



# COUPLAND HERALD

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## Scott Ging Hosts Agriculture Sec. Perdue, Sen. Cornyn, Rep. Carter, Agriculture Organization Representatives

On July 16, a veritable Who’s Who in agriculture and government gathered at Scott Ging’s Ging Cattle Company. The impetus for the gathering was a visit by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to Texas to hear from farmers and ranchers how they have been affected by the pandemic and their ideas about the role of the federal government.

Other notables at the meeting were Senator John Cornyn, Congressman John Carter, and Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller. Also attending were representatives from the Texas Farm Bureau, Plains Cotton Growers, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, and Southwest Council of Agribusiness. The meeting was organized by Regan Beck, the director of Government Affairs for the Texas Farm Bureau.

Scott’s business has been affected by the pandemic, while he and other farmers and ranchers continue to work to provide food and fiber to the country. The federal government has provided financial support to farmers, but the Texas Farm Bureau and others believe that farmers will need more funding.

Scott was quoted as saying the finances and other unknowns about the market keep him up at night. “We were selling cattle in January for a good price and now they’re at the bottom,” he said. He added that despite the challenges that agriculture producers face in the days ahead, people should not worry about agriculture products making it to grocery stores and dinner tables. Scott continued, “I’m curious to see how long this plays out and how long we can survive. But we’re resilient, we’re tough, we’re fighters, and we’ll keep farming and feeding people.”



(Continued on page 2)

Left to right, Scott Ging visits with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, Senator John Cornyn, and Congressman John Carter.

Photo courtesy of Scott Ging

## A Look at Zoning--No Manufactured Homes In Old Town Coupland--By Barbara Piper, Mayor Pro Tem

The City of Coupland passed a Zoning Ordinance in April of 2019 and amended the Ordinance on October 10, 2019. The Zoning Ordinance is divided into specific Districts within the City limits of Coupland. All of the information relating to this Ordinance can be found on the City’s website along with the map showing each District.

**Manufactured home** means a structure constructed on or after June 15, 1976, according to the rules of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. **Mobile home** means a structure that was constructed before June 15, 1976. **Mobile homes are prohibited within the City.**

(Continued on page 13)



Above, discussion in the Ging "lake house." Closest to camera, Sec. Perdue and Sen. Cornyn.

Below, Senator Cornyn and Congressman Carter. Below right, Sec. of Agriculture Sonny Perdue visits with Calvin Ging and JoAnn and Scott Ging.

Photos courtesy of Scott Ging



(Continued from page 1)

Cornyn and Carter will take feedback from the farmers to Washington as another round of relief money is being planned. "This kind of feedback from our ag sector here and our producers here in Texas is invaluable," Cornyn said.



## Coupland City News--By Mayor Jack Piper

City Council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. in the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department Meeting Room. We have met in the Fellowship Hall of St. Peters Church for the past two months because of COVID-19 and the Executive Order by Gov. Abbott stating the mandatory wearing of masks plus the ability for social distancing. Please see the City of Coupland Website at [cityof-couplandtx.us](http://cityof-couplandtx.us) for copies of the Agendas and Minutes of Council meetings. Feedback is always welcomed.

The following is a list of the current Council members along with their term expiration date. Council members all serve two-year terms:

- Mayor: Jack Piper, Nov. 2021
- Alderwoman, at large: Karen Marosko, Nov. 2021
- Alderwoman, at large: Susan Garry, Nov. 2021
- Alderwoman, at large: Barbara Piper, Nov. 2020
- Alderwoman, at large: Sarah Torluemke, Nov. 2020
- Alderman, at large: John Roulston-Bates, Nov. 2020

Since the last *Herald* was published, the following items were either discussed or passed by the City Council.

1. The City Council will begin work on the City Budget for the 2020 – 2021 budget year. Included in the proposed Budget will be an amount for surveying the alleyways in Coupland. Work will be completed, presented, and voted on during the September meeting.
2. The Concept Plan for the Angel Subdivision (located at the SE corner of FM 1466 & CR 460) was submitted to the City Council for consideration during the July Council meeting.

Following a brief discussion, Council voted to approve the Plan and it will proceed to finalization.

The City Council ceased discussion and work on the proposed Nuisance Ordinance due to COVID-19. Council has now scheduled work sessions to begin additional work which will ultimately be the consideration of a Nuisance Ordinance for the City. The Nuisance Ordinance will provide a pathway for the City to enforce the removal of trash and debris along with the ability to notify and levy fines for junk vehicles.

The City has scheduled Clean-up Day for August 15. There will be three 30-yard dumpsters which will be placed just west of the railroad tracks. Times will be 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. or until full. Notices will be posted which will list *items* that are **acceptable and non-acceptable**. In order for the City to continue with this endeavor on an annual basis, we are asking that people adhere to the list of items accepted. **PLEASE NOTE THAT TIRES ARE NOT ACCEPTED AND IF DEPOSITED AT THE DUMPSTER SITE, THE CITY WILL HAVE TO PAY TO HAVE THEM REMOVED.**

If you have comments, questions, or would like to have an agenda item added for discussion at the next Council meeting, please notify one of your Council members or me at 512-557-8159 or [mayor@cityofcouplandtx.us](mailto:mayor@cityofcouplandtx.us).

## National Night Out Cancelled

By Barbara Piper

COVID-19 has caused the Civic Organization to cancel the annual event held the first Tuesday of August. National Night Out over the years grew from twenty-four people to more than sixty people in attendance. It has been a great way to connect or reconnect with neighbors and share events that have occurred throughout the year. We always appreciate

(Continued on page 8)

## President's Message--By Susan Schmidt, Coupland Civic Organization President

Happy dog days of summer!

Have you ever wondered where that expression originated? I did. So, I did what I always do--google it. This saying has been around since the Greek and Roman times. "The 'dog days' occurred around the day when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun in late July. They referred to these days as the hottest time of the year, a period that could bring fever, or even catastrophe." The

source is National Geographic, July 10, 2015. Sirius is called the Dog Star because it is part of the constellation Canis Major, Latin for "the greater dog."

My May column was difficult to write, and this column is proving to be an effort as well. I was hoping COVID-19 would be disappearing and life would get back to normal. Unfortunately, it has spread tremendously across Texas. I know people are getting tired of being stuck at home, not being able to go to the beach, gym, swimming pool, regular shopping, and most of all, not being able to be with family. Usually, the CCO Board Members are busy getting ready for National Night Out, Choo Choo Fest, and Trunk or Treat, while celebrating another successful golf tournament. Such is not the case. We have cancelled all CCO sponsored events for the rest of the year, for everyone's safety. Hopefully, next year we will be able to proceed in a somewhat normal way.

Until our next column, I urge every one of you to be safe. Wear a mask (there are so many cute ones out there) and keep social distancing. This takes just an exceedingly small effort on everyone's part to keep other people safe.

Stay cool. Stay safe.

*Susan Schmidt*



After more than 10 years on the Board of Directors, and after nearly 5 years as President of the Board, my time with the CWSC has come to an end. New members of our community are getting involved, and that's a good thing. Since the CWSC is a non-profit organization that's managed by volunteers in our community, the continued stability of our wastewater system is dependent on the tireless efforts of these volunteers.

During my time as a member of the Board, I like to think my votes were sensible

*(Continued on page 13)*

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## St. Peter's Church News

*(Editor's Note: While Pastor Martin has been on sabbatical, Pastor Brett Hart has been filling in for him. Pastor Brett has written the following commentary for the Herald. By the time you read this, Pastor Martin will have returned.)*

We seem to be living through extraordinary and unprecedented times. I wonder how it will all turn out--for my family, for my neighbors, and for St. Peter's--my spiritual community. But it is our turn to step up to the challenge of negotiating difficult times with a firm hand and good humor. For, of course, this is hardly the first season of challenge the community of St. Peter's has passed through.

I ran across a copy of *A City on a Hill: a Story of a Community, a Church, a People* written by Jewel Johnson and printed in 1974. To read the accounts of the lives of those who came before us, who built the church and the town around it, who weathered much and yet endured, was inspiring.

The Civil War was difficult for the Coupland area with neighbor divided against neighbor over the issue of secession. Williamson County was one of just a few that voted against secession while the state voted overwhelmingly for it. Regular church services were suspended periodically through much of 1918 and 1919 due to the Spanish Flu epidemic. The church experienced the threat of persecution from the surrounding community because services then were being conducted in German.

Beginning in 1925 a series of droughts hit the area and it was said that across all the farms around Coupland "not a blade of grass nor a stalk of cotton" could be found. Through a second world war, through the racial tensions of the 60's, through the tensions surrounding the war in Vietnam, the community of St. Peter's pressed on.

Don't lose hope and don't give in to the temptation and pressure of division. I'll end with Rev. Johnson's words, "... this is a story that has no conclusion, no end. The people who started it all have long since moved on, but others have stepped in to take their places to express their oneness in Christ, to make more effective their common witness in Him, and to serve His kingdom in the world."

It has been a pleasure to keep the seat warm for Pastor Martin, though, when I agreed to fill in, I didn't know that a global pandemic was on the agenda! Thank you for all your kind words and encouragements.

**Senior Citizens Luncheons are cancelled** until further notice.

*Lois Schmidt & Sandra Weruli*, Co-Chairs

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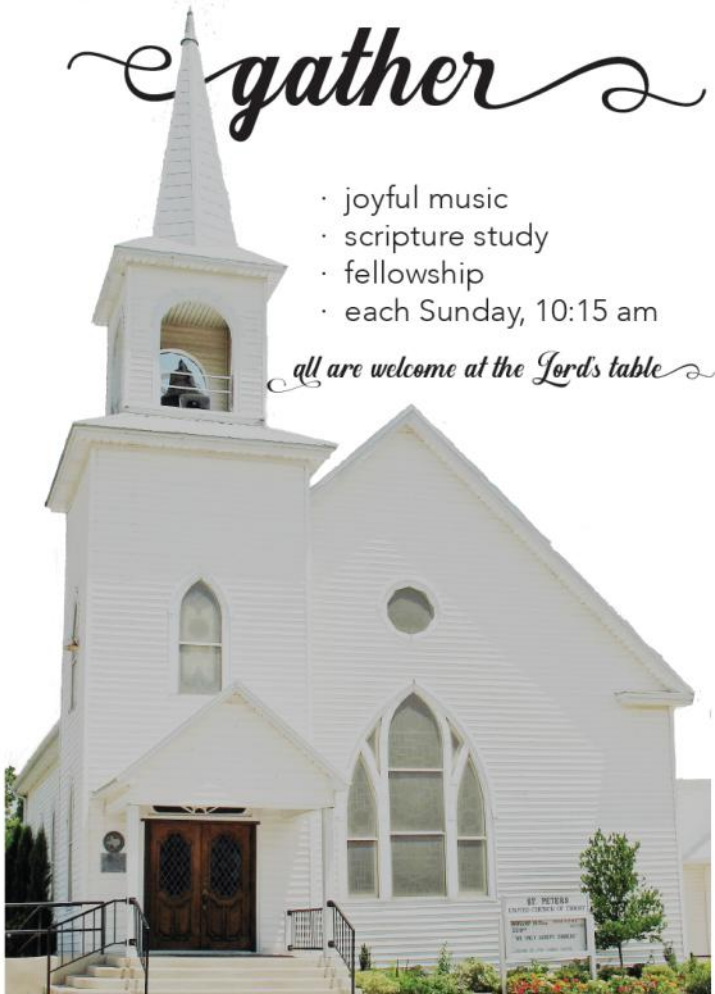
Tuesdays, 3-7, Pflugerville Pfarmers' Market, Green Red Barn (FB: Pflugerville Pfarmers Market)

Thursdays, 5-8, Elgin Farmers' Market, Veterans Memorial Park (FB: Elgin Texas Farmers' Market)

Saturdays, 9-1, Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline, Lakeline Mall in NW Austin (FB: Texas Farmers' Market at Lakeline)

Sundays, 10-2, Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller, Mueller Airport Hangar Complex in East Central Austin (FB: Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller)

At all markets, we encourage pre-ordering and payment via credit card to minimize your time at the market. Call us at 512-856-0192 to place your order. Orders should be placed at least a day before the market. To see our products (or to order online), check our website at [www.yeguacreekfarms.com](http://www.yeguacreekfarms.com). We also have fresh cuttings of our chemical-free hay. Square bales are \$8 each and round bales are \$80. Call for pick up appointments and to discuss limited delivery options.



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Martin Garrison, Pastor



### In Memory of Rev. Jewel R. Johnson August 24, 1926 – July 2, 2020

Our beloved Pastor Emeritus Jewel Johnson has passed away. He served St. Peter's for four years beginning in 1955 and then another 13 years beginning in 1968. He also wrote a history of Coupland--*A City on a Hill: a Story of a Community, a Church, a People*. Under the circumstances, the family held a small private memorial service. A memorial tribute is on YouTube, Jewel Johnson 1926/2020.

## Services Suspended Again At St. Peter's Church of Coupland

Worship services resumed at St. Peter's Church in June with social distancing, but the church council voted to suspend services again the first of July due to rapidly rising cases of COVID-19. Please check the church website at [www.CouplandChurch.org](http://www.CouplandChurch.org) for the latest updates.

## Steve Hansen at Sixth Street Printing-- Printer Extraordinaire

By Susan Garry

The Coupland Civic Organization and its publication the *Coupland Herald* wish to thank Steve Hansen, Sixth Street Printing, for his many years of doing a wonderful and conscientious job of printing the *Herald*. Steve has been printing the *Herald* since 2007.

He not only prints the *Herald* but also over the years he has made many helpful suggestions for improving the printing quality. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty to personally help in making the *Herald*, both the type and the pictures, look as good as possible for a small volunteer community newsletter.

He is personally involved with each printing job, whether large or small. He has maintained many long-time customers over the years as well as making new converts with his business approach, which is both friendly and professional. He has managed to keep the presses rolling during this stressful time for business, and we want Steve to know how much we appreciate him.

Steve has offered offset and digital printing and binding services for over 30 years. If you ever need printing, we highly recommend Sixth Street Printing, 1010 East Sixth Street, Austin, 512-322-9651, [mail@sixthstreetprinting.com](mailto:mail@sixthstreetprinting.com), with free customer parking behind the shop.

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# Coupland VFD Continues To Meet the Current Challenges

By John Roulston-Bates, Assistant Fire Chief

**“When the going gets tough, the tough reinvent.”**

In the day-to-day operation of a volunteer fire department there’s an unending list of work to be done . . . recruitment, fund raising, training, managing the myriad personalities, maintenance, accounting, and so on and so forth. All of that alongside the core job of responding to calls for service and writing the subsequent reports.

Then a generational challenge comes along, like COVID-19. Suddenly you’re faced with how you continue to safely provide service to a district of around 2,000 residents and thousands more in our extended auto-aid area, with an entirely volunteer crew of firefighters and EMTs, in the middle of a pandemic, whilst protecting the volunteers and their families.

The answer is: Adapt, refocus, and change how you behave. Whether that is digesting new protocols from Williamson County EMS, moving meetings to video conferences, or wearing masks at all times on calls or while working at the station.

This situation has also brought home just how remarkable our members are. They continue to show up, as volunteers, to serve their community. Like most organizations, fire departments included, we’ve had people out of service due to COVID, or in isolation because of possible exposures to COVID. We have a strict “If you’re sick, stay home” policy which has been successful in protecting our team and our community, though it doesn’t make it any easier to ensure we have the staffing we need.

Despite the challenges, we’ve maintained the ability to safely respond to calls throughout this pandemic so far.

We are now seeing an increase in the number of calls we’re receiving, especially medical calls. In an average month we receive around 34 calls for service; in June we received 47, of which 25 were medicals. We now frequently receive calls of a type requiring full medical PPE, and calls for “Flu Like Illness” have become a common occurrence.

We’ve provided staff to work seven shifts at nursing homes and public testing sites in the county, doing what we can to ensure our most vulnerable residents get the help they need.

We are your friends and neighbors, and we’re seeing this firsthand. We strongly encourage everyone to follow the state-wide mask order. Nobody enjoys wearing a mask and they’re not a cast iron guarantee of protection, but masks do help reduce the spread of this disease and that is something we can all do to support our community. Protect yourself, protect your neighbors.

I have no doubt that August will be another difficult month, but we’re hopeful that if everyone does their part by wearing masks in public places, not touching their faces, and frequently washing their hands, we can start to turn this around.

I want to say thank you to all our volunteer firefighters for their continued dedication, and to Williamson County ESD#10 for ensuring we have the protective equipment we need. I’d also like to say how fortunate we are to have the Williamson County EMS team to work with; they’re a real blessing to our community.

Take care, make the most of your summer safely, and be kind to one another.



Assistant Chief John Roulston-Bates and Firefighter/EMT Michelle Long working at a COVID testing site. Photo courtesy Coupland Volunteer Fire Department

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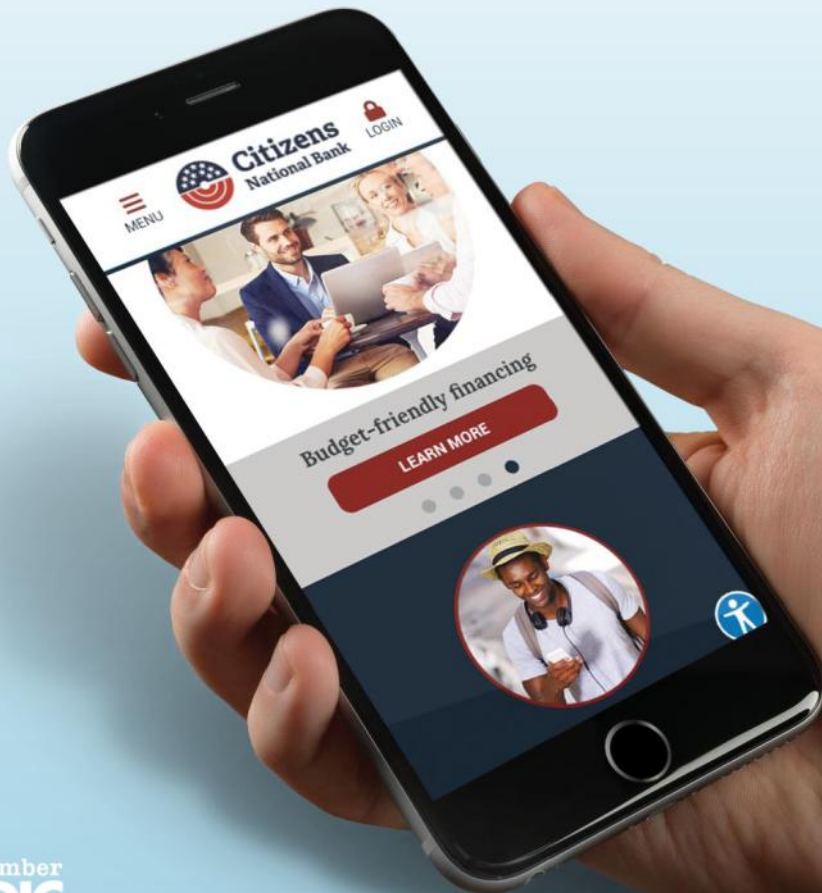
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## Type Church--Pastor Home After Long Family Trip, Plans New Projects

By Charlene Hanson Jordan

Type Church's Pastor Terrence Kennedy and his wife Rachel drove more than 3,500 miles in one week in June. Rachel's mother died on June 13, and the next day they left on the long road to New Jersey.

Pastor Terry wrote: "We made the drive to New Jersey where I had the honor of memorializing my mother-in-law, Rose Roman. The drive began Sunday after church around 2 p.m. We made it to Little Rock. Next day we traveled to Virginia staying overnight, and then drove to Bayville, New Jersey, on the Jersey Shore."

Rachel's mother Rose Roman was 96, a loved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She retired as a quality-control inspector from Canrad-Hanovia in Newark, a manufacturer of high-intensity lighting equipment. She inspected the guidance lights used on military missiles.

Pastor Terry continued: "We made it home in two days. Our oldest granddaughter Carly, soon to be 13, traveled with us and it was good to be able to spend time with her. It was a long drive, but God went before us."

"As to church services," he explained, "it's difficult because of this COVID curse. Currently my messages are focusing on Genesis 1-2. The series is called 'Don't Check Your Brain at the Door.' People can view previous messages on our Type Church Facebook page. In the future, I'll be preaching through 1 Peter."

Pastor Terry added, "When COVID is 'over' my hope is we will focus on developing a strong kid's ministry. We also would love for folks who have the ability to play musical instruments to join our church, adding to our worship."

He noted, "We are currently sitting in alternate rows with people using their own masks and hand sanitizer."

Type Church is east of Coupland at 1200 County Road 466. Email [twk3032@gmail.com](mailto:twk3032@gmail.com) or call 512-599-7761.

## Clean-Up Day, Saturday, August 15

Clean-Up Day will be August 15 by the railroad tracks in downtown Coupland. Masks must be worn. **Acceptable items:** non-hazardous household trash and reasonable amounts of remodeling debris, lumber, and glass. If possible, please break down larger items, such as furniture. **Unacceptable items:** hazardous waste, such as industrial and agricultural chemicals, pesticides and other poisons, petroleum products, vehicle batteries, tires, flammable substances, and paint (empty paint cans with lids off are OK). **Tires are not accepted.** Appliances and air conditioners must have had the Freon recaptured; refrigerators must be free of coolant and must have the door off.

(Continued from page 2)

hearing from Williamson County Deputy Matt Kreidel, who alerts us to crime in our area. This continues with his monthly recap emailed to the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

It is more important now than ever to "watch out" for your neighbor. There has been a recent increase in car burglaries, and our area was alerted to this by Deputy Kreidel. Please remember that if you see something unusual, report it to the Williamson County Sheriff's Department at 911. It is very important to have a call on record. Please continue to BE ALERT!



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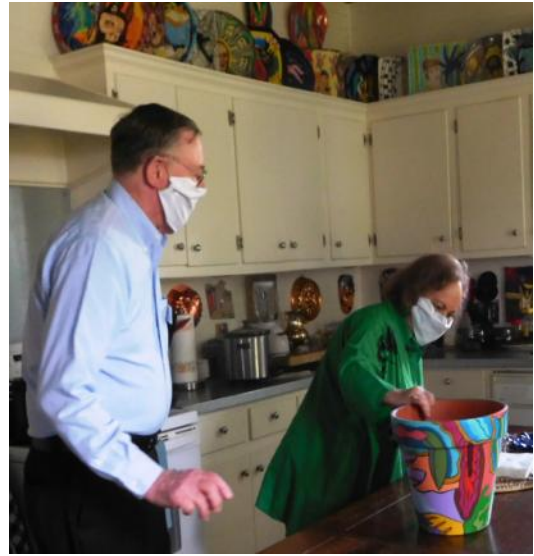
# Fort Worth Art Patrons Visit Coupland's ArtBloc

Betsy and George Pepper visited Coupland artist Letitia Eldredge at her Arts Convergence Gallery and studio on June 2 and toured Coupland sculptor Jim Huntington's Sculpture Garden. Betsy is the founder of the Fort Worth Public Library Foundation and its retired CEO.

She started the Foundation in 1993 to assist with the physical situation of Fort Worth's downtown library. Following this successful campaign, the Foundation continued to raise funds to help the library system, and to date has raised more than \$9 million.

Historically in Fort Worth, the downtown library was the major facility for fine art displays, and it had a reputation as an exhibit space for major American artists. The facility fell on hard times and needed major rehabilitation. Betsy Pepper was instrumental in making the downtown library an art center once again. Her Library Foundation funded a 6,600-square-foot gallery, and the library again became an important Fort Worth art venue.

Her husband George is a retired entrepreneur. He and Betsy are supporters of Fort Worth arts organizations and other organizations. They were interested to see Coupland's ArtBloc with its collection of artists and their art. They took back to Fort Worth with them a piece of Coupland's art—one of Letitia's beautiful, unique hand-painted flower pots.



George and Betsy Pepper admire the flower pot that Letitia custom painted for the Fort Worth couple. More of Letitia's pieces are on top of the cabinet.



Letitia explains Coupland's ArtBloc to the Peppers while they visit with Jim Huntington and tour the Huntington Sculpture Garden.

*Photos by Susan Garry*

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## New Sweden Ev. Lutheran Church

By Marilyn Samuelson

We were hoping that things would be back to normal since the last *Herald* was published, but things have not changed much. However, New Sweden did begin in-person worship service on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10.

The ladies served breakfast in honor of Father's Day. All food items were individually wrapped. Our ushers are doing a great job in enforcing the social distance rule and other guidelines for gatherings.

The attendance has been low, but those coming are happy to be there. The sermon is still being recorded so it may be listened to on the internet later.

The Second Tuesday of the month Bible Study has also resumed at 10 a.m. At this time, all July and August extra activities (Vacation Bible School and church picnic) are cancelled, but 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship service, the Second Tuesday Bible Study, and Council meetings will continue until instructed differently.

Game night has resumed on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m. At all events, face masks are suggested to be worn but not required. Hand sanitizer is provided at the church entrance.

The fifth Sundaes Sunday, a Sunday Open House, is planned for August 30 at 11:45 a.m. at the Heritage Center. A sack lunch will be available for a \$5 donation that will include "build your own ice cream sundae."

Stay safe, stay well, and stay cool. Remember to thank God for our many blessings, and He will bring us peace.

### New Sweden Evan. Lutheran Church

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[www.newswedenelca.org](http://www.newswedenelca.org)

## Choo Choo Fest, Trunk or Treat Cancelled

It is with great sadness that the Civic Organization announces the cancellation of this year's Choo Choo Fest. We had hoped to hold it this fall as usual, but the coronavirus situation is getting worse as of this writing. President Susan Schmidt says, "I would rather err on the side of caution."

Choo Choo Fest features the Kiddie Express Train. When owner JC Callis was told that Choo Choo Fest was cancelled, he said, "I have had some cancellations, but none mean as much to me as does yours. I do hope and pray that the one festival that I enjoy the most returns." Thank you for your kind words, JC. We will miss you and your family, and we all hope and pray that Choo Choo Fest will return next year.

Trunk or Treat, our Halloween event, is also cancelled. The CCO hopes that we can get back to hosting all our fun events in 2021.

The Callis family, JC, Jackson, and Julie, and the Kiddie Express.

Photo by Kyle Hensley



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# Williamson County Emergency Services District #10

By Karen Van Buren

Amid the coronavirus precautions, the ESD will continue to hold future Board Meetings by telephone conferencing. The approved minutes, meeting notice/agenda, and audited financial report are posted on the ESD's website at [www.wcesd10.org](http://www.wcesd10.org).

The five current ESD #10 Commissioners were sworn in for a two-year term in March.

The Williamson County Dispatch operators are screening all medical calls for possible infections of any kind. This will allow the medical team to arrive with the necessary personal protective gear for themselves and their patients. The ESD is calling for quotes on two priority items: a washer/extractor which is a cleaning device for the bunker gear and a SCBA portable fill station to refill air canisters. The Weir Fire Department has kindly offered their fill station for the use of the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments.

The Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments have established an Emergency Response Protocol for the virus. They have divided their small departments into a medical response team and a firefighting response team in order to prevent the spread of the virus and to protect the volunteers from unnecessary exposure that could reduce their staff. Each volunteer has access to shower facilities at the station and keeps a change of street clothes in their truck or at the station so they can change and reduce the risk of exposure to their families. Hotel rooms have been set aside for first responders to quarantine as well as RV parking at the Williamson County Expo Center for those who can quarantine in their personal RV. The fire chiefs report the biggest risk for exposure for the volunteers is outside their departments.

The departments have been acquiring the necessary Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to continue serving the community. PPE has been difficult to find and Texas is currently experiencing a surge in positive COVID-19 cases. The government has requested the departments obtain additional PPE in the expectation of another surge in cases this fall.

The State of Texas has mandated an upgrade of the radios used by the fire departments by 2022. Both fire chiefs for the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments have one of the new radios which cost about \$8,000 each. The ESD is in hopes of filing with the County for a grant next year that would help the ESD with the cost of purchasing new radios for all fire fighters as required by the State. The Coupland Volunteer Fire Department has purchased eleven older, used radios from the City of Taylor Fire Department. These will be used as backup radios and for replacement parts for their existing equipment.

The ESD has entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Williamson County Fire Marshall to enforce the fire codes adopted by the ESD.

The volunteer fire fighters have been training online until recently. There are optional in-person training classes that began in July. SOC (security operations center) training has been cancelled through the end of 2020.

A budget priority for this year is continuing to provide repairs and maintenance to the vehicle fleets for the two departments. Both Coupland and Thrall departments have been able to share vehicles as necessary.

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# Sowing Seeds of a Family Experiment-- Sowers Sustainable Farms

By Sarah Torluemke

Josh and Tricia Sowers came to Coupland by way of Georgetown. They wanted a farm, and they settled into Selma Eiben's old house on County Road 459 with about 14 acres. Someday, they plan to remodel the house. In the meantime, they are most interested in getting the farm, which they call their "science experiment," up and going.

Very quickly, they got chickens. Since then, they've added bees, ducks, geese, pigs, rabbits, sheep, and "guard" donkeys. They will be adding cattle. For the most part, the animals free range some and are in pens some. They got all of their animals when young, and the animals follow them when moving from one place to another! The pigs will even sit on command with an offered treat. They will begin breeding animals at times appropriate to the animal and then, of course, will begin harvesting those animals.

They've put in a new pond, built new buildings as needed, devoted land to pasture, and have planted quite an extensive garden. They are working towards making the farm profitable. Totally aside from selling garden produce, Josh and Tricia are interested in doing farm tours and maybe conducting some educational workshops.



Currently, the Sowers are trying to build up their supplies. Contact them at [info@sowers.farm](mailto:info@sowers.farm) or call 737-837-5802 to see what might be available. They do have an active Facebook page, Sowers Sustainable Farms, with at least weekly updates. Their address is 350 County Road 459. According to Tricia, they might offer Community Supported Agriculture boxes at some point and maybe set up a road-side stand.

We wish them all good things and welcome them to Coupland!

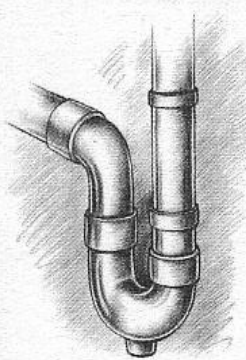
Tricia and daughter Maddie, who will be an eighth-grader at Coupland this coming school year, are in their beekeeping suits. Photos courtesy Josh and Tricia Sowers



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# Supt. Brinkman Announces Beginning of School Construction

Superintendent Tammy Brinkman has announced, "Construction for the new addition and renovations began July 13 and is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2021."

Please visit [www.couplandisd.org](http://www.couplandisd.org) for monthly updates.



Supt. Brinkman and the School Trustees held a groundbreaking ceremony on July 7. Board President is Kandice Samuelson and Vice President is Crystal Ward. Other trustees are Misty Garwood, Michael Roepke, Rachel Roepke, Phil Viktora, and David Young.

## Coupland ISD announces groundbreaking



Construction updates at [couplandisd.org](http://couplandisd.org)



Above, top, the proposed addition to Coupland School. The diagram shows the existing facilities in white and the additions and renovations in blue. Pictures courtesy Supt. Tammy Brinkman

(Continued from page 1)

Manufactured homes are ONLY allowed in Districts within the City with the zoning suffix MH. If a manufactured home is or was on a specific lot within the City prior to the passage of this Ordinance, that property is considered to be grandfathered. If a manufactured home is moved from its present grandfathered location, it must be replaced with another home or the grandfather clause is negated.

The "original townsite" of Coupland (Old Town Coupland) comprises SF-3. It does not have MH zoning so NO MANUFACTURED HOMES are permitted or allowed. Density in SF-3 shall be no more than one single family residence per lot. This specifically excludes manufactured homes from any lot within this District.

The Ordinance further defines the Manufactured Home District as being SF-5, SF-2, and SF-1, which is currently reserved for future use. Please refer to the Zoning Map on the City's website for further clarification.

Please contact the City at 512-557-8159 if there are questions relating to this Ordinance. We will be happy to discuss any questions you may have.

(Continued from page 3)

and business-minded. During my time as President of the Board, my actions represented the interests of everyone in the community. I'm grateful for the other volunteers that have served on the board with me. I trust that the new Board will continue to operate in the best interest of everyone!

There will be challenges in the years ahead. Much of the equipment is old and in need of repair and replacement. Plus, our treatment plant is rated to handle a certain amount of customer wastewater, and in the event our customers increase, our treatment plant will require extensive upgrades to remain in compliance with state regulations. Change is coming.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Coupland community. I'm not going anywhere. I will continue to reside in Coupland, so feel free to honk or wave if you see me.

Sincerely,  
*Wells Mason*





# Coupland School News

By Kathy Hill

## School Board Election

The Coupland Board of Trustees Election will be held on November 3 at St. Peter's Church in Coupland. The following trustees' terms of office expire in 2020: Misty Garwood, Rachel Roepke, and David Young.

The first day to file for a place on the ballot was July 18. The last day to file for a place on the ballot is August 17 at 5 p.m. If you are interested in serving as a school board trustee, you must fill out the filing document and meet the requirements found at couplandisd.org.

## Coupland School Starts the 2020-21 School Year

As it stands today, school will start on Wednesday, August 19, and will follow our published calendar. In a letter to parents, Superintendent Tammy Brinkman explained that she continues to monitor the progression of COVID-19 and the recommendations of the CDC as we plan for the upcoming school year.

The Texas Education Agency has issued some requirements for at home learning that were not in place last school year and are important for you to be aware of when planning. Please note the following:

- Students must receive daily instruction.
  - A daily schedule must be provided by the teacher.
  - The grading policy must be the same as it was before the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - All grade level curricula must be taught.
  - Truancy laws will apply to students who fail to attend school.
  - Official attendance will be taken daily.
- K-5 grade must receive a minimum of 3 hours a day.  
6-8 grade must receive a minimum of 4 hours a day.

## **Instruction can be provided through 3 methods as follows:**

### **In School/in person instruction**

This option is available to all students, grades K-8. Students will attend school from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Monday – Friday.

### **Remote Synchronous Instruction**

This option is available to students, grades 3-8. Teachers and students will be working together at the same time each day. Virtual or online instruction will occur in real time 3 hours daily for grades 3-5 and 4 hours daily for grades 6-8. Students will log-in at the designated time and will follow the published schedule provided by the teacher. Attendance will be taken at 9 a.m. each day in grades 3-5 and each period for grades 6-8.

### **Remote Asynchronous Instruction**

This option is available to all students, grades K-8. Teachers will provide lessons from a variety of digital resources that students will complete on their own. Students grades K-5 will be expected to work 3 hours per day and stu-

dents in grades 6-8 will be expected to work 4 hours per day. Students will complete daily work that the teachers will access to assess progress and take attendance. Teachers will contact their students daily to answer questions and/or provide additional support.

In a letter to parents, Superintendent Brinkman explained, “While we absolutely believe that it is the best instructional model to have your child in school, we recognize that you may prefer one of the other models for your child (ren).”

As the new year approaches, Coupland School will continue to provide an exceptional education to the best students in Texas.

## **Coupland 8th Grade, Class of 2019-2020**

Patricia Barrientos, Beau Bollinger, Francesca Cedillo-Munoz, Katelyn Chambers, Braxton Craven, James Dycus, Ethan Garces, Payton Grant, Malachi Haisler, Robert Hensley, Tony Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Miguel Nino, Valeria Ortiz, Daniela Osorio-Perez, Dillon Robson, Rose Simons, Isaac Smith, Barret Suarez, Alan Tobias, and Kassidy Viktora. Honor graduates were Valedictorian Kassidy Viktora, Salutatorian Rose Simons, Historian Beau Bollinger, and Co-Historian Barret Suarez.



Valedictorian Kassidy Viktora and Salutatorian Rose Simons.



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Supt. Tammy Brinkman spoke at the graduation ceremony. Students and their families enjoyed the in-person graduation held outdoors on a beautiful evening.

Photos by Susan Garry



## Eighth-Graders Get In-Person Graduation

Coupland School held an in-person eighth grade graduation on the evening of Monday, June 1, outside in front of the school. School staff had arranged chairs so that each family group had its reserved seating separate from other family groups. The usual Coupland graduation arrangement of blue and white balloons was behind the speakers in front of the front doors.

Teacher Brandi Smith addressed the graduates, and there were speeches by Valectorian Cassidy Viktora, who was introduced by Beau Bollinger, and Salutatorian Rose Simons. Recognitions and awards were announced by Superintendent Tammy Brinkman, teacher and Coach Stayci Burris, Coach Kyle Rinderknecht, and Board of Trustees Vice President Crystal Ward. Supt. Brinkman and Board of Trustees President Kandice Samuelson presented the diplomas.

It was a pleasant evening to hold the event outdoors, and the graduates, their families, staff, and faculty were all glad that Coupland was able to have its usual in-person graduation ceremony.



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**Deadline for the next issue,  
November 2020, is October 10.**

### **Dancehall Closed through the End of August-- Coupland Face Masks Available**

Owner Abbey Road has announced that the Dancehall is closed through the end of August. She says, "It is unfortunate, but in the best interest of everyone that we go ahead and close the Dancehall for the next few months. There is so much uncertainty surrounding this virus and nobody knows what the right thing to do is."

She adds, "One thing is certain, we cannot effectively navigate the business of the Dancehall at this time and ensure the safety of the artists, our staff, and the ticket buyers. We feel it is in the best interest of everyone that we close and keep the Dancehall and our friends and patrons out of harm's way."



All shows through the end of August have been cancelled and tickets have been refunded, including Teen Nights.

On a lighter note, Coupland face masks are here. Abbey says, "We have face masks for sale on the website. Comfy, breathable, washable cotton." The masks are available at [www.couplanddancehall.com](http://www.couplanddancehall.com) for \$10, one size fits all. Free shipping.

Coupland face mask fits just right on your saddle horn.

Photo from Abbey Road