

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

May 2015

Volume 5 Issue 5



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

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

CREDIT RATING/BOND SALE

Recently, the citizens/voters of Fair Oaks Ranch approved a Street Bond at \$ 7,000,000 for fifteen years. With the City utilizing "pay as you go" for its needs, we didn't have a credit rating. Standard and Poor's spent considerable time investigating the City's financial history, its current financial state as well as its future financial forecasts. The firm gave the City "AA+" credit rating.

The AA+ credit rating brought the City numerous bond bids in the competitive bid process. At the April 16th Council Meeting, the Council accepted the low interest rate bid of 2.01 from Frost Bank. The bond is for 15 years with a 10 year Call at no cost to the City.

TECHNOLOGY

The speed of change (no pun intended) in technology is drastically affecting all of us not just in the workplace but in our homes. Technology is a "quality of life" factor yet was not perceived as such from my perspective until the last couple of years. It appears with more and more young families making Fair Oaks Ranch their home, technology is a need not just a want. Our established long term residents will realize it is more of a need as well.

In the early to mid-1980s, most Internet access was through personal/work computers connected to a local area network (LAN) or it was a dial-up connection using modems and analog telephone lines. Remember those? Then a new access emerged: broadband utilizing copper wire technology. By 2004, broadband

had grown and dial-up had declined both about even with subscriber numbers. In 2010 dial-up is all but gone. Broadband introduced through cable internet for most residential subscribers. Today, I hear the newest greatest is broadband via fiber-optics transmission. It provides very high data rates over longer distances being much more cost-effective than copper wire.

The younger families know all of this...I try to keep up. The cell phone, correction...the smartphone is no longer a want for me; it is a need. Recently started looking for a new television replacement...it appears fiber-optics or lack of will have an effect on the new television technology. Again, technology is quickly emerging as a "quality of life" factor for me and my household. Many of you are miles ahead of me regarding technology yet I will share a couple of articles you may find interesting as well.

GOOGLE FIBER: WHY YOU NEED TO GET ONLINE 100 TIMES FASTER

By Blake Snow Published January 24, 2014 Fox News

I've seen the future. It's called gigabit Internet by Google Fiber, and it just launched in my hometown of Provo, Utah, the second of three scheduled cities to get speeds that are 100 times faster than the rest of America.

"What good is really fast Internet if the content stays the same?" you may ask yourself. I certainly did, before testing the service. Besides, my "high speed" Internet from Comcast seemed fast enough, enabling my household to stream HD videos, load web pages quickly, and connect multiple devices as needed, largely without hiccup. I was wrong. Using gigabit Internet, even in its

(Continued on Page 3)

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)

infancy, opened my eyes to speed and reminded me of why I love the Internet.

Most of us are conditioned to endure slow Google Maps, for example, even though we don't realize it. We expect them to load in chunks when we zoom. We expect Street View to load sluggishly. We're patient with satellite view because it's cool, and because it requires patience to use. So we wait. And wait.

With gigabit Internet, maps load instantaneously. The performance is startling. I zoomed in on Manhattan from space faster than I could have fallen on it — no blurs, granulated lines or pixels. Just incredible speed and clarity. Then I streamed 10 full HD videos in separate browsing tabs from YouTube -- with nary a loading bar in sight. They all ran without the slightest screen tear.

"Why would anyone want to watch 10 videos at once?" you ask. One person wouldn't. But many people would. If you're a household of 10 and everyone wants to stream their own movie on their own device, they can.

WHY DO WE NEED ALL OF THIS BANDWIDTH?

Fiber to the Home Council Americas

If all you want to do is surf web pages, download a few songs, send and receive some photographs, or watch streaming video at current picture quality levels, then the bandwidth provided by today's cable modems and DSL services is probably good enough for you. But the world is moving toward vastly higher bandwidth applications. High-definition video is fast becoming the state-of-the-art, and one high definition movie takes up as much bandwidth as 35,000 web pages. More people are looking to upload their own home movies into emails or web pages.

Consumer electronics companies are coming out with devices that connect televisions to the Internet. Plus the new 4K HDTV's require four times the pixels of today's 1080p HD and more bandwidth.

In the meantime, a growing number of companies are offering "software as service" — meaning you subscribe to applications on the net rather than install them on your own computer. These "cloud computing" applications are now available for word processing, emailing, automated remote file backup, and a host of business and personal services. All of these applications — and many others we haven't even dreamed of yet — are going to require much greater bandwidth than what is generally available today, even from "broadband" providers.

All this adds up to needing more bandwidth. Bandwidth demands are growing at a very high rate, and are projected to grow for years to come. According to Cisco's Visual Networking Index, global IP traffic will quadruple from 2009 to 2014. Overall, IP traffic will grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 34 percent. Clearly, the explosion in online video is driving today's increases in bandwidth demand. It would take over two years to watch the amount of video that will cross global IP networks every second in 2014. It would take 72 million years to watch the amount of video that will cross

global IP networks during calendar year 2014. The End

After reviewing these two articles again, how much longer can I use my current television? Is technology a want or need for you? Really encourage you to drop me a note: mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org

EVENTS

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION: General Election Day is Saturday, May 9, 2015 at City Hall 7:00am – 7:00pm.

EARLY VOTING April 27 – May 1, 2015 (8:00am-6pm) May 2, 4 & 5 (8am – 8pm)

Rain Barrel Workshop: May 16th, details on City Website or call City Hall 210-698-0900 for information.

Special thank you to the many teachers of today and yesterday (National Teachers Day). Happy Mother's Day wishes to our residents! Take a moment to respect those who gave their life defending our country (Memorial Day).

Respectfully,
Cheryl Landman, Mayor

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COLIN'S HOPE

by Dorian de Wind

When I was six or seven years old, I witnessed the ocean drowning of a dear aunt. Although too young for the full scope of the tragedy to sink in, the thoughts and the images of that event have remained with me for almost 70 years.

No wonder that, when our young grandson started splashing in our swimming pool a dozen or so years ago, the thought of such an unfathomable occurrence never left our mind. We took every precaution possible, as I am sure the vast majority of parents, grandparents, relatives, caretakers and friends of so many young children do when they let their young ones swim in pools, lakes, rivers, water parks and more.

But the unimaginable does occur -- more often than we think.

Now that another swimming season approaches it may be the time to give "the unimaginable" some thought because if statistics tell the truth, drowning is all too imaginable.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes the following grim statistic: From 1999 through 2010, a total of 46,419 deaths from unintentional drowning (including boating) occurred in the United States, an average of 3,868 deaths per year. That is an average of more than 10 drowning deaths each and every day of the year.

But what is even more disturbing, unintentional drowning has become the leading cause of death from unintentional injury among children aged 1-4 years. It replaces deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death from unintentional injury for boys aged 1-4 years. These child-drowning deaths occurred most often in a bathtub for children under one year of age and, in a swimming pool, for children aged 1-4 years. The latter location -- swimming pools -- accounts for more than 50% of all unintentional drowning deaths in that age group, according to the CDC.

At this point, the reader may ask, why the focus on younger children and swimming pools? While, of course, every drowning is an immeasurable tragedy, the loss of a toddler under such horrific circumstances in one's neighborhood pool, is bound to leave an indelible impression. That is what happened on a beautiful June day almost seven years ago at a nearby swimming pool. To be precise, on June 13, 2008, Colin Holst, a proud and happy four-and-a-half-year-old little boy went to "the big" pool -- a swimming pool close to Circle C Ranch -- just one day after graduating from swimming

lessons and receiving his medal. Little Colin, age 4, enjoying a family weekend by the water. Colin was having a ball playing in the fountains and sprinklers with his friends, all moving around the pool together in a clump, playing and splashing and ducking in and out of the water.

Suddenly, in an instant, Colin wasn't with them. Time stood still as all eyes swept the pool looking for him, and then, only moments later, Colin was pulled from the shallow water unconscious and not breathing. Efforts to revive him at the pool were unsuccessful. Colin, the baby boy born "with a mop of dark hair that looked just like his mother," died at the hospital the next day, having never opened his eyes again after his swim.

Out of this unimaginable tragedy, sprang a glimmer of hope -- even of good. Grief-stricken by their loss and shocked to learn the cruel toll drowning takes on children of Colin's age, Colin's family founded an organization dedicated to preventing such tragedies from befalling other families: Colin's Hope. Simply, "Colin's Hope envisions a world where children do not drown. Colin's Hope raises water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning."

As our weather warms up, as families once again head for our pools, lakes and beaches, please take time to familiarize yourself with water safety rules -- they might make the difference between a happy summer and the unimaginable. An excellent place to do such is ColinsHope.org. At Colin's Hope, learn about this wonderful organization's many water safety awareness programs, events, campaigns and resources. They all have one vision in mind: "A world where children do not drown. While at Colin's Hope, take a look at their on-line Water Safety Resources Hub," take the "Water Safety Quiz" and please consider volunteering for one of their many activities and programs and making a contribution so that the "glimmer of hope" may become a bright light -- a reality, as much as possible -- for our children and grandchildren.

Acknowledgement: Some of the information and wording in this article comes -- with permission -- from "Colin's Story," at Colin's Hope. Colin's photo and lead image, courtesy Colin's Hope.

Colin's Hope has a mission to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning. They envision a world where children do not drown. To learn more, please visit www.colinshope.org





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Boerne YMCA members, Missy Guillot, Michele Glasheen, Rezia Olson, Rochelle Javors and Ed Churchin were treated to a "cooking lesson" and a wonderful lunch during a recent tour of the Cooking Cottage in Boerne.



Members of the Boerne YMCA were "back in the kitchen" receiving some cooking tips during a recent tour of the Cooking Cottage in Boerne. Featured are front Nancy Schlefsky, Lauren Moore (owner of the Cooking Cottage), Michele Glasheen and Judy Droste. Back row: Christi Monroe, Vic Schlefsky, Rochelle Javors, Maureen May and Jim Droste

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Thanks to one of the wonderful Boerne YMCA staff members, Rezia Olson (picture on the left), who organizes the outings and luncheons that Y members attend; we were able to enjoy an informative and tasteful lunch at the Cooking Cottage in Boerne. Y member, Nancy Schiefsky stated " what a wonderful time was had by all who attended".



Pictured are (l to r) are Ashley Maytum, Kathy Bandujo and Rezia Olson. The Boerne Family YMCA, thanks to generous members and staff, collected 180 jars of peanut butter for Blessings in a Backpack. Peanut butter along with other food items are packed up weekly for kids who would have little or nothing to eat on weekends.



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MOSQUITOES



Mosquitoes can be very irritating and disrupt outdoor activities. They also are able to transmit various diseases to humans and animals. Mosquitoes are known to transmit heartworm in dogs and cats, and they can spread encephalitis (including West Nile Virus), Chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever, malaria and filariasis among humans.

Most female mosquitoes require a blood meal for egg production whereas males feed on nectar and do not bite. Eggs can be laid on the surface of water or in dry locations that are occasionally flooded by water. Some eggs are able to remain dormant under dry conditions for several months. Eggs hatch into larvae, or wigglers. Mosquito larvae live in water and feed on organic debris or microscopic plants and animals. Larvae molt into pupae which do not feed. Mosquito pupae spend the majority of their time at the surface of the water, only moving when disturbed.

Female mosquito.

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

Avoiding peak hours when mosquitoes are active is probably the best method to avoid being bitten. When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves & long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when evening activities cannot be rescheduled. Other products such as citronella candles will also repel mosquitoes, but work best in enclosed areas.

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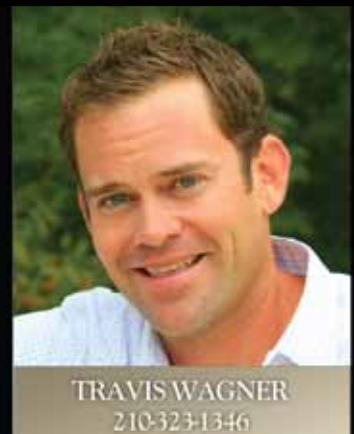
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