



THE ACORN

THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS

The Acorn for November 30, 2015

Rotary



WATER IN FAIR OAKS



The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

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Weekly Meetings

We Meet Almost Every Monday Evening

Social Hour 6:15 - 7:00 PM

Dinner & Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Location: Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

Fair Oaks

Visitors are Welcome

OUR WATER SITUATION IN FAIR OAKS

Speaker: TOM GRAY

Reporters: Shelley Mathews



“Just as every drop of water is valuable, so is every ratepayer dollar.”

Tom Gray, General Manager of the Fair Oaks Water District (FOWD) updated us on water issues in our own community. Prior to coming to Fair Oaks, Tom gained knowledge and experience working with investor-owned public water companies throughout the state and the country, one of which was the largest water utility in the United States. In addition to a career in water, Tom has widespread consulting experience in private development and project management, including working with Powell Development. Tom has a Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering, a Master’s Degree from Sac State, and is certified as a California State Water Operator and Special District Administrator.

Background

The FOWD was established in 1917 and has a centennial celebration coming up in 2017. It is governed by an elected at-large board of five with staggered 4-year terms. On the culture within FOWD, Tom matched it up to the 4-way test (truth, fairness, goodwill and beneficial to all). The FOWD strives to abide by the Rotary 4-way test.

Water Quality

Surface water from the American River is the best water (in terms of water quality) in the state of California. Even ground water from FOWD wells is of very high quality. There is a plume of ground-water contamination emanating from Aerojet that has threatened pass beneath the American River and contaminate the ground water beneath Fair Oaks. The contamination has been contained and is being cleaned up and FOWD has never delivered contaminated water. An agreement is in place with Aerojet to protect and mitigate our ground water and Aerojet has paid \$1,200,000 for mitigation.

Water Supply Reliability

Fair Oaks has access to both surface and ground water. During a normal year, mostly surface water is delivered to FOWD customers. During a dry year, FOWD can provide sufficient ground water if it must. Working proactively to cushion its customers from the drought, FOWD drilled, in 2014-15, a large new well on a corner of Gum Ranch and reached agreements with other agencies to obtain easements for other water sources.

The Fair Oaks Historical Society is now housed in a building adjacent to the largest FOWD water well. FOWD bought the land and building because of its location, in case they ever needed improved access to the adjacent well. FOWD leased the building to the Historical Society for next to nothing. They paid a mere \$290,000 for the property, which was originally listed at \$750,000.

The Drought

The State of California has mandated a decrease in water consumption of 36% for FOWD. Under a State-approved urban water management plan, FOWD drilled water wells in anticipation of the next big California drought. (Ed note: the last big drought occurred in the winters of 1975-76 and 1976-77. That drought was every bit as scary as the current drought – so far.) The State even provided partial funding for one or more of the wells. With the wells, FOWD could meet 100% of Fair Oaks’ 2015-16 water needs. However, the State is mandating a 36% water-use reduction and the wells are not being used.

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WATER IN FAIR OAKS

(Continued)

San Juan Water District

The San Juan Water District provides water at wholesale rates to the FOWD. The ongoing relationship with the San Juan Water District may be under discussion. The cost of water to FOWD has increased by 50% during the past 10 years. Because of decreased drought-condition water sales, annual revenue at FOWD has decreased by \$400,000 per year. In spite of this, FOWD has not increased its rates. To accomplish this, expenses have been reduced by, for example, reducing the number of employees from 40 to 30.

The San Juan Water District is governed by an elected, five-member Board of Directors. They are elected at large and presently four of the five directors are from the Granite Bay area. Fair Oaks is not represented on the Board of Directors.

Meeting the Mandatory 36% Reduction in Water Usage

FOWD decided to trust its customers to reduce their water usage through conservation. To encourage water conservation, FOWD launched awareness and educational programs. This approach worked and it worked without the imposition of drought water rates. Customers reduced their water usage by slightly more than 36%. Now that the irrigation season is over, FOWD customers must continue to reduce their water usage by 36% - and this is likely to be more difficult in the winter because there is no irrigation to curtail.

Economic Sustainability

FOWD has annual operating expense of \$5.7 million; annual revenue of \$8.6 million; \$5.3 million in cash reserves; no existing debt and no existing debt payment. During the past 10 years, FOWD has completed three new water wells, moved into a new administration building, installed water meters for all customers, replaced thousands of feet of water main and reduced debt to zero; all with no rate increases. Ongoing challenges include establishing a better relationship with the San Juan Water District, addressing Delta water issues and developing better customer outreach.



THE HOLIDAY PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015



The Holiday Party will be held on December 12 at the home of Peter and Karen Romines. Please sign up if you have not already done so. This is a pot luck event, so please bring a side dish and a bottle of wine.



CHILDREN'S RECEIVING HOME

Last Day for Maggie to Deliver Gifts: December 12



The Children's Receiving Home is a transitional home for children who are typically escaping an abusive or otherwise dangerous home life. The children spend a few weeks at the Receiving Home before moving on to foster care. Few children in Sacramento need Christmas gifts more than these children. Saturday, December 12 at the Holiday Party will be your last opportunity to give your gifts to Maggie for delivery to the Receiving Home. After that, you have to deliver them yourself. Please remember not to wrap the gifts.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015



Sunday, December 13
Caroling at Eskaton
11390 Coloma Road in Gold River

The club will sing Christmas carols at Eskaton Lodge Gold River. This facility offers assisted living, pre-memory care and memory care.

Maggie will be recruiting Interact Club kids from Bella Vista. Drew Young, who is a very good guitar player, will be there, as will Pete Schroeder, who is a very good singer and guitar player.

At left is the group from the club's first caroling expedition a few years ago. We are likely to have a lot more people this year.

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

December 17, 2015 at Northridge Elementary



We box and distribute over 80 loads of food for needy families. Each load of food weighs in excess of 60 pounds, including a turkey or ham, lots of fresh veggies and a gallon of milk. The holiday baskets are a lot of work – but many of the recipients would not have a decent Christmas dinner if not for our holiday food “baskets”. Please participate. You will be glad you did.

THE CRAB FEED

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016



Remember to solicit/gather/create/purchase donation items for the Silent Auction and the Fun Draw.

If you want a good table for you and your guests, be sure to make payment to **Anne Browning** ASAP. The first payees get their choice of tables.



Mega Draw

The Mega Draw always consists of five big prizes. For the 2016 Mega Draw, we need one more prize. If anyone is a member of a winery that might donate a wine tasting with food pairings for a group of eight or more, please contact Karen Romines.

Karen is also seeking hotel reward points, food for the River Cats Suite prize and the names of companies that match donations to 501©3 organizations.

BEVERAGE GLASSES

The campaign to get members to bring the own beverage glasses to meetings continues. The purpose is to eliminate waste and reduce an unnecessary expense. In this week's episode, President Schroeder auctioned off several wine glasses. It's safe to say that few human beings have ever had so much fun with *empty* wine glasses.



OUR NEXT MEETING: CLUB ASSEMBLY



Club Assembly

Our next meeting will be a club assembly. Pete Schroeder has assured the membership that the assembly will be both exciting and informative. As illustrated in the photos below, Pete's club assemblies are definitely entertaining. (Ed Note: the group-bonding exercise shown in the photos was the only such activity that I have ever participated in that actually produced useful results. Congratulations to Maggie Hoy, who organized it.) If next week's club assembly is half as good, it will be well worth attending.

In case you're wondering why one of the participants in the photo below has spaghetti in his nostrils – his assigned role in the exercise was to behave badly and distract the group.



FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Christmas Party	December 12	The Romines' home
Christmas Caroling	December 13 2:00 PM	Eskaton Gold River 11390 Coloma Road
Club Meeting Club Assembly & Election of Officers	December 14	Clubhouse
Club Board Meeting	December 16	The Cralle's home
Holiday Food Baskets	December 17 All Day	Northridge Elementary School
Third Thursday in the Clubhouse	December 18 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Pete Schroeder's Clubhouse Sing along with Pete and The Others
No Club Meeting	December 28	
Club Meeting Oliver Cheney – Autism Executive Director, Rudolph Steiner College	January 4, 2016	Rudolph Steiner College 9200 Fair Oaks Blvd
Club Meeting Joe Scheimer - The Secret War in Laos	January 11, 2016	Clubhouse
No Club Meeting	January 18, 2016	
Senior Luau	January 20, 2016	Clubhouse
Club Board Meeting	January 20, 2016	TBA
Club Meeting Oscar Arias: Rotary & Peace	January 25, 2014	Clubhouse
Inner Wheel Bunco Night	January 30, 2014	TBA
Club Meeting Kelly Colemand: Save the Rain	February 1, 2014	Clubhouse
Crab Feed	February 20, 2016	Divine Savior

THE CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Christmas in the Village on Saturday, December 5. This event closed with a parade and the lighting of the Christmas tree. The club decorated and entered a float, which won first place in the Float Division and earned \$100 for our treasury. (Ed note: our floats always win first-place prizes because we always have the only float in the parade.) Thanks to Diana Cralle and Jeanne Maloney who organized the decorate-the-float work party, Karen & Pete Romines who hosted the decorating party in their driveway, Pete Romines who towed the float everywhere and Dawn Abatemarco who worked tirelessly on the decorations. Photos follow.





26th Annual

Rotary



MARDI GRAS CRAB FEED

Saturday - February 20, 2016

Divine Savior

9049 Greenback Lane

Orangevale, CA

Tickets \$55

**Hosted By
Fair Oaks Rotary**

For More Information & Tickets

Contact: Beth Wilcoxon
Telephone: (916) 208-2477
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The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

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Spaghetti Dinner

Fundraiser for the

Rachel Anne Gray Memorial Scholarship

February 28

\$20 per person

\$140 per table
**8 per table*



Raffle

Silent Auction

Beer & Wine

6 - 9pm

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Ave.



916-966-1036 ● www.fairoakspark.org

