

COUPLAND HERALD



City of Coupland News

By Mayor Jack Piper and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper

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**Coupland
Civic Organization**

Board of Directors

- Susan Schmidt, President
- Mike Schneider, Treasurer
- Becky Sutton, Assistant Treasurer/Hospitality
- 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 has been previously stated, the Coupland City Council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month now beginning at 6 p.m. in the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department's Meeting Room. One will find copies of the Agendas and Minutes from all Council Meetings on the City's website, <http://www.cityofcouplandtx.us>.

Road maintenance is a continuing matter. The pavement covering three culverts on CR 458 was levelled and patched. Other areas needing attention have been identified and work will soon be scheduled. These areas not only encompass CR 458 but within "old town" Coupland as well.

The Interlocal Agreement between Williamson County and the City of Coupland for the upcoming work on Muery and Broad Streets was signed, notarized, and the original was hand delivered to a representative of the County. Work is projected to commence in November and will be an enormous improvement not only for the citizens who live on or near those streets, but the City as well.

The City Council approved and passed two Ordinances during their September meeting. Just a note, these Ordinances are required by law. They are as follows:

1. Passed the levy of an ad valorem tax on property within the corporate limits at a rate of \$0.215934 / \$100 valuation of property. Please note that this ad valorem tax rate is less than last year's rate of \$0.237459 / \$100 valuation. Just as a quick note, the City's ad valorem tax rate initially passed following incorporation was \$0.250000 / \$100 valuation.
2. Reviewed and approved the Ordinance adopting the annual budget for the fiscal year October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

Mayor Piper, Barbara Piper, and Russell Schmidt along with Michael Cooper from Commissioner Boles' office met with Williamson County Sheriff Gleason to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding for police service for the City of Coupland.

Please contact me or one of your council members for questions and answers.

Herald Is 20 Years Old

At the top of this page, the volume number is 21, meaning that the Coupland *Herald* newsletter has passed its 20th Anniversary. Founded in 2001 by Dana Smith, the *Herald* was named for an early Coupland newspaper. It is published quarterly. Other than printing and postage, all work on the *Herald* is done by volunteers. Thanks to our contributors for the articles. Also thank you to our advertisers; the money from their ads pays for printing and postage. The advertisers offer many valuable services, so please support them.

The *Herald* is bulk mailed to every address in our zip code. It is also mailed to a mailing list of about 100 people who are not in our zip code but who want to receive it. The *Herald* is hand delivered to Coupland School, Coupland businesses, the Taylor Press, the Elgin Courier, and the Taylor and Elgin Chambers of Commerce. About 900 print *Heralds* are distributed every quarter. The *Herald* also is emailed to about 300. The email *Herald* shows the ads and photos in color, while the printed and mailed *Herald* is in black and white. If you would like to get on the email list to receive the *Herald* in color, email Jennifer Dollins at jennifer@couplandtx.org.

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

The calendar says it is fall, but the weather still indicates summer. Personally, I love this weather and shudder to think about the possibility of having another winter event as this past February.

Another Choo Choo Fest has come and gone. It was a delight to be able to have this event this year. It was nice to see many friends again. I would like to thank all of the CCO Board Members (their families and friends) for their efforts in making Choo Choo Fest 2021 a success.

As many of you realize, I enjoy looking to past events within the community. As I thought about Choo Choo Fest, I reminisced about the different festivals precluding our current one. The precursor to the Coupland Civic Organization was the Coupland Community Club. I grew up with that club, which was created in 1957. My parents were founding members, extremely involved in its creation and participated in every capacity imagined. I remember there were always lots of people and kids who attended the meetings. It was truly family oriented. I can't remember the Club having a designated festival while I was growing up. When I had young children, I remembered there was a festival called Best Fest. On at least two different occasions, Hoxie Street was completely closed off for a street dance as well as Commerce on another occasion. Dancing up and down the Hoxie hill was definitely interesting. I can't recall how many Best Fests we had, but when the Club became the Civic Organization, we had annual block parties, usually held in April or May. They featured parades, different kid activities (duck pond, jump house, train toss) as well as a dunk tank, art and crafts vendors, food vendors, a silent auction, and live music from a variety of bands. Our major fundraiser was a fish fry. In October 2008, the Coupland Fest was born, and its theme was Choo Choo, hence

Choo Choo Fest. This became the major fundraiser for the Civic Organization. Hopefully next spring, we'll be able to have our second fundraiser, the annual Golf Tournament.

I want to salute the past presidents of the Coupland Civic Organization. Many of them served multiple terms in an often-demanding job. The very first president of the CCO was Brian Birch. Following him was Lois Jebo Duncan, Irene Florida, Buz Garry, Sylvia Summers and Barbara Piper. Thanks to all of you!

Hope to see you at our Trunk or Treat celebration on October 31 and hopefully at our next CCO meeting. Stay safe and well.

Susan Schmidt

**Trunk or Treat on Halloween,
Sunday, October 31, 6 p.m.**

By the time you read this, Trunk or Treat may have already occurred. Trunk or Treat is scheduled for **Halloween, Sunday, October 31, 6 p.m.** The annual event is sponsored by the Coupland Civic Organization and is held in front of St. Peter's Church. The kiddos who may live in scattered farmhouses and can't trick or treat door to door in a neighborhood can trick or treat at the decorated trunks and backs of SUV's at a safe and family-friendly event. Lots of the adults as well as the kids enjoy wearing costumes. The Coupland Volunteer Fire Department brings a fire truck for families to explore.

Coupland Volunteer Fire Department News

By John Roulston-Bates,
Assistant Fire Chief

Williamson County Emergency Service District #10

Fire Academy Class of 2021

At the end of October, the first Fire Academy operated by ESD #10 drew to a close. Students from Coupland, Cameron, Milano, and Weir FDs had their burn day at Pflugerville's burn facility, getting to practice interior and vehicle firefighting. On October 30, our academy will be the first in the state to take the new State Firefighters and Fire Marshals Association electronic testing; this will be hosted at Coupland Station.

We'll be starting the 2022 Fire Academy in March; between now and then we're running a Driver and Fire Pump Operator course in cooperation with our colleagues in Weir.

This course will help us train new fire engine drivers to state standard.

Always Keep Your Eyes Open

When we get a call, we never quite know what we're going to find when we arrive on scene. In September we got a useful reminder to always pay attention. After finishing up at a "routine" motor vehicle accident our all-volunteer engine crew left the scene, turned the engine around at a safe spot, then started on their way back to the station. As they were driving back past the accident scene, they noticed a car still pulled over at the side of the road with its hazard lights on. Our crew could have easily driven by, after all their job was done, but they decided to stop and check on the driver.

They found an older gentleman in the vehicle who gave them cause for concern, so they kept him safe and requested an ambulance. A Wilco Deputy stopped to see what was going on, he was able to look up and call the gentleman's home number to contact his family. It turned out that

(Continued on page 13)

Restoring Manda School

By Susan Erickson

Three sides of Manda School are painted! Lucky for all passing by, it's the front and sides. The back restoration is waiting for the carpenter to get started. Prep work has been done on the inside so once the painter returns, the project can be quickly finished including the roof.



The CWSC board of directors would like to remind you of the following regulation that relates to any CWSC customer who experiences a significant water leak affecting their water consumption during the months of December 2021 and January 2022:

Since the CWSC determines a customer's wastewater rates for the calendar year based on a customer's water use in December and January, in the event a customer experiences a burst water pipe or significant water leak in December and January, and if the customer produces proof of this leak to the President or Vice President of the CWSC, then the CWSC can--at its discretion--change the averaging months from December and January to December and February or January and February in order to obtain a more accurate wastewater average. If you need to contact the CWSC call 512-856-2435.

Please note that proof of a leak may include pictures, repair invoices, or plumbing receipts.

Steven Voelker
President
Coupland Water Supply Corporation

With Covid restrictions, community activities have, unfortunately, been delayed. We will look forward to gathering, again, in the spring. If you would like information about getting involved in the project, please call David Erickson at 512-657-5281. If you get a recording, please leave a message. You may also e-mail newsmeden@aol.com. Donations are welcome and can be sent to Friends of Manda School, P.O. Box 50385, Austin, Texas 78763.

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

Jay Sutton
Financial Advisor

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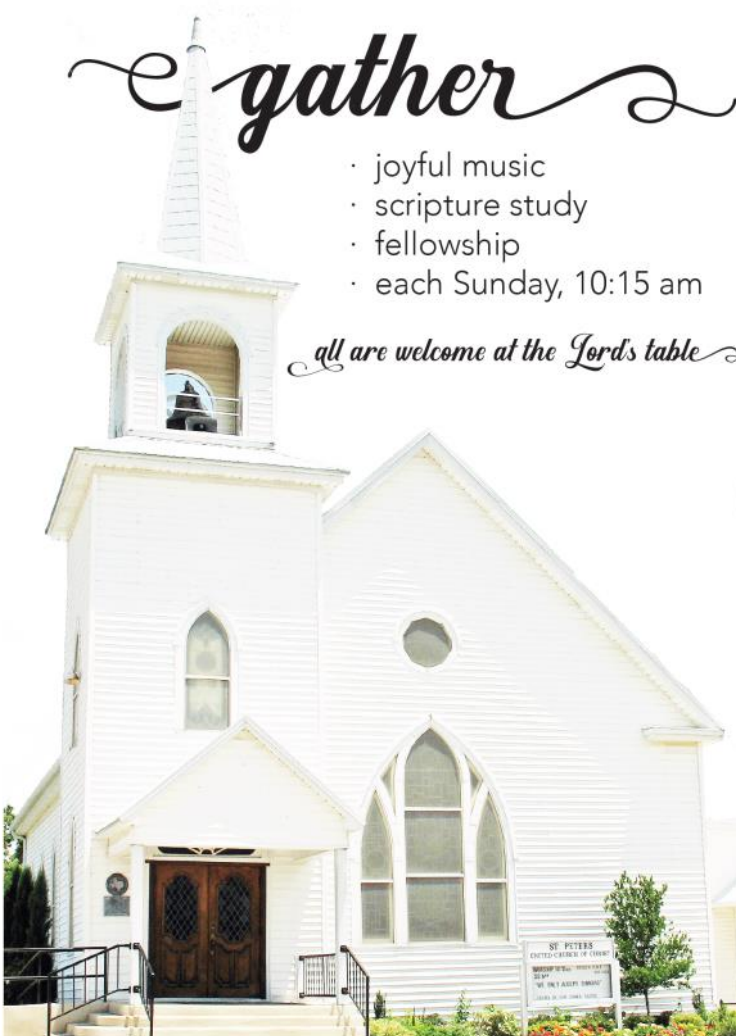
St. Peter's Church News -- By Interim Pastor Charles Stark

Since beginning my ministry at St. Peter's Church of Coupland on July 1, I have come to appreciate what so many have told me about Coupland. In visiting with folks, it seems that the first quality that they love about living and worshipping here is the strong sense of community. I have experienced that myself in a number of settings. I attended the National Night Out and participated in the Choo Choo Fest sponsored by the Coupland Civic Organization. It should be noted that the CCO holds their regular meetings in our Fellowship Hall. I am also proud of the way our congregation stepped up to meet a need when the Coupland School discovered that due to construction delays, they needed a space for their Pre-K class. We quickly made it possible for the class to use a large classroom that the church was not using. It has been a joy to see the children around the church and to know that once again St. Peter's is making a difference in the community.

When I consider the ministry of Jesus, it is clear that worship was only a very small part of his ministry. As he traveled around, he was always meeting the needs of those whom he met. That was only possible because he made sure that he was present in the communities he visited. I have always lifted up that model of ministry in the churches that I have served. St. Peter's has taken on that model in so many ways. On Tuesday mornings we host a gathering we call Coffee Connections for anyone in the community to gather in our conference room for coffee and fellowship. While many of the attendees are members of the church, we do have others who have joined us as well. Let me use this opportunity to spread the invitation to anyone who wants to join us for coffee and usually some goodies. We meet at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday morning, and we would love to welcome you to join us anytime you are available. We talk about everything from ag news, to community happenings, to the history of the area and a whole lot more.

I am a firm believer that church facilities lay vacant too many days and are only used one day a week. So, I would like to extend the invitation to any group that is looking for a meeting space to reach out and start a dialogue with me about how St. Peter's might be a partner with your organization.

Finally, I do want to invite you to consider St. Peter's as a place where you will be welcome if you are looking for a place of worship. We gather at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. As we like to say, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."



gather

- joyful music
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- fellowship
- each Sunday, 10:15 am

all are welcome at the Lord's table

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

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Charles Stark, Interim Pastor



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Next Seniors Luncheon November 16

Another good turnout for the September 14 Luncheon. There were over 40 Senior Citizens attending our delicious Luncheon including nine Hostesses and four Helpers. We appreciate Charlotte's Halloween Decorations.

We had lots of Bingo Players and two tables of "42" Dominoes. We thank everyone who helped with our Luncheon! Without Helpers, we would not be able to do this Luncheon! Thanks to Pastor Charles for his Blessing.

Our next Luncheon will be on November 16, 2021, at 11:30 am. We hope everyone will join us! Don't forget Gift Cards and Prizes under \$10 if you're playing Bingo.

Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli
Co-Chairmen

Coupland football is going strong.

Photos by Crystal Ward



Yegua Creek Farms Selling Schedule

We will be at the following events for the rest of the year! Please let us know if you want a special cutting board, a pecan pie, or other of our goodies for the holidays!

Every Saturday:

Texas Farmers' Market at Lakeline, 9-1, in Austin
Heritage Square Farmers' Market, 10-2, in Taylor

Every Sunday:

Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller, 10-2, in Austin

Every Thursday:

Elgin Farmers' Market, 3-7

Special Events:

October 30, Taylor Car Show, 10-4

November 6, Round Rock Market Days, 9-4

November 13, Pflugerville Pfall Pfest, 9-4

November 13, Down Home Ranch Features GO TEXAN Vendors

December 4, Round Rock Market Days, 9-4

December 11, Hutto Christmas Stroll, time TBD

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Choo Choo Fest 2021!

By Barbara Piper



CCO Treasurer Mike Schneider and daughter Mona Baudek sell meal tickets. Below, Judy Downing, Jonathan Jones, Mayor Jack Piper, and Barbara Piper set up the bake sale.



Left, Jack Piper and Master Chef Peter Wabbel prepare to serve. Right, Jack and Barbara Piper arrange the merchandise table. Lower left, Judy Downing manages the bake sale and merchandise. Lower right, Master Chef Peter Wabbel and Pit Master Bobby Hepner were responsible for the delicious barbecue.



What a delightful day it was on Sunday, September 26! Choo Choo Fest was once again a reality!!

The Coupland Civic Organization Board made the decision in August to proceed with plans for their annual fundraising event having cancelled it in 2020 because of COVID. Board members and volunteers became very busy with planning the function in such a short time frame. Of course, we confirmed with Peter Wabbel, our Master Chef, his availability as well as Bobby Hepner, our Pit Master.

Set-up occurred on Friday and Saturday prior to the Sunday event. Silent auction items donated by board members and the community were placed, priced, and ready for the bidding process on Sunday. The tent was set up on Saturday afternoon; tables and chairs were moved under the tent early on a crisp and cool Sunday morning. St. Peter's church members, board members, and other volunteers brought their impressive baked goods. The Fellowship Hall at St. Peter's was buzzing with a lot of activity!

The bake sale table which included T-shirt, magnets and other items was jam-packed. The aroma of pork loin, sausage, and chicken drumsticks soon filled the room. Board members and volunteers sported their End of the Line T-shirts in various colors. They were ready for the festivities.

JC Callis and his famous train, the Kiddie Express, arrived right on time, at about 11:30 a.m. and continued until about 1:30 p.m. The train ride is something that children of all ages look forward to each year Choo Choo Fest occurs. Many children of all ages enjoyed the ride and waited their turn for multiple rides through Coupland.

The food serving line was busy with many folks coming through the line to fill their plates, either to eat outside or in to-go plates. The tasty and tender pork loin with barbecue sauce, the easy to eat drumsticks and the juicy sausage along with potato salad, beans, coleslaw, pickles, onions, and bread filled each plate. Baked sale items sold out quickly.

Bidding on silent auction items was ongoing with the first several tables closing at about 1 p.m. and succeeding tables closing on fifteen-minute intervals. I hear there were several bidding wars going on...it is always great fun to be a part of these and truly benefits a good cause.

Choo Choo Fest is in the books for 2021. A big and heart felt thank you goes to Peter and Bobby for the outstanding job they did with the barbecue and also to Peter for the great potato salad. Susan S. cooked beans, Becky made the original coleslaw dressing from the Coupland Inn, and yes, Jack smelled up our kitchen with cutting lots of onions. And of course, none of this is even possible without the support of the community and members of St. Peter's. It goes without saying that we are appreciative of your support.

And to end this, remember that the Civic Organization exists for the community and funds made from their fund-raising events maintain the Depot and the continued work on the renovation of the Caboose.

Thanks to all!!!



Above, Ember Haines and parents Dustin and Daphne enjoy the meal in the dining tent.



Right, JC Callis, owner of the Kiddie Express, shows a young passenger how to ring the bell.



Left, Peter Wabbel and Becky Sutton prepare to serve. Right, Ember Haines and her dad Dustin riding the Kiddie Express. Lower left, Becky Sutton and Barbara Piper in the kitchen. Lower right, the Kiddie Express taking passengers around Coupland.



Photos by Susan Garry



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Goodbye and Thank You To Kathy Hill

We are sorry that we will be losing Teacher Kathy Hill who has been doing a wonderful job writing the Coupland School news for the *Herald*. We welcome Kate Knapek, new Assistant Principal, who will be sending us the school news.

Coupland School News -- By Assistant Principal Kate Knapek

Third grade students at Coupland ISD learned and used the Scientific Method by melting S'mores in a solar oven constructed from a pizza box. Students collected time and temperature data, to answer their question, "Which chocolate will melt first?" They were most surprised to see that the temperature inside the ovens soared from 70 degrees F inside to 130 degrees F outside, within 5 minutes. Science sure tastes good!
Debbie Gaston, Third grade Science Teacher

Photos by Kristen Schroeder and Crystal Ward



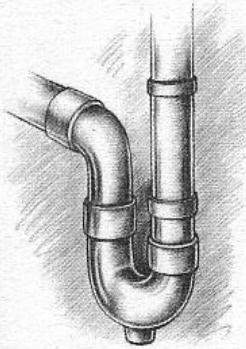
Coupland School news continued on page 19



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Type Church -- By Rachel Kennedy

We finished up our busy summer with a bang this year. Our volunteer leadership team was and is amazing in how they serve tirelessly and faithfully. We are so blessed and thank God to continue to have such strong and eager servants for the Lord. This Fall finds the children returning to school and cooler temperatures approaching and a change in our pace somewhat measured. We are so excited with what God is doing here at Type Church.

We had a Child Dedication ceremony in August which was truly a blessing to all as we pledged our support as a congregation to raising our little ones in the admonition of the Lord.

September lent itself to some leadership planning sessions and enhancements to our church campus. We are in the midst of painting the sanctuary, replacing flooring, and getting new chairs and windows. Our beautiful stained-glass windows are deteriorating and, with the possibility of falling out and someone getting hurt, we have decided to remove them. Unfortunately, the cost to replace or repair them is considerable; more to come on this.

We were blessed with a large fire truck addition to our playground equipment toys, and we owe a special thanks to the Hutto ISD along with Sarah and Vern Cardwell for making this possible.

(Continued on page 11)



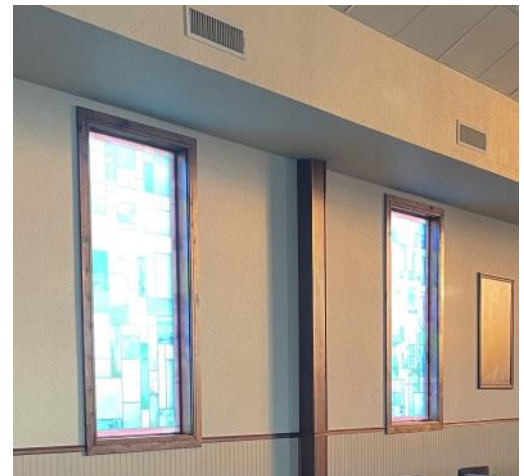
Child Dedication ceremony at Type Church.
Below, window inserts from the "Walker" producers for the Type Church side windows. Type Church also has three historic windows that will remain as they are. See picture on page 12.

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Equipment at Type Church during the filming of "Walker."
Photos courtesy of Type Church



(Continued from page 10)

Type Church was also the location for filming a portion of the "Walker" television series 2, episode 2, for The CW Television Network. It was a fun and exciting experience. Formerly called "Walker, Texas Ranger," part of the remake is being filmed in our local area. Some of the pictures show the work in progress. We have a pretty big campus, and all of their equipment took most of it up.

Now back to our stained glass mentioned earlier, the producer had our windows covered to resemble stained glass using plexiglass inserts. We were still in transition as to how to handle the costly repairs but the Lord had it all worked out. They allowed us to keep the inserts, and they look beautiful in our sanctuary. God is Faithful to provide in His own way and in His own time, seldom as we think He would. Come by and see our new windows and worship the Lord with us!

Keep an eye on our front sign for the upcoming November Thanksgiving family event. We hope the Lord blesses you and that you will have eyes to see His promised provision for the desires of your heart. Y'all come worship with us!

Pastor Terry & Rachel Kennedy

Psalm 37:4-5 "Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this."



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Coupland Author Reports New Book in Progress

Charlene Hanson Jordan was in the process of writing her latest book on our area's history when a difficulty of modern life intruded.

The projected finish date was delayed by something not able to be imagined when the characters in my book lived near what became Coupland and Type. My telephone company quit supporting my CapTel captioned telephone, part of a free Federal program for the hard of hearing where a screen displays the conversation. I lost a month of writing time before I could continue with the book. It was my Internet provider, SOS out of Georgetown, who fixed the problem in a few minutes. They simply linked my phone to the Internet.

To continue with my book, the tentative title is "Whose Land is This?" It's the history of Post Oak Island up to 1875. The main characters in the book are the Thomas Augustus Graves and the Ibrey J. Kidd families, but include Adam Lawrence, Marmaduke Gardner, Sam Smith, Ira Leffingwell, the Barkers, and Mary Christian Burselson.

The expected finish date is now next Spring in time for the dedication of the Post Oak Island historical marker which will be placed near the Type Cemetery marker on County Road 466.

The book describes daily living experiences southeast of Coupland a century and a half ago – so very different from captioned phones and Internet connections.

The three historic windows at Type Church. They are from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bremond and date from about 1909. We will have more information about them in a future *Herald*.

Photo from Charlene Hanson Jordan.

Update on Historical Marker For Post Oak Island Community

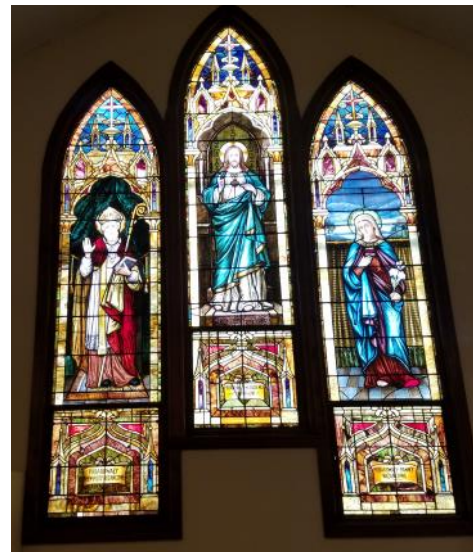
Charlene has been working for years to get a historical marker for Post Oak Island at the Type community. The marker is finally here, but not installed yet. An update from Charlene:

The historical marker has taken quite a ride.

It was stuck in Nashville in the flooding for a while. Picked up by a YRC truck in New Albany, Indiana (across from Louisville, KY). From Nashville, it traveled to Houston and then San Antonio. It has finally been delivered to my house!

I don't even remember when the application was submitted! There won't be a dedication until the pandemic slows down. We are hoping to have the ceremony in the church next Spring sometime. The marker will be located on the other side of the cemetery gate from the Type Cemetery marker.

I'm working on a book about the community up to about 1875. At the rate the marker is moving, I might have the book finished before then.



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(Continued from page 2)

his hometown police department officers were with the gentleman's wife, in the middle of taking a missing person report.

We're proud of our crew for being on the lookout for their community even after they were cleared from the call, and grateful we had the opportunity to ensure the situation ended well. Our thanks also go to the professionals that we work with, including Williamson County Sheriff's Department and EMS.

Recruiting – Come and See Us on Thursday Nights

As our call volume continues to grow, we're on the lookout for more people to join our team. No experience is needed; we'll provide all the training you need; you just need a willingness to serve your community.

We have training at 7 p.m. every Thursday night at Coupland Fire Station, 403 FM 1466, Coupland. If you want to see how we work and possibly volunteer, you are very welcome to stop by and say hello. We'll show you around and introduce you to how we work.



Above, The interior of a fire-fighting "burn room" with a practice fire being set.

Burn day at Pflugerville's burn facility.

Williamson County ESD #10

By Maranda Cummings

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

The ESD purchased a forcible entry training door worth \$7,745, which will be used for training local volunteer firefighters in the Ignis Fire Academy. The ESD approved \$14,948 worth of improvements to the Coupland Fire Station and purchasing of equipment valued at \$122,652 requested by both Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments. This

(Continued on page 17)



Above, practicing vehicle firefighting.

Photos courtesy of Coupland Volunteer Fire Department



Dear Arts Convergencers and Coupland Friends, SEASONS GREETINGS!

Question? Are you apt to be looking for unique special personal gifts for your loved ones this holiday?

You Are? Wonderful! I knew it, so PLEASE take down these dates to join us for **ARTMAGEDDON #1!** on the corner of Herrin and Austin Streets, in Coupland.

Time: All Day Long
Saturday, November 13 and Sunday, November 14.
Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12.

Come See the Art! at the Arts Convergence first annual **TEXAS ART-MAGEDDON.**

On public display you will see fine art paintings, prints, drawings, small sculptural ceramics, and costume jewelry for sale. The Open House and Outdoor Display will feature artists Karl Senn and Letitia Eldredge along with various other AC associates who may join in. We truly hope you will pass by. If you would like to set an appointment for another time to see the art, that is welcome too. Our number is 210-727-9975 or email artsconv@gmail.com.

This art show with original one-of-a-kind artwork, including some smaller pieces, is the perfect opportunity for Christmas gift shopping.

P.S. Please bring your masks with you; sadly we are not quite out of those Covid-19 woods yet.

Hoping to see Coupland neighbors at the first Artmageddon!
 Yours truly,
 Letitia Eldredge

Letitia's Masks in Dallas Museum

Letitia has four pieces in a ceramic exhibit at the Museum for Biblical Art and National Center for Jewish Art in Dallas. Executive Director Scott Peck notes, "Fall of 2021 marks the 20 year anniversary of the events of 9/11. In observance, the Museum is hosting a variety of art Exhibitions." One of the shows features ceramic artists from Texas in observance of 9/11. The *Broken and Whole* Ceramic Exhibition, which includes four of Letitia's masks, opened in September and runs through January 2022.



Letitia and her preliminary artwork for the pot and the one-of-kind pot that she donated to the Choo Choo Fest silent auction.

Photos by Susan Garry



Letitia packing up her mask "Master Teacher" to go to the exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Biblical Art.



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CCO Resumes Monthly Meetings, Hears from CARTS Representative

By Susan Garry



On September 27, in St. Peter’s Fellowship Hall, Coupland Civic Organization (CCO) held its first monthly meeting since meetings were suspended because of COVID. After a supper of taco salad and homemade desserts prepared by CCO board members, the program was presented by Haley Partin, community engagement director of CARTS (Capital Area Rural Transportation System).

Currently, Coupland is served on Thursdays by the Country Bus, which is door-to-door service with 24-hour advance notice recommended. Every Thursday, the bus departs Coupland for Austin at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 2 p.m., \$6 fare one way, \$3 reduced. Riders can get around Austin on Capital Metro. Service to Taylor is on the first and third Thursdays. Bus departs at 9:30 a.m. and returns at 1:30 p.m., \$4 fare one way, \$2 reduced. Reduced fare is half fare for registered CARTS customers, seniors 65 and older, persons with disabilities, and children under 12.

CARTS has started a free pilot program, CARTS Now, that serves Taylor. With 15 minutes notice, the rider can go several places within Taylor. Also, the rider can transfer to the interurban coach and go city to city. CARTS Now is free right now; eventually it will cost \$2 or \$1 reduced fare. CARTS Now is a low-cost, on-demand ride service that allows riders to get from point A to point B on their own time. CARTS Now has no predetermined routes or schedules, and rides are available within 15 minutes of scheduling.

CARTS material explains: This service will provide curb-to-curb transportation between any two points within the Taylor City Limits. Users can request a ride from anywhere in town and meet their driver at a nearby curb or corner to be dropped off at a curb near their destination. The service is not limited to trips that bring riders to and from CARTS stations or transit stops. Service hours are Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Capital Metro can integrate with Amtrak, Greyhound, and Trailways. Some stations are both CARTS and Capital Metro. On Austin’s East Side, many lines come together and from there riders can go to the airport.

CARTS email is Outreach@RideCARTS.com, and website is ride-carts.com. To schedule a ride, call 512-478-RIDE (7433).

Thanks to the CCO board for a delicious supper and to Haley for an informative presentation. Haley said it was the best meeting she had ever attended because it was the only one where she had been served homemade cake and cookies!

Above, Haley Partin presents a program about CARTS. Below, CCO President Susan Schmidt, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper, and Haley display CARTS information. Photos by Susan Garry





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New Sweden Church News

By Barbara Carisalez

The New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Church is rejoicing with the return of previous functions. The Sunday School Program has returned with Adult Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. and Children's Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. The Ladies Bible Study is meeting the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The November topic is *Breath of God, Reviver and Reformer*. We continue with the second Tuesday of the month Bible Study at 10 a.m. We have added a third Bible Study on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. We welcome everyone to join us in any of the Bible Studies.

Seeds of Faith Lending Library is available at New Sweden Church. "Reading gives us a place to go when we have to stay where we are." (Mason Cooley) We welcome you to visit the church library as we live through an incredibly stressful time. One of the best ways to relieve stress is by reading. During difficult times being compassionate and patient with others and with yourself will always help to reduce stress.

On Sunday, September 26, we honored Yvonne Creppon for her 56 years of dedicated service as organist and music director at New Sweden Lutheran Church. This was a surprise celebration that was a success with the help of her immediate family.

On Sunday, October 24, a homemade Swedish meal was prepared and served by the Historical Society of New Sweden Church in celebration of the 145th Anniversary of the Congregation. The meal consisted of homemade Swedish meatballs, gravy, green beans, mashed potatoes, Swedish rye

bread, rice pudding, and ligo berry jam. Great food, fun, and fellowship was had by all.

We are participating again this year in the Operation Shoebox Program and plan on filling 50 shoeboxes that get sent to children who are less fortunate. The ladies group (WELCA) is purchasing poinsettias again this year from Down Home Ranch to help beautify the church during the Christmas Season. We will be observing and celebrating the Swedish St. Lucia during our Christmas Sing-Along on Sunday, December 12, at 7 p.m. This year Makina Mabry will portray Lucia. Makina is the daughter of Chris and Janet Mabry and granddaughter of David and Terry Ramm. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Parish Hall.

A Tribute to Marilyn Samuelson, Long-Time Herald Contributor And Dedicated Community Worker By Her Granddaughter Tamra Mangum

Marilyn Berglund Samuelson was born on June 7, 1930, on her parents' farm, to Martin Berglund and Esther Peterson Berglund in the Manda community where Marilyn grew up with her four siblings. She attended Manda school and graduated from Elgin High School where she met the love of her life, David Wilburn Samuelson.

Marilyn and David married on March 1, 1949, at New Sweden Lutheran Church when Marilyn was 18 years old. Together, they had 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. In 1975, they built their dream home on farmland just outside of Coupland.

Outside of her work, she volunteered countless hours to her greatest passions - God, heritage, community, and farming. Marilyn played a key role in the formation of Manville Water Supply Corporation, Friends of Manda School, Farmers Union, Blackland Prairie Concerned Citizens, and Travis County ESD #13. She was dedicated to conserving farmland, advocating for farmers, preserving history and historic buildings, and serving the local community.

She was devoted to New Sweden Lutheran Church, and she helped found the New Sweden Heritage Center and the New Sweden Historical Society. Her grandchildren, who called her Memaw, have memories of picking cotton, shucking corn, harvesting a garden, checking the chicken coop, making bread from scratch, and sitting beside her on the piano bench. Making sure the church building was prepared to welcome guests on Sunday morning was a part of summers spent with Memaw, serving others to accomplish a greater good.

Marilyn touched many lives in her 91 years on this Earth. She is the puzzle piece that completes the full picture for many scenes around Travis and Williamson Counties--the farming community, local history, and preservation of the land and historic buildings.

Editor's Note: On September 30, the Texas Senate passed a Resolution in Marilyn's memory, and it adjourned that day in her memory.

**New Sweden Evan.
Lutheran Church**

12809 New Sweden Church Road
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Hans Lillejord, Pastor
Office 281-0056 Cell 947-9044
Ofc. Hours 9 - Noon Tues. & Thurs.



www.newswedenelca.org

(Continued from page 13)

equipment included the following: 10 new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs); 2 Rapid Intervention Crew packs; tools and equipment for both fire departments' vehicles; upgraded scene lights to LED; nozzles for both departments; 2 gas monitors for emergency response and 1 calibration station to be used by both departments; and extrication equipment.

The ESD also approved the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), 1 medical and 1 trauma bag for each truck in each department, medical bags for members of each department, and 5 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for a total cost of about \$60,000. In the past, each department had one medical bag that was "grab and go" when medical calls were received. These new bags will allow each truck to be equipped for medical calls.

The ESD is continuing research on upgrading the fleet to better provide emergency services to the district. This would include purchasing a 3500-gallon tender worth \$350,000. The Board of Commissioners agreed that the next step would be to contact Government Capital to secure financing.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to keep the same tax rate that has been in effect since the ESD was formed in 2005, which is 10 cents per \$100 property valuation. They have also approved paying two firefighters to perform administrative duties.

If any of our area residents are interested in volunteering to support our volunteer firefighters, they can contact Jared Cummings (Coupland VFD Fire Chief) about joining the Volunteer Auxiliary Unit. This unit will provide assistance to the volunteer firefighters when needed (e.g., bringing bottled water to calls or helping with the annual chili supper). Jared can be contacted at jcum-mings@couplandfire.org.

If any of our area residents are interested in joining either the Coupland VFD or Thrall VFD, please contact Jared Cummings at the above email. Please check 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 from both Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments. We would especially like to thank those volunteers that provide training to others in order to better these departments. The ESD is proud to support the Coupland and Thrall Firefighters as they serve our area residents.

Thanks to Karen Van Buren

The *Herald* is sorry to bid farewell to Karen Van Buren as contributor of the news from ESD#10. Karen is retiring as ESD contract accountant and administrator and from reporting the news. We welcome Maranda Cummings who will be filling Karen's position with the ESD and will be contributing ESD news to the *Herald*. For another year Karen will be consulting with the ESD as she assists Maranda with governmental reporting and other requirements.

Bobby Haines, Beekeeper
Bee removal
512-789-4953, haines.rh@gmail.com

Bobby prepares to gently remove a bee swarm from a tree and lure it into a hive.

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Coupland School News --

By Kate Knappek, Coupland School Assistant Principal

The Masonic Lodge held a dedication ceremony on Thursday, September 30, for the new addition to Coupland School. Ms. Tammy Brinkman, Superintendent, was joined by School Board members for this special event.

Photo by Crystal Ward



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Coupland volleyball is going strong!

Photos by Crystal Ward



The Coupland Herald

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**Deadline for the next issue,
February 2022, is January 10.**

Dedication of New School Facilities



Superintendent Tammy Brinkman speaks at the dedication.

Photo by Crystal Ward

The Masonic Lodge held a dedication ceremony on Thursday, September 30, for the new addition to Coupland School. Ms. Tammy Brinkman, Superintendent, was joined by School Board members for this special event.