

# The FAIR OAKS Gazette

January 2015

Volume 5 Issue 1



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

## From the Mayor's Desk...

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

Welcome into the New Year of 2015! Those last couple of months in 2014 truly flew by whether personal and/or city business from my perspective. This new year moves forward the continuation of change in City Hall and general City business. A special thanks to all who complimenting the City on the new Christmas tree and décor!

There is a new "voice" at City Hall when you call or visit. Linda retired after serving the citizens, visitors and businesses of Fair Oaks Ranch for fifteen years. Today, that new "voice" you hear is Sandy. She brings excellent skills and work experience as well as the same great helpful attitude. Although only with us a week – at this writing – Sandy feels very welcomed by the citizens and visitors to City Hall including the city staff!

There are other new positions authorized by Council in December. First, Carole Vanzant, City Secretary and Assistant to City Administrator, will rise to Deputy City Administrator with a City Secretary only position to fill. Secondly, a Building Codes Permit Clerk position was authorized by Council. New houses, remodeling and/or additions plus many other requested permits continue rising. New Building Permits alone have tripled from 2012 to 2014. This administrative help allows the two field inspectors to maintain timely inspections, follow-ups, etc. ensuring quality building results. Marcus Jahns, Interim City Administrator, originally planned for a six month stay but he is extending the plan to the end of this fiscal year, September 2015. This allows for a consistent follow through on the various considerations, decisions and changes to come this year.

There is Work Plan Status Report (<http://www.fairoaksranchtx.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/619>) on the City's website shared with Council at the December 18th regular Council meeting. The Work Plan is following approximately twenty-five city projects supported by input from staff, Council, citizens, etc. One of the projects refers to panels installed in the Council chambers; this need was brought to our attention by some citizens attending meetings yet having a difficult time hearing due to the

vibrations bouncing off of the bare walls.

Recently, notice went out that Drought Contingency Stage 1 ends. The notice continues to caution the need to practice good water stewardship as "the drought" is still active. City ordinance under Landscape Design and Installation (Sec. 13.06.004) directs that all automatic irrigation systems are to be equipped with rain sensors. It is extremely disappointing to see an irrigation (sprinkler) system running while it is raining. Like all maintenance needs, make a point today to confirm that you have that rain sensor and that it is working properly.

Speaking of water, Kelly, the Utility Clerk is updating contact records and finds that many customers have old telephone and/or email addresses on file. The new water meter system allows for Kelly to receive alerts daily when water usage seems to surge at specific addresses. Her objective is to contact those specific addresses informing them of an unusual usage surge. Unfortunately, many contact numbers and emails are no longer active. Ultimate goal is to minimize high water bills by alerting the customers of potential leaks as quickly as possible. (The old system did not allow for this service.) When you receive your utility billing, you can update the contact information on the back of the remittance portion and Kelly will update your account.

At the December Regular Council Meeting, the Woods at Fair Oaks Ranch was officially annexed into the City of Fair Oaks Ranch. The effective date is April 1, 2015 allowing time for both entities to become informed of various benefits, processes, etc. In addition, this is the first time to annex a built-out community so the city staff must integrate a lot of data into our system, with our vendors, etc. There are 175 houses with over \$71 Million appraised valuation and approximately 460 residents; it is a gated community with entrances off of Fair Oaks Parkway and IH10. SAWS provides for their water needs and the each property has septic. The

*(Continued on Page 7)*

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

### SCHOOLS

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Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary .....210-698-1616

### 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 & Telephone .....800-367-4882  
Pedernales Electric Co-op.....888-554-4732  
Time Warner - Cable.....210-244-0500

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

## 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).





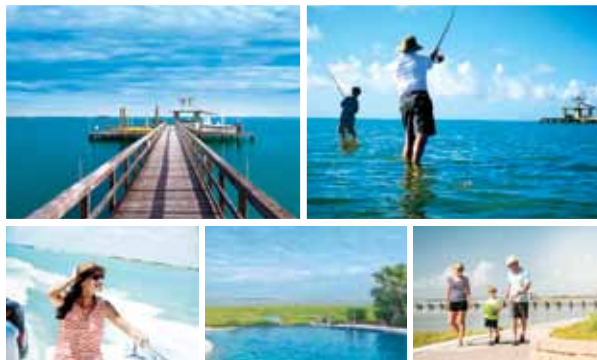
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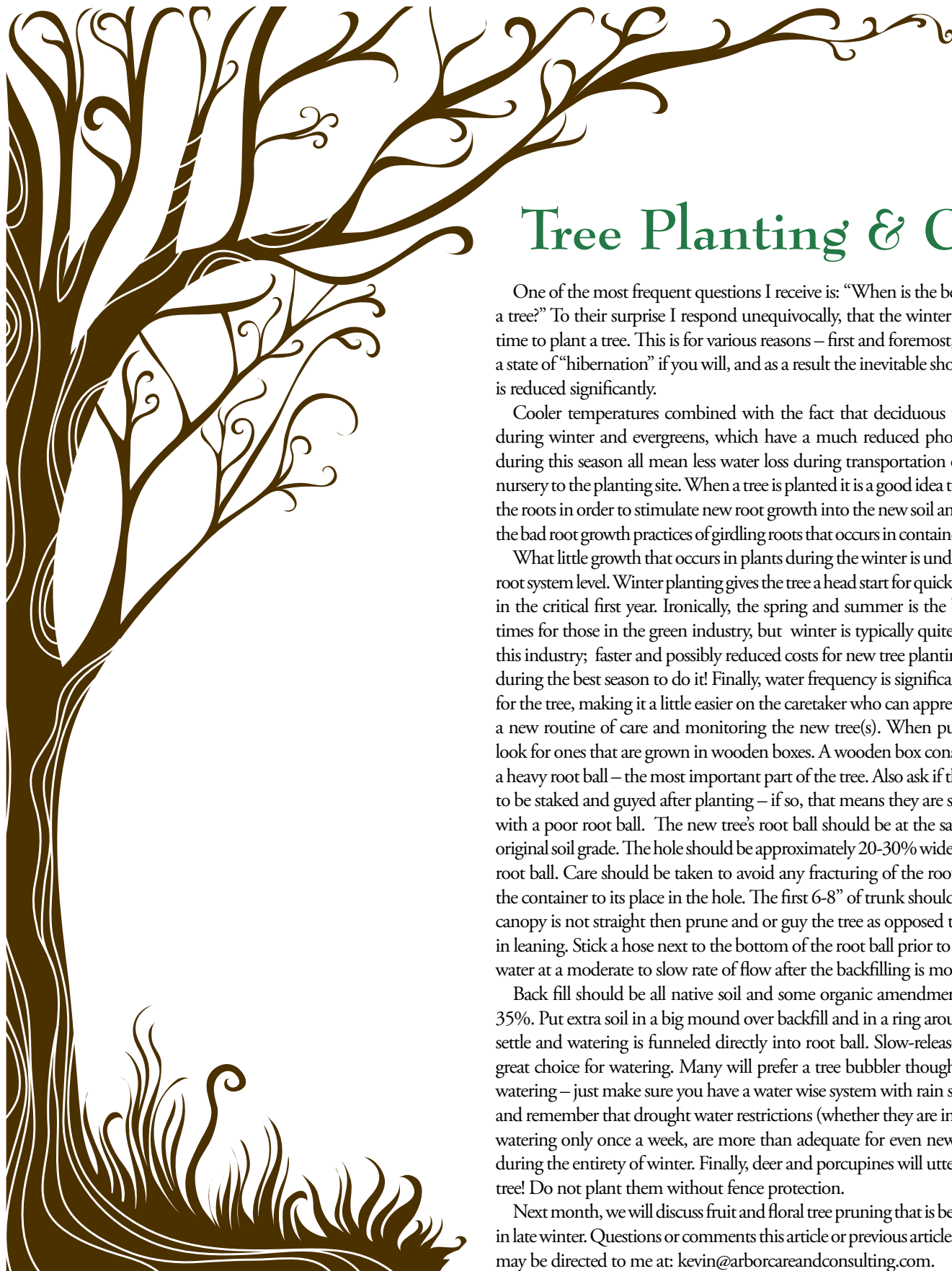
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## Tree Planting & Care

One of the most frequent questions I receive is: “When is the best time to plant a tree?” To their surprise I respond unequivocally, that the winter time is the best time to plant a tree. This is for various reasons – first and foremost, all plants are in a state of “hibernation” if you will, and as a result the inevitable shock of transplant is reduced significantly.

Cooler temperatures combined with the fact that deciduous trees are leafless during winter and evergreens, which have a much reduced photosynthetic rate during this season all mean less water loss during transportation of tree from the nursery to the planting site. When a tree is planted it is a good idea to prune some of the roots in order to stimulate new root growth into the new soil and undo some of the bad root growth practices of girdling roots that occurs in container-grown plants.

What little growth that occurs in plants during the winter is underground, at the root system level. Winter planting gives the tree a head start for quicker establishment in the critical first year. Ironically, the spring and summer is the busiest planting times for those in the green industry, but winter is typically quite a bit slower for this industry; faster and possibly reduced costs for new tree planting is more likely during the best season to do it! Finally, water frequency is significantly diminished for the tree, making it a little easier on the caretaker who can appreciate easing into a new routine of care and monitoring the new tree(s). When purchasing a tree, look for ones that are grown in wooden boxes. A wooden box construction means a heavy root ball – the most important part of the tree. Also ask if the tree will need to be staked and guyed after planting – if so, that means they are selling you a tree with a poor root ball. The new tree’s root ball should be at the same grade as the original soil grade. The hole should be approximately 20-30% wider than the actual root ball. Care should be taken to avoid any fracturing of the root ball as it leaves the container to its place in the hole. The first 6-8” of trunk should be strait. If the canopy is not straight then prune and or guy the tree as opposed to putting trunk in leaning. Stick a hose next to the bottom of the root ball prior to backfilling, and water at a moderate to slow rate of flow after the backfilling is mostly completed.

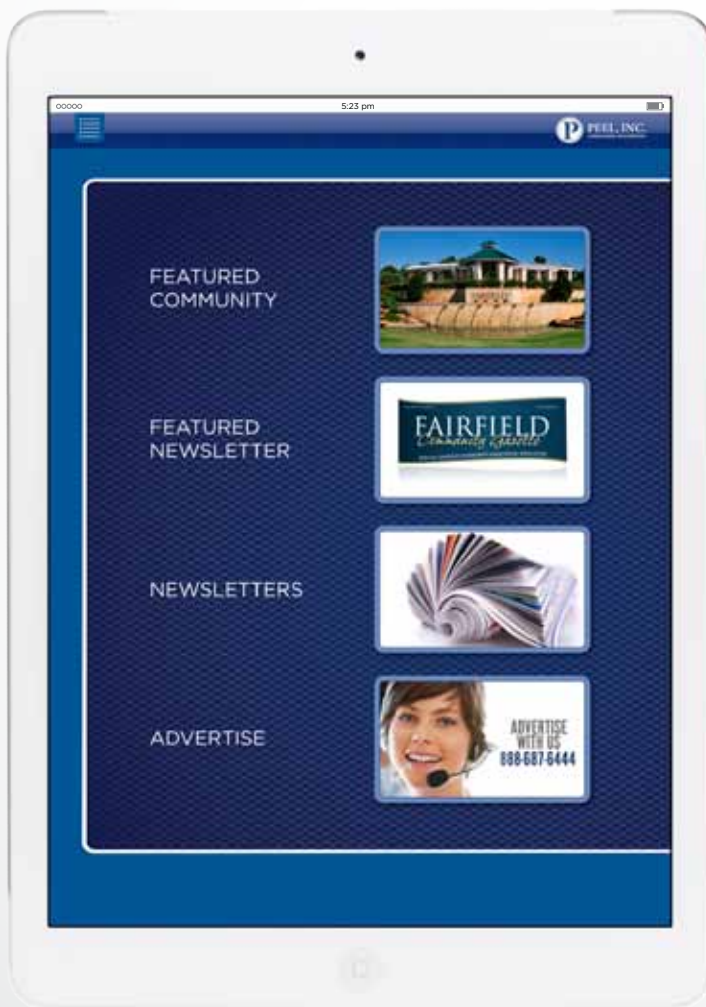
Back fill should be all native soil and some organic amendments between 15-35%. Put extra soil in a big mound over backfill and in a ring around it as soil will settle and watering is funneled directly into root ball. Slow-release tree bags are a great choice for watering. Many will prefer a tree bubbler though for automated watering – just make sure you have a water wise system with rain sensors installed, and remember that drought water restrictions (whether they are in force or off), of watering only once a week, are more than adequate for even newly planted trees during the entirety of winter. Finally, deer and porcupines will utterly destroy your tree! Do not plant them without fence protection.

Next month, we will discuss fruit and floral tree pruning that is best accomplished in late winter. Questions or comments this article or previous articles have generated may be directed to me at: [kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com](mailto:kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com).

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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

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

initial discussion began almost four years ago and with the City of San Antonio's agreeing to release The Woods from its ETJ recently. Special pat on the back to the Woods HOA board for their continued tenacity to see this through.

Please graciously welcome our neighbors as our newest citizens!

Recently, the newspapers reported on highway construction projects and a number of residents have asked about the managed lanes concept. I attend the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) monthly meetings serving as an Alternate Board Member for the Greater Bexar County Council of Cities (GBCCC). The following information is provided by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) directly and coincides with the AAMPO meetings discussions and information:

*"TxDOT and the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Alamo RMA) are working toward the development of Managed Lanes on I-10 between Loop 1604 and Ralph Fair Road (FM 3351). In addition to these limits, the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization also includes managed Lanes on I-10 west between FM 3351 and Business 87 South in Boerne. Managed Lanes within the limits between Loop 1604 and IH 410 are not currently in the AAMPO's long-range plan.*

*A managed lane is a travel lane that operates separately from the main lanes. They might also be thought of as "express lanes". Travel on these lanes is managed through a combination of pricing, vehicle eligibility, and access control strategies to achieve faster, more reliable speeds. Users of these managed lanes could pay a toll at a rate structure and policy set by the operating entity. Currently the plan is for the Alamo RMA to operate the managed lanes on I-10.*

*The existing lanes on I-10 would remain in operation as free "general purpose" lanes and will operate as they do today. This, hopefully clears up the idea that - "Avoiding these toll roads would be very inconvenient if not all but impossible for residents in our area. It would cost the average commuter about \$10 per day to use roads that are already paid for."*

*Drivers will be able to choose between using the lanes that exist today or they could choose to use the managed lanes. The idea is to provide a reliable alternative to the existing congested lanes."*

Relieving traffic congestion is a top priority as it will allow for smoother and quicker traffic flow, reduces accident potential, etc. Personal choice is a vital element of this managed lane concept. My personal choice will depend on my travel needs at the time.

It is time to say "that's all" for this January 2015 issue. Special thanks to Peel Inc. for allowing us to communicate monthly at no cost to you or to the City.

Happy New Year: "Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties." Helen Keller

*Respectfully,*

*Cheryl Landman, Mayor*

210-698-0900 | mayor@fairoaksranchtx.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.**

**Fran Driskell**

fran@frand.com | 210-414-1981

## 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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Team Leader, Regional  
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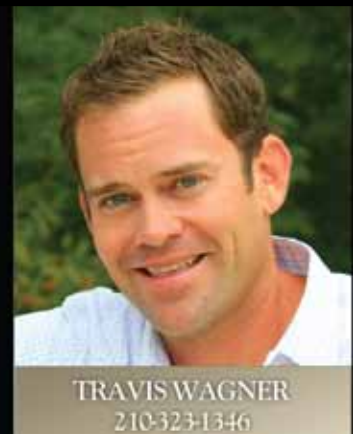
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