

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

March 2015

Volume 5 Issue 3



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

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

Every year there are two equinoxes - March and September. On the equinox, night and day are near exactly the same length – 12 hours – all over the world. The Sun shines directly on the equator. Why is it called "equinox"? Derived from Latin, equinox means "equal night". March 2015 dates to keep in mind: Equinox and Spring come March 20th for our area; Day Light Saving changes on March 8th.

SPRING

Spring is a busy time for most homeowners both in our yards and houses. Many of us love to dig in the yard with passion and dedication. Take time and use caution to know where any underground utility lines are buried... www.texas811.org provides valuable information for all:

When doing projects around your house, digging without knowing where underground utility lines are buried can be very risky. When underground lines are damaged, vital services and everyday conveniences can become disconnected, not only to your home but to entire neighborhoods and, sometimes, whole subdivisions. Don't risk harming yourself, your family or your neighbors. When planning an excavation project, simply dial 811 at least 48 hours (two working days) before you plan to start your work. We will notify most underground utility providers, who will send professional locators out to mark the approximate location of their utility lines. Then you can dig confidently, knowing the utilities will not be disturbed. The call is simple, free AND IT'S THE LAW! Know what's below, call 811 before you dig!

Spring is project time. Remember that Building Permits are needed for many projects as well as following your Restrictions such as decks, fences, pools, irrigation systems, etc. Be informed before starting to ensure a smooth process for all.

TXDOT'S OPEN HOUSE

February 19th approximately 400 people reviewed videos, mapping, etc. for the proposed improvements to the I-10 West "perimeter plan." TxDOT and engineer staff were on hand to share info and answer questions. I saw many of our residents at the event as well as neighboring areas. The end result of the proposal will be advantageous to us all as we drive to and from jobs, errands, etc.

TxDOT is proposing improvements to the I-10 West perimeter between FM 3351 (Ralph Fair) and Fair Oaks Parkway. The proposed project includes:

- Converting existing I-10 two-way frontage roads to one-way frontage roads
- Constructing new I-10 overpass at Old Fredericksburg Road
- Replacing and expanding the existing Fair Oaks Parkway Bridge over I-10
- Reconfiguring entrance and exit ramps along corridor

You can view the overall project complete with pictures. Copy and paste this link in your computer browser:

<http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/sat/notices/021915-presentation.pdf>

POSTAL ISSUES

US Postal Service solicits the love-hate relationship from so many. There are issues at all levels yet when "at home" it stings the most. Although much of our personal communications have transferred to computer technology, the Post Office still is vital to many aspects of life. No one wants to "lose expected correspondence"; if you receive someone's mail please (1)

(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

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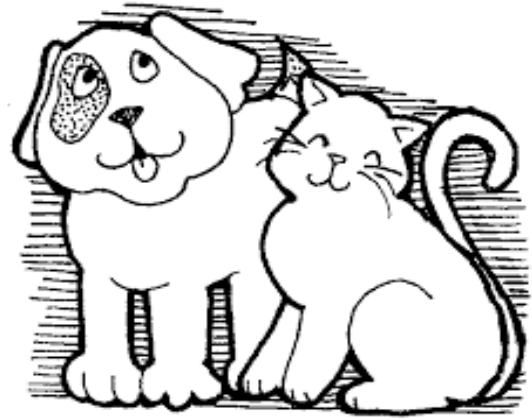
Boerne ISDwww.boerne-isd.net
Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary210-698-1616

UTILITIES

Allied Waste Services - Garbage & Recycling.....210-648-5222
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

United States Post Office
607 E. Blanco. Rd. - Boerne, TX830-249-2414
.....(delivery info, stops, fuds, ect.) 830-249-9303
5837 De Zavala Rd - San Antonio, TX.....210-641-0248



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

mark it "left at wrong address" and put back into the mailbox, or (2) personally deliver it to the correct addressee especially if it is a neighbor. This is especially important for wrong delivery of medications. There are residents that have experienced not receiving their expected mail or medications in a timely manner due to post office error. Although we aren't responsible for the initial errors we can practice being a good neighbor to each other.

ANNUAL POLICE REPORT

The Police maintain a preventive attitude in conducting day-to-day business. In 2014, there was a decrease in Citations, Warnings, Total Traffic Stops, Accidents, Arrests, Narcotics, Larceny/Theft and Burglary ranging from 13% - 34% less than 2013 totals. Alcohol violations stayed the same as 2013. Assaults increased by 13%. There was a substantial 7% increase in Calls for Service at 3,063 calls and Assist Calls at 2,306 increased by 59% over 2013. The Police conducted 15,889 Home Watches in 2014.

The City does not have a jail. Being in three counties, arrests are taken to the appropriate county jail in Bexar County, Kendall County or Comal County. The total Out of the City time for 2014 is slightly more than 404 hours which averages 1 hour 10 minutes per day (day = 24 hours/7 days/365). That is very close to 2013 time as well.

Of the 1,718 individuals who received Citations, 425 were Fair Oaks Ranch residents. The remaining 1,293 were traveling through the City (a 3:1 ratio). In addition, over 3,304 Written Warnings were issued during 2014. Primary City Ordinance Violations: Dog at Large (152), Watering (27), Signs (27), Parking (5), Oak Wilt (10), Solicitors plus Fireworks (9 ea.), Illegal Dumping (6) for a total of 245 City Ordinance Violations.

The Home Watch Program provides an "on-the-road" police presence in each neighborhood. It is a preventive tool for the house as well as the neighbors. Also, the recent switch to using laptops in the patrol cars keeps them "on-the-road" versus coming back to the office to complete reports.

For the second time, your Police Department was Re-Recognized for the second time by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Best Practices Recognition Program. The On-Site Review Team reviewed a total of 166 required standards, interviewed various members of the police department, and inspected all the facilities and equipment utilized by the police department.

TENURE EMPLOYEES

At the February 19th Regular Council Meeting, four employees were recognized for their employment service time:

5 Year – Richard Harm – Corporal/Police Dept., Joseph Lozano – Maintenance Lead and Christina Picioccio – Public Works Admin. Assistant. Sgt. Richard Davila is celebrating his 10th year of service to the City. They are recognized with a brass plate engraved with name and years of service; the plaque is situation in the City Hall foyer next to the service window.

INSIDE CITY HALL

Internally, there is a tremendous amount of activity toward

improvement of services, personnel and communications. The Interim City Administrator's Work Plan approved by Council a few months ago includes: Human Resource Initiatives, Use of Technology & Communications, Financial Management Initiatives, Governance, Development Issues, Organizational Structure and Management plus Other Projects such as Public Safety Building, Oak Wilt, Street Infrastructure and TCEQ Regulatory Requirements.

On the FOR Utility side, there are 2,696 water customers and 1,579 wastewater customers effective January 2015.

The monthly average of water consumption is 699,484 gallons and wastewater is 234,747 gallons. Total water service is 21,684,000 gallons and total wastewater collected is 7,277,160 gallons. There is still a drought situation in Texas; Canyon Lake level remains lower compared to same timeframe last year.

"TWO STEPS, ONE STICKER"

As a result of House Bill 2305 passed during the 83rd legislative session, the State of Texas will stop issuing inspection stickers and transition to a "Two Steps, One Sticker" vehicle inspection and registration program. Beginning March 1, 2015, vehicles will no longer be issued an inspection sticker. Your registration sticker will serve as a combined proof of registration and inspection.

There is a website that helps you calculate the date you need to switch to the "two steps, one sticker" program as well as answer questions. Go to: <http://twostepsonesticker.com> for full details.

Time to sign off. Special thank you to Peel Inc. for allowing us this newsletter opportunity.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Landman, Mayor

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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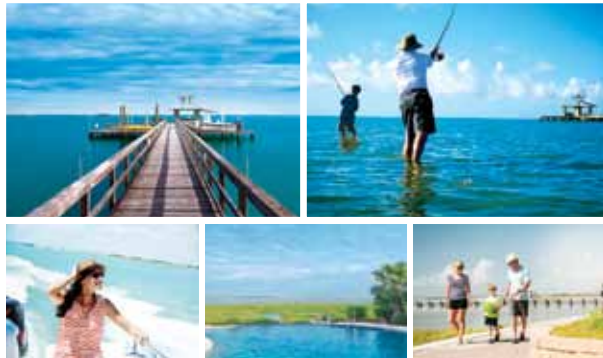
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FAIR OAKS RANCH

FERTILIZING (TO DO OR NOT TO DO)

Often I read “peer” sales literature stating late winter and early spring is the time to “feed” your plants. Really? By way of analogy, let us consider that advice. Does it mean when you are excruciatingly hungry, it’s time to stuff a half pound of supplemental vitamins down your throat versus a half-pound cheeseburger? If so, then it appears to me that they have minimal understanding of plant needs and when needed. The only true plant food is made by the plant itself with the help of water and sunshine; vitamins and minerals (fertilizer) can enhance the plant’s natural abilities.

Another “painful” misinterpretation to me is the archaic, crop-raising and agricultural originating designator that any bag of fertilizer with the three macro nutrients (N,P,K) is a “complete” fertilizer. The inclusion of macro nutrients, which we need more quantity than any other nutrients, does not fill out a plant diet any better than if you or I were to only eat carbs, protein, and fats. The vitamins and minerals in fruits, vegetables, etc. are extremely important in so many aspects of maintaining one’s health. Plants also have secondary nutrients (moderate levels needed of Mg & Ca) plus there are seven essential elements or micro-nutrients that tend to be most notably deficient; basically, these are unavailable due to clay soil which is rather prevalent in our area; iron and manganese are at top of the list.

So here is some practical info and advice. Mulch all of your leaves and grass clippings as they provide nutrients. A mulching mower driven slowly with several passes and sharp blades does

a great job of helping Mother Nature replenish the nutrients needed. Reframe from using anything that is a “weed & feed” topping! Synthetic junk wreaks havoc on your plants and wallet in the long term.

Briefly, synthetic products that rhyme with “scotts” turn into salts after they do their thing. These salts slowly sterilize your soil – i.e.: kill the beneficial bacteria, microorganism, nematodes, and mycorrhizae that make up the natural plant life-cycle. When the cycle is broken, you have to spend money on more fertilizer, more herbicides, more insecticides, and eventually more on a new turf.

I highly recommend you use organic or natural products only or at least mostly. For significantly shallow topsoil, it is best to put a four way mix soil down every year in appropriate areas at a rate of 1/3rd of an inch. Use a topsoil turf-dressing when less is needed; you must mix in some compost into this application equal to 15-20% of the total application.

Feel that urge to use a fertilizer on your turf? Try Medina Hasta Lawn. Do you have plants that tend to have yellow leaves? Or, don’t fight off bugs well? Are generally stressed? Find the micro-nutrient product that works best from among these suggested manufacturers: Medina, Espoma, Fertilome, Natures Way, Watson Farms, Ladybug to name a few.

Next month, oak wilt and community response to it will be the primary topic. Any questions or comments on this article, or previous articles, send to kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com.



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Boerne Y Coat Drive

Submitted by Richard Caldwell



From left to right: Debbie Hudson, Jim McKee, Rezia Olson, Mary Ann Caldwell, Richard Caldwell and Bill Wright.

The Boerne Y is committed to serving the community at large. Donations were given to the Dream Center in San Antonio where we volunteered wrapping presents and handing out food to those in need.



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LOOKING TO ADD MEANING TO YOUR LIFE? VOLUNTEER TODAY



As Michael Hughes, a Fair Oaks resident and a recipient of the HCPCC Volunteer of the Year Award in 2014, says – “When I volunteered at the Pregnancy Care Center in Boerne, I was not

quite sure how God would use me.” But Michael also says he is discovering new gifts all the time and is now active in establishing a men’s mentoring ministry at the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center in Boerne.

Michael is an emergency room nurse in his “day job”, but on his day off he is spending his time helping others. And as Michael says, “I may never do anything great or memorable. That is not important. What is important is that I share what God has blessed me with. I hope God has blessed your life in such a way, too.”

So, if you are looking to add meaning to your life...if you are looking to serve others...we have an opportunity for you! The Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center is a multi-denominational non-profit serving the area for the last 28 years. Men, women and families receive FREE pregnancy tests, sonograms, STI testing and treatment, pre-natal and child birth classes, parenting classes and post abortion studies to help women heal from any emotional effects if they have had them. The HCPCC also provides educational programs in Boerne, Bandera and Comfort schools.

Want to learn more? Call Kimberly at 830-249-9717 and find out how you, too, can discover new gifts and help others. Or email kimberlys@lifeprecious.org. There will be a training for new volunteers held on March 27 and 28th.

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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- Keller Williams is the #1 Brokerage Company in Fair Oaks with nearly 50% market share in 2014.
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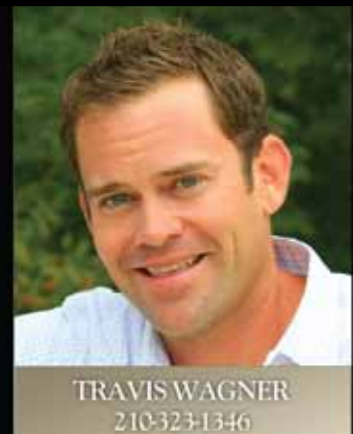
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