

## **Cape Carancahua 2022 Quarterly Newsletter**

Sadly, one of Cape Caranchua's matriarchs, Myrtle Halling, age 85, passed away on February 2, 2022. Myrt was a long-time resident of our community. Until her passing she was actively involved in the Cape as a past Board member and current member of the ACC. She could be seen almost daily driving our streets looking for opportunities to improve our community. She will be missed.

John Gladstein has resigned his position on our maintenance team. We thank John for his good work and wish him success in his next endeavor. John Huckaby has been hired as his replacement. Anyone interested in temporary work during the summer should contact the office for an application form.

The first round of road repair for this year has begun. The maintenance department has made good use of asphalt to repair potholes in our paved roads courtesy of a generous donation from Randy and Joy Janak. Corner Stone Paving was the successful bidder for the road paving that is planned for this year. They have notified the Cape that they will begin work on Wednesday, May 18. Please forgive any inconvenience their work will cause as we improve another piece of our road system.

The Cape office building and pool #1 are taking on a new look. Thanks to Blair and Debra Collins, Sam and Melanie Mitchell, and Marissa Tristan for the great effort. They are hoping to complete their work by Memorial Day. In concert with their efforts, the maintenance department with help from volunteers has made landscaping improvements at the entrances to the pool and the Cape office.

Work to expand the size of the mail kiosk has been completed and the mailboxes relocated to their new position. Additional mailboxes are on order and will be installed as soon as they arrive.

Park 1 has a new concrete sidewalk that connects the parking lot to the fishing pier. The new sidewalk will also prevent erosion behind the bulkhead by funneling run off to the out-flow ditch. The boat ramp also has a new concrete sidewalk connecting the ramp to the north fishing pier. New cap boards have also been installed on the bulkhead.

Those of you who use the tennis court/basketball court may have noticed a new storage box. This box and the equipment it contains are for the use and enjoyment of the community. Please respect the privilege and return the balls/equipment to the storage box after use. Thanks to Rick and Beth Clark for this generous gesture.

A new exercise class has been formed. They meet twice weekly at the community center. The core group has purchased a new television that is being used to facilitate exercise routines. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact Marie Weakley.

Recently there have been three incidents at the main gate where improper entry was attempted. In each case tires were punctured by the spikes. If you are in line with other cars waiting your turn to enter, always allow that vehicle in front of you to pass the electric eye located at the cross arm and the red light to come back on before attempting to swipe your card. The card reader must be allowed to reset each time after a vehicle enters before it can read the next card. It has been noted that overweight vehicles have been carded in by property owners exposing our main entrance equipment to loads it was not designed for. The construction gate is there for the very purpose of accommodating heavy loads. The code for that gate is available by calling the Cape office during business hours or by calling the emergency phone after business hours. Additionally, please refrain from carding in vehicles waiting for access to the gate from the office unless they are your invited guests.

The summer season has arrived. With it come not only the May flowers, but the grass that must be mowed. Please remember when mowing along the road in front of your property, to mow the clippings back into the ditch.

School will soon be out, and our community will be infused with school age children looking for something to occupy their vacation time. The pools, tennis court, basketball court, parks, and fishing piers are there for their enjoyment. Many of these young people will be walking about our community. Some will be riding bicycles or driving golf carts. Their safety while they are on our streets is dependent on those driving cars and trucks about our road system. Please observe the posted speed limits, stop signs, and proceed with caution when encountering pedestrians of any age on our streets. Their safety is in your hands.

## **Carancahua Community Volunteer Fire Department**

Your Fire Department has had a very busy start to the year, with 48 calls for emergency services so far. That includes the single busiest day ever in the history of the Department. If we continue at this rate, we will have the busiest year ever, passing the previous busiest year (2020) quite handily. The Department is of course 100% volunteer, and we depend on volunteers for all of our services. We are very fortunate to have three new volunteers, voted in as Members in April, all residents of Cape Carancahua. Please join me in welcoming our new Members, Paul Warren, Allan Chambers, and Mike Hill. They are a very welcome addition to the Department.

**Funding the Station Addition** – As you know from past Newsletters, the existing Station is much too small for our expanding operations. It was built in 2003, and our calls per year have increased over 350% since that time. There is very little room for meeting, training, and little room for climate-controlled storage of critical equipment and supplies. There is no room for supporting emergency personnel responding to major events such as hurricanes, or for emergency supplies for local residents. There is not room for multi-department training, which is critical. Our only fix for the problem is to add on to the Station. The problem is getting all the funding needed. We have built up some funds over the years, through fund raisers, grants, gifts, and so forth. But of course, it isn't enough, especially with increasing building costs. We have to go to you for help, so that we can do a better job helping you when you need it.

**How to Donate to the Station Fund** – Checks should be made out “CCVFD” or “Carancahua Fire Dept.”; designate the check for “Station Addition”. Please mail checks to CCVFD, 4581 Hwy 35S, Palacios, TX 77465. Your donation may entitle you to a tax benefit, since the Department is a 501(c)(3) non-taxable corporation. Cash, of course, works fine as well. In both cases you will get a receipt for your donation. **In addition, a friend of the Department has pledged \$10,000 in matching funds for the first \$10,000 in donations by the public.** 100% of all designated donations will go to the Station addition. This is a wonderful chance to make a difference to your community and your neighbors. Please feel free to talk to any of our Members about this, or call me at 713-569-4001.

Craig Brooks, Chief

## Capers

Since the last newsletter we have hosted potluck dinners for the Quarterly Meeting in February and the Annual Meeting in March. On April 16<sup>th</sup> we organized the first Easter Egg Hunt since 2019. We had 37 children hunting 1200 eggs at the pavilion! We also had a jellybean count with prizes for the boy and girl who had the closest guess. Robert and Mendy Grissom donated handmade wooden toys for the children. Thank you!

We are still accepting ads for the new directory. If you would like to place an ad for your business, please contact me at 512-940-1884. We hope to complete ad sales by early June.

Upcoming events include:

Potluck dinner on Saturday, May 14. It will be held at the Pavilion, and we are serving hamburgers donated by Lowe's Market in Palacios.

Memorial Day weekend Bake Sale on Saturday, May 28 in the library at the Community Center. Donated items will be accepted starting at 9:30 a.m., sale will begin at 10 a.m.

Homemade items such as canned preserves or vegetables are also accepted. We usually sell out in less than an hour!

4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 2. We will have a silent auction; if you are interested in donating an item, please let us know. The parade is in the morning with the picnic in the afternoon. More details to follow as we get closer to the event.

The next Capers meeting is on Tuesday, June 14 at 10 a.m. We will be planning the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities at that time. We always need more volunteers to help with this event so if you are interested, please come to the meeting!

The Capers meet the second Tuesday of every month at the library in the Community Center at 10 a.m. Everyone in the Cape is invited to attend the meetings and events. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and get involved in the community. We are all Capers!

Michele Haile, President