

# The FAIR OAKS Gazette

June 2017

Volume 7 Issue 6

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH



## From the Mayor's Desk

### HOME RULE PASSES WITH OVERWHELMING SUPPORT!

Thanks to all of our citizens who voted on the Home Rule Charter proposal. Almost 1,000 of you went to the polls to vote in this important election. Of 987 votes cast, there were 906 cast in favor of the charter and 81 cast in opposition.

The long time staffers at the city tell me this voter turnout is almost double the number of voters we used to turn out for council elections. This is a good sign that our citizens are engaging in the political process and our voter turnout was substantially better than surrounding areas. I want to express my personal appreciation for the engagement of the citizens and for the fine job done by the members of the Home Rule Charter Commission.

#### Follow Up Actions on Home Rule Charter

The City Council canvassed the votes on May 15th to formally accept the results of the election. At our council meeting on May 18th we formally adopted the Home Rule Charter by resolution and order. We have filed an affidavit with the Secretary of State to formally advise that we are moving from a General Law Charter to a Home Rule Charter.

#### New Mayor Pro-Tem Elected

As prescribed by our new charter, the council elected Councilwoman MaryAnne Havard as the new Mayor Pro-Tem, filling the position previously held by Al Schmidt. MaryAnne is the most senior member of council and will serve the council diligently and well.

#### Sixth Council Member to Be Named

As required by our new charter, the council made plans to appoint a sixth council member position. The appointment will be for one year, with the sixth position to be an open seat in 2018 designated to stand election for a two year term. This scheduling is in accordance with the transition plan established in the new charter which provides for staggered 3 year terms and a governing body composed of a

mayor and six council members. The new charter also provides for the mayor to vote on all issues instead of just voting to break ties as we had under the General Law charter.

By the time this article is published we will likely have completed the appointment of the sixth council position. The council agreed to solicit resumes and interview all those offering up their names for consideration.

#### Stakeholder Involvement

The Stakeholder group for the foundational engineering and consulting projects has had additional meetings with Gap Strategies to validate a first level view of how we want the city to look in the future. The primary findings of the survey were maintaining our quality of life, keeping open spaces, parks and trails vibrant, and keeping taxes to a reasonable level. We ended up having more than 750 citizens respond to the survey to help define this view. Our consultants tell us this is an exceptionally good response for a city our size.

**Our next major community event on these foundational studies will be the second Town Hall meeting which will be held Tuesday, June 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Cibolo Creek Community Church on Ralph Fair Road.** Please attend this session. It is very important to have as many citizens as possible participate so that we can get a clear view of community desires for the future of our city.

#### Foundational Studies Work

Our consultants and engineers are continuing their work with the Stakeholder group and other residents.

- May 15th: Gap Strategies, the primary contractor for developing our Comprehensive Plan and updated Subdivision Regulations, met with Stakeholders to update on their work.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# 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](mailto:fairoaksranch@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

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

- June 13thth: We will conduct a second Town Hall Meeting with Gap Strategies from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. This will be a continuation of telling the story of what we have learned from feedback and continuing to gather input from citizens. Our city blew away all the consultants' expectations for engagement in the first Town Hall. Let's continue that record in this one. Remember, we are building this vision of the future with you, not for you.
- Late June: We will conduct another Stakeholder meeting to consider population projections, policy questions on land use, sample transportation plan, and road profiles. We will also discuss how the Comprehensive Plan could affect city budget priorities.

### Road and Bridge Construction and Water/Wastewater Improvements

- Following a bit of a rain delay, the contractor has completed reclamation work on Meadow Creek Trail, Sky Blue, Sunland, and Wembley. As I mentioned last month, on sections where we are doing Full Depth Reclamation, we used cement in the slurry mix to produce sufficient compressive road strength. This is a fairly tedious process where we will be asking residents to stay off the street as much as possible for 24 hours and avoid deliveries by heavy trucks for 72 hours to allow the road to "cure".

Dedie and I drove Meadow Creek Trail a couple of days ago after everything but the road "topping" had been put in place. I was very impressed with the quality of the new road sub-surface.

- Some drainage improvements in the 31100 block of Meadow Creek Trail are currently being completed. New culverts and some grading adjustments should minimize water topping the new road surface being built under the bond program.
- As of this writing, the asphalt topping of Meadow Creek Trail, Sky Blue, Sunland, and Wembley is largely complete. There will be some additional work to finish the sides of the road but the driving surface is pretty much in place.
- Harper Brothers has completed installing the new water line on Silver Spur and is continuing down Intrepid Drive. The line replaces a line that had experienced multiple failures through the years.
- Many of you have probably noticed construction work starting just off the Parkway. We have some full depth reclamation going on several streets as well as some water line work. You will also notice new headwall concrete construction taking place on several culverts along Fair Oaks Parkway.
- The next really visible work that will happen on the Parkway is beginning to replace water line between IH-10 and Triple Crown. We are making the effort to preserve as many trees as possible, but there will be some areas where trees will have to be removed. We are making extraordinary efforts to preserve the really large heritage oaks that we all enjoy seeing. This is going to be very "tricky" work because there are existing

(Continued on Page 4)

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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

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

utility facilities like fiber optic cable that we have to locate and protect.

- City staff is continuing work on fire hydrant inspections using a new computer application that was set up with the help of our GIS department. With the new application, crews can update maintenance records from the field via SmartPhones. We are beginning to utilize more computerized tools in planning and recording our work.
- TxDOT is continuing work on the new bridge at I10. Please be careful as you go through this very busy construction zone. Mike Coward, Area Engineer for TxDOT, reported at a governmental round table discussion in Boerne that this project is progressing well on the planned schedule. Information on this construction project can be found at <http://txdotsanantonio.blogspot.com/>.
- Information on our road reconstruction project can be found at:
  1. The project website [FairOaksRanchRoads.org](http://FairOaksRanchRoads.org)
  2. The city website [FairOaksRanchTX.org](http://FairOaksRanchTX.org)
  3. The Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association website [FORHA.org](http://FORHA.org)
- As always, we appreciate everyone's patience and caution in driving through the construction zones to keep our employees and our contractor's employees safe.

## **Budget Work**

Our second budget workshop will be held on June 1st following our regular city council meeting. We will continue to solicit staff input on needs for the upcoming budget year.

Resident Volunteers at Work

Here are some updates on the work being done by a combination of city staffers and volunteers:

- **Facebook page is growing!** We currently have 250 people following our Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user you can find us at City of Fair Oaks Ranch, TX. Our page is for sharing information about the city, but it is not a public forum. The page is monitored and objectionable or off topic material will be removed.
- The work on our new website is ongoing and will take several months to complete. We are in the design phase with Civic Plus, the service provider. The design phase is where we decide on the look and feel of the home page. We are awaiting a final design presentation from Civic Plus.
- We are starting the planning for our 30th anniversary celebration in 2018. If you have interest in volunteering to help with that celebration, please contact Kim Stahr at the city.

## **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Building Completed**

We held a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 18th for the new Public Safety and Municipal Court Building. We had great attendance with our current and past council members, former mayor Cheryl Landman, and elected officials from Boerne and Kendall County present. We also had excellent law enforcement

official attendance from Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department, Boerne Police Department, Kendall County Sheriff, and Bexar County Sheriff's office. Special attendee Roy Thomas, who was our first police chief and our first city administrator, was also at the ceremony. Representatives from the contractor and architect firms were present as well as Ralph Wiesepape, former city employee, who served as the contracted manager for the project.

## **Honoring Mayor Pro-Tem Al Schmidt**

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, we held a reception at City Hall to honor Mayor Pro-Tem Al Schmidt who is retiring from City Council. We recognized not only Al's eight years of service on the council, but also many years of service to both the city and other local civic organizations. Al received a special metal sculpture which was crafted by Mike Davis, one of our very talented city employees. The sculpture was our city's emblem with Al's name and years of service cut into it. The sculpture was crafted from scrap metal contributed by the Leon Springs Volunteer Fire Department, which Al has served for many years as our council liaison. We wish Al well and expect him to still engage in volunteer capacities in the future.

## **Swearing In Ceremony**

At the council meeting on May 18th, I had the pleasure of swearing in Councilman Steve Hartpence for a second term of office, Councilwoman Snehal Patel, who ran unopposed for her first full term of office, and Councilwoman Laura Koerner, who was elected for her first term in office to fill Al Schmidt's place. It is a pleasure to witness the peaceful transfer of responsibilities at our local level. We truly got to celebrate watching the democratic process in action.

## **Recognizing Ms. Crosby's Second Grade Class**

Since I last wrote to you, I had one of the most enjoyable events of my term as mayor. Ms. Ursula Crosby's second grade class at Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary School wrote letters to me to express their recommendations for things we should be doing in Fair Oaks Ranch. All of their letters to the mayor came with illustrative drawings. I visited these students in their classroom and discussed each idea that was presented with them. Many of the ideas they presented reflect what we are hearing in our Town Hall sessions as we are updating the city's comprehensive plan. If you want to get your batteries recharged, just visit with these young people and see the incredible talent we have coming up in the next generation!

I must confess that the volume of activities and the level of change we have happening on The Ranch is like drinking through the proverbial fire hose! It is uplifting, however, to see the engagement of our citizens and the many volunteers who are making a difference for us. It is very encouraging to see the torch of leadership being passed from people like Al Schmidt to the new generation of leadership. It is also encouraging that the leaders like Al still continue to offer their support and counsel as they move past the very active roles they have played for years.

My very best to you and your families,  
Garry Manitzas  
Mayor – Fair Oaks Ranch

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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## Abandoned Wells Pose Pollution Problems to Aquifers



Groundwater coming from Texas' nine major or 21 minor aquifers have helped sustain growth of the state for a few hundred years. In the San Antonio area, the Edwards Aquifer and Trinity Aquifer continue to be the primary sources of water for this

growing metropolitan area made up of more than two million people. Over time, there have been thousands of wells drilled into these aquifers, and many are still in use. But, what about those wells not being used, those wells that have been abandoned for years?

"Abandoned wells are not only potential avenues for groundwater contamination, but they can also constitute a safety hazard for children and animals," said Roger Andrade, groundwater protection manager for the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA). "That is why plugging those wells is required by the State of Texas. We understand that it takes time and money to plug a well, but abandoned wells pose potential pollution problems to our area's drinking water supplies that cannot be ignored."

Andrade noted that the EAA projects that there are approximately 300 abandoned wells in the eight counties they oversee, with about 90 of those being on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone, which affects the Trinity Aquifer as well. The EAA is currently focused on identifying wells in Hays and Comal Counties and will be turning to Bexar County in 2018.

"While we're doing a thorough analysis of abandoned wells in each of our counties, we will always quickly respond to any report we get of an abandoned well anywhere in the Edwards Region," Andrade explained. "We work with lots of other agencies who are out in the field and often learn about these abandoned wells in doing their own work. From there, we will try and discover who owns the well, determine what condition it is in and then begin coordination with the state on enforcing the rules for plugging that well. Ultimately, it is the landowner's responsibility to plug the well."

The Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District has always worked closely with the Edwards Aquifer Authority, SAWS and Texas' regulatory agencies to ensure abandoned wells are plugged through collaborative efforts and according to current regulations.

"The topic of abandoned wells and a sharp focus on getting these conduits to our drinking water taken care of is a priority for all concerned," said Trinity Glen Rose General Manager George Wissmann. "There are various ways that agencies can assist a landowner in the well-plugging process, so we would encourage anyone who suspects having an old well on their property to contact us. The well-being of our drinking water supplies is counting on everyone working together to address these issues."

## Try These Plants for Adding Summer Color to Your Yard

*By Calvin Finch*



While the harsh summer heat has not quite hit South Texas yet, we all know that it is coming. That hot and dry weather can pose a serious challenge to gardeners and plants, but there are some perennials that thrive in the sun and heat. These following varieties are all drought tolerant and prosper in our soils or containers.

Esperanza, Tecoma Stans, (often called yellow bells) is the head of a list of excellent shrubs that produce showy blooms in the Texas summer sun. Pride of Barbados (*Caesalpinia Pulcherrima*) has vibrant dark orange and yellow blooms. Firebush, *Hemalia patens*, grows to 6 or 7 feet tall when planted in the soil but it only grows to 3 feet tall with a very attractive globe shape if planted in a 16 inch container. *Duranta* is also called Brazilian

Sky flower for its blue/purple blooms. It makes a smaller shrub with bigger flower clusters. *Thryallis*, *Galphimia Glauca*, is a yellow flowered shrub where the small yellow blooms decorate the stems in branched clusters all summer. *Bougainvillea*, is one of the best container plants for summer color in this region. It thrives on full sun and heat. There are many colors of bougainvillea including pink, red, off-white, and lavender. The double petaled versions have attractive flowers but the spent petals don't fall off like they do on the single petaled varieties.

Read more about each plant at our new Landscape Page at: [www.TrinityGlenRose.com/landscape](http://www.TrinityGlenRose.com/landscape).

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## 3-Meat Pizza Ring



**Preparation:** 20 minutes **Cook Time:** 20 minutes **Serves:** 8

### Ingredients

- 1 lb. Italian Sausage
- 1 (15 oz.) can pizza sauce, divided
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 1/2 c. shredded pizza cheese
- 1/2 c. diced Canadian bacon
- 1/2 c. chopped pepperoni
- 2 (8 oz.) tubes refrigerated crescent rolls

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. In a large skillet over medium heat cook sausage and garlic until no longer pink. Drain grease off. Stir in 1/2 c. pizza sauce, pepperoni, Canadian bacon and 1 c. pizza cheese.
3. Unroll crescent dough and separate into triangles. Arrange triangles on a 14 inch ungreased pizza pan with points toward the outside and wide ends overlapping at the center, leaving a 4 inch opening in the center. Press overlapping dough to seal.
4. Spoon the mixture onto the wide ends of the triangles. Fold pointed ends of triangles over filling, tucking points under to form a ring. The filling will be visible.
5. Baked for 12-15 minutes or until the crescents are golden brown. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Serve with remaining pizza sauce.

## Keep Your Pet Anxiety Free This July 4th

*By Dr. Stacy Mozisek, Firehouse Animal Health Center*

The 4th of July is a day to celebrate with barbecues, baseball games and, of course, fireworks. It's also one of the busiest days of the year for veterinarians and animal shelters because of fireworks.

Loud noises can trigger dogs' nervous systems causing a flight response, which is why lots of dogs run away on the 4th of July. Also, because dogs have sensitive hearing, loud bangs and pops can cause stress and anxiety attacks, which can lead to destructive actions in otherwise well-behaved dogs.

To help alleviate the stress of fireworks on dogs, here are eight tips to keep your pets safe while celebrating Independence Day.

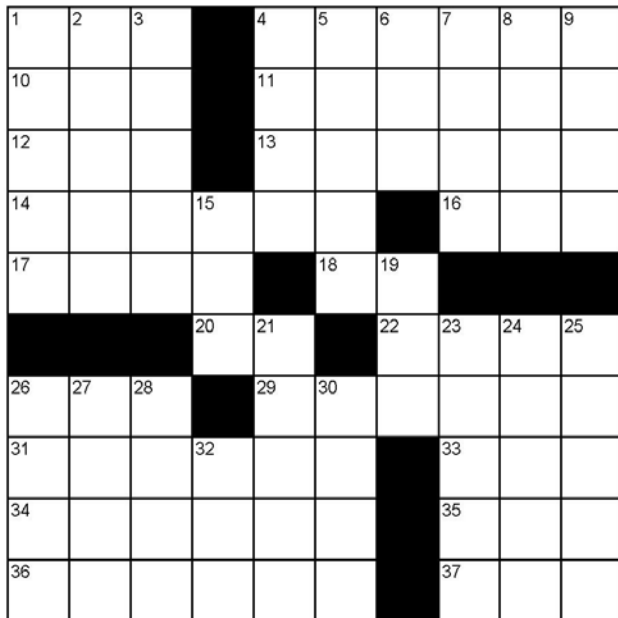
- Prepare ahead of time. If you think your pet will have an issue, don't wait until the last minute to call your vet to discuss anxiety medications or sedatives. Starting a new medication on the same day as an event is never a safe idea because occasionally, some medications can cause the reverse effect or have no effect at all for some animals. In addition, stocks of these specialized medications can run low or be on backorder around holidays.
- Do not keep your dog outside, and if possible, keep your dog in a kennel. It creates a safe space for them as dogs have been known to jump through windows and glass doors as a response to fireworks.
- Consider boarding your pet if you will be out at a party. Sometimes being at home alone with the loud noises can turn a well-behaved dog into a destructive one or cause long-term behavioral issues.
- Turn on a white noise machine or the television to drown out the sound of fireworks and noisemakers.
- Purchase a ThunderShirt, which are designed to "swaddle" your dog, making them feel more secure.
- If you're having a party, make sure your pet is well-secured, not afraid of the fireworks, and comfortable with the sounds of crowds. If your pet suffers from anxiety due to loud noises, consider boarding or ask a friend to pet sit.
- If pets are present while you're setting off fireworks, make sure they stay a safe distance away. Dogs' and cats' hearing is extremely sensitive and can be damaged by the loud bangs. Also, dogs have been known to "fetch" lit fireworks which can cause serious burns and even death.
- Make sure your pet's microchip or collar tags are up-to-date so it's easy to track you down if he or she runs away scared during a fireworks display.

Fireworks don't have to be a source of anxiety for pet owners. By following these simple tips, you can ensure that both you and your fur-babies will experience a fun and relaxing 4th of July celebration.

For more information about Firehouse Animal Health Center, please visit [www.firehouseaustin.com](http://www.firehouseaustin.com) or call 512.765.9009.

# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Small amount
4. Metal bracket that holds stones together
10. Terminal abbr.
11. Timid
12. Mama
13. City in W. Oregon
14. Straighten
16. Spots
17. Stable gear
18. Gold (abbr.)
20. Mr. \_\_\_ (tv horse)
22. Canned meat brand
26. Oolong
29. Come out
31. Italian sausage
33. Wing
34. Busyness
35. Still
36. Parallelograms
37. Pigpen

### DOWN

1. Object
2. Repent
3. Deer
4. Prayer ending
5. Orange cheese
6. Floor covering
7. At sea
8. Defend
9. Potato sprouts
15. Compass point
19. Employ
21. Demobilize
23. Petitions to God
24. Metal tip on the end of a lance
25. Substantive
26. Despot
27. Every
28. Singing voice
30. Brief
32. Point

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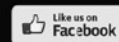
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## Water Conservation

### Tips of the Month:

1. Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.
2. Setting cooling systems and water softeners for a minimum number of refills saves both water and chemicals, plus more on utility bills.

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