

COUPLAND HERALD



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

St. Peter's Church 4
ESD#10 5
CWSC 7
Sept. 26 CCO Meeting 8
Coupland School News 9
St. Peter's Siding Project 10
Coupland Art News 11
New Sweden Church 12
Ukrainian Adventure 13

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We have the conclusion of a very unusual article in this Herald. Debrah Candelas, Coupland resident and daughter of Sarah Torluemke, went on her own personal mission to help the people of Ukraine. She has written an account of her journey. Part One appeared in the August Herald. Part Two, the conclusion of Debrah's account, is in this issue, beginning on page 13.

On the November 8 ballot, three City Council places are up for election with five candidates for these places. Incumbents are Barbara Piper and John Roulston-Bates. New candidates are Victoria Gonzalez, Russell Schmidt, and Ruby Wabbel. There will be a polling place in St. Peter's fellowship hall.

News from the City--By Mayor Jack Piper

The city participated in a ribbon cutting for the newly renovated streets and culverts on South Broad and Muery during the month of July. The renovation was done by Williamson County and was part of the 2019 Wilco Bond Project.

At a special meeting in July, the city council adopted a Public Improvement District (PID) policy. This policy can be found on the city's website, cityofcouplandtx.us.

The city ordered a special election and passed an ordinance during its August meeting for the renewal of the current city sales tax of one percent (1%) and the reauthorization of a use tax in the amount of three quarters of a percent (3/4%). These are not new taxes, (Continued on page 15)

School Bonds on November 8 Ballot

By Crystal Ward, Coupland School Board President

The Coupland ISD Board of Trustees called a \$56M November bond election to build a new middle school on the property already owned by the district off CR 460. With all the growth our district has seen over the past three years, the best little school in Texas is now busting at the seams. Our transfer rate at the beginning of the 22-23 school year was at 15%, and we get new in-district students every month. (Continued on page 15)

Special Election Meeting--Candidates and School Bonds

By Sarah Torluemke

On October 10, the Coupland Civic Organization held a special meeting to present Coupland City Council candidates and a school bond proposal that will be on the November ballot. There are three seats open on the City Council. Candidates presented their vision for Coupland as follows:

Barbara Piper, incumbent, feels it is important to embrace growth, while exercising fiscal responsibility, staying within the current budget. Certain "downtown" buildings can be designated as historical, saving them from being torn down or modernized. She searches for grants for road repair of CR 458.

Russel Schmidt, a new candidate, said he feels it is important to stay within the current budget. He also feels it is important to manage growth. (Continued on page 3)

# President's Message

By Susan Schmidt, CCO President

Happy Fall to all! Now, all we need is some fall type weather. I am quite ready for the never-ending summer to just go away for a time.

Another Choo Choo Fest has come and gone. Once again, the community of Coupland and other friends from various communities supported our efforts and made Choo Choo Fest 2022 a success. A big thank you to the CCO Board Members, their spouses, and other community members who contributed to the success of this annual event. Also thank you to the people who donated baked goods and silent auction items.

By the time the *Herald* is published, another Trunk or Treat may have come and gone. I am sure this year's celebration was fun filled for both children and adults.

Do not forget about the important election this November. The City of Coupland will be electing three council members. There are five people vying for these positions. Another important part of the election is the school bond. Not only did my parents attend Coupland School, but my siblings and I did as well. My children also attended the school here. It is particularly important the school bond pass. I have heard arguments stating "I do not have kids in the school. Why should I vote for it?" These students are our future. Voting yes for the bond is a way of paying it forward. There are generations before us who paid for our parents' schools, our schools, and our grandchildren's schools. Coupland School has always been a big part of our community and I would like very much to see its expansion.

Until next time, stay safe and have a wonderful holiday season.

*Susan Schmidt*

# Choo Choo Fest 2022

On Sunday, October 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at St. Peter's Church of Coupland, the Coupland Civic Organization (CCO) held its annual Choo Choo Fest, a fundraiser for the restoration of the historic caboose.

Barbecue was prepared by Coupland's Master Chef Peter Wabbel and included sausage, pork loin, and chicken drum sticks. The sides of potato salad, cole slaw, and beans were homemade by CCO members. We always say that serving continues until the food runs out, and this year it really happened. The food ran out while people were still wanting more.

Choo Choo Fest also included the silent auction with many great items that were snapped up. The bake sale goodies also were all gone. The Kiddie Express train ride had very good attendance by both the kiddies and their parents. Kids were given free train whistles.

Thanks to everybody who contributed in any way to make this a successful Choo Choo Fest. Over \$7,000 was raised to continue the work on the caboose.



Above, JC Callis and his Kiddie Express train giving kiddies and their parents rides through Coupland. Below right, working in the serving line are Mayor Jack Piper and Alderwoman Karen Marosko.

The piece de resistance of the bake sale was this spectacular cake made by a friend of Mary Jones. The cake features a train on a hill and is entirely edible except for a few wooden dowels.



Below, enjoying the barbecue dinner under the dining tent is the Haines family: Ember, Daphne, and Dustin.



## Halloween Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 30

On Sunday, October 30, beginning at 5 p.m., the CCO will host the annual Halloween Trunk or Treat. Residents in costumes will decorate car trunks or the backs of SUVs, park on the street in front of St. Peter's Church, and hand out treats to

the trick or treaters. This is a safe way to trick or treat and is fun for the whole family. By the time that you receive this *Herald*, this event may have already taken place.

(Continued from page 1)

### Special Election Meeting

John Roulston-Bates, a current incumbent, said it is important to manage growth. As farmland around us is developed, the City will have owners asking to be annexed. He said he feels we need to talk with landowners about voluntary annexation to increase the City's footprint.

Ruby Wabbel, a new candidate, shared she is a long-term resident, involved in various organizations and efforts for many years. She has set up an email, [interestincoupland@hotmail.com](mailto:interestincoupland@hotmail.com), to encourage people to express their concerns. She wants residents to feel they have a voice.

The Coupland School Board President Crystal Ward and Vice-President Michael Roepke along with some other school representatives spoke concerning the upcoming bond election.

They presented contrasting slides of the old campus and the new campus. They also had a graph which showed how much larger the school district is than the City of Coupland. They pointed out how much land has recently been sold or is on the market now and how development of those parcels is going to affect the growth of the school. Included in the upgrades to the school are upgrades to the security of the buildings. Locks are routinely checked weekly and any not working are repaired.

There was discussion about how much the school has grown and how much it is likely to grow. This in turn brought up discussion on how transfer students are impacting the school census. According to recent figures, transfers comprise about 15% of total students. It was also pointed out that transfers were mainly to increase class size when a grade "outgrew" a classroom and the grade had to have an additional classroom added to stay within TEA guidelines. Transfers are accepted to "fill up" the classroom.

Bond funds are needed to accommodate future growth in in-district students.

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

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# St. Peter's Church News

By Interim Pastor Charles Stark

As I look around at our culture, I am struck by the fact that we live in a world that is fueled more and more by hate. No matter what the issue, we seem to find a way to draw a line in the sand and divide the people into two sides. There are those who agree with me and then those other folks who deserve our hatred and disgust.

That way of approaching the world is clearly out of touch with how God wants us to treat our neighbors. Scripture teaches us that God is Love. Jesus came to help us understand the concept of grace which is fueled by love. God so loved the world (that means everybody) that God gave us Jesus to help us learn what it means to live a life of love. Jesus made God's love a reality even to the point of dying on a cross asking God to forgive those who hated him so much.

I often save little bits of wisdom that I find on Facebook. The following one should cause us all to stop and ponder.

### Note to Self

*"What is my purpose in life?" I asked the void. "What if I told you that you fulfilled it when you took an extra hour to talk to the kid about his life?" said the voice.*

*"Or when you paid for that young couple in the restaurant? Or when you saved the dog in the traffic? Or when you tied your father's shoes for him?"*

*"Your problem is that you equate your purpose with goal-based achievement. The Universe isn't interested in your achievements... just your heart. When you choose to act out of kindness, compassion, and love, you are already aligned with your true purpose."*

*"No need to look any further!"*

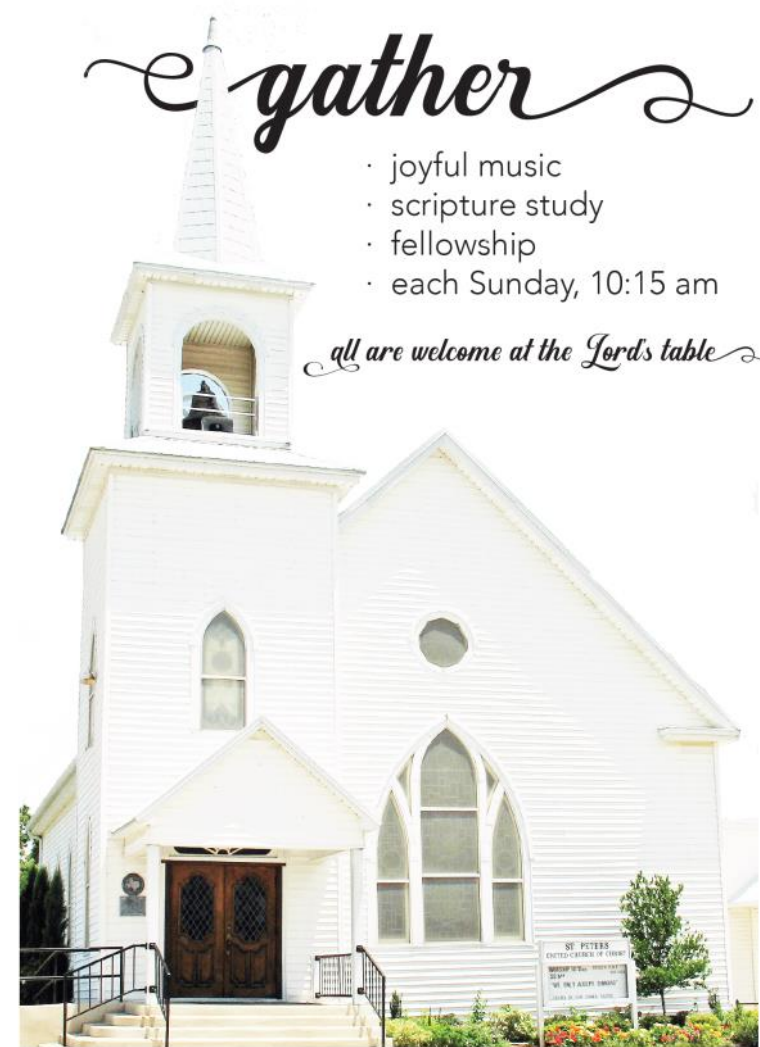
The message is clear. In the words of that famous song released in 1965, "What the World Needs Now is Love." I firmly believe that the world in every time and place has needed love, but we might just need it now more than ever.

Finally, I do want to invite you to consider St. Peter's as a place where you will be welcomed and loved. 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."

## Great Turnout on September 20-- Thanksgiving Meal November 15

We had a great turnout for our September Luncheon. We had 45 Senior Citizens including hostesses and helpers attending. Hostesses and hosts were: Sandra and Don Wernli, Becky Sutton, Charlotte Albert, Hermania Vitek, Janet Doss, Cindy Alexander, Bonnie Sladek, Lois Schmidt, Joyce and Arthur Henze, and Marge Gebhardt. Helpers

*(Continued on page 5)*



*gather*

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

*all are welcome at the Lord's table*

*St. Peter's Church  
of Coupland*

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# 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](http://www.wcesd10.org).

This year's no-new-revenue tax rate was \$0.077820 per \$100 valuation, and the voter-approval tax rate was \$0.086117 per \$100 valuation. The Board of Commissioners voted to approve the same tax rate that has been in place since the formation of the ESD in 2005, which is \$0.10 per \$100 valuation. This tax rate will raise more taxes for Maintenance and Operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 23.095% and will raise taxes for Maintenance and Operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$16.36.

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 who provide training to better the district. The ESD is proud to support their volunteer firefighters as they serve our area residents.

*(Continued from page 4)*

were Wanda Walther, JoAnn Ging, and Teddy Wittliff. Thanks to Pastor Charles for our Table Blessing and to Charlotte for decorations. We thank everyone who helped us in any way!

Our next Luncheon will be our Thanksgiving meal on November 15, at 11:30 a.m. We hope to see you there. We will be playing "42" Dominoes and Bingo. If you are playing Bingo, it is recommended that you bring a prize of \$10 or under.

*Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli, Co-Chairs*

# Charlene Hanson Jordan's Book *Almost Ready To Publish*

Charlene Hanson Jordan is finishing her book about the history of the Post Oak Island area. She says, "I'm finished with the research and just about all of the writing. It is a history and in some measure, a genealogy of the family at Post Oak Island and their neighbors, including the Christian, Burleson, Gatlin, and Moon families. It includes essays from Cristin Embree and Marcy."

The working title has been *The Vanished Plantation*, but she will change this. She explains, "*The Vanished Plantation* may sound too much like a novel—something that would be misleading."

The book will be available at the Elgin Depot Museum, direct from Charlene, and at book signings.

## Yegua Creek Farms Selling Schedule

Thursdays, Elgin Farmers' Market, 4-7  
Saturdays, Texas Farmers' Market at Lakeline, 9-1\*  
Sundays, Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller, 10-2\*\*

October 1, Round Rock Market Days, 9-4  
October 15, Hutto Market Days/Hutto Olde Tyme Days, 9-4  
October 22, Elgin's Hogeeye Festival, 10-6  
November 5, Round Rock Market Days, 9-4  
November 5, Down Home Ranch Fall Festival, 9-2  
November 19, Pflugerville Market Days, 10-3  
November 19, Hutto Market Days, 9-4  
December 3, Round Rock Market Days, 9-4  
December 10, Holiday in Hutto, 10-4  
December 17, Hutto Market Days, 9-4

\* No market Nov. 26, Dec. 24, Dec. 31

\*\*No market Dec. 25, Jan. 1

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\* [www.yeguacreekfarms.com](http://www.yeguacreekfarms.com)

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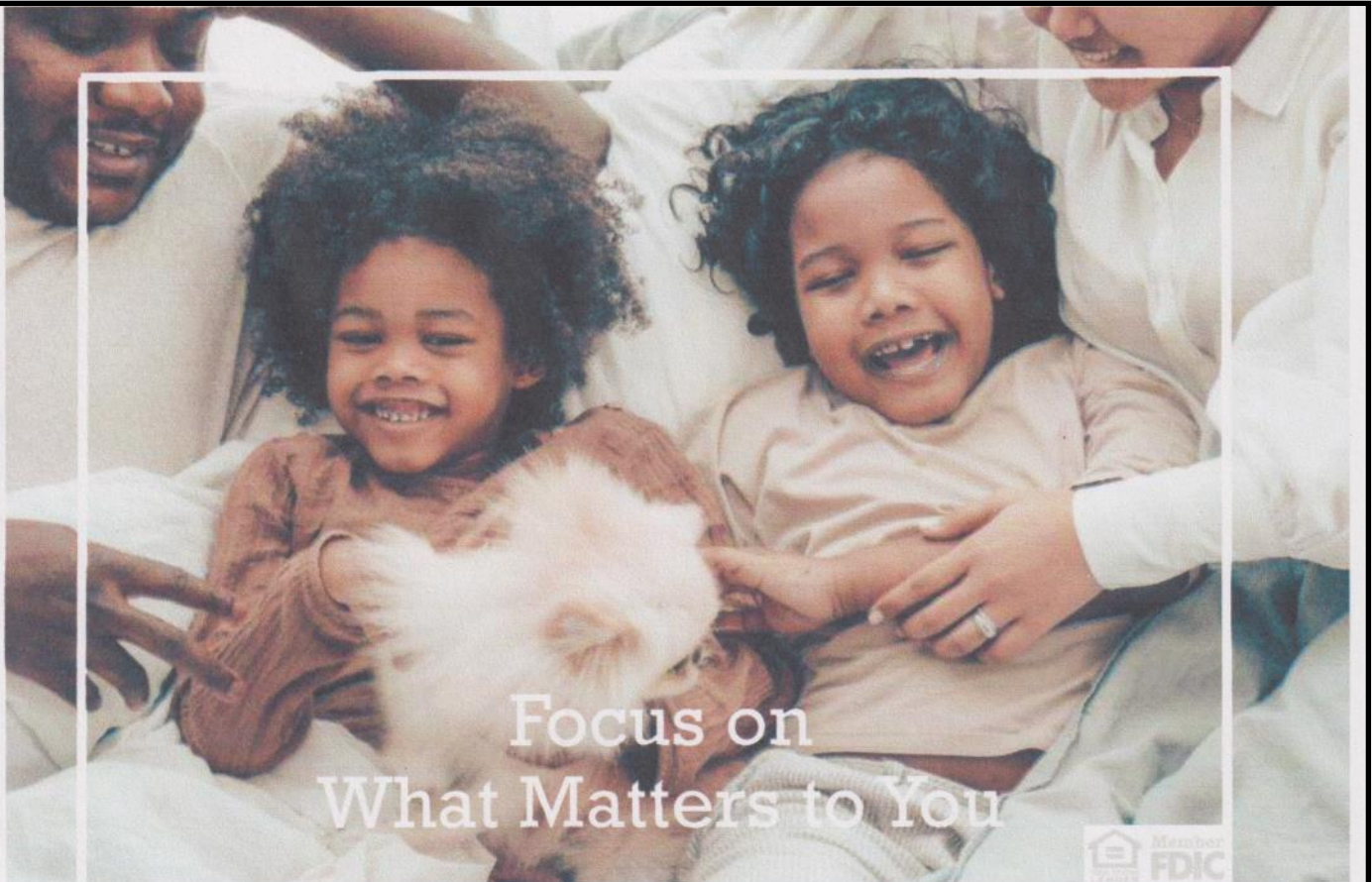
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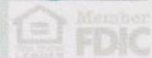
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Coupland Water Supply Corporation  
P O Box 141  
Coupland, Texas 78615

**Notice to CWSC Subscribers**

Coupland residents who are connected to the Coupland Water Supply Corporation's (CWSC) wastewater management system are reminded that their monthly total wastewater charge for calendar year 2023 will be calculated based on the upcoming months of December 2022 and January 2023. A two-month average of the water used during those two months, based on your water meter reading reported by Manville Water Supply Corporation, provides an annual average of presumed household water usage and thus your sewage treatment charge. The board of the CWSC determines your wastewater rate based on these two months since these two months represent the least water usage to the largest number of subscribers. The monthly base charge to be hooked up to the CWSC system is a fixed \$30 per month. The sewage treatment charge is \$7 per 1000 gallons as determined above.

If your initial subscription to CWSC occurred in 2022 after the December 2022-January 2023 water usage determination period, which gives you no history of water usage, your monthly charge for the year was \$37 per month (the \$30 base charge plus a presumed 1000 gallons average usage). If your first month's billing was for less or more than a full month, your base rate was prorated accordingly. The following months were then billed at \$37 per month. January usage is billed in February. The updated 2023 billing goes into effect with the March bill for February usage.

The formula used for calculating your total wastewater charge is shown below. If you take this example and apply your own numbers for water usage, you can calculate your own expected monthly wastewater charges. If you have any questions about this rate calculation, please call Karen Marosko, Secretary and Treasurer of the CWSC, at (512) 856-2435.

2023 MONTHLY SEWER BILL CALCULATION EXAMPLE

Gallons used in Dec 2022:	3550
Gallons used in Jan 2023:	4650
Total usage (Dec + Jan):	8200
Average usage [(Dec + Jan)/2]:	4100
Average usage x \$7 per 1000 gallons:	(4100X7)/1000=\$28.70
Monthly treatment charge:	\$28.70
Monthly base charge:	\$30.00
Monthly total charge:	\$58.70

Signed,

Steven Voelker, President, CWSC  
October 2022

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## Sept. 26 Meeting--Account of Trip to Ukraine

On September 26, the Coupland Civic Organization meeting attendees heard about the school bond proposition on the November ballot and the Ukrainian trip of Coupland residents Debrah Candelas and Jeff Teasdale.

First, Coupland School Superintendent Tammy Brinkman and School Board Member Michael Roepke spoke about the November school bond proposal. More information was given at a special meeting on October 10 that hosted School Board President Crystal Ward, plus candidates for Coupland City Council (article on page 1).

Following Supt. Brinkman, Debrah and Jeff discussed their trip to help the Ukrainians. In April, they first went to a refugee camp in Poland and provided medical treatment to the Ukrainians coming across the border. Debrah is a nurse, and Jeff has been an EMT. Then they received word that the city of Chernihiv needed medical supplies brought in and children evacuated, so Debrah and Jeff started driving across Ukraine. They saw a lot of destruction, and it was of civilian targets such as grocery stores and hospitals. Debrah said that some of the damage was done by cluster bombs and incendiary devices. The highway littered with blown up tanks; the residents used the blown-up pieces for fortifications. While Debrah was speaking, Jeff showed slides that illustrated her points.

Chernihiv was one of first cities hit by the Russian invasion, and it endured 35 days of nonstop shelling and artillery. Debrah presented a video of Chernihiv showing the beautiful city before the Russian attack and the terrible destruction that is there now.

Debrah is sponsoring a mother, Zoia, and her 10-year-old son Max from Ukraine. Max is attending Coupland School. Zoia's husband had retired from the



CCO President Susan Schmidt, right, introduces School Board Member Michael Roepke and Superintendent Tammy Brinkman.

Ukrainian military, but he was called up to train soldiers, so he is still in Ukraine. Debrah read a letter written by Zoia about the beauty and culture of Ukraine before the destruction, thanking Americans for their support, and asking that we continue to support them.

Debrah has written an account of her experience. The first part was in the August *Herald*, and the second part is in this issue (page 13).

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Left to right, Debrah Candelas, Jeff Teasdale, and from Ukraine, Zoia and her son Max.



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### Coupland School News -- By Kate Knappek, Assistant Principal



Upper left, Drake Olson and Jersen Alverenga.  
Above, Coupland Cowboys gather for discussion.  
Left, Cowgirls volleyball team, led by Coach Stayci Burris, celebrating their win!  
Photos by Meredith Middaugh



Left, Mariana Arenas Gonzales, Estrella Blas-Vallejo, and Ximena Loredo display some of the dishes at Cultural Night. Right, enjoying Cultural Night are Aylin Reza Jaramillo, Katie Lopez, and Rene Lopez. Photos by Kate Knappek



Daniella Osorio-Perez, former Coupland student, performs at Cultural Night.  
Photo by Kate Knappek

Coupland School had its first Cultural Night on September 15! We celebrated the many different cultures of our school. Parents brought in their favorite dishes. This included dishes from Bangladesh, Vietnam, Mexico, El Salvador, Ukraine, Germany, and Czech Republic and more! There was a performance by the 8th grade Spanish class and a dance by Daniella Osorio-Perez, a former Coupland student.

Literacy Night was on October 27 from 6 to 7 p.m. Students were allowed to wear literacy costumes and visited the different booths for reading/writing activities. Thanks to the amazing Coupland PTA for providing dinner for our families! Our librarian, Ms. Lake, kept the Book Fair open for parents. It was a fun night!

Volleyball and Football teams are busy with practice and games! They are playing hard and working as teams.

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# St. Peter's Church Gets a Facelift

By Dana Smith

You may have noticed the fresh white paint on St. Peter's Church gleaming in the sunlight. After several years of fundraising, our small church managed to raise more than \$130,000 to pay for removal of the 40-year-old vinyl siding, installation of fiber-cement siding, painting, and new gutters.

Many thanks to Danny Smith, Judy Downing, Sharon Kreidel, and everyone who helped with fundraising and contributed to the project, and to the folks at RoofCrafters for doing such great work.

The church sanctuary was built in 1905-1906 and the fellowship hall was added in 1925. The two structures were connected in 1953. A major remodel was done in 2006 and a commercial-grade kitchen was added in 2012.

The congregation of St. Peter's is pleased to be able to share our facilities with the community for Coupland Civic Organization events and voting. The church and fellowship hall are also available to rent for weddings and special events.



Above, the new siding gleams in the sunlight. Below, removing old siding and putting on the new.



Photos courtesy of Dana Smith..



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# Arts Convergence Fall Season News

Greetings, Artists and Good Coupland Neighbors,

Fall rolls around again with our many local Creatives on the make, fabricating new works, staging group collaborations and ongoing exhibits that bring fresh vision into our cultural scene.

Arts Convergence shouts out huge thanks to our fond art patron and studio landlord, David Stark, for his generous attention to renovations of 207 Herrin Street. Inside and out, the space points toward a whole new look for 2023. Additionally, we thank Tim and Barbara Worthy for their continuing helping hands in this effort, many times doing for us what we could not do ourselves. We are so grateful for all. Karen Van Buren, you too, helping to secure the art collection, relentlessly, for those many months.

Uptown in Taylor, the McCrory Timmerman Project, led by architect and artist, Judy Blundell, announces the 2022 "BirdSong" exhibition featuring new works by 12 female artists that address the idea of "The Anthropocene - gauging the impact of the human footprint upon the earth." The invitational show will hang at the McC-T building from Friday, October 28, thru Saturday, December 17, 2022. There will be two cash prizes of \$500 each awarded on the night of the opening, selected by vote of the public audience that evening. Put this date on your curiosity calendar and come join us!

On the painter's easels here about town, Peter Julian resumes his works of gouache with collage on paper; Karl Senn pumps away at a series of daily paintings, also in gouache; and Letitia Eldredge is writing and painting on her thematic ideas for "The Anthropocene."

With Covid19 on the run, AC keeps the hope alive for a public reception soon, though we still dare not project when, due to the vulnerabilities of some of our very favorite folks. But, we know, and God Willing, our new day will come. Until then and when we all meet up again in person, Best wishes to you each and good luck with your inspired projects.

I remain,  
Yours truly,  
Letitia Eldredge  
Artist and Executive Director  
Arts Convergence, Coupland



"Leaf Bed," Letitia Eldredge 2022. Color pencil on paper. Concept for "Bird Song."



"Enunciation Proclamation," by Karl Senn. Gouache on paper. October 2022 Series.  
  
Photos by Letitia Eldredge

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## New Sweden Church News

By Barbara Carisalez

Come One, Come All Let's celebrate Fall!

Sunday School is back in full swing at New Sweden Lutheran Church. Adult Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. and Youth/Children's Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. Bible Studies continue with Ladies Bible Study the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the morning at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to join us.

Excitement was in the air for the start of the school year. New Sweden Lutheran Church had another successful backpack project. We gifted backpacks filled with school supplies to the Coupland School District and Thrall School District.

All are welcome to join us at all our activities, including our upcoming events. We will continue with our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 23, at 7 p.m. Christmas Sing-along is on Sunday, December 11, at 7 p.m., and it will also include our traditional St. Lucia celebration. Coffee and cookies are served afterwards. Our candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7 p.m. with the Swedish tradition of Julotta Service on Christmas morning at 7 a.m. followed by breakfast in the Parish Hall. A special fun-filled game night will be held on New Year's Eve at 7 p.m. where everyone brings a favorite snack.

We continue to be so thankful and blessed to share the bountiful blessings upon us and invite you to share yours with us.

**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.



## Ukraine



*Recap of Part One.*

*Part Two Begins on Page 13.*

In Part One in the August *Herald*, Debrah Candelas explained how she and Jeff Teasdale first were working in the Polish National Guard medical tent. They helped displaced people with immediate medical needs. When they weren't providing medical attention, they walked across the border with wheelchairs to assist the elderly and disabled to get to the camp. They also took supplies across the border to cars who took the supplies to the front line in eastern Ukraine.

Then they were asked to take supplies and to evacuate disabled children from a rehabilitation center in Chernihiv, a small city about 30 miles from the Belarus border that had spent 35 days under siege. Its residents were in desperate need of supplies. They took a retired metro bus loaded with supplies, an armored personnel carrier loaded with cans of fuel and a water purification system, and a passenger van for the journey of 1,000 miles.

They encountered numerous check points and roadblocks, especially around the capital, Kyiv. The main roads through the city were closed, so they had to drive around the city. They saw destruction everywhere. Part Two is the account of their trip to Chernihiv and back home again.

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# A Ukrainian Adventure

Part Two -- By Debrah Candelas

Earlier this year, Coupland resident Debrah Candelas and her partner Jeff Teasdale volunteered their time and efforts, and risked their safety and even their lives, to help the Ukrainians. Debrah and Jeff were able to provide more help than most people could because she is a nurse and he is a retired paramedic with 13 years in that field. Also Jeff is a retired police officer with 13 years of service. They arrived in Poland on April 6, worked in Ukraine from April 13 through April 20, and left Poland on April 22 to return home. Debrah has written the following account about their experience. This article is the second part of the account. The first part was in the August Herald.

The main road from Kyiv and Chernihiv was not safe for us to travel, so we used the only other road available and this road, literally, broke the bus. Before we were done with it, we had popped the air suspension bag so we were dragging bottom over a road that had 3-foot sections of rebar sticking out of it and potholes you could burry a small car in. At one point we found ourselves stuck and some locals stopped to help. I was saddened when we could not give them any of the supplies we were carrying because everything was expected at the distribution center in Chernihiv.

As we drove into Chernihiv, we saw more destruction. Everywhere. We also saw signs of life attempting to return to normal. People were walking around and some of the businesses were starting to re-open. We would later take a tour of the city. We were shown where every hospital and clinic in town had been blown up, every school destroyed, artillery craters in the main park, hardware stores burned so that rebuilding is more difficult, groceries stores where people had been in line for the limited supplies when they were struck and killed.

We were told of the stories of life under the attack. Stories of families that lost their homes and were forced to seek shelter at the rehab center, women who gave birth in a bomb shelter while under attack, about how, by the grace of God, the center had, just two days before the attack began, had their swimming pool cleaned and filled for the season, and that because of this, they had enough water to last during the barrage. We heard of the apartment that was shelled and after allowing a few minutes for the people to make their way to the stairs to go to the basement, the Russians sent rounds down the stairs from the rooftop so as to kill as many people as possible. The stories of the people are endless and the effect of hearing them will stay with us forever.

We only planned on staying at the center for one night, but the road broke the bus which then needed repairs. Do you have any idea how difficult it is to get parts for a German bus in a Ukrainian war zone on Easter weekend? Ultimately, the bus was repaired and 26 people were evacuated to safety.

Jeff and I became proficient at Google Translate as we made friends and shared stories. We came to admire the hospitality and graciousness we were shown, especially under such difficult times. The Ukrainians are a beautiful people, rich in traditions and culture. The optimism and spirit of the people is to be admired. They will not be defeated. Even if the soil should come to be under a different flag, the people of Ukraine will not be swayed. Everywhere we stopped, we were greeted with hospitality and built a nice network of locals that we would later call on for assistance during our travels. People gladly shared what little they had--even if it was just a phone number of the person who had what we needed.

As we decompressed once we were back in our hotel in Poland, we both felt the need to continue to assist the Ukrainians in their struggle. We have sent care packages to the center. We have funded a trip for a fellow humanitari-

(Continued on page 16)



Photos by Debrah Candelas



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*(Continued from page 1) School Bond on Ballot*

All of our current Middle School classes are undersized for the number of students we have in grades 6-8. The bond we have called for will be used to build a Middle School with classrooms for grades 6-8 for 150 students and core common areas like science labs, a media center, dining and serving lines, Fine Arts classrooms, practice gym with locker, weight and training rooms, and Special Education classrooms.

The common areas will be sized for a capacity of 300 and will be able to be a shared space with the High School when we are able to bring a High School back to Coupland. The last graduating class from Coupland was in 1942. This bond will also cover a grass playing field with lights, concessions, restrooms, bleachers, an 8-lane track, and parking facilities. Sharing these spaces allows us to save money by not having them duplicated at two separate campuses. The bond also allows the school to purchase property in case we have to in order to add an exit to FM 1466 in accordance with TXDOT driveway standards.

*(Continued from page 1) City News*  
**but ones that we previously had which will bring our total sales tax for the city to 8.25%.**

A budget workshop was held during August and the city council worked through projecting what the city's income is expected to be along with anticipated expenses.

The city council passed the recommended budget for the year 2022-2023 during its September meeting. The approved budget can be found on the city's website, [cityofcouplandtx.us](http://cityofcouplandtx.us). In conjunction with passing the budget, council voted to LOWER the ad valorem tax rate from \$.215934/100 evaluation to \$.163232. The lower rate is the "voter approval rate" and information relating to and explaining this can be found on the city's website. This lower rate will ultimately increase the city's projected ad valorem revenue by a little over \$4,000.

Council had a special meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> and voted to accept an application on the proposed annexation of 26 acres of land, more or less, situated in Williamson County. This property is located at SH 95 and CR 453 and is the proposed site of a development by Greenview Development, projected to have approximately 966 homes. Upon finalization of the annexation, the commercial sites will become part of the city.



Plans to Restore Building

Katie and John Hindman are the new owners of the former Samuelsons' building. The Hindmans own Red River Restorations. They hope to restore the front of the building back to its original storefront. Anyone having pictures of the building when it was the Mercantile please get in touch with the Hindmans.



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*Publication of the  
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### ***Coupland Herald, November 2022***

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**Deadline for the next issue,  
February 2023, is January 10.**

*(Continued from page 13) Ukrainian Adventure*

an to take supplies in and bring people out, and we are hosting a mother and her 10-year-old son. I would sponsor them all if I could. I can help navigate the process for anyone else who might be willing to open their home to sponsor a person or a family.

On Independence Day, as we celebrated our freedom with family and friends, I was reminded of my week in Ukraine, and I realized how much sweeter the freedom tasted this year and how easy it is to take it for granted.

*This has been Part Two of Debrah Candelas's account of her trip to Ukraine. Part One was in the August Herald. Debrah is hosting a mother and her 10-year-old son, and she can help navigate the process for anyone else who might be willing to open their home to sponsor a person or a family.  
Email her at [mom4baseball69@gmail.com](mailto:mom4baseball69@gmail.com).*



Debrah explains that the damage above was caused by cluster bombs.

