

# Copperas Cove Herald

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copperascoveherald.com



**DRAW A CROWD**  
More than 100 register for Pink Warrior Dash 5K

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## Place 7 City Council applications being accepted

OPPERAS COVE HERALD



The City of Copperas Cove is now accepting applications for candidates for the Place 7 city council seat.

Applications will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until Sept. 26. Candidate packets are available at the city secretary's office at 914 S. Main St. in Copperas Cove, or can be found online at [http://www.copperascovetx.gov/city\\_secretary/election\\_information/](http://www.copperascovetx.gov/city_secretary/election_information/). Questions about candidate packets or filing a candidate application should be directed to City Secretary Lisa Wilson at [lwilson@copperascovetx.gov](mailto:lwilson@copperascovetx.gov) or by calling 254-547-4221.

Jack Smith became the first candidate for

the open seat on Wednesday after filing his application with the city secretary. Theresa Deans also filed an application to run on Wednesday.

The city is holding a special election to fill the Place 7 seat following the resignation of Councilman Charlie Youngs. The special election will be held concurrently

with the general election for the Place 3, Place 4 and Place 5 city council seats. The same early election dates will apply for both the general election and the special election. Election Day is Nov. 5.

The Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce will host a Cove City Council candidate political Forum at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 508 S. 2nd St., Copperas Cove.

"This is a great opportunity for our citizens to meet and get to know the candidates for the upcoming election, which will be held on November 5, 2019. The Meet and Greet will begin at 5:30 pm, followed by the formal forum at 6:00 p.m.," according to a news release from the chamber.

For more information contact the chamber at 254-547-7571.

Friday

September 6, 2019

### DANCE BENEFIT



Junior Homecoming dance planned to benefit homeless students. P5

### CARE GIVER



Kim Martinez puts students at ease in her position as junior high secretary. P5

### HELPING HAND



Donating school supplies always helps when school comes around again. P4

### KNOW THEM?



Police seeking help identifying theft suspects. P2

### YOUR NEWS TEAM



For Copperas Cove area news, contact **David Perdue** at [dperdue@kdhnews.com](mailto:dperdue@kdhnews.com) or 254-501-7568 or **Dave Miller** at [dmiller@kdhnews.com](mailto:dmiller@kdhnews.com) or 254-501-7543. Like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/CopperasCoveHerald](https://www.facebook.com/CopperasCoveHerald)

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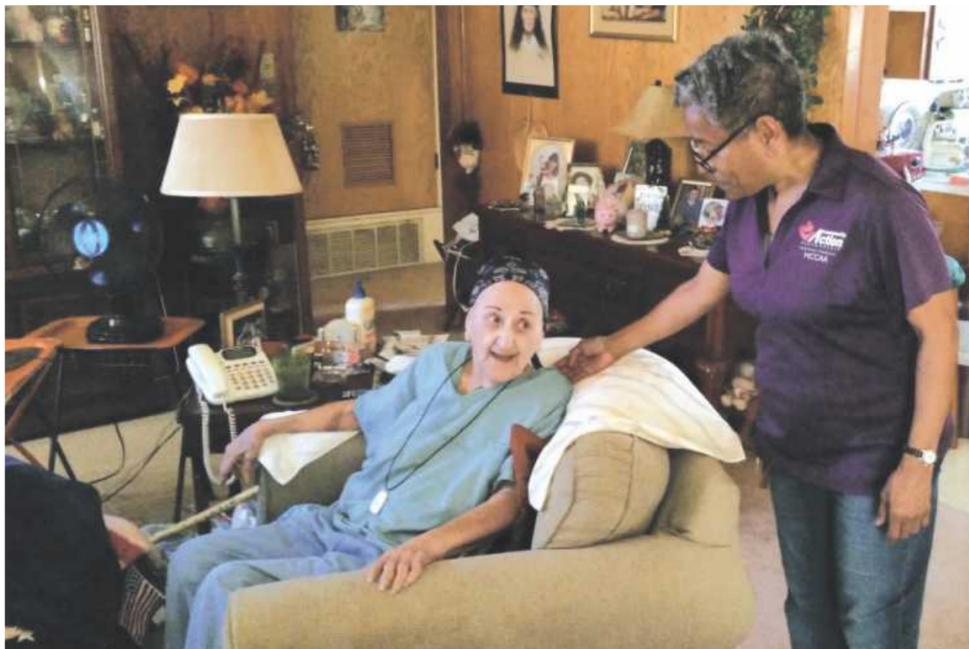
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WE SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS

# NOURISHING THE SOUL

Seniors credit Meals on Wheels, Roldan for help being more independent, less lonely

BY DAVID PERDUE  
COPPERAS COVE HERALD



Copperas Cove Meals on Wheels coordinator Eloina "Bo" Roldan, right, talks to 97-year-old Maria Everett during a recent meal delivery. DAVID PERDUE | HERALD

COPPERAS COVE — When the Copperas Cove City Council met Aug. 1 to discuss requests for funding from outside organizations, council members asked tough questions of groups such as the Boys and Girls Club of Copperas Cove and the Hill Country Transit District. The questions focused on why these organizations should receive taxpayer money to support their activities.

But the comments made by the council after the presentation by the Hill Country Community Action Association on behalf of Copperas Cove Meals on Wheels were filled with praise.

"To me, this is what a community is supposed to do," former Councilman Charlie Youngs said, talking about how the police department, the VFW and Meals on Wheels help check on the elderly in the community and help keep them safe and healthy. "To me, this is worth the general fund tax money to

support."

Councilman Kirby Lack said he "totally agreed" with the support for Meals on Wheels. Councilman Marc Payne said the council should not only looking into increasing the money the council gives to Meals on Wheels, but said council members should take individual visits to the group's area at the Copperas Cove Senior Center to see the small space used to store and prepare meals. "We need to actively consider what we can do to improve their situation out there."

Hill Country Community Action had asked for \$5,000 for operating expenses for 2020 fiscal year. Once discussion began on that request, it became obvious that several council members wanted to give them more. Lack said he wanted to give the organization an additional \$5,000 to help expand their operation. But Mayor Bradi Diaz asked whether Meals on Wheels had the resources to put that extra money to use.

"While I appreciate the generosity...right now, with our space, there's no way we can feed

more than 40 people per day," Kimbra Hobbs of Hill Country Community Action said, essentially turning down extra money offered by the council. "Until we're in a bigger area, we're kind of maxed out as far as our client(s)."

"I'd like to thank you for being honest about the money," Councilman Fred Chavez said, "and what your capacity is. We really appreciate that."

In part one of this two-part feature, Hobbs talked about

PLEASE SEE MEALS, 3

## Council approves budget, tax rate, sets special election

BY DAVID PERDUE  
COPPERAS COVE HERALD



The Copperas Cove City Council met Tuesday to discuss issues including the 2020 fiscal budget, tax rate, and the resignation of Councilman Charlie Youngs. DAVID PERDUE | HERALD

The Copperas Cove City Council has approved they city's budget and tax rate for 2020 fiscal year.

During Tuesday night's regular meeting, the council unanimously approved a series of agenda items related to the budget, the tax rate and the city's fee structure.

The city manager's original budget proposed at the beginning of July called for \$44.66 million in spending. After public hearings and workshops in July and August, the budget was amended and now totals \$45.08 million. The nearly \$420,000 increase comes mainly from an increase in revenue and expenditures in the water and sewer fund. The \$378,784 in increased water and sewer fees

approved by the council will be offset by increased spending on personnel and equipment, including adding a construction inspector and new operators in both the sewer and wastewater departments.

The council voted unanimously to approve the proposed tax rate of 78.65 cents per \$100 of assessed property valuation. The rate is lower than last year's 79.79 cents per \$100, and will generate \$6.68 million for the city's general fund and \$4.12 million for debt service.

The council also voted unanimously to approve the Economic Development Corporation's budget; the city's Personnel, Capital Outlay and Capital Improvement plans; and the new city fee schedule. The major changes in the fee structure raises the city's base water and sewer rate from \$12 to \$14, reduces the volumetric sewer rate from \$6 to \$5.75, increases the solid waste residential base rate from \$18 to \$19, and increases the Sanitary Landfill charge by \$5 per ton.

In other action Tuesday, the council set a special election to fill the Place 7 city council seat left open by the resignation of Charlie Youngs.

Youngs submitted his resignation in an email to City Manager Ryan Haverlah on Aug. 25. The resignation came after Youngs made a rude gesture at an Aug. 13 special council meeting while Councilman Kirby Lack was speaking. Youngs admitted making the gesture, but denied it was aimed at Lack.

His email, attached to the agenda for Tuesday's council meeting, said he would "take the pressure off the council" by resigning. Youngs may have been referring to calls on social media for him to resign, or to be punished by the council for making the gesture.

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