as the FAA law will permit. This is made more

difficult because Ransom is a bi-level city. The drop of 100 feet to the bottom of the canyon demands a skilled pilot.

He will spray only on calm mornings or very calm evenings.

Although he has been on call to spray since the second week of May, the windy weather has not permitted.

If you walk early in the morning, be alert that if it is calm,

spraying may take place. We have a list of residents that we try to call prior to spraying, but the jobs always are subject to weather delays.

The county helps somewhat with a routine check and spot spraying for troubled areas.

Watch your yards for standing water, and take care not to create a special breeding ground for these pests. Thanks for your cooperation in this

LIBRARY SET FOR BUSY SUMMER

Parents and Grandparents, make plans for Saturdays, June 19 through July 17.

Readers K-6 have a marvelous opportunity this summer to participate in "Color Your World" at the Ransom Canyon Children's Library.

Miss Kim is planning for a busy summer reading club with lots of new books to while away the summer hours, but Saturdays are going to be special.

There will be guest artists, T-shirt tie dyeing, the library float for the July 3 Parade in Ransom Canyon, and science spectrum will be out again this year with some of their

more exotic animals.

And there will be books, books, books.

The library has some movies that can be checked out, some books on tape, and a few books that grown ups will enjoy, also.

The Ransom Canyon Library is used heavily during the school year because Kim and the Library Board stock many books that the students use for credit reading in the Accelerated reading program.

The library serves students from both Roosevelt and Slaton Schools.



Tie-dyed T-shirts from the 60's!

Summertime readers visit from all over, not just from Lubbock County. Visitors are welcome.

Call the library for more information.

HEADS UP FOR SNAKES

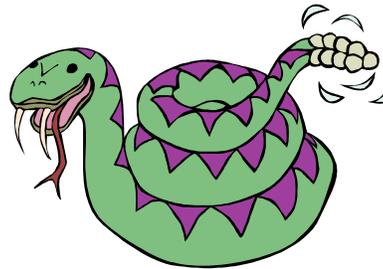
Watch out for snakes. They are out, they are hunting the bugs that hunt the shade and the water, and they are not to be messed with!

These critters live in the rocky terrain that serves as bedrock for Ransom Canyon. They were here, first. They don't give ground willingly.

Watch out for your animals.

Watch out when you are mowing and gardening.

Watch out for your children!



A "Snake in the grass" can prove deadly for pets and heartbreaking for pet owners.

GRASS CLIPPINGS AND GARBAGE

Garbage Hauling Fees always climb in the summertime. No one single factor is the cause, but all factors combined affect the quality of our curb side pick up, and raise some concern about expense.

There are some things you can do.

☞ Do not put grass clippings in the polycarts. The grass is wet, it sets up like cement in the

bottom the carts, and will not come out when the polycart is lifted, IF it can be lifted.

☞ Bring the grass clippings to the brush chipping and recycle area by the dumpsters. Do not leave your clippings in plastic bags. Our staff just has to cut open the bags and empty them before the shredder can do its work.

☞ Do bag trash that belongs in the polycarts. Otherwise it will blow away when the top loading trucks raise the cart and the lid flies open.

☞ Do not put everything you can in the polycart. Hauling expense for the open top container is calculated based on weight, plus an extra \$110 per container hauling fee.

Town of Ransom Canyon
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Town of Ransom Canyon Elected Officers.

The 2004-2005 City Council will be sworn in at the June 8, 2004 City Council Meeting:

Ransom Canyon bids farewell to Glen Robertson, who has served for two years as an alderman, one year as mayor Pro-Tem; and also to Leon Whetzel. Leon served the Canyon as Mayor from 1999 - 2001, and has served as Alderman since that term. We thank both men for their service.

The new City Council will be:

- ?? Mayor Robert Englund
- ?? Alderman David Peterson
- ?? Alderman Inez Speed
- ?? Alderman Richard Hulslander
- ?? Alderman Earl Starks
- ?? Alderman Ron Cox

City Council meetings are held at # 1 Ridge Road on the second Tuesday.



"The environment is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest. It is the one thing that all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become..." Lady Bird Johnson, 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS OF IRRIGATION WATER RUN OFF ORDINANCE

- ?? These are the highlights of the new regulations:
- ?? Effective May 15, 2004
- ?? An irrigation device is any manually operated or automated sprinkler, sprinkler head, hose, faucet or any other device capable of irrigating, in whole or part, landscapes or lawns.
- ?? Establishes times and conditions for irrigation as follows:
 - ? During Daylight Savings Time, from 6:00 pm to 10:am.
 - ? Not during freezing weather. (35 degrees.)
 - ? Not during rainfall (1/4" rain in 24 hours.
 - ? Variances for testing of new irrigation systems, new plants, subsurface or soaker hose systems, or manually attended hose irrigation.
- ?? It establishes how an irrigation system should be installed and used for optimum watering efficiency.
 - ? Designed so they won't operate during freezing weather or rainfall or create a hazard to vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
 - ? Spray or rotary sprinkler heads within landscaped areas 4 feet in width or less that are adjacent to public rights-of-way or impervious areas that drain to public rights-of-way are not allowed.
 - ? Operation outside the manufacturer's recommended pressure range is not allowed.
 - ? Designed so they do not intentionally spray onto non-landscaped or non-turn areas.
- ?? Commercial entities that install irrigation systems after May 15, 2004 are required to have a separate irrigation meter, a rain sensor and freeze sensor.
- ?? Allows citizens who feel they cannot comply with ordinance to appeal to a newly established Water Board of Appeals.