

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

March 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

Welcome to our new RANCH REVIEW Newsletter!!

This is just a start, but we hope you find that this new version of our newsletter has a more localized focus, more helpful information, and is a stronger tie between you and the activities in our community.

The newsletter is now a monthly publication and is completely funded by the advertising sold through the new publisher, Peel, Inc. That means, using the former cost of \$.195 cents per house/per issue (1.17/year), our association is saving \$1,170.00 and publishing twice as many issues. Not a bad deal!

Also, through editor@riataranch.net, you have a direct line of communication for input, article submissions, or feedback regarding the newsletter. As always, for a direct line of communication to the Board regarding all other items, please don't forget to use www.riataranch.net. There are more details regarding the content and recent successes of the website later in the newsletter.

Again, we sincerely hope that you find the changes to our newsletter to be a positive change and we look forward to your active participation in it's creation and evolution.

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Riata Ranch Community Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our Sales Office at 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.



RR Website

For those of you who did not catch it in the letter regarding HOA assessments, or have not been told by word of mouth, Riata Ranch has a website.

It is www.riataranch.net and has been up for approximately 6 months.

In that time, we have received approximately 800 hits. The website has pages which list events, news, other websites, Cy-Fair school information, important phone numbers, down-loadable forms & docs, photo's and a calendar. Out of all of these the most successful by far has been the "Contact Us" page. The "Contact Us" page gives you, the resident, an additional communication medium to SCS and the HOA.



Simply fill out the page with any question or request you may have and hit submit. An email is sent to SCS and is also sent to the President and Vice President of the HOA.

We have received numerous requests and questions from this page and are proud to say, that in most cases, all questions and requests have been responded to within 48 hours. We have received a lot of positive feedback from those that have used this medium, and will continue to improve on it based on input from the residents. We must say though, that any emails received as anonymous, will not be responded to.

Also, in an effort to improve on the newsletter, we have created a mailbox for the newsletter editor, editor@riataranch.net. We feel this will improve communication by providing an email address that will never change. We have had previous editors for the newsletter who have all done outstanding jobs, but at times the editor changes and this way, your articles, always get submitted to the same place regardless of who the editor is.

We welcome all suggestions you may have regarding the website and the newsletter.

We look forward to continued service to you thru this new medium.

Your HOA

View *The Ranch Review*
each month on-line at
www.PEELinc.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency

Sheriff	713-221-6000
Fire Department	281-855-1110
Cy-Fair Medical Center	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital	713-932-3000
Poison Control	800-222-1222

Schools

Cypress Fairbanks ISD	281-897-4000
Birkes Elementary	281-345-3300
Lamkin Elementary	281-897-4775
Arnold Middle School	281-897-4700
Cy-Fair High	281-897-4600
Cy-Falls High	281-856-1000
Cy-Fair College	281-290-3200

Utilities

HCMUD #196	
Billing	281-579-4500
Repairs	281-398-8211
Centerpoint Electric	713-207-2222
Centerpoint Entex Gas	713-659-2111
SBC	800-464-7928
Warner Cable	713-462-9000
Waste Mgt	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt	281-463-1777
United States Post Office	800-275-8777

Library

Cy-Fair College Library	281-290-3210
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Riata Ranch Events Committee Has Been Working Hard!!

The Riata Ranch Special Events committee has many fun things planned for this year. We are going to be having some of the same events that we have had in the past that Riata Ranch families have enjoyed for several years, like the Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Frolic, Garage Sale, Adult party at the pool, Santa Day and more.

This year we are adding some new events like; pool parties for our Riata Ranch Teens and a Forth of July bike parade and picnic. We have a great committee, and we are always looking for more people to help and also fresh ideas. We would love to have your help with all the events or even just one! If you would like to help please contact Paula Christiansen at 281-373-0721 or on the Riata Ranch website www.riataranch.net and click on the Special Events link.

Some important dates to remember are the Easter Egg Hunt, that will be held on Saturday, April 15 at 10am. Also the Riata Ranch Neighborhood Garage Sale will be Saturday, April 29. Please go to www.riataranch.net for more information.

Watch Your Mail!

Keep your eyes open for some important RR information in your mailbox. The EVENTS COMMITTEE will be issuing a magnet which lists the events and the associated dates for each. These magnets can be placed on your refrigerator for reference throughout the year. The committee has worked very hard preparing this year's schedule and is looking forward to your continued participation.



Also, we have a unique opportunity to gain access to the Houston National Golf Course at a very reduced rate and permissions very similar to the residents of Stonegate. Keep your eyes on your mailbox for details coming soon!!

Street Light Out?

Don't drive around in the dark! Report it. It's easy. Just call 713-207-2222 and list the following:

- The pole number, which is stenciled on the pole
- The nature of the problem; completely out, flickering, etc.
- Location of the pole, such as the nearest street corner.

Barker-Cypress Construction Update

Are you tired of looking at orange barrels along Barker-Cypress? Well, it will all be worth it when it's done.

The Barker-Cypress road construction project is on course to be completed by June 1st ultimately making your drive home safer. However, like all road construction projects, the schedule is subject to change, but so far so good.

After completion of the road project, we will be able to proceed with repairing the damage that was done to our entrance some weeks ago by a dump truck. We have collected reimbursement, but are holding off on repair until the road project is done.

We will continue to keep you informed as both projects move forward.

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Riata Ranch

It's Almost Summertime Again!

And with summertime comes pool time. The pool schedule will be the same as last year, beginning with a "weekends only" schedule on May 6th and expanding to the regular schedule on Memorial Day weekend. Like last year, the regularly scheduled days are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am – 8pm, and Sunday 12pm-6pm, closed on Monday. When a holiday falls on a Monday, the pool will be open on the holiday and closed on Tuesday.

At the end of last season, some concern was voiced by residents who experienced a less-than-family experience at the pool and were forced to gather their children and leave. This year, we have taken the appropriate measures to restore a family-friendly environment to the pool area and intend to enforce these measures throughout the season.

Pool safety is always our number one concern. And part of keeping the pool safe is keeping a safe environment by enforcing the posted rules. With the renewing of Greater Houston Pool Association contract, we have emphasized that the lifeguards on duty must be extremely proactive and accountable to provide a safe environment focused on the family. The lifeguard staff is empowered to handle any situation and has the authority to eject anyone from the pool area for not following the rules. To help support this effort this year, not only will the lifeguards have direct lines to their management support, but they will have direct access to SCS, the HOA Board of Directors and the Harris County Sheriff's Department, should the need arise. Officer Rick has committed to making regular visits to the pool area during the season and is always responsive to any issues that may arise.

In addition, access to the pool will be strictly regulated to residents and their guests. You will be receiving 2006 stickers for your existing pool tags. For new residents or for those who have lost your tags, new pool tags can be obtained through SCS. Pool tags will be required when the pool opens, so make sure you have a sticker on your existing tag or a new tag. We have emphasized to the GHPA that access to the pool is limited to the residents and their guests and pool tags must be checked upon entry.

The intent of this renewed focus on safety and access is to maintain a family environment while allowing EVERYONE to enjoy the pool and the surrounding area. We always appreciate your feedback at editor@riataranch.net.

Have You Noticed?

Have you taken a walk around the recreation area lately? If you have, you may have noticed some pleasant surprises. The wind breakers on the tennis courts have been replaced, the nets, fence, and sidewalk have been fixed, and the wooded area has been cleared of all underbrush!! And if you've looked around the rest of the neighborhood, you've seen that the entrances and the hardy plank fence painting throughout the neighborhood is now complete.

The feedback we have received has been extremely positive and is much appreciated. We are working hard to keep this a community that we can be proud of so please keep your suggestions and feedback coming to www.riataranch.net. And keep your eyes open for your suggestions to be put into action.

Come Join the Fun and Friendships at StrollerFriends!!!!

We are a social playgroup for stroller-aged children and moms. Our babies play together and teach one another new skills, while we form a support network of moms that can last a lifetime.

Activities for children and "mom's only" events are planned bi-monthly. StrollerFriends is a great way to get connected.

Please contact Kim Wauhopp at 281-256-2623 or kim.wauhopp@strollerfit.com for more details.

www.StrollerFit.com/cypress

Help Us Report Suspicious Activity!!!!

Some of our best efforts to make improvements and maintain the community have been offset by acts of vandalism. These damages include the destruction of fencing, signs, tennis courts, sidewalks, landscaping, and the B-B-Q area.

Help us report these crimes by calling 713-221-6000 whenever you witness suspicious activity and tell the dispatcher that you are a Riata Ranch Resident.

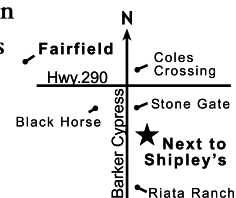


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Join the Fight Against Cancer

Survivors, teams and donors sought for April relay event

Cypress, Texas (Feb. 22, 2006) Join the fight against cancer and participate in the 2006 American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Cy-Fair this April.

This unique overnight fund-raising effort, set for 6 p.m. April 7 to 6 a.m. April 8 at Cy-Fair College, 9191 Barker Cypress Road, includes a survivor/caregiver recognition walk, a luminaria lighting ceremony and a variety of entertainment for all the participating community teams.

Signing up for a team is even easier this year with online registration at www.acevents.org/tx/relay/cyfair. It takes just three steps - "sign up, set up and send" to friends, family and coworkers - to help raise this year's goal of \$100,000.

For information, contact Catherine Unger at 713-706-5646 or via e-mail at Catherine.unger@cancer.org.

Vacation Watch

At your request, the Harris County Sheriff's Department will put your house on VACATION WATCH. Just go to riataranch.net and look for the Vacation Watch form in the FORMS and DOCS section.

Your completed form will need to be submitted to the Sheriff's Department 7 days prior to departure, or just call 713-221-6000.

Barbeque Parties

The B-B-Q area has been cleaned up and all of the fixtures repaired. We are working hard to maintain it's appearance. It is a great place to have an event!!

To reserve the B-B-Q area, call SCS Management at 713-463-1777 and ask for Diana or Ginger.

Since the restrooms are in the pool area, if you need access to the restrooms, you will need to schedule a lifeguard through Greater Houston Pool Management at 713-771-POOL. We realize how inconvenient this is and are working on a possible resolution.

We will keep you posted on our progress.



Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Riata Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail editor@riataranch.net.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$45, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales @ 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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- Soft Touch Rinse

Why pay \$15 - \$18 elsewhere?

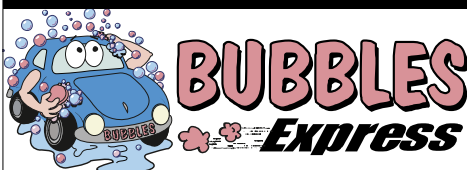
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Sundays in April

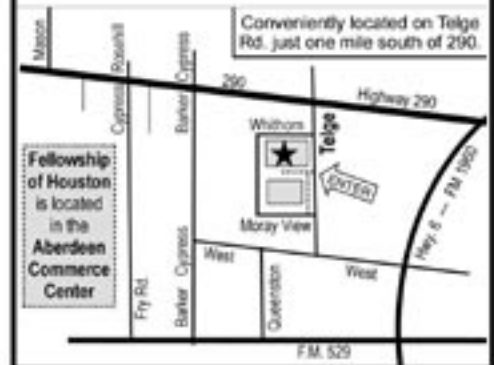
Join us each Sunday as we dedicate our Children's Building, Student Building, and Worship Center!

*Please check our website for specific moving date in early March!

Sundays @ 10:30am

Telge Rd. & 290

(Located on Telge Rd. one mile south of 290)



www.FellowshipofHouston.org



Cy-Fair College "Perspective"

Land Tejas Donates \$352,000 to Cy-Fair College Nursing Program

With a recent generous \$352,000 donation from Land Tejas Companies, developer of Canyon Gate Communities and Stone Gate, Cy-Fair College will be able to expand its Associate Degree Nursing Program to include additional nursing faculty and more than triple student admission. The donation distributions of \$176,000 in 2006 and \$176,000 in 2007 will be used to fund three additional nursing faculty members and will allow the ADN program to raise the number of students admitted from 30 to 100. For information on the Associate Degree Nursing Program, go to www.cy-faircollege.com.

Admissions and Financial Aid Sessions Set

Cy-Fair College will hold two high school student and parent information sessions in the College Center Conference Center rooms 152 and 153. This semester's last general admissions information session set at 7 p.m. and a general financial aid information session set at 8 p.m. will be presented in English April 12 and in Spanish April 13. Call 281-290-3200 for details.

Free Tax Preparation Assistance Available

Free tax assistance is available at the Cy-Fair College Branch Library, located at 9191 Barker Cypress Road, with AARP volunteers from noon to 4 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday through April 13 in the library, room 131. Taxes will be filed electronically. For information on what documentation to bring, go to <http://cfclibrary.nhmccd.edu> and click on free tax assistance under news and activities.

Check out the String Orchestra

The Cy-Fair College String Orchestra will perform "Music of the French Impressionists" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 6 in the Main Stage Theatre at the Barker Cypress campus. Tickets are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for students and seniors. Call 281-290-5201 for information.

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Continuing education courses are available in business, computer technology, occupational skills and technical occupations.

Start Something and visit www.cy-faircollege.com.



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Teenage Job Seekers

In a recent review of our TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS column, some of those listed were no longer job seekers or teenagers. So, we are asking those of you who are TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS to fill out the form and send it to The Ranch Review, care of SCS Management. You will need to have your parent's signature on the form before your information will be published.

We hope to have your form turned in soon and get that extra money coming in!!

Teenage Job Seekers

Please place my name on the TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS list in the RANCH REVIEW.

Signature _____

Please check appropriate boxes:

- Baby-sitting
- Pet Care
- House/Plant Care
- Lawn Care

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____ Phone _____

I give my permission for my child's name and phone number to be entered in THE RANCH REVIEW as a TEENAGE JOB SEEKER

Parent's Signature _____

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