

# The FAIR OAKS Gazette

June 2016

Volume 6 Issue 6



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

## From the Mayor's Desk...

This June issue is my initial letter as your newly elected Mayor. Let me begin by recognizing the volunteer service provided by my predecessor. Fair Oaks Ranch has a very long and rich history of citizens willing to give generously of their time. Even in that rarified atmosphere, Cheryl Landman's 23 years of service to City Council and the Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association board is extraordinary. I wish Cheryl and her husband Jim all the best in whatever direction life takes them next.

During the last several months of Cheryl's tenure, the Council made what I believe is one of the most important decisions of the past few years. After an extensive search with the assistance of Chris Hartung Consulting, we selected Tobin Maples, AICP as our City Administrator beginning on June 6 of this year. Tobin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Geography/Urban Planning from Texas A & M University. He also holds two Master's degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington – Public Administration and City and Regional Planning. He has served municipal governments in the cities of Argyle, Pearland, Wylie, Irving, and Mansfield. His municipal experience spans zoning and development standards, place making infrastructure, drainage, transportation, and significant work in budgeting, master planning, and business development.

In addition to his extensive municipal government experience, Tobin's diverse background includes private sector consulting. Tobin joins the City of Fair Oaks Ranch from CDM Smith, Inc., a leading global consulting, engineering, construction, and operations firm that provides integrated solutions in water, environment, transportation, energy, and facilities to public and private clients worldwide.

Tobin and his wife, Heather, have been married for 22 years, and they have three children: a daughter and identical twin boys. Tobin has participated and held offices in many local and civic organizations in the communities in which he has served. He has family ties in

the Boerne area and is looking forward to making the Texas Hill Country his home.

I believe Tobin is well equipped to meet the challenges of managing growth responsibly and planning for infrastructure needs. We look forward to the leadership he will bring to our city.

While anticipating Tobin's arrival, we want to recognize and celebrate the guidance Marcus Jahns has provided as our Interim City Administrator. Marcus is the consummate city management professional. We consider ourselves most fortunate to have had Marcus bridge this time until we selected a new City Administrator. His patience and good humor have made the difficult jobs easier and the trying times a lot more tolerable. We know he is going to do more "retirement" type things but we hope he does not go too far away. He has earned a bright spot in the history of Fair Oaks Ranch.

But now it's time to start looking towards the future, and our new administration got off to a proper Fair Oaks Ranch start with about a dozen volunteers and city maintenance staff teaming up to give our City Hall a face lift. Volunteers cleaned gutters, power washed sidewalks and porches, raked up leaves, trimmed trees and shrubs and planted some new greenery in the flowerbeds on the Saturday morning after our Friday afternoon swearing in ceremonies. Our maintenance folks carried away all the trimmings and mulched the beds. We also had the front doors refinished for the first time in 16 years. Thanks to Jim Havard for organizing the volunteers and to Mike Davis for coordinating the effort with the maintenance folks.

When you have a change in administration, everyone always wants to know what the new person's priorities are. Mine are still the same as when I first ran for council: managing growth responsibly and protecting our quality of life. These ideas all come back to following our city's mission statement.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# FAIR OAKS RANCH

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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.

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

We have lots of challenges in front of us.

- The recent rains have highlighted drainage issues that we need to address.
- We need to take a hard look at whether we are setting aside enough reserves to replace and replenish assets that are aging.
- We need to develop a real strategic vision for our city so we can agree on what we want it to look like down the road.
- We need to put in place the tools most cities have for managing growth like a Home Rule Charter, reasonable zoning regulations, and interlocal agreements with all the counties.
- We need to update our Comprehensive Plan and land use map.

The good news is that the talent we need to address these issues is in place. We have hired a topnotch City Administrator to lead a good city staff. Our Council is very strong and willing to take on actual working roles and we have one of the most incredible talent pools in the country in our citizens. I have been absolutely amazed by the number of people, both younger and older, who have come forward saying they are willing to pitch in and use their talents to help our city.

This is very encouraging, especially since one of my personal goals during the mayoral campaign was to engage more younger citizens, who are raising their families here, in the political process. They are the new demographic of Fair Oaks Ranch and we need to prepare them to take over leadership roles in our community. I watched in awe as they used their talents during my campaign and I have no fear for the future of our city or our country.

I hope to use this space in the coming months to keep you informed about what is going on in our city and to keep you excited about our future. All of us owe a debt of gratitude to the pioneers of our city who had the vision to create this wonderful place called Fair Oaks Ranch. It is our turn now to protect and enhance this wonderful city.

My very best to all of you,  
Garry Manitzas, Mayor  
210-698-0900  
[mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org](mailto:mayor@fairoaksranchtx.org)

## 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

## Pruning Dilemma, Part One

I am most frequently asked the question: "When is the best time to prune my trees?". If only you all knew what a complicated question that is! Here comes my long-winded response which is almost never explained this thoroughly to a curious client and even here, it will be a cliff notes version.

We will take a seasonal evaluation of pruning's pros and cons. First, let's start with Spring. During spring, the flow of sap and tree growth is at its highest. On the positive side – the tree's response to the pruning wound/injury is the quickest at forming what's called wound-wood; its purpose is to completely grow over the injury and minimize the amount and extent of dieback, rot, etc. to the tree. Also, new growth is invigorated even more by pruning. On the negative side – sap flow is increased and pathogens, insect pests and the like become a higher threat.

During Summer, the increased heat and lack of soil moisture lowers the amount of sap and so pathogen as well as pest dangers are somewhat less than Spring, and the time for the tree to cure its pruning wood is faster than in the Spring. Unfortunately, due to the greater likelihood of drought, which weakens the tree's immune system, it often can't resist even some minor threats (such as hypoxylon canker). New growth also is spurred in other areas of the tree during the Summer – though not as much as in Spring. If adequate moisture is not present it can actually become a stressor on the tree. Furthermore, the formation of wound-wood from callus tissue is not as good as Springtime.

Fall is, for the most part, a balance between the Spring and Summer months – less woundwood formation than Summer, less pathogens/pests than Summer.

Winter has one of the least amount of pathogen or pest threat, yet it is also the worst time for woundwood growth. The benefit of increasing tree growth is practically non-existent. Also, during severe temperature changes and winter storms, the wood can actually expand and contract on larger cuts opening up cracks that greatly increase the extent of the injury into the parent branch or tree trunk.

My final position on the best season to prune is that "when is not the most important question"! The most important question is "Who should I select to do the pruning?". With that said, Spring is the best time to prune your trees from a woundwood standpoint and to increase the growth of your tree. It is the assumption and practice of pruning experts throughout the world who try to perform most pruning operations during Spring.

It is too much to cover in this article but my Pruning Dilemma Part Two will scrutinize assumptions leading to the premise to not prune oak trees during the best pruning season of the year! Texas Forest Service as well as others often recommend "no pruning". Again, the vital question is "Who" not "When" from my professional view.

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

## CA Press Release

The City of Fair Oaks Ranch announced Tuesday the selection of Tobin Maples, AICP as City Administrator beginning June 6 of this year. A graduate of Texas A&M University, Mr. Maples holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Geography/Urban Planning. He also holds two Master's degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington—Public Administration and City and Regional Planning. Serving in municipal government in the cities of Argyle, Pearland, Wylie, Irving, and Mansfield, Maples brings over 20 years of leadership experience in municipal government and private sector consulting to his new post in Fair Oaks Ranch. He and his wife, Heather, have been married for 22 years, and they have three children: a daughter and identical twin boys.

Mr. Maples said he has a passion for public service and community outreach, which he developed from growing up in a military family. He has participated and held office in many local and civic organizations in the communities in which he has served. "I have family ties to the Boerne area and am looking forward to making the Texas Hill Country my home," said Maples.

Newly elected City Mayor Garry Manitzas said that the hiring of Mr. Maples completed an extensive search conducted with the assistance of Chris Hartung Consulting. "We are delighted at the quality of candidates that were identified and considered during this comprehensive process and are pleased to welcome Tobin as our new City Administrator," said Manitzas.

Mr. Maples joins the City of Fair Oaks Ranch after working with CDM Smith, Inc., a leading global consulting, engineering, construction, and operations firm that provides integrated solutions in water, environment, transportation, energy, and facilities to public and private clients worldwide. In addition to private consulting, Maples brings broad municipal experience as a former City Manager and certified planner with assignments encompassing zoning and development standards, place making infrastructure, drainage, transportation, and significant work in budgeting, master planning, and business development.

Manitzas further lauded Maples as being well equipped to meet the challenges of managing growth responsibly and planning for infrastructure needs. "We are looking forward to the leadership we know Tobin will bring to our city. We anticipate introducing him to our citizens in the near future," said Manitzas.

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## How to Talk To Your Children When Disaster Strikes



In my role as executive director at Shield-Bearer Counseling Centers, I am frequently asked by parents or teachers how to help children when they or their community experiences a disaster.

Every child reacts differently to loss. Younger children handle the news differently than older children. A child's

personality and values influence their reaction. Parents and teachers may notice children displaying a greater amount of energy following a disaster. Energy released by their body's natural response when safety is threatened will find its way into more irritability, fidgeting and inability to focus on tasks at hand.

But there are some things individuals who are raising or working with children can do.

### **Model calmness.**

Children will look to parents and other adults to cue their interpretation and reaction to the disaster. When children see the adults around them remaining calm, they will be more easily reassured of their own safety.

### **Help them talk.**

Parents frequently have difficulty discussing such horrible tragedies with their children. As with other times of loss, they do not know exactly what to say. Being available to listen to what children want to say will likely be more helpful than putting together a lecture. Encourage children to express how they feel when they are ready to discuss it.

### **Honestly answer questions.**

When children do not know the answers, they will ask questions. Parents who patiently attempt to answer tough questions will see their children move through the pain of the tragic event. If you don't know the answers, tell them so. Reassuring them of their present safety will help them learn to overcome fears that they might be struggling with.

### **Limit access to disaster news.**

Monitoring your children's access to news reports of the disaster will help reduce the possibility of nightmares. When a child watches news programs about a disaster, parents should be present to discuss the contents of reports.

### **Keep them busy.**

One of the most important things that a parent can do to help their children work through a disaster is to maintain the routine and structure of their children's lives. Keep appointments. Carry on with chores and responsibilities. Meet obligations.

### **Help them help.**

Every person touched by a disaster is motivated to help in

some way. The negative emotions of fear, sorrow and anger can be channeled into acts of kindness. Having a child gather items for disaster victims, write a thank-you note to the first responders or draw a picture for someone intimately involved will help them feel they are making a difference. These actions can help them regain a sense of control over their situation.

Remember that each child is an individual. What helps one child might not help another. If there are significant changes in behavior, mood, or sleeping patterns, it is important to make a visit to a physician or professional counselor to assess what professional help might be available.

### **Above all else, let them know they are loved.**

Roy Wooten is the Executive Director of Shield-Bearer Counseling Centers, a 501c3 nonprofit charity with offices in NW Houston, Tomball, and Cy Fair. Shield-Bearer is "fighting for hearts" on the front lines of healthy relationships. Learn how you can join us in the fight at [www.ShieldBearer.org](http://www.ShieldBearer.org).

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To learn more about Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District, please visit us at [www.trinityglenrose.com](http://www.trinityglenrose.com).





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