

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

December 2007

Volume 2, Issue 12

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

Corbin VAN ARSDALE

State Representative, District 130

ISSUES FOR THE INTERIM -- The five issues I'm most focusing on over the next fourteen months of the interim are as follows:

1. combating illegal immigration
2. bigger, bolder ideas on property tax relief
3. using a new Internet database of state spending to make cuts
4. additional cuts to the business margins tax for the smallest businesses, that will preserve the school property tax rate cuts
5. stop the Trans Texas Corridor and abuse of eminent domain

If you have ideas on these issues, or other issues you would like to see addressed, please email me your ideas so we can study them in the coming months.

NEW STATE SPENDING DATABASE -- A bill that was partially my idea that I'm ecstatic we passed just took effect October 1, 2007. Five legislators got together with the Comptroller, combined our bills into one bill, to put all state expenditures on the web. The website is www.window.state.tx.us. Click on the "Where the Money Goes" link and you will enter a portal that allows searches by agency, recipient of payments, category of expense or revenue and individual item. The search tool is still a bit unwieldy, and some of the data is incomplete. But this new window on government is a significant step toward greater transparency and accountability. In time, all Texans will be able to use this magnifying glass to identify wasteful state spending to cut.

It's an honor to serve you in the Texas House. The encouragement and support many of you have recently communicated has meant a lot to me. Thank you.

For Texas,
CORBIN

HOA Reminders

Tree Trimming

Please remember to trim and maintain your trees so that pedestrians and vehicles can use the sidewalk and roads with ease. This fall is the perfect time to prune and thin trees. Take a look at your trees and make sure that they are not encroaching on roads or sidewalks.

Mildew

There are many commercial products that can be applied to remove and kill the mildew. You won't believe what a difference it will make to your home and the overall appearance of the neighborhood.

Street Parking

The streets are county property and although parked cars are permitted, we would ask that you move them into the driveway whenever possible. Children cannot be seen crossing the streets when there are many parked cars.

Report Violations

If you see a property that you think has a violation that concerns you, please call our office and let us know. We will monitor it to be sure it is a consistent problem or verify the violation before sending a letter. Your call will be confidential. But remember it is not SCS, nor the Board's role to get involved in neighbor-to-neighbor disputes, so please call in only violations.

We look forward to working with all of you. Please call us if you need more time to correct violations. We are happy to work with you. The Board's goal is to improve the home values and to have the association looking first class. We are happy to work together with them and you to make that goal happen.

Don't want to wait for the mail?
View the current issue of The Ranch Review on the 1st day each month at www.PEELinc.com

RiataRanch.net

An Invitation To The Women Riata Ranch

Please join us on Tuesday, January 15th and every Tuesday for twelve weeks for an evening of study and fellowship with author Mindy Ferguson as she presents her study "Walking with God".

In this Bible study, you'll discover why walking with God means living your faith. It's trusting in Him and Him alone. It's seeing the giants, but stepping confidently into the future because you believe the promises of Christ. Walking with God is the difference between slavery to sin, and freedom in Christ. It's victory not defeat. It is living the promised life!

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in the Fairfield Subdivision. Tuesday Evenings, 6:45-8:30pm Beginning January 15th. Author and Cypress resident Mindy Ferguson will give live lectures at each session.

Riata Ranch

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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Newsletter Publisher

Peel, Inc.....	888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@Peelinc.com, 888-687-6444

Cypress Christian School invites you to... Winter and Spring Community Events

You are invited to some very fun community events sponsored by Cypress Christian School. We hope you will join us as we continue to celebrate our 30th Anniversary of "fusing faith and learning!"

December

- Wed., December 6 from 6-9 p.m. Shop at Barnes & Noble-Copperfield-portion of purchase benefits library
 Tues., December 11 at 7:00 p.m.: Elementary K-3 Christmas Concert on CCS Campus
 Thurs., December 13 at 7:00 p.m.: Elementary 4th-5th Christmas Concert on CCS Campus
 Friday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.: Chamber Choir Christmas Concert-location to be announced

January

- Sat., January 26 at 5:30 p.m.: Laughs galore at the Winter Banquet featuring local radio personality, Susan O'Donnell of KSBJ radio station and Christian Comedian, David Ferrell to be held at the Downtown Aquarium. The event is free to guests. Limited seating - call for reservations.

February

- Thurs., February 7 at 6:00 p.m.: Kindergarten Round-Up for parents of future kindergartners
 Thurs., February 7 at 7:00 p.m.: Family Night for K-12 parents and students considering Christian education

March

- Thurs., March 6 from 9-11 a.m.: Open House
 Thurs., March 27 from 9-2 p.m.: Student Visitor Day

April

- Saturday, April 19 from 10-4 p.m. Community Carnival on CCS Campus



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 Coffee table - \$25.
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Cy-Woods High School Casino Night and Silent Auction

- Friday, Nov 9 7:00-11:00 PM at Commons. Join the fun!!!
 Tickets are \$10 at the door or see a band member.

RR resident looking for reliable handyman (carpentry, electrical, painting); provide list of references with contact information, reasonable prices. Please send to cpdeniss@aol.com.

To add your classified add e-mail editor@riatacranch.net

Cy-Fair College

Musical Holidays at Cy-Fair College!

The Choral Department presents "A Winter Collection" of not your ordinary carols Dec. 6 through Dec. 7. The Music Department presents a Jazz Band performance and improvisation Dec. 5. All performances are in the Center for the Arts Building on the Barker Cypress campus. For reservations and ticket information, call 281.290.5201 or go to www.cy-faircollege.com/cfcbboxoffice.

Register for Mini-mester and Spring Semester Classes

Catch up or get ahead this holiday season! Take a mini-mester course in December or register early for spring. Registration is under way. Mini-mester classes begin Dec. 17. Mini-mester courses range from criminal justice, philosophy, sociology and ethics, to algebra, history, government and communications. Spring semester classes begin Jan. 14. Cy-Fair College provides a variety of options such as weekend, evening, distance learning and even hybrid (part on campus instruction and part online learning) courses. For information, call 281-290-3200 or 832-782-5000 or go online to www.cy-faircollege.com.

Art Exhibition Showcases Student Talent

Don't miss this is the end-of-semester exhibition on display through Dec. 16 where Cy Fair College's visual art students show work they have completed in their classes. The exhibition showcases the students' talents as well as the breadth of Cy Fair College's art program in the Bosque Gallery located in the Center for the Arts Building on the Barker Cypress campus. For gallery hours and information go to www.cy-faircollege.com/bosquegallery.

L.I.F.E. Lessons in December

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Cy-Fair College Branch Library (Room 131.) In December, learn how to combat weight gain during the holidays Dec. 5 and then the following week celebrate with a "Party Pot Luck" Dec. 12. Sessions resume Jan. 9, 2008. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or check the library web page online at <http://cfclibrary.nhmccd.edu>.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors"

Messiah Lutheran Church is presenting a production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" on Saturday, December 1 at 6 PM and Sunday, December 2 at 3 PM. Tickets are free, but are required to be certain there is adequate seating at both shows. Call the church office, 281-890-3013, to reserve tickets.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors" is an operetta about a young crippled boy and his widowed mother who are visited by the three kings on their way to find the newborn Christ child. A miraculous healing occurs, and the kings invite Amahl to accompany them on their journey so he can give his crutch to the Christ child. This made-for-television opera (under an hour in length) will delight all. Suggested audience is ages 8 and up. Free child care for younger children is available. Refreshments will be served after each performance.

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@riatranch.net.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales @ 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.



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Riata Ranch

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.

Vacation Watch

At your request, the Harris County Sheriff's Department will put your house on VACATION WATCH. Just go to www.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.

Parents Night Out

Do you need a night out? Wondering when you will have time to do any Christmas shopping without the children along? Messiah Lutheran Youth Organization is sponsoring a Parents Night Out on Saturday, December 15, 6-10 PM for children ages 3-10 (must be potty-trained). For \$20 a child (\$35 for 2) suggested donation, you can leave your children with trained high school baby-sitters in a safe, loving environment. Games, movies, and snacks will be offered. Call Messiah Lutheran, 281-890-3013 to reserve your spot. (Proceeds to help finance a youth service trip this summer.)

Messiah Lutheran Church is a grace place, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Messiah is located at 11522 Telge Road, ½ mile north of Highway 290. Regular worship times are at 8 and 10:30 AM on Sundays. The Education

Hour is 9:15-10:15 AM on Sundays. For more information, 281-890-3013 or www.messiahlc.org. All people are welcome at Messiah.



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SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Fall Activities include:

December 3rd – 7th :

Collection of Blankets and Coats for Bundles of Love

December 15th:

Breakfast with Santa (10am) and Christmas Caroling (6:30pm)

These are just some of the highlights. Stay tuned for more details on each event and others not yet listed. We are looking for volunteers for all activities. We are always looking for sponsors, donations, and new ideas! Please contact us at events@riataranch.net if you can help!

We are also looking for participants to join a Riata Ranch walking team (including kids) to participate in at least one 5k charity walk. If you would be interested we'd love to put our best foot forward in the Houston area! Please join us!

Help Keep the Storm Drains Clear

Recently, we have received reports of teens throwing items into the storm drains, such as boxes and basketballs. These items can plug the drain and cause flooding when the next storm comes.

If you see this activity, please report it to the Sheriff's Department with the best description of the activity that you can give.

Stopping this activity is important to all of us. It could even keep your home from flooding.

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 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

Cypress Assistance Ministries

11202 Huffmeister

281-955-7684

www.cypressassistanceministries.com

Angel Tree at CAM

The Angel Tree, an annual Christmas tradition at CAM, is up and we still have many children's wishes waiting to be fulfilled. Each angel represents a 'wished-for' Christmas gift for a child hoping for a Merry Christmas. If you prefer, general toy donations for boys of all ages and teens are also needed. Please bring new, unwrapped toys and gifts to CAM by December 20th.

Angels' Attic Christmas Room

Quality items at discount prices abound in the Angels' Attic Christmas Room. The shelves are restocked daily with holiday accessories, Christmas ornaments, collectibles, and Christmas clothing for children and adults. A wonderful selection of new designer jewelry is available for purchase, as well. Proceeds from purchases at Angels' Attic benefit families in need who seek help at CAM.

The Food Pantry

Christmas Food Baskets are being prepared for CAM families. To complete the food baskets, donations of the following would be greatly appreciated.

- Frozen Turkeys
- Boxed potatoes
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Stuffing mixes

Cypress Assistance Ministries (CAM), located at 11202 Huffmeister,

Houston, TX 77065, will serve hundreds of families again this Christmas. Please make supporting CAM with a donation to the Food Pantry, Angel Tree, or a monetary gift part of your annual Christmas tradition. See our website, www.cypressassistanceministries.com for further information.

Donations to CAM can be made Monday through Wednesday from 10AM – 6PM and Thursday through Saturday from 10AM – 3 PM.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

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A Celebration of Christ's birth!

What you'll find at
Cypress United Methodist Church



The Worship Arts Ministry at Cypress United Methodist Church is proud to announce our Advent calendar of events:

Praise Kids Christmas Musical

"Mission: Possible"

Saturday, December 8th at 7 pm

"Cross to Cradle" Concert

— with Christian music, drama and video focusing on the peace and simplicity of Christ's birth.

Sunday, December 16th at 6 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24th

Communion will be offered at all services except 5 pm

Daylight Service with Candlelight, 4 pm

"Joy to the World", 5 pm

— designed for families with younger children

Candlelight & Communion Services, 7 & 9 pm

— featuring our Festival Choir, Band and Orchestra

Candlelight & Communion Service, 11 pm

— serene service with our youth band and choir

"Children of the World" — International Children's Choir will join us during the Worship Services on Sunday, December 30 at 9:30 and 11 am

Cypress United Methodist Church
13403 Cypress N. Houston Rd.
Cypress, Texas 77429 281-469-0730
www.cypress-umc.org

Volunteers Needed

The special events committee is a composed entirely of neighbor volunteers. We need more help to carry off these events and make them a big success. We would like to have at least one member from each section on the committee. We also need volunteers to help get the word out regarding activities. Please contact events@riataranch.net for more information on committee meetings.

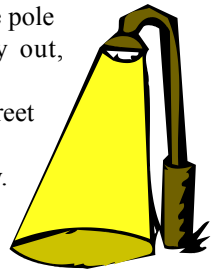


Street Light Out?

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.

Or you can report it on the internet. Go to www.riataranch.net and click on "Report Street Light Outages".



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Texas Events - December

1-2, 7-9, 14-16, 18-24, 26-29—HOUSTON: The Nutcracker Join Clara on her unforgettable journey as she travels to the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets. Wortham Theater Center. www.houstonballet.org 713/227-2787

1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23—HOUSTON: Holiday Market with Santa Claus Offers a holiday wonderland of shopping. Traders Village, 7979 N. Eldridge Road. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500

1-9—HOUSTON: Otabenga Jones & Associates Offers a hybrid exhibition-classroom-performance piece. The Menil Collection. www.menil.org 713/525-9400

1-Jan. 13—HOUSTON: A Rose Has No Teeth: Bruce Nauman in the 1960s Exhibition presents the full range of the artist's work from this period, including sculpture, ephemera, documentation of performances, artist books and video. The Menil Collection. www.menil.org 713/525-9400

1-Feb. 17—HOUSTON: Contemporary Conversations: Robert Ryman, 1976 Gathers works from the Addison Gallery of American Art, New York's The Museum of Modern Art and the artist's own collection, presenting them with Midland II, a painting purchased by Dominique de Menil in 1980. The Menil Collection. www.menil.org 713/525-9400

8-9, 15-16—HOUSTON: The Christmas Revels Enjoy Appalachian music, dance, song and storytelling. Moores Opera House, The University of Houston. www.revelshouston.org 713/668-3303 or 713/669-9528

11-23—HOUSTON: A Wonderful Life This is a musical adaptation of Fran Capra's 1946 classic film. Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. www.tuts.com 713/558-TUTS or 888/558-3882

15—HOUSTON: Birding Walk & Talk Stroll around the park's many trails seeking the wintering visitors from the north. Begins at 8:30 a.m. Sheldon Lake State Park. 281/456-2800

15—HOUSTON: History Boat Tours on Buffalo Bayou Take a look back to the late 1800s when Houston was founded, and learn about those important individuals and families along Buffalo Bayou who helped shape the city. Hours are 10 a.m. to noon. Reservations required. Meet at Allen's Landing. www.buffalobayou.org 713/752-3014 ext. 3

15—HOUSTON: Holidays with Nature Celebrate the holidays the wild(life) way. Join in creating wildlife tree ornaments. Children can color and write letters to Santa to receive a post card from Saint Nick himself. Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Sheldon Lake State Park. 281/456-2800

15—HOUSTON: TubaChristmas Begins at noon. Williams Tower Park. www.tubachristmas.com 936/294-1364

This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit www.KidsHealth.org or www.TeensHealth.org. ©1995-2006. The Nemours Foundation

Dental Tip of the Month

Putting Dentistry in Layman's Terms

Dear Friends,

As the holiday season is amongst us, many of us are inundated with parties, gatherings, or work functions where we are surrounded by people and food. There is nothing worse than worrying about either another tooth breaking while at the gathering or being unable to properly chew the food.

Some people feel that if they have missing teeth, they don't need to do anything about it since they have other teeth still to function properly. For every tooth you lose, the other ones have to work that much harder. Teeth are not made to work any other way and when they do, other teeth wear down much faster, get loose, and subsequently fall out. That is why we must replace missing teeth.

Now when you do get these replacement teeth, such as crowns and fillings, they don't last forever. Think of your teeth as a car. Imagine driving your car through a muddy rainforest every day on a bumpy, dirt road where it never stops raining. Your teeth are constantly subjected to water, food, and biting pressure. Do you expect that your car will last forever? So just like you maintain your car with regular oil change and other services, you have to value your teeth as well and maintain them. Unlike a car, where you can get a new one if the old one breaks down, you cannot get new natural teeth once you lose them.

I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of my staff and myself, to thank all of you who have supported us this year from the bottom of my heart.

We also like to thank all the readers for enjoying our articles this year. We also wish you and your family the most joyful holidays.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at sundranids@yahoo.com.

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Riata Ranch

Do You Know Who Represents You?

U.S. Senators (Texas)

John Cornyn(R)

517 HART SENATE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2934
Fax: (202) 228-2856
Email: cornyn.senate.gov

Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)

284 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5922
Fax: (202) 224-0776
hutchison.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives (Texas)

(District 7)

John Abney Culberson (R)

Capital Office
U.S. House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington 20515
Phone: (202) 225 2571
Fax: (202) 225 4381
District Office
10000 Memorial Drive
Suite 620

Houston 77024

Phone: (713) 682 8828

Fax: (713) 680 8070

Email: <http://www.culberson.house.gov/contactinfo.aspx>

Website: <http://www.culberson.house.gov/>

Texas Senator (District 7)

Dan Patrick (R)

Capital Office
PO Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin 78711
Phone: (512) 463 0107
Fax: (512) 463 8810

District Office

11451 Katy Fwy

Suite 209

Houston 77079

Phone: (713) 464-0282

Fax: (713) 461-0108

Email: <http://www.patrick.senate.state.tx.us/>

Website: <http://www.patrick.senate.state.tx.us/>

Texas House of Representatives

(District 130)

Corbin Van Arsdale (R)

Capital Office
House of Representatives, Room E1.412
PO Box 2910
Austin 78768
Phone: (512) 463 0661
Fax: (512) 463 4130
District Office
12777 Jones Road
Suite 175
Houston 77070
Phone: (281) 469 9130
Fax: (281) 469 4130
Email: corbin.van_arsdale@house.state.tx.us
Website: <http://www.house.state.tx.us>

County Commissioner (Precinct 3)

Steve Radack

Administration Building
1001 Preston, Suite 924
Houston TX 77002
Email: pct3@hctx.net
Website: <http://www.pct3.hctx.net/>
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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

Attention Teenage Job Seekers

Need some extra cash? 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. To be removed from this list please call (281) 463-1777.

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, L= Lawn Care)

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Riata Ranch

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.

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Price trends for the previous month...



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Section 1	1	1	-	-	-
Section 2	2	-	-	-	-
Section 3	2	-	-	-	-
Section 4	2	1	-	-	-
Section 5	6	2	1	171	75.34
Section 6	3	1	-	-	-
Section 7	-	-	1	449	62.08
Section 8	-	1	-	-	-
Section 9	3	-	-	-	-
Section 10	1	1	1	92	70.61
Section 11	5	-	1	22	82.96

According to information taken from the Houston Board of Realtors MLS computer.
This is not a solicitation of currently listed properties.

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