

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

January 2016

Volume 6 Issue 1



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is now 2016...the City celebrates 28 years this January. Our 30th Anniversary is quickly coming forward. Many of you attending the 25th Anniversary event requested a repeat and it appears that opportunity is not too far away.

The turn of a new year generally brings to mind Resolutions. The custom of setting New Year's resolutions began about two millennia ago; one would make external resolutions with a moral flavor or compass such as "to be good to others". Later, these moral intentions were replaced by prayers and fasting. The Puritans enumerated commitments (resolutions) to better employ their talents, treat their neighbors with charity, and avoid their habitual sins. A New Year's resolution, mostly a common tradition in the West is still practiced around the world. Now one generally makes an internal promise on New Year's Eve to make certain self-improvements or changes for the upcoming year.

A number of City staff are externally sharing their 2016 Resolutions with you today: (1) Adrian, Public Works: spend more time with my grandparents; (2) Christina, Utilities/Public Works: to remember that each day is a blessing and make purposeful, thoughtful decisions on what is important and where I place my energies; (3) Claudia, Administration: be grateful for the blessings I have such as my health and my family; (4) Kim, Human Resources: As a new resident, my New Year's resolution is to meet more people in our community; (5) Linda, Accounting: cancer free now, I will be entering 2016 with another chance of living and another perspective of looking at things & the beautiful world we have and live in!; (6) Libby, Municipal Court: find a church and become an active member; (7) Mike, Maintenance: I ask for Spiritual guidance in exhibiting

deference to those I come in contact with, both at home and in the workplace. I shall strive to be a positive influence to all and express a sense of urgency in my daily tasks. Oh yeah, and lose a little weight, LOL! (8) Priscilla, Administration: stop drinking sodas; (9) Sandy/ Administration: Smile and Laugh more - Live a Healthier Life - Meet new people and socialize more. I suspect these employees will follow through as they have openly stated their resolutions to you and me.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY CONSTRUCTION STATUS

What once was mere land is exhibiting the new facility with its supports, roof and now "exterior walls". Council recently toured the building gaining a better vision of the final internal layout. All seems to be on the completion target of July/August 2016. The police officers are excited and proud to have this new facility; the department will become more efficient and effective. Additionally, the Judge is looking forward to the Municipal Court function moving from City Hall as well. There is some discussion that court may advance to two days a month versus the current one day.

Recent Major Council Actions

The City's Building Codes were updated to the 2015 International Building Codes from the 2009 Edition with National Electric Code updated from 2008 to 2014. This action provides improvement of building safety, better ISO insurance rating and increases resale of buildings/houses/etc. in the City (does not apply to ETJ construction).

Newly approved "no vehicle stopping, standing or parking" zone on Chartwell Lane during school hours plus prohibiting U-Turns

(Continued on Page 2)

FAIR OAKS RANCH

ADVERTISING INFO

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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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From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)

will be enforced by the City Police Department.

In-line with the 2012-2020 Strategic Plan, Council approved the City move forward in shifting the City's current General Law Type A form of government to a Home Rule process. There is additional discussion planned the first Thursday of January 2016 at 9:30am in City Hall regarding the various aspects of Home Rule governance and the process of appointing a Home Rule Commission.

CITY MEETING RECORDINGS

The City Secretary now records most, if not all, of our posted City meetings. These are available for review if you are unable to attend a meeting. There is a process and the City Secretary is happy to guide you. Just ask for Priscilla at 210-698-0900.

CLOSING

At this writing, 2015 is drifting out in a mere eight days. I realize that this has been one of the busiest years for City Hall. Staff continues to amaze me with their willingness, tenacity and commitment to learn, change, perform and stay on track! Out of almost 30 Council-requested items for Agenda consideration, only 5 are still on the "to do" list. And, yes, staff also managed to handle its day-to-day responsibilities. Many of you show appreciation and the employees are truly thankful of your kindness and thoughtfulness.

In eight days, 2016 will rush in with enthusiasm, excitement, energy and enhancements to continue providing services to our citizens with improvement a constant goal. As Mayor, my vision of "sustainable valuation" for the City applies today and for many more tomorrows.

The simple definition of sustainable valuation is..."when you are ready to sell your property, I want you to receive the most dollars for your residential investment within the shortest time period". Fair Oaks Ranch is gaining on Alamo Heights and Olmos Park as a coveted place to call home! Niche.com tells the story: City of Fair Oaks Ranch is #1 Best Public Schools, #1 Best Community, #3 Safest Suburb, #4 Best Suburb to Raise a Family, and #6 Best Suburb to Buy a House out of the 20 suburban cities in and around San Antonio. That's the way to end a year...and begin a new one!!

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor. Thank you for confidence, trust and support.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Landman, Mayor

210-698-0900

mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org

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Mistletoe

There is a curious decoration used during the holidays most often to illicit a kiss from that special someone. It is bright green with translucent-whitish berries and often adorned with a bow and hung over a doorway. Chances are you may have some of this decoration in one or more of your trees as well. Though it is clearly being put to good use as a decoration – its adornment in your trees is not such a festive and heart-warming occasion.

Leafy mistletoe is a parasitic plant. It derives half or more of its water and solutes from the host tree. Further, it is an endophytic organism – meaning it can sustain itself without any exterior branch growth if need be. Mistletoe is a very determined and resourceful parasite. It can often sustain lower transpiration rates than its host to survive droughts and in cases of infestation it can continue drawing water to itself by increasing its size and quantities of leaves even after the death of the branch beyond its infestation.

You may notice that when mistletoe is growing for a while in one locality, that area tends to form a gall – or imploded area. The tree is attempting to grow tissue quickly over the zone of the mistletoe infestation in order to successfully conduct water and minerals past the mistletoe to maintain its branch canopy. Mistletoe seeds are ingested and relocated by birds primarily through their digestive tract; the pulpy substance around the seed becomes a substance with glue-like properties which adheres the seeds onto tree branches.

Local native species that are most prone to mistletoe infestations are as follows: Hackberry, Mesquite, Cedar Elm, and the Spanish Red Oak. There are a number of factors that impact a tree's

likelihood of infestation, such as: (1) the density and depth of bark; (2) the density of the wood tissue to resist the growth of the mistletoe root seeking to penetrate to the cambial tissue; (3) the roosting or resting preference of bird species and occasionally that of the mammals (primarily possums) within the tree; and, lastly, a more technical factor is a tree

species genetic capacity in creation of polyphenolic compounds which induce formation of periderm cells directly around the invading root of the mistletoe in effect compartmentalizing it from further invasion.

What can be done about this popular Christmas decoration?

First, remove all exterior growth of the mistletoe when acquiring your decorations! Second, you can secure black plastic wrap (industrial grade trash bag type) over the area of infection and at least a foot to either side of that area for a year or two (best utilized in trunk infestations). Thirdly, the most effective approach where practical, is removal of the branch back to a scaffolding branch 1/3rd the diameter of the infected branch and at least one foot from infested area or full branch removal.

Mild herbicides or plant growth regulators can be applied during winter with some success but it is inevitable you will either toxify or inhibit growth to your tree as well and it is extremely difficult to gauge the correct concentration and amount of the solution to apply, therefore I don't recommend either approach.

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



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GREET SANTA



From the first child sharing his wish list with Santa with many more to follow, Santa and his Elves stayed jolly until the last child! Great evening sponsored by FOR Homeowners Association annually. All ages welcomed; take Christmas Family photos; enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, etc. See you in 2016.



FAIR OAKS RANCH



Fair Oaks Ranch Council touring the Public Safety Facility December 2015. Expected completion of new building is July/August 2016.

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**Cub Scout Pack 109, Den 3,
“The Bears” cleaned up the City
Campus at Fair Oaks Ranch to
fulfill a Community Service badge
Sunday Dec. 19th.
Great job!**

Chicken Tortilla Soup

*Total Time: 35 minutes/ Preparation: 10 minutes/ Cook: 25
minutes. 4-6 servings*

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 2 jalapenos, finely diced
- 6 cups low-sodium or regular chicken broth
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can fire roasted diced tomatoes or similar
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can black beans, rinsed & drained or similar
- 3 chicken breasts boneless & skinless
- 2 limes, juiced, plus wedges for garnish
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup roughly chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 (8-inch) flour tortilla, grilled, cut into thin strips or corn tortilla
- 1 avocado, pitted, sliced
- 1 cup shredded Monterrey cheese

Directions: In a large sauce pan heat the vegetable oil. Add the onions & cook for 2 minutes. Once the onions have softened add the garlic & jalapenos & cook for another minute. Pour the chicken broth, tomatoes & beans into the pot & bring to a boil. Once at a boil, lower heat to simmer and add chicken breasts. Cook the chicken is cooked remove from pot. When cool enough to handle, shred chicken & set aside. Add lime juice & fresh cilantro to the pot. In a serving bowls add a mound of shredded chicken. Ladle (gradually pour) soup over chicken & top with lime wedge, grilled tortilla strips, avocado slices & cheese.



TENNIS TIPS

*By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco
Owner, Manager and Director of Tennis
Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX*



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand and a forehand volley. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a two-handed backhand volley for a right hander. This stroke is used whenever the player is forced to hit a ball in the air. In these pictures player Robyn Fuller from the Grey Rock Tennis Club demonstrates the proper form and technique.

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 next to the right hand. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are a shoulder width apart and the body is in equal balance. For beginners it is okay to use the forehand and backhand grips for the forehand and backhand volleys. As the player gets stronger and the balls come at a faster speed, it will be best to use the continental grip for both volleys.

Step 2: Back Swing: Since the volley is usually executed when a player is close to the net and there is very little time to react to the incoming ball, the back swing is very short. The left hand will make a slight change of the grip and the right hand will be relaxed and loose. The left shoulder should take a short turn and the head of the racket should align to the flight of the ball. The left wrist should be "cocked" back slightly and the head of the racket should be above the wrist. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

Step 3: Point of Contact: The right foot is now taking a step forward and the racket is making contact with the ball. It is important to keep the left shoulder closed and not rotate the right hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility to find the proper point of contact and give power to the ball.

Step 4: Follow Through: Once the racket has made contact with the ball, the follow through is very short to allow the player to immediately get back to the ready position. The right arm should be close to the body.

Look for in the next Newsletter: The Serve



FAIR OAKS RANCH

SUDOKU

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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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Wendi Harrelson

Team Leader, Regional
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