VOLUME 24, NUMBER 4 APRIL 2017

FAIRFIELD Community Gazette

OFFICIAL FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER





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Darlene Sedelmyer (Trails of Fairfield)	

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Patty James (Vice President)	pjames631@gmail.com
Tim Loney (Secretary/Treasurer)	Tloney@solutionsis.com
Jan Bertoli (Director)	JLB8848@gmail.com
John White (Director)	jeepersw@swbell.net

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Michael Martin (Vice President)	mbalmartin@gmail.com
Brian Gambrell (Secretary/Treasurer)	brian_gambrell@hotmail.com
Ryan Ritchie (Director)	ryan.ritchey@att.net
Jim Gedeon (Director)	jim@premier-placement.com

Inwood Park Neighborhood Association

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Doug Waterman (Vice President)	waterman_doug@hotmail.com
Alison McGahan (Secretary)	afflora@comcast.net
Gloria Whitaker (Treasurer)	gloriawhitaker1@yahoo.com
Harriet Tunick (Director)	htunick00@gmail.com

Lakes of Fairfield Neighborhood Association

Jeanie Stahl (President)	Jeanie.stahl@sbcglobal.net
Diana Gee (Vice President)	
Patrick Wong (Secretary/Treasurer)	pcwong1@earthlink.net

Trails of Fairfield Neighborhood Association

Darlene Sedelmyer (President)	. facofficemgr@sbcglobal.net
Quentin Hinds (Vice President)	qhinds@gmail.com
Kris Cherry (Secretary/Treasurer)	kfcherry@gmail.com

COVER PHOTO

Do you take great photos?

Do you take great photos? Would you like to see your photo published? We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming issues of the Fairfield Gazette. Our deadine for submittals is always the 9th of the month prior to the issue. All photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date in high resolution (300 dpi) to fairfield@peelinc.com. Portrait (vertical) photos work best. Photo's taken with digital cameras work best. This month's cover photo is of Fairfield Residents The Vitovsky family.

To view other photos submitted please visit www.PEELinc.com/Fairfield, and view any of the past newsletters. By submitting your photo you agree to allow your photo to be published in future issues of the Fairfield Gazette or other Peel, Inc. publications.

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Project Manager		
Ernie Griffith	713-332-4761, guy.griffith@fsresidential.com	
Fairfield Village Manager		
Jo Ann Richardson	713-332.4762, joann.richardson@fsresidential.com	

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Public Safety Committee-

Marc Newman - marcnewman1957@comcast.net

Fairfield Area Swim Team

president@swim4fast.net

Fairfield Women's Club fairfieldwomensclub@gmail.com

Fairfield Resident Website

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ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Fairfield Community Gazette possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 1-888-687-6444 or advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

ARTICLE INFO

The Fairfield Community Gazette is mailed monthly to all Fairfield residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit 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 consideration please email it to fairfieldgazette@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

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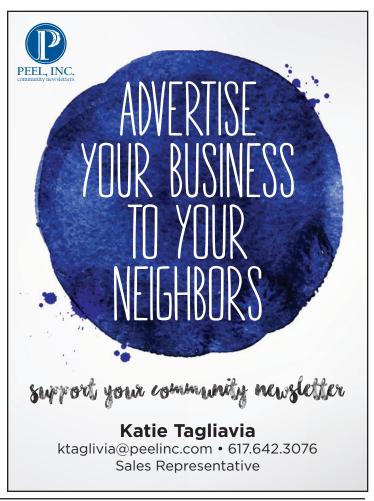
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JACKIE DEVINE

Contributing Editor Fairfield Community Gazette



Recently, I was discussing the Fairfield Community Gazette with a resident. She asked me, "How is the Gazette different from all the other magazines I get in my mailbox?"

That question got me to think about all the stuff we receive weekly. I'm convinced that the FCG is moving in the direction of being your "go to" vehicle to learn what is

happening and to find out who is doing what.

As your editor and your neighbor, I've tried to put myself in your place. I honestly want to know who is doing what and what is happening of consequence in our local schools.

Not only that, I want to know what the scouts are doing, what the seniors are up to, and what kinds of classes are being offered by

our churches and other organizations right here in our backyard.

This month, our Senior Spotlight introduces you to Jay Gavitt, a local historian who teaches 7-graders unique tidbits on Cypress history.

Your "Get to Know Your Neighbors" candidate is Melanie Vitovsky, a person you'll want to get to know. Plus, I've given you a peek into what is happening in our schools' outdoor gardens.

In our Entrepreneur and Inventor's column, you will meet three students who have figured out how to operate a successful business while at the same time maintaining excellent grades in high school.

Last but not least, another neighbors, Chris Brown, has contributed an article on Texas History. He wants to help you to explore the past right in your own backyard.

If you have run across, dedicated community leaders, interesting neighbors, aspiring entrepreneurs or creative inventors, please contact me at jackiedevine@peelinc.com. The Fairfield Community Gazette is your newsletter; I am here to serve you.

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FAIRFIELD

Vonen's

April Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Women's Club will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bradford Creek Clubhouse, 16011 Fairfield Green Circle. Cathy Ward will be showing members ways to use vintage crochet doilies in home decorations. Bring your scissors and glue gun to take home your own home decoration. Non-members will be charge \$10 for supplies. All residents of Fairfield and the Lakes of Fairhaven are invited to join us and bring a friend. Refreshments will be served.

Save these dates: March 25 - Movie Night April 1 - Spring Garage Sale May 16 – Member Banquet May 21 – Senior Tea

Next club meeting: June 20 – Andrews Financial Services

July 4th Parade

I know this is months away, but after the July 4th parade last July, there were many facebook comments that the parade needed a band. Since schools are out for the summer, this is an almost impossible task. Also, the Fairfield Women's Club budget for the parade is under \$100, so renting a band is kind of out of the question. However, there were many, many posts from Fairfield residents saying they would love to be part of a band. So here is your chance to become a part of the first ever Fairfield Marching Band. If you want to organize a band, or be part of a band for the parade, please email us at fairfieldwomensclub@gmail.com. Fairfield Women's Club will not be organizing this band, but we will let you know who is interested.



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Get to Know Your Neighbors

by Jackie Devine



If Google Earth had a way to identify Passionate People Hotspots, Fairfield would have to rank in the top 10. They are everywhere throughout our community, but you would have to search far and wide to find anyone more impassioned about their particular interest than

Melanie and Justin Vitovsky. Melanie is the Area Coordinator for CCI Greenheart; a non-profit international education exchange organization that provides opportunities to young people with the goal of creating global leaders and making the world a more relatable, peaceful, and interconnected place.

One might say that's a huge mission for a 30ish, 5 foot tall, mother of 7-year-old twins, but once you step inside her door and peruse her impressive family-centered photo gallery spread throughout their home, you begin to get the picture. She beamed with pride as she led me on a tour of her back yard explaining the

meaning behind the permanently displayed artwork created over the years by exchange stu-dents from countries around the world.

As I listened to her stories, I got the sense that Melanie breathes life into the words of Mother Teresa: "Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in that action."

Mighty little Melanie is "love" personified. She and Justin have been hosting foreign exchange students for the last seven years. It is a major part of their lives, and it colors everything they do.

When asked how she became interested in becoming a host family (people who welcome foreign exchange students into their homes), she explained her introduction began when her parents hosted a French student when she was 15. The impact of that experience had never left her.

So when Melanie received an e-mail from an organization seeking host families, her interest was piqued. Justin was skeptical but willing to give it a try. Well, they had an amazing three-week experience with Alizee from France, and again the following summer with Camille and then Laura. It was then that they decided to make the switch to hosting a student for a full school year.

After much research, they selected CCI Greenheart. It offered (Continued on Page 10)



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Around Fairfield

(Continued from Page 9)

multiple programs and promoted volunteering and environmental aspects to boot. The local coordinator lived nearby and was hosting a student in his family. Their first exchange student was Iryna from Ukraine.

Melanie beamed, "Becoming a full-fledged member of our family, she rode the school bus, participated in extracurricular activities, and volunteered in community and church activities. All that she gained from us has been returned full measure. Words can't express the difference learning from another culture about life on the other side of our planet has made to our nuclear and extended family."

Melanie and Justin had found their calling. Soon they became local coordinators. "Some of my favorite things about working with these teens are the simplest. Such as our "daughter's" expression the first time she tried peanut butter!

Or little facts—like Ukraine students must write in purple ink, not black or blue, and that gummy bears were invented by a German, as was the light bulb, automobile, motorcycle, jet engine, LCD screen and petri dish. Most American teenagers don't know these details. Our German daughter, Julie, was able to enlighten them," she added. Melanie and Justin have personally hosted students from France, Ukraine, Vietnam, Denmark, South Korea, and Germany. As coordinators, they've worked with teenagers from nearly 30 different countries.

Melanie says, "We don't get to travel much because I have some physical limitations. It's our way of bringing the world home to us. Plus, we've gotten to know our community better. Exploring Houston with our students has introduced us to local sites we've never seen."

I asked about the purpose of the program. Melanie replied, "The purpose of students coming to America is to build relationships with their families, become immersed in English and broaden their education; especially sports, and electives like culinary arts, fashion design, photography, and journalism, which are often not options in their home countries. Although required to pass their classes, some don't get any credit for their school year here and must repeat the grade when they return home. Electives become a way to explore a broader world. This program is like a bridge connecting people all over the world as we gain cultural understanding.

Working with exchange students brings new insight to issues facing teens and adults around the globe. Teenagers are teenagers wherever they live, but there is something very special about kids who brave-ly leave everything they know to explore a new way of life."

Families host for a variety of reasons, to learn about different countries, to help a student reach their dream, and for the joy, laughter, and life that a student brings to one's home each year.

(Continued on Page 11)



(Continued from Page 10)

But, most learn much more from their students than they could ever hope to teach them. According to Melanie, "That comes as a big surprise to many! It is easy to think only about what is happening in our backyard, and not to realize that people around the world have different experiences than we have here. Learning from each other, we teach them life skills; they teach us heart skills.

Admittedly, there is something exceptional about every American family willing to open their homes and share their lives with a teenager from across the globe. Adapting to living with someone raised by other parents teaches us a lot about tolerance. We learn to become better communicators, more cooperative, and hopefully more positive, flexible, resilient, patient, grateful, compassionate and forgiving."

Melanie and Justin talk with enthusiasm about how each one of their exchange "children" offers an entirely different adventure. In August of 2017, they'll be hosting their 10th. Says Melanie, "It's a step worth considering, especially during these highly charged, globally-changing times we live in, where face-to-face should still win over virtual friendship."

Host families are volunteers and come in all types and sizes: single parents, families with teens, families with younger kids, couples with no children or empty nesters. They do not receive any compensation other than a modest tax credit.

As coordinators, Melanie and Justin's philosophy is to help people make an informed decision. They emphasized: "If a family is interested in hosting, we encourage them to ask questions and make sure they understand all the ramifications. We don't want a family to host if they aren't committed for the right reasons. We want to circumvent potential problems down the road. Then, once they say, 'We want to do it!' the application process begins.

"There is an online application that includes providing photos and information about your home and family, a background check, home interview, and phone calls to personal references. Once approved, the selection process begins. We help our families choose a student who will be a good fit based on personality, interests, gender and even country of the student they'd like to host."

For students entering the program, the process is lengthy. About a year before they arrive, they complete an application, participate in interviews, write letters, get teacher recommendations, maintain their grades, and pass an English proficiency test (determining whether they can perform adequately in an American school). Then they wait for a family to select them.

Each year, approximately 20,000 students are placed in the U.S. on academic and scholarship programs. About 1,000 are sponsored by CCI Greenheart, including nine that are currently attending (Continued on Page 12)

See what's happening at FAIRFIELD BAPTIST this spring!

Join us this Easter Sunday, April 16

HE IS RISEN

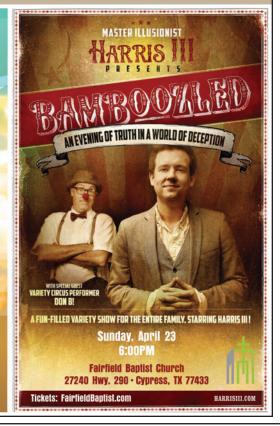
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Around Fairfield

(Continued from Page 11)

Cy Ranch. With 15 students and three coordinators, Melanie is a supervisor; her husband, Justin and Coles Crossing resident, Saralyn Tett serve as local coordinators. They intentionally keep their group small so that they can remain involved and focused.

Yes, Melanie and Justin are passionate about their calling. They go above and beyond the basic requirements of the "job."

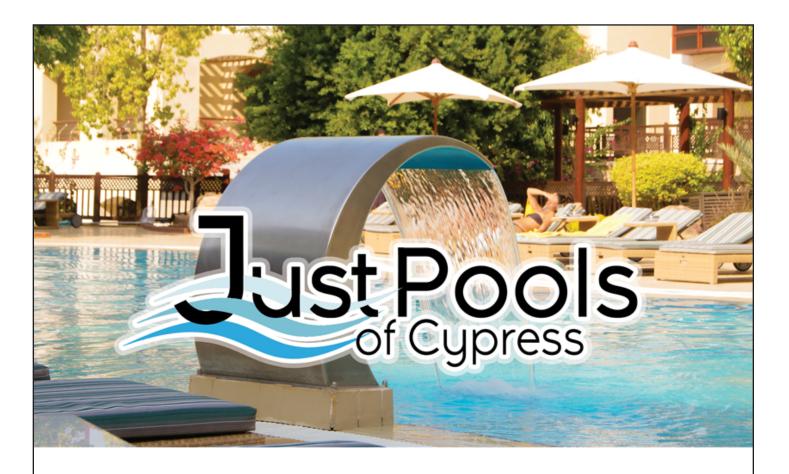
I asked Melanie what she wants our readers to do. Her response: "Please contact us, we'll be happy to discuss the benefits of the CCI Greenheart exchange program. We have short-term, and long-term as well as those that help American teenagers travel abroad for education. As one of this year's Cypress host moms put it, 'Your heart is bigger than you think, so go for it. Bring a kid into your family and feel a tremendous sense of achievement.'"

Melanie is also a Lead in Fairfield's Nextdoor (www.nextdoor.com) a private social network for neighborhoods. She hopes she'll see you there! The Vitovskys can be contacted by email at in-fo@ exchangestudentsintexas.org or phone 281-213-2157.









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Fairfield Entrepreneurs Cy Ranch Students Growing a Business From the Ground Up!

by Jackie Devine



While some teenagers are looking forward to those lazy days of summer when they get the chance to check out the latest video games, do a little skateboarding, kick the soccer ball around, and catch some zzzs, Preston, Mason, and Sam are thinking of ways they can enhance their bottom-line.

Born with a keen sense of business, these teens Preston Vaughn, Mason Garner, and Sam Schacherer have more on their minds than fun. Operating Mustang Mowing, a thriving local lawn service, is their game.

The seed that grew into Mustang Mowing sprouted years ago when at 6, Preston would sit on his dad's lap as together they drove the John Deere around the property. He remembers enjoying the time spent on with his dad as he learned the proper patterns necessary to make a yard look its absolute best, how to maintain the equipment and the necessity of always hav-ing your playlist filled with good ole' classic rock. Preston eventually graduated from sitting on dad's lap to edging the yard and by the time he was 10, he was mowing on his own.

While Preston was absorbing what his dad was teaching him, there was another young boy in the neighborhood that was also learning the importance of keeping a well-manicured yard.

With one push mower, a weed eater, and the faithful John Deere, 7th graders Preston and his friend turned Mustang Mowing into a full-fledged business. They had approximately 12 yards they managed in the neighborhood. However, after the first year, his buddy decided to pursue another career. At that time, Mason, whose dad had also taught him to pay attention to detail, work hard, and always to leave a place better than when he got there, was already working with the

(Continued on Page 15)



Jackie Devine
Freelance Writer, Editor,
Photo Journalist, Personal Historian



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Writing is my passion. I am a freelance writer, personal historian, editor, and marketing professional. I've published personal memoirs and organizational videos utilizing digitally-mastered photos, videos, and mementos. Currently, I act as the contributing editor for the Fairfield Community Gazette, produce the Branson Clan Newsletter, teach memoir writing, serve on the board of the Houston Genealogical Forum and am a member of Cypress Historical Society.

(Continued from Page 14)

boys and became a business partner.

The year they transitioned from Salyards to Cy Ranch, they knew that they wanted to turn their love of working outdoors, preference for neatly groomed yards, and curiosity about making money into a more serious venture. Aware that their customer base was growing, and recognizing the potential for more growth, Preston and Mason invested in a couple more pieces of equipment and once again, they charged forward.

Looking back, one might think things fell into place rather easily. But, the boys had quite a few hurdles to face. Neither could drive, and they had to work around each other's vacations and other family schedules. Lucky for them, Mom Vaughn came to the rescue. She created the fliers, which they hand-delivered, manned the phones, furnished secretarial support, acted as their marketing arm and provided chauffeuring service. That last task was a little dicey, learning to pull a trailer behind a big truck took lots of practice. Not only did she learn how to maneuver the trailer, but she also mastered reversing and backing it into place.

By the second year, Mustang Mowing was billing over 20 customers weekly. They began recruiting other workers, but not before they went through a thorough screening process which the boys developed.

As summer faded into fall, they began to look at offering other services to round out their business. By the end of the year, they added power washing, laying mulch and landscaping to their list of services. They have also recently included, interior painting and limited moving to their list of services. Not to remain idle during the winter, for the holiday season, they added hanging Christmas lights in the neighborhood.

Today, four years as a business, Mustang Mowing is continuing to thrive and has made Sam a business partner as well. Like Preston and Mason, Sam has brought his personal brand of expertise, skilled hands, and an eye for detail. Sam's dad also taught him the value of giving yards a professional touch.

Their latest venture is landscaping, whether it's updating one's current yard or helping to design from scratch. Customers have found they are very dedicated to making sure the final product exceeds the customer's expectations.

Running a successful business can be a fulfilling and yet sometimes challenging task. Preston, Mason, and Sam have taken over every aspect of the management of Mustang Mowing creating the guidelines, conducting the everyday operations, including hiring and managing employees, purchasing equipment, sales, and marketing.

(Continued on Page 16)

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Around Fairfield

(Continued from Page 15)

It would be safe to say before the boys have graduated from high school, they will have earned a Ph.D. in business management.

If you are interested in meeting our April entrepreneurs, you can reach them 832.799.4006 or 281.386.4797, visit them on Facebook or follow them on Twitter @mustangmowing.





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SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS

by Jackie Devine



New Jeseyan, Jay Gavitt loves to teach. Let's hope so; he has been doing it for almost 40 years. However, more than teaching, his passion is to encourage students to ignite their imagination, develop their curiosity, and nudge them toward falling in love with the process of learning.

If your seventh grader has come home from school and told you about how Fairfield was once the Bar 9 Ranch or before that it was called the Katy Prairie; you can be sure your child has just had the opportunity to

spend some time with our beloved "Cypress History Man."

So, you might ask, how did a recent transplant from New Jersey become an expert on Texas history? Well, it was a long time in coming. As social studies supervisor years ago, his oldest daughter was living in Fairfield. He wanted to visit with her and travel to Houston. So, come spring, he would go through the summer workshops offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) or the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (GLI) offering weeklong workshops. He focused on anything Texas.

Without fail, every year he received an invitation. His wife would fly down to stay with their daughter. He would take off to his weeklong workshop, attending such things as the Alamo and the Spanish missions, Digital History at Rice, and 20th Century Foreign Policy at UT Austin. The next week we reserved for the family, so they'd stay one more week. By the time Jay moved to Fairfield, he was an expert on Texas History.

He added that if any teachers are reading this, there are many summer workshops across the country sometimes they give you a stipend, at times they pay for the transportation. The NEH offers workshops for teachers who are teaching junior college and another that focuses on high school and elementary. The Gilder Lehman Institute out of New York City, founded in 1994, it is dedicated to improving history education.

Coming back to how he settled in Cypress. "My wife was the first to retire. She had been the municipal clerk, and for a short time had been the township administrator. I had been a teacher, coach, department head, and district supervisor in social studies and planned to retire. However, two of my former students owned a special needs school. They asked me to serve as principal and to mentor one of them into becoming the principal."

After that says Jay, "I finally retired, and we moved down here over five years ago. "By that time, both of our daughters and all six of our grandchildren already lived in Fairfield. Today, the furthest either daughter lives from us is three blocks."

Jay reflected, "As soon as I arrived, I got in touch with the school system and volunteered. They connected me with the mentoring program working with kids who need a little adult communication and interaction. I'm still mentoring four years later."

The rest of his time he spends with Cypress Historical Society (CHS) setting up education programs where he uses the artifacts collected by CHS to give classes at Cypress Top and to take into the classrooms, or for assemblies.

Jay says, "We use artifacts along with a PowerPoint of photos, and maps. We also give teacher workshops on local history. Then we provide them with resource disc for their school."

He told me that the CHS had a lot of volunteer positions available. One area is genealogy. It's not just the people from the Cypress-Fairbanks, Rosehill, Tomball area. They will work with anyone's personal history using ancestry.com.

He explained that CHS was currently involved in collecting and housing, oral histories of people who lived in the area. They are training students, who are members of the history honor society at Cypress Ranch High School to conduct the sessions. Through that commitment, they also receive community service credit.

Still touting the importance of the museum, Jay added: "We also have speakers who go out and speak before various groups."

One of Jay's favorite topics is the history of local schools. In it, he discusses Fairfield's earlier life as a rice farm and then as the 9 Bar Ranch owned by Gus Wortham.

The 9 bar became an exclusive ranch for Santa Gertrudis cattle. President LBJ used to fly into Houston and go out to the annual cattle action at the 9 Bar Ranch.

"I love to discuss Fairfield history. Fairfield has become home to so many families that don't know its history. People are moving to Fairfield because it has everything, three elementary schools, a middle school and a nearby high school that are all outstanding. The recreation programs through the Fairfield Sports Association focus on kids having fun and are not the highly competitive/traveling teams. There are great pools and art programs. The adults have a variety of activities. There must be a run with kids, adults, dogs, and bikes every month. The churches have excellent youth programs. For people my age there are walking, jogging, and biking trails. I like to go up to the park and kick a ball around or bike with my grandkids. We also enjoy going to one of the many pools during the summer."

Pridefully, he mused, "We have gotten the approval to run a one-week camp for kids to explore archeology, local history, crafts and early life in the Cypress area. CHS will facilitate and Cypress Top Historic Park, and Kleb Wood Nature Preserve and Historical Farm will host."

(Continued on Page 18)

Around Fairfield

(Continued from Page 17)

Then he commented, "We continue to offer workshops for teachers and tours of the Park scout/youth groups, schools, and adult groups.

"Plus, we just completed a project through the Bullock Texas State History Museum. It's called 'My History is Texas History.'

"Scouts work with eight to ten activities that deal with their history, Texas history, and Texas and the world. He says they just had Fairfield Troop of Girl Scouts finish a four-hour session. Eight of them received the badges recognized by both the Girl and Boy Scouts of America.

"We also award up to \$1000 scholarships every year to two students. This year the recipients were from Cypress-Fairbanks and Cypress-Ranch. Both students have worked at our facility or helped us out.

"Back to the 7th-grade history program," he said, "For our visit at the end of the year. We take in artifacts and maps and talk about the history of Cypress, the watersheds, how the roads developed over time, and the history of the schools. Students find it hard to believe that in the late 1830s, there were only about 10 or 12 families in the area. They are also surprised that just before the Civil War, this area housed about 100 people and it lost 27 due to Yellow Fever.

"They are always interested in the high school mascots. They are enthralled by the story of Wolf Corner, on a farm owned by Mr. Grisby, located near HWY 529 and Route 6. I tell them about the local bounty for wolves and hanging them on a fence on that corner.

"Many locals know that Langum Creek is the nearest school to the old "Wolf Corner." Ironically, they're known as the "Lobos." The Spanish word for 'wolves.' Cypress Ranch sits on land that was part of the Josie Ranch, along with where Fry Road is today.

"Josie was a rice farmer and cattle rancher. He and Gus Wortham owned the two big ranches in the area.

"Before the 9 Bar Ranch and the Josie Ranch, that area from here, over to Katy, and down to 529 was open range known as the Katy Prairie. Early ranchers just ran their cattle together each having their brand."

He said, "I could keep talking but time is running out."

In conclusion, I asked Jay what the community does to support Cypress Top Park. He commented, "Volunteer! Come in and help with all aspects of Cypress history. Take advantage of our programs; there is no charge for any of our programs. If interested contact us at the Cypress Historical Society, 281-758-0083 (Tuesday through Thursday) or cypresshistsociety@att.net.





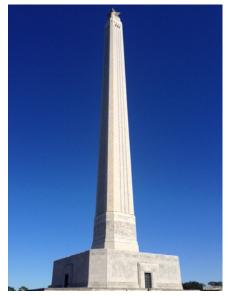
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Texas History Traveler

by Chris Brown, Fairfield Resident



Hello to my fellow Texas travelers,

As a native Houstonian, 3rd generation Texan of German immigrants, and a card-carrying member of the Alamo Society, Texas history is one of my passions---especially the Texas Revolution.

This article is my first attempt to stir the Fairfield community's interest in our state's history. So journey with me through random stories and interesting facts about Texas.

My travels have offered me the opportunity to meet engaging people, explore fascinating historical sites and experience the past first hand. Every discovery leaves me thirsting for more: meeting more people and hearing more of our beloved Texas tales. I've begun to realize that it is our history that ties us to our cultures and faith.

Since I love the revolution of Texas, we'll start there and touch on a few highlights; you can do more investigation if you are interested.

Much led up to our independence to becoming our own country known as Texas. The Mexican government had infringed on the liberties and freedoms of the Tejanos and Texans.

Our first settlers decided there was no option but to fight for independence. The first military engagement was at Gonzales Texas on October 2nd, 1835. A rather small cannon that had been given to the residents of Gonzales to protect them from marauding Indians was ordered to be handed over to the Mexican army. The Mexican army clashed with about 140 citizens of Gonzales displaying a banner stating "Come and Take It." Even today, you see some bumper stickers with that dictum. It has become known as one of our Texas attitudes.

The Texans opened fire, and the war for independence began. A note of interest, at the Battle of the Alamo which ended on March 6, 1836, the last reenforcements were 32 men from Gonzales. Many of them had participated at the firing of the first shots.

Significant battles and moments in between the first shot at Gonzales and the victory at San Jacinto were:

Battle of Bexar: October 12 thru December 11, 1835 (which concluded in the taking of San Antonio from the Mexican Army)

Battle of Concepcion: October 28, 1835

Siege of the Alamo: February 23 thru March 6, 1836 (Travis, Bowie, Crocket and more than 180 Texans died)

Signing of the Declaration of Independence at Washington on the Brazos: March 2, 1836 (Texas Independence Day and also Sam Houston's birthday)

Battle of Refugio: March 12 – 15, 1836

Battle of Coleto Creek: March 19-20, 1836 (Colonial Fannin surrenders outside of Goliad)

Goliad Massacre: Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836 (Colonial Fannin and 340 Texans were executed at Goliad after the Battle of Coleto Creek)

The Battle of San Jacinto, near La Porte, Texas, considered one the greatest in all of history, won our independence. When General Sam Houston, who was commanding the victorious Texas rag-tag army of about 910 troops, came upon General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna who led the Mexican army of about 1,360 troops they were outmanned and undersupplied militarily. Never-the-less, the battle lasted 18 minutes. The Texans' battle cries were "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad." Santa Anna was captured and held prisoner. Around three weeks later the peace treaty was signed, and Texas became a sovereign nation until its U.S. statehood on December 29, 1845. Sam Houston went on to hold many offices, including the President of Texas.

Many people do not know that Sam Houston and his army marched through the Cypress area on his way to the Battle of San Jacinto.

The army crossed the Brazos in Hempstead on a steamboat, then camped at Groce's Plantation. From there they traveled down what is now 2920 and came upon a fork in the road. General Sam had to make a decision. Left fork went to Nacogdoches; the right fork went to Harrisburg. He chose the right fork. There is a historical marker at that location. Then they marched along Cypress Creek and camped at what is now a park at Telge Road and Cypress Creek. There is also a historical marker at that location.

From there, they ventured on to San Jacinto. And now you know the rest is TEXAS HISTORY.



YARD of the MONTH-April

April Winner of Fairfield Yard of the Month

This month, Yard of the Month, was selected from the second half of Fairfield Central. That includes: Bradford Lakes Village, Tuscan Estates, Lakeside, Summer Ridge, The Glen, The Landing, The Retreat, The Park, The Crossing, Bradford Creek Village, and The Meadows.

The April Yard of the Month honor goes to Bob and Yvette Hayes who live at 16222 Crooked Lake Way N., in Bradford Lake Village. Their home is bordered with beautifully trimmed Ligustrum. At the next level, are box-shaped Pittosporum and Boxwoods as you enter their front porch. In the center of the yard are artistically pruned oak trees. Two large Sego Palms, outlined with numerous Hawthorns, welcome visitors to this beautiful yard.



Honorable Mentions

16123 Crooked Lake Way N. 20615 Boganville Blossom 16106 Bradford Shores 20930 Twisted Leaf 21007 Twisted Leaf 15402 Court Green 21011 Twisted Leaf 15334 Bent Twig 20803 Katie Marie Ct. 15327 Redbud Berry Way 21015 South Amber Willow 15318 Cumberland Oak Way 21010 Golden Sycamore 15303 Cumberland Oak Way 21019 Golden Sycamore 15546 Pine Valley Trail 20535 Mauve Orchid 20706 Marigold Creek Ct.



FAIRFIELD PHOTOS







Opening Pitches

by Jackie Devine

Henry and Isabella Hortsman threw the opening pitches at the Fairfield Sports Association Baseball Opening Day. They are pictured with their Mother Becky Hortsman. They were selected to honor their Father, Sargent 1st Class Frank Hortsman, who serves in the Army National Guard and returned the day before Opening Day after serving in Afghanistan for a year. Unfortunately, he was not able to attend the opening day because he was not able to leave the base.



Photo by Amanda Lewis



Congratulations Anna Norris!



Photo by Amanda Lewis

FAIRFIELD PHOTOS



Photo by Amanda Lewis



Photo by Amanda Lewis



Photo by Amanda Lewis



Photo by Amanda Lewis



Photo by Amanda Lewis



Photo by Amanda Lewis

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

The FSA Baseball/Softball Opening Day parade and ceremonies, never gets old or boring, no matter what your age. Everyone is always excited to celebrate the start of Fairfield's annual Spring season here in our community.

The parade, which included 25 softball and 85 baseball teams, each with a decorated truck showing their team spirit, began bright and early at HEB. CFVFD Station 7 led the parade down Cypresswood, left on Mason, left on Fairfield Green, around Bradford Creek pool and dropped off the teams at the fields. Lieutenant Lance Rogers (a Fairfield resident and his team) directed traffic.

Over 1300 families attend Opening Day Ceremonies. Pastor Daron Adkison of Fairfield Baptist offered the prayer. High school student, Alexis Vaughn, a former FSA softball player sang the National Anthem. Introductions and acknowledgments were provided by the committee member, Alex Makris. Once "play ball" was announced, the games started.

After the opening ceremonies spectators were able to enjoy the day's attractions which included a rock wall, bungee trampolines, and laser tag and DJ music to entertain the crowd.

Throughout the day, friends and families were invited to visit

the many resident-sponsored vendor booths throughout the park. Opening Day was even more special because of the participation of Rodan & Fields, Team Tiara, LuLaRoe, Twinkie Designs, Shashon. com, Re/Max NW; Dan & Cindy Boutwell Team, Advocare, Memories Moments & Monograms, Champions Trophies & Apparel, Monat, Trendy Monogramming, AIM (a Christian mission agency that collects and donates used sports equipment). And, by the presence of our food vendors: Smokin' Joes (breakfast tacos & BBQ sandwiches), Nestle Toll House - Houston Premium Outlets and the Fairfield Bahama Bucks.

Our FSA Baseball/Softball Opening Day activities are "Americana" at its best drawing children and families together from all across our community. Thank you, Fairfield residents for an awesome beginning to a great new season.

We want to acknowledge Ellis-Nabors TEAM; Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene and Maddie Lowe Properties; Tiffany Nolan for their gracious 2017 FSA Baseball/ Softball Field sponsorships and Natasha Strong Photography for capturing the fun and excitement of the day.



Fall Soccer Season Registration is from May 7nd through June 3rd

Fairfield Soccer is a recreational soccer league for the residents of Fairfield and surrounding communities. We are a volunteer organization supported by the Fairfield Soccer Committee and we offer soccer for boys and girls ages 4-12.

2016 Statistics; 114 teams; 808 players participating & over 150 volunteer parents to help develop and foster a love for the game.

The fall season runs from August to November. The tentative dates for the 2017 season are:

- Player Assessments Ages 7-12, June 17th and/or June 24th.
- Practices are starting July 31st (tentative).
- The season starts August 26th, and ends the weekend of November 11th.

Weather permitting all teams will play a minimum of 10 games. Ages 7-12 will play 8 league games followed by a tournament. All coaches must complete a background check.

For more info and registration visit our website: http://www.fairfieldsports.net

I hope to see you in the Summer & Fall!

Rene Salas

FSA Soccer Commissioner

soccer@fairfieldsports.net (new email)

Fairfield Athletic Club News



Please visit our website at www.fairfieldathleticclub.com

If you just moved to the neighborhood be sure to come by the Fairfield Athletic Club anytime we are open to get your membership cards. Our hours are Mon -Thurs 5am-10pm, Fri 5am-8pm, Sat 7am-8pm and Sun 1pm-8pm. Bring proof of residency (HUD Statement from closing or your current driver's license with your Fairfield address). Membership cards are needed to get into the weight room, basketball gym, tennis courts, pools and splash pads.



Sports Section

Pool and Splash Pads

Splash Pads will open for the season on April 1st from 9:00am to 9:00pm

Garden Grove and Lakeside Trails Pools will open on April 15th from 8:00am to 8:00pm.

Pool Schedules will be available on the Fairfield Athletic Club website beginning April 1st.

Your weight room member cards are the same cards you use to access the pools. If you do not have your member cards, please visit us at the FAC anytime we are open. Bring proof of residency (Closing Disclosure Statement or your current driver's license with your Fairfield address).

Swimming Lessons

Swim Lesson registration will begin April 1st for group and private lessons at the FAC. Classes range from pre-beginner up to advanced levels. We also offer Water Baby classes starting as early as 6 months old. Don't delay, as class sizes are limited.

Fairfield Kids Club Summer Camp



Looking for the perfect Youth Summer Camp for your child?

Well you've found it! The FAC is exactly what every child needs. At our summer camp, each day is packed full of fun filled activities that allow your child to create arts and crafts, explore science and technology (STEM), fitness activities, sports, swimming, tennis, plus participate in a combination of on and off site field trips and other exciting adventures.

Registration has begun! Don't hesitate! Secure your child's spot and join the fun! This isn't something your child will want to miss!

For more information, please contact:
Darlene Sedelmyer
Director of Childcare
281-373-0834

"The FAC is the FUN place to be!"

FAC Tennis News

Come in and ask about our Off-Campus P.E. Tennis Program offered to new or existing Salyards Middle School students. Our tennis players are competing this season in Junior Team Tennis hoping to represent Houston in the JTT Sectionals, Good Luck Teams!

We are now offering Multi-Sports Camps this summer at the FAC. Kids will participate in various sports such as basketball, soccer and baseball. Check our website and click on the sports camps button to find get more info!

Get Fit 2017 FAC Fitness Class Schedule

Trainer: Karen Drozdowski

X-Fit & Body Sculpt: A cross between weight training, plyometrics, cardio and abdominal work. Great full body workouts in a different format every class so you don't ever get bored. Think of CrossFit without the real heavy weights. All fitness levels welcome. FAC Basketball Court. Free trial class.

Kickboxing: A great cardio workout doing shadow boxing, bodyweight exercises and oblique work using weighted gloves to challenge every muscle and strengthen your core. All fitness levels welcome. FAC Basketball Court. Free trial class.

PiYo classes! PiYo combines the muscle-sculpting, core-firming benefits of Pilates with the strength and flexibility advantages of yoga. And, we crank up the speed to deliver a true fat-burning, low-impact workout that leaves your body looking long, lean, and incredibly defined. Free trial class.

MON	8:00AM PiYo	9:00AM X-fit & Body Sculpt	10:00AM
TUES	X-fit & Body Sculpt	PiYo	X-fit & Body Sculpt
WED	PiYo	Kickboxing	
THURS	X-fit & Body Sculpt	PiYo	X-fit & Body Sculpt
FRI	PiYo	X-Fit & Body Sculpt	

Evening classes are held outside in the Ault Elementary Parking Lot.

Contact Karen Drozdowski 281-635-7084 or trainer.karen@aol.com for more info

Fairfield Athletic Club



The Fairfield Athletic Club in an effort to improve the health, education and well-being of the Fairfield community has reached out to Memorial Hermann to bring to you various events and activities including a professional speaker's series, sports medicine information,

education and similar programs.

Our first event was with Dr. Phillip Williams, M.D. who spoke on orthopedics and sports medicine. We would like to thank Dr. Phillip Williams, M.D. from UT Ortho for coming and giving us such valuable information and to all of those who attended. We would also like to thank Academy, Dr. Hennessey with Cypress Fairhaven Animal Hospital and Alex Montes, FAC Tennis Pro for donating our giveaways and to Jersey Mike's Subs and Snowflake Donuts for their food donations.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event with Memorial Hermann, so please keep an eye out. If you have a request on a particular topic, please notify the Fairfield Athletic Club.

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Job: Full Time Mom, Sales Rep at Dale Carnegie Training

About Me: I've always had a love for fitness, but that doesn't mean working out has always been easy! Join together with me to help you accomplish your goals and become knowledgeable about health, fitness and nutrition. I'm here to support, train and encourage you along the way. Whether it's weight training, cardio plans, bodyweight or trx training, Lets do it together! All fitness levels welcome!

April Pool Schedules

Lakeside Trails Pool

16125 Country Fair Lane

April 1st - April 14th

Closed

Starting April 15th:

Sunday-Monday

8am-8pm

Closed Wednesday, April 20th & Wednesday, April 27th

Garden Grove Pool

15420 Vintage Falls

April 1st - April 14th

Closed

Starting April 15th:

Sunday-Monday

8am-8pm

Closed Friday, April 21st and Friday, April 28th

(Continued on Page 29)



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(Continued from Page 28)

Lakeside Trails Pool and Garden Grove Pool

April 15th through May 25th these pools are Swim at Your Own Risk

If you have not signed a waiver to access the Swim at Your Own Risk pools, you may do so at the Fairfield Athletic Club. If you have any questions, please call 281.373.0834

North Park Splash Pad

16805 East Green Ripples Court

Central Park Splash Pad

15015 Heath Green Circle

April 1st - October 31st

Open 7 days a week 9am-9pm

May Pool Schedules

Lakeside Trails Pool

16125 Country Fair Lane

May 1st - May 31st

Sunday-Wednesday

8am-8pm

Thursdays

Closed

Friday-Saturday

8am-8pm

Garden Grove Pool

15420 Vintage Falls

May 1st - May 31st

Sunday-Thursday

8am-8pm

Fridays

Closed

Saturdays

8am-8pm

(Continued on Page 31)











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From FirstService Residential

Dear Homeowner,

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held on May 25, 2017 at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church gymnasium, located at 20155 Cypresswood Dr., Cypress, TX 77433 @ 7:00pm. The following neighborhoods will have positions available on the Board:

- * Fairfield Central, NA One Position Open
- * Fairfield Village South, NA Three Positions Open
- * Fairfield Inwood Park, NA Two Positions Open
- * Lakes of Fairfield, NA One Position Open
- * Trails of Fairfield Two Positions Open

The Boards are requesting owners that wish to run for the Board of Directors for their neighborhood, to submit a brief resume as to how you would best serve your Neighborhood Association. The resume needs to be received no later than April 14, 2017. Please send the resume to Jennifer Sailer at Jennifer.sailer@fsresidential.com or can be dropped off at the on-site office or the Fairfield Athletic Center. The Annual Meeting notice, resumes of candidates, and a directed proxy will be mailed out to each owner prior to the meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Sincerely,

Fairfield Village Community Association

CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Harris County Precinct 4
Fairfield Village Community Association

Burglary Habitation: 0
Burglary Vehicle: 8
Theft Habitation: 0
Theft Vehicle:: 2
Theft Other: 26
Robbery: 0
Assault: 1
Sexual Assault: 0
Criminal Mischief: 4
Disturbance Family: 5
Disturbance Juvenile: 7
Disturbance Other: 17
Alarms: 72

Suspicious Vehicles: 33 Suspicious Persons: 19

Runaways: 2

Phone Harassment: 0 Other Calls: 166



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\$\$	X-Ray	\$\$\$\$



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(Continued from Page 29)

Fairfield Athletic Club

16055 Mason Road

May 1st - May 25th

Monday-Friday: Closed Saturdays: 12pm-6pm

Sundays: 1pm-6pm

May 26th,30th, and 31st: 12pm-9pm May 27th and 29th: 12pm-6pm May 28th: 1pm-6pm

Bradford Creek Pool

16011 Fairfield Green Circle

May 1st - May 25th

Monday-Friday: Closed Saturdays: 12pm-6pm Sundays: 1pm-6pm

May 26th, 30th, and 31st: 10am-8pm May 27th and 29th: 12pm-6pm May 28th: 1pm-6pm

Inwood Park Pool

15430 Chestnut Falls

May 1st - May 25th

Monday-Friday: Closed Saturdays: 12pm-6pm Sundays: 1pm-6pm

May 26th and 31st: 11am-8pm May 27th and 29th: 12pm-6pm **May 28th:** *1pm-6pm* May 30th: Closed

Central Park Pool

15015 Health Green Circle

May 1st - May 25th

Monday-Friday: Closed Saturdays: 12pm-6pm Sundays: 1pm-6pm

May 13th and 20th: 3:30pm-6pm* May 26th, 30th, and 31st: 11am-8pm May 27th and 29th: 12pm-6pm May 28th: 1pm-6pm *Swim Meet before 3:30pm



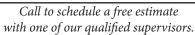
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School News

Cool Science

by Stephanie Nieswiadomy Bailey 6th Grade Science

The 6th grade science students at Salyards Middle School have been studying force and motion. Students were challenged to design a rocket racer powered by elastic energy, a balloon! The innovative cars came in many shapes and sizes.

One imaginative student created a taco truck rocket racer, and another replica turned into a softball field. Some cars went over 10 meters. Energy and excitement filled the classes on race day.

The top car in each class raced each other on Wednesday, March 1. The car that went the longest distance was from Mr. Aaron's 3rd-period class. Hannah Pencarinha's winning car traveled over 22 meters! The secret to her win was the perfectly aligned wheels made with CDs. The 6th graders at Salyards are amazing!

Dreams Work When You Do!by Ellen Cummings

The Swenke Fit Girls program continues to forge ahead this year with over 70 fourth and fifth-graders participating. We spend two days a week building ourselves up as strong, independent young ladies with strength and determination. Throughout the program, our girls participate in a book study, raise awareness within the community, and some even opt to run a 5K race together at the end of our session.

This February, our girls ran the Superintendent's Fun Run at and around the Berry Center. Ellen Cummings is a Swenke Elementary 5th-grade teacher who facilitates the program along with the support from other staff members.

Ready to Grow Gardens

Ault Elementary 3rd-graders harvested plenty of spinach from the school garden in March. There was enough for Cypress Fairbanks ISD Food Services Department to show up and help students use it to make smoothies! Yes, it took a little work; they had to crank up their concoction with the smoothie bike. If you haven't seen it, it is an innovative machine that mixes vegetables and berries to create heavenly smoothies.

Every Ault Elementary 3rd-grader got to sample the delicious blend. Their next garden adventure will be harvesting sweet carrots and mega cabbage, as well as planting tomatoes and cucumbers.

Swenke Elementary has four exciting additions to their learning garden this spring. In March, they built a fence to define the evergrowing outdoor classroom area. A rain barrel collection system was installed near the teaching pavilion used to supplement irrigation to the garden, and a digital weather station for students to monitor and record weather data is in the works.

(Continued on Page 34)



CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

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PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 75 gal Aquarium with 32" tall stand. Aquarium is setup and running complete with fish, pumps, gravel, etc. 48"x18"x21" tall. Pics available. \$175 obo. Call William 281-615-7770.

FOR SALE: 4 Rattan patio/porch chairs, \$75.00. 1 Lazy Susan Early American coffee table, \$60.00. 2 Cranberry high back chairs, \$40.00. 281-304-4977

FOR SALE: 2010 Yamaha VX110 Cruiser PWC Jetski. 55 Engine Hrs. Very good condition. Includes wakeboard rack, GPS, chart plotter, and fish finder. \$5200. Email eric1565@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Beautiful black, red, & gold wool rug 9.6x12. Consolidating two homes and need to sell my favorite rug. Quality shown in richness of color and depth of pile. Like new; absolutely no spots, rips or tears. Orginally \$22k, asking \$500. Located in Lake Point. Questions or pictures please call or text 512-581-2759.

FOR SALE: Small dog crate, light blue color, for dogs 12-25lbs. Bought at Petsmart in Sept. 2016. \$25. AND Royal 1212x, 12 sheet crosscut shredder. Only used twice. \$35. Can email photos. Contact Amy @ 832-295-9130.

FOR SALE: Taylor Made r7 driver 460 10.5 degrees. Fujikura Stiff Shaft. \$45. Very good condition. Also have assortment of other individual golf clubs, sets, and bags. Please call or email me at einberg1110@att.net or 281-758-5928.

FOR SALE: 4x6 utility trailer, 12in wheels, has added front wheel jack, and new license tag. Title provided at sale. \$100. Call John 281-373-0207.





In Every Issue

(Continued from Page 32)

Swenke's final garden update will be a large white board near the pavilion for recording and sharing observations and discovery between classes throughout the day.

Ready to Grow Gardens (RTGG) is an outside educational company, independent of CyFair ISD and located in Tomball, Texas. RTGG has over fifteen years of experience working with schools in and around the Houston area, designing and installing innovative outdoor classroom gardens as well as teaching students their unique Garden Day curriculum to students from two years old through 5th grade. Each of their partner schools have from one to ten organic vegetable gardens and extensive habitat/pollinator gardens. Swenke, Ault and Keith all have very large outdoor classroom areas which include wildflowers, fruit trees, rose gardens, and dedicated teaching pavilions.

Back in 2002, RTGG took on its first garden with Sheridan Elementary as a prototype. In the 2016-2017 school year, the program has grown to nineteen partner schools, thirteen of which are in CFISD.

A professional garden educator from RTGG teaches the lessons, leads students in planting and harvesting, and oversees the

management of the school garden. Classroom teachers are involved in the project as a support which provides important connections that are integrated into classroom objectives.

Each lesson offers a garden-based science lesson with the nutritional component being a major factor as students plant seeds, grow fruits and vegetables, and then eat what they've harvested. Science objectives unique to each grade level are the larger academic lesson

Throughout the CFISD district, there are over 6,000 students across all grade levels who will participate in the Garden Day program at some point during the 2016-2017 school year. All of these students are receiving the CyFair Garden Fresh News each month which highlights the harvest of the month, offers gardening tips, a recipe and nutritional information.

Swenke, students from all grade levels participate in the Garden Day program stretched every other week throughout the school year. However, Swenkes primary Garden Day focus is for 2nd graders. At Keith elementary, all grade levels participate through the year, but the primary focus is 3rd grade. And, Aults Garden Day program is a 3rd-grade project only.



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21002 Twisted Leaf Dr., 5/3.5/3, 4273 SqFt, \$419,900



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20207 Timberline Trail 5/3.5/4, 4333 SqFt, \$450,000



20306 Everwood Green Lane 4/3.5/4, 3933 SqFt, \$435,000



20806 Orange Poppy Dr., 4/3.5/2, 3443 SqFt, \$300,000



15008 Chestnut Falls Dr 4/2/2, 2125 SqFt, \$229,900

Dawn Fore's **Fairfield Market Report**

DAWN FORE

Broker Associate

Neighborhood	4 th Quarter Results		
	Sold	\$ per SqFt	DOM
Autumn Park	1	\$93.82	47
Baker's Ridge	7	\$96.44	50
Bluebonnet Glen	-	_	_
Blue Meadow	1	\$98.87	18
Chappell Ridge	2	\$90.40	125
Cottage Glen	2	\$101.09	21
Estates	4	\$101.43	58
Garden Grove	2	\$87.36	38
Glen	-	_	_
Inwood Glen	2	\$96.55	32
Inwood Park	10	\$90.93	30
Lake Crest (Patio Homes)	2	\$110.33	7
Lakes/Lake Point	6	\$95.32	77
Crossing/Landing/Reserve	4	\$96.31	81
Meadows/Park/Retreat	4	\$90.91	35
Oaks/Trails	4	\$101.41	15
Pines	1	\$91.06	210
Silver Crest	1	\$118.21	135
Summer Crossing/Ridge	11	\$96.90	44
Summer Gate	1	\$110.16	3
Travis Point	3	\$104.94	63
Tuscan/Villa Sul Lago	1	\$114.83	5

These numbers for resale homes were obtained from the Houston Multiple Listing Service. While we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of this information, we cannot guarantee it. This is not a solicitation of currently listed properties