

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

August 2016

Volume 6 Issue 8



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

I'm going to begin this article by recognizing the Police Officers across the Nation who risk their lives to keep us all safe. Recent tragedies have highlighted the very real dangers that all of them face in their daily jobs. The targeting of these brave Officers is the work of cowards who desire to harm the very people who protect their constitutional rights to free speech. This is not what we are about as Americans. I am pleased to report that the citizens of Fair Oaks Ranch are standing in solidarity with those who protect our freedoms. Below is a note to you from our Chief of Police, Scott Rubin and his Officers:

Thank You from the Officers and Chief of Police

As the current tragic events involving attacks on the Police unfold on national television I am reminded how fortunate we are to work in a community that supports the efforts of your Police Department.

In the days following these events the Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department received deliveries of food and well wishes from numerous individuals and organizations from throughout our community.

I want to express to those individuals and organizations that supported and continue to support us that they will never know just how much their gifts and well wishes have meant to this organization and to me personally.

Thank you again.

Respectfully yours,

Scott Rubin

Chief of Police

Last month, I mentioned we would begin reporting on the progress of the Roadway Reconstruction Project. The following comments are an update from Ron Emmons, the city's Public Works Director:

The Roadway Reconstruction Project has reached the 100% level on the Design Phase as developed by Pape-Dawson Engineers. This means the Project will be moving into the Construction Phase very soon. I will remind everyone that what we describe as the

Construction Phase probably has somewhere around 11 weeks of work to accomplish before we mobilize and turn dirt. Updates to the Project can be found on the city's website (www.fairoaksranchtx.org) by clicking on the "FOR Roadway Reconstruction Project" links.

Over the course of the next several weeks, the Project will be advertised for prospective contractors to bid on the work. These contractors will have a mandatory pre-bid meeting at City Hall to hear information about the project and to provide a forum for asking questions. Then, contractors that are interested in pursuing the Project will submit sealed bids to the City, which will be opened at City Hall and read aloud on August 17th. The engineering firm we have engaged will review all the bids submitted with the accompanying required documentation and make a formal recommendation regarding awarding the Project. That recommendation will be presented to City Council for consideration.

If we encounter no unanticipated difficulties in the bidding process, actual construction work should begin in October. We will continue providing updates through this publication and other channels as we move through the project.

I also want to give you a quick update on other projects in which we are engaged:

Home Rule Charter Commission

One of our major priorities for this year is developing a Home Rule Charter to present for voter approval in the May 2017 General Election. The City Council selected a group of 11 citizens from 25 applications. The Commission has had their first two work sessions under the guidance of our City Attorney, Charlie Zech, and is moving very quickly down the path on this important work. Laurence (Rich) Nichols was elected by the Commission members to chair the group,

(Continued on Page 3)



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(Continued from Cover)

and Frank Trapasso was elected vice-chair.

The members have spent a substantial amount of time reviewing materials about Home Rule that Charlie provided including copies of other adopted City Charters. The Commission's regular meeting is Monday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meetings are held at City Hall and are open to the public.

Snehal Patel Joins City Council

The City Council appointed Mrs. Snehal Patel, a resident of Raintree Woods, to fill my unexpired term as Alderman, Place 5. Snehal is a regulatory attorney who has substantial experience in water and wastewater regulation. Her background of experience includes both private practice and working for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for several years. She, her husband and three sons fell in love with Fair Oaks Ranch when they were moving from Houston to San Antonio and, Snehal wants to provide service to her new community. We were delighted to add Snehal to our Council both because of her background of skills and because she is representative of the new demographic of younger families moving to our City. The City Council was overwhelmed with the talented applicants from which to choose from - I was especially pleased that ten well-qualified citizens stepped forward willing to take on this responsibility.

FY2016-17 Budget Work

The staff and City Council have begun work on developing the City's 2016-17 budget. We conducted one Council workshop to discuss priorities for the coming fiscal year and another for Council to hear presentations from the department heads on their budget requests. During the next few weeks, I will be working with the City Administrator and staff to prepare a budget and property tax rate recommendation for consideration by Council. As always, there will be more needs than money so we will be focusing on which priorities gives us the best return for our City.

Bulk/Brush Pickup

We are coming up on our bi-annual bulk/brush pickup service. A notification of the service has been mailed to all residents. The pickup starts on August 8 for Sector 1, August 15 for Sector 2, and August 22 for Sector 3. If you did not receive the notification please come by City Hall to pick one up, call City Hall at 210-698-0900 to have one mailed to you, or visit the city's website at www.fairoaksranchtx.org to view the notification. A few general rules include bush piles should be no larger than 15 feet in length, 6 feet in width, and 6 feet in height. Hazardous materials such as batteries, oil, gasoline, tires, paint, etc. will not be picked up. Keep bulk items separated from brush and shrubbery trimmings and please do not place items near fences, mailboxes, water meters or fire hydrants.

It is a very busy time for staff, Council, and volunteers who are helping us move forward with our City priorities. We appreciate the spirit of volunteerism that is so evident in the many citizens who are offering to help.

My very best to all of you,

Garry Manitzas

Mayor, 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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Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary.....	210-698-1616

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

Cute or a Pest?

Squirrels are likely your most frequent uninvited “guests” to your property – as far as mammals go anyways. Many of you may be excited to see them - maybe their games, play, antics, acrobatics, and curious noises you find cute and brightens your day. Maybe most of us find them rude to dogs and birds, vermin thieves (steal bird food and most of our pecan crops), and just altogether annoying. However you fit into the above views of squirrels – it is important that you know that some of the squirrel population are habitual attempters of tree murderer.

That’s right, some squirrels that will methodically chew the bark and cambium right off branches – sometimes they full girdle them, which directly causes the branch to die, but often it is a compilation of weather (wind gusts breaking now structurally-weakened branches), insect pests, and pathogens that help the downward death spiral begun by the evil squirrel. Why do they do this? Besides being evil – these particular squirrels may be bored (in equestrian terminology we call these “cribbers”), need nutrients/minerals, hormonal imbalances, help keep their teeth sharp, and use some of the chewing’s for nesting.

It is important to note that in my experience, most squirrels do not chew trees to shreds. I would estimate one in 10 squirrels – maybe less. I’ve managed numerous properties for almost a decade – many of which are home no doubt to 5 or more squirrels and some of these properties have little to no evidence of chewing. Clearly it is not a required practice for squirrel survival! Usually, when I do find a property with chewing – every tree has some chewing - often severe and it worsens every year. I believe this to be the work of a serial tree-killing squirrel.

What to do about it? I recommend sending this squirrel to squirrel heaven. I do not believe a geographical re-location will stop the chewing – it will just be on someone else’s trees! Next month we will discuss the other two tree terrorists – the woodpecker and porcupine.

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



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HCPCC Begins Facility Expansion



The HCPCC is expanding its facility because it has experienced an overall increase in client services of 34% while the number of prenatal or parenting classes has increased by 42%. The number of STD tests being done has increased by 63%. Since beginning to offer treatment for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea last year, the HCPCC is now providing almost half of all treatment in Kendall County.

In the last six years since the HCPCC facility on Fabra St. was built, the HCPCC increased operating hours with two evenings and an additional day. New programs include child birth classes, an active men's mentoring program, a Hispanic Coordinator reaching Spanish speaking families, and thousands of dollars worth of new curriculum and videos for prenatal and parenting classes. Most recently the HCPCC has opened offices in Bulverde/Spring Branch and Comfort.

All of this has contributed to the need for a large classroom, more counseling rooms, specific nursing needs, a volunteer work room and an additional administrative office. Fortunately your HCPCC leadership has been very conservative with its expenses and the Board has strived to be good stewards of the funds which have been donated. As a result, most of the financing needed for this project has been saved in advance. The Lord has always provided through his people in the past, and we know He will continue to provide for any additional expenses related to this project.

TGR Public Meeting Generates Ideas for Future

On June 23, 2016, the Board of Directors for the Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District held a public workshop to brainstorm ways to raise awareness of both the District and the Trinity Group of Aquifers underlying northern Bexar County.

“One of the ways the Trinity Glen Rose District is going to be successful going forward is by working with all of our stakeholders to understand their concerns but also to get ideas on working together,” said Trinity Glen Rose District (TGR) General Manager George Wissmann. “The public meeting we recently held gave us a lot of information on both of those accounts. Now it's up to the District to compile comments and generate a solid community plan that helps us meet TGR goals.”

Meeting attendees spent a few hours discussing ways the District can connect with homeowners and businesses across the large geographic area the TGR covers in northern Bexar County. Ideas ranging from encouraging cities and homeowners associations to share email addresses to a sized-to-fit media campaign emerged from the brainstorming session. Audience members pointed out that the TGR and cities both have resources they can bring to the table in rolling out water conservation programs and information to large groups of residents. Additionally, thoughts about partnering with local businesses also seemed to have heads nodding in a positive agreement.

“We took several pages of notes that evening and now our work will entail assembling those great ideas into plans and programs we can implement within our budget,” concluded. “We'll conduct a series of follow up meetings with potential partners and then create a plan that our board and stakeholders can comment on. Then we'll get to work on implementing the final plan and prioritized recommendations.”

You can read more about the TGR public meeting and the District at TrinityGlenRose.com.

And check out our monthly newsletter, *The Resource*, to stay up-to-date on District events and water-related topics!



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