

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

December 2015

Volume 5 Issue 12

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH



From the Mayor's Desk...

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

LAST MONTH OF THE YEAR ARRIVES!

December without fail arrives before I am ready for it! The month increases the "To Do" list with a deeply felt urgency that quickens with the Thanksgiving weekend. Friendly reminder for the many of you planning to be out-of-town please take advantage of the City's Home Watch Program. Contact the Police Department to learn more and complete the Home Watch form (210-698-0990). The police will conduct daily observations while you are away. Make this #1 on your To Do list!

Also, you might create an auto-pay account for your Utilities – Water and Wastewater; again, less "to do" now as well as the normal months of the year. Easy to create your auto-pay account; just visit City Hall bringing a "voided" check and complete the necessary forms. There are other payment methods you may use: (1) credit cards – VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express- plus 2.5% service charge, or (2) create a Bill Payment program with your bank/ credit union to include FOR Utility. City office hours are 8am – 5pm Monday through Friday (exclusive of holidays) yet your schedule may not match. There is a Drop Box next to the City's mailbox for Utility payments to help simply life.

WINTERIZE LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM WORKSHOP

This Water Conservation Workshop held at City Hall Saturday November 14th concentrated on Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program referred to as Earth-Kind. Primary topics included: Fall Planting, Fertilization, Mulching, Leaf Management, Mowing/ Shredding, Mulching with Leaves, Soil Improvement, Composting and Irrigation System Auditing. The attending residents were very interactive with questions, comments, etc. With so much interest, it

will be included again in fall 2016. Anticipate six Water Conservation Workshops in 2016 to include Rain Barrels.

WHITE-TAIL DEER TOWN HALL MEETING UPDATE

Many of you have been inquiring about the results from the meeting. At this writing, TX Parks and Wildlife is still working on the official final report. The numbers below today come from the minutes taken by the City Secretary that evening. As you read below, keep in mind that TX Parks & Wildlife is the entity that provides permits on all white-tail deer management activities such as trapping, birth control, sharpshooters, etc. That evening the Texas agency stated no permits for sharpshooting or birth control of white-tail deer has been approved in the State of Texas.

There were approximately 265 attendees at the Town Hall held November 5th at Cibolo Creek Community Church.

With Bexar County representing almost two-thirds of City population, the majority of attendees were from Bexar County portion of the City, approximately 60%. Almost 68% of all attendees have lived here 10 years or longer. Most believe the white tail deer population has increased with 39% seeing more than 40 deer weekly on their property. In addition, 69% of attendees believe there are too many deer in FOR with 74% agreeing to support efforts to reduce the white-tail deer population. One unexpected polling result, from my perspective, showed 64% of the attendees Never Feed the deer, 18% Seldom Feed and 18% Regularly Feed. One polling question included nine potential deer management options and each attendee was asked to choose his/her top three choices. In numerical sequence: (1) Develop City Ordinance to Prohibit Deer Feeding at 23%; (2)

(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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Animal Control.....210-698-0990

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From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)

Trap, Transport and Process at 20% and (3) TIED at 15% with (a) Develop a Public Education Program and (b) Trap, Transport and Translocation. The final question asked how much should FOR spend on management and the final polling answer was not to spend more than \$50,000 from 41% of the attendees.

The Town Hall was the first step for both the residents and Council to understand, balance and arrives at some indications for white-tail urban deer management. Anticipate the final and official report at City Hall early/mid December 2015 and then Council will work toward options.

INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITIES

The Mayor's office recently received numerous emails and calls from residents suggesting that the City transfer more investment into the City's infrastructures and not into projects such as deer management. The City currently has over \$11 Million dollars committed and directed to infrastructures – roads, drainage, and facilities.

The voters approved the November 2014 Street Bond at \$7 Million; Pape-Dawson, engineering firm, gave its quarterly update to Council November 19th. Actual construction start date is scheduled for late summer 2016. The engineering plans/drawings, bid requests, vendor selections, etc. are in progress now. Additionally, the City is directing another \$2 Million (cash) for city drainage needs not related to the Street Bond.

The Public Safety Facility (PSF) is under construction on the City campus with completion expected late summer or early fall 2016. This is a \$2.2 Million cash commitment from City Reserves. Why is this facility needed? At this time, there are 17 police personnel working out of a 1,700 square feet building. The City's growth rate with projected population at build out being 13,000 +/- means additional police personnel. No room at the current facility to grow into, or at City Hall.

The new Public Safety Facility will also include Municipal Court. City Council Chambers now includes Municipal Court, Council Meetings, Voting, other meetings, employee training, Emergency Management Center, residential workshops, etc. The new PSF will provide another large space for City usage. Again, additional room will also be available at City Hall to prepare for the future growth.

I couldn't agree more with the residents concerned about the infrastructure needs of the City. With \$11 Million invested now on projects to be completed within 12-18 months, I believe the City is indeed investing substantially toward infrastructure needs. And, this included a decrease in your ad-valorem (property tax rate) for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMS

The city's primary objective is "public health, welfare and safety" and that is my #1 priority as Mayor. Many concerned about the infrastructure above also expressed similar financial investment suggestions toward a (1) city-owned Fire Department, and (2) city-owned EMS. Since 1988, the City has contracted for those services. Both of these service items are part of the City's Eight Year 2012-2020 Strategic Plan to be further investigated and discussed. Below

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though is some interesting data.

Currently, the City contracts directly with Leon Springs Volunteer Fire Department (LSVFD) and Arcadia for EMS/Ambulance. This Fiscal Year's cost for LSVFD is in the \$200,000 range with Arcadia at \$ 73,000. A few years ago, Bexar County decided to develop Emergency Service Districts (ESD) in the non-incorporated areas of the county. LSVFD is part of the ESD #4 network. From October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, LSVFD responded to 1,188 calls with 309 in Fair Oaks Ranch. Seven Incident Categories with percentage of the 309 calls is: Fire/2.58%, Rescue-EMS/60.51%, Hazardous (No Fire)/2.26%, Service Call/2.26%, Good Intention Calls/27.83%, False Alarms/4.20% and Severe Weather (No Fire)/.32%

The department has 25 active volunteers and 26 paid part-time personnel. The goal is to have five people on each engine for fire calls. Generally only the Paid Paramedics/EMTs respond to medical situations unless assistance is needed for traffic control or other non-medical tasks. Today, LSVFD has 1 volunteer paramedic and 17 paid part-time paramedics. The remaining nine part-time employees are basic and intermediate level EMTs. Two or more paramedics are routinely on duty during a 24 hour period.

The City has two Fire Stations built to support fire and EMS needs. One is located across from the County Club and the other is at Meadow Creek and Ralph Fair Rd. There is LSVFD paid staff 24/7 at its three LSVFD stations including the Meadow Creek location. In addition, LSVFD has a trained HAZ-MAT crew and Swift Water Rescue team that respond to Fair Oaks Ranch as well as the ESD at-large. The City's ISO rating is 3 based on many factors with LSVFD. What is ISO? It is a countrywide classification system used by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to reflect a community's local fire protection for property insurance rating purposes. Insurance premiums may consider ISO ratings. The scale is 10 – 1 with #1 The Best.

The FY 2015-2016 Budget for LSVFD is \$ 931,841. Financially, what might it take to initiate a city-owned Fire Department? Assuming we want to keep the ISO rating of 3 and using LSVFD personnel numbers plus new equipment/engines/ trucks/uniforms/ communication tools/supplies/etc., the Vice-President of LSVFD provided a total cost of almost \$ 5,500,000. Major equipment needed includes three Fire Engines, three Rescue vehicles, one 1st Responder vehicles, two Command vehicles, two brush trucks and one Service vehicle totaling over \$ 4,000,000. This would have both of our Fire Stations manned and ready to go. The stations will need some renovating as well which is not included here.

How would this affect the ad-valorem tax rate? Currently, the tax rate is providing overall approximately \$4.2 Million to the City's General Fund balanced budget which includes the outside contracting for Fire Service/EMS. Initiating a city-owned Fire Department will increase ad-valorem tax rate. The current cost of \$200,000 +/- will be considerably higher with a city-owned Fire Department. This doesn't include data/costs on the conversion from

a contacted ambulance service to city-owned.

Before changing topics, LSVFD and Arcadia serve the City of Fair Oaks Ranch and its residents professionally and with pride.

2015 HOLIDAY SEASON

This will be old news when you read this December issue of FO Gazette so mark your calendars for next year. The Fair Oaks Ranch HOA (FORHA) sponsors "Greet Santa" the Sunday evening following Thanksgiving at the Country Club. It's a great opportunity for little ones and the young-at-heart to visit with Santa – fantastic photo opt! Cookies and hot chocolate provided.

That same evening, the Peace Tree located at the Fire Station across from the Country Club will light up early evening until midnight until January 1, 2016. Absolutely stunning and a huge thank you to Fair Oaks Ranch HOA!! Additionally, the city entrance monument at IH 10 and Fair Oaks Parkway is dressed in its holiday attire by FORHA until January.

BEST WISHES

May your holidays bring you joy each day whether with family, friends, acquaintances, etc. Find time to just chill with no real goal or task in mind. May each of you enjoy a special holiday celebration.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Cheryl Landman, Mayor

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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 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.

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Unforgettable Holiday

Courtesy VisitSanAntonio.com

Give your loved ones the best gift this year when you book a San Antonio holiday experience. It's a chance to enjoy a city of lights and festivities, where the spirit of the season shines bright day and night. And when you celebrate the holidays together here, you're creating the most important gift of all: unforgettable memories.

Lights and Parades

San Antonio is known for being a festive city, and the holidays are certainly no exception. In this special time of year, the historic streets and famous River Walk shine brighter than ever. While strolling among millions of decorative lights, visitors of all ages are treated to dazzling displays and breathtaking arrangements. San Antonio gives you millions of twinkling reasons to make the city your family's favorite holiday tradition.

Ford Fiesta de las Luminarias, Dec. 4 – 20: Enjoy the holiday serenity of the River Walk with a stroll along the lush banks of the San Antonio River guided by more than 6,000 luminarias. These warmly glowing candles in sand-filled bags line the walkways to symbolically mark the "lighting of the way" for the Holy Family. This centuries-old tradition begins at dusk Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

San Antonio Traditions

You can find holiday traditions nearly anywhere you go, but in San Antonio, we add a little more flavor to the season. For generations, the unique San Antonio tradition of tamale making has captivated people of all ages. Families gather every year to celebrate this delicious custom where the tamaleras put their classic recipes on display, and onlookers of all ages enjoy the tasty creations. This cultural and educational tradition is one that makes San Antonio a truly special holiday destination.

Tamales at Pearl, Dec. 5: Since 2010, the Tamales! Holiday Festival at Pearl has established itself as one of San Antonio's top holiday events. Located along the River Walk, Tamales at Pearl offers delicious tamales from over 40 vendors, live music and plenty of fun for the whole family. This festive event is the perfect way to celebrate the holidays, as well as the rich culture of San Antonio.

La Tamalada and Time Travel Saturday: South Texas Holiday Traditions at the Witte Museum, Dec. 12: Make and flavor your own half-dozen tamales at the La Tamalada workshop. Afterward, join in on the holiday fun with Time Travel Saturday: South Texas Holiday Traditions.

La Gran Tamalada, Dec. 12: To maintain such a resilient custom, you have to educate future experts. At the annual tamal-making community party known as La Gran Tamalada, you'll get hands-on experience from community tamaleras and enjoy San Antonio storytelling at its finest. Every holiday season, participants of all ages learn valuable methods and techniques in this informative and highly entertaining workshop at the historic Guadalupe Theater.

Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza, Nov. 15 – 21: Dating back to 1979, this event is the longest-running mariachi music festival in Texas. And today, it's also the setting for the largest mariachi

competition in the United States. You'll experience some of the most renowned groups in the world as mariachis strive to be named the best vocalist, violinist, guitarist and more! And to top it off, you'll enjoy a culminating performance by Mexico City-based Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán on November 21 at the Lila Cockrell Theatre. It's one event you don't want to miss.

Holidays in Bloom, Nov. 27 – Dec. 31: Step away from the holiday whirlwind of traffic and crowds to enjoy the season in nature. With picturesque backgrounds for family photos and beautiful spots perfect for tranquil time together, your holiday memories are sure to be bright.

Ford Holiday Boat Caroling, Dec. 2 – 20: Listen to the joyous sounds of carolers from more than 185 school, church, company and civic choral groups along the banks of the River Walk. Each night, boats float on the river with groups performing live Christmas carols for the public, who can enjoy the performances while strolling the walkways or sitting on a restaurant patio.

A Christmas Carol, Dec. 3 – 21: Experience Charles Dickens' classic story of redemption told with a bold, original voice. Local artists Tony Ciaravino and Tim Hedgepeth offer a brand new take on the timeless tale of Mr. Scrooge learning the lessons of life and the spirit of love at the Playhouse San Antonio.

Winter Wonderland, Dec. 5 – 31: The DoSeum is transformed into a magical winter wonderland. A reverse Santa's engineering workshop and a Multicultural holiday celebration on December 5 will kick off the month of activities, which includes specialized workshops, Santa appearances and an interactive snowscape in the Special Exhibits Gallery.

Valero Alamo Bowl, Jan. 2: The Valero Alamo Bowl showcases some of the best teams from two of the premier conferences in the country, the Big 12 and Pac-12. The Bowl has quickly become one of the most popular, producing some of the most-watched bowl games in ESPN history while selling out six of the last eight years.

U.S. Army All-American Bowl, Jan. 9: The U.S. Army All-American Bowl is the nation's premier high school All-American game, featuring the best 90 players in a classic East vs. West matchup every January at San Antonio's Alamodome. Building upon the extraordinary players and incredible moments featured during each of the previous U.S. Army All-American Bowls, this year's edition promises to provide an unforgettable look at the future of college and professional football.

Theme Park Festivities

SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration, Nov. 21 – Dec. 31: Enjoy SeaWorld San Antonio's amazing array of family-friendly seasonal shows, including "Shamu Christmas: Miracles," "A Dolphin Christmas" and "Elmo's Christmas Wish." You'll also find dazzling Christmas lights, candy canes, hot chocolate and more.

Six Flags Holiday in Park, Nov. 21 – Jan. 3: Experience thrilling rides and exciting family entertainment, along with tasty treats

(Continued on Page 8)



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(Continued from Page 6)

and iceless skating, at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Watch the “Majesty of Christmas” holiday spectacular, celebrate with the Looney Tunes and meet Santa at his castle.

Morgan’s Wonderland, Nov. 27 – Dec. 23: Discover a winter wonderland with sparkling lights, carolers and Santa Claus at Morgan’s Wonderland. This 25-acre theme park is full of popular rides and attractions that are accessible to people of all abilities.

Zoo Lights, Nov. 27 – Jan. 3: See the San Antonio Zoo in a whole new light, with wild colors, exotic decorations and intricate animal patterns twinkling in the night. Thousands of lights create an immersive experience using traditional and unexpected color combinations. And your journey of light, iconic visuals, experiential displays, festive entertainment and delicious dining will be complemented by a seasonal soundscape perfect for creating a holiday celebration both unique and memorable.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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HITTING THE SLOPES THIS SKI SEASON?

Keep in mind these tips to
prevent injuries on the slopes.

*Written by Kelly Cunningham, MD Sports Medicine
specialist Founder. Austin OrthoBiologics.*

As a former US Olympic Men’s Ski Team physician and orthopedist, every year during the winter months I treat many ski & snowboard injuries. As traveling doctor for the team, I accompanied the athletes throughout the US, Canada and Europe on the World Cup tour and was responsible for the triage, stabilization, and treatment of these world-class skiers.

One of the most frequent questions I get this time of year from my patients who ski is “How can I avoid hurting myself on the ski slopes?” So what do I tell recreational skiers about staying healthy while on the slopes?

First and foremost, adjust to the altitude in your first few days. While there are medications that will improve your blood oxygen, they require a prescription and can have side effects. Perhaps the easiest to take along are low-dose aspirin or ginkgo biloba, as both are safe (unless allergic) and easy to take. Low-level exercise and lots of water (especially during the first night) are also key, as is abstinence from alcohol during the first 24 hours at altitude.

Modern skis, boots, and bindings are universally safe now, unlike in decades past. Multi-release bindings help you come out of your skis safely in a fall and with less stress on your knees, the most commonly injured joint in a skier. Make sure they are set correctly.

Speaking of knees, in most solid, intermediate skiers, unlike beginners (learning to stop) and racers (ACL injury from shear forces), serious knee injuries are actually quite rare.

The best way to protect yourself from ski injury is:

- get in good “ski-shape”
- ski within your limits
- stay relaxed but focused
- watch out for that last, fatigued run of the afternoon
- if you fall, fall forward and throw your hands in front of you

And always, always, wear a helmet!

Austin resident Kelly Cunningham, MD is board certified by the American College of Orthopedic Surgeons, and an active member of the Arthroscopy Association of North America and the International Cartilage Repair Society. Learn more about preventing and treating sports injuries at www.AustinOrthoBio.com.



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The Do's and Don'ts for getting that Perfect Christmas Photo of Your Pet

Photographing animals can be really difficult. They get distracted easily, they're almost always moving, and they even make silly faces. This can make it difficult to get a photo worthy of a Christmas card, but it is possible! Here are some Do's and Don'ts to help you out.

DO keep plenty of treats handy

Our animals often need a bit of extra reward and loving to sit there and look cute for us, so make sure to have plenty of their favorite treats available.

DO have toys and noise makers to grab their attention

They don't always listen to us, so bring their favorite toy to hold up next to you and they're sure to look over with an inquisitive face.

DO look at your background first and move around until you have eliminated distracting items

You don't want to turn your horse into a carousel ride by having a pole in the background looking as though it is going straight through their belly.

DO have an assistant or two to help out

It can be really tiring and frustrating if you are the only person out there and you are repeatedly putting your camera down and running over to your animal to pose him or fix a prop, and then running back and only hoping he is still where you left him.

DO use a fast shutter speed

If you are shooting in Manual mode on your camera be sure to use a fast shutter speed (at least 1/250), so that even if the animal is moving when you click the shutter you will still get a clear picture. If you do not have a Manual mode on your camera, try using the Sports mode.

DO be aware of colors

Choose complimentary colors for the props and costumes you use. The same goes for taking a picture of the pet with his owner- don't wear a shirt that is the same color as your dog- you want contrast.

DO focus on the eyes

Especially when taking close up shots. Their eyes can be very expressive so you want them to be sharp and clear.

DON'T forget that candid shots can be cute, too!

Don't automatically throw out all the photos where your pet is not looking or making a silly face. Those shots can be just as good as posed ones, because they show the personality of your pet.

DON'T just throw props and costume pieces on your pet before letting them "OK" it. Let your horse smell whatever prop you're going to use first or rub it on them gently until they are relaxed. They are much more likely to cooperate if they aren't scared of the Santa hat on their head.

DON'T crop off just the feet or hooves

Be careful when you are framing your picture, you don't want to crop out just their feet or tail or ears. Step back for a whole body shot or crop it in close to a headshot.

DON'T shoot during the middle of the day

The best lighting of the day is about an hour before the sun sets. It is much more diffused and soft, and you will avoid all the harsh shadows.

DON'T try to be in a hurry

Taking animal portraits takes patience! You should expect it to take more than just a few shots.

DON'T use a flash

Sudden bursts of light from a flash may frighten your pet and cause red eye.

Photos and article thanks to www.kayliejphotography.com on location at www.fivehorses.com. Saturday, December 12th Kaylie will be back to take pictures with Five Horses, LLC clients. Join us and schedule online under the appointments tab.

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WAGNER is #1 in SALES the past Decade in Fair Oaks Ranch!

- San Antonio Business Journal ranked The Wagner Team the **#1 TEAM in San Antonio & the Hill** in 2014 and 2015 across all Real Estate Companies.
- Keller Williams is the **#1 Brokerage Company** in Fair Oaks with over 40% market share in 2015.
- Wagners are **#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 over the last 10 years. According to the San Antonio Multiple Listing Service 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



HUNTER WAGNER
210-852-5462



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



TRAVIS WAGNER
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