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## City Manager's Message

In March, the City launched a new citizen's forum portal and I would like to encourage all citizens to be a part and be heard. Please visit [beheardcove.org](http://beheardcove.org) to register and start being heard today. The City manages the site and will post topics of discussions and surveys on various issues to ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to participate in the decisions of the City. In addition, citizens can post ideas on the site for the City to research as a possibility for our community.



The City, TxDOT and Fort Hood opened State Highway 9 in late February. We welcomed many new businesses to our community since the new year and we hope the citizens will patronize them to ensure they remain. This month the City watched the FM 2657 Road Widening project come to a close and our residents are now able to travel more safely along the roadway. A ribbon cutting for the road widening will be scheduled and held in conjunction with the opening of the SE Bypass. The City continues to remain optimistic that the bypass project will be completed prior to the fall of 2014.

A Citizen's Focus Group was established in January and the group has met twice since it was created. Please visit the City's website to keep up to date on City information and visit with your Citizen Focus Group Members as they represent us all. If you are interested in serving on a



committee, board or commission, please contact Kevin Keller at [kkeller@copperascovetx.gov](mailto:kkeller@copperascovetx.gov)

Happy Easter and enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

*Andrea M. Gardner*

City Manager

## City Events



The 14th Annual Polar Bear Swim was held on January 25, 2014 at the City Park pool. The cold winter and frigid temperatures created a very memorable event. John Gallen, a former City Council member, has participated in the event all 14 years. He later brought his collection of sweatshirts and displayed them at Parks and Recreation. Corey Keller, Marty Smith, Andrea Gardner, Kelli Sames and Hillary Sames were caught viewing the event, in preparation for their own potential jump next year!



Animal Control hosted a pet vaccination clinic at the Civic Center on February 17, 2014. The event drew a very large number of citizens who were excited to have their dogs and cats vaccinated at a reduced cost. City licenses and micro-chipping were also available by City staff. As this event was such a success, a future event for this summer is already being planned.

On February 18, 2014 the City Manager, with approval from the City Council, initiated a Citizen's Focus Group. The group, which consists of seven members and a City Council liaison, will work together to

answer questions and find solutions to community concerns which arise. Two meetings have already been held and we look forward to the future production of this committee.

**Discussion**  
**SERVICE** Democracy  
**Be Heard Cove**  
**Voice** FORUM  
Trust Educate  
Share Your Ideas  
Eparticipation  
Citizen WWW  
Administration Be Heard



BeHeardCove, the City's new online portal to enhance community engagement, debuted on March 17, 2014 following many months of planning and implementation. The innovative tool provides another way for the City of Copperas Cove to listen to and hear from our community members. Through one easy-to-use interface residents can post ideas, vote and comment on ideas, share input, and discuss past, present and future City events. Within a few clicks, citizens can easily suggest a new service, a service improvement, or provide other recommendations through the forum. It also allows them to conveniently participate in online surveys sponsored by the City. Staff members will monitor the site, answer questions, and provide feedback online. If you have not yet viewed the site, check it out on the web at [www.beheardcove.org](http://www.beheardcove.org)



The annual Fishin' in the Park event was held at the City Park Duck Pond on February 22, 2014. The event was well attended, with approximately 250 citizens in attendance, and a large quantity of fish were taken. Thanks to Parks & Recreation for hosting this FREE event once again for our community.



Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful (KCCB) sponsored a clean-up event at the City Park on March 8, 2014. Although the event was stopped about an hour short due to a cold front and rain that approached, there was a great turnout and several hundred pounds of trash were collected. Information Systems Supervisor Adam Wolf traded his computer for the day, donned waders, and ventured into the pond to remove debris. Thank you to all of the volunteers for their service.



Worm composting class attendees had the opportunity to get hands on experience from instructor Bob Hill at the Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful 2014 Spring composting class, which was held on March 29, 2014.



The City of Copperas Cove turns 135 years old in 2014. The Chamber of Commerce hosted a 135th birthday party at Ogletree Gap pavilion on March 29, 2014. Mayor John Hull welcomed the City officials, staff and guests before cutting into the massive 8' x 4' cake. Happy Birthday Copperas Cove!

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies





The first quarter of 2014 remained very busy with the growth and opening of new businesses and State Highway 9 within the City. Staff attended many Ribbon Cutting ceremonies, to include: Integrity Rehab, Chick-fil-A, State Highway 9 (SH9), Precision Urgent Care, Brookview Village, Star Group-Veterans Helping Veterans, and 5 Brothers Barbeque.

## Human Resources

Human Resources sponsored several events during the first quarter of the year, to include Customer Service Training at the Library on February 5, 2014 and a Health Savings Account information session on February 27, 2014.



A volunteer reception was hosted at the Civic Center on March 27, 2014. The attendees were served light refreshments and then recognized by City Manager Andrea Gardner. Each volunteer was awarded a certificate of appreciation and a logo cup. We appreciate our volunteers and all they do to serve our community.

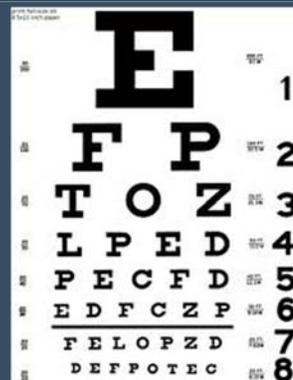
## *Health and Wellness*



Human Resources sponsored the annual Employee Health Fair on January 17, 2014. The event was well attended by City employees and many received door prizes as well.



Deputy Police Chief Eddie Wilson provided a powerful message during a Wellness Committee sponsored Lunch and Learn session at the Police Department on February 21, 2014. The Wellness Committee has been very active this year, already starting a monthly workout challenge and a weekly walk/run group.



### Annual Eye Exams

Like a lot of people, you may think you only need to go to the doctor if your eyes are blurry or you have problems seeing. You may feel like a yearly eye exam is a waste of time or money. You may be surprised to learn that a yearly eye exam is easy and protects your overall health.

- Annual eye exams are more than a vision check. During a yearly comprehensive eye examination, you receive a series of tests that not only check your eye sight, but also neurological function, eye pressure, eye muscle coordination, and health of the external and internal eye structures.

- Computers demand so much more of our vision today. Most of the population works or plays on a computer daily, which can put severe strain on your eyes. According to OSHA, 90% of the 70 million U.S. workers using computers for more than 3 hours per day experience some form of eye strain. If you use a computer daily and have symptoms such as blurred vision or headaches or have a hard time re-focusing, a regular eye exam will give your doctor the chance to monitor your vision and make recommendations to prevent damage to your eyes.

- Diabetes is the third leading cause of blindness in the United States. Diabetics have a higher risk of developing glaucoma, cataracts and diabetic retinopathy. If you are a diabetic, talk with your doctor about how frequently you should have an exam.

- Complications can arise from contact lenses. If you wear contact lenses, a yearly exam is necessary to check the health of the eye and look for other complications.

Good eyesight is important to quality of life. Be preventive and take advantage of your benefits. Schedule your yearly eye exam today.

Source: [aoa.org](http://aoa.org)

## Police Department



Code Compliance and several volunteers completed some graffiti abatement on February 4, 2014 at a local business who had been victimized. Within about an hour the work crew had the graffiti covered with fresh paint and made the business owner very happy. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the community.



Sergeant Martin Ruiz graduated from the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas' Leadership Command College (LCC) on February 28, 2014. The program, taught by a consortium of universities throughout Texas, provides law enforcement administrators and executives with the skills necessary to effectively manage police agencies and deliver a high level of service to their communities.



Officer Billy Ray received the Morning Exchange Club Officer of the Quarter on March 12, 2014.

## Fire Department



The Fire Department bid a fond farewell to Deputy Fire Chief of Operations Michael Ramminger, as he retired from the department after 29 years of firefighting service. His retirement reception was held on January 30, 2014 and his last official day with the City was on January 31, 2014. The City thanks Michael for his service to the community and wishes him a wonderful retirement.

On February 19, 2014 the Fire Department family grew by two as Scott and Jennifer Howard became new parents to twin girls. We welcome Sydney and McKensie into the world and wish their parents much joy and happiness.



In March, Deputy Chief of Prevention and Fire Marshal Michael Fleming was named as the department's Interim Fire Chief. We congratulate him and know that he will serve the department and the City well in his new position.

Copperas Cove firefighters are always training. This past quarter saw the following training courses completed:

Fire Officer III - Lieutenant Stephen Clendenen

Fire Officer IV - Lieutenants James Bednar and Stephen Clendenen

Wildfire Ignition Operations - Lieutenant Stephen Clendene  
Multi-Lead Medic Training - Firefighters Zach Avants, Carol Ballesteros, Dwane Cummings, Heather Frink, Carols Mariduena, Tanja Martin and Shelli Miller  
Fire & Arson Investigators Seminar - Interim Fire Chief Michael Fleming and Lieutenant James Bednar

Additionally, the following Texas Fire Commission certifications were received:  
Fire Officer IV - Deputy Chief Gary Young and Lieutenant James Bednar  
Structure Fire Protection Intermediate - Lieutenant Robert Hicks



The community outreach had several events this quarter, with three scheduled station tours for groups being conducted. Visitors are always welcome and if desired and someone is available, will be provided a tour. Firefighter Ethan Westbrook received a thank you letter with photographs for a tour he provided for two young Copperas Cove citizens.

## Library



The Library hosted several events during the first quarter, to include Teen Manga Club meetings, a Medieval Arts presentation, and a performance by Canadian Celtic artist Heather Dale. Completion and approval of the Library Technology Plan, as well as initiating the monthly Gaming Day, are helping to form the future of the facility. Two new staff members were also welcomed, Amanda Smith and Cassandra Poindexter, and we are glad to have them on-board.

## Employee Service Awards

**February 2014**



Kari Dominowski, Recreation Specialist, 5 Years  
Silvia Rhoads, Recycling Coordinator, 15 Years

**March 2014**





Robert Browning,	Information Systems Specialist II,	5	Years
William Hughes,	Patrol/School Enforcement Officer,	5	Years
Tony Castro,	Wastewater Operator II,	10	Years
Mark Garcia,	Golf Course Laborer,	15	Years
Greg Mitchell, Information Systems Director, 15 Years			

## Unity Committee



Solid Waste Superintendent Noel Watson was recognized and received an award from the Unity Committee on February 14, 2014. The nomination indicated how Noel had gone above and beyond to assist on the Sunset Cleanup Project, as well as his assistance with a local business. He is pictured here with Unity Committee members Tiffany Truque, Carroll Merrell, Chris Altott and Becky "BJ" Johnson.

## Employee of the Quarter



## **EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER**

**(October, November, December 2013)**

The Employee-of-the-Quarter Program provides special recognition to City of Copperas Cove employees who have accomplished an extraordinary achievement within the organization.

**Daniel Joost, Water Distribution Pump Maintenance Supervisor  
Was nominated and selected in the following category:**

**Extraordinary efforts above and beyond the normal duties of the position.**



**Joaquin Salazar, Police Sergeant  
Was nominated and selected in the following category:**

**Extraordinary efforts above and beyond the normal duties of the position.**



**Parks and Recreation**

# Camp Discovery



June 9th thru August 15th  
Located at the Civic Center  
\$70 dollars per week

ONLINE REGISTRATION: [www.activenet9.active.com/copperascovepkrec](http://www.activenet9.active.com/copperascovepkrec)





**SOCCER**  
**PITCH, HIT & RUN**  
**KICKBALL**

**SOCCER REGISTRATION OPEN THRU JUNE 6TH**

**SOCCER SEASON BEGINS - JULY 12**  
**PITCH, HIT & RUN - APRIL 5TH, 1:00PM**  
**ADULT KICKBALL**  
**REGISTRATION - MAY 5TH - MAY 30TH**

**START SMART SOCCER**

**SUMMER TRACK**  
Circuit meet TBD



## Aquatics Information



**Call NOW to Reserve Your Pool Party 254-542-2719**

Pool Hours		Classes	
City Park	M-F 1-5pm Sat-Sun 1-7 pm T & Th Family Swim 7:30-9:30 pm	City Park	Swim Lessons M-Th 10, 10:45 & 11:30 am, 5:30 & 6:15 pm
South Park	M-F 1-5pm Sat-Sun 1-7 pm	South Park	Aqua Zumba 9:30 am Water Fitness 10:30am, 6:00 & 7:00 pm Senior Water Aerobic : TBD



City of Copperas Cove  
Parks and Recreation Department  
1408 Golf Course Road  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522  
Office Hours 8am—5pm

Phone: 254-542-2719  
Fax: 254-547-3738  
Website: [www.copperascovetx.gov](http://www.copperascovetx.gov)  
[www.teamsideine.com/copperascove](http://www.teamsideine.com/copperascove)  
**Online Registration:**  
[www.activenet9.active.com/copperascovepkrec](http://www.activenet9.active.com/copperascovepkrec)

\*For more information on all of our sports, events, and aquatics calendar please visit us at [www.teamsideine.com/copperascove](http://www.teamsideine.com/copperascove).