

# THE Current

## SHADOW CREEK RANCH

Volume 1 Issue 1

Official Publication of Shadow Creek Ranch

January 2009

## Greetings Shadow Creek Ranch Residents

By the time you receive this it will be 2009 so let me begin by saying Happy New Year to all. I hope you enjoyed a safe and healthy holiday season.

Exciting news! You will notice that this issue looks different. We are pleased to welcome your new publication company, Peel Inc. For those of you wishing to advertise, their contact information on page two.

We at A.M.I. are proud to greet the New Year by offering a few new services to all of you. Our newsletter will now feature a classified section for residents only. We will also feature a section entitled "Teenage Job Seekers". For those of you with teens looking for work such as baby-sitting, mothers helper, car washing, yard work etc., this is an excellent place to post your information. You may submit your teen's name, age and phone number. Please be mindful of which phone number you are submitting. As a suggestion, use the parent/guardian number for your initial contact number to list in the newsletter so that you as the responsible adult have the first contact with the interested party. When submitting your information please indicate the following:

- CPR Trained
- First Aid Trained
- Eagle Scout

Also, indicate tasks offered such as Baby Sit, Pet Sit, Pet Walk, House Sit, Yard Work. You must submit all information to me no later than the 14th of each month.

Also, your On-Site staff has changed a bit. I am happy to announce that Kimberly Cartwright, formerly your financial service specialist, is now the Assistant to On-Site Manager. This change will better enable us to serve you as you now have more staff directly related to the day to day inspections and customer service needs. Feel free to give a call and welcome Kim to her new position.

I am calling on volunteers interested in assisting with community events. Those interested please email [Msmith@amitx.com](mailto:Msmith@amitx.com) and indicate any special skills or experience that you have that will be helpful as a community events volunteer. 2009 will be the first year of the SCR Event Crew!

On another note, I recall hearing some time back that there was a call out for assistance with starting a swim team in SCR. I don't remember the source but if anyone reading this has any information, please contact me asap.

Don't forget, your dues must be in by Jan. 31st in order to avoid late penalties. If you have not received a statement it is still your responsibility to contact us. Please remember, if you have moved, rented your home, changed your mailing address etc, it is your responsibility to inform us otherwise we will assume that you are receiving all mail.

Neighborhood Guidelines: As we move into a New Year let us start off on a good neighborly note.

- Please maintain courtesy for your neighbors.
- Refrain from walking your dog and not scooping the poop!
- Keep your dogs leashed and contained in your yard for the safety of all.
- Park your cars in your driveway without blocking sidewalk access.
- Keep you lawn edged and mowed.
- Fertilize those weeds. (They are contagious!)

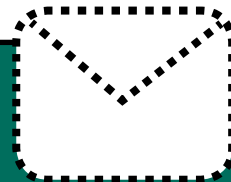
If we can all adhere to these simple good life rules, we can make Shadow Creek Ranch an even better place to live.

Again, A Very Happy New Year To You All!!!

Melanie Smith  
On-Site Manager  
Shadow Creek Ranch

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# SHADOW CREEK RANCH

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
Fire .....	911
Ambulance .....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency .....	281-331-9000

### SCHOOLS

Mary Marek Elementary .....	713-436-0180
Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary .....	281-245-3090
Manvel Junior High .....	281-331-1416
Alvin Senior High .....	281-331-8151
Manvel High School .....	281-245-2235
Alvin ISD Administration .....	281-338-1130
Alvin ISD Transportation .....	281-331-0960

### UTILITIES

Electricity - Reliant Energy .....	713-207-7777
Gas - Center Point .....	713-659-2111
Trash Removal - City of Pearland .....	281-652-1600

### OTHER NUMBERS

Pearland Post Office .....	281-485-2132
Poison Control .....	800-764-7661
Brazoria County Health Department .....	979-864-1484
Animal Control .....	281-756-2265

### CITY

Pearland City Hall .....	281-652-1600
Pearland Utility Billing - Water Dept .....	281-652-1603
Pearland Animal Control .....	281-652-1970
Pearland Police Dept - Non-Emergency .....	281-652-1100
Pearland Public Works .....	281-652-1900

### NEWSLETTER

Editor	
Melanie Smith .....	msmith@amitx.com
Publisher	
Peel, Inc. ....	512-263-9181
Advertising .....	512-263-9181

## MGMT COMPANY

### ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT, INC.

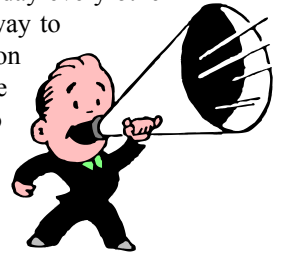
Community Manager	
Michael Martinez .....	713-931-1122
On-Site Manager	
Melanie Smith .....	713-436-4563
Assistant to On-Site Manager	
Kimberly Cartwright .....	713-436-4563
Service Specialist	
Vaness Aviles .....	713-984-7265

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## CALLING ALL INTERESTED TO SERVE

### Village of Emerald Bay Board Vacancies

The Village of Emerald Bay has two open vacancies for Board positions. If you live in Emerald Bay and are interested in serving please be sure to fill out and return the Willingness to Serve Form that will come in the mail with the meeting notice. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 10th – location to be announced via mail. Board meetings are held one weekday every other month at 2:30pm. This is an excellent way to utilize your skills, experience and dedication toward serving your community. If you are interested, come to the meeting prepared to give a one minute introduction of yourself, your background and why you think you would make an excellent candidate.



## Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in Shadow Creek Ranch Newsletter. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following issue.

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# SHADOW CREEK RANCH

## Salsa Club (aka Salseros)

Dear Friends,

Happy New Years!!! Join the Latin Dance Revolution! Become part of the Salseros. Get to meet your neighbors, burn some calories, relieve some stress, try something new to get away from the regular routine, and have tons of fun while dancing and learning some cool moves for Salsa, Merengue, Bachata and Tango. Please contact Christian Gutierrez via email at [cgutierrez00@gmail.com](mailto:cgutierrez00@gmail.com) (preferred) or via phone at 832-693-5842 for more information. Everybody is welcome. Couples are encouraged, no dancing experience required.

For your calendar (RSVP by email please) Sunday, January 18th, 2009; 5:00pm to 7:30pm. Salsa Social with new and existing members.

Friday, January 23rd, 2009; 9:00pm to midnight. Taco Milagro (2555 Kirby Dr Houston, TX 77019) we will be hosting our monthly salsa outing. We meet near the Art work that says: "Salsa Bar" by the food serving area.

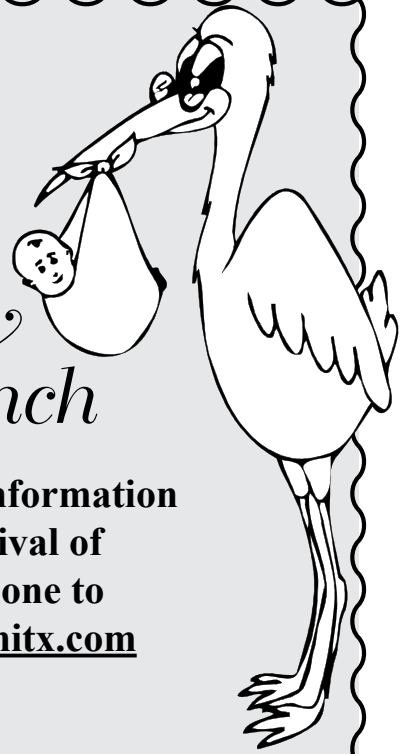
Hope to hear from you soon. Keep on dancing! Christian from Latin Dance Factory!

Take care,

Angelique Guzman

## Stork Report in Shadow Creek Ranch

Submit your information  
on the arrival of  
your little one to  
[msmith@amitx.com](mailto:msmith@amitx.com)

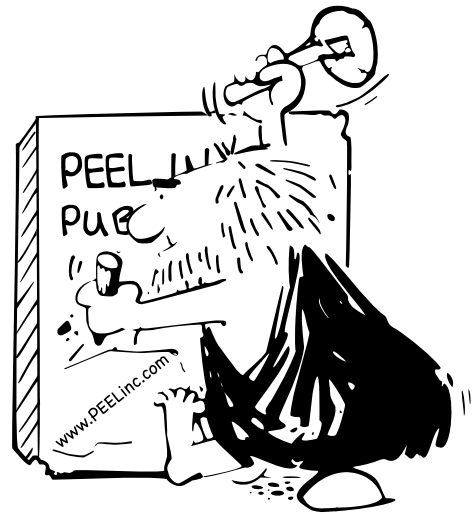


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Bridgeland	Shadow Creek Ranch
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Lakes of Fairhaven	Willowlake
Lakes on Eldridge	Willow Pointe
Lakes on Eldridge North	Winchester Country
Lakewood Grove	Winchester Trails
Legends Ranch	Windermere Lakes
Longwood	Wortham Villages
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Kelly Peel, Sales Manager  
[kelly@PEELinc.com](mailto:kelly@PEELinc.com)

# SHADOW CREEK RANCH

## Community Information Regarding Fireworks



### Pearland Fire Marshal Office of Emergency Management

2010A Old Alvin  
Pearland, Texas 77581  
281-652-1954 Office  
281-652-1784 Fax



December 9, 2008

The City of Pearland does not allow the presence of any fireworks in the city or within five thousand feet of the city which includes the entire extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), as stated in the City of Pearland Ordinance (Ord. No. 513-2, § 1, 6-11-90)

The Pearland Police and Fire Marshal will be patrolling the area on December 31, 2008. Violators will be issued a citation and any fireworks will be seized.

Any questions related to fireworks can be directed to the Pearland Fire Marshal's Office, Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm.

To report the use of fireworks in your area, call Pearland dispatch at 281-652-1104.

Roland Garcia  
Fire Marshal  
City of Pearland  
Phone: 281-652-1950

## Meet Kendrell and Jonathan

DOB: October 1993 & October 1997

Kendrell and Jonathan want to find a forever family. They have a close bond; Jonathan looks up to his sister and Kendrell is very nurturing to her brother. They enjoy each other's company and play well together and other children. Kendrell and Jonathan do well in school and excel in sports. They are both wonderful children who appear shy or quiet when you first meet them, but both can also be strong-willed and determined.

Kendrell is outgoing, cheerful and makes friends easily. She enjoys running and doing typical "girl" things. She is engaging and talkative. Kendrell may present as a tough girl, but her foster parents report that underneath her tough exterior, Kendrell has a big and generous heart.

Jonathan is a happy, easy-going child. He is active and enjoys sports and drawing. He is smart and can watch someone doing something and it will only take him a few tries to be able to do it himself.

These children very much want to be adopted together and would contribute significantly to the happiness of a family. Jonathan would benefit from a positive male role model that will spend time doing mutually enjoyable activities. Kendrell would thrive in a home that allows her to be a teenager while guiding her in becoming a mature young woman.

If you would like more information on becoming an adoptive parent, please contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-301-2825 or [info@adopttexas.org](mailto:info@adopttexas.org).

For more information about Kendrell and Jonathan, please contact: Grace Lindgren, LMSW, Adoption Coalition of Texas/Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, [Gracelindgren@adopttexas.org](mailto:Gracelindgren@adopttexas.org), 512-687-3209.



## Did You Know?



President-elect Zachary Taylor refused to take his oath of office on the designated inauguration day, March 4, 1849, because it was a Sunday. He was sworn in the next day, leaving David R. Atchison, president pro tempore of the Senate, as acting president for the day.

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## A New Year's Resolution for your PC

*Submitted by Laurie Scott*

The holidays are now behind us and we are all brimming with New Year's resolutions that are probably destined to fail, but I have a resolution you can actually keep.


I preach and preach to backup your computer's data to everyone I encounter, yet invariably someone will have a system failure and when I ask if their data was backed up, I'll get a great story about how they meant to purchase an external drive, or that have the drive, but never got around to setting it up. Well, it's a new year and time to commit to safeguarding your data. Stop and think for a minute about all you have on your computer. Maybe you have priceless photos from a vacation, or a birthday, or even wedding and honeymoon pictures. How would you feel if the hard drive suffered a catastrophic failure, or you were the victim of a break-in and your computer was stolen. You can never get those pictures back. Maybe you have important business or financial data, how would you get that back?

So here are a couple of inexpensive ways to protect your precious data. One way is to use an external hard drive that connects to your computer's USB port. You can find them for under \$100 and most of them come with some kind of backup software. A favorite backup software of mine is the free version of SyncBack, which can be downloaded at [www.2brightsparks.com/freeware](http://www.2brightsparks.com/freeware). It is easy

to use, and you can schedule it to run daily so you don't have to remember.

An even better choice is an online, off-site backup. This gives you access to your data from anywhere, and even in the event of fire your data is safe. If you have less than 2 Gigabytes of data, you can backup your information for free at [mozy.com](http://mozy.com). My favorite is using a \$20 software package called JungleDisk. You download it from [jungledisk.com](http://jungledisk.com). You use the software to easily upload your data to Amazon's secure servers designed just for storage. Your data is encrypted during transmission and while being stored – only you have access to the data because only you have your encryption code. The cost is only \$.15 per Gigabyte for storage and \$.10 per Gigabyte for transfer. You don't have to upload everything you have, just your most valuable files. Even if you have lots and lots of photos, you'll probably only pay 25 cents a month or less. The software lets you easily schedule what files and folders to backup, so you again can set it and forget it.

So this year, make a New Year's resolution to protect your computer's data and do daily or weekly backups. Once you set it up, your computer will keep your resolution for you and a year from now, you can look back and know that you kept at least one of your 2009 resolutions.



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# SHADOW CREEK RANCH

## 529 College Savings Plans Make Sense

*Submitted by Rich Keith*

With college savings plans, students of all ages can save for all college costs, including tuition, fees, room, board, textbooks and computers. It's not just for kids: If you are considering going back to college or graduate school, you can open a college savings plan for yourself. You will save on taxes, and if you end up not going to school, you can always transfer the money, tax-free, to another 529 plan for your children or spouse.

Withdrawals from college savings plans can be used at most colleges and universities throughout the country, including graduate schools. Some foreign education institutions also may be eligible. Many states now offer at least one college savings plan that has no residency restrictions. You can live in Ohio, contribute to a plan in Maine, and send your child to college in California. However, if your state offers state tax advantages to residents who participate in the local plan, you'll miss out if you opt for another state's 529 plan.

College savings plans typically cover all "qualified education expenses" at eligible colleges, universities and other post-secondary institutions, including tuition, fees, books and supplies, equipment, room and board.

When you invest in a college savings plan, you pay money into an investment account on behalf of a designated beneficiary. Contributions can vary and are only limited by the maximum and minimum contributions limits set by most plans. Although the maximum contribution amount differs from state to state, in the majority of states offering college savings plans, the maximum amount that you can contribute for one beneficiary exceeds \$200,000. To further increase the amount of contributions you can make, you can open a second college savings plan in another state.

Most states also offer very flexible minimum contribution limits. Many require a \$250 initial contribution with subsequent contributions of as little as \$50. Typically, each plan gives you a number of investment options that allow you to invest in various

# 529 PLAN

mutual fund portfolios. Some college savings plans offer age-based mutual fund portfolios. When the child is younger, the portfolio typically invests mostly in stock funds, which carry a higher risk, but higher return potential. As your child grows older, the asset allocation becomes increasingly conservative as it gradually shifts to bond funds and other fixed-income funds.

Many states also offer non-age-based investment options, allowing you to select portfolios with conservative, moderate and aggressive asset allocations. The IRS allows you to change your investment options once every calendar year in a college savings plan.

Investing in college savings plans does come with some risk. Unlike prepaid tuition plans, they don't lock in tuition prices. Nor does the state back or guarantee the investments. There also is the risk with most college savings plan investment options that you may lose money or your investment may not grow enough to pay for college.

Fees, charges and expenses. All 529 plans have fees and expenses. Not only do these charges vary among 529 plans, but also they can vary within a single 529 plan. It is very important to take fees and expenses into account when selecting a college savings plan. Slightly larger fees and expenses can make a big difference in the value of your investment over time. Let's say you invest \$10,000 in a college savings plan with a return of 8% before expenses. With a plan that had annual administration and operating expenses of 3.03%, after 18 years, you would end up with only \$22,966.81. If the college savings plan had expenses of 0.65%, you would end up with \$35,534—a 35% difference!

Before buying a 529 plan, you should find out about the particular plan you are considering, and be sure you understand the plan's description of fees and expenses. Work with your financial professional to help you make the right choices.



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# SHADOW CREEK RANCH

## Creating Strong Vibrant Communities

It's a fact of our global economy that consumers are drawn to the internet because of convenience. Why it is important to "Think Local Business First?"

1. Local businesses are often collectively our largest local employer. The largest growth of jobs is from small business owners.
2. When one dollar is spent at a local business, economists indicate it is circulated four to seven additional times in the local economy.
3. Every dollar spent locally generates up to 75% more tax revenue to our community and State.
4. Local businesses are often the largest financial supporters of neighborhood school programs, local charities and youth sports activities.
5. Strong local businesses help maintain property values and contribute to the character of our community by offering a diverse selection of goods and services.
6. Local businesses are most often the first job for our children and also the first introduction into the "real world" of economics.
7. Small businesses often innovate quicker and thus grow faster and can have a greater impact on our community.

Support the businesses in your community and "Think Local Business First."

## Do You Have Reason to Celebrate?

We want to hear from you!  
Email [msmith@amitx.com](mailto:msmith@amitx.com)  
to let the community know!

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## Teenage Job Seekers

**NAME** **Age** **Baby** **Pet** **House** **Yard** **Phone**  
Doe, John ..... 15 ..... • ..... • ..... 111-1111

\*-CPR Training

+First Aid Training

### Attention Teenagers

The **Teenage Job Seekers** listing service is offered free of charge to all Shadow Creek Ranch teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to [msmith@amitx.com](mailto:msmith@amitx.com) by the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month!

## Classified Ads

**Personal classifieds** (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Shadow Creek Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail [msmith@amitx.com](mailto:msmith@amitx.com).

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

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