

# The FAIR OAKS Gazette

December 2014

Volume 4 Issue 12



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

## From the Mayor's Desk...

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

As this year comes to a close, the City's been full of activity the last few months. This newsletter highlights various items/actions... hopefully of interest to you.

First, the 2014-2015 Budgets were approved by Council in September with the same tax rate as before (.2663 per \$100). Secondly, City Council called for the Street Bond Election on November 4, 2014 and the bond passed with 64% of the total vote (Between our three counties, 80% of the registered voters participated in the first General Fund Bond Issue. Each county voted FOR the bond ranging from 60 – 65 %.) Thank you!!!!

### OAK WILT

One of Council's and the City's top concerns is to minimize Oak Wilt taking hold in our City and destroying our Oak trees. The Oak Wilt map maintained in City Hall is being update. We recently contracted with Kevin Belter, Certified Oak Wilt Specialist and Arborist Consultant, to help the City determine and denote Oak Wilt outbreaks. He will aid the Code Compliance Officer to recognize signs of Oak Wilt, noting such and following up with private property owners explaining the City's Oak Wilt ordinances plus recommending needed actions. Trees are a valuable asset to one's property and depending on size can be worth \$1,000-\$10,000 or more. Let's keep "Oaks" in the City's name!

When trees are trimmed, please paint all cuts within 30 minutes or less to deter Oak Wilt infestations. This applies to individuals as well as licensed tree trimmers. To paint or not to paint... just paint, please. And, clean (or disinfect) your trimming equipment as you move from one tree to the other.

### AUTOMATIC METER READER SYSTEM

All meters have been changed from previous manual-read to Automatic

Meter Reading for residential and commercial hook-ups now. There are numerous advantages for the Utility customers with the new meter system. For instance, the City can now provide a computerized data showing water usage twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week. In addition, the system allows the City to set default parameters that when customer readings are above those defaults, they will be contacted to the above-average usage and look for potential leaks. That is a great water conservation opportunity for us all.

Much like any aging mechanism, the old meters many 25-30 years old were not good performers. They did not record correct water consumption. Think about the old car that uses more and more oil yet you can't tell where it is going. The new meters are more efficient and effective. The Dashboard component of this newly installed project will be ready for our customers to track their individual usage in two to three months. At the writing of December's newsletter, the City is still in Drought Stage 1 which adds surcharges to monthly usage of 25,000 gallons or above. With winter and the hope of above average rain expectation, we should not need to irrigate landscapes often. Please make note that irrigation systems are only allowed Monday through Friday at set times. (City website provides details under Ordinances – [www.fairoaksranchtx.org](http://www.fairoaksranchtx.org).)

### LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Recently, the City held its third Leadership Retreat; first one was held January 2012. The Retreat allows for the City to travel upwards – 30,000 feet – and look outward and downward at the City. The participants examine and speculate what to expect by reviewing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This year, we concentrated on affirmation of the accomplishments since that first

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# 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](mailto:fairoaksranch@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCIES NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
Fire.....	911
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### SCHOOLS

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### *From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)*

Leadership Retreat in 2012.

The four primary areas in 2012 that Council and Department Managers concentrated their efforts included (1) Best Practice Strategic Plan, (2) Adequate Water Supply, (3) Wildlife Management and (4) Adequate Funding to Achieve Objectives. From this list of four concentrations evolved twenty-six "things to do".

Since January 2012 to date, twenty-three notations on the "to do" list are either accomplished or in process. For instance, Unfunded Mandates implemented, Emergency Generators installed, 25th City Celebration September 2013, Wildlife/Deer Research Study completed with Wildlife Management Program next, changed Attorney firm, continue contract with Leon Springs Volunteer Fire Department, redo of IH10/FO Parkway-TxDOT Bridge in 2016-2017, Street Bond – includes five street projects indentified in 2012, Technical Add-ons/upgrades are integrated into the new Public Safety Facility building schedule for 2015 plus renovations of current Police Station followed by City Hall. Concerns not yet addressed are Home Rule/P&Z, City Gateways, and Kendall County owned Ammann Rd.

To prepare for build out growth in ten years or so, additional staff and specific expertise is required. Since 2012 additional positions filled are (1) Police Department Administrative Clerk 2014-2015, (2) additional Police Officer 2013-2014, (3) second Building Inspector 2013-2014, (4) replaced Deputy City Secretary to include Human Resource experience and (5) two additional maintenance personnel. Our current Receptionist, Linda Renner is retiring this December and that job description is adjusted to include Communications and/or Marketing/ Public Relations experience which the City has not had previously.

Council and City Hall strives to look forward and as Mayor, I encourage such action and attitude. The 2014 Leadership Retreat facilitator will finalize the recent 2014 Retreat's outcomes within the next few weeks offering more "to do" topics!!

### NOVEMBER 20TH COUNCIL MEETING

Council took action on four separate items at November's meeting.

At ten year intervals or earlier, Impact Fees are to be re-evaluated. At this meeting, Council voted to accept the submitted Land Use Assumption, Capital Improvement Plan and maximum Impact Fee report. In December 2014, Council will consider the ordinance that sets the new impact fee schedule for water and wastewater. Impact fees paid by developers pay for new infrastructure created by new growth so current property owners are not paying for the new infrastructure.

Council approved the Local Project Advance Funding Agreement with TxDOT for the bridge improvements at IH10/Fair Oaks Parkway and is voluntarily contributing 10%, or \$810,000, to the almost \$8 Million dollar project. Construction is scheduled for 2016-2017. You are correct - this will not be fun during the construction stage yet with a four lane bridge realigned to meet Tarpon Rd. will be a much safer and speedier travel experience for all.

The Annexation request by Elkhorn Ridge off of Dietz Elkhorn was unanimously approved by Council. This is a gated-community of 107+ acres to include 289 residential properties with average house price at

*(Continued on Page 3)*



# FAIR OAKS RANCH

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

\$500,000.

Final appraisal valuations at build out in 6 – 10 years are estimated at \$ 144,500,000 which brings \$383,804 tax revenue minus estimated \$277,151 expenses. Why annex you might ask? Answer is for reasons that support our current property tax payers such as (1) less tax burden on current tax payers; (2) new development is governed by city ordinances, and (3) best interest for public health, welfare and safety. This new subdivision developer anticipates building out in 6 years or so.

The last consideration item for the Council was granting Friday, December 26th as a Christmas Holiday for City Hall. Consequently, City Hall will be closed beginning Wednesday at 3:00pm through the weekend until Monday, December 29th at 8:00am.

## FINAL NOTES OF INTEREST

Over the past few months, many citizens expressed their desire to become involved in City-related projects. That is great to hear as the national trend for volunteer commitment has diminished not just here but across the board for any and all volunteer opportunities. A Civic Engagement Volunteer Application is under development and you will soon have the opportunity to convey your interests to the City. I am excited to see this rising desire of volunteer spirit in Fair Oaks Ranch.

The White-tail Deer Research Study concluded its mission in August 2014. We are in the process of moving forward on developing

a Wildlife Management Program for Fair Oaks Ranch that becomes perpetual. My ultimate goal is to have an official program that Council and the citizens fund annually whether it targets deer, feral hogs, etc. More to come on this subject in early 2015.

## SEASON OF JOY

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day there is a special spirit surrounding each of us. As Thanksgiving is quickly arriving, I am reminded why we celebrate the day as well as recalling how thankful I am for the many blessings bestowed upon me and my loved ones. May your Thanksgiving Day memories be filled with gratitude, love and joy.

Christmas is next. For me personally, I love that FM radio station 101.9 begins playing Christmas songs before Thanksgiving! December is a very blessed month. As my grandson, Jake, said many years ago "I wish the whole year was like Christmas because everyone is so nice to each other"! Again, I wish you and yours a very blessed holiday season.

The New Year, January 1st rings in new promises, ideas, expectations and "to do" lists! Take one day at a time...enjoy the moments as they come to you. It won't be long before Thanksgiving 2015 will be upon us once again. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Respectfully,

Cheryl Landman, Mayor

*PS: Thank you, Peel Inc. for providing us this opportunity to share news with all 78015 residents.*

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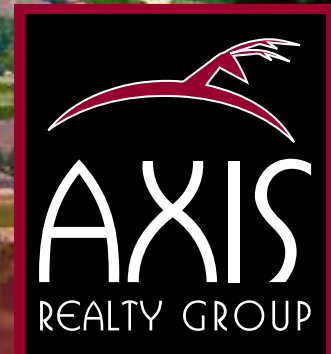
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## ***EVERGREEN TREES***

As a refresher, the themes that govern the topics of my articles are that of diversity and xeriscape. As we enter this holiday season, a look into underused evergreens seems appropriate. As our attractive color-changing deciduous trees lose their leaves, winter avails us an excellent time to pay more attention to those trees that still have leaves – evergreens. My article focus though is primarily geared towards conifers (as opposed to say a Live Oak, which is sometimes grouped as an evergreen).

As I drive through Fair Oaks Ranch, and many other areas of the Hill Country for that matter, I pay close attention noting where and how plus which evergreens are present including their healthy status. Within the Fair Oaks Ranch area for example, there are a multitude of healthy pine species: Japanese Black pines, Afghan pines, Mexican Pinyon (closest native-occurring pine), Italian Stone, Aleppo, and Austrian pines flourish in this area.

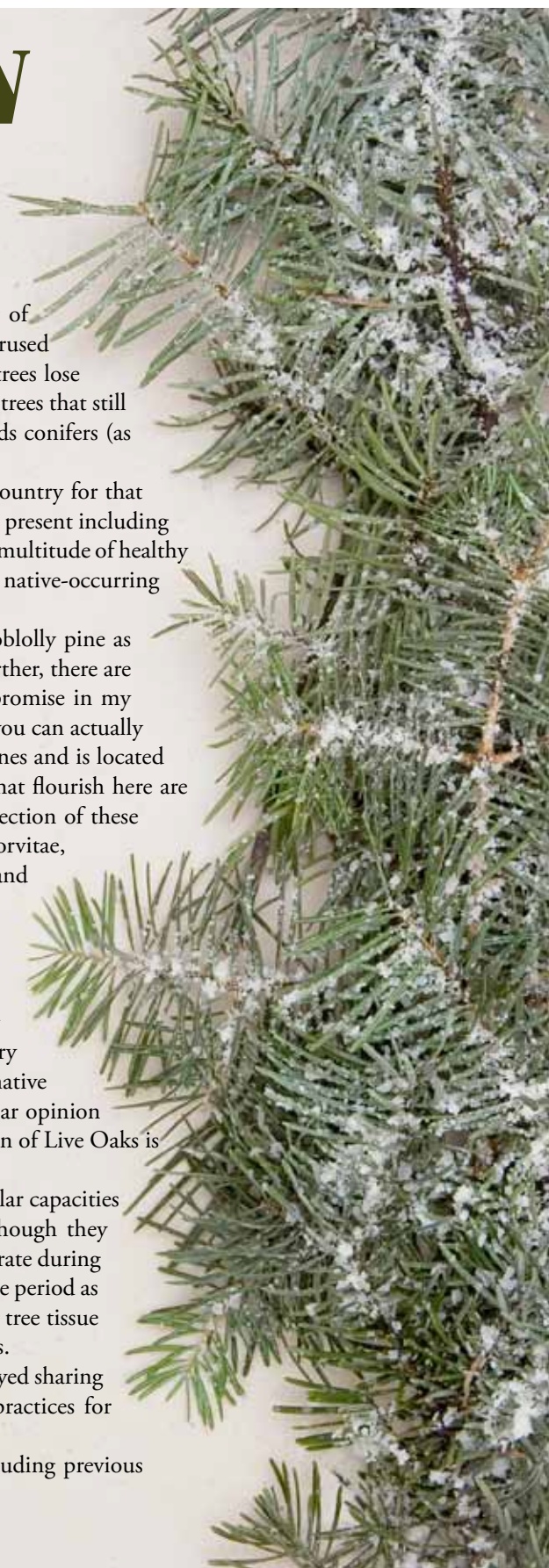
In more selected placements, the Slash pine, Longleaf, and Improved Loblolly pine as well as the Eastern Red Cedar and Leyland Cypress can be great choices. Further, there are numerous other previously un-introduced pines that are showing lots of promise in my experimental nursery. Interestingly, the closest Christmas tree farm, where you can actually cut down your own living tree out of a planted field, is a farm of Afghan Pines and is located nearby Pipe Creek ([www.pipecreekchristmastrees.com](http://www.pipecreekchristmastrees.com).) Other evergreens that flourish here are the Deodar Cedar, Blue Atlas Cedar (there is an absolutely spectacular collection of these two species in various areas of The Rim shopping area), and Yew tree, Arborvitae, Italian Cypress and the Arizona Cypress (the cultivars “Carolina Sapphire” and “Blue Ice” are of particular eye-catching consideration).

On the topic of xeriscape I would like to clarify some myths about the water-use of evergreens. The most plentiful example I will use to represent the evergreen population is our over-abundant Ashe Juniper, which everyone colloquially calls “cedar.” There is a factual evidence that one of the very few tree species that tolerates one of the most inhospitable regions of the hill country (think Junction/Rock Springs area) must be one of the most water-efficient native species of all. Our cedar is just that species. It is not a “water-hog”! Popular opinion conflicts with this but is not based on scientific evidence. Water consumption of Live Oaks is considerably higher than the Ashe Juniper!

By extension, the numerous other evergreen species listed above have similar capacities as far as efficiency of water use. This is for a number of reasons. Even though they photosynthesize all year long, they can “idle” at this process at a much lower rate during the heat of day and during drought period. They lose less water during the idle period as well – a result of thick cuticles on their leaves that deflect sunlight and keep tree tissue at a lower temperature than say a thin-leaved tree like a Bigtooth Maple does.

Hope the articles this year provide helpful and informative topics. I’ve enjoyed sharing both the time and topics with you. Next month, we will examine best practices for planting a tree.

Please contact me with your questions, comments about this article including previous articles at: [kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com](mailto:kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com)





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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## Prenatal, Childbirth and Parenting Classes Available

Of the four major events in our lives, birth, marriage, having a child and death – only marriage and having a child are ones we remember. A couple informed and prepared for the delivery of their child are much more likely to have a positive memorable experience. They are more likely to have fewer complications, an easier recovery and a good start to their new family life.

The Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center offers free classes on prenatal care, child birth, and also on parenting issues to anyone in the community. Whether it's understanding the physiological changes occurring during pregnancy or how to deal with the various temperaments that children (and parents) have – the HCPCC has an individualized class just for you.

Classes are taught by professionals in their fields on DVD as well as with a volunteer or nurse sitting along with families to discuss the videos and any questions people may have. Expectant parents may also choose to "earn" cribs, car seats and other baby items while attending the prenatal and parenting classes. These classes are held at the HCPCC on Fabra St. in Boerne. The childbirth classes are held at the Boerne YMCA on 3 consecutive Wednesday evenings or one Saturday.

Anyone interested in classes is encouraged to call the HCPCC at 830-249-9717.



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# FAIR OAKS *Gazette*

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## ASSISTANCE LEAGUE SAN ANTONIO HOSTS ANNUAL LITERARY LUNCHEON

Assistance League San Antonio will be hosting their third annual Lit 'n Lunch literary luncheon on January 30, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. Location is the San Antonio Country Club, 4100 N. New Braunfels Avenue. This event raises money to support Assistance League philanthropic programs that clothe children in need, engage children in the "I'm in Charge" safety program which empowers them to make correct decisions for their safety, and provides support to several other programs that directly enrich the lives of children and adults in the San Antonio community. Assistance League of San Antonio is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose programs are staffed solely by volunteers. In 2013-2014, member volunteers worked over 71,000 hours that provided support to over 64,000 residents, primarily children.

The luncheon will feature three authors who have captured the history and culture of the Lone Star State in a unique and compelling way. Authors are Elizabeth Crook, author of *Monday, Monday*; Melanie Shankle, author of *Sparkly Green Earrings*; and Miles Arcineaux, authors of *Ransom Island*. These authors will be speaking about their works and books will be available for purchase and signing.

This year's program also will include the presentation of the annual Rising Star Award, an award that recognizes new literary talent in the San Antonio area. The recipient this year is Madeline Carrola, a student at North East School of the Arts. Madeline is a prolific young writer and has received numerous awards and accolades for her work.

Susan L. Pamerleau, Sheriff, Bexar County will serve as Mistress of Ceremony.

The cost of the luncheon is \$65 per person and tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets may be purchased by check made payable to Assistance League of San Antonio and mailed to Assistance League of San Antonio, P.O. Box 13130, San Antonio, Texas 78213. Reservation deadline is January 23, 2015. For more information, please contact Bonny Johnston at (210)732-1200.

Be sure to visit the Assistance League of San Antonio Thrift House at 2611 West Avenue. Proceeds from Thrift House sales benefit the organizations' philanthropic programs. More information about the organization can be found on the Assistance League of San Antonio website, [www.assistanceleaguesa.org](http://www.assistanceleaguesa.org).



## ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

meets weekly at noon at the  
Fair Oaks Ranch Golf and Country Club.

The Rotary Club facilitates the Meals On wheels service for the City and surrounds and is always looking for folks who need that service.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you have an opinion that you'd like to see printed in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email your document to [fairoaksranch@peelinc.com](mailto:fairoaksranch@peelinc.com).

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## *Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District Water Conservation Audit*

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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](http://www.trinityglenrose.com).

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## NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

## THE SEVEN-FACED BIRD

Most often, the traditional star of holiday meals in the United States is the domestic turkey. Interestingly, this bird is only one of two wild bird species native to North America (the other is Muscovy Duck) that have been bred specifically for human consumption. Wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) were first domesticated in Mexico, and then exported to Europe. European settlers brought domesticated turkeys back to the New World, but would also hunt the wild birds they found. Currently, there are more than 7 million wild turkeys in North America, a pretty astounding fact when they were almost extinct by the 1930s due to overhunting and deforestation of their preferred habitat.

Adult wild turkeys are large birds with long reddish-yellow to grayish-green legs, with each foot having three toes in front and a shorter, rear-facing toe in back. Their body feathers are generally blackish to dark brown, with a coppery sheen that becomes more pronounced in mature males. The toms or gobblers, as the males are called, have a large, featherless, reddish head, red throat, and red wattles on both the throat and neck. The long, fleshy object hanging over the male's beak is called a 'snood', and the tail feathers are all one length. Juvenile males are called jakes, and they have shorter wattles and a tail fan with longer feathers in the middle. Males also have a spur behind each of their lower legs, which they use when fighting. Wild turkeys show a strong sexual dimorphism, with the males being significantly larger than the females or hens. The hens have duller feathers overall, mainly in shades of brown and gray. Young females are called jennies, and the very young of both sexes are called poults.

In Japanese and Korean, the turkey is called 'shichimencho' and 'chilmyeonjo' respectively, both of which translate to 'seven-faced bird.' This reflects the ability of the male wild turkey to change the color of its facial skin and wattles in a matter of seconds due to excitement or emotion. While the birds' head color can range from red to pink to white to blue, certain changes represent certain moods. When the male is excited his head turns blue, and when he is ready to fight it turns red.

Unlike their domestic counterparts and despite their weight, wild turkeys are agile fliers. While their powerful legs can get them running up to 25 mph, their top speed in flight is 55 mph. In their ideal habitat of open woodland or wooded grasslands, they fly beneath the canopy top and sleep up in trees. They can live an average of 3-5 years in the wild, eating a varied diet that includes grains, insects, berries, and even small reptiles. Their daytime vision is three times better than a human's and they see in color, but they have poor vision at night.

There are 6 different subspecies of wild turkey in North America, showing differences in coloration, habitat, and behavior. In our region, the Rio Grande Wild Turkey (*M. g. intermedia*) is dominant, naturally ranging through Texas to Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Oregon. Having slightly longer legs than other subspecies, it is better adapted to a prairie habitat, with a more greenish-coppery sheen and buff-colored feathers on the tail tips and lower back. This subspecies prefers brushy areas near streams or rivers, and forests of scrub oak, pine, and mesquite.



*Male Wild Turkey*



*Female Wild Turkey*

Either way you slice it, as you celebrate the holidays this year, reflect on the wonders of the 'seven-faced bird,' appreciate their history with humans, and keep an eye out for wild wattle and snood!

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com) for additional topics.

**[naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com)**

# FAIR OAKS RANCH

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## TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional  
**Fernando Velasco**



### The Modern Game: The Slice Overhead

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are content with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may already be playing for leagues or tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute “The Slice Overhead.” This shot is utilized when an opponent hits a lob that is both high and deep. The player will take the overhead and hit it slightly on the side of the ball forcing the opponent off the court.

In the illustrations, Chaitanya Aduru, one of the top players at the Grey Rock Tennis Academy, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Chaitanya is coached by the Director of the Tennis Academy, Darin Pleasant.

**Step 1:** The Back Swing: When Chaitanya sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high

and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, and his eyes are focused on the ball. His right wrist is “laid back” to allow maximum for point of contact.

**Step 2:** The Point of Contact: The success of a slice overhead shot is in keeping the ball on the strings of the racket as long as possible outside of the ball. Chaitanya started the swing high and is allowing the head of the racket to be fully extended. His left shoulder is almost opening and his weight is moving through the shot.

**Step 3:** The Follow Through: In order to attain maximum control and power, Chaitanya is wrapping the racket around his body. He has “snapped” his right wrist and has the head of the racket facing down. His weight is going forward.

**Step 4:** The Ready Position: If Chaitanya’s overhead is successful but was not a winner, he now gets ready for the next shot, which probably would be a volley.

Look in the next Newsletter for: “The Modern Game: The Forehand Baseline Drop Shot”



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## WAGNER is #1 in SALES the past Decade in Fair Oaks Ranch!

- San Antonio Business Journal ranked The Wagner Team the #1 TEAM in San Antonio & the Hill in 2013 across all Real Estate Companies.
- Keller Williams is the #1 Brokerage Company in Fair Oaks with nearly 50% market share in 2014.
- Dave Wagner is #1 in Fair Oaks Ranch over all other Realtors or "Individual Brokers" by a very wide margin.
- 33 Year Resident & Member of the Club. Expansive LOCAL NETWORK & KNOWLEDGE that is unparalleled.
- 9 Time Consecutive Platinum 50 Winner & Texas Monthly 5-Star Realtor.
- Trinity graduate with numerous industry Designations & Certifications.
- Lives right around the corner!



*"Congratulations, David, on being the **NUMBER ONE** producer in Fair Oaks Ranch! According to the San Antonio Multiple Listing Services, you have had, by a **WIDE** margin, more **SALES**, more **LISTINGS**, more **BUYERS**, and more transactions than all other **REALTORS** or **INDIVIDUAL BROKERS** from all companies in Fair Oaks Ranch!"*

Wendi Harrelson

Team Leader, Regional  
Area Director, South Texas  
Keller Williams Realty

DAVE WAGNER 210.862.7616

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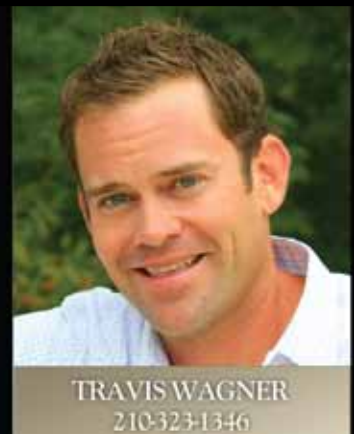
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TONY MANGUS  
210-413-8229

THE  
*Wagner*  
TEAM

ALL TEAM MEMBERS LIVE & WORK  
IN FAIR OAKS RANCH  
EVERYDAY!



TRAVIS WAGNER  
210-323-1346