

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

September 2018

Volume 8 Issue 9



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK... SEPTEMBER 2018

TxDOT Construction at IH10 and Fair Oaks Parkway

We have received a number of calls about the construction work going on at IH10 and the Parkway. Many of the calls have to do with problems of motorists going toward San Antonio on the access road on the Fair Oaks Ranch side of IH10 trying to take a left turn onto the Parkway and hitting the island curb.

The short answer to most of the questions is that the construction is not complete yet and the lane configuration in place is temporary at this point. The design configuration calls for the access road from Fair Oaks Parkway to Scenic Loop to be a one way road going toward Boerne on the Fair Oaks Ranch side as TxDOT begins working the next piece of construction on IH10. The island in the center of the Parkway at the intersection is not designed to support left hand turns onto the Parkway because in the future you will not be able to take a left hand turn onto the Parkway from that access road.

Additionally, the right hand turn onto the Parkway by Frost Bank was not fully opened yet the last time I went through there. By the time you read this publication, it may be fully opened. Let's give the TxDOT folks time to finish their project before we start complaining.

Budgeting and Taxing

I wrote a lengthy article about this last month. Rather than reproduce the lengthiest part of last month's *Gazette*, I am planning to reproduce that part on our website so residents can see the explanation.

On August 13th we held two Town Hall meetings about the budget: one at 9:30 a.m. and the other at 6:30 p.m. We had good discussions of the proposed budget at these meetings and received favorable comments on the thoroughness of the presentation both at the meeting and, subsequently, on some social media posts.

One of the real "eye openers" for most attendees was a chart demonstrating the differences between how we fund our budget vs. most Texas cities. We have chosen to be a "bedroom community" with

little commercial activity. This results in 69% of our total General Fund revenue coming from property taxes vs. a more typical 37% in an average Texas city. Boerne, by way of comparison, generates a little less than 30% of their total revenue from property taxes with almost 31% of their revenue coming from sales tax.

I encourage those of you who did not attend these meetings to go to our city's website to see the presentation. I appreciate the work done by all of our staff in putting together the budget information and especially the work done by our City Manager and Finance Department in creating this very informative presentation.

At the August 16th regular Council meeting at 6:30 p.m., Council took the first legally required step in adopting a budget and tax rate. We proposed, by record vote (council members called on to vote individually by the City Secretary), a tax rate of \$.36678 per \$100 of assessed value and set September 6th at 9:30 a.m. and September 13th at 6:30 p.m. as dates for the proposed budget and tax rate public hearings and September 20th at 6:30 p.m. as the adoption date for the budget and tax rate.

Summarizing this action, there will be three legally required meetings regarding the 2018-19 budget:

- A public hearing on the budget and tax rate on September 6th at 9:30 a.m.,
- A 2nd public hearing on the budget and tax rate and the first reading of a Budget Ordinance on September 13th at 6:30 p.m. and
- A 2nd reading of a Budget Ordinance on September 20th at 6:30 p.m. As the name implies, the public hearings are designed to receive formal public commentary.

The proposed tax rate is an increase of \$.0373 per \$100. For the average Fair Oaks Ranch home valued at \$484,049, this translates to an increase of \$181 for the year or \$15 monthly. The budget presentation on our website presents detailed information on the strategic initiatives

(Continued on Page 3)

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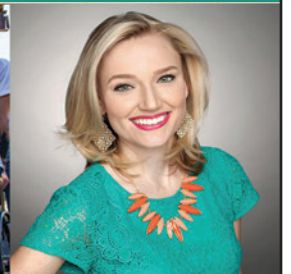
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(Continued from Cover)

we are funding with this proposed increase.

Foundational Studies Work and Stakeholder Involvements – Comprehensive Plan and Zoning

Since I last reported to you on this topic, Council met on June 21st at a Regular Council Meeting and approved the 2nd reading of an Ordinance adopting the Comprehensive Plan update, original zoning districts (boundaries), and zoning regulations for each district.

The adopted ordinance was filed with the City Secretary and we have posted future land use maps and zoning maps in City Hall and on the City's website. We have also done the required posting in The Boerne Star.

Solicitation Questions

We have had a few more solicitors in the community than usual lately and that has generated some calls. Solicitors are required to be permitted by the city. Our ordinance allows you to post a "No Soliciting" sign and requires the solicitor to honor it. If they knock on your door, it is acceptable to ask to see their permit and some form of identification. If you do not wish to have a discussion with them, you can tell them that and ask them to leave. If they do not comply, please call the non-emergency number for the police department (830) 816-3194 or (830) 249-8645 and ask for assistance.

Since we are heading into the November mid-terms, here are a few comments on political campaigning. Political campaigners are excluded from the definition of "solicitor" in our current solicitation ordinance unless they are seeking donations or selling goods to raise money. Candidates and their campaign supporters are not required to register or get a solicitor's permit to do their campaigning. As an experienced campaigner, I will tell you that a simple "I'm not interested" is usually enough to end the conversation if you do not want to hear their pitch. Candidates don't make points by antagonizing voters.

30th Anniversary Celebration

Our city is 30 years old this year. Please mark your calendars for September 29th, for a huge family event at Fair Oaks Ranch Country Club to celebrate this occasion. We are planning a fun run, parade, food services, vendor booths, special play for kids, musical entertainment, and possibly a fireworks show. Additional information regarding this event can be accessed on the city's webpage.

K-9 Officer Buddy already earning his keep

Officer Buddy has already been instrumental in completing some drug busts. We are delighted that this new addition to our police force is already increasing our effectiveness.

(Continued on Page 4)

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Ambulance	911
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Animal Control.....	210-698-0990

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Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary	210-698-1616

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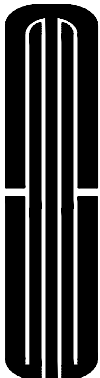
Allied Waste Services - Garbage & Recycling.....	210-648-5222
AT&T - Telephone.....	800-464-7928
CPSEnergy.....	(new service) 210-353-2222
.....	(service trouble or repairs) 210-353-4357
Fair Oaks Ranch Utilities - Water	210-698-7685
GVTC - Cable & Telephone	800-367-4882
Pedernales Electric Co-op.....	888-554-4732
Time Warner - Cable.....	210-244-0500

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

(Continued from Page 3)

Celebrating Chief Scott Rubin's 20 years of service

At our August 16th council meeting, we recognized Police Chief Scott Rubin for 20 years of service as the Chief of Police

to our city. His officers planned both a special plaque and an informal recognition of some of his more entertaining accomplishments. Scott took it all in good humor. We celebrate and appreciate the many contributions Chief Rubin has made to our city.

Welcoming Debbie Landrum – Municipal Court Administrator

It was also our pleasure to swear in Debbie Landrum as our new Municipal Court Administrator at the July 19th council meeting. Debbie comes to us with decades of experience in this career path. Debbie was also a very good sport in dealing with all the attention Buddy got since she was sworn in second! Welcome to The Ranch, Debbie.

National Night Out

National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, October 2nd. I look forward to riding with our police department and visiting you in your neighborhoods. This is a great way to make connections with the neighbors and is a lot of fun too.

Special Life Saving Recognition

At our August 16th Council meeting we recognized Officers Riley Gobeil and Allen Paz and residents Ms. Taylor Baliff, Mrs. Laura Davis, Dr. Rachel Gravel, and Mrs. Melissa Srp for their lifesaving efforts at

the Country Club tennis courts on July 26th. We applaud the efforts of our police officers and the EMT technicians who are always subject to stepping up in times of crisis. The efforts of the residents involved in this reflected favorably on them and on the planning of organizations associated with them. The BISD CPR training prepared a high schooler to help and the Club's staff training and having defibrillator equipment available were instrumental in saving a life which we understand would likely have been lost without their rapid response.

Property Tax Servicing

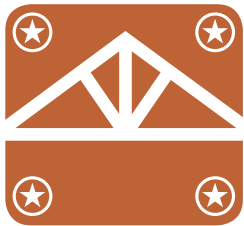
As a quick reminder, the City Council approved signing an Interlocal Services Agreement for Tax Assessment and Collection Services with Bexar County. By the time you read this we will have had some Town Halls with Mr. Albert Uresti and his staff from the Bexar County Tax Office. This tax office has more tools available for the taxpayers including multiple payment plans. Our residents who reside in Bexar County will now receive only one tax bill. Residents in Kendall County, like Dedie and me, will get two tax bills where we had previously been getting one. Comal County residents will get one bill from Comal County and one from Bexar County Tax Office.

Resident Volunteers/City Staffers at Work

Following are some updates on the work being done by volunteers and city staffers:

- Our city Facebook page is continuing to attract readers. We

(Continued on Page 10)



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NOTES FROM THE WEC:

The City created a Wildlife Education Committee (WEC) in April 2016, composed of volunteer citizens from the community, to increase awareness and understanding of not only the deer, but all wildlife in our community. Through education, observation and appropriate actions, the committee's goal is to enhance our ability to enjoy and coexist with the wildlife that makes our city special. The WEC's next big event is the City's 30th Anniversary Celebration on September 29. We will have educational activities for children provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife, a display of photographs submitted for the photo contest and informational resources. WEC members will be on hand throughout the day to answer your questions. We will also plan to host an educational event at FOR Elementary school in October to launch a new "hands on" nature room for the students.

Some of the initiatives the committee has undertaken include:

★ Events:

- ◆ Pig Out on the Ranch (Feral Hog Educational Event);
- ◆ Presentation on the City Monarch Butterfly Gardens;
- ◆ Presentation by Ortiz Game Management on Feral Hogs;
- ◆ Texas Parks and Wildlife presentations on – Deer Fawning, Antlers and Rut and Plant Life best suited for our Wildlife.

★ **Feral Hogs:** Monitoring and trapping of feral hogs for a period, leading to a reduction in the hog population by 90% (based on trapping rates) in a currently undeveloped area of the city.

★ Education:

- ◆ Coordination with Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary wildlife education efforts, including an annual donation to student programs
- ◆ Presentations at Homeowners' Association Meetings

★ Resources:

- ◆ Establishment of a link on the City website to provide an on-line library of wildlife information, including a full summary of all prior deer surveys conducted by the city for over 15 years.
- ◆ News articles in Local Publications
- ◆ Development of informational brochures for new residents

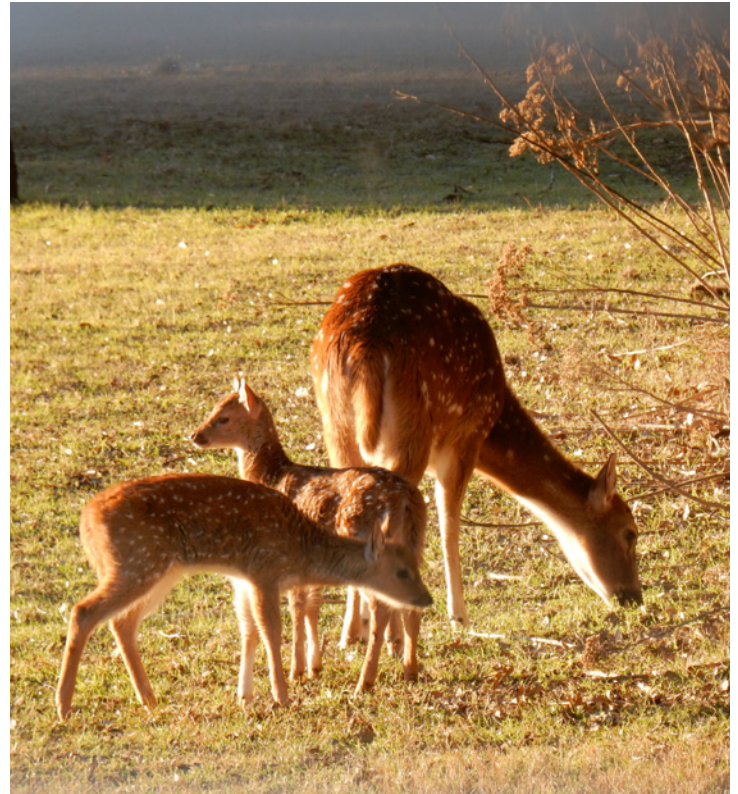
★ **Signage** to increase citizen awareness during RUT and Fawning season

In future quarterly issues of this newsletter, we will bring you educational information based on wildlife sightings in the city that we hear about or see in social media, stories of encounters with wildlife by our citizens, notification of any upcoming WEC educational events and events from outside the city that may be of interest to our community.

If you have a question for the committee or if you have had an encounter with Wildlife in our City that you think would be of interest, please email the details and a picture if you have it to wec@fairoaksranchtx.org.

If you would like information on the history of deer surveys, tips for living with wildlife and links to resources, please visit this link on the city website: <http://www.fairoaksranchtx.org/160/Wildlife-Education>

If you find an injured animal that does not appear to be able to move on its own, call Animal Control at (830) 816-3194 or (830) 249-8645. F.O.R. Animal Control will respond Monday through Friday from 8:00AM - 5:00PM. To answer calls after hours, weekends or holidays, please contact Dispatch at the non-emergency numbers listed above and a Fair Oaks Ranch Police Officer, will respond.



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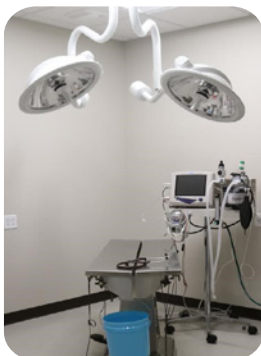
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FAIR OAKS RANCH

Strategic Grocery Shopping

*Submitted by Dr. Jane Riley, Ed.D., M.S., B.A.,
Certified Personal Trainer and Nutritionist*

Cooking and preparing food at home is a healthy way to improve your diet. When it comes time to replenish your food supply, here are some simple steps to become a strategic grocery shopper.

You likely have heard the recommendation to "shop the perimeter" at your grocery store. That is because there is more fresh produce, lean meats and wholesome dairy foods found on the outer aisles of the store and more processed, packaged, and less healthful food in the inner aisles. However, the middle aisles also have some good options, especially when it comes to frozen and canned foods. The caveat here is that frozen and canned foods are not all healthy and you'll want to avoid the high salt convenience foods in these sections. The other caveat is that you need to guard yourself against putting some of those other tasty convenience foods that you might see in the middle aisles into your basket. Notwithstanding that, the freezer aisle can be an easy source of prepared veggies and fruit to augment your produce intake. Plain flash frozen fruits and vegetables are a great way to get year-round produce. Look for frozen berries, which are great for protein shakes, and frozen bagged vegetables and legumes, all of which freeze very well. Most frozen vegetables have been harvested in their peak season and then immediately flash frozen, which locks in the maximum nutrition and flavor. With respect to canned vegetables, if you're concerned about sodium (the salt content), rinsing these products in water can reduce the sodium content by a significant 30%.

Name brand food companies pay a premium price to be at eye level on the grocery store shelf. Frequently, you're paying the premium for exactly the same foods you can find on the lower shelves. The lower shelves are where generic versions of foods are found, which have similar quality standards with less cost.

We're lucky to live in an area of plenty where most foods are available year round. However, when you purchase local produce in season, you will save money and those items will taste better because they are fresher. They also have less of a carbon footprint, because they were not shipped around the world. This practice supports our local farmers.

You likely get your local grocery store's weekly specials flyer in the mail. Take a look at your supermarket's offerings because using the flyer is a great way to help plan your meals. Many larger stores also have their specials online or offer online coupons, so you can simplify your meal planning by using the flyer as your grocery store guide and save money, as well as add some variety to your meals.

Grocery shopping when you are hungry is a recipe for disaster! It leads to impulse buys and less healthful food selections. Always shop from a thoughtfully planned-out grocery list. Shopping with a list helps you stay on track and makes you more likely to buy healthier selections.

If you really dislike grocery shopping or you don't want to be tempted with making bad purchases, you don't have to go to the store nowadays. Online apps, and services can help save you time. As well, shopping from home means you can quickly see what foods you have on hand, select the ingredients you absolutely need and let someone else do the shopping for you. Now, that's strategic!

The Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center Announces New Staff

The HCPCC has expanded in the last three years to have offices in Boerne, Bulverde, and Comfort. This month the HCPCC has created two new positions - Director of the Boerne Office and Director of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Office. Each position will oversee their office and staff to continue to provide the quality free services that the HCPCC is known for. The Bulverde/Spring Branch position is being filled by Kim Barton, who is currently employed by the HCPCC and the Director of the Boerne Office is Donna Klingaman, recently hired.

Donna and her family have relocated to Boerne from Janesville, Wisconsin. She and her husband of nearly 30 years (Kevin), have 3 children, one of which has been living in Boerne for about 4 years. Her parents also live in Boerne and her father is the pastor of St. John Anglican Church. They are happy to be able to be closer to her family.

Donna has long been an advocate for women and children; having been a past volunteer in crisis pregnancy work and in children's ministries. Donna brings many years of experience in the business world - most recently as the Assistant Communications Specialist for a large school district in Wisconsin. Donna is eager to serve and to put her experience to work as the Director of the Boerne Center with HCPCC as they continue to expand both their client services and support to Boerne area residents.



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FAIR OAKS RANCH

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currently have 1,127 people following our page. For those of you who are Facebook fans you can find us at City of Fair Oaks Ranch, TX. Our page is used 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.

Bible Looking for Its Owner

A few weeks ago, a young man found a Bible near the intersection of Silver Spur and Ralph Fair Road. He asked in the Las Cruces restaurant if they knew some way to try to get it returned. The restaurant staff pointed me out as the mayor so he delivered it to City Hall.

From the inscriptions inside, this book was presented to a young woman named Barbara Del Vecchio by her mother at Christmas in 1956. I placed calls to a couple of local churches hoping to find the owner, but no luck so far. If any of you can help return this book to its owner, I have it in my office at City Hall.

We are all getting back in the swing of the school year. Please drive carefully around both Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary and the new Van Raub Elementary. My best to all of you,

Garry Manitzas | Mayor – Fair Oaks Ranch

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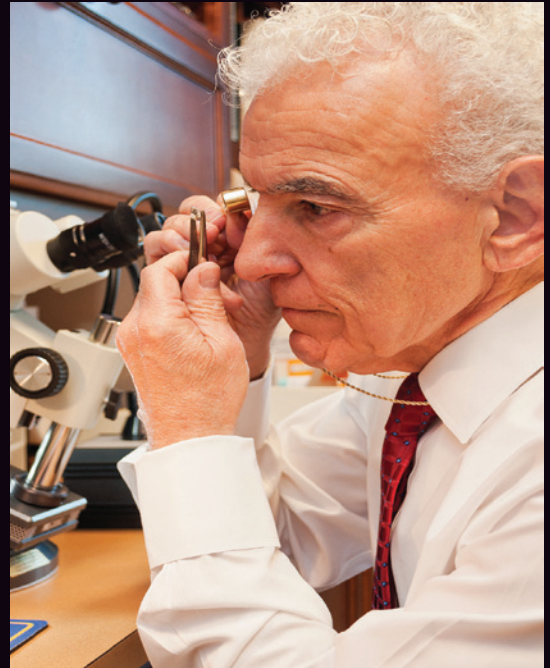
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