

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

June 2015

Volume 5 Issue 6



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

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

GROUND SATURATION

The showers certainly have poured over Fair Oaks Ranch the last few weeks with low water crossing closures, "new" springs rising in unexpected areas, personal delay in landscaping needs, etc. The aquifer levels are climbing due to the influx of rain combined with no need to irrigate. At this writing, the grounds are saturated and the creeks are full if not overflowing somewhat not just here but throughout Texas basically. The real concern with Emergency Management is the overflow from rivers throughout much of the state as they are full and overflowing already. The rivers flow into creeks as well and the City will be watchful of our three creeks. Please drive with caution for yourself and others.

For those who use automatic irrigation systems, please adjust your automatic settings to minimize duplication of watering your landscape. Also, check your Rain Sensor to ensure it is working properly. If you need a Rain Sensor, check with the large hardware-type stores, online, etc. Most are easy DIY projects. (City Ordinance Sec. 13.06.004 Landscape design and installation (b) All automatic irrigation systems are to be equipped with rain sensors.)

This year's rainfall has reduced irrigation water consumption almost 35% during March-May 2015 versus last year's same timeframe. Basically, our water usage is coming from the GBRA/ Canyon Lake source versus our groundwater wells much like a winter consumption pattern.

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Approximately 15% of our FOR households now have rain barrels thanks to the three Rain Barrel Workshops held for Fair

Oaks Ranch. Texas Agri-Life and Trinity GlenRose Groundwater Conservation District (TGGCD) are co-sponsoring this project along with FOR Homeowners Association and City of Fair Oaks Ranch. Drip Irrigation was held in April.

Additional workshops for the rest of the calendar year will continue to highlight water conservation.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming dates which are all on Saturday mornings:

June 20th - Earth Kind Principles to Landscapes (Water Conservation through different methods);

Aug 8th - Raised Bed Construction and Prep for Fall Vegetable Gardens

Sept. 26th - Rain Barrel Workshop

Nov 14th - Fall Maintenance for Landscape and Irrigation Systems

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL OR TEXT ALERTS

On the city's website (www.fairoaksranchtx.org) you will find a Notify Me button on the left-hand side of the home page. Clicking on that will take you directly to the service allowing you to subscribe to informational alerts. For instance, the workshops noted above will be posted on the City Website and those subscribing to such will receive an "alert notice" so you can review and sign up for the workshop if desired. All posted city meetings are announced through this system as well. Also, your email addresses through Notify Me and CodeRed are protected from unauthorized usage.

Similar location on the website's home page is the CodeRed button. This is for weather emergencies as well as city messages

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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.

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.....(service trouble or repairs) 210-353-4357
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From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)

such as city street closure announcements for the city as a whole or for a specific area, water main break with turn off/turn on information, etc. Please sign up if not already subscribing. For those who remember the Dietz-Elkhorn/Camp Bullis Fire, the City did not have a service such as CodeRed. If we had, current fire status would have been announced through CodeRed. Your out-of-town relatives can subscribe as well and stay informed along with you. Regardless of your location, you will be in the know and take actions accordingly.

FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET PROCESS

Budgeting is the most important component of the City's responsibility to you, the tax payer. The Citizen Engagement Survey: Values and Functions 2015 reinforced that the taxpayers support continued (1) Responsible Financial Practices in City Management and (2) Conservative Cost/Expense Management. The ten Values received 93-99% of the responders selecting the Values "Important, Very Important or Extremely Important". These results provide the continuing foundation for City's Budget Officer and staff's budget preparations each year. Yet, the City has definitely grown since its early years. In 20 years (1990 – 2010), the City's population more than tripled! Assed valuations increased six-fold. Tax Rate increased about ½ of one percent. Although not expecting such drastic growth percentages during the next twenty years, staff and Council still need to plan for continued stable growth and good stewardship of city assets especially infrastructure and staying current on services needed by and for the residents.

| | YEAR | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 2014 | 2010 | 2000 | 1990 |
| Population | 6,569 (2013) | 5,986 | 4,708 | 1,860 |
| Employees | 48 | 39 | 23 | 2 (estimate) |
| Property Tax Revenue | 2,725,898 (YTD) | 2,322,501 | 1,086,798 | 365,745 |
| Assessed Value | 1,080,429,983 | 978,319,071 | 459,200,900 | 156,533,130 |
| Tax Rate | 0.2663 | 0.2415 | 0.2670 | 0.2400 |

The employee surge in 2000 was due to the purchase of the Water/Wastewater utility company from FAIRCO with additional personnel added in Police, Building Permits and Administration during 2000-2010. The past four years show two additional employees average per year. For many years, employees wore two or more hats; the population growth demands more service and it should be delivered in a timely manner which adds more expertise to city staff. State unfunded mandates also adds to employee increases. With employee numbers quickly looking at 50 or more, Human Resources is a separated department from the other administrative duties. (Today: Police -19, Public Works – 10, Utility – 9, Admin – 6.5, Court – 1 and Building Codes - 2.5.)

June through August is the heavy Budget Process season for the

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

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

next fiscal year and there will be a number of Special Meetings/Workshops for Council and staff. They are all open and posted so you are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

COUNCIL MEETING MAY 21, 2015

The recent City election brings two new faces - Steve Hartpence/Place 3 and Garry Manitzas/Place 5 – to their first meeting. Congratulations to both of them and a much deserved “thank you” to Conrad Fothergill and Mark Anderson for their many years of selfless commitment to the betterment of Fair Oaks Ranch.

The meeting was one of our longest running past 10pm. Kudos to the audience attendees that stayed to the end! GVTC gave a very interesting presentation to Council on The Value of Fiber Optic and How it Ensures the Long-term Viability of the City of Fair Oaks Ranch. A number of residents responded to the last issue's comments From the Mayor's Desk re fiber optic and its future need...not merely a want. The presentation reinforced such. There will be continuing discussions with GVTC regarding this matter.

The Council approved a one-year extension to the solid waste collection services with Republic Services effective October 1, 2015. This extension keeps (1) the same monthly cost, (2) adds glass recycling, and (3) includes servicing The Woods at Fair Oaks Ranch. The current recycling bin remains in use during this extension. (Please contact Republic if you need more bins.) The City and Council will initiate solicitations for future solid waste services to include a large recycling receptacle with lid (like the current regular trash receptacle) during this extension timeline.

The Roadway Reconstruction Project (Street Bond) agreement will be finalized with Pape-Dawson Engineers not to exceed \$1,040,885 for road and drainage consulting services. In addition, another not-to-exceed amount of \$278,725 for waterline consulting services to be paid by the FOR Utility company was approved for agreement signing.

The Public Safety Facility still needs a few pieces of information before Council will approve it to move forward. They did not reject the bid just concerned about some items on our side of the table that need closure.

The recent heavy rains have an unintended consequence. The Battle Intense Pathway Mobility agenda item was pulled from the agenda due to needing a drainage study as the Public Works Director watched how the rains affected the area.

Once that is addressed, the item will return for Council's consideration.

This year's 8-Year Street Maintenance and Repair Program was awarded to Big Tex Paving, Inc. using an upgraded asphalt officially referred to as CFRS-2P emulsified asphalt material and Grade 5 Igneous Trap Rock aggregate. For the non-engineer residents, you can see and feel this product on Dietz-Elkhorn immediately on the other side of the City Limit signage. This upgrade added about 5% to the historical product bid. (Bexar County changed over to this a few years ago and so far find it very promising for durability.)

EIGHT-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2012-2020) STATUS

The first all-day City Staff and Council Leadership Retreat with an outside facilitator allowed all to participate in a SWOT exercise and analysis (SWOT = Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) for the City of Fair Oaks Ranch. Out of that retreat, a twenty-six itemized Activity/Project list emerged. Currently 10 of the 26 items have been completed; 5 additional items are moving forward with the Street Bond approved by the taxpayers; Technology is a continuous project yet the Automatic Meter Reading system has replaced all of the manual meters plus police with iPads for the road versus coming into Police Station to write reports; IH10/Fair Oaks Bridge funded and scheduled by TxDOT; and, 3 of the projects related to new and renovated city campus facilities is moving forward with the Public Safety Facility. That is a lot of activity in 3 years! Remaining projects continue to be on our working list such as ongoing Wildlife Management Program, City Gateway signage, Emergency Services options, Home Rule/P & Z consideration, Ammann Rd., Ralph Fair Rd., etc.

SUMMER AND GOLF CARTS

Schools will soon close the doors for the summer. Generally, there is an increase in family golf cart usage in Fair Oaks Ranch. Caution: only licensed drivers are permitted to drive a golf cart and that applies to all family members. Golf Cart usage follows all of the same traffic laws as a car to include stopping at stop lights/signs, drive with the traffic, etc. There have been a couple of close calls recently where both the golf cart and the car missed each other by an inch or less. Children riding need to be secured for their upmost safety. Traffic increase traveling through our City is adding to the need for “defensive driving” regardless of vehicle.

CLOSING

If you made it to this point, thank you very much. Many of you are planning summer vacations and hope you contact the Police Department or City Hall to submit a Home Watch request. Wish everyone a great and safe summer. Again, Peel Inc. deserves a big Thank You for providing this opportunity to share FOR information with you through the FO Gazette.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Landman, Mayor

mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org, 210-698-0900

PS: Needing some ideas for June fun and frolic? Check out this site: <http://nationaldaycalendar.com/calendar-at-a-glance/june/>



BALL MOSS

As often as I'm questioned about this particular plant, which is found so commonly in our trees, I almost feel I should apologize for not addressing it sooner. What follows is a definitive Q & A treatise on all things "ball moss".

1. What is ball moss?

Tillandsia recurvata or small ball moss is an Epiphyte (airplant).

2. What is an epiphyte?

An epiphyte is not a parasitic plant. Rather it adheres to its host (tree, fence wire, phone line, etc.) and obtains its essential nutrients and moisture from airborne dust, organic litter, rain, dew, etc. that accumulates in its unique leaves and root system.

3. Does it hurt the tree?

Although it is not parasitic, ball moss does hurt the tree. It is a minor to moderate health threat for the various following reasons:

a) in cases of severe infestation, large quantities of ball moss that obtain multiple coatings of freezing rain can add so much additional weight to the tree that premature branch failure may result;

b) in cases of severe infestation out near the canopy tips of a tree – the ball moss will cover over dormant plant nodes that as a result are not capable of producing necessary new growth;

c) numerous insect pests can utilize the ball moss as a protective domicile or retreat spot to avoid natural predators like birds, lizards and such;

d) bark often erodes under the ball moss and rot can occur as a result; and,

e) ball moss lowers a tree's monetary contributing value to the property. It can increase maintenance costs if removed infrequently. It is a very prolific progenitor (repopulates itself quickly).

Any tree and plant appraisal conducted by an expert will require a reduction in the valuation of the trees of the property in question as a result of unmaintained ball moss populations in accordance with the formula followed universally throughout the nation by qualified consultants.

4. Most of it is on dead branches, so is it killing the branches?

Actually, ball moss accumulates on dead branches as an after fact. Inside the canopy of a big tree or group of trees, the very lightweight ball moss propeller-like seed loses speed and more easily adheres to rough surfaces like a dead branch, whereas it often bounces off tree leaves and floats past them. In most cases, the branches died as a result of the tree phasing them out because those particular branches were not photosynthesizing enough on account of a lack of sunlight to the canopy interior. (Trees are extremely efficient when it comes to resource utilization). Humidity and more organic debris builds up in this micro-climate, which result in higher germination, propagation, and all-around ball moss health.

5. What should I spray it with?

It is not recommended to spray ball moss with an herbicide,

sodium bicarbonate, or copper fungicides. All of these methods of treatment harm the tree.

6. What should I do about the ball moss?

Remove most of it mechanically (pole saw, hand pick it, etc.) every three to five years (adequate in most cases). Do not let a tree contractor remove lots of green leaves in order to remove all the ball moss. Leaves equals food production for a tree. Starving a tree in order to remove ball moss is absolutely not a good practice. Proper canopy cleaning (which includes some canopy thinning), will remove most of the ball moss and increase airflow through the canopy both of which will decrease the amount of seeds, locations for attachment, and likelihood of attachment.

These are the facts about ball moss. Next month I will address trees and proximity to house foundations, walls and roofs. Questions or comments this article or previous articles have generated, may be directed to me at: kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com, or (210) 279-6969.

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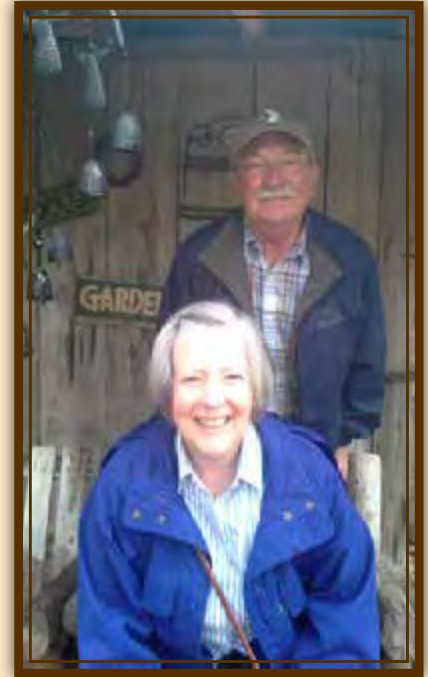
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FAIR OAKS RANCH



Right: Richard and Mary Ann Caldwell take a moment to shop during their visit to the Wild Seed Farm in Fredericksburg sponsored by the Boerne YMCA
Above: (L to R) Missy Guillot and YMCA Chaplain Nancy Abbott
Members and staff went to the Wildseed Farm and then to lunch at the Farm House Bistro in Fredericksburg. The skies parted for some pictures at the Farm House Bistro.

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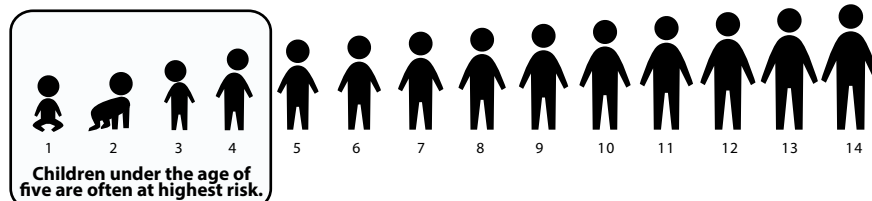
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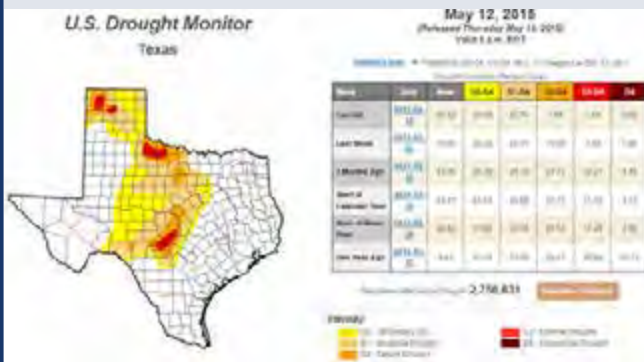
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Exit 546



Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District Water Conservation Audit



Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGRGCD) would like to ask for your continued help in reducing demand on groundwater resources. We have enjoyed very appropriately-timed rains and would be thrilled to see them continue throughout summer.

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.

As you can see from the US Drought Monitor, despite the rains, areas to our northwest remain under Extreme Drought are still categorized under Extreme Drought. These areas contribute recharge to both the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers. As we move into summer and see increases in temperatures and lawn irrigation, we will be seeing increasing pressures on our groundwater resources. The rain has been awesome, but we still have a long summer ahead.

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.

Assistance League of San Antonio

Assistance League® of San Antonio Ambassadors are available this summer to provide a unique fashion show and short talk to your organization or group. This group of volunteers will model clothing from Assistance League of San Antonio Thrift House clothing section which features a variety of quality clothing including "boutique" brand-name items, Prom Dresses, Wedding Dresses, and much more. The program is approximately twenty minutes in length and will also include information about Assistance League of San Antonio and the great work they do assisting children and adults in the San Antonio Area. There is no charge for this program.

Assistance League of San Antonio is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that develops and implements programs to benefit children and adults in the San Antonio area. The organization's member volunteers work over 70,000 volunteer hours annually and serve over 60,000 residents - primarily children. Funds to support eight philanthropic programs are generated from Thrift House proceeds, two annual fundraisers, grants, and private donations. More information about the philanthropic programs can be found at www.assistanceleaguesa.org

Assistance League of San Antonio Thrift House is located at 2611 West Avenue, San Antonio, TX.

For more information about, or to schedule, Ambassadors, please call 210.732.1200

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View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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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.

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BOERNE COMMUNITY THEATRE



The Boerne Community Theatre Board of Governors announces the recent addition of Fair Oaks resident Ivy Hooks. Ms. Hooks has vast experience in engineering stemming from her long career with NASA. She has won awards for public speaking and service. Her writings include topics like project management and best practices. She served on the original design team for the first space shuttle. Her interest in theatre began when she was the lead in

her high school play and more recently she enjoys watching her grandchildren perform in the BCT drama camps. Her long support for the youth programs and love for the theatre will serve her well as she helps Boerne Community Theatre move into its 25th year.



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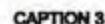
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- Keller Williams is the #1 Brokerage Company in Fair Oaks with nearly 50% market share in 2014.
- Dave Wagner is #1 in Fair Oaks Ranch over all other Realtors or "Individual Brokers" by a very wide margin.
- 33 Year Resident & Member of the Club. 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



TONY MANGUS
210-413-8229



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



TRAVIS WAGNER
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