

The FAIR OAKS *Gazette*

June 2013

Volume 3 Issue 6

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ARTICLE INFO

The Fair Oaks Gazette is mailed monthly to all Fair Oaks Ranch area residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for the Fair Oaks Gazette, please email it to fairoaksranch@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.



COVER PHOTO

Do you take great photos?

Do you take great photos? Would you like to see your photo published on the next cover? We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming issues of the Fair Oaks Gazette. Our deadline for submittal is always the 20th of the month prior to the issue. All photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date in high resolution (300 dpi) to fairoaksranch@peelinc.com. Portrait (vertical) photos work best. To view other photos submitted please visit www.PEELinc.com/FairOaksRanch, and view any of the past newsletters.

This month's cover photo was submitted by Debi Watson.

By submitting your photo you agree to allow your photo to be published in future issues of the Fair Oaks Gazette or other Peel, Inc. publications. Call 512-263-9181 to find out how to have your business featured on the cover of the Fair Oaks Gazette.

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NEWCOMERS of San Antonio Club

Newcomers of San Antonio welcomes new members to its organization. Newcomers of San Antonio is a club whose main mission is to welcome new residents (those living in the Greater San Antonio area 2 years or less) and help them learn about the area and form friendships.

For further information, contact us at: Newcomers_2001@yahoo.com or call 800-411-7559. Check out our web site at: www.newcomersofsanantonio.org.

FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

"Everyday is a Good Day in Fair Oaks Ranch"©

The months fly by; seems only a few days ago I was writing about April's city/community activities. By the time you read this, May is over. School may be as well. BISD last class day is June 5th this year. Summer

brings fun and frolic; expect more families to be out and about in the City plus surrounding areas. In the meantime, I will share some city tidbits below.

TODAY IN AMERICA

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Our residents and city staff cooperated with the video photographer Wednesday and Thursday (15th-16th) whether it was an interview, candid shots, staged events, etc. The uncooperative weather extended the shoot schedule yet the photographer loved the many facets of our areas and utilized every opportunity to be creative. Expect that Today In America's editing department will follow his lead making each of us very proud of our home presentation!

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Council's regular meeting begins at 7:00 pm the third Thursday of each month at City Hall. Much of the meeting covers standard activities - approval of minutes, renewable contracts, inter-local governmental agreements, committee reports, department reports, etc. You are welcome to attend at any time.

ANNEXATION

Others items for consideration on the agenda this month included two annexation petitions for property with one in Front Gate (Bexar County) and the other at Ventura and Keeneland (Kendall/Comal Counties). Council approved accepting these two petitions and set two public hearings – June 20th and July 18th. Accepting the petition merely starts the process to annex the land into the city. Once annexed, the use of the properties must follow the City's development, subdivision and all applicable ordinances. The City's Current and Future Land Use Map designates both areas as Future Residential.

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT(MDD)

In May 2011, the voters approved the formation of a Municipal Development District (MDD) to be funded by a one-half of one percent sales tax (.005 sales tax). This is a separate legal entity that must follow both legal and financial requirements. Based on the Auditor's recent review, it was suggested they consider contracting with the city for these services rather than hire employee(s). Council approved the MDD's request Thursday night to provide the needed accounting, investment and bookkeeping services for \$6,000 to be paid annually by the MDD.

Annual 8 Year Street Maintenance & Repair Program

Amongst the remaining Items for Consideration was this year's 8 Year Street Maintenance and Repair Program bid. Council approved the \$201,154.84 bid with a 4% Change Order add-on to include 120,452 square yards of street surface. The twenty six streets involved

will be announced as it gets closer to starting the overall project. For those signed up for messages under CODE RED, we plan to direct announcements to specific streets alerting to the start and expected finish of the work. Hopefully this will help those residents plan accordingly. (Not signed up? Just go to www.fairoaksranchtx.org and click CODERED on the left hand side of the screen. Follow the directions. Any concerns, call City Hall 210- 698-0900 or Toll Free: 866-258-2505)

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, May 17th, there was a Special Meeting for the Council Members to take their Oath of Office. The Council serves staggered two-year terms; Place 3, 4, & 5 were up this year. The unopposed incumbents -Alderman Anderson, Alderman Fothergill and Alderman Schmidt – took their Oath of Office for another 2-Year Term. Congratulations!

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Immediately following the Special Council Meeting, a Council Workshop was opened to preview a Proposed Eight-Year Strategic Plan. Although there were expectations as to how the City will progress from Day 1 (1988), there has never been an official direction leading to its full maturity.

In January 2012, Council with City Administration and Department Managers began a journey together at the City's Leadership Retreat under the guidance of an outside facilitator. The end results were to key into the City's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities plus threats (SWOT) and ponder how the City grows into year 2022. This is the first intense long-term look into the future. Many variables are involved with some controllable by the City and others not. Now is the time to prepare for the future by meeting it rather than it beating down on us.

From my perspective - as Mayor - the City's vision is to plan and support Sustainable Value for our residential properties. In the City's maturity, home buyers wanting to live in FOR will buy existing homes as land for new housing will be limited if not gone within the next eight years or so. A home is one of the largest investments we make outside of business ownership, retirement investments, etc.

The top three elements that bring new residents here are (1) BISD – FOR Elementary, (2) FOR Golf & Country Club and (3) other family lives here. BISD is looking ahead to serve the families of today and tomorrow as the recent voter approved Bond Issue moves forward. FOR Golf & Country Club continues to add new family activities along with Golf, Tennis and the Fitness Center for today and tomorrow. Every day I learn from new residents, "I moved here because (fill in the blank) lives here and just loves it". That demand is only going to increase as the years pass.

(Continued on Page 5)

FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 4)

Council is looking at Infrastructure, Utilities and Facilities as well as the supporting Personnel and Operations.

For instance, many streets in Fair Oaks Ranch are over 35 years old; although the street bases are considered in reasonably good condition, the sides of the streets are degrading losing approximately one foot of driving surface per side. Driving becomes more challenging. These areas need a "reclaiming process" that brings the sides back extending the road width for safer driving, walking, biking, etc. Most of these streets are in the north part of the City in Kendall and Comal Counties with others in the South between Dietz-Elkhorn and IH 10 (Bexar County). These were early development areas in the late 70s/early 80s.

Other street needs are (1) mill and overlay Fair Oaks Parkway to include new coordinating headwalls, edge with ribbon curb and restripe; (2) mill, overlay plus restripe Dietz-Elkhorn west from FO Parkway to city limits; and enhance the entrance areas. Before this work though, Utilities must replace and upgrade water lines on the Parkway as well as Dietz Elkhorn preparing for SAWS Emergency Interconnect for our city plus replace and upgrade water line on Meadow Creek Trail in preparation of the elevated storage tank to be built in near future. Other Utility

plans include improvements such as Automatic Water Reading and SCADA systems for both Water and Wastewater. Each improvement provides protection of our meters, wells, etc. and operational efficiencies.

With a projected population growth of 50% reaching 9,000-10,000 residents at maturity, Personnel will grow as well – police, administrative clerks, utility/maintenance workers, etc. Physical space expansion is vital. Which comes first parallels that historically unanswered "the egg or the chicken" question.

This is a quick glimpse into what Council and Department Managers have been reviewing since January 2012. The goal is to finalize a formal document for the City to utilize as it considers the evolution of change in each fiscal year's budgeting, planning, etc. Do anticipate the finished document will come before Council in June or July at a regular council meeting.

Again, thank you for sharing time with me today; we wish you and yours a peaceful and safe July 4th!

Respectfully,

Cheryl Landman, Mayor



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FAIR OAKS RANCH

Zander Lozano

On May 11th - 12th, Zander participated in the USA Junior National Golf Team Qualifier (SW Region) at Briggs Ranch. He placed second, scoring 73, 77, earning him a spot on the USA 12 member team. He will compete against the Scottish Junior National Golf Team in Scotland June 9th through the 15th. Courses he will play in Scotland are: Carnoustie (Burnside & Championship Crs.), Monifieth Links (Jubilee Crs.), St. Andrews Links (Eden Crs.), Royal & Ancient, and the Crail Golfing Society which is the 7th oldest golf course in the world! (I will be joining Zander for this exciting opportunity which is sponsored by Callaway Golf, Tom Relf, and Dean Spriddle, Directors of this national program).



Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Ranch

The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Ranch meets each week on Wednesday at 12:00 noon at the Fair Oaks Ranch Golf and Country Club. If you are interested in finding out more about the Rotary Club (the first service organization to be chartered in Fair Oaks Ranch), please contact either Jackson Moss 830-755-4448, moss.jackson@gmail.com or Fran Driskell 210-414-1981, fran@frand.com.

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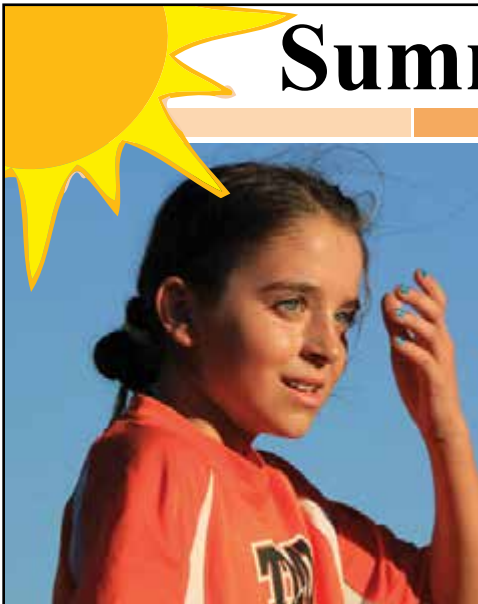
Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District Water Conservation Audit

The sweltering days of summer are just around the corner and with increasing temperatures, come increasing pressures on our aquifers to meet water demands. Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGRGCD) would like to ask for your help in reducing that demand on groundwater. We offer a free on-site consultation to identify problems areas that could be resulting in higher water usage to home or business owners residing within our District. Following the visit, we offer recommendations to help reduce water usage both inside and outside the home and a “goody” bag full of conservation-related items, including a hose timer, moisture meter, and low-flow showerhead. We would love to work with you on conserving our water resources and helping potentially reduce your water bill as well!

To schedule a visit, give us a call at 210-698-1155!

To learn more about Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District, please visit us at www.trinityglenrose.com.

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Volunteers Add to Our Community

The basic definition of a volunteer is: A person who renders aid, performs a service, or assumes an obligation voluntarily; To do charitable or helpful work without pay. But this definition falls exceedingly short of telling us what a volunteer really is. Perhaps we can learn more by "listening" to how some folks have described volunteers.

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another. --Erma Bombeck

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. --Mother Teresa

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. --Margaret Mead

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. --Ralph Waldo Emerson

No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers. --Ronald Reagan

The truth of the matter is that a volunteer is the heart of our community. A volunteer is one who gives, gives and gives some more. A volunteer is someone who is undergirding the town, neighborhood or city with quality service that money can't buy.

Volunteers perform so many varied tasks at such a wide variety of non-profit organizations here in the Hill Country. From dealing with nature at the Cibolo Center to helping at the Animal Shelter or assisting clients at Hill Country Mission for Health or the Pregnancy Care Center in Boerne, volunteers are making a difference every day.

If you volunteer... THANK YOU. If you know a volunteer... THANK THEM!



YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VOICE

Do you have an article or story that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email your document to fairoaksranch@peelinc.com.



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ANDREW SCHAFFER WINS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE NSLI-Y SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY LANGUAGE ABROAD

Andrew Schaffer, a high school student in Fair Oaks Ranch, TX, has been awarded one of approximately 625 National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarships for 2013-2014. The NSLIY program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students to learn less commonly-taught languages in summer and academic-year overseas immersion programs. NSLIY offers overseas study opportunities in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian Russian, and Turkish.

The NSLI-Y scholarship enables Andrew to study Arabic in Morocco for the Year. The scholarship covers all program costs for participants including domestic and international travel; tuition and related academic preparation; language testing; educational and cultural activities focused on language learning; orientations; meals; and accommodations, usually with a host family.

Launched as part of a U.S. government initiative in 2006, NSLI-Y seeks to increase Americans' capacity to engage with native speakers of critical languages by providing formal instruction and informal language practice in an immersion environment. Educational and cultural activities are designed to promote language learning and build mutual understanding and long-lasting relationships.

The goals of the NSLI-Y program include sparking a life-long interest in foreign languages and cultures, and developing a corps of young Americans with the skills necessary to advance international dialogue in the private, academic or government sectors, and build upon the foundations developed through person-to-person relationships while abroad.

Through his participation in the program, Andrew will serve as a citizen diplomat while developing the skills necessary to be a leader in the global community.

NSLI-Y is administered by American Councils for International Education in cooperation with AFS-USA, American Cultural Exchange Service, Americans Promoting Study Abroad, AMIDEAST, iEARN-USA, Legacy International, and Russian American Foundation. Applications for 2014-2015 NSLI-Y programs are expected to be available at www.nsliforyouth.org in the early fall. For information about U.S. Department of State-sponsored exchange programs visit www.exchanges.state.gov.

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