

## **Cape Carancahua Quarterly News Letter**

Winter is upon us and with it comes a renewed emphasis to property owners to keep trees trimmed out of the power lines. This is especially important during icing conditions to prevent damage to our power distribution system. News outlets reported that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, so we could experience six more weeks of winter. Argh!!!!

A volunteer group led by Deborah Collins has begun a project at pool 1. It will include painting of the administration building which is currently in progress, and the restoration of the mural on the pool side of the building. Thanks to Deborah and her volunteers for their work.

The scope of routine activities for the Cape's maintenance department has expanded to include maintenance of our hard surface roads. As a result of this and other considerations, a third maintenance worker has been hired. Since January 3, 2022, John Gladstein has been working a part time schedule to help ensure that the Cape has adequate human resources to complete the Cape's maintenance requirements.

With the expanded role of our maintenance department and the additional equipment that has been purchased to support those activities, over crowding in our maintenance building became a problem. To address this issue the maintenance building was expanded into the area that was previously occupied by the library. As this transition is taking place, an effort to reorganize, inventory, and label parts and supplies stored in the maintenance building is moving forward. All these steps will help to improve the efficiency of our maintenance team.

To accommodate the expansion of the maintenance building, the library was moved into the Community Center. With help from the Capers, the library has been reorganized in the meeting room in the Community Center. All future BOD work shops and ACC meetings have been moved to this new location. Inquiries to local HVAC companies have gone out for bids to install AC in the new library. A big screen TV that was being stored in that room has been moved into the main area of the Community Center. Anyone interested in acquiring that TV should contact Paul Warren.

## Capers Report

The holidays were a busy time for the Capers. We decorated the community center with Christmas trees, wreaths and centerpieces for the tables. There was a great turnout for the Christmas party on December 4th. Seventy five people attended and the food was wonderful! The New Year's Eve party had a very small turnout; about 25 people attended. The DJ was great and we had champagne at midnight.

The library is now located at the community center. Thanks to the maintenance department for moving everything to the meeting room. The large TV that was in that room is working and is now in the large area of the community center. The Capers have a VCR player that still works and we are planning to hold exercise classes in the near future.

We are working on a new directory for the Cape. If your information has changed since 2018, please contact the office to update it. We are selling ads for the next few weeks and hope to have the new directory ready by July.

Upcoming events include the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 16 and the Bake Sale on Saturday May 28.

The Capers meetings occur on the second Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. at the library in the community center. Please join us and help with the events!

Michele Haile, President

## Carancahua Community Volunteer Fire Department

The Fire Department finished out 2021 as the second busiest year ever, with a total of 130 calls for emergency services (22 fires, 45 medical calls, 48 motor vehicle accidents, and 15 "other" calls). We currently have a total of eight active Members, having lost three and gained one new Member during the year. Due to work, travel, and general errand running out of the area, we average between four and five Members responding to any one call. So you can see, we are always short-handed and can use more dedicated citizens as Members. Call me at 713-569-4001 or email at [craigbrooks1@tisd.net](mailto:craigbrooks1@tisd.net) for information on how to join.

Even though our Station is here at the Cape, and most of our Members live in the Cape, we are not just the Capes' fire department. We actually cover the southernmost 81 square miles of Jackson County. We also provide mutual aid to the Tri-Counties area, and all the adjoining Counties on an as-needed basis.

**If you've ever been in the Station, you have seen how small it actually is.** We can barely squeeze the four trucks in, plus all the equipment, and still have a small meeting and office space. It's what we could build at the time, but it is badly under sized. Frankly, we are out of room. Unfortunately, the Emergency Services District cannot pay for building expansion, because the Fire Department owns the building. So, we will have to fund any expansion through grants, gifts, and fund raising activities. We have already begun fund raising, and hope to have a raffle before the end of Fall. When it comes up, be sure to buy lots of tickets, because those dollars will go directly toward improving our ability to provide service to you. Even if you don't win a prize, you still win with improved service. We are hoping to add an additional larger truck bay on one end of the Station. On the other end, we hope to add a general purpose room to be used for

training/meetings/emergency operations and community support. The Department works hard to support the community; we hope that the community will work hard to support us in improving the Station.

Craig Brooks, Chief