

# The Village Gazette



Volume 5, Issue 3  
Village Creek Community Association

March 2008

## Check Out Our Website:

[www.Myvillagecreek.net](http://www.Myvillagecreek.net)



## Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt	March 22
Spring Garage Sale	March 28 and 29
Plant Swap	April
4th of July Parade and Celebration	July 4
Fall Garage Sale	September 26 and 27
Fall Festival	October 25
Chili Cook Off	November
Cookies with Santa	December 6
Christmas Decoration Contest	December 14

Volunteers are needed for each event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Stacey Coscio at [stacey@myvillagecreek.net](mailto:stacey@myvillagecreek.net) or 281-467-4562.

*Don't want to wait for the mail?*  
**View the current issue of the Village Creek Community Newsletter on the 1st day of each month online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)**

## Welcome to the Neighborhood!

We have new residents joining us all the time. Take a moment to see if there are any near you, and make an effort to welcome them home!



Shauna Jackson, Sienna Trails  
Warren D. Ready,  
Cobble Shores Drive  
Graham and Janet Fox,  
Lyric Way Drive  
Bruce and Pamela Raley,  
Willow Breeze Drive  
Jackey and Mary Ann McBrayer,  
Mimosa Spring Drive  
Romano and Concepcion Stasi,  
Mossy Ledge Drive  
Everett and Perla Rolfe Jr.,  
Wandering Streams Drive  
Ann Lee Moseley,  
Sienna Trails Drive  
Jason Van Alstine, Opal Valley Drive  
W Scott and Amy Hyden, Opal Valley Drive



# Easter SUNDAY

**March 23, 2008**

# The Village Gazette

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

CenterPoint-Gas Leak ..... 713-659-3552  
Constables Office ..... 281-376-3472  
www.cd4.hctx.net

Klein Fire Dept. .... 281-376-4449  
Poison Control Center ..... 800-764-7661  
Willowbrook Methodist ..... 281-477-1000

### SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD ..... 281-357-3100  
www.tomballisd.net  
Willow Creek Elem (K-4) ..... 281-357-3080  
Northpointe Int (5-6) ..... 281-357-3020  
Willow Wood Jr (7-8) ..... 281-357-3030  
Tomball High (9-12) ..... 281-357-3220  
Transportation ..... 281-357-3193

### HOA MGMT

Chaparral Management Company ..... 281-537-0957  
Ms. Tally Jenkins ..... tallyj@chaparralmanagement.com  
Fax ..... 281-537-0312

6630 Cypresswood Drive, Suite 100

Spring, Texas

Mailing: P.O. Box 681007: Houston, Texas 77268-1007

### SERVICES

CPS ..... 713-626-5701  
CenterPoint-Gas ..... 713-659-2111  
Dead Animal Pick up ..... 713-699-1113  
Domestic Violence ..... 281-401-6250  
FBI ..... 713-693-5000  
Harris County Animal Control ..... 281-999-3191  
Houston Chronicle ..... 713-220-7211  
Greater Houston Pool ..... 713-771-7665  
Aqua Services Billing ..... 713-983-3602  
Aqua Service/Repair Calls ..... 713-983-3604  
Reliant-Street lights ..... 713-923-3213

www.centerpointenergy.com/outage

Sex Offenders ..... www.familywatchdog.us  
Time Warner Cable ..... 281-774-7222  
Waste Management ..... 713-686-6666

Trash pickup Tues/Fri

Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 plastics/aluminum cans)

Yard Stork ..... kpuente@garygreene.com

### NEWSLETTER

Editor ..... skstengle@sbcglobal.net  
(Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month)

Publisher - Peel, Inc. .... 512-989-8905  
Advertising ..... advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

### RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Porto ..... scott@myvillagecreek.net  
Diana Christopher ..... diana@myvillagecreek.net  
Don Rumsey ..... don@myvillagecreek.net  
Nicole Morris ..... nicole@myvillagecreek.net  
Mike Preiser ..... mike@myvillagecreek.net  
..... poolcards@myvillagecreek.net

## Neighborhood Watch

Please accept my thanks if you were one of the residents who joined me in January to discuss the start-up of our Neighborhood Watch Program. The interest level at the meetings was significant and copies of the brochure describing the program were distributed. This brochure is also available on our website at [www.myvillagecreek.net](http://www.myvillagecreek.net).

Neighborhood Watch has been a successful partnership of local communities and law enforcement across the Houston area and nationwide. It teams local residents with our law enforcement colleagues to reduce crime in communities. Our program is in its' infancy and we are ready to take the next step, which are as follows:

1. Select Block Captains for each block in our neighborhood
2. Block Captains sign up their neighbors as participants in the program
3. Village Creek achieves a 50% or better sign-up rate
4. Neighborhood Watch signage is posted throughout our neighborhood

We have had the information meetings. Now those interested need to step forward as Block Captains. Then we can begin the sign-up process. Please attend our next HOA meeting February 18th at the NWMUD#5 building located at 14701 Spring Cypress Road at 6:00 p.m. to step forward as a Block Captain. We will have a map of our neighborhood at the meeting to facilitate this process.

Neighborhood Watch simply asks us, as residents to step forward and advise law enforcement when we observe unusual activities in our neighborhood. Doing so will send a message to all that we care about Village Creek and want it to continue be the place that it is today, safe and comfortable. Criminals and vandals will get the message.

## Personal Classifieds

**FOR SALE:** Wooden Junior Desk with Chair. Dimensions are 44"x18" Six drawers with old fashioned ornate metal handles. \$35. 281-255-8701

**FOR SALE:** Bernina 1130 sewing machine with 26 attachments and cabinet. \$700.00. 281-516-1017.

## Business Classifieds

**NOW HIRING:** Lifeguards – Managers - Swim Instructors - Lifeguard Instructors. Benefits: excellent wages, flexible schedules, work close to home, work with friends. Apply online, [www.bealifeguard.com](http://www.bealifeguard.com). 713-771-POOL (7665).

## Advertising Information

Please support the business that advertise in the Village Creek newsletter.. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter each month 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 Peel, Inc. Sales office at 888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing The deadline for ads is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

# The Village Gazette

## Constable's Corner

*Submitted by Sergeant Michael Combest*

Spring has sprung, and with that comes the renewed effort to keep the area safe and trouble free. We certainly rely on the watchful eyes and ears of the citizens to aid us in protecting your community. Sometimes the smallest, or what seems like the most insignificant piece of information can help us solve a crime if passed along to us. There are many who feel they are bothering us by calling. This is certainly not the case. Should you see or hear of something you believe may be beneficial to us, please do not hesitate to call. I would also like to bring a few helpful things to mind that may prevent or deter the criminal element in the neighborhood.

- When you park your vehicle and are going to be away from it, remember to lock it and leave all valuables out of site or remove them from the vehicle. An unlocked vehicle is an easy target for a thief.
- Lock your garages to include the walk through door on a detached garage. There are many out there that will check and help themselves to your lawn equipment, bicycles and other items commonly stored in the garage.
- Set the alarms on your vehicles and homes. Sometimes the mere noise or audible alert can deter a criminal from continuing in their efforts by bringing attention to their actions.
- When you are planning to go away for an extended period of time, ask a friend or family member to watch your residence. You may also consider submitting a vacation watch to our

department so that we too can be aware of your absence and assist in watching the residence.

- Be aware of your surroundings while at home and should you notice activity that appears suspicious, report it.

These are just a few helpful reminders that go a long ways in preventing crime in the neighborhood. On another note, Spring Break is just around the corner and many will be planning vacations. Remember to include the maintenance of your vehicle in this planning process. Doing so can ensure a safe and trouble free vacation.

Harris County Constable's Office, Precinct 4

24 Hour Emergency phone: 281-376-3472

Website: [cd4.hctx.net](http://cd4.hctx.net)



### Website for Street Light Outages

When there is a street light that is out near your home, please report these to the website [www.centerpointenergy.com/outage](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage) or 713-207-2222. You will need the home address near the street light that is in question and the number located on the pole. Help keep our neighborhood safe!



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## FILING DEADLINE FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION IS APRIL 30, 2008

If you claim your homestead, you may be entitled to a TAX REDUCTION. To qualify your residential property must have been OWNER OCCUPIED on January 1, 2007.

To verify your current homestead exemption(s), go to **www.HCAD.org**, to Real Property Account, to Records, enter address, click on account number, and your tax exemption(s) will be posted.

If you need Homestead Exemption forms, I will be happy to send them to you. *Please email me at:*

**[kpunte@garygreene.com](mailto:kpunte@garygreene.com)**



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# The Village Gazette

## Cy-Fair Home and Garden Show

The First Annual Cy-Fair Home and Garden Show, March 1-2, is the first event of its kind in the Cy-Fair area and features appearances of some of the top names in home and gardening and over 200 exhibitors with the latest in home products and services on the market.

The Berry Center at 8877 Barker Cypress Road is the venue for this dynamic event, which offers interactive presentations by industry experts, Q&A sessions, fabulous shopping opportunities, an exciting media giveaway and live radio broadcasts – all designed to provide area residents with a large spectrum of resources to improve their homes.

### Meet the Experts:

Popular home-improvement professional TOM TYNAN brings his expert advice to the Home and Garden presentation stage. Tynan has a reputation as an innovator and champion of energy efficient home design. He is the owner and vice president of Tom Tynan Homes and owner and president of Tynan Construction. He has the longest-running home-improvement show in Texas – The Home Show, which airs on Sports Radio 610. Tynan has authored six books on home improvement, and his bi-monthly publication, "The Right Angle," has a circulation of 12,000.

The expertise and insight of KATHY HUBER, gardening editor for the Houston Chronicle since 1988, appears weekly in the newspaper's gardening section. During the Cy-Fair Home and Garden Show,

Huber will be up close and personal with her faithful readers. She is the author of "The Texas Flower Garden."

Professional organizer LINDA DURHAM will present "Spring Decluttering and Organizing." Durham's talk will teach three keys to organizing: Knowing your clutter and what you can do about it, Gaining basic principles of organizing that will help you use your staff and space wisely and effectively and Finding out how to plan your home from top to bottom – (Really!) Durham has owned Organizing Matters since 1999 and maintains a busy travel schedule speaking about the importance of organization in homes, offices and daily lives.

RANDY LEMMON, the gardening guru behind GardenLine on KTRH 740 AM, will offer his gardening advice, giving attendees a chance to ask questions and speak with Lemmon about their individual gardening needs.

"The benefit of the Cy-Fair Home and Garden Show is that we have an opportunity to answer people's questions directly so that they come away with a sense of personal service," Lemmon said. He will host GardenLine live from the Cy-Fair Home and Garden Show. Lemmon is the author of "Gulf Coast Gardening with Randy Lemmon."

For the gadget lovers in the crowd, MICHAEL GARFIELD, The High-Tech Texan, will speak on the latest trends in home technology

*(Continued on page 5)*

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**Easter**

**Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008**

**6:45 am** Sunrise Easter Service  
**7:45 am** Continental Breakfast  
**10:30 am** Main Easter Service

*Terra Verde*  
**Community Church**

Rosehill Christian School • 19830 FM 2920 • Tomball, TX 77377  
[www.terraverdechurchof.org](http://www.terraverdechurchof.org)



# The Village Gazette

## Home & Garden Show - (Continued from page 4)

and give audiences the inside scoop on what's hot and what's not. Garfield will broadcast "The High-Tech Texan," aired on The 9-5-0 AM, live from the Cy-Fair Home & Garden Show. In addition to being a popular radio host, Garfield is a key figure in the technology industry and serves as the technology and Web expert for several media outlets.

### Shop at the Show!

Garden Accents, S Home Décor and other vendors offer the opportunity to buy high-quality home accessories indoors and out – right at the show. Check out the fountains, waterfalls, statuary, floral arrangements and much more!

### Show Information:

The Cy-Fair Home & Garden Show takes place Saturday, March 1, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 2, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress, Texas 77433. Parking is included in the ticket price. There is plenty of on-site parking available. For directions, visit [www.berrycenter.net](http://www.berrycenter.net). For seminar times and list of exhibitors visit [www.cyfairhomeandgarden.com](http://www.cyfairhomeandgarden.com).

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and children under 12 are admitted free.

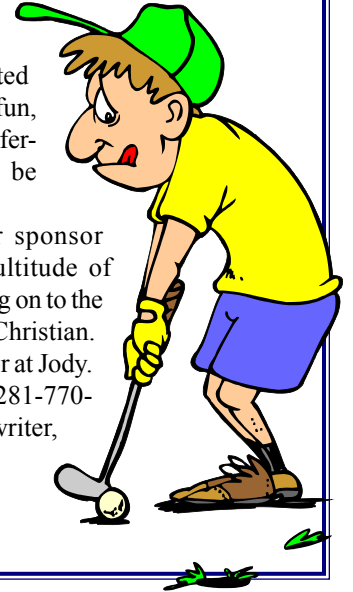
For more information, call 713-661-0109 or e-mail [Tony@TexwoodShows.com](mailto:Tony@TexwoodShows.com).

## Cypress Christian School Annual Golf Classic

Calling all Golfers and Sponsors! Mark your calendar for Monday, May 5 to participate in the annual CCS Golf Classic. This year's Golf Tournament will be held at the Longwood Golf Club, 13300 Longwood Trace, Cypress, TX 77429 with a 1 p.m. tee-time.

In addition to a great afternoon on the course, golfers will be treated to lunch and dinner. To add to the fun, a silent auction will be held with golfer-friendly/family-friendly items to be awarded to the highest bidder.

To play in the tournament or sponsor the event - which includes a multitude of advertising opportunities - please log on to the school web site at [www.CypressChristian.org](http://www.CypressChristian.org) or contact the Event Coordinator at Jody. [Pollos@CypressChristian.org](mailto:Pollos@CypressChristian.org) or 281-770-5326. Thanks to our Lead Underwriter, Longnecker & Associates!



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Expires March 31, 2008

# The Village Gazette

## Identity Theft Warning

Remember to shred all personal information including credit card applications and old checks before putting them in the garbage. Incidents of people going through trash have been reported in other neighborhoods and serve as a reminder that no one is above this terrible crime. For more information on how you can protect yourself from Identity Theft visit the Constable's website at [www.cd4.hctx.net](http://www.cd4.hctx.net).

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## Cypress Christian School hosts Community Carnival

Cypress Christian School will hold a Community Carnival to celebrate its 30th year of serving families in northwest Houston. Make plans now to join the fun on Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rides, games, food and prizes galore are in store for everyone who attends this special event. In addition, there will be a silent auction with family-friendly items ready to be awarded to the highest bidder.

Don't miss this fun event. The carnival will be held on the school grounds located at 11123 Cypress N. Houston Rd at Jones Rd. For more information, please log on to the school web site at [www.CypressChristian.org](http://www.CypressChristian.org) or contact the Event Coordinator at Jody. Pollos@CypressChristian.org or 281-770-5326. Sponsors, donors and advertisers welcome to participate in this event.

At no time will any source be allowed to use the Village Creek Newsletter contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from the Village Creek HOA and Peel, Inc. The information in the Village Creek Newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Village Creek Neighborhood residents only.

# Looking for a doctor?



Tomball Regional  
Physician Referral Line

# 281.401.7777

# The Village Gazette

## What's the Deal with Doggy Poo?

In the dog-eat-dog world of real estate, an area is only as good as its steadily increasing property values. And for areas overrun by smelly piles of dog poop, the "feces factor" could prove the weakest link to many homeowners and rental property managers.

The American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPM), estimates Americans own more pets than ever before, with 70 million dogs as of 2005. By the last count, there are more pets than people in the U.S.

Unfortunately, the rise in dog waste as a major cause of pollution continues to develop as well, so much so, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was forced to deem it a "nonpoint source of pollution" in 1991, which put poop in the same category as oil and toxic chemicals!

The EPA Clean Water Act of 1998 has deemed that animal waste or feces as secondary storm runoff contaminate. As of March 1, 2003, all states must have guidelines and standards regarding the reduction of animal waste in storm runoff. This new standard not only effects federal, state, and city parks, but apartment communities, H.G.A.'s, and right down to the private homeowners. Studies performed on the watersheds in Seattle, WA, area found that nearly 20% of bacteria found in the water samples were matched with dogs as the host animals. EPA Bulletin 916-F-OI-027.

According to the EPA, a single gram of dog feces can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause cramps,

diarrhea, intestinal illness and serious kidney disorders in humans. The EPA even estimates that two or three days worth of droppings from a population of about 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay, and all watershed areas within 20 miles, to swimming and shell fishing.

### Did You Know?

- 1 out of 4 people will own a dog.
- A normal small dog of 25 pounds will produce between two to four pounds of solid waste in one week. Large dogs over 25 pounds can produce between four and 10 pounds of waste in one week.
- 40% -60% of owners will pick up after their dog.
- Based on the above facts, a community with 40% of the residents not cleaning up after their dogs can have from 70 -130 pounds of dog waste on the ground each week. (Figures based on small dog under 25 pounds.)
- Dog waste can cause major health problems for humans and other pets.

**What You Can Do?** The most effective way for pet owners to limit their pet's contribution to source water contamination is to simply clean up and dispose of the pet waste.

In the end, it is best not to let sleeping dogs lie, when it comes to issues of communal cleanliness. After all, vigilant sanitation could mean the difference between your area's designation as prime real estate, or an area that has gone to the dogs.

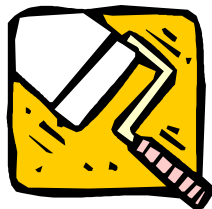
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### FALLEN ARCHES

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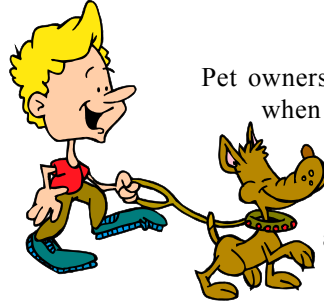
**Foot Specialists of Tomball**  
**281-351-5599**

13414 Medical Complex Dr., Ste. 9



# The Village Gazette

NOT AVAILABLE ON-LINE



## Pet Owners

Pet owners; please keep your pets on leashes when walking in the neighborhood, as a courtesy to others. Also, take care to pick up after your pooch if they leave a gift in someone else's yard or in any common area. No one likes to see, smell or step in those gifts!

## HOA Meetings

The Home Owners Association (HOA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. to discuss general business and special concerns. The meetings are held at the Fairwood club house, located at 14701 Spring Cypress. All residents are encouraged to attend.

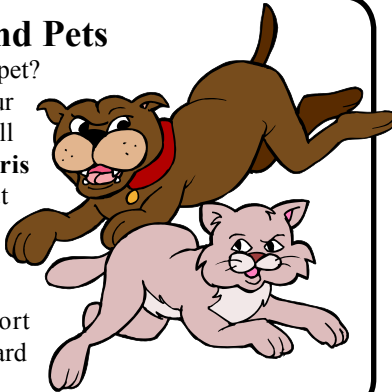
## Go Green

Want to do more for the environment than just recycle? Below are two websites that help reduce the amount of paper being thrown away each day!

- [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org) allows you to decline any unwanted catalogs you are currently receiving for free.
- [www.greendimes.com](http://www.greendimes.com) allows you to stop junk mail, for a fee.

## Lost and Found Pets

Have you found someone's pet? Have you lost your pet? If your answer is yes, we encourage all residents to please call **Harris County Animal Control** at 281-999-3191. The HOA offers their sympathy when one has misplaced a cat or dog, but please do not report lost or found pets to HOA Board Members.



## Notice:

There is a new stop sign at Imperial Crossing and Lake Vista making the intersection a four-way stop. Please take care to notice and follow all traffic signs.

## Deed Restriction Reminder:

Village Creek deed restrictions prohibit residents from operating a business from their residential home. Selling items from your personal business, such as overstock and clearance items, are in violation of the deed restrictions.

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# Village Creek Market Report

Courtesy of "DAVID FLORY"

This market information report is provided to keep you informed of resale market activity in your subdivision.

	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08
\$350,000 +	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$300,000 - 349,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$250,000 - 299,999	4	0	0	2	0	0
\$200,000 - 249,999	2	0	3	2	2	3
\$160,000 - 199,999	1	1	0	1	1	0
\$160,000 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Highest \$/Sq Ft</b>	<b>99.29</b>	<b>79.19</b>	<b>101.72</b>	<b>91.21</b>	<b>94.42</b>	<b>69.97</b>

This chart represents the homes that have sold and closed in the past 6 months according to the Houston Multiple Listing Service.

**#3 Realtor In Houston** Out Of 17,000  
Ranked by Houston Business Journal 3/2007

**David "Super Dave" Flory**



- Top 1% of Realtors in the U.S.
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- Over 96% of David's Listings Result in a Sale

HIGHEST PRICE PER SQ.FT. resale homes sold  
in Village Creek: \$101.72



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# The Village Gazette

## Texas Events - March

1-16—HOUSTON: Lady A hunting trip in southern Illinois turns tragic as three old friends, caught in the grip of an ongoing argument about the war in Iraq, reveal long-held political beliefs and realize they may not know each other as well as they had thought. [www.stagestheatre.com](http://www.stagestheatre.com) 713/527-0123

1-May 4—HOUSTON: Take an Amazon Voyage Board an Amazonian Riverboat and begin an interactive tour and encounter amazing creatures. Hands-on activities include computer interactives, storytelling, multimedia presentations and live fish. Space Center Houston. [www.spacecenter.org](http://www.spacecenter.org) 800/844-5253

1-May 25—HOUSTON: Jesse Jones: City Builder & Public Servant Exhibit documents Jones' role in U.S. history, as well as feature some of his extensive collections. The Heritage Society Museum [www.heritagesociety.org](http://www.heritagesociety.org) 713/655-1912

7-May 11—HOUSTON: Form, Color, Illumination: Suzan Frecon Painting Presents about 10 oil paintings and 30 watercolors dating from the late 1990s to 2006 by this American abstract painter. The Menil Collection. [www.menil.org](http://www.menil.org) 713/525-9400

15-16—HOUSTON: 19th Annual Auto Swap Meet Includes more than 800 swap meet dealers with more than one million car parts and accessories, plus all types of classic and antique cars and trucks on display. Traders Village, 7979 N. Eldridge Road. [www.tradersvillage.com](http://www.tradersvillage.com)

com 281/890-5500

15-16—HOUSTON: Eighth Annual Stephen Pyles Culinary Scholarship Cook-Off This is an Iron-Chef style cook-off. Students are asked to create a three-course menu using a pre-determined "basket" of food containing uniquely Texas ingredients, such as quail and yellow corn grits. The Art Institute of Houston. [www.winefoodfoundation.org](http://www.winefoodfoundation.org)

25-Apr. 6—HOUSTON: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Six young people in the throes of puberty learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. [www.tuts.com](http://www.tuts.com) 713/558-TUTS or 888/558-3882

28-30—HOUSTON: 11th Annual Bayou City Art Festival Features fine juried art by 300 artists representing 19 media formats. Includes restaurants, wine cafés, interactive art creative zone for children, colorfully costumed international dancers, musicians and performing arts. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Memorial Park. [www.bayoucityartfestival.com](http://www.bayoucityartfestival.com) 713/521-0133

*Texas Events has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.*

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## Fit Facts™

FROM THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EXERCISE®



## Travel Fitness: A Plan of Action to Keep You Active

**IT IS EASY TO LET A VACATION OR** business trip destroy your fitness schedule and eating habits, but why let something as rewarding as a vacation or as exciting as a business trip leave you feeling unhealthy upon return. With a little research and proper planning, you can create an easy-to-follow plan to keep you fit and healthy no matter where you travel, and you can come home feeling more healthy and energized than when you left.

### ***Nature's Playground and Man's Monuments***

There is no excuse for not finding places to exercise when every city has a great staircase, stadium, or tall buildings where you can master the stairs without a machine. If stairs aren't your thing, cities have lots of places good for walking, running or even hiking. Ask the hotel concierge if there are parks or trails nearby; or if you have ventured to the mountains, ask for a map of local hiking trails. It is also a good idea to ask the concierge for a map of the city to find out how many of your destinations are reachable by foot. (Walking will increase your fitness and decrease your taxi fares.) Prior to departure on your trip, find out if your hotel has a workout facility and a pool, and remember to pack your bathing suit and workout clothes. If they don't have a facility, they may be affiliated with a local gym where you can get a one-day pass for a small fee. There are no limits to the exercise you can do while exploring new territory. Make the most of your trip, and get to know the city by foot.

### ***Prepare for Power, No Excuses***

If your hotel doesn't offer fitness accommodations, bring along a jump rope and an exercise tube. They are both lightweight and easy to transport. Jumping rope is one of the best forms of cardiovascular exercise, and you can do it anywhere.

With the exercise tube and a pre-arranged plan to keep you motivated, you can keep your entire body toned and energized without entering a gym or stepping on a piece of exercise equipment. Numerous magazines and Web sites offer workout instructions for each body part. And, of course, body-weight exercises such as push-ups and crunches require no equipment at all. The point is to find a workout routine that suits your needs and follow it. Plan a specific time each day or every other day to do your strengthening and cardiovascular routines (a good plan is to alternate days between the two). Remember that the 20 to 60 minutes you spend working out each day is for you, and try to stay on schedule.

### ***Have Fun***

Be sure to enjoy yourself and make the most of the area to which you have traveled. Remember to bring comfortable shoes so that you can easily get a workout while using your feet as your main mode of transportation. Whether your trip is for business or vacation, remember that you should have some time for yourself every day. Why not dedicate that time to improving your health and making yourself feel better!

### ***Nutrition Road Tips***

- Always drink plenty of water, particularly if you're flying.
- Conjure up a healthy meal in your mind prior to entering a restaurant, and stick to your plan as closely as possible.
- Try to eat at least three times per day to keep you from feeling famished and overindulging at any one time.
- Pick up portable, healthy snacks at a local market so you won't be caught hungry in front of the mini-bar.
- Go ahead and splurge on regional dishes or local cuisine, but balance your diet by choosing lower-calorie foods at other meals.

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