



COUPLAND HERALD

City of Coupland News--By Mayor Jack Piper

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Board of Directors

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- Judy Downing, Fundraising
- Jonathan Jones, Building and Grounds
- Barbara Piper, Depot/Caboose Coordinator
- Susan Garry, *Herald* Newsletter Editor, Publicity
- Ruby Wabbel

Additional Committee

- Jennifer Dollins, Community-Wide Communications

As is stated in each *Herald*, the City Council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. in the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department Meeting Room. Copies of the Agendas and Minutes from all Council Meetings can be found on the City's website, <http://www.cityofcouplandtx.us>.

Council members elected during the November election were installed. They included John Roulston-Bates, Barbara Piper, and Megan Cargill.

COVID/the pandemic seems to always be on the mind of all of us. It has caused disruption not only in daily activities but the cancellation of many activities and events. Thankfully, a vaccine was approved and some have already been vaccinated. We are happy to learn that members of the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department received the first vaccine and will soon be getting their second.

Speaking of the rollout of the vaccine . . . Barbara and I were on a conference call a couple of weeks ago with the State's Department of Health and Human Services. We learned that the vaccine was being received weekly and distributed to approved providers. It was reported that some of the providers still had vaccine available which prompted the State to declare that persons in the 1b group (persons over 65 and not yet 65 but having a high-risk medical condition) could be inoculated.



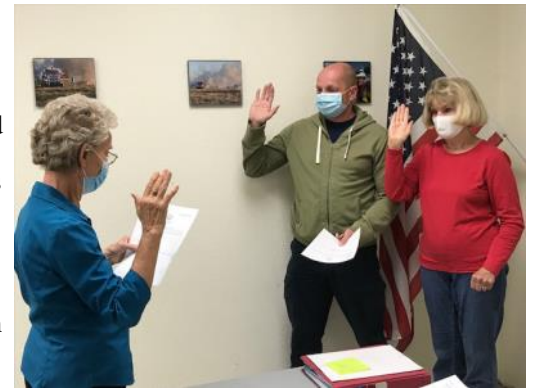
Secretary Rohlack swears in Megan Cargill.

It is estimated that there are over 8 million Texans who fall into the category of over 65! Approved providers closest to residents of Coupland include the Walmart Pharmacy in Taylor, Lone Star Circle of Care in Taylor, Davita Taylor Dialysis, and Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Taylor. Federal pharmacies include the Walgreens in Hutto and Taylor. This may or may not be the entire list; check the Texas Department of Health and Human Services website for additional locations.

Mr. Steve Voelker attended the last Council Meeting and had submitted a site plan for additional buildings. After discussion, Council approved the plan submitted. Mr. Voelker assured those in attendance and living close by that all lighting would be "dark sky" so as not to interfere with neighbors. We understand that a Select Volleyball Team is going to lease the 3000 square foot space and that a cabinet maker has already leased space.

(Continued on page 3)

Family Hospital Systems Opens Vaccine Hubs in Williamson County. Williamson Co. with its partner Family Hospital Systems is opening COVID-19 vaccination sites in the county. An appointment is required before getting the vaccine. To pre-register with FHS, go to <https://familyhospitalssystem.com/services/covid-19/>. For help registering call 833-984-3747.



City Secretary LaVerne Rohlack swears in John Roulston-Bates and Barbara Piper.

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

Happy New Year! 2021 has started off with a very wet bang. Much needed rainfall began in late December and continued into early January. Then, Snow! What a wonderful winter-land sight we all had. It is so unusual to see snow falling for over six hours straight. It was uniquely beautiful. I enjoyed stomping through the snow and even had a snowball fight. There is something about snow that brings out the child in all of us.

Normally, CCO would begin their monthly meetings by this time. Because of the high rate of Covid-19 cases, the regular CCO meetings and board meetings will be postponed until further notice. As soon as we safely can, the meetings

along with the special CCO sponsored events will resume. I am hoping the first event will be the annual golf tournament. I think everyone will be ready for a fun event. Fingers crossed (hands sanitized, masks worn), we will be able to celebrate National Night Out in August, followed by Choo Choo Fest and Trunk or Treat. Stay tuned for further information.

Until we all meet again, please stay safe. Follow the simple steps of wearing a mask, social distancing, and hand sanitizing. When you can receive the vaccine, please take advantage and get the shot! See you soon.

Susan Schmidt

Beware of Theft of Mail, Packages

Thanks to a resident on County Road 458 for calling our attention to the problem of thefts from rural route mailboxes. They report that some area residents have had valuable items such as checks stolen from their mailboxes. Please watch out for suspicious persons who may be at yours or your neighbors' mailboxes. If possible, you may want to consider getting direct deposit for payments to you and online bank or credit card statements. Also, the USPS offers a way for you

to monitor your mail by signing up online for "Informed Delivery." An email shows a picture of what is expected to be delivered that day, flat mail as well as any packages you are expecting, so you can follow your mail. If you know when your mail is likely to be delivered, you can check your mailbox near that time if that is possible.

In addition to the mail, watch for deliveries from UPS, FedEx, and Amazon. It's been reported that cars are following those trucks and picking up your package after it has been delivered. If you see any of these things, please make a report to Wilco non-emergency, 512-864-8282. *Help keep our community safe.*

What Is Neighborhood Watch?

By Barbara Piper

Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and best-known crime prevention programs in North America. Sponsored by the National Sheriffs' Association, Neighborhood Watch can trace its roots back to the days of colonial settlements when night watchmen patrolled the streets. The program was launched in 1972 and encourages citizens to work with law enforcement to keep a trained eye and ear on their communities.

A few tips given for a successful program are: Work with the police or sheriff's department; hold regular meetings to help residents to get to know each other; link with an existing organization; ask people who seldom leave their homes to be "window watchers and/or nosy neighbors," and, finally, check police reports. Basically put, this program is homeland security at the most local level.

Having given you a background on the program itself, it is important to note how our program came into existence.

Jack and I were involved with a Neighborhood Watch program while liv-

ing in Plano, Texas. We found it to be useful in notifying persons in our neighborhood of happenings, trends, etc. The information reported was from the Plano Police Department. When we moved to Coupland in 2007, we discovered there was not such a program and so during the year of 2009, we began to find out how to establish one here.

Contact was made with the Williamson County Sheriff's Department, and Deputy Matt Kreidel met with us on

several occasions to give us the specifics and details on beginning a program here. We became a Neighborhood Watch affiliate in 2009 and posted signs in and around our area to identify our community as participants in the program. I volunteered to serve as the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, and we subsequently began with four block captains. Soon thereafter we recognized the outstanding efforts by Jennifer Dollins to maintain a community wide email list so all reports were and are sent to her. The monthly reports from Matt Kreidel of the Sheriff's Department are sent to Jennifer for distribution to our community-wide list.

Our very first National Night Out was held the first Tuesday in August of 2009. Zada Downing brought her grandsons; Judy Downing came with her granddaughter (who had spent the night with her



Deputy Matt Kreidel speaks at a previous National Night Out as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Barbara Piper looks on.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

Road issues continue to be a problem. I have met with the road repair people and they will commence to repair the pot-holes on CR 458 as soon as weather permits. Murray and South Broad Streets are on the schedule for Williamson County and we expect the project will commence soon as some of the preliminary work has already been done.

Council directed the January 2021 meeting as a planning session for items needing additional work, i.e., the Nui-

sance Ordinance. We have also had complaints about loose dogs in the city and a request was made for a Leash Law.

And one last thing . . . please read the article by Barbara on Neighborhood Watch on page 2. This is an important program for persons in the city as well as outlying areas.

Please contact me or one of your council members for questions and answers. We certainly look forward to a better 2021.

(Continued from page 2)

in Austin). We had a total of 15 people! It was a beginning.

In 2010, the Coupland Civic Organization and Coupland Volunteer Fire Department teamed up with us and we had a "Picnic" with hot dogs, all of the trimmings, homemade cookies, and sodas. Participants were encouraged to bring lawn chairs and we invited Matt Kreidel to speak to us about crime prevention, trends, and other relevant issues. The number of participants increased and during our last get together in 2019, we enjoyed approximately 75 people for food, visiting, meeting new neighbors, and listening to crime prevention tips. Other Williamson County Officials have continually participated including our Precinct 4 Commissioner as well as the Constable, other law enforcement officials, and volunteer firemen from surrounding towns.

The year 2020 was a very unusual year and all events had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. We were assured that our affiliation would not be dropped or cancelled--it was a very different year.

We look forward to continuing the tradition of National Night Out the first Tuesday in August of 2021. Hope we'll see you there!!!



Jonathan Jones grilling hotdogs at a past National Night Out.

You can't predict the future, so plan for it.

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St. Peter's Church News — By Pastor Martin Garrison

In 1733, Congregational Minister Jonathon Edwards organized a revival in Northampton, Massachusetts. Edwards' preached some fiery sermons. His energy brought young people out in droves and invigorated the area churches. This revival started a movement that we'd later call the First Great Awakening.

This movement shaped American Protestant Christianity in every denomination. Protestant Christianity at the time was very focused on rules and formalism. The Great Awakening, and its precursor in England, emphasized passion and spirit and eloquence over formalism and tradition.

This change opened up some space that allowed women to preach to mixed gender audiences for the first time in hundreds of years. In the early church, we know from letters and artwork from the time, women commonly taught and preached. Around 300 C.E., Roman patristic culture blocked women from those roles.


One of the women who began preaching during the Great Awakening was Bathsheba Kingsley. Kingsley regularly rode from town to town, preaching in the city square. Often she would be invited into the local church to preach to those gathered there. She wasn't welcomed into every church. Some church leaders reasoned it was okay for a woman to preach outside but only men should preach inside the church.

Sarah Osborne began hosting prayer meetings in her home. Slaves and free, men and women gathered each night in her small house to hear her teach and to join together in prayer. Some weeks as many as 500 folks would visit one of the many meetings Osborne held. Osborne was so feeble that she could hardly walk around her house. On Sunday mornings friends would carry her in a blanket to church.

As tensions grew between the colonists and the British, churches moved back to more conservative positions. The gaps where women found space to preach started closing up. Sarah Osborne was told by her pastor to shut down the prayer meetings. (Though she did not.) Bathsheba Kingsley was arrested for 'taking her husband's horse without permission.' Across the colonies churches again resisted women preaching and teaching. It wouldn't be until 1815 that the first woman, Clarissa Danforth, was ordained to ministry by a Baptist church in New England.

One thing we can take from this history is a reminder that change is difficult. Even positive and necessary changes bring some pain. Change reminds us of what has been lost and brings with it feelings of grief. As case numbers, and fatality numbers, from the COVID virus rise, all of us are experiencing grief. Many have lost loved ones and are deeply grieving those deaths. The rest of us are grieving the ability to worship together inside our churches, grieving the chance to pop into a bar and grab a drink with friends, grieving seeing people's smiling mouths in the

(Continued on page 5)



gather

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St. Peter's Church of Coupland

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Martin Garrison, Pastor



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(Continued from page 4)

grocery stores. These losses are real and feeling down about them is normal and right.

St. Peter's will continue to meet outside on Sunday mornings for 'Drive-Up Church' until Williamson County lowers the alert status. We hope that though changes like this are painful, they will help to protect our members and our community until we as a nation eradicate this virus. If you'd like to join us, pull up on Sunday morning, and tune your radio to 106.7 FM.

Senior Citizens Luncheons Not Resuming Yet

The last Senior Citizens Luncheon was held on the third Tuesday in January 2020. Since then, no Senior Luncheons have been held because of COVID. When it is OK to have Senior Luncheons again, we will let you know through our Church Newsletter and the *Coupland Herald*.

We miss everyone, and we hope that we will have Luncheons in 2021.

*Sincerely, Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli
Co-Chairmen*



Bella Slauson Wins Best of Show

Coupland student Bella Slauson competed in the Williamson County Youth Fair. Bella's mother Jenny said, "We are absolutely thankful for the opportunity to show in 2020. Bella started the week 5th and 23rd with Rabbits out of 75. She placed 4th and 8th with her gilts." Bella wrapped up the week with Best in Show for Photography division 1. Jenny adds, "We are so grateful for our family and friends helping us along the way."

Photo courtesy of the Slauson Family

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Thursday, Elgin Farmers Market, 4 - 7 p.m.
Saturday, Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline, 9 - 1
Saturday, Taylor Farmers Market, 10 - 2
Sunday, Texas Farmers Market at Mueller, 10 - 2
Sunday, Gateway Farmers Market, Austin, 12 - 4

Saturday, March 6, Round Rock Market Days, 9 - 4

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Coupland VFD—Chili Supper on Feb. 27, New Fire Academy

By John Roulston-Bates, Assistant Fire Chief

Chili Supper 2021—February 27

This year’s chili supper will be on Saturday, February 27, starting at 5 p.m. The format has had to be changed to accommodate the times in which we’re living, so we’ll operate as a drive-through this year.

Coupland VFD hosted our first chili supper in 1980, just a few months after the department was founded. Though we cannot have this annual event in the way we’ve been used to, after more than forty years we certainly don’t want to let the tradition drop.

We hope you’ll make it along to this modified Chili Supper and support us, even if it is in passing, from inside your car or truck. We guarantee the chili will be up to our usual high standard . . . after forty years we think we have it just about right. We hope to have everyone back under our roof, sitting together at the long tables next year.

A Busy 2020

Our volunteer staff responded to 469 calls in 2020. During the year, the number of medical calls we responded to rose from around 30% of our calls to around 50%. Many of those calls have gone along with a new routine of donning gowns, masks, and eye protection along with the usual medical gloves.

We would like to thank our dedicated team of volunteer firefighters, EMTs, and CFRs (Community First Responders) for their continued hard work. In a year that could have seen volunteer numbers drop we actually saw around a 20% increase in the number of people volunteering, something to be grateful for in a tough year.

A New Fire Academy for 2021

For the past few years Coupland VFD has been participating in the fire academy operated by the Taylor Volunteer Fire Department. 2020 marked the last year for that Taylor VFD academy.

This year Williamson County ESD#10, which covers Coupland and Thrall, is establishing a new fire academy to

continue the work of training local volunteer firefighters. The academy will be operated by Coupland and Thrall volunteers, along with instructors from ESD#6, Weir VFD, and Hutto Fire Rescue.

Coupland VFD is taking a leading role in this training, and we’re delighted to be doing our part to turn out more and better trained volunteer firefighters to serve our communities.



Firefighter Candidate Nate Logiudice assists at a vehicle accident on SH 95 during the January snow.

Photo courtesy Coupland Volunteer Fire Department

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Big Changes in Type Community

By Charlene Hanson Jordan

Type is changing. It may even become known as Coupland even though it's about five miles to the east-southeast!

I used to write about how the Type Church was located in the verdant countryside. That serene green countryside is changing with the many new people moving there. Lots more homes are already built or in progress. On the church's west side on County Road 466, the large century-old August/Carl/Brent Samuelson farm is now subdivided with at least thirteen new homes already there. On the east side of the church, the old Alfred and Emil Johnson estate, there is a double-wide community of 24 homes on 40 acres. These places mostly identify as Coupland. One of the developments is called Coupland Crossing!

Where does the name "Type" come from anyway? Swedish-born Jonas Sunvison had a printing press where he used "type" at his nearby home on County Road 465. He printed advertising circulars, auction flyers, posters, and greeting cards. Type was the name of the 1902 Post Office, but it was over the county line in Bastrop County on what is now New Trails.

The Type Church site south of the Type Cemetery was occupied by the Swedish Free Mission Church in 1908. It eventually became the Type Free Church until the congregation moved to Elgin. Mark Nygard placed the 1980s Yegua Creek Evangelical Free Church on the other side of the cemetery. That church's name has been changed to Type Church. All of the Type congregations have been Evangelical Free Church. The denomination sprang out of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Iowa retaining Lutheran elements, such as confirmation, and adding some Baptist practices, such as adult baptism. Unity in essentials; harmony and charity in non-essentials.

The Type Church at Type, pastored by Terrence Kennedy, meets (socially distanced) at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. The address is 1200 County Road 466, east of Coupland. Email and telephone numbers are: twk3032@gmail.com and 512-599-7761. Church facebook: Type,Church.1 to listen to sermons and communicate.



Allison, left, and Caylee hold Advent Candles at Type Church.

Photo courtesy of Type Church



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Art News from Arts Convergence-- Happy Birthday to Jim Huntington!

Greetings Artists and Good Neighbors!

I want to spread the news on this day of Snowy Silence that our Best Artist Jim Huntington celebrated his 80th birthday January 13th. With this wonderful milestone I am including this very rare view of his sculpture in landscape on such a beautiful day for Coupland. What a spectacular scene! When have we seen so much snow?

The past few months have been laced with increasing challenge for us all to adapt to new formulas for day to day living, creating, traveling, even. Here at AC, thanks to Karen Van Buren for a brave up and down one day road trip to Fort Worth in order to make sculpture and painting deliveries in time for Christmas to the extraordinary Balcom/Fawcett family and art collectors. Meeting up with dear Blair Fawcett, a young published author in her own right, we transferred art for her Grandmother, Becky Balcom, and a commemorative ceramic mask commissioned for her Father, Greg Fawcett. We are very sad to report his sudden loss of his wife of 40 years in November. Holly Balcom Fawcett was a greatly admired lady in her community and an avid supporter of local and Texas artists. This mask, "My Oak Tree," had been commissioned by her as a surprise gift for Greg. And by his report, that it was, and a special comfort to receive.

Goings on at AC facility here in Coupland during this Shut In have been a big redecorating scheme aimed to reset our display with many new highlights for the coming season. A Grand Opening for Arts Convergence Little Museum and Gallery is in the plan. However, no dates yet, for as we all know, first is vaccine time and meanwhile, everybody, keep creating and Stay Well!

I send you all Cheers for this Happy New Year!
With Warm Regards,

Letitia Eldredge
Executive Director
Arts Convergence
Contact:artsconv@gmail.com



Huntington Sculpture Garden in the snow.
Photo by Letitia Eldredge

Left. ceramic mask "My Oak Tree" by Letitia Eldredge, commissioned by Balcom/Fawcett family, Fort Worth.

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New Sweden Evan. Lutheran Church Is 145 Years Old February 23

By Marilyn Samuelson

Hope all of you are having a good beginning to the New Year, 2021. Things have not changed a lot since the *Coupland Herald* November issue. New Sweden Lutheran did have their Thanksgiving services, St. Lucia /Country Christmas Sing-along, and other Christmas services following the CDC guidelines. This continues with our regular Sunday morning services and other meetings. Subject to change, plans are to have Lenten services beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17.

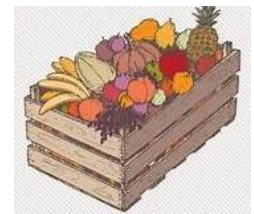
The New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Congregation will be 145 years old February 23, 2021. No big event is planned at this time, but maybe a few small events throughout the year. Each month the Historical/Heritage committee plans to have a different display in the Foundation Center telling the history of the congregation. The first display in February will be an old trunk that a New Sweden family used when they immigrated from Sweden in the 1870s/1880s. It will have in it the minimal things they brought with them to make their home in America--their Swedish Bible, family pictures, clothing, quilts, dishes, knitting and crocheting needles, etc.

In the minutes of the organizational meeting, dated February 23, 1876, it is recorded that interested people met in the American Lutheran Church in Manor to organize a Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. The first services were held in homes, in schoolhouses and in the little "Stone Church" located in the Gregg Community. The members

were concerned about preaching the gospel and the administration of the sacraments. In 1879 a church building was completed and dedicated debt free. This was located where our cemetery is on New Sweden Church Road. near FM 973. In 1896 a chapel was built at Manda to serve those members in the eastern part of the congregation. In 1921 a new sanctuary began to be built about halfway between the church at the cemetery and the Manda chapel. This was on land deeded by a widow to the congregation. This church was dedicated in 1924 and still in use today. New Sweden has been blessed these 145 years and we pray God's continued blessings to carry out the wishes of our forefathers in sharing God's Word and Love.

NEWS FLASH!

How about a Farmer's Market in Coupland? Discussions are underway to make this a reality. Expectations are for this to most likely begin sometime in March. Stay tuned for more announcements and publicity prior to the anticipated opening date.



**New Sweden Evan.
Lutheran Church**
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9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
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Williamson County Emergency Services District #10

By Karen Van Buren

Amid the corona virus 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.

The Perryman Group recently did an analysis of ESDs and reported that eight million Texans are served by an ESD with voters approving the creation of more ESDs to provide cutting edge fire and EMS services while spending less than municipalities that offer services of similar scope and scale. The State is quickly outgrowing the abilities of cities and rural volunteer fire departments to offer the services and cost savings that an ESD can provide.

The ESD #10 had funds remaining at the end of their fiscal year in September that enabled them to order much-needed supplies and equipment. They were able to purchase new air cylinders, an air cylinder rack for each fire department, and a fill station for the air cylinders; drums of Class A foam for firefighting; new fire hoses and connections; new wildland fire boots, bunker pants and bunker jackets for the volunteers; a washer-extractor for cleaning bunker gear; a washer and dryer for the volunteers to clean up clothing that may have been exposed to the virus; and 45 of the new State-mandated radios required to be in use in the very near future. The ESD was able to secure CARES Act reimbursement for the coronavirus-related purchases.

Both the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments have seen an increase in coronavirus dispatch calls with a younger population contracting the virus. The departments continue to use and re-stock PPE for the months ahead. The Williamson County Dispatch operators are screening all medical calls for possible infections of any kind. The Thrall and Coupland Volunteer Fire Departments are sending only certified volunteers on medical calls. Both departments have initiated strict mask policies during the pandemic. They have also experienced a rise in other non-medical calls.

The ESD #10 Commissioners have voted to operate a fire academy for eastern Williamson County. They are in the process of organizing the Ignis Fire Academy which will train firefighters within this ESD and other areas within the County.

If any of our area residents are interested in volunteering to support our firefighting volunteers, they can contact Jar-

ed Cummings, fire chief for the Coupland department, about joining the **Volunteer Auxiliary Unit** which does not require any firefighting involvement (think: “homemade cookies,” etc.). Jared can be contacted at jcumings@couplandfire.org.

As always, we extend our appreciation to our uncompensated volunteer ESD Commissioners and volunteer firefighters.



The historic Coupland school building has been painted as part of the construction and renovation project. Photo by Buz Garry

That Place Out
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Truth Is Stranger than Fiction

Modern Day Coupland Resident Karen Van Buren Is Coincidentally Related to a Coupland Founder, Also to President Van Buren

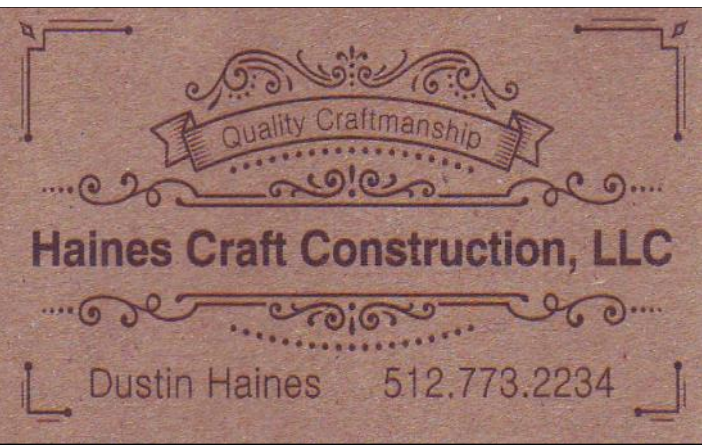
In 1859, Morgan C. Hamilton bought the land where Coupland now stands, and when he died in 1883 the land passed to his nephew **Theodore Van Buren Coupland**. Along with others, Theodore formed the Coupland City Company which established the town of Coupland.

Karen explains, **“My father, Donald Nelson Van Buren, and Theodore Van Buren Coupland were sixth cousins.** The Van Burens and the Couplands lived in New York for the most part. **President Martin Van Buren and I are third cousins but six times removed** due to the generation gap.” The Bloomingdales are a branch of the Van Buren family, having taken the name of their farm to distinguish their branch from the others. **The Van Burens are also related to the Roosevelts.**

Here is the story of how a New England Van Buren ended up in Coupland. Karen says, “I moved from Boston to Austin in 1995. I was on a drive with my son looking at houses for sale in the Taylor area when he suggested we drive down Highway 95. We pulled off the road in Coupland. We were looking at the big Victorian house that was for sale at the time. We had seen neighbors drinking iced tea and visiting each other on their front porches. It seemed like a friendly community.



Karen with the historical marker that told her that a relative had founded Coupland.
Photo by Letitia Eldredge



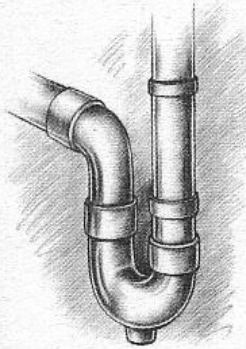
“We turned onto Hoxie street and saw Pete Speckles’ house was for sale. I took a brochure from the box by the ‘for sale’ sign and decided Pete’s house would be better for my purposes. We took the brochure and decided to walk up to the Coupland Inn for a cup of coffee not knowing that it was only open on the weekend evenings.”

Then, in the category of ‘you can’t make this stuff up,’ Karen continues, “While walking by the Depot we stopped to read the historical marker that said **the town was founded by Theodore Van Buren Coupland. I literally and figuratively took that as a sign that I was meant to live in Coupland.**

“Seven years ago I married John Evancho and sold the house on Hoxie Street. Artist Peter Julian bought the house so there are three artists living on that block. They call it ArtBloc. I’ve moved to John’s place near Structure.”

Karen’s experience is a very unusual coincidence--she accidentally found her way to the community founded by her distant cousin so many years ago. Karen has been a valuable addition to Coupland. She currently keeps the books for Emergency Services District #10 and writes about their news for the *Herald*.

Thanks to Coupland historian Charlene Hanson Jordan for her help on this article.



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Eagle Bank--New Bank in Taylor

Round Top State Bank began on October 3, 1912. The bank first expanded to Giddings and then followed by La Grange in 2000; later the Lexington Branch was added. In 2011, the bank expanded to the Williamson County market and purchased Eagle Bank in Jarrell. This led to the creation of the Eagle Bank, a branch of Round Top State Bank Branches.

Rob Randig, Senior Vice President and Lisa Whisenant, Vice President, currently office in the Eagle Bank Branch in Round Rock which opened in 2015. Rob and Lisa will be managing the Taylor Branch at 106 NW Carlos G. Parker Blvd, along with an amazing local crew of Julia Klotz, Susie Jacobsen, and Kay Long.

Round Top State Bank Branches

- Round Top
- Giddings
- La Grange
- Lexington

Eagle Bank, A Branch of Round Top State Bank, Branches

- Jarrell
- Round Rock
- Taylor (Coming soon)



Staff of Eagle Bank in Taylor, left to right, Rob Randig, Susie Jacobsen, Lisa Whisenant, Kay Long, and Julia Klotz.

Photo courtesy of Eagle Bank

Welcome new advertiser Eagle Bank.

A branch of Round Top State Bank



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Coupland School News

By Kathy Hill



Coupland Student Council collected almost 400 canned food items for their annual Food Drive on December 18. Top L to R Andrea Cedillo, Kamryn Hill, Elise Adrian, Callie Molineux, Miranda Herring, Seth Johnson (honorary). Kneeling L to R Abigail Bristoll, Laramie Galloway, and Kody Smith (Missing Adriana Sandoval and Maddie Moore). Photo by Kathy Hill

PTA Offers Custom Bricks

Coupland PTA is selling custom bricks that will be installed at the school when the construction is finished. Each brick can be customized with up to three lines of text, 18 characters per line. The bricks will be ordered when the site is ready. Each brick will cost \$50. For more information, contact couplandpta@gmail.com.



Mr. Czarnecki's 3rd grade Social Studies class made Christmas/New Year's cards for a Military Police Company out of Ft. Hood who had to work on both holidays. Mr. Czarnecki delivered the cards in person on Christmas Day. Photo by Branden Czarnecki



Mrs. Price's Kindergarten and Mrs. Middaugh's 1st Grade participated in a Walking Field Trip to Coupland Veterinary. They were delivering thank you letters and cookies to a local Community Helper! Photo by Addison Ward

More Teachers Needed

Coupland School is growing! The school is planning to have two classrooms in grades K - 5. It will start accepting transfer applications for the 2021-2022 school year on February 1; applications will be posted at www.couplandisd.org and will be under the Parent Tab.

Teacher vacancies for 2021-2022 are PK, Kindergarten, First grade, Third grade, Fourth grade, Potential Reading Interventionist, and Assistant Principal. Superintendent Tammy Brinkman says, "If you have questions about a vacancy, please email tbrinkman@couplandisd.org. If you would like to apply for one of these vacancies, please complete the professional application and required affidavit. Please email your application to kolson@couplandisd.org."

The *Herald* is pleased to welcome new advertiser Megan Behrens, J. B. Goodwin Realtors. Her ad is below. Thank you Megan and all of our advertisers for your support of our community newsletter.



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Photo by Baz Garry

School Construction Project Update

If you've driven past Coupland School lately, you've noticed many changes. The renovation and site projects are right on schedule.

Progress to Date New addition:

- Completed roof wood blocking installation.
- Continued roofing system installation.
- Completed exterior wall framing and sheathing.
- Continued exterior waterproofing and flashing.

- Began brick installation.
- Continued ductwork installation.
- Continued plumbing and electrical rough-in.
- Began interior wall framing.
- Began gypsum board and batt insulation installation.
- Began hollow metal frame installation.

Looking Ahead Site:

- Structural stoops and sidewalks to be poured, and segmented retaining wall at play court to be installed, after brick installation is complete.

New Addition:

- Complete roofing installation.
- Complete exterior waterproofing and flashing.
- Continue brick installation.
- Continue ductwork, plumbing, and electrical installation.
- Complete interior wall framing.
- Continue gypsum board and batt insulation installation.

Renovation:

- Currently scheduled for Summer 2021.



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**Deadline for the next issue,
May 2021, is April 10.**

Coupland Dancehall Reopens in February

By Abbey Road

In February, Coupland will reopen at 50% occupancy. Everyone is required to wear a mask when not seated, eating, or drinking. We do need you to mask up while dancing this go 'round. As a courtesy to our bartenders, please don't gather at the bar and wear a mask when you go to order drinks. We've been very, very lucky here at Coupland in that none of our staff has had to deal with the COVID. While we have been closed most of the time since March, when we were open, we have been careful and not overcrowded. We AIM to keep it that way for YOU and US.

