

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

February 2017

Volume 7 Issue 2



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk

MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN, MS4 SUPPORT, AND MASTER WATER AND WASTEWATER PLANS

On January 12th, at 6:30 p.m., a standing room only crowd of citizens gathered at City Hall to hear the Home Rule Charter Commission present highlights of the draft charter they are presenting for placement on the May 6, 2017 election ballot. Commission Vice Chairman

Frank Trapasso led the meeting with assistance from the other Commission members and City Attorney Charlie Zech. The mood was very positive with lots of good questions asked and a very good discussion from Commission members and the City Attorney. (The majority of the questions concerned how a Home Rule Charter would strengthen the ability of the city to manage growth in its Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)).

Once the Commission has approved its final version of the Home Rule Charter, the charter will be delivered to the City Council for placement on the May, 2017 ballot. This will have happened by the time this article is published. The citizen committee is charged with writing the Charter and the council does not write or edit the charter. Between now and the election, I anticipate that Commission members will stage additional meetings to discuss the Charter with citizens.

I want to add my personal thanks to the members of the Home Rule Charter Commission for stepping up to perform this very demanding and important task. Rich Nichols served as the President of the Commission, assisted by Vice Chairman Frank Trapasso. The other members of the commission were: Jim McConnell, Greg Maxton, Bill Sparks, Bill Regan, Conrad Fothergill, John Merritt, David Deleranko, Dale Pearson, and Tom Jaster. This group conducted public meetings almost every week for a six-month period to perform this important task. If you see these residents out and about, please take the time to thank them for providing this service. I also want to express my personal thanks to Assistant City Administrator Carole Vanzant and City Secretary Christina

Picioccio for their administrative assistance in drafting the charter and keeping minutes for the Commission and to our City Attorney, Charlie Zech, for his legal guidance of this group.

I encourage all citizens to learn about the Home Rule Charter by reviewing material on the city's website. We have a copy of the Charter posted as well as some summarized material that explains the differences between operating as a General Law city and operating as a Home Rule Charter city. I also encourage all citizens to vote in the May election. Deciding whether to adopt a Home Rule Charter is a landmark moment in our City's history. Of the Texas cities over 5,000 in population (minimum for a home rule charter), 93% have chosen to operate under a Home Rule Charter.

Master Drainage Plan, MS4 Support, Master Water and Wastewater Plans

Last month, I told you that we had qualified six engineering firms to submit proposals to address drainage issues that have plagued the city for decades and our federally mandated MS4 permit requirements. As part of this same process, we solicited Statements of Qualifications for developing Master Water and Waste Water Plans. Five of the firms chose to continue the process of proposing and did in-person presentations to a selection committee of city staffers and the mayor on January 10th. The committee scored the qualifications of the firms based on both written Statements of Qualifications and verbal presentations. The committee selected Freese and Nichols, Inc to develop Master Water and Waste Water Plans and CDM Smith to develop Master Drainage and MS4 Support in the time frame we had promised.

All of the firms who proposed to us are well regarded and respected in the engineering world. As someone who wrote consulting proposals in a prior life, I respect the effort all five firms put into this effort.

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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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From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Cover)

Our Public Works Director, Ron Emmons, ran a very disciplined and neutral process to achieve the selections. I congratulate Ron and his staff on this work.

The next step is to enter into negotiations with the best-qualified firms to perform the work. I will remind you that we are required by law to select engineering firms on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications and then attempt to negotiate a contract at a fair and reasonable price. As of the time this article is being written, we have begun those negotiations and plan to continue moving this effort forward as quickly as we prudently can.

The Arbors Preserve

Last month I reported that the attorney for the developer had indicated that the initial transfer of all of the preserve property to the Unit Homeowners Association for The Arbors would be completed before the end of the year. The developer has reported to us that step was completed as planned. Assuming FORHA's board votes to accept the property, the transfer will be made from that entity to FORHA. The legal work among the attorneys for the various organizations involved in transferring preserve property is still ongoing. The developer continues to work with the city in a very cooperative manner, including allowing a game management expert contracted with the city to set up game cameras on the preserve site for a survey to evaluate whether or not we have any developing feral hog presence.

FEMA Audit

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is charged with periodically auditing to ensure that a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating city is adequately administering the floodplain program and assist with identifying floodplain management technical needs of the community. We will be conducting this review in February and look forward to hearing the comments they have from their evaluation of our city. Alderwoman Snehal Patel, who has a background in Regulatory Law, has volunteered to participate in this process from the council side. As I have previously written, our City Council is well balanced in terms of skill sets and expertise. Mrs. Patel's background is an excellent example of this balance and will prove to be a value add when coupled with our professional city staff. I will report what we learn from this audit in a future communication to you.

Road and Bridge Reconstruction

- Storm culverts are being installed on Intrepid Drive. We anticipate this construction milestone will be completed on 1-20-17.
- The 12 inch waterline installation continues on Rolling Acres Trail and Ammann Road.
- We are getting an uptick in complaints/concerns from both citizens and the contractors relative to construction along Ammann Road. The contractor is dealing with a very compressed right of way which creates a public safety concern. Our staff will be revisiting the traffic control plan to determine if modifications are warranted.
- Road sampling has occurred in multiple locations throughout the city to determine the appropriate design mix to meet required specification pavement strength. Once a design mix is approved, the

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From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 2)

contractor will begin the Full Depth Reclamation of city streets in Kendall County.

TxDOT is continuing their work on the bridge at IH10 and FOR Parkway. I will remind you that updates on this bridge construction can be found at <http://txdotsanantonio.blogspot.com/>.

Information on our road reconstruction project can be found at:

- The project website FairOaksRanchRoads.org
- The city website FairOaksRanchTX.org
- The Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association website FORHA.org

If you would like to have this information and information about other city activities “pushed” to you electronically, you can sign up for updates and alerts at FairOaksRanchTX.org/list.aspx.

ETJ/Annexation Strategy

City Council has directed staff to advance discussions with adjacent cities to determine best practices relative to build-out and protection of gateway corridors. The information gathered will be used to frame build-out assumptions and strategic planning initiatives associated with the Comprehensive Plan update. Our City Administrator is leading this task and dialogue with surrounding agencies is ongoing.

Resident Volunteers at Work

Here are some updates on our ongoing initiatives staffed by a combination of residents and city staffers:

- The Communications Committee was officially chartered at the December 2, 2016 council meeting. The Committee is presenting a recommendation on website redesign to the Council on January 19th. The city's Communication Committee has invited representatives of the Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association (FORHA) Communications Committee into their meetings to strengthen collaboration between our organizations. FORHA plays an integral role in preserving our quality of life and we will continue to look for opportunities to collaborate and strengthen our close relationship.
- The Wildlife Education Committee will have hosted their first quarterly Town Hall on January 26th by the time this article is published. The city has executed a contract with Ortiz Game Management to perform a photographic survey for feral hogs and other wildlife.

Community Presentations

Tobin Maples and I have been on the speaking circuit lately in response to requests from a variety of organizations. We have done presentations to the Deer Meadow Estates HOA Annual Meeting, the Fair Oaks Ranch Rotary Club, The Fair Oaks Ranch Women's Club, and The Fairways HOA Annual meeting in the past month. We appreciate these opportunities to visit with citizen groups and are happy to accommodate requests from other groups that may wish to have a presentation.

I'll wish all of you and yours a Happy Valentine's Day in advance. Take your sweeties out for dinner, buy flowers and candy, and take time to show your love for those near and dear to you.

Garry Manitzas

Mayor – Fair Oaks Ranch

HILL COUNTRY PREGNANCY CARE CENTER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

2017 will mark the 30th Anniversary of the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center's service to this community. It will be a year of many exciting activities and celebrations.

The HCPCC is a multi-denominational, faith based ministry that provides free, confidential and immediate services to women and men. 30 years ago HCPCC began with volunteers from 5 area churches joining together to provide lay counseling for women experiencing unexpected pregnancies. Today the Center has a 15 member Board of Directors and a 20 member Advisory Council representing 25 local churches of all denominations.

The Center now has a local physician as Medical Director and provides pregnancy tests, first trimester sonograms, 12 months of vitamins, prenatal and childbirth classes, parenting classes, STD testing and treatment, material assistance, post abortion Bible study, and men's ministry. The HCPCC also has a Hispanic Program Director on staff so that all services are available in Spanish.

Recently the HCPCC has expanded its programs, its Boerne facility, and its locations (Bulverde/Spring Branch and Comfort have offices now). The Boerne facility was built in 2009 and already the number of services provided and the number of people being served has grown dramatically. This year alone there was a 34% increase in overall services, a 43% increase in parenting classes, and HCPCC is now the primary treatment facility in Kendall County for STDs/STIs. And approximately 3,000 students in Boerne, Bandera, Comfort and Bulverde/Spring Branch receive an educational presentation by HCPCC.

The 30 Anniversary Year will start off with an Open House and Dedication of the expansion of the Fabra St. facility. This new area will provide a large classroom for the families who attend the monthly group parenting classes and for the childbirth classes. There will be additional rooms for more individual prenatal and parenting classes, lay counseling, and STD testing/treatment. A larger sonogram room will allow for the many partners and families who often join the pregnant mom in viewing their baby's first sonogram.

The year's celebrations will also include a youth event, a TopGolf Event in April, a ladies luncheon, an event for our Spanish Language Community, and the Shop and Save Event in October. This year's Annual Gala in September will feature a special presentation by the President of Care Net, Roland Warren, and the return of comedian Mike Williams. There will also be a recognition luncheon for local pastors with comedian Mike Williams and CareNet President Roland Warren specifically addressing their contributions as church leaders.

Anyone interested in receiving more information, becoming a volunteer, or financially supporting this local non-profit is encouraged to visit the website at www.lifesprecious.org or call 830-249-9717.



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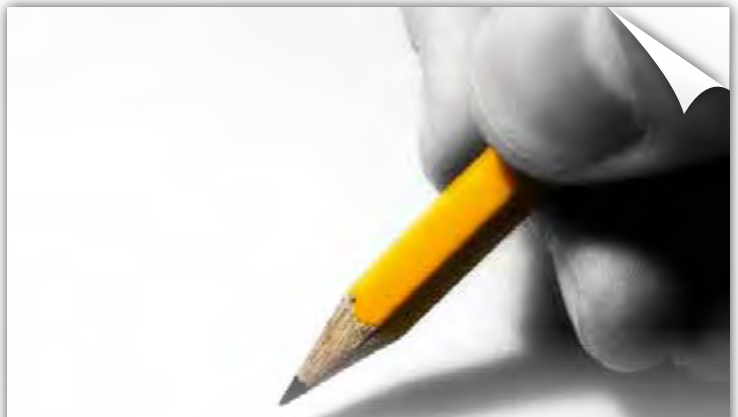
The Texas Trail Roundup is hosting its first annual three-day international walk fest Friday through Sunday, February 24-26 2017. All of the walks are non-competitive and are suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

On Friday, choose either a 5km or 10 km (3 or 6 mile) walk through downtown. On Saturday, walks range from 5km to 42km (a 26-mile marathon) and go through downtown, King William and along the Mission Trail. On Sunday we head north, with walks ranging from 5km to 23km (14 miles), the longest of these winding its way through The Pearl, Brackenridge Park, Trinity University and the historic Monte Vista neighborhood.

All walks begin and end at the Holiday Inn Downtown (Market Square.)

The Texas Trail Roundup is part of the American Volkssport Association, "America's Walking Club," which provides opportunities throughout the country for fun, fitness and friendship. Each walk, regardless of length, costs \$3.00.

For more information, visit the Texas Trail Roundup web site,
<http://texastrailroundup.org>.



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