

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

February 2014

Volume 4 Issue 2



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

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

January's weather definitely brought some low freezing temperatures to our area. Expect February may also have similar weather as it is considered one of the colder months along with January. City's Public Works staff stay overnight at City Hall with extreme weather forecasts. This allows for quick responses to city-wide needs including road safety and utility operations. The FOR Police is on duty every hour of the day and night.

City Council appointed a new Alderman to replace Fred Jones who needed to resign due to heavy increase in work responsibilities with a lot of travel added. Fred's commitment to Fair Oaks Ranch and the general area is significant as he served on FOR Homeowners Association, BISD Board of Trustees, FOR City Council plus Chairman for his neighborhood Restrictions Committee. We miss Fred and hope only the best for him and his family.

Under Texas Law accepting Fred's resignation is the first step. The law states that "if the seat remains vacant" then the resigning Alderman Fred Jones is still required to carry out the needed duties of that seat.

Previous "vacant seats" were due to the untimely deaths of Mayor Gaubatz and later Alderman Balcer. The increased work responsibilities would not allow for Alderman Jones to attend regular council meetings, workshops, special meetings and most importantly the Mayor Pro Tem duties if required. Council realized "filling the vacant seat" was best to maintain continuity in our city responsibilities.

Al McDavid, a long-term resident, was appointed by City Council to fill the vacancy this past regular Council Meeting and took his oath of office. Al demonstrates his commitment to the city through his service as Chairman of his neighborhood Restrictions Committee plus active with its Homeowners

Association and serving on Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association for a number of years. Alderman McDavid will serve out this unexpired term on Council until May 2014.

This new year is still in fast forward mode. At the January Council meeting two new police officers took their oath. Internally, interviewing for the part-time Human Resource employee and the full-time Project Engineer is ongoing. The newly hired Building Code Inspector is staying very busy as 25 new house permits were issued Oct. 1 – December 31, 2013. Again, remodeling and new additions added 34 permits.

Council will attend a workshop February 10th to review and discuss the Performance Contracting project conducted by Siemens Industry for our city. The basis of this study is to guide the city toward maximum resource efficiencies for all city operations with high emphasis on both water and wastewater operations. The Automatic Metering System and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) improvements will be highlighted. Your City management works diligently to reach effective results by providing no less than standard measurements and preferring to be better than industry standards. For instance, the industry standard for a municipal utility on "water loss" is 10-14%; Fair Oaks Ranch averages 10-12% and works toward reducing that percentage even more. The Texas Water Development Board produced a rather easy-to-read booklet on water loss if you want more details: https://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/brochures/conservation/doc/WaterLossManual_2008.pdf

As of December 31, 2013, there are 2,611 water and 1,519 wastewater connections in the City.

(Continued on Page 3)

FAIR OAKS RANCH

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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.

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Animal Control.....210-698-0990

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Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary210-698-1616

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

The difference of almost 1,100 less in wastewater connections is due to those private properties having septic tank systems. The test well continues to climb sitting at about 1056 feet. Although not a lot rain this winter, there is less irrigation usage. As you consider landscaping needs this spring and summer, there will be a wide variety of drought resistant plantings include turf grasses to choose from. In addition, drip irrigation systems provide the best method of providing water directly to plants, etc. The new landscape done at City Hall's entrance in September contains drought resistant plantings and uses drip irrigation.

The State of Texas is still in a drought condition. As I mentioned to a group recently, it will probably take one if not two hurricanes to bring this area's surface water capacity back up to full capacity such as Canyon Lake, Medina Lake, etc. Practicing respectful stewardship of our resources helps balance needs.

Recently, the San Antonio Express had an article about real estate sales citing Fair Oaks Ranch at almost a 10% increase in market valuations. During the recent recession, the city held its square foot value close to \$121 for three consequent years based on real estate statistics. Other areas (ex: Dominion and Cordillera) loss 16% - 20% of their resell valuation during the same three years. Fair Oaks Ranch is providing not only sustainable valuation on our properties but is posed to increase those resell valuations.

It is time to send Happy Valentine wishes to you and to yours as I begin to close this month's article. Encourage you to visit the city's website (www.fairoaksranchtx.org) for updated information, news alerts, meetings, etc. There is a Notify Me button on the left-hand side that allows you to sign up for email and/or text alerts when a new posting occurs on the city website. You can also make credit card payments on the website for utilities and municipal court.

Again, a special thank you to Peel, Inc. /Gazette for carrying this monthly column!

Respectfully,
Cheryl Landman, Mayor

210-698-0900 or mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org
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FAIR OAKS RANCH

Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District Water Conservation Audit

Winter temperatures, we have, winter rains, where are you?! During 2013, much like 2012, our average rainfall hovered around 32 inches District-wide. Unfortunately, most of this was received during sporadic weather events throughout the year. Case in point, we received ten inches of rain over Memorial Day weekend. While every drop is welcome, high rainfall within such a short timeframe results in much of that rain running off into our streams and rivers providing little to recharge our aquifers. Please bear this in mind as winter winds down and you begin spring planting and yard care.

Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGRGCD) would like to ask for your continued help in reducing demand on groundwater resources. We offer a free on-site consultation to identify problem 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.

Please contact us at 210-698-1155 with questions, or to schedule a free in-home audit! To learn more about Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District, please visit us at www.trinityglenrose.com.



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FAIR OAKS RANCH

It's February - Is it Love?

Inevitably when February 14th comes around it seems that hearts and minds turn to the "sweeter" things in life – relationships. Dating is a part of getting to know someone, part of the "testing" of relationships, trying to see if two people "fit".

It seems that kids are wanting to date earlier and earlier; and parents have a whole variety of expectations and guidelines for their eager teens in regard to dating. And also many concerns as their children step into this new world of relationships. So much has changed you often hear parents say.

From a recent study by Soroptimist, we find that 82% of parents believe they would recognize if their teen was experiencing dating violence; yet more than half of these parents could not correctly identify the warning signs of abuse. Did you know that 1 in 3 teens who were in an abusive dating relationship never told anyone about it? And 80% of girls in this kind of dating relationship continued to date their abuser? A shocking 1 in 4 girls in this study reported enduring repeated verbal abuse while in a dating relationship. And 1 in 3 teens reported experiencing the most serious forms of dating violence and abuse – including sexual, physical and threats of physical harm.

So, as a parent, what can you do to help prevent your child from this and encourage healthy relationships? You've heard it before: spend quality time with your teen – talking daily. And listen more than you talk – let

them know they are important to you and the things that concern them concern you. Give your teen positive feedback and direction, encouraging a positive image of themselves.

And when your teen expresses an interest in dating, spend some time discussing the qualities of a healthy relationship. Regardless of your particular family rules about dating, it is helpful to be clear with them about acceptable and unacceptable behavior in the dating relationship that you will allow.

If your teen is already dating, here are just a few warning signs that there may be trouble in their relationship. Does their boyfriend/girlfriend constantly check up on them, demanding to know where they are or who they're with? Do you notice the boyfriend/girlfriend being jealous a lot or losing their temper frequently? Has your teen's appearance or grades changed dramatically? Is your teen constantly worried about upsetting their boyfriend/girlfriend?

The Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center has educational presentations for parents and teens on Dating Violence, The Miracle of Life, and STDs and Risky Behaviors. These are available for school and church groups and were presented in the Boerne and Bandera school systems this past January. For more information on the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center and its free services call 830-249-9717.

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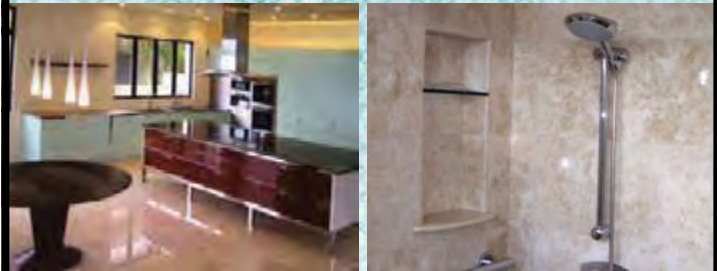
The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Ranch meets every Wednesday at noon at the Fair Oaks Ranch Golf and Country Club.

The Rotary Club is serving the community with Meals-on-Wheels. If you know someone who may need the Meals-on-Wheels Service, please contact Fran Driskell (210-414-1981) for more information. Remember, Meals on Wheels is not means tested.

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