

# The FAIR OAKS Gazette

October 2015

Volume 5 Issue 10



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

## From the Mayor's Desk...

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

### THE WATER DASHBOARD IS LIVE!

Follow your water usage 24/7 every day of the year! On the City's website ([www.fairoaksranchtx.org](http://www.fairoaksranchtx.org)) the "AquaHawk" blue rectangular box is on the left-hand side. Click and register now. You can observe your usage by the year, month, day and/or hour. Rainfall is also noted to help determine if irrigation is needed or not. This is a good time to check your Rain Sensor to ensure it is in good working order. City Ordinance states irrigation systems must have one. Rain Sensors are readily available from stores such as Home Depot, Lowes, on-line, etc. Irrigation systems running when raining are prohibited by ordinance. Any questions or concerns, call City Hall.

### DROUGHT STAGE 1 BEGINS...SURCHARGES APPLY!

The Dashboard will be most helpful during Drought Stages to track gallon usage and avoid additional surcharge expense.

The U.S. Drought Monitor has declared the City of Fair Oaks Ranch in a Moderate Drought. Escalated water use has culminated in reaching the triggers needed to initiate Drought Stage 1.

The City entered Stage 1 on September 25, 2015 as the groundwater usage averages over 1.2 million gallons a day and the test well is below elevation 1045 feet mean sea level for 15 consecutive days. Stage 1 implements a surcharge on residential consumption greater than 25,000 gallons in a month, which will be initiated beginning October 1, 2015. No permit for newly planted lawns/landscapes will be issued. There is water for household consumption (drinking, bathing, washing clothes, etc.). Outdoor usages such as washing cars and irrigating lawns should be kept at a minimum.

### WATER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP(S)

Saturday, September 26th, Texas A&M / AgriLife held the last Rain Barrel Workshop of 2015. There are more scheduled for 2016. The Trinity GlenRose Groundwater Conservation District (TGGCD) helps support the costs of the Rain Barrel workshops with attendees only paying \$25.00 for their own personal rain barrel! (The City's groundwater is under the umbrella of TGGCD authority.) Approximately 250 rain barrels have found new homes in Fair Oaks Ranch through this program.

A new workshop topic – "Winterize Landscape and Irrigation System" – is on the calendar Saturday morning, November 6, 2015 in City Hall. Details will follow. Also, a special thank you to resident, Jim Manzo, who sponsors the refreshments for each workshop as well as picks up and delivers!

Communication Note: There are two separate programs for you to receive information from City Hall. One is to sign up for the NOTIFY ME program which sends out meeting/event notices such as workshops noted above, special city-related announcements, etc. The second program is CODERED

and its primary purpose is Emergency Notifications – weather, fire, etc. – as well as Street Closure or Utility Work for affected areas. Both of these communication tools are on the left-hand side of the City's website home page.

### NATIONAL NEIGHBOR'S NIGHT OUT!

Night Out is Tuesday, October 6th around the nation and especially in Fair Oaks Ranch. Night Out is an annual community-building evening; it promotes police-community partnerships and

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# 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](mailto: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](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

Boerne ISD .....	<a href="http://www.boerne-isd.net">www.boerne-isd.net</a>
Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary .....	210-698-1616

### UTILITIES

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.....	(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

### OTHER

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

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

neighborhood camaraderie; and most importantly it makes our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Neighborhoods often host parties, cookouts, ice cream socials, etc. Even neighborhood event is not planned, invite your closest 4-6 neighbors to share time together!

### RECYCLE GLASS NOW!

The City's current solid waste vendor, Republic, begins October 1, 2015 to accept glass in your recycle bins. Republic and the City negotiated a one-year extension of the current contract with glass recycling added to the extension at no additional cost to you. As the City moves forward for a new long-term solid waste contract, a large recycling container like our wheeled container today will be a high priority.

### ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015

The City does not participate in the November election this year. Yet as voters, you and I can personally participate and I encourage us to do so. Although the City does not have a specific item on this election, there are local items to be on the ballot that affects the City and its residents.

Two Jail Bond Elections for new jails – one in Comal County and the other in Kendall County. Fair Oaks Ranch lies in three counties – Bexar, Comal and Kendall. Our police deliver “people” to the appropriate county jails and have first-hand experience with overcrowding, aging facilities, etc. I encourage all of our Comal County and Kendall County residents to read up on the Jail Bonds and take time to vote. Call your county, if more details needed.

Proposition 7: November 3rd, Texans will vote on a constitutional amendment to dedicate portions of revenue from the state's general sales and use tax as well as from the motor vehicle sales and rental tax to the State Highway Fund for non-tolled projects. The amendment would allocate the funds in the following way: (1) Beginning in September 2017 (fiscal year 2018), if state sales tax revenue exceeds \$28 billion in a fiscal year, the next \$2.5 billion of revenue would be directed to the State Highway Fund. (2) Beginning in September 2019 (fiscal year 2020), if state motor vehicle sales and rental tax revenue exceeds \$5 billion in a fiscal year, 35 percent of the amount in excess of \$5 billion would be directed to the State Highway Fund. Again, encourage all of us to be informed and take time to vote.

### FIBER OPTICS

GVTC held four separate informational meetings throughout the City. Many residents attended, shared their thoughts, asked excellent questions, etc. These meetings set the foundation for GVTC to follow-up and begin analyzing the next steps. Based on earlier conversations, I expect GVTC may reach out in the near future requesting additional information as they continue toward fiber optics service opportunities in Fair Oaks Ranch.

### CITY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

As the fiscal year nears its completion, all employees enjoyed a Bar-

*(Continued on Page 4)*





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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

(Continued from Page 2)

B-Q lunch September 25th thanking them for their commitment to our residents as the employees provide needed services. In addition, Human Resource Department Head, Kim Stahr, recognized their Years of Service with a small token of appreciation. Nineteen employees have been with the City 5 Years or more. We look forward to this being an annual Appreciation/Recognition Lunch for the employees.

## COUNCIL FISCAL YEAR ACTIONS

Council definitely stays busy yet it is the formal meetings were decisions are made by Council. The

Sept 21st Council Meeting centered itself around Fiscal Year 2015-2016 needs – budgets, contracts, etc.

The Proposed Budget filled August 18th was adopted with revisions: (1) Added 2 new police officers; (2) Reclassification of four Police Corporals to Sergeants; (3) Added White-tail Deer Project for \$50,000; (4) Decrease Police Department Overtime budget by \$10,000; (5) Removed Consultant to review, study and plan for future Police Department needs as City continues to grow (\$10,000). The changes added \$20,000 to both Revenue and Expenses for a balanced budget of \$4,981,862. The final budgetary commitment includes: General Fund \$ 4,981,862, Capital Improvement Fund: \$2,952,069, Utility Fund \$4,416,495, Debt Service Fund \$ 565,287, Bond Capital Fund \$1,115,885.

Council adopted the proposed tax rate of .3073 per \$100 valuation. This includes ad valorem tax rate of .2615 per \$100 valuation and .0458 tax rate for Street Bond Debt Service. This bond was passed by the City voters November 2014. The two tax rates are combined as on Line Item on the Appraisal invoicing.

Council approved the long-standing Property Tax Exemptions for FY 2015-2016: (1) Exemption as required by law for disabled veterans; (2) \$5,000 exception for declared homestead; and (3) \$20,000 exception for 65 years old or older if owner a full-time resident in the homestead.

Additionally, Council approved various city contracts with some for one year and others two year contracts. Reappointment of the Municipal Court Personnel – Judge and Alternate Judge plus Prosecutor and Alternate Prosecutor for another two year term contract for approved by Council.

All in all, the City is financially stable and ad valorem tax rate stays low (in 1988 at City's incorporation tax rate was .25 cents per \$100), Continuing growth is expected based on economics plus supply and demand of housing and desire to live in our City.

## IN CLOSING...

Summer is simmering itself out as fall begins to tumble in. Truly enjoying the cool mornings! If myself or City Hall can be of any help, please don't hesitate to call or email. As a reminder, the City now has two official regular council meeting days a month: 1st Thursday of the month at 9:30am and the traditional 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. You are always welcomed!

Special thanks to Peel, Inc. for allowing us to provide this monthly "From the Mayor's Desk:" at no charge. You can get the FO Gazette on-line if preferred. Merely go to [www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com) and subscribe to receive on-line; it usually hits about the 1-5th of each month whereas the printed copy arrives around 15th give or take. Have a Safe and Happy Halloween, Everyone. Vote Nov. 3rd.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Landman, Mayor

210-698-0900 office

[Mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org](mailto:Mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org)

[www.fairoaksranchtx.org](http://www.fairoaksranchtx.org)

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# Comal County Jail Bond Election

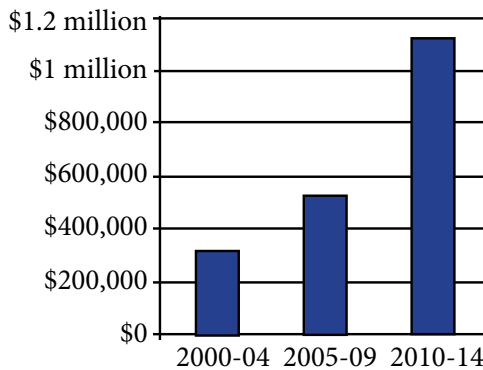
## Nov. 3, 2015

### Answers to your questions

How old is the current Comal County Jail?

The Walter Fellers Law Enforcement Center opened on West San Antonio Street in 1985 with 144 beds in its jail. A major expansion to 337 beds took place in 1999.

**Maintenance and repair costs in five-year increments**



What is its capacity?

Although containing 337 beds, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards has determined the jail's effective maximum capacity is 300, which allows space for processing and classifying new inmates as they come in.

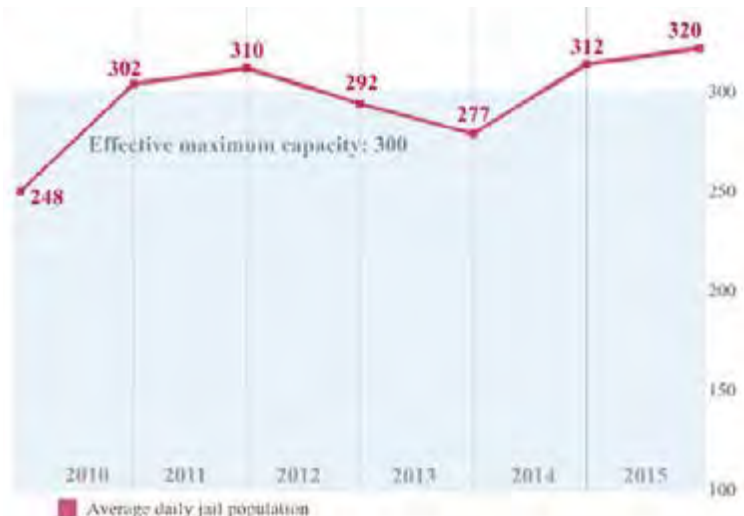
What are its maintenance costs?

As shown in the chart to the left, costs over the past 15 years have risen at an exponential rate, to an average of more than \$200,000 per year.

How crowded is the jail?

A 2009 report by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) projected that in 2015, Comal County would have an average daily jail population of about 313 inmates, exceeding its effective maximum capacity of 300. Large increases in the number of inmates in 2010 and 2014, however, have led the jail population to exceed even the TCJS projection, as shown in the chart below.

**Jail population, 2009-15**



What happens on days the jail is over capacity?

When the jail is too full to accept new inmates, sheriff's deputies transport them to the Guadalupe County Jail, at a cost to Comal County of \$50 per inmate per day, plus transportation and personnel costs.

How much will a new jail cost?

Costs are estimated to be about \$76 million for a new jail, including the renovation of the current facilities for the sheriff's office.

How much will my taxes increase?

If you do not own property or if you are over 65 years old, this bond issue will not increase your taxes. For property owners under 65, the county property tax rate will increase about 1 cent per \$100 of value.

**Jail bond estimated tax impact**

Property value	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
Annual tax cost	\$10	\$20	\$30



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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## Hill Country Autumn Color

In last year's November article I explained the physiological and conditional factors that cause autumnal color change. In that article I briefly listed both native and naturalized tree species that produce noteworthy color. The lists from that article are reproduced below and the focus of this month's article will be a brief exposition on the various native and naturalized maple varieties.

### Native Species

Spanish Red Oak (multi), Cedar Elm (yellow), Blackjack Oak (red/purple), Bigtooth Maple (multi), Chalk Maple (scarlet), Trident Maple (yellow), Escarpment Black Cherry, (yellow), Bigleaf & Littleleaf Walnut (yellow), Texas Ash (yellow then scarlet then purple!), Flameleaf Sumac (multi)

### Naturalized Species

Ginko (yellow), Shantung Maple (multi), Caddo Maple (multi), Mexican Sugar Maple (multi), Silver Maple (multi), Drummond Red Maple (scarlet), Amur Maple (multi), Trident Maple (multi), Chinese Pistache (multi), Shumard Red Oak (scarlet)

The most well known of all maples in the hill country is the BigTooth Maple, erroneously thought to be located only in the Lost Maples State Park. They are interspersed in many Hill Country counties with large populations in Kendall County (especially Tapatio

Springs area). They have a moderate growth rate and boast multiple colors in the fall once they grow out of juvenile state (i.e. 10-15 years). There are very closely related species to the BigTooth – namely the Caddo and the Mexican Sugar Maple which both have almost double the growth rate, reach color age quicker, and manage both caliche and drought situations better than their cousin the BigTooth.

The Chalk Maple is a much smaller multi-trunk maple that is actually found in the northern Austin area but is generally associated with the East Texas region. It is quite probably the best fall color producer. This tree is number one on my list of maples to push for heavy planting throughout the Hill Country. The Trident Maple is also native to the East Texas area but I've come across numerous specimens growing well in our area.

The Amur and Silver Maples are the least adapted of the maple species but with moderate amounts of routine micronutrient supplements chlorosis can be avoided and they can both do well here and add diversity and uniqueness to our landscapes.

With all these native and/or naturalized trees – consumer pressure for nurseries to propagate these species from highly successful specimens in the local area can increase the vitality, vigor, and

*(Continued on Page 14)*



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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## GVTC Foundation Supports HCPCC Expansion in Bulverde

The GVTC Foundation recently awarded a grant to the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center in support of the HCPCC expansion of services to the Bulverde/Spring Branch area. Working with the Acacia Medical Mission and the Gabriel Project of St. Joseph's of Honey Creek Catholic Church, the HCPCC will be providing the same free services in Bulverde that are available in Boerne.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, a laptop sonogram machine has been purchased and staff have been trained on it. This will allow the HCPCC to provide first trimester sonograms along with pregnancy tests and maternity vitamins for pregnant women. STD testing and treatment will also be available thanks to a grant from the Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio and the TxDSHS. Prenatal and parenting classes will be available.

Because the HCPCC has a Spanish speaking medically trained staff member, these free services will be available in both English and Spanish. Services will be provided on the campus of St. Joseph's of Honey Creek Catholic Church on the last Thursday of each month. For more information about services, to volunteer or if you would like to donate in support of this new program please call the HCPCC at 830-249-9717.



## 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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# FAIR OAKS RANCH



## Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District Audit

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.

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](http://www.trinityglenrose.com).

Well that did not last long! During the regular meeting of the TGRGCD Board of Directors, August 13, 2015, the current drought stage has been upgraded from Year Round Conservation measures to Stage 1 Drought guidelines. The District anticipates a move to Stage 2 within the near future. Additional information on what this change means for residents living within the District's boundaries can be found at:

[www.trinityglenrose.com](http://www.trinityglenrose.com) under Conservation

## Boerne Handmade Market is November 7, 2015

Local artisans are busy painting, sewing, crafting, and creating as they prepare for the upcoming Boerne Handmade Market on November 7, 2015. This fall marks the sixth market that organizer Alyssa Mantooth has put on and the third market that organizer Beth Legge has put on. Organizers say that they started the market in October 2012 because they knew that several of their friends were making beautiful and unique products but did not have a good way to sell them locally. They wanted to provide a platform for the community to shop for trendy and unique products. The idea for a handmade market was born. The first market only had 11 vendors. This fall registration was cut off on September 1, with 47 vendors registered. Registered vendors bring all kinds of products such as: painted wooden signs, stationary, local honey and goat milk soap, jewelry, woodwork, spices and rubs, home décor, children's accessories, and tons of unique gift ideas for the holidays! Many of the vendors have now grown to sell online in their own Etsy shops and at handmade markets around the state.

One exciting addition this fall is that the market will have a Kids Market sections that will feature children ages 6-14 selling their own handmade items in booths that they have paid for. The Kids Market booth fees are significantly lower than the "adult" booths at Boerne Handmade, but allow the children to learn about business and becoming entrepreneurs. Alyssa and Beth hope to instill a love for the arts in children by making Boerne Handmade Market not only accessible and enjoyable to children, but also somewhere they can learn and create while being supported by their community.

The Boerne Handmade Market is from 9am – 4pm on Saturday November 7, 2015 located outdoors at The Pavilion Events center on John's Road. Multiple food trucks are parked at the event for refreshment and there is also a great playground behind the pavilion for children! For more information as well as exciting giveaways, you can find Boerne Handmade Market on Facebook and Instagram (@boernehandmademarket). More information as well as Kid Market registration can be found at <http://www.boernehandmademarket.com>

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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

(Continued from Page 8)

longevity of these species. I find it very unfortunate that many of these species are hard to find or labeled as incompatible because so many large nurseries do not make quality and attrition rate a priority. The smaller growers such as Madrone Nursery, Medina Nursery, Natives of Texas, Green Cloud Nursery and others know this and are committed to the plant quality and diversity that our green industry desperately needs.

Any questions or comments on this article, or previous articles, please contact me at [kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com](mailto:kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com).

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