

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

August 2014

Volume 4 Issue 8



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

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

Thankfully, the summer of 2014 is easing into our weather with mid-July still staying below the 100o mark. There is more rain this summer as well. It does not seem likely that 2014 will replace 2011 as the hottest and driest year of record in Texas recorded history. The infamous Texas seven-year drought of record in the 1950s was a pivotal point leading Texas to consider its water future. Consequently, the Texas Water Development Board was initiated and continues today with its major role in Texas water. As a very young teenager in San Antonio, I personally recall the drought of record and the struggles affecting us as well as our neighbors.

The US Drought Monitor recently declared Fair Oaks Ranch in Moderate Drought. Due to increasing temperatures and escalated water use we have reached the triggers necessary to declare Drought Stage 1.

Stage 1 initiates a surcharge on residential consumption exceeding 25,000 gallons in a month. The city website provides additional and detail information (www.fairoaksranchtx.org). Hopefully, there will not be too many 100o days this year and the rains will continue to help minimize the need to declare Drought Stages.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

The very successful workshop held June 28th on City campus had approximately 40 attendees. Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District, FORHA and Fair Oaks Ranch co-sponsored the event. Troy Luepke, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Bexar County Master Gardener, Lou Kellogg lead the "make-and-take" your own rain barrel home workshop. Based

on the many positive comments, we are considering another in November 2014 and possibly three in 2015. Fair Oaks Ranch continues to be proactive toward water conservation and we were the first city to participate in this new program just as we were to have Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District provide Water Audits at no cost to our residents. Special thanks to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service efforts to initiate the Rain Barrel Program!!

CITY COUNCIL AND CITY HALL ACTIVITIES

June and July generally are busy months yet this year they seem extremely busy.

The City Administrator resigned late June and an Interim City Administrator, Marcus Jahns, joined us July 9th just in time to tackle the upcoming Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget process. There are many legal deadlines to meet as we strive for a balanced budget to provide the services needed for public health, welfare and safety.

At the Regular Council Meeting, June 19th, Council approved two unit plats for Stone Creek Ranch subdivision, re-elected Alderman Conrad Fothergill as Mayor Pro tem and authorized the Mayor to sign agreement with TxDOT in preparation for the FOR/IH 10 Bridge project. Oaths of Office were taken by newly elected Council member, Maryanne Havard and two re-elected members – Alderman Glenn Damstra and Mayor Cheryl Landman.

Based on a July 14th Special Meeting/Workshop, Council approved \$7,000,000 as amount needed for a street, drainage,

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

ADVERTISING INFO

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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.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Ambulance 911
Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department.....210-698-0990
Animal Control.....210-698-0990

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Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary210-698-1616

UTILITIES

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AT&T - Telephone.....800-464-7928
CPSEnergy.....(new service) 210-353-2222
.....(service trouble or repairs) 210-353-4357
Fair Oaks Ranch Utilities - Water.....210-698-7685
GVTC - Cable & Telephone800-367-4882
Pedernales Electric Co-op.....888-554-4732
Time Warner - Cable.....210-244-0500

OTHER

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.....(delivery info, stops, fuds, ect.) 830-249-9303
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From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)

and utility bond initiative and its' associated cost, and authorized staff to continue toward the November 2014 bond election date. Three options ranging from \$6 Million to \$8 Million were presented and discussed. The next step is to "call for a Bond Election to be held November 2014" and the Council will be considering such this August.

The City of Fair Oaks Ranch and City of San Antonio look for a partnership water study for both cities and their respective Extraterritorial Jurisdiction. At the July 17th Special Meeting, presentations were made by San Antonio Councilman Ron Nirenberg for District 8, John Dugan with SA Planning and Growth Development plus Dr. Calvin Finch, researcher with water specialty. (Dr. Finch is no stranger to FOR as he spent many hours here on water conservation presentations along with resident, Norman Vestal – hence Norman Vestal Park; they worked together at Texas A&M Extension Service.)

Councilman Nirenberg explained his objective is to identify water policy and procedures for the next 50 years and beyond as urban development continues growing with water scarcity doing the same especially in northwest Bexar County extending into Kendall County and Comal County. That is very much the need at Fair Oaks Ranch. John Dugan explained that if Fair Oaks Ranch becomes a participant in the Study, an Memo Of Understanding (MOU) would be drafted releasing a portion of San Antonio's ETJ to Fair Oaks Ranch. As San Antonio will be losing future property tax revenue, the MOU will include that loss as revenue sharing to be paid by Fair Oaks Ranch to go totally towards the study.

Dr. Finch stated the Study would look at San Antonio and Fair Oaks Ranch's goals and expectations on future growth and development, and how it affects the water situation. It will assess costs to provide water, how to provide water, sustainability, distribution systems, describe special circumstances, provide analysis of each city, review water rates, have stakeholder input, and identify major assets of water resources among other things. The goal is to initiate the study October 2014 and expect it to take 6-8 months before completion.

Council approved the City's participation in this Regional Partnership Water Project Study with the City of San Antonio in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to be funded from General Fund reserves in fiscal year 2014/15.

There are two other studies being conducted for the City with completion expected within a couple of months. First, the Capital Improvement Plan is responsible for setting appropriate impact fees that developers, builders, etc. must pay the city. It is important that these fees represent real costs to cover real city expenses. The volunteer committee, Capital Improvement Advisory Committee keeps an eye on the plan and fee structure reporting to Council twice a year. The last impact study was ten years ago. The second study is an in-depth look at the City's wastewater plant's capabilities today and tomorrow. This is the first such study for the plant which was built 35-40 years ago. Both studies can also be helpful to the Water Study Project noted above.

(Continued on Page 3)

FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 2)

SIGNING OFF...


Time to call it a night! As a reminder, if you have not signed up for CodeRed notifications or Notify Me for city news, please do so. For more information and direction, contact City Hall at 210-698-0900. You can read FO Gazette online if preferred; go to www.peelinc.com to sign up and the Gazette is usually ready by the 3rd of the month. Otherwise, if mailed it arrives mid-month. Again, a special thank you to Peel Inc. for providing this space at no cost to our residents or the City.

My quote of the month is from a favorite character, Winston Churchill: "You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks."

Respectfully,
Cheryl Landman, Mayor

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OAK WILT



Ceratocystis fagacearum, otherwise known as oak wilt is the single worst tree pathogen in central Texas. The devastation will not abate and is likely to get worse. Further, it is an epidemic disease afflicting all species of oaks from Illinois down to Texas. In this article I will cover the basic science of the disease and also some practical and effective responses to this disease. My hope is two fold: that much of the mis-information about oak wilt will be dispelled as well as inspiring a hopeful diligence amongst affected communities to produce a more successful response to the disease. Topics of this article will be as follows: biology of pathogen, methods and rates of transmission, and forms of response.

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

Oak Wilt (Continued from Page 3)

Oak wilt is a fungal pathogen that affects all oak species. The fungus colonizes and thereby clogs the tree's vascular tissue causing starvation and dehydration, thus the typical symptoms of leaf abscission (leaves falling off tree) with the following patterns: veinal chlorosis leading to necrosis (leaf vein death), less typical symptoms of tip and or margin blanching, and in cases of mortality in less than one month – the leaves turn brown quickly and remain on the tree. Further, the tree's immune system responds aggressively to the infection by trying to compartmentalize (kill infected tissue) the disease and in many or most cases ends up dying prematurely by means of a tree "suicide".

Oak wilt is spread in central Texas primarily through means of grafted/interconnected root systems, allowing the disease ample routes to move from one to the next. Root transmission rate is dependent on many factors: amount of water (rainfall and or irrigation), distance of neighboring trees, number and size of root grafts, seasonal temperatures and amount of sunlight. I have witnessed little to no movement to slightly over 150 ft. of movement (daily irrigated lawns in Pleasanton, TX) in one calendar year. It is less commonly spread by sap feeding beetles called nitidulid beetles and less commonly by bark feeding beetles. In the case of the sap feeding beetles, they land on fungal mats (because they have a smell similar to their food source – tree sap), which can grow on red oak species (Live Oaks do not produce fungal mats and therefore the firewood provides no threat), and get the spores on their bodies and then carry them to fresh wounds on oak trees, thereby infecting them. Beetle activity is year round in central Texas. The beetles are more active during mild temperature weather, but winter days with a high of 75 degrees are not an unusual occurrence. The infection of the largest tree I ever treated was in Hye, TX. It was due to a new beetle-caused infection during the month of January. Thus, transmission possibilities are all year long. Finally, I'd like to note that chainsaws do not transfer oak wilt and are self-sterilizing, on account of the operating temperature exceeds the temperature the fungus can live in.

Now turning to our responses to the threat of this disease, what is most important to take from the insect vector information, is that the beetles smell sap and are attracted by that smell. On the other hand, spraying an oil-based paint on a pruning wound not only provides a barrier against spore transmission, the smell alone of the paint acts as an extremely effective deterrent for a beetle with spores coming anywhere near the wounded area! The time of year for pruning is not

nearly as critical as that professional pruning practices are followed, such as sealing live tissue (not dead wood cuts, which are non transmissible!) promptly afterwards. The tree in Hye, TX was not sealed after pruning because "it was winter", but the science of tree wounding is that tree wounds in winter stay uncured and vulnerable much longer than in the other seasons due to their dormancy response time. As far as human wounding is concerned though, I would like to make something absolutely crystal clear – construction companies and builders as well as ranchers using uneducated workers and heavy equipment make up the majority of new human-caused oak wilt cases. Finally, one thing we can do very little about and a main reason for new oak wilt centers, is that many of the tree wounds are naturally caused, such as: rubbing limbs, wind breakage, twig gnawing insects, lightning strikes, squirrel and porcupine gnawing damage, and the like.

Beside sealing cuts, and legislating and enforcing laws against construction-caused damage, we can also either trench around and or treat trees to minimize tree loss. In most residential cases trenching is way too difficult and or impossible with underground pipes lines, property boundaries etc., so I will go into depth on treating the disease with fungicide. Fungicide treatments can be as effective as 85% or better at saving individual trees from not only death, but even significant canopy loss. The keys to this success with treatment are as follows: retain an expert to make a plan for treatment if you know the disease is within 200 ft. of your property. Experts should have a set per inch diameter price, consistent high results with a single one-time-injection!, willingness to provide numerous references, a dedication to injecting within a monitored progression of the actual disease movement as opposed to injecting trees well beyond a year's travel distance of the disease (to inflate their here and now need for income), that they use the product Alamo (as opposed to Kestrel or Quali Pro) and dosages of 20 ml per inch in most cases (that is another article altogether!). The experience and training of the consultant and the injector are the most critical factors of achieving the high results of success and the capability of doing so in one treatment. Secondary treatments are rarely needed and generally have a much lower value than the initial injection.

Next month's article will address selected questions or feedback to this article that is deemed pertinent as well as discussing irrigation system installation and repairs. Any feedback and questions may be submitted to: kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com.

FAIR OAKS RANCH

Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District Water Conservation Audit

The recent rain events have been a welcome sight, but monitors wells into the Trinity Aquifer throughout the District still reflect a downward trend and record lows.

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.



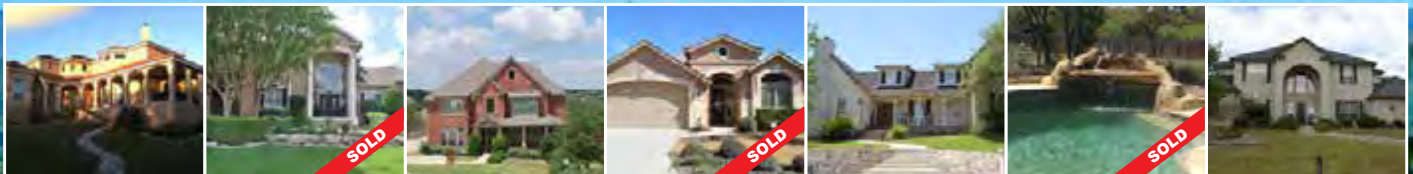
Please contact us at 210-698-1155 with questions, or to schedule a free in-home audit!

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

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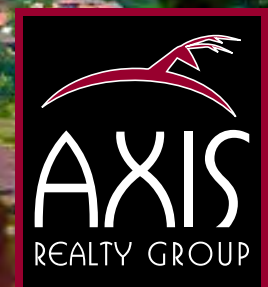
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Residents Rick and Patti Ricker work at fitting their rain barrel Saturday, June 28th, at a workshop sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife, the Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association, the City of Fair Oaks Ranch and the Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District. All attendees took home their finished rain barrel to enhance their water conservation for landscaping. *Star photo by Gail D. Yovanovich*

Texas A&M Rain Barrel Making Workshop

held June 28th in Fair Oaks Ranch City Garage



The Meltzer's make two rain barrels. Dr Meltzer is holding the barrel for Troy Luepke, Program Coordinator

City Ordinance/Law Reminders Fair Oaks Ranch

The three top issues that residents continually express their concerns over are (1) illegal landscape watering,

(2) not painting oak trees to minimize spread of the devastating oak wilt disease and (3) lights shining into their homes throughout the night. The information below highlights main points from the City's ordinances concerning these three topics. All ordinances can be viewed on the City's website: www.fairoaksranchtx.org

WATER CONSERVATION

Sec. 13.06.005 Landscape watering management

(Purpose: effective water conservation)

(a) Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers, soaker hoses, or automatic irrigation systems shall be prohibited at all times between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

(b) Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers, soaker hoses, or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to once a week between the hours of midnight to 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. to midnight on the authorized watering day according to the following schedule (No weekend watering):

Street Address Ending in:	Authorized Watering Day:
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday

(c) Irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time by means of a hand held hose with a positive cutoff device, or a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less.

OAK WILT CONTROL

Sec. 1.07.033 Investigation; treatment; preventive measures *(Purpose: protect property values)*

...(c) The most effective preventive measure that can be taken is to immediately treat any cuts or wounds (including pruning) to any oak tree with an appropriate wound paint. This shall be done within thirty minutes to minimize contact with nitidulid beetles.

(d) Tree pruning should be accomplished during winter or summer months. As a rule of thumb, pruning should be avoided mid-February through mid-June. However, the variability of south Texas weather makes the predictability of the beetle presence very uncertain. Therefore, it is essential

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS RANCH



The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Ranch just began a new Rotary year on July 1st. Tom McKeown is this year's president.

The Rotary Club supports the Meals on Wheels program for the city of Fair Oaks Ranch and surrounds. If you are recovering from surgery, suffer from an illness or perhaps have a long term issue that having the luncheon delivery service would alleviate, please contact Fran Driskell, this year's president elect, at 210-414-1981.

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

Fair Oaks (Continued from Page 6)

that wounds be painted at any time pruning occurs or a wound is observed...

...(f) It is the responsibility of property owners to inform landscape contractors, tree services and yard maintenance crews of the provisions of this division...

...(h) If a red oak tree is diagnosed with oak wilt, the property owner shall remove the infected tree immediately from the property and properly dispose of the tree.

(i) Because the red oak tree is a continuing conduit for spread of oak wilt even after death, no person shall plant new red oak trees on their property within the city without obtaining certification from the tree seller that the tree is disease-free...

CHAPTER 3: BUILDING REGULATIONS

Article 3.15 Outdoor Lighting

Sec. 3.15.002 Lighting requirements *(Purpose: respect for neighbors including across the street)*

(a) **Generally.** All public and private outdoor lighting installed after the effective date of this article in the

Camp Bullis buffer zone shall be in conformance with the requirements established by this section.

(b) **Control of glare.** Any luminary that is aimed, directed, or focused so as to cause direct light from the luminary to be directed toward residential buildings on adjacent or nearby land, or to create glare perceptible to persons operating motor vehicles on public ways is prohibited. Such luminary must be redirected or its light output controlled as necessary to eliminate such conditions.

(c) **Residential lighting.**

(1) No residential trespass lighting may exceed one and one-half foot candles at the property line, with the exception of intermittent lighting.

(2) Intermittent lighting must be of the motion sensor type that stays on for a period of time not to exceed five minutes and has a sensitivity setting that allows the luminary to be activated only when motion is detected on the site.

(3) It is highly recommended that all residential lighting also comply with subsections (d)(1)(A)–(C), (G) and (H) below.

FAIR OAKS *Gazette*

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Hill Country Animal League receives a grant from PetSmart Charities® to spay/neuter indoor and outdoor pet cats in the cities of Boerne and Fair Oaks Ranch!

Hill Country Animal League has received funding from PetSmart Charities® to provide FREE spay/neuter services for 900 indoor and outdoor pet cats and kittens belonging to residents within the city limits of Boerne and Fair Oaks Ranch. Grant funding includes sedation, surgery, rabies vaccination and pain medication. Other services, such as microchips and other vaccinations, will also be available for an additional fee.

About Hill Country Animal League

HCAL is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to stop the overpopulation of unwanted dogs and cats in the Hill Country area by providing low cost spay/neuter services.



Address: 924 N. Main; Phone: (830) 249-2341

About PetSmart Charities:

PetSmart Charities, Inc. is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that saves the lives of homeless pets. More than 400,000 dogs and cats find homes each year through our adoption program in all PetSmart® stores and our sponsored adoption events. PetSmart Charities grants more money to directly help pets in need than any other animal welfare group in North America, with a focus on funding spay/neuter services that help communities solve pet overpopulation. PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization, separate from PetSmart, Inc.



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“We Celebrate Birthdays!” Wins Most Patriotic Float



A group of volunteers led by Carole Clark and friends from the Fredericksburg Christian Fellowship created a winning float for The Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center in the Comfort 4th of July parade last week. This first place winner in the Most Patriotic category was themed “We Celebrate Birthdays!”. It featured lots of red, white and blue along with a birthday cake, Uncle

Sam on stilts, and a great birthday party attitude!

The Fredericksburg Christian Fellowship supports the HCPCC and several of the members of the float committee volunteer at the HCPCC during the week. Volunteers are trained to answer the phones, provide lay counseling, work with individualized parenting classes, organize material assistance items, and help with special events.

The HCPCC has been providing free services for over 26 years to women and families in the Hill Country area. It is funded primarily by individual donations, church support and some grants. The HCPCC has expanded its hours to be open two evenings (Tuesday and Thursdays until 8) and four days (Tue-Fri).

In addition to the free pregnancy tests, sonograms, STD testing and prenatal and parenting classes offered at the HCPCC facility on Fabra St in Boerne, the HCPCC now offers free childbirth classes to the community at the Boerne YMCA on Thursday evenings and one Saturday every other month.

For more information about services, to volunteer or to make a donation please call 830-249-9717, email hcpcc@lifesprecious.org or see the website www.lifesprecious.org.

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Independent and Assisted Living



Situated in the historic setting of Leon Springs, between The Dominion and Fair Oaks Ranch, **The Lodge at Leon Springs** is one of the Hill Country's true gems. Family-owned for eighteen years, the fourteen-acre property showcases majestic trees, a lovely spring-fed pond and is home to an array of wildlife species, including ducks, fish, deer, and turkey to name a few. The animal companions of our residents are also welcomed as part of our community and considered extended family, as well.



The Lodge at Leon Springs is pleased to announce the addition of several newly-constructed one bedroom cottages, broadening independent living choices available for seniors in our community. Our spacious one and two bedroom cottages (800 & 1,500 sq ft, respectively) are each equipped with large screened patios, a fully functional kitchen as well as a laundry room with washer and dryer. Cottage residents enjoy dining options that include the delivery of three hot meals to their home(s) or joining friends and fellow residents in our assisted living home. For the comfort and convenience of our residents, The Lodge provides housekeeping, as well as facility and grounds maintenance. Activities are offered and designed to enhance quality of life and encourage new friendships.



Sit and enjoy the beauty of nature at its best and the serenity of the historic Leon Springs.

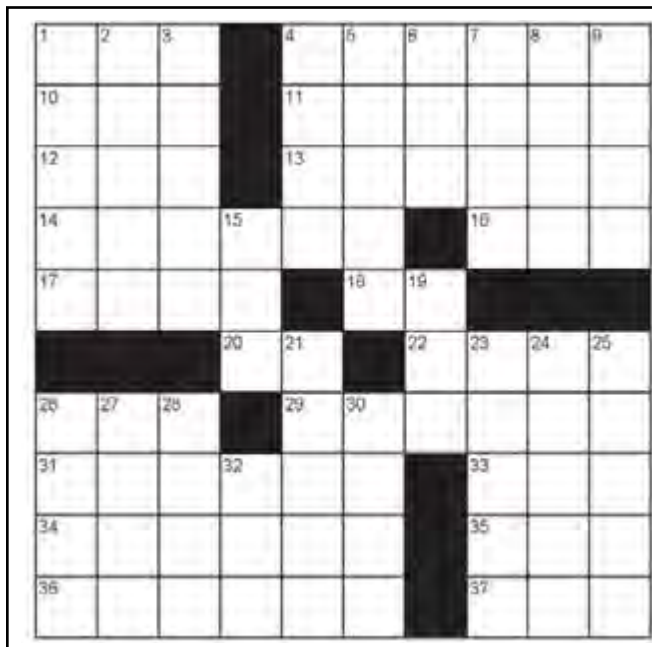
While some communities require a substantial, long-term, financial commitment, The Lodge at Leon Springs takes a different approach. While we prioritize the physical and emotional well-being of seniors, we respect their financial concerns, as well. To schedule a tour of our new one bedroom cottages and our unique community, contact Steve Kitchen at 210-410-3864 or stevekitchen@sbcglobal.net



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Advertisements
4. Inhabits
10. Crow's cry
11. Gully
12. Rio de Janeiro
13. Sports car brand
14. List of errors
16. New Jersey's neighbor
17. In __ (together)
18. Kilogram
20. Post script
22. Too
26. Concord e.g.
29. Additions
31. Computer game
33. Killed in action
34. Ancient (2 wds.)
35. Antlered animal
36. Mourning
37. Ocean

DOWN

1. Land
2. Milk's food group
3. Type of enemy
4. Loony
5. __ havoc
6. Make a mistake
7. Stow
8. Greek stringed instrument
9. Defile
15. American College of Physicians (abbr.)
19. Chitchat
21. Book holder
23. Enjoys
24. Steps for crossing a fence
25. City
26. Prod
27. Prudent
28. Plane
30. Nearly horizontal entrance
32. Poet Edgar Allen

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