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8	
Billy Sutton (Fairfield South)	President
Jeanie Stahl (Lakes of Fairfield)	Vice President
Jan Bertoli (Fairfield Central)	Secretary/Treasurer
Darlene Sedelmyer (Trails of Fairfield)	Director
Fairfield Central Neighbor	hood Association
Louis Iselin (President)	louis@kipatents.com
Gary Marler (Vice President)	Gemarler@yahoo.com
Jan Bertoli (Secretary/Treasurer)	JLB8848@gmail.com
Patty James (Director)	Pjames631@gmail.com
John White (Director)	jeepersw@swbell.net
Fairfield Village South Neighb	borhood Association
Brian Mcdonough (President)	Bmcdonoughdpt@gmail.com
Mark Stine (Vice President)	Mark.Stine@gmail.com
Billy Sutton (Secretary)	blsutton@sbcglobal.net
Larry Kohler (Treasurer)	
Charles Tate (Director)	

#### Inwood Park Neighborhood Association

Doug Waterman (President)	waterman_doug@hotmail.com
Marc Newman (Director)	marcnewman1957@comcast.net
Harriet Tunick (Secretary)	htunick00@gmail.com
Gloria Whitaker (Treasurer)	gloriawhitaker1@yahoo.com

#### Lakes of Fairfield Neighborhood Association

Patrick Wong (President)	pcwong1@earthlink.net
Diana Gee (Treasurer)	diana.gee@att.net
Kate Conrey (Director)	
Nikole Cales (Director)	Ncales13@gmail.com

#### Trails of Fairfield Neighborhood Association

Darlene Sedelmyer (President)	facofficemgr@sbcglobal.net
Kris Cherry (Vice President)	kfcherry@gmail.com
Janet Sherrill (Secretary)	janetsherrill@comcast.net
Matthew Mann (Treasurer)	mmann0330@gmail.com
Quentin Hinds (Director)	Qhinds@gmail.com

#### **FAIRFIELD VILLAGE MANAGEMENT**

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Fairfield Inspector Portfolio Administrator Fairfield Project Manager 

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Spillane Middle School	281-213-1645
Swenke Elementary	281-213-1200

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Public Safety Committee

Marc Newman - marcnewman1957@comcast.net Fairfield Area Swim Team Team-president@swim4fast.net Fairfield Women's Club fairfieldwomensclub@gmail.com JENNIFER SAILER - Fairfield Project Manager FirstService Residential 16055 Mason Road/Cypress, TX 77433 Phone: 713-332-4761/ Toll Free: 800-932-9449

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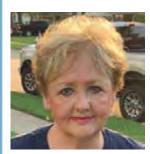


# Tim Thackeray

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# From The Editor's Desk

by Jackie Devine



Summer just whizzed past us, and now it's August. As of this writing, we are still asked to stay home and stay safe. Luckily, we have yet another jam-packed issue to keep you company as you sit, sun, and savor the

We want to welcome our new residents and readers. We are glad you chose to locate in Fairfield and hope you find living here is everything you hoped it would be and more. If you have questions about our community, please contact me at jackiedevine@peelinc.com. I will try to point you in the proper direction.

As always, we strive to educate and inform the community on a wide range of topics, especially about the resources and special events that may be of interest to you and your family. Unfortunately, this month our school and church news is limited because of COVID-19.

In this issue, we introduce you to one of your neighbors who happens to be an outstanding chef. I can honestly say I wanted to taste every dish that she displays on her website.

You may have wondered who is the mysterious person coordinating the fence art behind the movie theater—well, so did we! Sahrina Hammond is her name. Read about her in A Public Display of Happiness.

Check out the story behind Stacy Gresell's beautiful mask artwork in her article entitled *Artwork Commission*, and you won't want to miss how Madison and Eliana Garcia raised a whopping \$1000 selling popcorn so they could donate to Cypress Lucky Mutt Rescue.

This issue has a lot more to read and enjoy as well. And, pay attention to the authors. By and large, it is your neighbors who have contributed our articles. We love hearing from you. That is what makes the Fairfield Community Gazette a real community magazine. Please continue to send us information and ideas on stories that you would like to see highlighted in the Gazette. You can reach me at jackiedevine@peelinc.com.

Enjoy the last days of summer. Hopefully, the kids will be going back to school, and COVID-19 will decline. We'll be dodging hurricanes before you know it!

# COOKING / GOOD TIME



Fairfield is brimming with interesting folks. And by interesting, I mean people who have a unique knack for tackling life on their own terms. Their curiosity, eagerness to explore the world, and willingness to gamble on their innate hunches set them apart and captivates those of us less willing to risk and play it safe.

If you ask me, "playing it safe" is not in Lesley Babich's vocabulary. She is at home with unpredictability and willing to take the road less traveled. Not only is she interesting, but she is also fascinating and radiates energy that draws others to her like a floodlight on a moon-less night.

Lesley amazes me with her ability to see the latest trends and capitalize on them as any entrepreneur would do. But she is more than a business-minded entrepreneur; she is a chef who is trained in master culinary forms and provides creative innovation in the menu, preparation, and presentation.

"It all began," Lesley told me, "when I decided I needed a trade. I had been a stay-at-home mom for eleven years, and now it was time to go out and pick up where I had left off before motherhood. Asking myself, what brings me joy, I kept coming back to cooking.

"My mother and grandmother had me baking in the kitchen when I was four years old. I already had a love for being in the kitchen. In pondering what was next, I kept coming back to how my cooking brought smiles to people's faces. That always seemed to be a way that we could all get together as a family. And, I decided if cooking was my passion, I should go with it.

In 2004, I entered college working on a bachelor's degree in culinary, with the initial plan for my mom and me to open a family wedding venue business. My parents were going to give me the backing, and I was going to be the front runner. I got about 75% complete, and my mother had a debilitating fall. After we got mom on the way to recovery, I finished up school.

My first job after graduating was in a Kindred Hospital. I moved onto Airmark, which is more on the hospitality side. I became a sous chef, in charge of International Food Stations and supporting all other stations in the cafe, which fed 4000 people every day. But, I still yearned to be more creative. I was offered the Dining Services Director position at Tomball Senior Living Center, which enhanced my food services and healthy living plan, focusing on nutrition. Then LifeTime Fitness contacted me. Where everything I was working toward came together.

It offered upscale dining options that focused on sophisticated, healthy menus. At the same time, members could still opt for a casual setting and kick back after a workout. Creating a fun, inviting place for families to come when they are hungry and looking for a healthy, well-balanced meal also appealed to me.

As it turned out, my job required supervising the full-service restaurant that offered a coffee and full access bar (beer and wine). Creating a full menu for the bar, developing variations on smoothies, and managing the full-service salad bar and vegetable bowls were also part of the job description.

Everything about the position, helping members maintain a healthy mind-body, and spirit, addressed my belief system and

called into play all of my innate skills. With the lock-down and active COVID numbers rising in Harris County, its use has slowed. I'm hoping for a return to normal very soon. I miss the rush of serving others.

Besides latching on to a cutting edge career, Southerner Lesley married Minnesotan Brandon Babich on March 16, 2017.



Continued on Page 6





True to her nature, she is focused on creating the ideal blended family environment and culture.

Since those northerners had never been introduced to crawfish or spicy Cajan cooking, their first Thanksgiving was a gamechanger. She decided they were going to experience an old fashioned southern feast. Lesley explained, "We made spicy Cajun fried turkey, crawfish stuffing, traditional cornbread stuffing, bacon-wrapped green beans, and sweet potatoes.

"I introduced the girls to crawfish boils. It took a whole week to teach the girls how to peel crawfish. To help my stepdaughters understand food, I've incorporated regional nights. One week it will be the Mediterranean, the next week Italian, after that it might be Asian and next Indian cuisine.

"To be fair, Brandon has taught me a thing or two about camping and fishing. And together, we have totally renovated the house. No telling what our next project will be."

In 2011 Leslie created Distinctive Culinary Creations, where she specializes in Cajun and Southern food—everything from Seafood Lasagna, Gumbo, to Stuffed Cornish Hens. Check out its wide variety of culinary delights at https://www.facebook. com/cheflescreations.

Lesley, Brandon, her two stepdaughters, and daughter are delightful neighbors, they represent perfect examples of what is right with Fairfield.

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# FAIRFIELD STILL HAD A PARADE

by Stephane Dyott





On July 4th at 9:00 am, members of our Fairfield community gathered at Ault Elementary to celebrate the 4th of July this year with a golf cart cruise around the neighborhood!

They took the same route as the published route from the official parade. Rather than ending at Salyards, we continued to Cumberland Ridge, turned right on Mason, turned right on Chapel Knoll, and ended back at Ault.

Our son, AJ, absolutely loved the Fairfield birthday parades that became popular during the pandemic, and he was looking forward to this year's July 4th parade. Even though the official parade was canceled, we decided to ride the same route with some friends and family so AJ could ride in "America's Birthday" parade.

The day before the parade, we decided to post our plans on the neighborhood Facebook pages to see if other families wanted to participate in an unofficial, low-key ride. There were about 6-8 other cars and golf carts that showed up to ride in our make-shift parade. Some neighbors sat along the route to see the parade.

We knew it would not be the grandiose event that the official parade is each year; we just wanted to create a memory and bring a smile to our son's face.

Several people were sitting on the route to see the parade, and we saw several people out exercising and working in their yards. Seeing our neighbors and fellow Fairfieldians smiling, waving, and enjoying the patriotic spirit was (as a good Cajun family would say) lagniappe! AJ thoroughly enjoyed his ride! A few of the folks who participated include AJ's grandparents: Sabrina and Ray Gawthorp and Geoffrey Dyott and Katherine Stenzel, also friends: Destinee, Tanner, and Chase Brown.











# ARTWORK COMMISSIONED

by Stacy Gresell, Artist & College Professor/Dept. Chair at Lone Star College

Art brings people back to their sensibility as human beings. This is the purpose of art: To bring people together and bring back the humanity as well. -Artist El Seed

We are all living lives we could have never imagined before mid March and while masks appear to have become another source of political fodder, there seems to be one aspect upon which we all agree: our medical professionals need them desperately.

When the Bayou City Art Festival collaborated with the hospitals in Harris County, they put out a call to their artists to put their creative minds to work honoring the people who face this virus every day. Since my husband works as a charge nurse on a covid floor, it seemed only natural to apply.

He's lived separately from me and our three children since April 9th. Every day he undresses outside, we handle his laundry with gloves and we eat dinner as a family outside from 8 feet away so I'm all too aware of the sacrifices that many of these folks are making.

It seems like every day he comes home saying, "We opened a new ward." He once told me that a typical patient in isolation requires a minimum of 12 sets of gowns/PPE per day. Hospital wide? 17,000 per day. When I hear things like this, I can't help to wonder how long his protective gear last? How long will it be before our nurses and doctors are wearing garbage bags like those in New York City?

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#### "Artwork Commissioned..." Continued from Page 8

The other day he remarked that they'd finally gotten some new PPE, instead of the sanitized bioquill they'd been using; meaning- they'd been washing masks. It's hard not to let the details of his daily reality get to me, but this one did. I decided it might be good to channel my concern artistically.

I've been an encaustic painter since 2013 which means that I paint with melted beeswax and a blowtorch. It takes a fair bit of focus, so it's a great way to escape from nagging thoughts. The piece centers around a mask made of recycled materials namely cans donated from my Fairfield neighbors. It embodies the fear of recycled protective gear in an oddly beautiful way. The colorful nurse wears bight blue scrubs made from Texas maps symbolizing the weight they carry with them every day and the background is made of EKG paper the heartbeats ever present around her that keep her going.

I'm not certain that this will be apparent to all but as art is subjective I believe there's room for everyone's perspective. On some level, I hope they see strength and resilience. I hope that they feel respect for the nameless professionals tasked with caring for a burgeoning sick population. I hope they feel cared for and protected. I hope they feel appreciation and if this work brings even a few people together, then maybe we need to set aside some of our divisive points of view and see the return of some of our humanity. https://www.instagram.com/ stacy\_gresell\_encaustic\_art/?hl=en www.stacygresellfineart.com

Stacy currently has a solo show "Torched" on display at the Perimeter Gallery in Rice Village until August 2nd. Her professional studio is at Winter Street (C6) downtown Hou-ston in Sawyer Yards.





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# A Public Display of Happiness

Submitted by Sahrina Hammond



Sahrina Hammond liked to crochet and wanted to create a crochet club. She hoped that members could get together for a sip and stitch every now and then, share their work and patterns and make some new friends. Back in January, on Nextdoor Fairfield, she posted an invitation to join the Cypress Club.

When the pandemic started, Sahrina realized that they would not be able to get together anytime soon. So, she came up with another way to engage people to share their talents.

After several of our readers suggested we run a story on her amazing artwork, I contacted her to tell us all about it.

I was one of those individuals who watched the news every day to keep up with what is going on in the world. I stopped watching about three months ago. I found that it was bringing me down. I wanted to find a way to make people smile and offer a reminder that we have a lot to be happy about and grateful for, and there are still good, kind, caring people in our community.

Let's face it; these are challenging times for everyone. We could all use a little extra happy in our day. Even more important, we need each other. We should be trying to lift each other up and help each other get through this.

I learned about "yarn bombing," a kind of street art that uses yarn in any form (crochet, knit, latch hook, cross-stitch, amigurumi, or just simple wrapping) to adorn an object in a public environment. Some think of it as graffiti only kinder because it is not destructive or permanent. I like to think of it as an outdoor gallery that displays thoughtfulness. I realized that this would be a fun way to ignite happiness, make people smile, and

give the crochet club a way to work on something together even though we cannot physically get together. I drove around the community, trying to find an area where we could display our work. There is a substantial chain link fence surrounding the new construction at the Fairfield Town Center. I reached out to the General Manager of the Center, Carl Esser. He was not only willing to permit us to yarn bomb the fence; he was enthusiastic and supportive.

So, I got the word out to the club, and every Wednesday morning, we install our latest contributions. We are not looking for recognition, but to get more people involved, even if they are not members of our little Crochet Club.

When I found out that the Fairfield Gazette wanted to do an article, I thought it would be a great way to participate.

If you like to knit, crochet, or create yarn art, consider this a formal invitation. But please note that we follow a few simple rules: We do not post anything controversial, political, or anything that might offend anyone. We try to make things that are whimsical, fun, and cheerful--- Something that will grab peoples' attention and brighten their day. We install new work on Wednesday mornings between 7 am, and 9 am.

"We just want to ignite happiness and make people smile; there is not enough happiness in the world right now."

Special thanks to Carl Esser and the Fairfield Town Center for allowing us to do this.

#### LOVE CAN

# Move Mountains







by Nyla Garcia

Madison Garcia (age 6) and Eliana Garcia (age 3) love going over to our friend Bobbie Espinosa's house. She is a foster dog mom with Cypress Lucky Mutt Rescue! Our girls are both homeschooled, so I have been waiting for COVID to loosen a little bit so we could do their homeschool fundraiser. They used to be terrified of pets. But with some excellent coaching on how to work with dogs from Bobbie, they have grown in their love for animals.

They decided to collect money for foster dogs to find new homes, receive medical care, and obtain their essential needs. Madison even aspires to be a vet now! They have collected \$1,000 in profit and sold 500 bags of popcorn for Cypress Lucky Mutt Rescue!

We came across dozens of families throughout Fairfield and Cypress that were adoptive families of Cypress Lucky Mutt Rescue, so it was quite encouraging! \$750 will be going straight to Cypress Lucky Mutt Rescue, and \$250 will be going directly to our local foster mom Bobbie Espinosa.

Fairfield stepped up to our cause and showed our girls love, and we are so appreciative of them helping us reach our goals! It wouldn't have been possible without them!

Cvpress Lucky Mutt Rescue is always in need of pup and dog supplies

and monetary donations! You can find ways to adopt from their Facebook page!

The girls are now selling popcorn for a church in Guatemala, a children's breakfast program there, and potentially a mission trip if they raise enough funds. Additional Popcorn orders can be placed at 281-899-9732 or thegarcias2015@gmail.com.





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# **FAIRFIELD SPORTS: ALIVE AND WELL**

by Kelly Stewart

Driving through Fairfield during quarantine was eye-opening in so many ways. Many took advantage of the beauty in our neighborhood with long family walks at sunrise or sunset. Families and groups of children descended on the lakes to see what they could reel in, and

children are spending more time outdoors than ever before.

But some of the neighborhood children were focused on sports. These driven young athletes were doing whatever they could to continue to progress at their sport in the confines of quarantine. Some did virtual workouts through Zoom for sports such as gymnastics and competitive dance. But some were left to self-motivation and ingenuity to stay in shape for the coming seasons. You could see these young athletes running around the lakes, shooting hoops, bumping volleyballs, and sprinting back and forth with the cones they set up outside the house.

One of these athletes is Fairfield resident, Delaney Diego. This young athlete is an aspiring Salyards Middle School basketball team member as she enters the 7th grade this coming school year. She also has big dreams of being the first woman in the NBA. You read that right—the NBA not the WNBA.

While most middle schoolers chose to spend their quarantine time catching up on Netflix and playing games on their phones, Delaney decided to take advantage of that time by strengthening her skills. This was in hopes of giving herself a competitive edge when basketball tryouts roll around.

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She set up multiple dribbling and shooting drills in her garage, her drive-way, and along the sidewalk that she worked on consistently during our stay at home period. This was not easy as she is used to practicing with her team, but Delaney's mom, Melanie Diego says, "She has an enormous amount of self-discipline. Anytime she sets a goal, she puts everything she has into reaching it."

On June 16th, the Fairfield Sports Association wrapped up assessments and assigned athletes to their summer teams. This is always an exciting time for players and parents alike. Even though the summer season is a more laid-back version of the winter season with fewer practices and games, it's mostly an opportunity to keep these players in action. But after a long couple of months in quarantine, the start of a summer season is sweeter than ever before.

The players had a couple of practices to get acquainted with their coach and their team and hit the court for games at the beginning of July. While the excitement filled the gym with athletes and their parents, it is still noticeably clear that we are living in a vastly different time. To keep players and their families healthy, the Fairfield Sports Association has implemented strict guidelines.

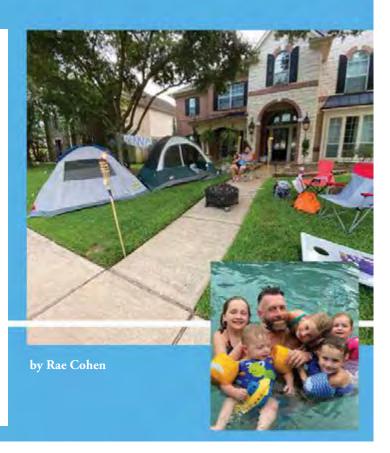
While these guidelines are not fun, they are a small price to pay to keep the season going and keep the kids on the court.

# Kids Love Camp Cohen

In a family of seven, where the kids' ages range from two years old to nine years old, coming up with activities that the whole family can participate in can be challenging. Then you add in the COVID-19 restrictions, and you've got one boring summer and some restless kids.

What better way to serve up some fun than Camp Cohen in the front yard. My kids were super excited to hear about the camp-like activities that I had planned. We started our adventures with a dip in the concrete pond (aka pool), dodged the waffling water-filled balloons on the battle grounds of Camp Cohen, tried our hands at corn-hole, gathered in the mess hall for some steamy dogs in a bun, and finished our night with some gooey chocolatey s'mores around the camp fire. Best part is we spent the whole night sleeping under the stars, and we didn't have go anywhere.

Our adventure will definitely go into the memory books and be something that we look back on as the wonderful "staycation" of the summer of 2020.





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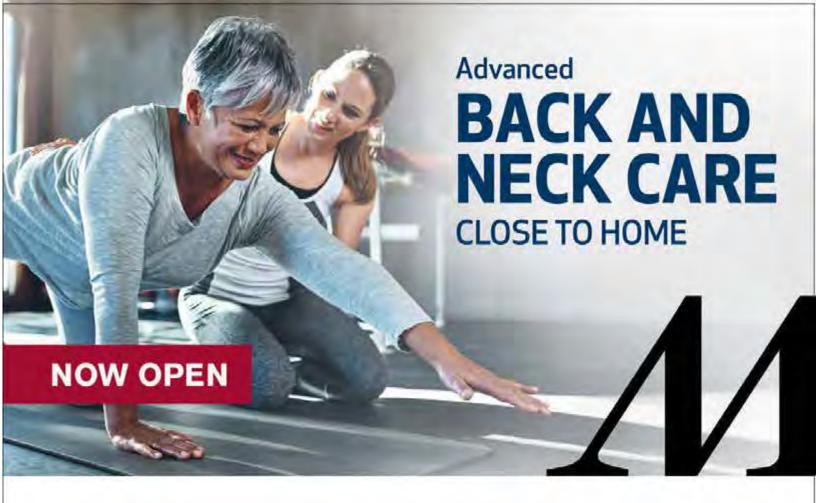
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We are planning to continue our meetings in August. Please join your Fairfield Precinct Chairs of 111, 124 and 405. We will continue to prepare for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Also, the meeting will include information about the State Convention and Runoff Election held in July 2020. Please come prepared to discuss what you can do to help.

# **CyTom Democrats**

The speaker will be Mariana Sanchez founder of Bonding Against Adversity (BAA). Ms. Sanchez immigrated from Ecuador as a single mother with two children. She witnessed first-hand the struggles that immigrant families face. She saw families living in unsafe conditions in multi-family housing, many in poor health because of poor nutrition, with children at risk of dropping out of school. To address these issues, she founded Bonding Against Adversity to assist immigrants with finding safe housing, healthy living, dropout prevention and citizenship assistance. Today, the organization helps immigrants in Harris County mainly with citizenship preparation and workshops to help legal permanent residents complete the paperwork needed to apply for citizenship. Since its founding ten years ago, the organization has helped over 10,000 persons to address these issues and follow the pathway to becoming citizens.

All are welcome to attend and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

For more information & access to the ZOOM Virtual meeting, contact Undrai Fizer at cytomdemocrats@gmail.com, or visit the club's Facebook page.

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### **Three Keys** to Becoming an **Effective Networker**

#### Luncheon Details

Thursday, August 27, 2020

Networking 11:00 a.m.; Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m.

Longwood Golf Club, 13300 Longwood Trace, Cypress, TX 77429

Costs \$30 with advanced reservations; \$35

(Please check our website for information in the event we are not able to meet in

Houston, Texas (July 8, 2020) Kerry

Walsh has been in the wellness industry for 7+ years working with women to empower them on their health and fitness journey.

Her purpose is to encourage, inspire and coach busy women to stop simply surviving and start thriving by gaining self-confidence and building a foundation of new healthy habits to live a lifestyle they desire & deserve!

Kerry is also the chapter owner for the Cypress Women, Wine & Wellness.

Women, Wine & Wellness is on the cutting edge of women's organizations in the United States. They are a dynamic group providing wellness education for women while they connect, learn, grow, and stay inspired. Their events naturally attract professional women, women who are passionate about health, and women who just want a fun night out to connect with other women of the same interests.

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# FAIRFIELD WOMEN'S **CLUB- AUGUST NEWS**

Submitted by: Kim Maxian

We would like to wish all of Fairfield a happy and healthy August. It was with great disappointment, that the FWC had to cancel the Fourth of July Parade this year. We would like to thank Mary Ann Smith for her tireless dedication to "Saving the Fourth". Unfortunately, we were unable to go forward with the parade and the opportunity to honor several community members.

Grand Marshall: Jim Ware Local Heroes: Leslie Feld Memorial Herman Workers

Local Fire and Law Enforcement

Thank each of you for your service to our Fairfield Community.

Other News:

We still have Texas Pecans. Perfect for fall, which is right around the corner! \$13 or 2 for \$25

Contact dthompson8@comcast.net

Upcoming Meetings: All meetings are tentative at this point due to COVID limitations. All meetings take place at Bradford Creek Clubhouse at 7:00pm.

August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15.



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14902 Orange Bloom Ct 4/2/2, 2567 SqFt, \$285,000



20311 Elmwood Brook Court 4/2.1/2, 2352 SqFt, \$262,500



20306 Bent Aspen Court 4/2.1/2, 2524 SqFt, \$270,000



16318 Rolling View Trail 4/2.1/3, 3110 SqFt, \$349,900



15318 Bent Twig Way 4/2/2, 2161 SqFt, \$260,000



20819 Twisted Leaf Drive 5/3.1/3, 3968 SqFt, \$429,000



14603 W Apricot Blush Court 4/2.1/2, 2844 Sqft, \$305,000



16710 Orchid Mist Drive 4/3.1/3, 3797 SqFt, \$415,000



20418 Lakeland Falls Dr. 5/3.1/2, 4320 SqFt, \$449,900

Day	wn	Fore	's
Fairfield	Ma	rket	Report

Price Range	4th Quarter Result		
	Sold	\$per 5qFt	DOM
Up to \$225,000	11	\$110.63	38
\$225,001 - \$250,000	17	\$104.56	61
\$250,001 - \$275,000	9	\$103.16	48
\$275,001 - \$325,000	11	\$103.07	47
\$325,001 - \$375,000	6	\$99.86	58
\$375,001 - \$425,000	5	\$117.77	37
\$425,001 - \$500,000	1	\$128.69	7
\$500,001+	1	\$123.55	146

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.