

The FAIR OAKS Gazette

February 2019

Volume 9 Issue 2



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK... FEBRUARY 2019

DELIVERY ISSUES WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

The publisher delivers this newsletter via United States Postal Service. In recent months, Kelly Peel tells me they have encountered delivery-timing issues in a number of the communities in which they publish newsletters. I wanted to let all of our readers know that you can access the publication online and get the information a lot earlier. The path to get to the newsletter for our city is as follows:

www.peelinc.com > Newsletters > San Antonio > City of Fair Oaks Ranch > Select year and month.

You may also subscribe to receive the newsletter via email and/or on your iPhone. More information can be found at www.peelinc.com under "Residents".

UPDATE ON CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH ANNEXATION LAWSUIT

The plaintiffs in the annexation lawsuit have initiated action to appeal the ruling of the District Court. The State Supreme Court assigns cases to the various appellate courts to balance the load among these courts. Our case has been assigned to the Seventh Court of Appeals for the Seventh District of Texas, which is headquartered in Amarillo. The appellate process has several steps and it will likely take several months to complete.

The city has a solid legal case and will vigorously defend the appeal. We anticipate that the District Court ruling will be upheld. We will keep you updated in future publications.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION (P&Z)

Most of you know that we have a Planning and Zoning Commission seated and working now. The P&Z serves as a recommending body to the City Council. Last month, I committed to start reporting on their activities as part of the

regular city activities.

- P&Z and City Council held a joint public hearing on December 13th to hear a zoning change request for the property at 9120 Old Dietz Elkhorn Road. The request was to change the zoning from R-3 Residential to NC (Neighborhood Commercial). P & Z recommended approval of the zoning change and City Council gave approval to this recommendation at the 1-3-19 council meeting with a second reading of the Ordinance supporting this change at the 1-17-19 regular council meeting.

- In the December 13th P&Z meeting, the P&Z approved a preliminary plat for Front Gate Unit 4. Council approved this preliminary plat at its regular meeting on January 3rd.

- Also at the December 13th P&Z meeting, P&Z had a tie vote with one abstention on a preliminary plat request for a storage facility off the I10 access road near The Woods subdivision. Due to the tie vote this issue was forwarded to council for consideration with a recommendation of disapproval. Council discussed this plat at its regular January 17th meeting. Staff recommended approval since the developer had satisfied all requirements for the preliminary plat. Our legal counsel explained to council members that actions approving plats are ministerial in nature. This means that the law requires approval if the requirements are met. Council voted unanimously to approve the preliminary plat. Both Council and P&Z are going through a learning process since we have just created zoning in our city. Our legal counsel provided additional training for P&Z between the first meeting on this issue and the council meeting in which it was approved. We will all show both diligence and

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(Continued from Cover)

patience as we go through this learning process.

• On January 11th, P&Z held a special workshop with Gap Strategies to discuss the Unified Development Code (UDC). At this meeting, P&Z gave Gap Strategies approval to move ahead to producing a final version of the UDC to present to council. All of this work is geared to complete our UDC by late Spring. The UDC is the ultimate tool we have been working toward to give us the firm base we need to have a rational and organized development process.

ELECTION UPDATE

Our next election for City Council positions will be held May 4, 2019. Filing for a position on the ballot began on January 16, 2019 and ends on February 15, 2019. You can file in person at City Hall or by mailing in materials to:

Fair Oaks Ranch – City Hall
ATTN: Christina Picioccio, City Secretary
7286 Dietz Elkhorn
Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas 78015

You can find the materials for filing for a position on the ballot on the city's website under the Government tab.

As of this writing, incumbent council members Steve Hartpence, Laura Koerner, and Snehal Patel have all filed to stand for re-election. I am sure you will be seeing more coverage of the election in the press in the near future.

UPCOMING BULK PICK UP AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The first week of the bi-annual brush/bulk pick up service will begin February 11, 2019. Republic Services has mailed a flyer to all residents and the flyer has been posted on the website. As a reminder, please do not place items out prior to your sector's start date as noted in the upcoming mailer. Also, piles that have excess brush, comingled brush/metal objects, items not placed out by the appropriate time/date, or piles placed near obstructions to the crane on the truck will not be picked up. The city's goal is to ensure a speedy and effective brush/bulk pick up service with the intent of keeping our beautiful city a great place to live and visit. This can only be accomplished with your cooperation. Your neighbors, the City Council and I respectfully ask for your personal commitment to help achieve such.

Start planning for the next Household Hazardous Waste event, which is scheduled for March 16th. A flyer will be mailed shortly on this event.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE

The City will be hosting an open house to highlight the importance of backflow prevention and new policies that affect your drinking water. The event will take place on Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers. The open house will be set up for Fair Oaks

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911
Fire..... 911
Ambulance..... 911
Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department.....210-698-0990
Animal Control.....210-698-0990

SCHOOLS

Boerne ISDwww.boerne-isd.net
Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary210-698-1616

UTILITIES

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 & Telephone800-367-4882
Pedernales Electric Co-op.....888-554-4732
Time Warner - Cable.....210-244-0500

OTHER

United States Post Office
607 E. Blanco. Rd. - Boerne, TX830-249-2414
.....(delivery info, stops, fids, ect.) 830-249-9303
5837 De Zavala Rd - San Antonio, TX.....210-641-0248

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(Continued from Cover)

Ranch residents, local irrigators, and backflow testers to come and go as they please to ask questions and educate themselves on backflow prevention and drinking water protection.

Be on the lookout for an open house announcement in your Fair Oaks Ranch Utility billing statement in early February! The announcement will have event details, plus a quick introduction on backflow and information on protecting your drinking water.

RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS/CITY STAFFERS AT WORK

- Our city Facebook page is continuing to attract readers. We currently have 1,439 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.

- I did a brief presentation for the annual meeting of The Fairways Homeowners Association on January 16th. This is a lively group and I always enjoy meeting with them. We did an update on happenings in the city over the past year and a half or so and a preview of what's coming up in the next year. I am always happy to do these presentations so if your organization would like an update, please let me know.

- By the time this goes to press, I will have done a State of the City address at the Country Club on February 5th. We appreciate the participation in this event. Next month, I will recognize sponsors for the event. In advance, I know that we will have good representation from my fellow Rotarians courtesy of Ms. Bobbe Barnes' advance publicity of this event to our club. They are good community members and play an active volunteer role in the community.

- I was invited to participate in the grand opening of a new rope structure at Norman Vestal Park on December 21st. This play structure, which is open to members of the Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association (FORHA), is designed for both children and adults. We had 125 kids and about 200 people in total there at the inaugural event. I think the improvements in this park are driving greater use. Dedie and I drove by on a recent weekend and were impressed with the number of kids and adults using this facility. Congratulations to all the FORHA volunteers and staffers who made this vision a reality.

IN MEMORIAM – FRANK WILLIAMS

Frank Williams, one of our long-time residents, passed away recently. Frank portrayed Santa Claus for our children on The Ranch for 20 years at the Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association Christmas event held the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This Santa and his elves arrived not on a sleigh, but on a fire truck with police escort. The kids were always anxiously waiting for their turn to meet Santa.

The City Council honored Frank with a proclamation at the January 17th meeting. His wife, Connie, and many other members of his family were in attendance. We commented in the

proclamation that "...the giving of oneself in service to another empowers the giver and the recipient..." This kind and generous man exemplified the spirit of giving which is alive and well on The Ranch. We urge all citizens to follow his good example of volunteer service.

Thanks to all of you who have played roles in the many volunteer activities around The Ranch. I started my volunteer activities years ago picking up trash on Ralph Fair Road as part of FORHA's Adopt A Highway program. I'm finishing up this column right after doing the latest clean up. We almost got blown away but it was a very successful clean up with some new residents showing up to help too. It's a great program where we get together, eat some delicious breakfast food, and, somewhere in there, we pick up a lot of trash and beautify our city.

All the best to you and your families,

Garry Manitzas

Mayor – Fair Oaks Ranch

Councilwoman Laura Koerner Files for Re-election in Fair Oaks Ranch



Councilwoman Laura Koerner filed for re-election as Fair Oaks Ranch City Councilwoman Place 4 Wednesday morning at Fair Oaks Ranch City Hall. In May 2017, Laura Koerner was elected for a two-year term as Councilwoman, Place 4, where she serves as an at-large representative for all city residents. She is a wife, mom of twins, Navy veteran, engineer, and certified project manager professional. She serves on the city's Stakeholder and Communications Committees and on the Municipal Development District Board. Laura lives in the Fairways neighborhood with her husband, Mike, a retired Naval Officer, twin daughters, Alexandra and Eva, and her mother, Sharon



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Assistance League of San Antonio® Providing New Shoes to K-5 Students

Assistance League of San Antonio's philanthropic program Operation School Bell® is providing new shoes to students in participating Title 1 schools in the San Antonio area. Previously, the children participating in this program were given a \$25 retail shoe store voucher redeemable only at those shoe stores; however, wholesale shoe purchasing by Operation School Bell buyers has enabled us now to provide shoes to students when they are receiving their new clothing. The new procedure has been more efficient and more cost effective. The new effort has been met with enthusiasm by the counselors as well as the children who are able to select the color of their new sneaker-style shoes.

Operation School Bell provides new clothes to children identified by teachers or counselors as in need. The children come to the Assistance League facility with their counselors and are assigned a member volunteer who serves as their personal shopper while they pick their new outfits. Currently children receive three complete outfits, two books, a hygiene kit, a box with school supplies and the new pair of shoes. In 2017-2018, 4,702 children received new clothing through this program.

Assistance League of San Antonio is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to transform the lives of children and adults through community programs. In addition to Operation School Bell, Assistance League has seven other philanthropic programs: Togs For Tots; I'm In Charge; Adopt A Resident; CAPS (Caps Art

Promotes Smiles); Scholarships; Enhanced Learning Awards; and Watch Me Grow. Funds to support these programs are generated through proceeds from sales in their Thrift House (2611 West Avenue), grants, donations, and annual fundraisers (upcoming: Lit 'n Lunch on March 5, 2019 with Lorenzo Gomez, III as guest speaker and Viva Fiesta Art & Accessories on April 15, 2019). All of these programs are operated by the organizations' 420 member volunteers.

For more information about Assistance League's programs or if you are interested in becoming a member, please call (210)732-1200 and visit their website,

www.assistanceleague.org/san-antonio. The organization also has an Auxiliary which meets in the evening.

Local Businesses Help to Strengthen Families and the Community



In the past few years many businesses have become Corporate Partners of the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center to help provide free services to the community. This month, Local business owners of Kiss the Cook and the Dienger Trading Company are Corporate Partners that continued in 2018 and are receiving their second year appreciation gift.

The other 2018-2019 Corporate Partners include James Avery Artisan Jewelry,

Mama Margie's Mexican Café, the Law Offices of Jim Perkins, Texas Heritage Bank and the GVTC Foundation.

The services provided by the HCPCC include pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, prenatal and childbirth classes and parenting classes. Also free are the testing and treatment services for sexually transmitted diseases/infections.

With their financial support, the Corporate Partners are making sure that these services continue to be free to anyone in need of them. Through the educational classes, families are made stronger and the community also benefits with stronger families.

Corporate Partners are recognized in all HCPCC materials and at events, they are visible in all HCPCC newsletters and on media – and they receive a beautifully framed print by local artist Beth Coyle. Anyone with a business that would like to become a Corporate Partner is encouraged to contact Diana Anzollitto, HCPCC Executive Director at 830-249-9717 or email danzollitto@lifesprecious.org.

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