

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

February 2015

Volume 5 Issue 2



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

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

What does "heart, food, romance, pie, cherry, grapefruit and weddings" have in common? They are part of February's National Month awareness topics. (i.e.: Great American Pie Month). This is a fun website - <http://www.holidayinsights.com> – check out the individual days of February!

The holiday season was quiet around City Hall yet it has been busy as a bee since January 5th as staff and Council continue moving forward on numerous ongoing projects plus adding new ones.

Conservation

An ongoing conservation program is building your own rain barrel! The workshop drew a full house of FOR residents last year. Learn how to "build" your own rain barrel then it is yours to take home. The date is Saturday, March 14th in the morning and will be at the City Campus grounds. Save the date...registration details will be coming soon. Workshop is limited to 40 attendees. This program is sponsored by Texas A&M Agrilife, Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District, FOR Homeowners Association and City of Fair Oaks Ranch.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

For a number of months, the Architect Firm and City has been working on the design for the proposed 8,000+sq.ft. Public Safety Facility... Council at the January 2015 Regular meeting approved the final rendition. The multi-purpose facility will house Police Department, Municipal Court and offer large space for seminar trainings, etc. Next major step is the competitive bid process. Estimated cost by architect firm is \$2.2 Million. Based on very recent economic changes with the oil industry in Texas, we are hoping it is a robust competitive bidding. Once a contractor is selected, then construction begins. There will be a City-selected



Project Manager as well to ensure the City's interest comes first.

Once the new building is ready for the Police to move in, the current Police Station will be renovated internally and it becomes the new home for the FOR Utilities/City Engineer. Doing such then opens up additional office space in City Hall. All of this is a proactive approach toward the build-out growth needs of the City. (Historical tidbit: where the Police are now was the City Hall for many years!)

SALES TAX

The first full year to collect city sales tax (1.5%) was 2009. The total collected was \$ 277,226. For 2014, the total collected was \$446,400, a 61% increase over the six years. As an excellent revenue source it helps keep our property tax rate low. For the newer residents, the City incorporated in 1988 with a property tax rate of .25/per \$100 valuation. Today, the tax rate is .2663/ per \$100 valuation.

BUSINESSES

CVS opened in late November and continues to attract more customers daily. Many have expressed that the location is so convenient. Late one evening I found myself needing something and dreaded the trip to Boerne. Found it at CVS. In addition, transferring prescriptions is easy.

La nuova produzione in città! If Googled translated corrected
(Continued on Page 4)

FAIR OAKS RANCH

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make Fair Oaks Gazette possible. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 20th of the month prior to the issue.

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

EMERGENCIES NUMBERS

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

SCHOOLS

Boerne ISDwww.boerne-isd.net
Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary210-698-1616

UTILITIES

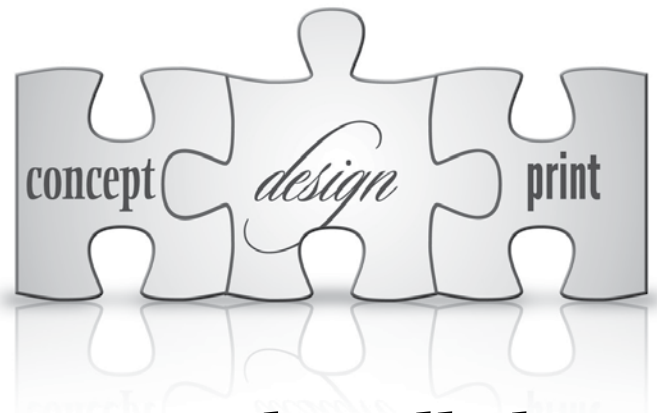
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AT&T - Telephone.....800-464-7928
CPSEnergy.....(new service) 210-353-2222
.....(service trouble or repairs) 210-353-4357
Fair Oaks Ranch Utilities - Water.....210-698-7685
GVTC - Cable & Telephone800-367-4882
Pedernales Electric Co-op.....888-554-4732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

OTHER

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.....(delivery info, stops, fuds, ect.) 830-249-9303
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First day of filing January 28th, three incumbents in Fair Oaks Ranch filed for re-election: Al Schmidt (Place 4), Mark Anderson (Place 3) and Conrad Fothergill (Place 5).



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Fruit & Floral TREE PRUNING

I often see ornamental trees improperly pruned. Pruning is an art. It is an expression of the soul and offers one an opportunity to commune with this beautiful world we live in. I pity the people in this industry that only see pruning work as a means to a financial end. Sometimes I think we should employ “Mr. Miyagi’s (Karate Kid)” in our schools – one for every classroom, and have our American children learn to appreciate the art and science of bonsai pruning.

There are numerous flowering trees that grow well in our area. For example: Anacacho Orchid, Desert Willow (various), Vitex, Redbud (var.), Golden Rain tree, Bartlett Orchid, Little Gem Magnolia, Chitalpa, Buckeyes (var.), Mimosa, Madrones (var.), Retama, Acacias (var.), Goldenball Lead tree, Mountain Laurel, Crepe myrtles (var.) and Hollies (var.).

The typical pruning approach for the trees are reduction cuts to better shape the entire canopy, remove rubbing branches without severe canopy deformation if possible, and remove congested interior growth that does not or likely will not contribute to the canopy later. Often, canopies that get too congested will fall victim to bacterial and/or fungal pathogens. Additionally, various pests thrive on trees with lots of moisture build-up and lack of air flow in the interior of the canopy.

Air flow through tree canopies is a major goal of pruning practices. If you have Crepe myrtles or any other flowering tree that is too large for where it is located, please do not top the tree every year. Rather, practice the pollarding technique – top the tree one time in the appropriate style to shape the canopy as desired and then each year ONLY remove the last year’s growth. DO NOT reinjure the knob of healing tissue developing from the first topping cut. Flowering trees will often flower more and prettier when they are regularly pruned.

This is also true for fruit trees which incidentally produce beautiful flowers as well. Many varieties of persimmon, peach, pear, crabapple, lemon, orange, lime, tangelo, apple, tangerine, cumquat, fig, plum, pomegranate, mulberry, and grapefruit grow in our area successfully. They should be kept condensed (short in height and width) – both to pick the fruit easier as well as avoiding limb failure due to an excessive amount of fruit on the branch. As with flowering trees, rubbing branch removal and interior thinning is important. As with flowering trees, when performing reduction pruning, one must choose a spot on the branch right before a lateral/scaffolding branch that is at least 1/3rd the size of the parent branch. Do NOT stub cut or flush cut.

Next month, we will discuss fertilizing. Questions or comments this article or previous articles have generated, may be directed to me at: kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com



FAIR OAKS RANCH

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

– there is a “new business in town”.

Capparelli's is opening soon (moving in where La Bella Vita Coffee was located) . The Capparelli family name has been serving San Antonio authentic Italian dishes since 1964. Soon Capparelli will be serving Fair Oaks Ranch!

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Your interest and involvement is vital to the City as it looks at various topics, goals, strategies, etc.

Are the City's values, the right ones? Are the City's daily functions providing for the needs?

Today's world is a busy one for all and especially for our families. The City is initiating a Citizen Engagement Program utilizing surveys. The first will occur February 2015 and be available on-line and printed. Hopefully this gives everyone the opportunity to engage, share and help the City as it reviews goals and strategies today for tomorrow.

Also, in February the City Volunteer Application form should be completed, approved by the City Attorney and available for citizens that would like to be included in the City's Citizen Volunteer Pool (CVP). There will be a list of potential “volunteer opportunities” and you may select as many that interest you. This will be available on-line with printed forms in City Hall. This is another element to the new Citizen Engagement Program. The CVP will be a valuable resource as volunteer needs arise at the City.

MISC. Tidbits

1. A number of citizen complaints are coming in about tailgating. Drive carefully and defensively.
2. Bulk and Brush Trash Pickup is occurring again. Follow your section's proper time tables, please. Notices were mailed out; you can find a copy on the City's website: www.fairoaksranchtx.org if lost or not received.
3. Friendly reminder: Unfortunately, many contact numbers and emails are no longer active on record at City Hall. City can help minimize high water bills by alerting the customers of potential leaks as quickly as possible. 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.
4. If there is something on your mind, let's talk about it; I will make the time.

In closing, a special thank you to Peel, Inc. for providing the opportunity to share From the Mayor's Desk... each month with you.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Landman
Mayor

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE® SAN ANTONIO SCHEDULES ANNUAL TREASURES AT TWILIGHT GALA

Assistance League San Antonio announces their annual Treasures at Twilight Gala. Scheduled for March 28, 2015 at the Omni Hotel in the Colonnade, 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 theme of the 2015 Gala is “Starry, Starry Night” and will feature pre-dinner entertainment by the Band Aid Jazz Band and Magician Doug Gorman. Dinner entertainment will be provided by the Gli Unici, The Three Tenors of San Antonio.

The evening will feature Silent, Super Silent, and Live Auctions and will conclude with the very special Clothe-a-Child fundraiser. Among the wonderful live auction items this year are a stay at the popular Coco Reef Resort on Tobago, an out of this world simulated space mission at the new Scobee Education Center in San Antonio and a John Hardy necklace. Silent and Super Silent Auction items include a vintage doll house, including furniture; Spurs tickets; dinner by Boudro's on a boat along the Riverwalk, and many, many other fabulous items.

The emcee for the evening will be Mr. Doug Cross. Tickets are \$100 per person and 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 March 23, 2015. For more information, please contact Marilyn Dickinson 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 and the gala can be found on the Assistance League of San Antonio website, www.assistanceleaguesa.org.



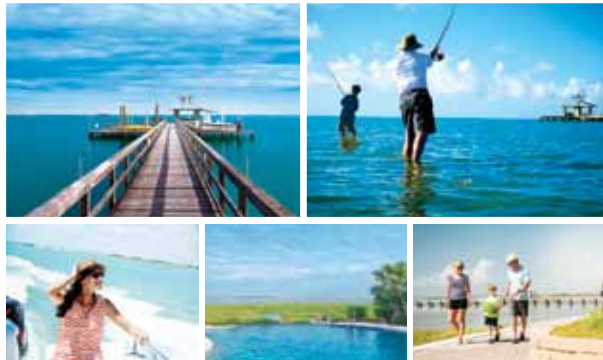
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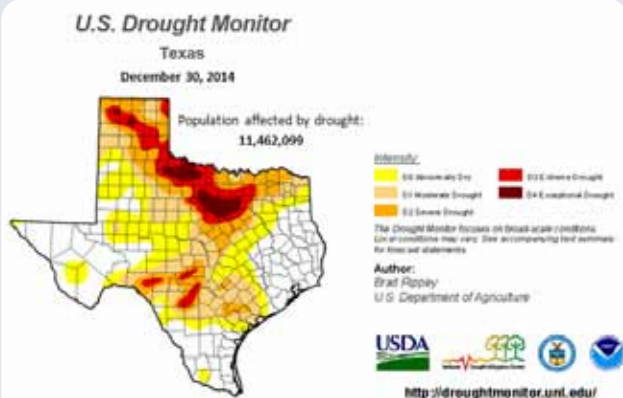
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FAIR OAKS RANCH



As our New Year begins, the District spends quite a bit of time finalizing groundwater data from the previous year. The image below was retrieved from the US Drought Portal just after the start of 2015. While parts of our region have experienced a few appropriately-timed showers over the last several months; we still fall within the “Moderate Drought” category. Rainfall totals for 2014 ranged from 26” in the west to 30” in the eastern portion of northern Bexar County with the majority of our monitor well network continuing to reflect downward trends.

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.



Easy Valentine Sandwich Cookies

Recipe by Laria Tabul, allrecipes.com

This recipe makes 17- 3 inch sandwich cookies and 17 - 1 1/2 inch heart shaped cookies. You'll need a 3-inch heart shaped cutter and a 1 1/2-inch heart shaped cutter. Frost with Pink Valentine Frosting (see recipe).

Ingredients

- 1 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract (optional)
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Directions

In a large bowl, cream together butter and confectioners' sugar. Beat in egg, vanilla and almond extract. Mix well.

In a medium bowl, stir together flour, baking soda and cream of tartar; blend into the butter mixture. Divide dough into thirds and shape into balls.

Working with 1/3 of dough at a time, roll out dough into desired thickness on a lightly floured surface. For each heart sandwich cookie, cut out 2 3-inch hearts. Cut out the center of ONE of the 3-inch hearts with the 1 1/2-inch cutter.

Place each piece separately on an ungreased cookie sheet, 1 - 2 inches apart. Bake in a preheated, 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) oven until lightly browned (7-8 minutes for 1/4 inch thick cookies). Cool completely on wire rack. Frost bottom cookie with Pink Valentine Frosting and place an open centered cookie on top to form the sandwich. Also frost the small 1 1/2 inch hearts and serve as separate cookies.

Pink Valentine Frosting

Ingredients - makes 1 cup (approximately)

- 1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 drops red food coloring

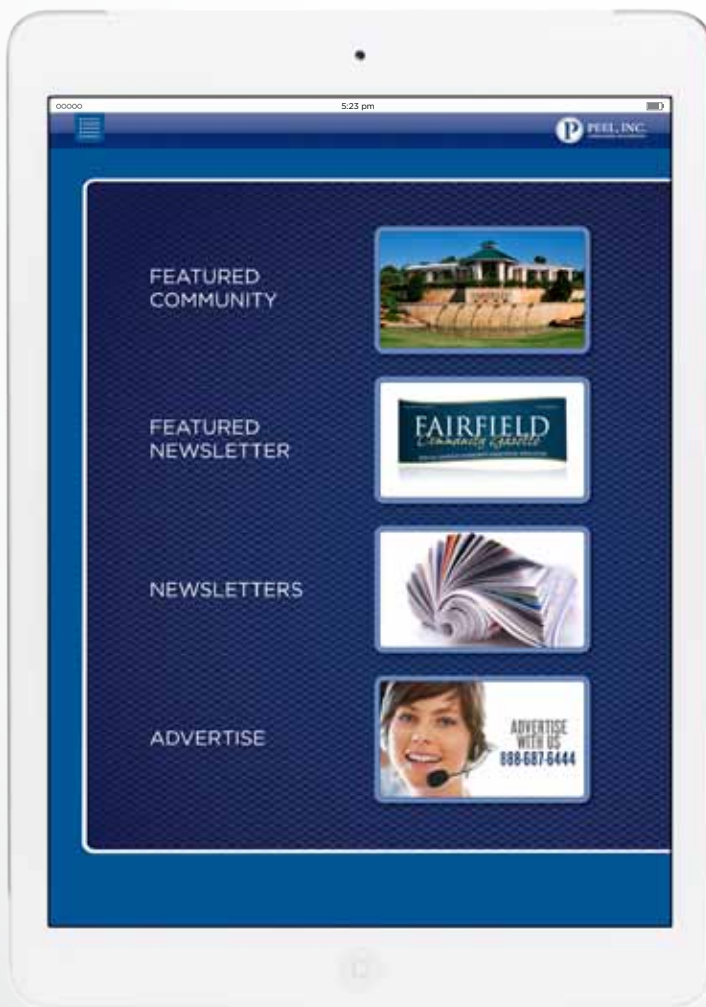
Directions

Blend sugar, salt and flavoring. Add just enough water to make it easy to spread. Add 2 drops red food coloring and mix well.

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PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

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Baptist Health Foundation Grant Expands Services at Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center

The Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center has just received a grant to begin providing expanded Community Education Programs, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. Although the HCPCC has been providing some community education and testing for a number of years now, the treatment aspect is new.

The San Antonio metropolitan area (which includes Boerne and surrounding towns) has one of the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in the United States. It particularly impacts our sexually active youth due to their lack of knowledge about transmission, symptoms and availability of treatment.

Recently, the Peterson Foundation in Kerrville provided a grant to the HCPCC to reach out to college students on the campus of Schreiner University and provide information and testing on campus. This outreach was well received by students and also resulted in Schreiner University nursing students doing an internship at HCPCC.

2014 has been a year of expansion for the HCPCC – more service hours, more nursing staff, and more programs. This was partially due to the free child birth classes being offered to the community by the HCPCC through a collaboration with the Boerne YMCA. The Cordillera Ranch Shindig provided funding for that program. The additional evening and Friday hours were made possible through the generous donations of many individuals in this community.

The HCPCC is a faith based non-profit begun over 27 years ago by a multi-denominational group of caring individuals seeking to provide assistance to any woman or couple facing an unexpected pregnancy.

Over the years the HCPCC has become a Care Net medical facility overseen by a Medical Director from the community and a Director of Nursing on staff. In addition to lay counseling the HCPCC now provides free pregnancy tests, first trimester sonograms, STD testing and treatment, post abortion Bible study, pre-natal, child birth and parenting classes as well as material assistance and networking and referral with maternity homes when needed.

Individuals and couples are encouraged to contact the HCPCC at 830-249-9717 to take advantage of any of these free and confidential services. Anyone interested in volunteering or financially supporting this local non-profit are welcome to visit the website at www.lifespacious.org or their Facebook page, or call 830-249-9717.

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.

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DUE: Feb 28th

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Wendi Harrelson

Team Leader, Regional
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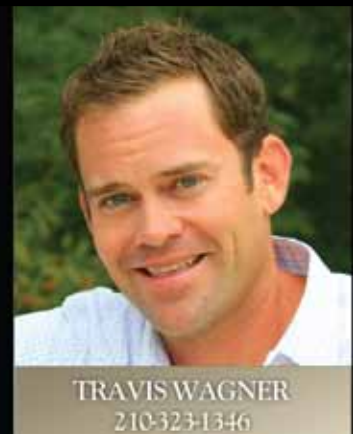
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