

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

October 2006

Volume 1, Issue 8

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween will be fast upon us. Let's hope everyone has a great time. But most of all, let's make sure all the kids are safe!!

We thought it would be helpful to provide a checklist of safety tips for your quick review before heading out into the night. Although it is not all encompassing, the list is a good starting point to help you focus on the most important parts of trick-or-treating.....SAFETY. After doing a little web research, we found a really good list at www.sosnet.com/safety/halloween.tip.html. The list is broken into 3 categories; TRICK-OR-TREATERS, PARENTS, and HOME OWNERS.

Trick-or-Treaters

- Carry a flashlight
- Walk, don't run.
- Stay on Sidewalks
- Obey traffic signals
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods
- Don't cut across yards or driveways.
- Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
- Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground.
- Shoes should fit (even if they don't go with your costume)
- Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house.
- Carry only flexible knives, swords or other props.
- (If no sidewalk) walk on the left side of the road facing traffic
- Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape.
- Approach only houses that are lit.
- Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.

Parents

- Make your child eat dinner before setting out.
- Ideally, young children of any age should be accompanied by an adult.
- If your children go on their own, be sure they wear a watch, preferably one that can be read in the dark.
- If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
- Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home.
- You should know where they're going.
- Although tampering is rare, tell children to bring the candy home to be inspected before consuming anything.
- Look at the wrapping carefully and toss out anything that looks suspect.

Homeowners

If you want to get trick-or-treating visitors, turn ON your porch light. Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, hoses, dog leashes and flower pots that can trip the young ones.

- Pets get frightened on Halloween. Put them up to protect them from cars or inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater.
- Battery powered jack o'lantern candles are preferable to a real flame.
- If you do use candles, place the pumpkin well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.
- Make sure paper or cloth yard decorations won't be blown into a flaming candle.
- Healthy food alternatives for trick-or-treaters include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later.
- Non-food treats: plastic rings, pencils, stickers, erasers, coins.



A Renewed Focus on Reducing Speed in Riata Ranch

Feedback from our residents has prompted us to coordinate with Officer Rick and ask that he step-up focus on speeding in our community. He has agreed to do so and is on the case.

Excessive speeds have been observed by many residents and are a danger to the safety of our community. So be aware that you are likely to see more actions being taken against those who are exceeding the speed limit.

The speed limit on Riata Ranch Boulevard is a maximum of 30 miles per hour.

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
Posta Elementary	281-345-3660
Spillane Middle	281-216-1645
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
AT&T/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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Deed Restriction Activity

As this edition of the newsletter goes to print, September Deed Restriction Summary is not yet available, so I thought I would provide the latest summary, which is August. The numbers are similar each month and your Board makes sure to hold the inspector accountable for strict enforcement of the rules. The most up-to-date list available is always posted to the FORMS, DOCS, LINKS section of www.riataranch.net and is listed as VIOLATIONS.

In August, there were 267 violations opened, 138 cleared, and 4 lawns that were "force mowed."

Most violations are one-time reminder letters. But every now and then, we hear from a frustrated resident who lives next to someone continuously violating the deed restrictions. Rest assured, your Board is taking aggressive action. And please continue to communicate with us through the CONTACT US section of the web site. Although we cannot share details regarding specific actions being taken, we can make sure that we have your specific concerns on our radar screen.

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Riata Ranch H.O.A., Inc.
Inspection Date: Thursday, August 10, 2006
Deed Restrictions

Open Violation Summary

Status of Logged Violations:

Verify Reported Violation	0
First Letter	1385
Second Letter	41
Certified Letter	0
Mow List	4
Continuous Mow	0
Monitor	33
Monitor After Letter	34
Board Referral	2
Hearing Requested	0
Board Hold	0
Notice of Non-Compliance	4
Attorney Letter	6
Attorney Lawsuit	3
Judgment	0
Request More Time	2
Board Status Update Needed	0
Total open violations	267

Violations Logged:

ACC	14
Clean-Up	69
Lawns	139
Repairs	5
Vehicles	21
Misc.	19
Total	267

Property Counts:

Mow List	4
Board Referral	2
Board Hold	0
Attorney Letter	5
Attorney Lawsuit	2
Judgment	0
Brd Stat Update Needed	0

Violations Cleared

138

Activity Summary

Activity since Prior Inspection July 13, 2006

First Notice Letters	119	Notice of Non-Comp	4
Second Notice Letters	33	Attorney Demand Letters	4
Renter Letters	33	Attorney Lawsuits	0
Thank You Letters	0		
Total	193		



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Riata Ranch

ATTENTION - SPECIAL EVENTS CHANGE:

Attention Residents..... The Special Events Committee has decided to change the Fall Frolic to the Spring Fling. The fall is such a busy time of year, and to maximize the attendance we thought this change would benefit the neighborhood, as well as our committee. If you have any questions or comments, we would be glad to address them. Please contact us via the website.

Riata Ranch Boulevard Parking Problem

The Board continues to work through the red tape required to restrict parking on Riata Ranch Boulevard alongside the park. Unfortunately, we are getting little response from Precinct 3.

We are currently awaiting response from a letter sent directly to Commissioner Steve Radack requesting his immediate attention to this unsafe condition.

You are welcome to express your concern directly to the Precinct by visiting www.pct3.hctx.net and clicking on the EMAIL PRECINCT 3 link, or email the precinct directly at pct3@hctx.net. We are frustrated but committed. We will continue to work the issue until resolved to our satisfaction.

If you are one of those parking on the street by the park – PLEASE STOP! It is unsafe. We need the help of all of those involved to keep the park and surrounding area a fun and safe place to be.

HELPFUL TOOLS on RIATARANCH.NET

On our website, under DOCS, FORMS, LINKS, there are many helpful tools at your disposal. All of the known forms needed for all neighborhood business and activities are listed on the site, and the list keeps growing. As a new need is realized, the site gets updated with additional links in an effort to give you one place to find everything you need to make the most out of our community.

You will find everything from information regarding mosquitoes and violation summaries, to downloadable forms for vacation watches and ACC applications.

One of the tools that you'll find is very helpful, but not very pleasant. It is a link to the sex offender section of the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY web site (<https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/soSearch/default.cfm>). This site contains a mapping tool that allows you to input your address and assess your surroundings and proximity to known offenders.

Although it is a difficult subject to address, this link helps enhance the safety of our community through knowledge.

Use the site. Be knowledgeable and be safe.

Business Classifieds

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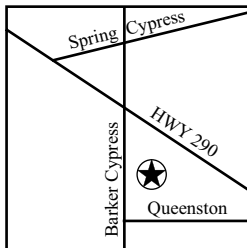
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Deep Cleansing Facial	\$75
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Riata Ranch Park Usage

The residents of Riata Ranch enjoy one of the most beautiful and wide –open parks in the region. Among the many ways the park is used, the walking trails and green area are used to exercise. It's getting to be the time of year when the temperature is just right to enjoy our walking trails and park. Get out and enjoy it!!



StrollerFit Cypress Moms & Babies love exercising at the gorgeous park within Riata Ranch! Here's a post-workout picture of us.

Join the Security Committee

The SECURITY COMMITTEE is looking for a representative from each section in Riata Ranch. We have some great ideas on how to improve the security of our community and are looking for your input.

The vision of SECURITY COMMITTEE is to coordinate residents to improve security and communicate issues to Harris County Sheriff's Department.

Please join us and help keep Riata Ranch safe. You can the Security Committee through the CONTACT US portion of RIATARANCH.NET, or by emailing us directly at security@riataranch.net.

This Is Your Newsletter!

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email the editor at editor@riataranch.net. Articles for the newsletter are finalized on the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.

DID YOU KNOW??

US POSTAL REGULATIONS prohibit the blocking of a mailbox. Of course, with our mailboxes situated in cluster style on the street, we need to be very mindful of how we park and ensure that mail carriers and other residents have clear access to the mail.

US Postal Regulations

508; 3.1.4 (Clear Approach)

Customers must keep the approach to their mail boxes clear of obstructions to allow safe access for delivery. If USPS employees are impeded in reaching a mail receptacle, the postmaster may withdraw delivery service.

508; 3.2.6 (Location)

States that curbside mail boxes must be placed to allow safe and convenient delivery by carriers without leaving their vehicles.

Please be mindful of where your vehicles are parked in relationship to our mailboxes.

Classifieds

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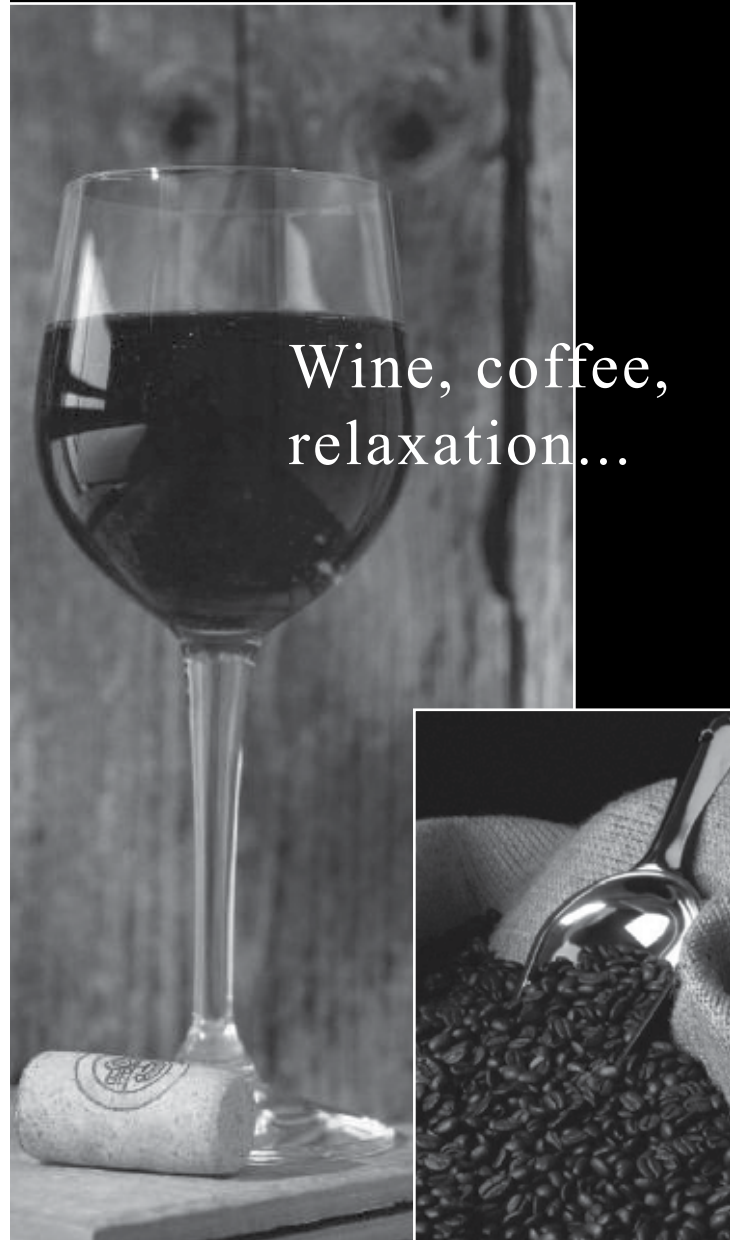
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Riata Ranch

STOP TRASHING RIATA RANCH

Some members have expressed frustration at the littering that is noticeable along the main roads of our community. Beer cans and bottles, fast food waste, and cardboard signs litter the side of the road, taking away from our otherwise beautiful community. Certainly, anyone with pride in where they live is bothered when they see the trash.

The use of a trashcan is not a difficult skill to master. Still, some people are just too lazy to do the right thing. So we need your help.

What ideas do you have to help stop the littering? Is there a way to encourage the use of a trash can? Is there a way to police the situation?

Please submit your input to riatahoa@riataranch.net. Since this article first ran, we have received and are considering the input of some residents. **THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED AND KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY BEATIFUL!!**

Please – Put Your Dog on a Leash!

Since this article was first published, at least 2 dogs and 1 cat have been killed on the streets of our community. This could have been easily avoided if care had been taken to better protect these animals.

Leash laws apply in Riata Ranch and complaints received by the HOA regarding dogs have risen. If you are walking your dog, please be considerate of your neighbors and respect the law. Put your dog on a leash.



Also – CLEAN UP after your dog. No one likes to step in the mess left behind by your dog. Certainly, the kids should be able to play in the park without fear of a loose dog or worrying about getting a mess all over their shoes and clothes. So take the time to clean up the mess from your dog!

**New To The Neighborhood And Need To See A Doctor Today?
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Attention Teenage Job Seekers

Need some extra cash for the summer? Use THE RANCH REVIEW to find some work.

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:

(B=Babysitting, Pt = Pet care, Pl = Plant Care, H= House Care)

Not Available Online

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 _____

Clip and mail to: The Ranch Review
c/o SCS management
7170 Cherry Park Drive
Houston, TX 77095

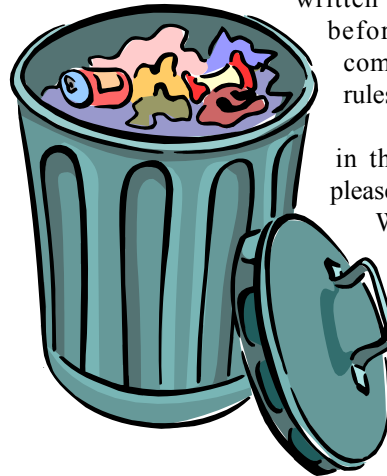
Street Light Out?

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.

Waste Management???

"Why didn't the carpet I put on the curb get picked up?"
"Waste Management took everything but the car batteries."
These are some of the questions and comments we've continually received regarding Waste Management. We've



written articles on this subject before and have posted the complete description of the rules on our website.

Before you put something in the trash or on the curb, please know the rules. Go to the WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES posting under the FORMS,DOCS,LINKS section of our website, www.riataranch.net.

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Riata Ranch

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The Fairfield 5K for Life

Benefiting the Leukemia Lymphoma Society is Back

Saturday morning, October 28, 2006 is the date for the 5th Installment of the Fairfield 5K for Life Fun Run/Walk. It's a Walk, It's a Run, It's a Party! So put on your costume, get your friends and family, and grab your shoes to help us have a good time for a good cause!

Plan on joining us at the Fairfield Athletic Club early Saturday morning for a jaunt through Fairfield's beautiful hike and bike trails and then stick around afterwards for refreshments, a costume contest and award ceremony.

You can go online now and register at www.active.com. Click the link for Individual Sports and enter Fairfield 5k for Life.

For sponsorship information, call Jane Lakatos at 281-373-9767. All proceeds benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society helping to cure blood-related cancers.



Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

					5			
6		5	1	7				
	1						3	9
8			4					
			3	2		1		5
	2	6						
2			6	4				
3					1		2	8
		7		3		4		

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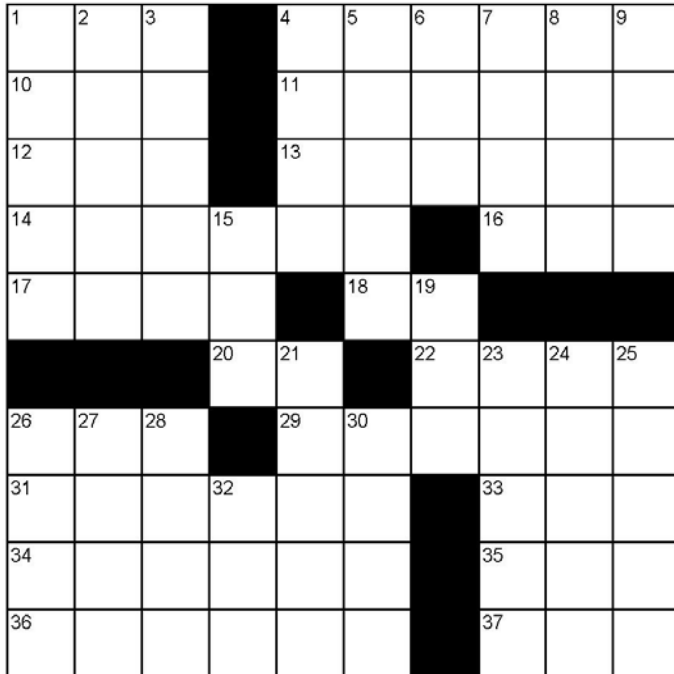
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. What's owed
- 4. Beats it!
- 10. Hotel
- 11. Flower child
- 12. Certified public accountant
- 13. White fur
- 14. Breath mint
- 16. Rescue
- 17. Opposed
- 18. Scottish "one"
- 20. Acidity
- 22. Corn syrup brand
- 26. Insane
- 29. Angry
- 31. Relating to horses
- 33. Kimono sash
- 34. National capital
- 35. Reverend (abbr.)
- 36. Bath powder
- 37. East northeast

DOWN

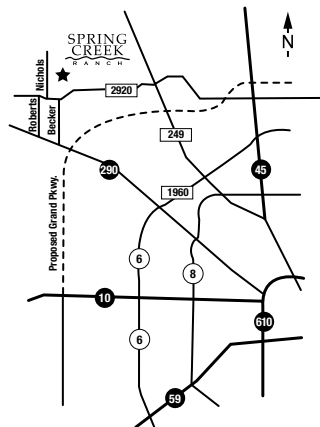
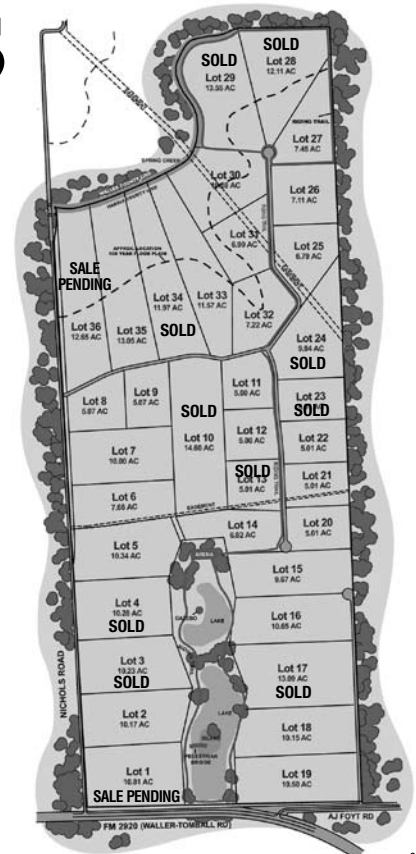
- 1. Formal statement
- 2. Remove pins from
- 3. Playact
- 4. Popular stadium
- 5. Approximate date
- 6. Revolutions per minute
- 7. Capital of Western Samoa
- 8. Short
- 9. Origination
- 15. Lean
- 19. Stretch to make do
- 21. Large eastern religion
- 23. Before
- 24. Hot sandwich
- 25. ___ Oyl (Popeye's girlfriend)
- 26. Soften cheese
- 27. Greenish blue
- 28. Twofold
- 30. Stack of paper
- 32. Business abbr.

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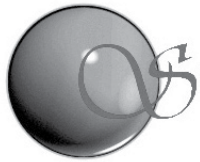
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Dental Tip of the Month.

New Buzz Word in Dentistry XYLITOL!!!!

Dear Friends,

It's back to school. Hope everyone had a safe summer and created good memories with their families.

One of the readers had suggested in an email to me to talk about Xylitol. Trident has come out with the gum with xylitol. You can also get xylitol in mints, crystal, and sprays. Not only xylitol has an effect in reducing caries but also helps with upper respiratory health.

Here is a brief summary of a 2002 study done ASDC J Dent Child. 2002 Jan-Apr;69(1):81-6, 13. Sixty-one children were randomly assigned into the xylitol group and the control group. The xylitol group chewed gum sweetened only with xylitol three times a day for three weeks. S. mutans counts were tested using the Dentocult-SM Strip Mutans-test at baseline and after three weeks. The shift from higher S. mutans scores to lower was greater in the xylitol group than in the control group. This study supports the suggestion that chewing xylitol gum may reduce salivary S. mutans levels. Xylitol chewing gum may provide a feasible caries prevention method.

In the mean time, if you have any dental related questions, please email me at sundranids@yahoo.com, and I will happily respond to your inquiries.

Your dentist,
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- 9:30 a.m. – Contemporary, *the Ministry Activity Center*
- 11:00 a.m. – Traditional, *in the Sanctuary*
- 11:00 a.m. – **Common Ground**, *Ministry Activity Center*
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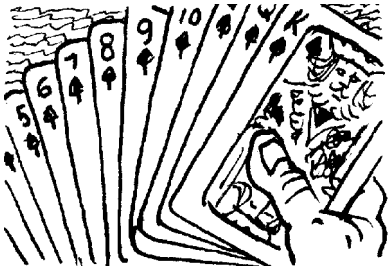
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Fun Facts: Did You Know?



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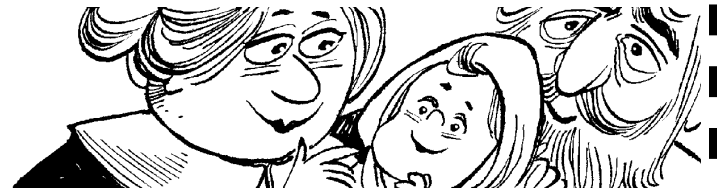


The Sesame Street characters Bert and Ernie were named after characters in the film "It's a Wonderful Life."

Arabella Babb Mansfield was the first woman admitted to the practice of law in the United States. She was admitted into the legal profession in 1869.



Some of the more intriguing names that the Pilgrims gave to their babies included Ashes, Dust, Earth, Delivery, Increase and Weep-not.



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Caroline's Kids Corner!

Halloween is coming! I am probably going to be a zombie or something scary! Get all the candy you can. But, if you eat all of it in one night, you will get sick and regret it!

Here are some good costume ideas:

- Zombie - leaves in hair and stuff
- Pile of leaves
- A dead wizard
- A ghost - with gray torn up outfit and black circles around the eyes

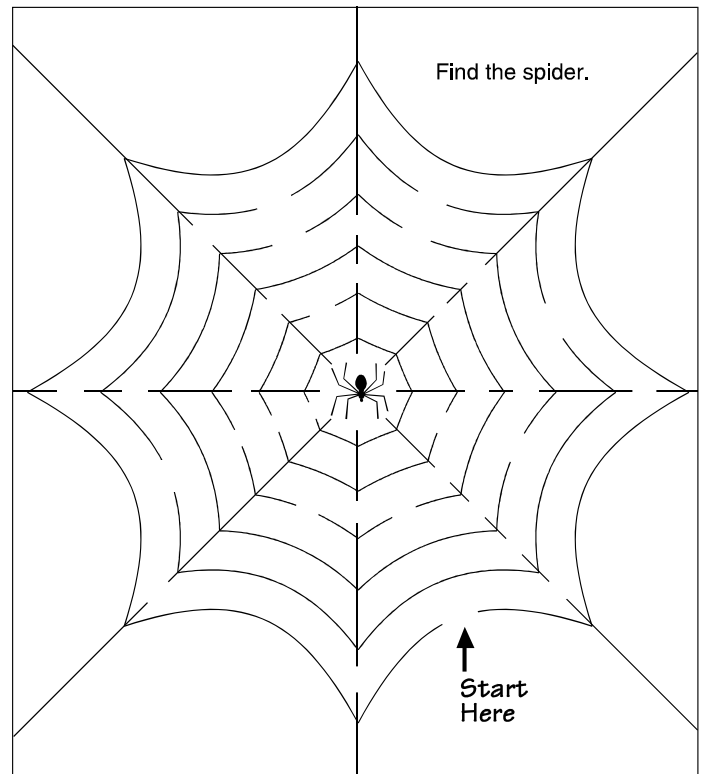
I hope you try some of my ideas!

Too bad school is the day after Halloween. Do not stay up too late because you will be tired the next day.

But have FUN!!!

Here is a neat site where you can earn a HALLOWEEN SAFETY CERTIFICATE with your name on it: www.halloweenmagazine.com/play2.html.

Also, check out the article called Halloween Safety Tips for more help on having a safe evening!!



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Fit Facts™ FROM THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EXERCISE®

Kick Your Way to Fitness

Are you bored with your current fitness routine?

It may be time to kick your way to one of the hottest workouts around. Kickboxing, also referred to as boxing aerobics and cardio kickboxing, is a hybrid of boxing, martial arts and aerobics that offers an intense cross-training and total-body workout.

It blends a mixture of high-power exercise routines that strengthen the body and mind, decrease stress and hone reflexes while increasing endurance and cardiovascular power. While kickboxing's roots are in full-contact fighting, it has found a safe and very effective niche in the fitness community.

While some estimates of kickboxing's calorie-burning potential have reached as high as 500 to 800 calories per hour, ACE-sponsored research suggests that only very large individuals working out at exceptionally high intensities are like to burn that that many.

Instead, a 135-pound person is likely to burn 350 to 450 calories during a typical 50-minute class that consists of a warm-up, aerobic period and cool-down. There are, however, other important factors to consider before taking the first kick.

What is your current fitness level?

Keep in mind that many clubs may not offer classes that are based on

progression. Even if your current routine features a hearty combination of cross-training workouts, you may want to take it easy at first, then build as your body adapts.

For this reason, an hour-long session may not be the wisest choice for someone who isn't used to this level of concentrated activity.

Familiarize yourself with the basics

Remember, adequate warm-up and close attention to proper technique are paramount. Classes should begin with basic stretches and a light cardiovascular warm-up such as pushups and jumping jacks.

A typical aerobic kickboxing routine involves a series of repetitive punches alternating with hand strikes, kicks and then a combination of all three. The repetitions help participants focus on proper technique while engaging several muscles groups and getting a fierce cardiovascular workout.

After the main section of the routine, stretches and floor exercises are commonly performed as a cool-down.

Don't forget to wear loose clothing that allows freedom of movement during your kickboxing workout and drink plenty of water.

Beginner beware

When attending your first class, try to avoid these common mistakes:

- Wearing weights or holding dumbbells when throwing punches, which puts your joints in danger of injury
- Locking your joints when throwing kicks or punches
- Over-extending kicks (Beginners should avoid high kicks until they

(Continued on Page 17)

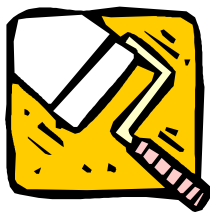
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Fit Facts - (Continued from Page 16)

get used to the routine and become more flexible.)

- Giving in to group peer pressure and exercising beyond fatigue
 - And of course, you should ask your instructor about their training.
- Cardio kickboxing is a combination of martial arts and aerobics, and employs different techniques from a "pure" martial arts class.

Many teachers may have boxing or martial arts training, but may not have the appropriate class experience or be properly certified by an organization such as ACE. Finally, once you understand the basics of this stress-relieving, total-body workout, you can kick your way to a new level of fitness.

Basic moves and equipment

It may seem awkward at first, but the basic moves in a kickboxing class can be mastered with time, patience and practice.

A prepared class will have mirrors, a punching or "heavy" bag and hit pads for participants to use. Here are two basic lower-body kickboxing

moves that work the hamstrings, gluteals and quadriceps:

- The roundhouse kick - Starting from a basic stance (side of body facing bag, knees slightly bent, shoulder-length apart), lift your right knee and point it just to the right of your target. Pivot on your left foot as you extend your right leg. Kick the target with the top of your foot.
- The side kick - From the basic stance, pull your right knee up toward your left shoulder. Pivot on your left foot as you snap your right leg into your target. Strike with either the outside edge of your foot or your heel.



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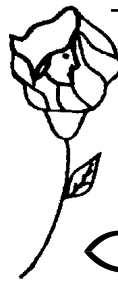
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Texas Events - October

14-15—HOUSTON: Bayou City Art Festival Features fine juried art by 300 artists, entertainment, interactive Creative Zone for children and more. In front of City Hall and around Hermann Square on Walker, Bagby and McKinney streets, plus Sam Houston Park. www.bayoucityartfestival.com 713/521-0133

14-15—HOUSTON: 28th Houston Festa Italiana Features children's area, bocce ball, grape stomp, pasta-eating contest, Italian car show, Italian heritage area and more. Houston Farm and Ranch Club. www.houstonitalianfestival.com 713/524-4222

15—HOUSTON: Heights Skate & Bike Rally and Scavenger Hunt Self-paced event begins at 8 a.m. Visit the Web site to register online. Rally begins and ends at the fire station on 12th and Yale streets. www.houstonheights.org 713/861-4002

21—HOUSTON: 35th Annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta & Outdoor Expo Participants can test their endurance in Texas' largest kayak and canoe race. www.buffalobayou.org/regattabayou.html 713/752-0314

21—HOUSTON: All-British Motor Vehicle Expo www.houstonmgcarclub.org 281/346-2417

21-22—HOUSTON: Wings Over Houston Airshow Features the USAF Thunderbirds, numerous aerobatic acts, re-enactments, Kids Fun Zone, BMX demonstration team and more. Ellington Field. www.wingsoverhouston.com 713/266-4492

21, 24, 27, 29—HOUSTON: Verdi's Simon Boccanegra Houston Grand Opera. 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372

22—HOUSTON: Fall MS Walk Sam Houston State Park. www.mswalklonestar.org 713/867-3201

27-28—HOUSTON: Fall 2006 Houston Book, Postcard & Paper Fair Arabia Shrine Center, 2900 N. Braeswood. www.houstonshow.com 281/565-0771

28—HOUSTON: Annual Halloween Boo Bash for Kidz Presents live music and activities from 1 to 4 p.m. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500

28, 31—HOUSTON: Mozart's Don Giovanni Houston Grand Opera. Wortham Theater Center. 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372

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Section 6	4	1	-	-	-
Section 7	3	-	-	-	-
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