

COUPLAND HERALD



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Coupland Civic Organization

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Barbara Piper, Depot/Caboose Coordinator
Susan Garry, Herald Newsletter Editor, Publicity

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- Jennifer Dollins, Community-Wide Communications

Mayor Jack Piper, right, swears in council members on November 17, 2022. Left to right, Russell Schmidt, Barbara Piper, and John Roulston-Bates.

Photo by Susan Garry



News from the City--

By Mayor Jack Piper and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper

Several things have taken place since the last Herald was published. Three persons for the position of aldermen were elected. The oath of office was administered during the November 17 council meeting. The aldermen sworn in are John Roulston-Bates, Russell Schmidt, and Barbara Piper. Also, during the November election, citizens of Coupland approved the sales and use tax rate so the tax rate will now be the same as other entities, 8.25%.

During the December meeting, the council voted to approve the creation of a Williamson County Municipal Utility District, approved the Resolution consenting to the Creation of a Municipal Utility District, approved an Ordinance for the annexation of approximately 26.207 acres and approving a Municipal Services Agreement, and approved a Resolution commencing the dis-annexation of approximately 20.906 acres. The developer, Barth Timmerman, was present along with his attorney, Josh Kahn, and his engineer, Matt Mitchell. The city's attorney, Paige Saenz and the city engineer Tony Prete were in attendance for the city and answered questions posed by council members prior to a vote. For those of you who may not have been following this development and discussions, it is located in the vicinity of CR 453 and Hwy 95.

(Continued on page 3)

School Bonds Fail

Coupland School's Board of Trustees placed a bond election on the November ballot for \$56 million to build facilities to address the growth at the Middle School. The student population has already outgrown the recent expansion of the school facilities. The bond failed in a close election. A total of 541 votes were cast in the election, with 262 for and 279 against.

Superintendent Tammy Brinkman said, "The Coupland ISD Board of Trustees and I would like to thank our community for voting and letting your voice be heard. While the election results are not what we had hoped for, we will continue to provide high-quality education for all students." She added, "We know that Coupland will continue to develop and student enrollment will continue to increase. Our facility challenges will not disappear, so the Board and I are committed to partnering with you to come up with another plan."

President's Message

By Susan Schmidt, CCO President

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

I hope the Coupland Civic Organization (CCO) added to your holiday cheer with our first ever visit from Santa Claus. Instead of arriving with his reindeer, he came in a fire truck, courtesy of Coupland's Volunteer Fire Department. Many of the local children got a chance to visit him in the historic Depot where they sat on his lap and told him what they wanted for Christmas. The children also received cookies and candy canes from CCO Board Members and their family members. The CCO is planning on making this another holiday tradition so we can involve the younger members of the community. Jonathan Jones is already planning for Christmas 2023.

I appreciate all the Coupland residents who put up Christmas lights throughout the town. The whole city looked very festive. We are trying to expand our Trail of Lights each year. Jonathan did another amazing job with the lights at the Depot and Caboose.

Another tradition that should not be overlooked is the carolers on horseback. Despite the very cold temperatures, a group on horseback caroled throughout the town, ending up at the Depot. This group has been headed by Prissy Rumel and Martha Poldrack for the past several years. The horses looked very Christmasy with lights and red bows on their tails and even red hooves on some.

In January, we will be getting back to our regular meetings on the last Monday of each month. We will have programs and, of course, we always serve food and desserts. I hope more of you will join us each month. It is a good time to visit with neighbors, old and new. Hopefully you will also enjoy the programs we have to offer.

See you the last Monday of the month!

Susan Schmidt

Trunk or Treat 2022

On the evening of Sunday, October 30, the CCO hosted its annual Halloween Trunk or Treat in front of St. Peter's Church. Residents wore costumes and handed out candy from the backs of their decorated SUVs to trick or treaters. It's always a fun and (not too) scary event.



Left, CCO Treasurer Becky Sutton as the Cat in the Hat hands out treats.



Above, Mayor Jack Piper and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper.
Below, Elisabeth Garry and her Halloween SUV.

Below, the Neipert girls are ready to jump out at the unwary from the back of their decorated van.



Photos by Susan Garry



(Continued from page 16) Red River Restorations
gust 2000. At this time, we will continue M-D Floors from another location.”

The building has been bought by Katie and John Hindman, owners of Red River Restorations. John and Katie restore historic wood and steel windows and doors, and build custom wood windows, doors, screen doors, and window screens.

John started the company in the Hyde Park/Hancock area of Austin in 2003 in a small workshop in his garage. He was working in high tech at Dell, but his first love was working with his hands, especially with wood.

He left Dell in 2007 to pursue wood-working. He and a friend spent eight hours in one day distributing fliers around his neighborhood and in two hours, he had his first wood-working job. John says, “Soon I had to hire some help.” There are two components to what he and Katie do, the historic restorations and fine woodworking, and running a business.

Regarding their move to Coupland, Katie says, “We had built a pretty shop in Austin, it looked like an old general store, but we didn’t own it. Our rent in Austin kept increasing. We had invested so much, but didn’t own it, and ultimately we outgrew it.”

(Continued from page 1)

Also on the Agenda was the consideration and possible action on a professional services reimbursement agreement for the Buford Ranch Project. Mr. Tiemann was not present at the meeting as he and his attorney wanted to go over and make suggested modifications to the agreement.

Council voted to execute a contract with P-3 Works, a Public Improvement District (PID) consultant. It was explained that this is in no way council approving a PID but simply giving a firm the authority to examine documents submitted by a developer desiring a PID.

Road maintenance continues to be one of the main issues facing the City. Jack and Barbara Piper met with the contractor, Alpha Paving, who has been doing the work for the city. The bid for repairs on CR 458 and throughout “old town” was \$36,881.25, and was approved by council at their January meeting. Council also voted to stripe Hoxie (in front of the Bank, Red River Restorations, the Coupland Inn and Dancehall). Work is to commence the middle of January.

Council meets the second Thursday of each month in the Conference Room of St. Peter’s Church, 108 Wathen at 6 p.m. Agendas for each meeting are posted at the ESD #10 Fire Station, the Bank, and the Post Office, and on the city’s website.

Katie and John have four children, and the family still lives in Austin. John and Katie make the trip to their shop in Coupland weekly, and they are very happy with their new building.

Katie notes, “The building is a perfect fit for us. Eventually, we will restore the store front correctly. We will install time-period correct windows and an awning to make the building look original and to fit in this historic town.” Based on the clues that are there and on his knowledge,

(Continued on page 15)

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

Jay Sutton
Financial Advisor

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St. Peter's Church News

By Interim Pastor Charles Stark

As we enter this new year of 2023, I invite you to think not about resolutions for the future but rather to consider a self-examination of what exists in your life that might be holding you back from embracing the future. At worship on New Year's Day, I shared the following story.

Several years ago, a large group of Vietnam veterans met in New York to commemorate the Vietnam War and its effects on their lives. Many were still suffering emotional wounds from that devastating conflict. A Vietnamese Buddhist monk came to the gathering and told a moving story.

During the war, a young Vietnamese woman was killed. She left behind her husband and her young son. The husband, needing to provide for himself and the boy, traveled far and wide looking for odd jobs. Often, he left the child with neighbors. After one long trip looking for work, the man returned to find his village demolished and his neigh-

bors gone. Searching through the rubble, he found scattered about some small bones. He was sure that these were the remains of his beloved son. He wrapped the bones in cloth and carried them with him everywhere he went.

Many years passed, and one night the old man heard someone knocking on his door. He called out, "Who's there?"

"It is your son!" the voice outside replied. "My kidnappers set me free, and I have spent many years trying to find you!"

The old man yelled, "You are a fake and a cruel man. My son is dead. Leave me alone!" He would not open the door.

The pounding continued for a while, but then it stopped. The young man gave up and left.

The old man never found happiness. And he lost his son who was still living. Why? **Because he was determined to hold on to the bones of the past.**

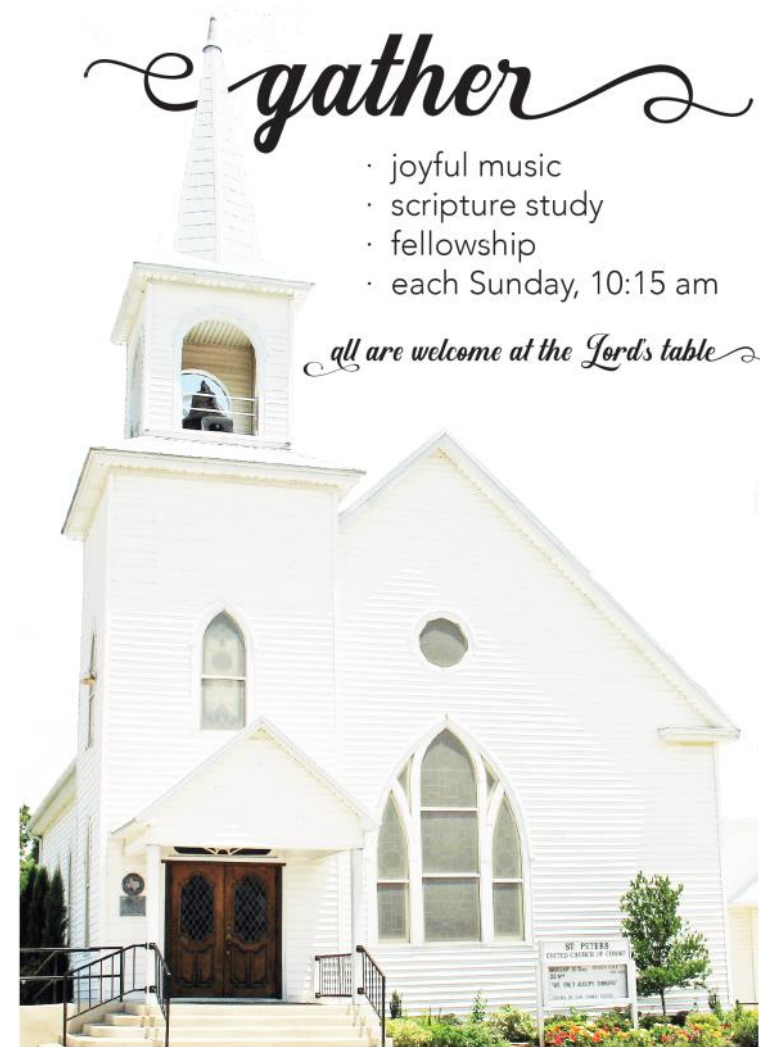
The message for each of us is to take some time to see what we are holding onto that is keeping us from moving forward in our lives. It may be previous relationships that hurt us and we cannot see a way to forgive the person. It may be that we made some major mistake in our lives and we cannot forgive ourselves. It may be unfulfilled dreams we had when we were younger and we think that we can never pursue them at this stage of our lives. Whatever it is that is holding you back, address it now and release its grip on you. If we stop holding on to the bones of the past, we will find a lot more happiness and fulfillment in this new year of 2023.

Finally, I would like to spread the word that St. Peter's is looking for both a part-time bookkeeper who is familiar with Quickbooks and a pianist who would be interested in playing for our Sunday morning worship service starting in February. For more details you can call the church office at 512-856-2433 or email stpetercoupland@gmail.com.

First 2023 Luncheon Was January 17,
Next One Will Be March 21

We had a great year for our Senior Luncheons. We thank all hosts, hostesses, and helpers who helped us with our luncheons during the year. Our November luncheon was our big Thanksgiving meal. We had over 60 senior citizens attending. Our January luncheon was on January 17. Bingo and "42" Dominoes were played. The next one will be March 21. Come join us in the New Year!

Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli, Co-Chairs



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St. Peter's Church of Coupland

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Charles Stark, Interim Pastor

Emergency Services District #10 News

By Maranda Cummings

Board Meetings are being held in person at the Coupland Fire Station each second Tuesday of the month. The meetings are also available via telephone conferencing. This information is available each month on the meeting notice posted at the Coupland Fire Station, Coupland Post Office, Citizens National Bank in Coupland, Thrall Fire Station, and Thrall Post Office. The approved minutes, meeting notice/agenda, and audited financial report are also posted on the ESD's website at www.wcesd10.org.

You might notice the new Williamson County ESD #10 patch on our trucks and uniforms. Thank you, John Roulston-Bates and the Board, for taking the time to create a professional patch for the district! The Board approved the purchase of two command vehicles including equipment. This will give each district (Coupland and Thrall) a new command vehicle. The ESD also plans on ordering another tender and brush truck this budget year since they likely won't come in for the next couple years due to supply chain delays.

The fire chiefs are working on finding future fire station locations in the Beyersville and Structure areas. The plan is to find a location with a five-to-ten-minute response time to help reduce response times to calls within ESD #10. The chiefs want to be proactive in finding a location to get ahead of the growth we all know is coming our way. Mark Moellenberg (WCESD #10 Fire Chief) stated the fire chiefs will have an architect in place to design the station(s) faster with the plan to have the core details of the fire station completed first and offices and leisure rooms being added later.

Ironwood Industries' New Austin Showroom

Wells and Jessica Mason of Coupland's Ironwood Industries recently opened their beautiful showroom in Taylor at 120 West Second Street, Ste. A. Now they are planning a showroom in Austin coming in the first quarter of 2023.

Wells says, "We're excited to announce a satellite showroom for Ironwood Industries at the Marketplace in Austin! We will show furniture, sculpture, and architectural hardware. The Marketplace will be a fantastic new resource for Austin's design community. Strictly to-the-trade. No place quite like it." Jessica adds, "Also there will be a huge party."

The ESD would like to honor Luther Draehn, who served with Coupland Volunteer Fire Department for 15 years and was a major supporter of the creation of the ESD. He passed away in October, and many members of the district were honored to attend his funeral and pay their respects. If it wasn't for Luther and his passion for the fire service, the ESD might not have ever been created. Thank you, Luther! You will be deeply missed.

If any of our area residents are interested in joining Williamson County ESD #10, please contact John Roulston-Bates (District 1 Chief) at jroulston@wcesd10.org or Zach Hall (District 2 Chief) at zhall@wcesd10.org. Please check the Williamson County ESD #10 Facebook page as well as the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments' Facebook pages for updates and upcoming events.

As always, we extend our appreciation to our volunteer ESD Commissioners and the volunteer firefighters of Williamson County ESD #10. We would especially like to thank those volunteers that provide training to better the district. The ESD is proud to support their volunteer firefighters as they serve our area residents. We hope everyone in our area has a happy, healthy, and safe 2023!

Coupland Civic Organization Meeting, Monday, Jan. 30

The January meeting will present the State of the City from Mayor Jack Piper, CCO report from President Susan Schmidt, and news from ESD#10. Everyone is welcome to a supper of homemade soup and cornbread at 6:30 p.m. in St. Peter's Fellowship Hall. The program begins at 7. The next meeting will be February 27, topic TBA. To receive meeting announcements, join Jennifer Dollins's community email list at jennifer@couplandtx.org.

Yegua Creek Farms Selling Schedule

Weekly:

Thurs., Elgin Farmers' Market, 4-7

Sat., Texas Farmers' Market at Lakeline, 9-1

Sun., Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller, 10-2

Monthly: (Beginning in March)

1st Sat., Round Rock Market Days, 9-4

3rd Sat., Hutto Market Days, 9-3

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Santa at Depot on Sunday, December 18

For the first time, the Civic Organization hosted Santa at the Depot. It was well-attended, with the children visiting with Santa and parents taking pictures. Thank you to the St. Peter's horseback carolers for beautiful Christmas music and to the firefighters for bringing Santa. Above, Santa (Jonathan Jones) with Barbara Piper, Susan Schmidt, and Becky Sutton.



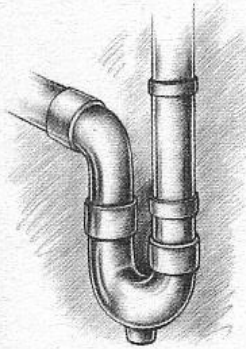
Left, the Neipert daughters talk to Santa. Right, the Jones family. Mary had the idea for Santa at the Depot and Jonathan was a wonderful Santa Claus.

Photos by Susan Garry

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New Pastor at Type Church

Pastor Ryan Evans is the new pastor of Type Church, 1200 CR 466. His wife, Kelly, is a kindergarten teacher in Schulenburg. Jase, his son, is three, and Ellie, his daughter, is one. Pastor Ryan is from Houston, attended Houston Baptist University, and is studying online at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. He is excited to be the pastor at Type and looks forward to learning more about the community.

Besides Sundays, he will be at the church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. He can be reached by calling 281-229-8962 or by email at pastorryan91@gmail.com. Services on Sundays are at 10:30. Bible Study will start on Wednesday, January 25.

Right, Pastor Ryan, his wife Kelly, daughter Ellie, and son Jase. Photo courtesy Type Church



Jordan Publishes New Area History And Weekly History Column

“Notes & Recollections, subtitled Post Oak Island & Elgin, Texas,” has been finished! It’s the story of life at a vanished plantation that flourished between 1855 and 1875. It’s the story of the Kidd family, their neighbors, social life, and their exodus after the Civil War.

This latest book by Charlene Hanson Jordan supplements her earlier volume, “Stuck in the Mud at Post Oak Island.” The time period is prior to and immediately following

the Civil War when there were plantations at Post Oak Island.

The introduction and the appendices include the story of the land east of Coupland and north of Elgin from the time of the Native Americans, the empresarios, and the Baron de Bastrop’s colorful life.

The 256-page book with photographs includes the story of Post Oak Island Lodge 181, agriculture between 1850 and 1870, the foods eaten, the church, the slavery issue, and more. The cost is \$24.95. For more information contact Charlene Jordan at charlenehansonjordan@yahoo.com or telephone (512) 856-2562.

Charlene has begun a weekly history column in the *Elgin Courier*. The first column was in January.



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Coupland School News -- By Kate Knapek, Assistant Principal

First Place at UIL One Act Play!

In addition to winning First Place at the UIL One Act Play competition, Coupland School won for Best Crew: AJ Prinz and Jackson Havens. Also Coupland won Best Performers: Kody Smith and Noah Schultz. That's right, we got both of 'em!

Named to the All Star Cast: Kalli Coffey and Avery Ward. Winning Honorable Mention: Omar Benitez, Mikayla Hyzak, and Sarah Herring. Thank you to our amazing director, Annie Violette.

Our students donated to the Student Council Canned Food Drive. It was quite a success! All food was donated to the Hutto Resource Center before Christmas Break. Congratulations to Mrs. Mazyrack's first grade class for collecting the most cans!

May 19 will be Gerri Wood's Retirement Party (more information to come).



Coupland School's One-Act Play awards. Photo courtesy Coupland School

Community Email Forum--By Ruby Wabbel

To Coupland residents: I want to hear about your interests and concerns for our community.

I am an active member of this community, serving on the Coupland Strategic Growth Committee, as well as on the Board of the Coupland Civic Organization, and I would love to hear your viewpoints.

I have set up an email-- interestsincoupland@hotmail.com--for your input. I most likely will not answer emails. However, I WILL bring your comments to the appropriate meeting for discussion.

We can consider such questions as:

- What is your vision of the future of Coupland?
- What topics would you like to hear about at CCO programs?
- What community activities would you like to see?

This email is not intended to be a tool to complain about one another. It is a tool for you to voice what you would like Coupland to become, or if you would like it to stay as it is.



A successful food drive: left to right, Donna from Hutto Resource Center and Student Council sponsors Michelle Lester and Lisa McMillan.

Photo courtesy Coupland School

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Arts Convergence Winter/Spring News

Happy New Year 2023 Artists, Friends, and Good Neighbors,
This January takes off with numerous arts projects headed for displays from Coupland to Taylor to Houston and by U.S. Mail!

First, Judy Blundell's Taylor art scene update features her Atelier 95 Studios front runners in their Timmerman Building Showroom. Stop by! Let's keep this movement cooking!

Next up, Taylor artist, Karl Senn, and Coupland's Letitia Eldredge, both shipped their newest works off to Houston for The Art Car Museum's "BLUE" exhibit, January 28 to May 28, 2023. So, do map in this short stop on your next Big H sojourn. Seventy-five Texas artists are included this year.

(Continued on page 11)



"The Blue Voyager," gouache on paper--22" x 30", Letitia's submission to the Art Car Museum's "Blue" exhibit.

*Coupland Water Supply Corporation
P O Box 141
Coupland, Texas. 78615*

To all Coupland Water Supply Corporation subscribers:

Happy New Year from members of the CWSC Board of Directors. We all hope the year of 2023 will be a good one for you.

Reminder: Hopefully the months of December and January were uneventful for you during the freeze. If you unfortunately experienced broken pipes during this time contact Karen Marosko at 512-856-2435. You will need a photo of the damaged pipes or a copy of the repair invoice. We will certainly do what we can to help you.

Once again, we wish you the best of 2023:

- Steven Voelker, President
- Phil Grimley, Vice President
- Karen Marosko, Secretary/Treasurer
- Jack Barton, Board Member
- Cindy Wood, Board Member

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(Continued from page 10)

Our forever thanks go out to frequent Arts Converger, Houstonian Colin Nelson for his unstoppable effort to hand deliver the art through the fire storm of T-Mobile's communications breakdown. Nelson made a special trip here to help out . . . while delivering a stylish gallery gift from Ms. Luz Beaty. Luz sent us a folk art painting from her 2022 visit to the South Seas. Thank you Luz and Colin.

Then, Peter Julian, Coupland's artist in the Hoxie yellow house on Art Bloc, sent out a series of original prints as his 2023 New Year's Greeting by U.S. Mail. Peter asked me to mention to any good neighbors who might like to be included in the future mailings of his fine art to send us your snail mail addresses at artsconv@gmail.com, and we will see to it. It's a sure thing that more custom art cards are on the drawing boards.

Meanwhile in house, Artbooks Reading Room study hall has been focused on a review of landscape art by 20th Century painter, Charles Birchfield and the expressionist abstract works of Arshile Gorky. If you would care to follow along with the artbook class, let us hear from you. The focus changes often as a way to keep AC arts refreshed and ideas prolific.

And before closing, I want to say particular thanks to Karen Van Buren and Barbara Worthy for their generous participation in many day-to-day challenges here at AC, and to Susan Ridgway Garry for her prescient reporting keeping to the tracks for us all.

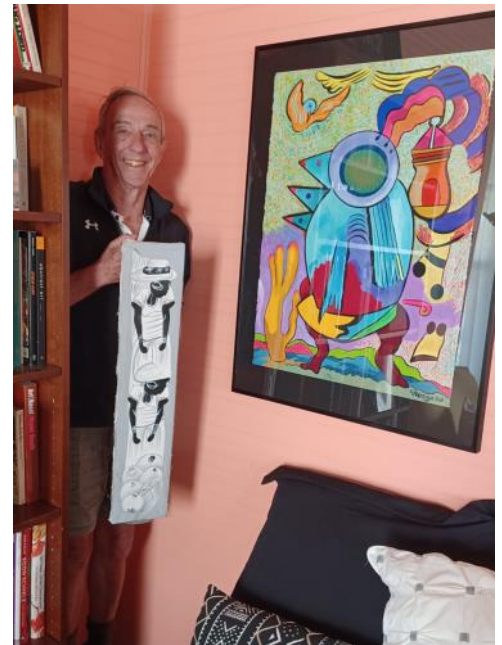
Have a great year All.

Warmest regards,

Your neighbor,

Letitia Eldredge, Artist and Executive Director,
Arts Convergence, artsconv@gmail.com

Photos by Letitia Eldredge



Colin Nelson bearing art gift from Luz Beaty in the South Seas. Colin came from Houston to personally deliver art from Letitia and Karl to Houston's Art Car Museum.

New Year's original art card from Peter Julian. To get future fine art mailings from Peter, send your snail mail address to Letitia at artsconv@gmail.com.



"Looking into and through the beyond," 16" x 20" framed. Karl Senn's submission to the Art Car Museum's "Blue" exhibit.



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New Sweden Church News

By Barbara Carisalez

Welcome 2023! New Sweden Lutheran Church continues to welcome everyone to our many scheduled events. We start the Easter Season off with Ash Wednesday Service on February 22 at 7 p.m., then continue with the Lenten Season with Lenten Services on Wednesdays. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the Lenten Service at 7 p.m. On April 6 we will hold Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m. followed by Easter Services on April 9, starting with a Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. at the cemetery followed by breakfast in the Parish Hall. Then at 9:30 a.m. an Easter Egg hunt for the children with Easter Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

In March on Saturday the 25, the parking lot at New Sweden Lutheran Church will be utilized as a rest stop for the bicycle "Rosedale" ride. In April on Saturday the 15 at 10:30 a.m., we will again host a blessing of the bicycles in the church parking lot.

Again in April on Saturday the 22 we will celebrate Swedish Heritage Day starting at 3 p.m. with activities and a program. A homemade Swedish meal will be served at 5 p.m. Meal tickets will be \$15 for adults and \$8 for children, available by emailing the church at newswedenchurch@gmail.com or contacting Barbara Carisalez at 512-964-1689. Heritage Day is a fundraiser for the self-funded New Sweden Heritage Center that has been collecting memorabilia from the surrounding Swedish community for display. Last year we were able to add a side ramp for entry to help accommodate entry to the New Sweden Heritage Center.

We will continue with our Ladies Bible Study the first Thursday of each month beginning in May. It begins at 6:30 p.m. with a light meal. We will continue with Bible Study at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, along with our game nights at 7 p.m. on the second, third, and fourth Thursdays of the month. We welcome everyone to any and all of our activities at New Sweden Lutheran Church.

Mike Schneider Retires As CCO Treasurer

After many years of dedicated service as Coupland Civic Organization Treasurer, Mike Schneider is retiring. Thank you Mike for all your hard work. Becky Sutton, who has been Assistant Treasurer, will take on the position of Treasurer. Thank you Becky for continuing your efforts with the CCO finances. And thanks to Ruby Wabbel who has taken on the job of CCO Secretary.



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Ukraine Update--By Debrah Candelas

In the August and November Heralds, we had articles by Debrah Candelas about her humanitarian trip to Ukraine. She is sponsoring a Ukrainian mother Zoia and her son Max. Max attends Coupland School. Here is Debrah's latest report about how things are going in Ukraine.

It is difficult for Zoia to talk about things over there. She talks with her mother every day. Some days mama reports all is well. There have been times that she has reported not having any electricity at the time of the call. They are on rolling blackouts, and they have about five hours of power a day. It is a low number of hours to accomplish all that is needed and to get warm. Couple that with the fact that your time might be in the middle of the night.

Photos from Ukraine sent to Debrah after Ukrainians received "care packages" from her.

Also, there is concern that Chernihiv might once again be called upon to hold off an attack from Belarus if they make another march toward Kiev. There has been another buildup of troops/equipment along the border of Belarus/Ukraine. Chernihiv is directly in the path of a march to the capital which is why they were pounded so heavily at the beginning.

Zoia's husband texted me after we sent a care package over around Thanksgiving. He thanked me for taking care of his family and for the packages. He said that they help remind them that they are not forgotten. That haunts me. I cannot imagine what they are going through, and add to that the fact that you do not know if it will get worse or how long it is going to last.

They know that the country is being supported by many governments and they are extremely grateful, but I can imagine the hopelessness they must feel at times. As we weathered this most recent cold spell, I was very much aware of my blessings. I have a home to protect my family from the elements, and I can keep them warm. I have the luxury of grocery stores. Much of what the western world takes for granted moves to a different level of meaning when you stop and think that not everyone has what we do.

On a happier note, Coupland ISD had their Christmas concert, the fifth grade performed a traditional Ukrainian dance, and Max had a solo. He nailed it! Zoia and Max had a great first American Christmas.

Margaret Coupland Joiner, Direct Descendant of Founder, Passes Away

Margaret Coupland Joiner, a direct descendant of Major Theodore Van Buren Coupland who founded Coupland, passed away on November 11, 2022, in Georgetown. She was born on the family farm in Coupland to Theodore Coupland and Ruby Zimmerman Coupland on August 15, 1928.

In 2019, she visited Coupland accompanied by her niece Debbie Schreiber and Debbie's husband Craig from Oracle, Arizona. Ted Wittliff noticed them standing at the Depot and stopped to talk to them. Ted contacted Coupland Civic Organization Board Member Judy Downing, who brought a key and showed them through the Depot.

Mrs. Joiner donated some vintage items to the Depot, including some Civil War uniform buttons from the Major himself and a hand sewn white dress from Coupland of earlier times. Ted said, "Margaret had a lot of memories about Coupland and the folks who lived here. It was very interesting to talk to her."

We extend our sympathies to her family and our thanks for the historic items donated to the Depot Museum.



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(Continued from page 3) Red River Restorations

John can tell what the original Mercantile building would look like, but the Hindmans would like to see a picture of the original building. If anybody has a picture of the old Mercantile, please let the Hindmans know. You can reach Katie at katie@redriverrestorations.com, 512-705-9086.

They are making use of all the high space in the 14,000-foot warehouse by building a layer of plywood shops inside the warehouse. Katie notes, "We have built large, climatized rooms that are work rooms for sanding, repair, painting, and glass cutting. The wood shop is in the main area on the raised platform. On historic buildings and homes, our goal is to restore as much as possible or make replicas if there is so much rot that there is nothing left to restore." They do onsite work on jambs and take the windows and doors to the shop where they can be worked on safely, out of any bad weather.

The Hindmans have worked on the most venerable structures in Texas, including the Alamo, the Texas Capitol, the LBJ Texas White House, and six historic county courthouses.

The latest was the Blanco County Courthouse. Katie says, "We just finished up the O. Henry Museum in Austin where, in addition to the windows and doors, we also restored built-in book shelves and crown molding involving intricate wood work."

They are working now at the King Ranch. Katie says, "We just finished restoring the steel casement windows and are moving on to the wood windows."

Katie notes that what they do involves "a lot of steps and a ton of labor. It is often more expensive to restore than to buy new, but once restored, they should last another 100 years with proper maintenance. Most new modern windows now only last 15-20 years. We build replica windows with wood and methods historically used so they will last. We call them 100-year windows."

Bentoli, an animal feed company, rents the store-front and part of the storage space in back.

The Hindmans have about 10-15 employees, and Katie says, "We are always looking to hire good talent. We would love to find local talent."

She adds, "Feel free to reach out to us. Everyone has been so nice, and we are happy to be here. We want to contribute in a positive way to the community." See more about their work and pictures of their projects on their website redriverrestorations.com and watch an episode on "Texas Country Reporter" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gMvVCWpMWc>.



The Mercantile store-front that the Hindmans plan to restore to its original appearance and the more recent warehouse.



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**Deadline for the next issue,
May 2023, is April 10.**

Red River Restorations -- Saving Historic Doors, Windows & More

By Susan Garry

Coupland's historic Mercantile building is now home to Red River Restorations. Us old-timers remember when it was the John Thompson building, when Mr. Thompson added the large warehouse space to the old "store" space. Then, sculptor Jim Huntington was in the building, using the spacious warehouse for his work, and he built a living space in the back of the Mercantile area. After Jim moved his studio across the street next to his sculpture garden, Martin and Deb Samuelson moved their business, M-D Custom Wood Flooring, into the facility, and now the Samuelsons have sold the building.

Deb says, "M-D Floors is leaving behind a building we've occupied for 22 years. Martin and I ran our wood floor company out of the old Thompson building we purchased from Jim Huntington in Au-

(Continued on page 3)

John and Katie Hindman,
owners of Red River
Restorations.
Photo courtesy of the
Hindmans

