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FAIR OAKS

GAZETTE

August 2012

Newsletter for the Residents of Fair Oaks Ranch

Volume 2, Issue 8

FURNITURE DONATIONS

Do you have new or gently used unwanted furniture and household items? Donating provides an ideal way to recycle these items while helping others at the same time. Some charities will take these items and resell them to fund their causes, while other organizations make them available directly to individuals and families that need the items. These people have little or no money and cannot afford to purchase these items, even at thrift store prices. They must choose between food and other basic necessities or furniture to sleep and sit on .

This article is provided as a resource to help you make informed decisions about what types of furniture items can be donated and to provide tips to help you find an organization that may take your donation. Use the following information as a guide to help you prepare your furniture and home furnishing items for donation.

USEABLE DONATIONS

Some charities will offer a pick-up for donations, as well as a drop-off option. Keep in mind that it costs charities money to provide pick-up services for donations. The cost of gas and vehicle maintenance, as well as staff/volunteers capable of picking up furniture, sometimes puts a strain on these organizations. The charity must also have facilities available to store the items until they can be moved to thrift stores or recipients' homes.

For these reasons, charities usually will only want to pick up items that are useable. Whether the organization resells the donated items or gives them to needy families, they do not want to have to go to all the effort and

(Continued on Page 3)



New Eagle Scouts Join The Ranks!



New Eagle Scouts Ryan Pappal (left), Lincoln Abbott (center), and Thomas Ferrer (right)

Boy Scout Troop 233, sponsored by the Leon Springs Presbyterian Church, has added three new Eagle Scouts to its ranks. Eagle Scout Ryan Pappal, a resident of Fair Oaks Ranch, is a rising senior at Saint Mary's Hall. Eagle Scout Lincoln Abbott, also from Fair Oaks Ranch, will be a freshman at TMI - The Episcopal School of Texas this fall. Eagle Scout Thomas Ferrer will become a sophomore at the Tom C. Clark High School in August.

Ryan chose an Eagle Project of building a lemur enclosure at Primarily Primate Inc. in Leon Springs in order to "[make] a big impact." Primarily Primate, a place that has offered a refuge for misplaced animals for the last 30 years, has been affected by the recession. The hardest part of the project was obtaining all the construction materials for a reasonable price – many expensive parts and wire were needed. Ryan remarks that he learned "how to effectively lead a group" to complete his goal.

(Continued on Page 5)

FAIR OAKS RANCH

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Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary.....210-698-.616

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CPSEnergy.....(new service) 210-353-2222
.....(service trouble or repairs) 210-353-4357
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Pedernales Electric Co-op.....888-554-4732
Time Warner - Cable.....210-244-0500

OTHER

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.....(delivery info, stops, fwds, ect.) 830-249-9303
5837 De Zavala Rd - San Antonio, TX.....210-641-0248

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

Furniture Donations (Continued from Cover Page)

expense of conducting a pick-up of the furniture only to have to turn around and take the furniture to the dump (incurring even more expense!).

If your furniture or other household items are too damaged or dirty to be repaired or cleaned, or to be of any use to any organization, please be considerate and do not request a furniture donation pick-up. Sometimes the charity may refuse the furniture at the pick-up, and this is a big waste of time and resources for everyone. If the furniture can't be used by anyone, don't call a charitable organization out to pick it up. Instead, contact your local waste management company to find out the proper procedures for disposing of these items.

MAXIMIZING THE FURNITURE'S POTENTIAL

- Before requesting a pick-up of furniture by a charity, figure out what you can do to make the furniture as useful to the organization as possible.
- Clean up any stains with furniture cleaner and vacuum upholstered items (particularly if there is pet hair on the piece)
- Make any needed repairs (if you can)
- Pull together any extras that go along with the furniture, such as extra throw pillows that match a couch
- The more useable and attractive the furniture is, the more benefit it is to the charity and those that will be using it.

FURNITURE DONATION PICK-UP MADE EASY

Find out beforehand what the desired location for pick-up is. For example, is the organization willing to enter your home to collect the furniture, or do they want you to bring the furniture out to the curb? Some charities are willing to enter a home and collect furniture donations, but before they arrive you should make sure the path is clear and the furniture is ready. The charity staff does not want to have to wait for you to move items off the furniture and then carry the piece out to a truck while climbing over items scattered on your floor. If the charity is willing to enter your home to pick up the item, let them know if there are any stairs they will be going up or down. It is also helpful to keep any pets out of the area – for their own safety.

FINDING THE RIGHT CHARITY




Be aware that not all charities offer furniture pick-up. Some will pick-up only certain types of furniture, such as large pieces of furniture or appliances. In addition, some charities accept these donations to resell them while others actually give the donations directly to those in need. Contact the charity of your choice to inquire about pick-up and the final destination of your donations. If you need names of charities in your area, you can ask your friends and neighbors, churches, internet searches, newspapers, etc.

Above all, you should feel good about donating your items to those in need. The charity of your choice, and the recipients, certainly appreciate your donation!!

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

President Obama visits The Dominion

By Carla Ruiz



President Barack Obama visited The Dominion on Tuesday, July 17th for a private fundraiser at the home of attorney, Mikal Watts. Speaking in a private indoor basketball court with soaring ceilings, the president acknowledged Eva Longoria and other dignitaries in the audience before his prepared statement. About 75 people attended the event that raised more than \$1 million.

Dominion Security Chief, Joseph DiStefano, and his security guards prepared and strategized for over two weeks for the security of the President. Chief coordinated with local and Washington Secret Service and SAPD to discuss local conditions that may or may not impact the security of the event.

“It was a great experience and pleasure to work with Secret Service and SAPD. We worked together toward what turned out to be a flawless and smooth event,” said Chief. The Dominion Security Officers exceeded the expectations of everyone involved.

Before President Obama arrived to The Dominion, more than 1,200 supporters met at the Convention Center for a sold out lunch and remarks from the president. The haul for the day was expected to exceed \$3 million — the most raised for a Democratic candidate in the city, according to party estimates.

Show Some Water Savvy This Summer

by David Abrego and Erin Conant

Outdoor watering during our hottest months can account for 50 to 80 percent of a home's total water use.

As summer approaches, it's almost inevitable more water will be used to irrigate thirsty lawns. According to the Texas Water Development Board, outdoor watering during our hottest months can account for 50 to 80 percent of a home's total water use.

To help keep your water bill and usage in check this summer, try these water-wise gardening suggestions:

- **Create shade** – Nothing beats the Texas heat like a cool shady spot. Install a vine-laden pergola. Shady areas lose moisture at a much slower rate, reducing the need for frequent applications of water, even during the summer.
- **Convert to drip irrigation** – Water is applied at a slow rate directly to the root system of plants. And, SAWS offers a rebate if you convert pop-up sprays to drip in your garden beds.
- **Avoid overfertilizing** – Frequent and heavy applications of fertilizer do help your lawn grow by leaps and bounds, but all that lush, new growth also results in turf that needs (you guessed it) more water.

For more advice on how to save water, call us at 210-704-SAVE.

David Abrego and Erin Conant are conservation consultants for San Antonio Water System.



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New Eagle Scouts (Continued from Cover Page)

Lincoln's Eagle Project was to build a foot bridge at Norman Vestal Park in Fair Oaks Ranch. He chose his project in order to "benefit the community for generations to come." While Eagle Projects are primarily funded by good intentions and hard-working hands, the scouts still need to collect funds in order to make their plans turn into reality. Lincoln says asking for donations were awkward at first, but he became used to it, and donors from the community were very generous.

Leon Springs Presbyterian Church was the focus of Thomas's attentions as he launched Operation Flower Power – planting 24 plants to serve as a sound and vision barrier between the church's playground and IH-10. Thomas chose this project to give back to the church that charters Troop 233. Thomas also had a challenging time with funding the project, but one can now spot the fuchsia flowers of Texas sage behind the church. Through completing this task, Thomas also learned the value of planning.

These scouts greatly appreciate the adult leadership of Troop 233. Mr. Coulter and Mr. Champie, the former Scoutmaster and the current Scoutmaster, respectfully, dedicated long hours to mentor and guide their scouts. Other adult leaders in the troop were instrumental in assisting these scouts to plan and to execute their Eagle Projects. Accomplishing their Eagle Projects and becoming Eagle Scouts will forever positively impact the three new Eagle scouts. A job well done, Ryan, Lincoln, Thomas, and Troop 233!

Microchip your Pets

Submitted by Susan Shaked

A microchip can make the difference between having your lost or stolen pet safely returned...or never seeing your pet again. The number one problem with microchips is missing or inaccurate owner information: pet owners fail to register their contact information when they adopt their pet, or they forget to update their contact information when they move.

Not all clinics register pet owner information at the time of microchipping. They insert the chip and give the pet owner the paperwork, but the pet owner must contact the ID company to provide contact information. And, some ID companies require a small annual fee to maintain the registration. If you are unsure what ID company handles your pet's registration, visit your veterinarian or local shelter for a quick scan. There is usually no charge.

If your pet is not yet microchipped, your veterinarian or local shelter can do it quickly and easily. If your pet is already microchipped, don't forget to have the microchip checked annually to be sure that it is still active. Microchips are designed to last the lifetime of your pet, but occasionally they do fail.

Check out the American Animal Hospital Association's lookup tool (www.petmicrochiplookup.org) for a list of the chip manufacturer with which a microchip code is associated.

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Volunteers needed for OASIS tutoring program

Training gets underway in August

Submitted by Nora McDougall

Would you like to make a life-long difference in the life of a child who is struggling to read? Become an OASIS tutor and help an "at risk" child in first, second, or third grade improve reading skills and build self-esteem.

The OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring Program, which began 19 years ago in San Antonio, pairs an older adult with a child in grades 1-3 to promote success in reading. Older adults who are 50 and older are needed in Northside, San Antonio, Alamo Heights and Edgewood ISDs. Volunteers will spend one hour a week with the same child throughout the school year. No prior teaching experience is required and hours are flexible for vacations and appointments. Over 75 participating schools, tutors choose the school in which they wish to tutor.

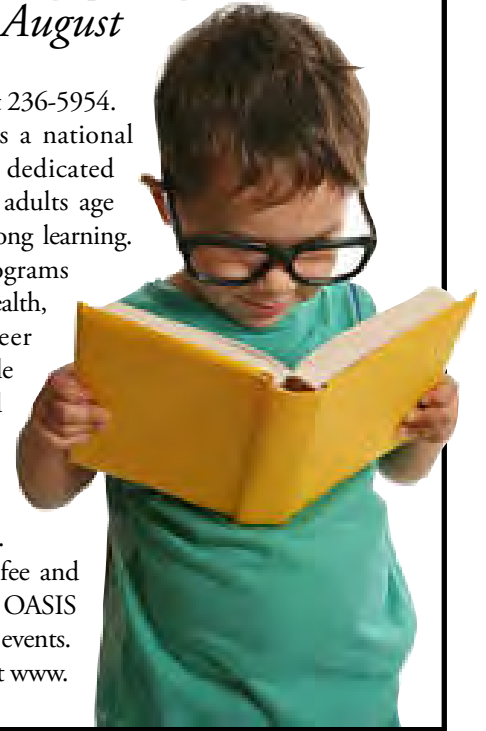
The San Antonio OASIS is holding a Tutor Informational Session on Aug. 15th, 10:00 am to 11:00 am, at the OASIS Center at Morningside, located on the corner of St. Cloud and McNeel. No obligation; just information. The two-day tutor training classes will be held: Aug. 24th and 25th, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Training class will be held at the same location. You can do something fun and meaningful – read to a child at an elementary school near you! To register or for more

information, call OASIS at 236-5954.

San Antonio OASIS is a national non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of adults age 50 and over through lifelong learning.

Offering stimulating programs in the arts, humanities, health, technology and volunteer service, OASIS brings people together to learn, lead and contribute in their communities. The San Antonio OASIS includes over 21,000 members.

There is no membership fee and members can participate in OASIS classes, lectures and special events. For more information, visit www.oasisnet.org.



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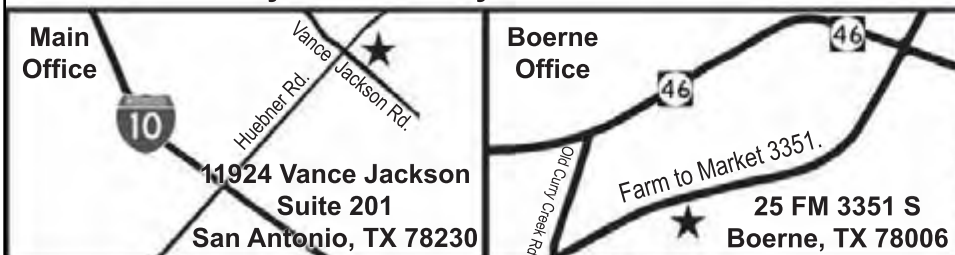
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CTRC Director Debates PSA Testing Recommendations in Leading Medical Journals

Debate continues to swirl in the medical community over when to recommend PSA testing to look for prostate cancer in men, and Ian M. Thompson Jr., M.D., director of the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the UT Health Science Center, is weighing in twice this week in major medical journals.

Dr. Thompson is co-author on an editorial regarding PSA testing recommendations published online Wednesday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The American Society of Clinical Oncology's PSA panel, on which Dr. Thompson serves, published its opinion Monday in the online edition of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

The commentaries are in response to the recent recommendations by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force that doctors stop doing routine PSA tests on men of any age. The task force members looked at data from three studies suggesting that a focus on PSA screening and treatment in recent years has had marginal benefits at great cost.

In the *New England Journal* editorial, Dr. Thompson and Catherine M. Tangen, Dr.P.H., of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center,



take issue with that recommendation. They note a 44% reduction in prostate-cancer mortality between 1993 and 2009.

"How can this be, if screening and treatment do not reduce deaths from prostate cancer?" the authors ask. The editorial goes on to discuss flaws in the studies that the task force used to arrive at its conclusion.

The ASCO PSA panel opinion discourages PSA testing for men with a life expectancy of 10 years or less, but recommends that men with a greater life expectancy should discuss with their doctors whether PSA screening is appropriate.

"PSA testing may save lives for this group of men, but is also associated with harms, including complications from unnecessary biopsy, surgery, or radiation treatment for cancers that may be slow-growing and not ultimately life-threatening," the published opinion notes.

"Ultimately," Dr. Thompson said, "the best people to make the decision about PSA screening are the patient and his doctor, after a thorough discussion about the risks and benefits as they pertain to that individual."

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Immunizations: Not Just for Kids

By: Concentra Urgent Care

Although most toddlers in the United States have received all recommended vaccines, many adults and adolescents have not. These missed vaccinations increase their risk for infection, hospitalization, death, and disease spread, and they contribute to the estimated \$10 billion that is spent annually on vaccine preventable diseases in the United States.

Evidence shows that currently approved vaccines are safe and effective. However, coverage rates for persons of all ages vary nationwide. Reasons cited include lack of health insurance, unfamiliarity with vaccine recommendations, limited access at physicians' offices, or the perceived cost of vaccines.

What you need to know is that obtaining recommended vaccines in a timely manner can prevent disease. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the immunization schedule to the right for generally healthy adults and adolescents.

For more information about immunizations and where to get them, contact your health care provider, your Concentra health specialist, or visit the CDC's Web Site at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines.

**Specific recommendations for individuals may vary depending on age, prior immunization history and the presence of other existing conditions; please see the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm>*

IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATIONS

INFLUENZA:

Yearly, especially if at risk

MENINGOCOCCAL:

One dose, age 11-12 or 13-18 if not previously immunized

TETANUS-DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS

One dose, age 11-12, then booster

DIPHTHERIA-PERTUSSIS:

every 10 years

HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS

Three doses, age 11-26 (females only):

MEASLES - MUMPS - RUBELLA:

If born after 1956, one or two doses if never immunized up to age 65

PNEUMOCOCCAL:

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VARICELLA (CHICKEN POX):

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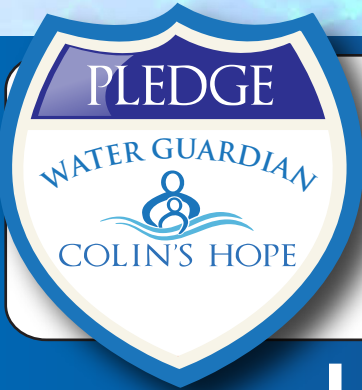
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