

**CAPE CARANCAHUA
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

The ground hog saw his shadow, so the prediction is for 6 more weeks of winter. Luckily since the ground hog is only correct in his prediction 36% of the time, there is still hope for an early spring.

Let's hope you never have occasion to call 911, but in the event that you do it is important to relay all the information the responding agency needs to find you. Start by telling them that you reside in Cape Carancahua, followed by your 911 address. If you don't already have 911 numbers on your home, reflective numbers are available in the Cape's office at no charge.

Recently there have been a number of construction projects initiated by property owners before submitting a request for a building permit. Our property owner association is required by state law to have an Architectural Committee whose sole purpose is to review permit requests to ensure policy compliance. Before starting any construction project, please contact the Cape office for the required permit request forms and any assistance necessary to complete those forms.

There are many dead palm trees due to the last winter freeze. Some of these dead palm trees represent a hazard to homes, storage buildings, and power lines. After a period of time these trees will collapse from deterioration and land where ever gravity dictates. If you have dead palm trees on your property, please have them removed before unwanted damage occurs.

Reminder regarding use of the brush pit. The maximum diameter of tree limbs that can be placed in the brush pit is 6 inches, which also means no tree trunks. When dumping grass clippings from trash bags, do not leave the trash bags, and please no domestic trash. Anyone needing access on the weekend can call the Cape's emergency number or any board member for the key.

There still seems to be a problem with property owners mowing grass onto the road surface. The Cape spends a good deal of time and money applying grass killer to keep the grass from encroaching on our roads. Your help would be greatly appreciated. The Community Center improvement project is complete. This project was made possible thanks to the generosity of Darleen Dolan and Mario Scorza.

The Cape maintenance department is searching for the right candidate to join the maintenance group. Information is available at the Cape administration office. There are many improvement projects in the planning stage for 2023. The roof on the administration building and the roofs on the cabanas at pool 1 and pool 2 will be replaced. Materials have been purchased and bids are being considered for the labor to complete the project. Base boards have been installed in the community center and maintenance personnel are in the process of finishing this project. Hard surfacing of more of the Cape's gravel roads will occur again this year. Bids are being sought from road

contractors to do this work. Road repair of our existing hard surfaced roads will be performed by the Cape's maintenance department and will include pot hole repair, crack repair, and road shoulder repair. The north pier at the boat ramp is being surveyed with the goal of establishing when it will reach the end of its useful life. Demolition of the pier at that time will be accomplished by Cape maintenance personnel with help from volunteers in the Cape. Requests for bids for its replacement have been requested but at the time of this writing have not been received.

It is with great sadness that this letter must announce the passing of several members of our community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Tina Walcik and Nancy Raumaker. Additionally, our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Craig Brooks who lost his mother and to the family of Elaine Dittrich who lost her mother.

CAPERS

The holidays were a busy time for the Capers. I hope everyone had a chance to see the community center decorated for Christmas. We hosted the Christmas party and provided prime rib; people brought side dishes and it was a wonderful meal. We provided a DJ for the New Year's Eve party and people brought appetizers. We hosted the potluck dinner last Saturday before the quarterly meeting; the Capers provided hamburgers that were donated by Lowe's Market in Palacios. Thank you John Bell! Thank you to Paul Warren for cooking the hamburgers and grilled onions.

We have a few events planned in the next few months. We will host the potluck dinner on the Saturday before the annual meeting in March. On Saturday April 8 we will have an Easter egg hunt at the pavilion. If you would like to donate candy, please take it to the office. We stuff plastic eggs and place them on the lawn, so please donate candy that won't melt if it gets hot. On Saturday May 27, Memorial Day weekend, we will have our first Bake sale of 2023.

The Capers meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10 am in the community center. Everyone is welcome!

CARANCAHUA COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Department is very excited to report that a contractor has been selected to build the additions to the existing Fire Station. This will nearly double the size of the Station, providing us much needed space for our trucks and equipment. It will also give us better training space, space for general community support (such as elections, health support, and support operations in case of disaster), and space for government operations as needed. We hope to be in the new space by sometime this summer. Thank you all again for the support you have provided to your Fire Department.

Department News – We had an incredibly busy year in 2022, with a total of 157 calls for service (our previous busiest year was 2020, with 131 calls for service). This included 34 fires

(21.66%), 64 Medical calls (40.76%), 37 Motor Vehicle Accidents (23.57%), and 22 “Other” (14.01%). Notice that this points out that we are an ‘all risk’ Department, fires being only about a fifth of the calls we make. So, if you are having a bad day and call 9-1-1 for anything other than law enforcement, we will be the very first people on scene to help you with whatever problem you have.

We need more EMTs - Anybody who has lived in the Cape for very long knows that the nearest ambulance in Jackson County is roughly 28 minutes away, in Ganado. And that's assuming that the ambulance is not stopped in La Ward for a train or slowed down by heavy fog. The Jackson County Hospital District ambulances do the very best job they can, but it's just a long way to Ganado. Of our 12 Members, only 3 are EMTs; if you look at the calls above, you can see that our EMTs were needed at no less than 64.33% of our calls last year. We need more folks to be EMTs; the Cape and surrounding communities need rapid response emergency medical care. America was built in large part on the idea of helping out neighbors in need-this is a perfect way to make a very big difference to someone who would have died without your help. Call me at 713-569-4001 to find out how to make that difference.

Craig Brooks, Chief