

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

October 2016

Volume 6 Issue 10

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH



DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION FOR FAIR OAKS RANCH

Our work at the city is very much a team effort. This month, we have some guest writers to whom I want to give credit. Alderwoman MaryAnne Havard has been a thought leader on strategic planning on our council and I asked her to prepare some comments on strategic planning for our city. She did this work in collaboration with Tobin Maples, our city administrator. I also asked Tobin to prepare some thoughts on the foundational engineering and planning projects that will be necessary for us to properly plan for delivering services as we continue building out our city. Thanks also to Ron Emmons for his continuing updates on construction work affecting our citizens and to Chief Scott Rubin for preparing a few thoughts on safe use of our roads.

The City of Fair Oaks Ranch possesses a unique semi-rural and pastoral quality of life. This quality of life is a major reason why Fair Oaks Ranch citizens move here and why we find multiple generations of families choosing to stay. Today the City is challenged to maintain this quality of life, while nearby we witness the advancing urban sprawl from San Antonio, rapid development and unprecedented growth.

As citizens you have overwhelmingly told your elected representatives to not only maintain, but enhance the quality of life you enjoy. To deliver on that mandate, we must have the necessary tools to make informed decisions. Examples of such tools are drainage and water/wastewater studies, and updating of subdivision ordinances. Critical information gleaned from a water/wastewater study provides a picture of the City's infrastructure needs now and in potential future scenarios. Updating the City's subdivision ordinances ensures a clear and understandable conveyance of expectations and sound legal

footing for planning our City's growth. Other tools such as zoning protect existing investment and help define areas in the City for specific purposes such as single family homes, light-commercial, etc. These are not an all-inclusive list of tools and certainly do not address all aspects of quality of life such as Police, Fire, etc. that must be considered.

Effective planning for the future occurs by developing a strategic plan. The foundation for strategic planning is a strategic vision statement based on a strategic vision that describes how the citizens want the City to look and function when it is completely built out. As a city, we should be looking forward five to ten years for most operational issues and twenty years or longer for major infrastructure commitments.

As a city we have made only very rudimentary attempts at visioning. In 2015 the Council determined the existing strategic planning process did not address many of the issues facing the City in the future. A decision was made to delay planning efforts until hiring of the new City Administrator.

Tobin Maples, who has a strong urban planning background, was hired as the new City Administrator in April of this year. He has already incorporated strategic planning into the way the City conducts business. For an example, the Council and staff conducted budget workshops in June 2016 in public sessions to identify budgetary goals for 2016-2017 and beyond.

While developing the budget and the initial strategic business plan for the City, several foundational studies were identified, prioritized, and placed on a multi-year timeline for inclusion in the budget.

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)

With the 2016-2017 budget in place, Council and staff will set a date in the near future for a strategic planning session. The purpose of this open session is to develop a strategic planning process and a strategic vision for the city. We also anticipate reviewing and revising the existing mission statement, laying the foundation for future planning sessions.

It is important our vision reflects the beliefs of our citizens. To accomplish that, we will conduct all planning work sessions in public meetings and will provide opportunities for citizens to make comments or ask questions during the work sessions. Subsequent to this initial planning session, and all future sessions, a written status update summary will be provided. As the draft strategic plan evolves, updates will be provided in the form of a planning document which will periodically be updated and presented at City Council meetings.

Also in this month's issue you will see articles written by our City Administrator, Tobin Maples; our Director of Public Works, Ron Emmons; and our Chief of Police Scott Rubin. Tobin will discuss the foundational engineering and consulting projects that must be done to accomplish the strategic vision and the logical order in which they occur. Ron will make comments regarding our road reconstruction project to update what has been done and what will be coming up over the next month. Ron will also provide a brief overview of the Fair Oaks Parkway/IH 10 bridge project which TXDOT will begin early in October. Chief Rubin is providing a safety briefing on "rules of the road".

Foundational Planning and Engineering Projects

Traditionally, municipalities do not demonstrate a commitment to Strategic Planning and, therefore, function from a reactionary perspective. Recognizing the City of Fair Oaks Ranch will continue to experience growth pressure due to its location, availability of undeveloped land, positive community image, and highly desired Independent School District, the "Big Picture" challenge is, and will continue to be, managing growth and enhancing the quality of life for the citizenry.

As the City moves towards build-out, delivery of service challenges will evolve. These challenges will encompass everything from infrastructure (water, wastewater, drainage, mobility, open space, etc.) to police, fire and EMS. Accordingly, it is essential that the City Council continue to formulate and administer policies and controls (Strategic Planning) that reflect the values of the community and enhance the integrity of the process. The participatory model utilized to develop the principles and objectives of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget clearly delineates the City Council's commitment to Strategic Planning.

With this opportunity for advanced strategic planning being identified, the question of how to implement the vision becomes extremely important. Strategic Planning is a mechanism utilized to develop and reinforce business plans charged with ensuring the City is poised to forecast, review, and control the unknown. The basic premise is to facilitate Planning with the citizenry rather than

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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

From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 3)

Planning for the citizenry. The end goal of Strategic Planning of this nature is to provide the community with some level of comfort regarding future infrastructure demands, delivery of services, and the basis for capital and operational expenditure related decisions.

The City's comprehensive plan is one of many critical element of the Strategic Plan and updating it on a periodic basis is a critical task that must be undertaken. The comprehensive plan is the City's long-range plan intended to manage the growth and physical development of the community over a defined planning horizon, typically 20-30 years. Ideally, the comprehensive plan is utilized as a policy guide to shape annual budgets and policy decisions that affect the physical development and long-term maintenance of the City relative to build-out scenario(s) established by the citizenry. Key elements of a comprehensive plan may include but are not limited to population projections, land use, drainage, water, wastewater, thoroughfare, environmental, open space, annexation, and community facility master plans, subdivision and zoning regulations, capital improvement programs and economic development considerations.

Taking the initiative to create and/or update a comprehensive plan is a significant task and requires a well-planned methodical sequence. Specifically, the comprehensive plan provides the City with the tools necessary to make informed policy decisions relative to the physical development of the City and the scheduled programming necessary to proactively plan, finance, and maintain reliable and efficient public services. Accordingly, development of the individual components of the comprehensive plan are sequenced to ensure policy recommendations and plans flow from a rigorous and comprehensive definition of the overall vision (Strategic Plan).

For example, the desired/ultimate build-out of the City relative to population and land use must be established prior to developing a master water and wastewater plan. If the master water and wastewater plan was developed first and without a clear understanding of the ultimate population and land use assumptions, it would be impossible to program the why, when, where, who, and how of water and wastewater capital infrastructure related decisions. Drainage is another good example that demands proper sequencing in order to maximize opportunities for success. It is critical the City develop a functional understanding of our regional drainage basins relative to their current capacity and defined storm events. Even more critical is the development of modeling capabilities that enhance the City's ability to simulate up and down stream impacts relative to post-development flows and defined storm events. Without this thorough understanding and modeling capacity, we are limited in our ability to ensure the programed solution produces desired long-term success and the biggest bang for the tax payers buck.

Accordingly, understanding the critical path and sequencing factors that maximize the Strategic Plans opportunity for success will be a direct result of defining and employing an overlapping multi-step approach as follows:

- Update the land use plan and population projections;
- Develop a master drainage plan and watershed program based on updated land assumptions and build-out scenarios for our drainage

basins;

- Update subdivision regulations and write zoning guidelines charged with protecting investment and place making through established form and function.
- Develop a master water and wastewater plan based on the updated land use assumptions and build-out scenarios;
- Develop an annexation plan based on service capacities and established growth management objectives within the land use plan and build-out scenarios;
- Develop a master roadway/thoroughfare plan based on land use and build-out scenarios;
- Develop a capital improvement program based on the land use plan, build-out scenarios, band for the tax payer buck, long term recovery and maintenance of the asset, etc.
- Others.....

Fair Oaks Ranch Road Reconstruction

The City Council, at the September 1, 2016 regular meeting, approved Harper Brothers Construction (based out of Houston, Texas) to implement the planned Roadway Reconstruction project. Staff is currently working on administrative construction bonding requirements in order to finalize the agreement. The next steps to occur prior to any dirt turning include a kickoff meeting with the Contractor and a planned public meeting with residents. As of this writing, the start date is not finalized, but we fully anticipate you to see the contractor mobilized and working in October 2016. The project is anticipated to last 12 months. Please remember to check the City's project website at <http://www.fairoaksranchroads.org/> for regular updates to the project.

TxDOT's Fair Oaks Parkway/IH10 Bridge Replacement

TXDOT will begin work on the bridge on IH-10 at Fair Oaks Parkway starting October 3, 2016. The project is anticipated to last at least 18 months. There is a very good recap and detailed discussion of this planned work at <http://txdotsanantonio.blogspot.com/2016/09/one-more-along-i-10-set-to-start-fair.html> . They also have set up a blog at <http://txdotsanantonio.blogspot.com/> where they discuss all of their area projects. Bookmark that site for regular updates.

Rules of the Road

The Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department is committed to the goal of reducing traffic collisions through law enforcement, and education.

In keeping with the Department's goal of addressing bicycle, pedestrian, and motorist safety, we ask residents and visitors to our City to please keep the following rules of the road/safety tips in mind.

In addition to passenger vehicles, we must keep an eye out for bicycles, pedestrians, and work zones.

Bicyclists

Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers. As a bicyclist, you should obey all traffic laws, including the following:

- Stop at red lights and stop signs
- Pay attention to lane markers
- Ride near the curb, traveling in the same direction as traffic
- Use a light on the front and a red reflector or red light on the back

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From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 4)

of your bike while riding at night

Pedestrians

Yield to vehicles on the roadway if you cross the street at a place other than a marked crosswalk or pedestrian tunnel or crossing. If you're hit while jaywalking, the driver may not be liable, and his or her auto insurance may not cover your injuries.

If the road has no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.

Work Zones

Roadway work zones are hazardous, both for workers and motorists who drive through the complex array of signs, barrels and lane changes. Please keep the following tips in mind when driving through work zones:

- Slow down and always follow posted work zone speed limits. Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes. Remember, traffic fines double in work zones.
- Pay attention. Workers and heavy equipment may only be a few feet from passing vehicles.
- Be patient. Delays from highway construction can be frustrating, but it only takes a few extra minutes to slow down for a work zone.
- Plan ahead. Leave a few minutes early when traveling through a work zone in order to reach your destination on time.

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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.

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LARGE SCALE LEAF DROP



Though this is slightly after the fact, I want to address the dual events this year that initiated the highest call rates I've had in a long time. Both last March and this August, we had an inordinate amount

of rain. Within two weeks to over a month after the rain had ended, I received calls from the entire central Texas area about Live Oaks dropping the vast majority of their leaves. Often the trees could be right next to some others that did not drop any leaves, causing the property owners to be very concerned about the possibility that they had oak wilt. My standard practice when receiving calls about leaf drop when it occurs after rain, is to ask what the leaves look like and if possible request a photo of five or so "suspicious-looking" leaves. Live Oak leaves that drop on account of heavy rainfall have certain characteristics: mottling, speckling, blotching all of brown or yellow and occasionally black dots. Symptomatic oak wilt leaves on the other hand are very different (www.texasoakwilt.org/gallery/oak-wilt-in-live-oaks/).

This phenomenon is caused by an extended period of "field saturation". All soil has macro and micro pores/spaces in it, whether it is sand or clay or silt. When all these pores fill up it with water – there is no air left in the soil. Tree roots actually need to breathe – even the Bald Cypress trees in the swamp send up little breathing "apparatuses", which we call "knees". So a combination of not enough air in the soil, an excessive engorgement of water by the tree which causes swelling in stem - leaf attachment, and the general toxicity of excessive water in the system all play a part in the discoloring and abscission of the leaves by the tree which is an attempt to help itself. Excessive rain, though it may cause some of your Live Oaks to drop their leaves temporarily, rarely kills them unless it is standing water over entire root zone for two weeks or more. Generally, excessive Spring rains that cause leaf drop – new leaves will form within a couple of weeks after the leaf drop. Late Summer or fall rains – the tree may just go into a premature fall dormancy and wait for next Spring to fully leaf out. It is more of a curiosity than a health threat – be reassured.

Next month we will look into the largest tree pest most of us deal with – deer.

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

Mark Your Calendars! Rainwater Revival Coming Up November 4th!

Based on the great turn-out we always see for the Build-a-Barrel Workshops in Fair Oaks Ranch, we wanted to make sure to get the word out about the Hill Country Alliance Rainwater Revival! This year the event will be held on November 4th at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park from 10 am to 4 pm in Dripping Springs.

This is a great way to begin your research if rainwater harvesting is on your to-do list!

The event is free and open to the public and always a great time! More details on the Revival can be found at hillcountryalliance.org/rainwaterrevival/

The TGR October newsletter, The Resource, will provide a bit more information on rainwater harvesting, so you can check out the latest issue at trintytglenrose.com. You have the option of subscribing to the newsletter as well to stay up-to-date on District events and water-related topics!

TGR also offers a free, in-home water consultation to residents living within the District boundaries. 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. Give us a call at 210.698.1155 to schedule!

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Partnership For Children

Submitted by Megan Ransom

Meet 10 year old Jamarrian, he is an energetic, friendly and outgoing child. He enjoys doing puzzles, playing video games and being outdoors. Jamarrian is a very intelligent young boy and does well academically. The ideal forever family would provide him with ample love and support, as well as consistent rules, boundaries and expectations. Learn more about Jamarrian on the Heart Gallery of Central Texas Website- www.heartgallerytexas.com.

There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system regardless of which agency you work with. There is only one pool of children, and they are all in care of the state, every licensed agency has the ability to assist in adoption of any foster child in Texas. Child placing agencies are also foster care providers. The first step is to choose a child placing agency to begin your journey. Learn more about starting the adoption process and the children waiting for forever families at www.heartgallerytexas.com.

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How to execute The Forehand High Volley Approach Shot

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand, forehand volley, the two handed backhand volley, the serve, the forehand half-volley, the one-handed backhand volley, the overhead “smash”, the forehand service return and the backhand service return.

In this issue, I will offer you instructions on how to execute the forehand high approach shot. This shot is used when a player is caught in “no-person’s land” (around the service line area) and receives a high ball to volley. The important part of this shot is to be able to hit a deep volley to the feet of the opponents and/or to hit a deep volley close to the baseline, so the opponent is put in a defensive mode and hits a softer ball so the player can now move closer to the net for the “killer or placement volley”. In the illustrations, Kathy Noble, a player at the Polo Tennis and Athletic Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke.

Step 1: The Ready Position and Split Step: When Kathy realizes that she is caught in “no-person’s land”, she takes the split step by bending the knees and staying on her toes. Her racket is in the volley position and her feet are angled toward the path of the incoming ball.

Step 2: The Back Swing: Once Kathy realizes that the ball has been directed to her forehand, she will turn her upper body and will take the racket slightly back. Notice that the left hand is up in front to allow her to keep her center of gravity in the center. She has loaded her weight on her right foot and will be ready to step forward to meet the ball.

Step 3: The Point of Contact: Kathy now is ready to step into the ball. She has kept her eye on the ball and her center of gravity now

is shifted to the point of contact. Notice the left toe pointing to the ball meeting the racket. The face of the racket is open to allow her to hit behind the ball and allow maximum net height and allow her to hit the ball deep.

Step 4: The Follow Through: Once Kathy has made contact with the ball, she finishes the follow through with her wrist laid back. Her left arm is next to her body and her eyes have shifted toward her target.

Step 5: The Move for the Kill Volley: As the ball is headed toward her opponent and Kathy realizes that her shot is deep, now she moves close to the net for the put away volley. If her shot was not deep, Kathy will decide to stay close to the service line to protect the lob over her head. By the look in her eyes and her smile, she is ready to go for the “kill volley”.

Look in the next Newsletter for: The One Hand Backhand Volley Approach Shot





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