

CCPOA Quarterly News Letter

Another quarter is in the log books. We are still working to deal with adjustments to our routines that have become necessary due to the effects of Covid19. Thankfully there is vaccine available today that once administered will allow us to return to some semblance of normal. If you have not yet done so, please consider signing up at your local hospital for this vaccination.

During this past quarter, Pam Schusler was elevated to the position of Admin Office Manager and Bettie Sanders successfully completed her 90 day probationary period and is now a permanent member of the admin staff. Congratulations to both for their excellent work. The current office schedule of 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM Monday thru Friday and closed on the weekends will remain in place.

The maintenance department has completed the installation of the privacy screen on the fencing around the brush pit. This was done as a beautification project and greatly enhances the appearance of an ugly hole in the ground. Due to abuse by users of the brush pit on weekends that resulted in large diameter tree trunks being dumped in violation of policy, the brush pit is now closed on weekends.

Last summer, the north pier at the boat ramp was damaged by a tropical storm. The portion of the pier beyond the fish cleaning table was rendered unsafe for use. The Cape's maintenance crew with the help of a few volunteers removed that portion of the pier resulting in a savings to the maintenance budget of approximately \$9,000. The portion of the pier that is left will remain in service as long as it is safe for use. In the meantime, options for replacement of the pier are being considered. Options include a built in place pier which would be an in kind replacement. Floating piers are also being considered and appear to be a less costly alternative. In any event, money for replacing this pier will be budgeted and made available when it is needed.

Cornerstone Paving will be coming back to the Cape in March or April, weather permitting, to complete the next round of paving. A total of 2.6 miles has been slated for paving this year. Almost all of the 2.6 miles is currently gravel road. The asphalt used in the paving process is a petroleum based product. Oil has been rising in cost as we have all surely noticed at the gas pump. A contract for this work was negotiated last year to lock in the price of this service at the same cost per square foot as the work that was done last year. The process for paving our roads was developed by the state and is the same specification used in all Texas counties on their county roads.

In December, a Ballot Committee was formed to oversee the ballot receipt and ballot counting for the upcoming Board Election. The office has been preparing the ballots for mail out with the help of several volunteers. They will be mailed out on February 12. The deadline for returning your ballot is March 8. Results of the election will be announced at the Annual Board Meeting on March 14, at the Community Center.

Carancahua Community Volunteer Fire Department

Last year was by far the most active year ever for your Fire Department. We handled a total of 131 calls for emergency services; which included 23 fires, 55 medical calls, 44 motor vehicle accidents, and 9 'other' calls. Since we began keeping good records in 2002, our yearly calls have gone up a whopping 451%. Amazingly, that increased number of calls is being handled by about the same number of active members that we had back in 2002. We have two new Members, both from the Cape; please join me in welcoming both John Hafernick and Randy Musgrove to the Department. Which brings me to a very important request:

Join the Fire Department- Right now, we have about 10 active Members in the Department. We do have more Members (about four more), but their work schedules prevent them from being active. We really do need more Members in the Department; people who dedicate time to getting trained, and then going out to help others in their time of need. This is maybe the finest way to pay back all those who helped us in the past; helping those who need help now. If you never want to have to worry about whether or not your life was worthwhile and had a higher worth, become a fireman or an EMT. Give me a call at 713-569-4001 or email me at craigbrooks1@tisd.net and we'll talk about it, or come to a meeting (times posted on NextDoor). We need your help; your community needs your help.

A bit about the Department- We were formed in 1997, and built the Station in 2003. Every one of us is a volunteer, as are most firemen in Texas and the U.S. In our early years, we were 100% funded by donations and fund raising, which is tough. We now do get tax monies through Emergency Services District 2 which funds some, but not all, of our costs. We are what is called an 'all risk' Department, meaning that we handle just about any emergency situation except law enforcement. We operate four trucks, a fire engine designed for building fires, a water tanker, and two smaller trucks designed for grass and brush fires. We are very lucky to have four EMTs, three of whom are Basic EMTs, and one is a Paramedic. The Department covers the southernmost 81 square miles of Jackson County, and we respond to calls for aid in all of the adjoining Counties as well, through mutual aid agreements. Everyone in the Department actively cross trains so that each of us can handle many jobs if that is needed.

COVID-19- The pandemic made 2020 a really terrible year for everyone, and though we are now into 2021, the pandemic is still with us. In a bit less than a year, we have had more deaths from COVID than all of the combat deaths in four years of World War 2. There are some good things happening, though. Many more people are being more serious about taking basic precautions, and two vaccines are now available to us. Now is not the time to slack off on this. Please, do the following:

- As soon as it is available to you, get the vaccine that is available for you
- Practice social distancing
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly; use hand sanitizer if you can't wash
- Don't touch your face unless your hands are clean
- Stay home and don't gather in large groups or with people who might have been exposed to the virus

- Make sure that you stay informed using real, actual, good information like cdc.gov or similar; information updates are also posted on NextDoor from the State of Texas
- This is serious stuff-it's killing a lot of folks, and resulting in long-term serious illness to many of those who don't die
- **Take the vaccine as soon as it is available to you!**

Craig Brooks, Chief

Caper Report:

Caper face-to-face activities have been put on hold due to the pandemic. Once vaccines are more readily available, we will re-evaluate the situation. We are still collecting aluminum cans. They can be delivered to Dolores and Tom Chandler's home at 955 West Bayshore. There is a trailer in the back of their garage that stores the cans. Please have the cans in a plastic garbage bag. We are also still collecting aluminum pop tops which we take to Ronald MacDonald House, and wine corks that are delivered to Spec's. Please place them in baggies and leave at the Library or give to any Caper.

The Capers wish to thank the community for the support you have given us over the years. We look forward to many more years of providing fun things for the community. The Christmas Dinner and New Year's Eve Party were greatly missed, and we look forward to once again having such great events as those and the 4th of July Picnic and Easter Egg Hunts, and other great things.

The Capers