

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

November 2015

Volume 5 Issue 11



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

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

GRATITUDE

November brings many opportunities to be thankful. For me, it begins with (1) giving thanks for the privilege to vote the 1st Tuesday of each November, (2) honoring all members of the Armed Forces on November 11th who served and fought to protect us, keep our country safe and preserve our way of life, and (3) being thankful for the bountiful country we share with each other on the fourth Thursday of each November. There is no nation in the world that has more to be thankful for than us. Share thanks at every opportunity for family, friends, food, home, work, good deeds, etc.

"FALL IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE" WORKSHOP

Another new topic for Water Conservation ideas! Join us Saturday, November 14th for tips on ways to winterize our irrigation systems while still helping the grass establish more roots for the next year. TX A&M AgriLife Extension representative will discuss the need for winter fertilization of our landscape and why there may be a need to water lawns manually during the winter months Limited to 30; begins at 9:30am at City Hall and there is no cost. Sponsored by the City and FORHA. Call City office at 210-698-0900 and reserve your spot!

FIBER OPTICS UPDATE

The City of Fair Oaks Ranch recently invited GVTC to host four meetings to gauge interest of expanding their fiber optics network to our community. At the events, GVTC representatives demonstrated how our lifestyles are increasingly dependent on fast, reliable broadband connections. Their presentation also cited information

that found residential property values increase an average of \$5,500 with a fiber to the home connection. GVTC surveyed the attendees on whether they would be interested in upgrading to fiber optic services, with no additional installation costs.

There is time, if you were not able to attend the GVTC event(s), to complete the survey now! I certainly encourage you to go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FORGigCity> and register your vote. Every vote counts to determine if GVTC makes Fair Oaks Ranch the next Gig City. (NOTE: for those who receive the printed FO Gazette, just type the link into your computer's browser and you should go directly to the survey.)

DEVELOPMENTS IN FOR

There are two types of development in Fair Oaks Ranch – residential and/or commercial. At this time, there are nine active residential developments with various build out percentages and no new commercial developments. All three counties are under residential developments.

The active annexed residential developments located in the City's Comal County portion include: Cibolo Trails (~90%), Trailside (~40%), River Valley (~1%), Setterfeld (~45%) and Oaks Bend Estates (0%). Kendall County has Stone Creek (~60%) and Bexar County has Front Gate (~40%) and Elkhorn Ridge (~0%). The non-annexed Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, or ETJ, has the Pfeiffer Property off Amman Rd, 345 acres under Development Agreement but no platting approvals. There is early, informal discussion with another piece of property, 145 acres, in Bexar County off Hwy 3351 (Ralph Fair Rd.) which has been For Sale for some time.

(Continued on Page 2)

FAIR OAKS RANCH

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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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| Ambulance | 911 |
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| Animal Control..... | 210-698-0990 |

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| Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary | 210-698-1616 |

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| CPSEnergy..... | (new service) 210-353-2222 |
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| Fair Oaks Ranch Utilities - Water..... | 210-698-7685 |
| GVTC - Cable & Telephone | 800-367-4882 |
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From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)

TOWN HALL MEETING - DEER

There is a planned meeting Thursday, November 5, 2015 to discuss White-tail Deer Management options.

The meeting will be held at Cibolo Creek Community Church, 30395 Ralph Fair Road and begins at 6:00pm.

Texas Parks and Wildlife will give a presentation and FOR residents' opinions will be polled plus time for questions and answers. You will see banners and signs announcing the Town Hall plus other communication methods will include emails, websites, etc.

FOR EIGHT-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2012-2020)

Late 2011, Council and City Management met with outside consultant facilitator to help develop a long-term Strategic Plan. The end result is a 26 projects list for Council and Staff to implement, take action or find alternatives. The plan is moving forward quicker than initially expected. The Street Bond includes 5 of the 26; the Public Safety Facility affects another 3 projects on the list. Out of the 26 projects noted, the City has 5 left needing exploration, direction or action: (1) Fire Department – staying with Leon Springs yet SA Annexation may create some changes; (2) City Gateway Entrances – IH 10/Parkway Bridge set for 2017 and will affect the designs & locations of city entrance monuments; (3) Home Rule versus General Law consideration; (4) On-going Wildlife Program and (5) Ammann Rd, a Kendall County road that Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and TXDOT may consider supporting as Ammann Road runs from on highway (46) to another (3351). The City is staying very busy moving forward for the betterment of the City as a whole.

As this month's letter from the Mayor's Desk is coming to a close, the City is moving forward to recruit a permanent City Administrator and will utilize an outside recruiting firm with proven successes in Texas. Marcus Jahns, the Interim City Administrator will stay into Spring 2016 if necessary. The important objective is to find the right replacement!

Wish everyone a Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving Holiday. I personally thank each of you for your consistent support of the City and for allowing me to serve you. It is humbling...and, an honor. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Landman, Mayor
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Exit 546

Arborist Pruning Tools

As a consulting arborist, it is my privilege to meet property owners who love trees as much as I do. I enjoy meeting and sharing the knowledge I've acquired through many years of intensive studying and application of that knowledge in the field for the past decade. Frequently, the clients' curiosity extends into the area of the tools I use to perform my work. There are many tools available for purchase; yet, I have found certain ones to be tried and true as the best of the best for tree work. With that said I converse with many peers in the industry as well as peruse the newest tool releases to evaluate and compare with what I am currently using. This article covers the tools I regularly use and can be great tools for property owners who wish to do some of their own tree pruning at home.

The backbone of my pruning is the STIHL PP 800. Approximately 75% of my pruning is with this tool. It is a telescoping manual operated pole saw with three 6' extensions. It is fairly light and has the range of approximately 24' with the average size operator's own height included. No more chainsaw or ladder injuries! The blade is 16" and can therefore cut sizeable branches as well as giving you a good workout while doing so. In addition, the blade is flexible and tapered allowing you to make a correct collar cut on challenging branches with the blade under flex. A shorter and even lighter pole saw may be preferred; the STIHL PP 600 is the one you want. Both of these poles can take an additional heavy duty lopper head attachment, which I use regularly for detailed pruning.

For smaller trees and shrubs I recommend buying the hand saw that you feel suits you best

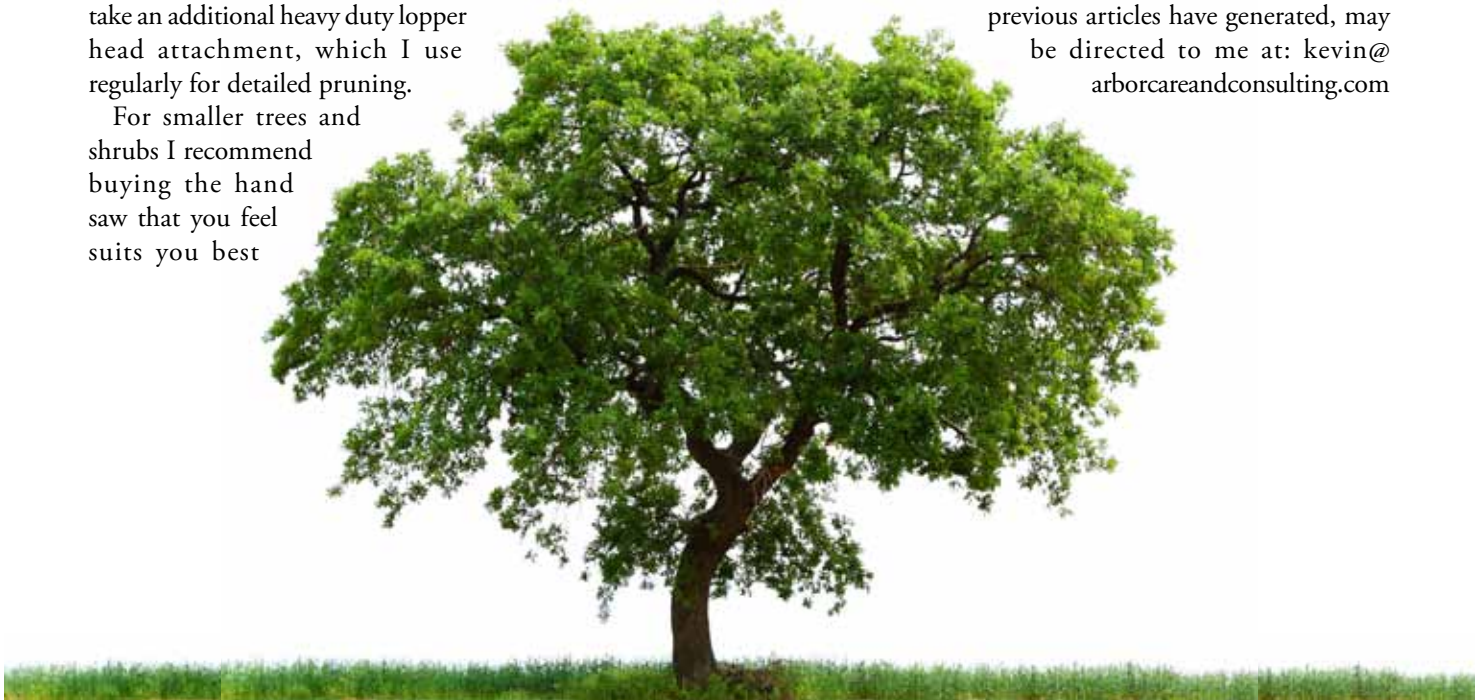
made by a company named SILKY. I use the model named Sugoi. For bypass hand pruner shears, the best - hands down - is made by FANNO SAW WORKS (Item # FI-8PR).

You may ask how I paint the oak trees to protect from Oak Wilt without a ladder if I'm using such a tall pole saw. This challenge is easily addressed with a triple extension Mr. Long Arm paint pole coupled with a Spectracide Pruner's Pal. Three 8' extensions plus 5' body height gives you a ceiling of approximately 29', which more than covers any cut you might make with the pole saw.

Often natural breaks occur on oak trees from wind, that if not dealt with quickly, can put your trees at risk from Oak Wilt. Having these tools on hand is of critical value for your protection against the Oak Wilt disease. Contractors rarely can address the pruning and painting within the time range when natural breaks occur. With the right tools on hand, you can perform the pruning and painting quickly protecting your trees from potential Oak Wilt.

I should mention that the price of equipment plays no role in my selection of equipment. My clients expect the best and I use the best - whatever the price. The functional capacity and excellence of these tools more than pay for themselves in my estimation. Finally, this equipment is dangerous; I strongly encourage you to read plus watch any safety material and videos on the tools covered in this article.

Questions or comments this article or previous articles have generated, may be directed to me at: kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com



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Arbor Day

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Arbor Day in Texas will be celebrated on November 6, 2015 this year!! In celebration of this great conservation project, Connie L. McCord with RE/MAX Associates - San Antonio

has teamed up with Arborist and Landscape Designer Ruben Losoya with LOSOYA INDUSTRIES to provide 150 trees to the 4th grade students at Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary! With the awesome participation of teachers Debra

Whittenberg, Kristy Byrd, and Elizabeth Cooley each student will be given their own tree to plant in a container or in their back yard. Along with their tree, they will become an official member of the

"Fourth Grade Foresters of Texas"!! The project's goal is to help reitalize a remarkable idea - observation of Arbor Day in public schools! Since 2007, 30,720 4th grade students have become Fourth Grade Foresters of Texas! The project is made possible because community business people like Connie and Ruben covered the cost of each of the evergreen trees, so that there is no cost to the students, teachers, school or the taxpayer!! The students were assembled, given a brief history lesson on Arbor Day by Connie, followed by instructions from Ruben on proper care of their tree, then the students were given their trees and certificates!! Debra Ersch, Cofounder of the Fourth Grade Foresters Project stated "It's a wonderful way to show support for the community, education, and the environment". In the past, Arbor Day in Texas has been in April, but this year the holiday is in November to help the trees establish a strong root system over the fall and winter months. The trees are individually packaged by workers with disabilities, which holds a special place in Connie McCord's heart.



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Owner, Manager and Director of Tennis
Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX*



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4

HOW TO HIT A ONE-HANDED BACKHAND

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a Forehand and a Two-Handed Backhand. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a one-handed backhand for a right hander. This stroke is still used by many league and tournament players since it gives players a wider range of reach and flexibility to hit slices and drop shots. In this illustration, Jake Stine from the Grey Rock Tennis Club in Austin, TX shows the proper form and technique to hit the one-handed backhand stroke.

Step 1: Ready position: The body is facing the net. The right hand is holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is on the throat of the racket. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are shoulder width apart and the body is in good balance.

Step 2: Back swing: When the opponent's ball is headed to the backhand side, the left hand takes the racket back and the right hand changes the grip with one quarter turn placing the index knuckle

at the upper ridge of the handle. The body should start taking the racket back before the ball bounces. Notice the turn of the upper body and the right foot leading the left foot. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

Step 3: Point of Contact: The eyes now shift toward the point of contact which should be about 12-18 inches in front of the right foot. The right hand is holding the racket tight. The racket has made contact with the ball and weight of the player has shifted toward the point of contact. It is important to keep the right shoulder closed and not open the left hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility and power on the ball.

Step 4: Follow Through: Once the racket has made contact with the ball, both of the arms need to be extended for better balance. The right arm should be straight and the follow through upwards above the head.

Look for next Issue: The Forehand Volley.

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