News For The Residents of Bridgeland

February 2009, Volume 3, Issue 2

THE TIMES

Clay Road Baptist School's AR Top Readers



Clay Road Baptist School is pleased to announce its AR Top Readers in Middle School (Grades 6-8) for the Fall '08 semester. Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer software program that helps teachers manage and monitor students' reading. Students choose a book at their level and read it at their own pace. When finished, the student takes a short quiz on the computer. The following readers earned 20 points or more last semester;



Corrie Andrews Ashton Binkley Hannah Cochran Christian Dixon Yvonne Espinoza Andrew Harding Katherine Hulbert Daniel Mueller Jeremy Nguyen Lauren Nugent Jared Pereira Beau Powell Rebecca Royall Jeffrey Schultz Randal Schultz Amanda Sutherland Anderson Toups Phoebe Toups Austin Ulmer Kristen Walker Kylee Waters

Not Pictured: *Daniel Bunch*



<u>February 5th</u>
Creative Movement PreK Dance* 5:10 pm
<u>February 7th</u>
Create A Valentines Day Card2:00 pm
February 10th
Chinese Cooking Class 10:00 am
February 12th
Book Club7:00 pm
February 19th
Empty Nesters
February 20th
First Ladies Of Bridgeland7:00 pm
-
March 4th (Every Mon/Wed in March)
Beginner Tennis5:30 pm
March 10th
Chinese Cooking Class 10:00 am
March 12th
Book Club
March 19th
Empty Nesters
March 20th
First Ladies Of Bridgeland7:00 pm
(* Every Thursday in Feb. and March)



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<u>THE TIMES</u>

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	
Fire	
Ambulance	
Harris County Sheriff	
Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Dept.	

AREA HOSPITALS

Cy-Fair Medical Center	
North Cypress Medical Center	
Willowbrook Methodist	

SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD	
Cy-Fair ISD	
Robison Elementary School	
Spillane Middle School	
Cy Woods High School	
Cy Fair High School	

UTILITIES

Trash - Republic Waste	
Water and Sewer	
Gas-Centerpoint Energy	
Electricity - Reliant Energy	

PUBLIC SERVICES

Cypress Post Office	281-373-9125
Drivers License Info.	281-955-1100
Harris County Tax	713-224-1919

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Advertising	advertising@peelinc.com

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The Times

A newsletter for Bridgeland residents.

The Times is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Bridgeland residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at www. PEELinc.com or you can email it <u>articles@peelinc.com</u>. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome.

Our goal is to keep you informed!

Bridgeland Women's Club



First Ladies of Bridgeland Meet the third Friday of every month.



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Your Neighborhood Urgent Care Center

<u>THE TIMES</u>



Children are our greatest treasures, and we're creating a threat to their safety by parking on the streets and by speeding through Bridgeland.

SPEEDING IN BRIDGELAND PARKING ON THE STREET

Most homeowners have some space in their garage reserved for storage – in some cases most of the garage, thereby not leaving enough room for their vehicles. Consequently, many owners park their vehicles on the street making it difficult for others to pass and creating hazardous conditions for the children.

Although we're all anxious to get home to be with our families, speeding and reckless driving is against the law and endangers everyone. Bridgeland is a family oriented community with many children; for that reason before you speed or park on the street, please consider their well-being. Also, children playing in the street can unknowingly create a dangerous situation, especially on heavily traveled streets; the driver may not see the child, especially in the evening or after dark.

We all know that children have a tendency to move about impulsively and may inadvertently run into the street. Please don't let a tragedy happen before parking your vehicle off the street or obeying the speed limit. For the benefit of all the residents and children, and the overall appearance of your neighborhood, please do not park on the street. Make accommodations in your garage or driveway for your vehicles and keep your streets clear and safe for all and please, DO NOT SPEED IN BRIDGELAND.



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As 2009 is now underway, Cypress Cares would like to announce the dates that we will be boxing up our care packages for the year. All boxing events will be held at the Cole's Crossing Community Center, located at 13050 Barker Cypress Road at Jarvis Road.

Several of our packing days this year are specifically at times when Cy Fair ISD is not in session so that our students will have an opportunity to be involved as well. The dates are as follows:

> January 31, 10:00 March 14, 10:00 April 25, 10:00 July 8, 12:00 August 17, 2:00 October 3, 10:00 Halloween Treats for Troops November 14, 10:00 Christmas Trees and Decorations December 28, 1:00 Christmas Break Service Project for Cy Fair Students

Cypress Cares has received more thank you notes from the troops who have received packages. Visit our website, www.cypresscares.org to view the troop responses, as well as more current information about upcoming events, donation ideas and more. Our troops need and deserve our support; get involved today!



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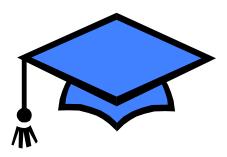


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ATTENTION 2009 CY-FAIR / CY-WOODS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



The Ault Elementary PTO awards a \$500 scholarship to one male and one female applicant who is graduating from either Cy-Fair High School OR Cy-Woods High School and graduated from Ault Elementary. Scholarship applications and guidelines can be obtained from the Counselors' office. The deadline for submitting applications is April 10, 2009.

Cypress Creek High School Celebrates Spring Cougar Day

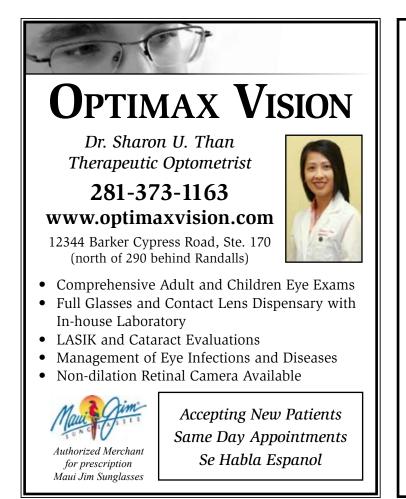
Houston, TX, January 3, 2009

The Cypress Creek High School Athletic Booster Club will be having its annual spring fundraiser, Cougar Day, on Saturday, February 7th, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The community is invited to participate in the day's festivities, which will take place at the Cypress Creek High School football stadium complex, 9815 Grant Road, Houston.

Featured activities are: Baked Potato Meal Sale, Silent Auction, Concession Stand, Face Painting, Cake Walk, and Cougar Spirit Items sale. The day will also showcase the spring season boys' and girls' sports: Baseball, Soccer, Softball, Track & Field, Swimming, Golf, Wrestling and Tennis. Several of the teams will have scrimmages or do demonstrations.

All funds raised will go directly to support Cypress Creek's boys' and girls' athletic programs.

For further information, please visit the Cypress Creek Athletic Booster club website at www.cycreekabc.com or contact Jeneane Schultz at 832-444-7607.





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Jeans & Jewels **Dinner-Dance and Silent** Auction–Feb 20th

Entire community - you are cordially invited to the Jeans & Jewels Dinner-Dance and Silent Auction in honor of WRAP (Wildcats Right After Prom)! This evening of fun will be at Lindsay Lakes on Friday, February 20th from 7:30-11:30 - so save the date!

For ticket information please check website, cywoodswrap.org or contact committee chair Margaret Mahoney by phone at 281-351-1619 or by email at dennisjmahoney@netzero.net

We are still accepting donations for the silent auction, please contact Margaret Mahoney.

Mr. Cy Woods Contest - Feb 26th

WRAP-Wildcats Right After Prom, Inc. our parent driven project prom organization will be hosting the first Mr. Cy Woods contest on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 6:30pm in the Cypress Woods High School Auditorium. The senior men will be judged in three categories: formal wear, swimsuit and talent. Senior class women will be escorting the contestants on stage throughout the competition. Al's Formal Wear of Willowbrook will be providing the tuxes for the men to wear in the pageant. If you are interested in participating as a contestant or an escort, send an email to one of the committee chairs: Suzanne Chaffin sichaffin@comcast. net or Tina Kendrick kendrick tina@yahoo. com. There is a \$35.00 entry fee and all

participants should plan on attending 2 rehearsals after school on Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the event. Only a limited number of contestants and escorts will be accepted based on a first come, first serve rule.

Admission tickets will be \$10 and will be presold and at the door. Also limited VIP Seating will be \$20 (You will have a seat on one of the first four rows!)

WRAP is Cy-Woods High School's parent-driven Project Prom organization. The purpose of WRAP is to provide a drug- and alcohol-free all-night party for the graduating seniors and their guests after their prom. Held at the CFISD Berry Center on May 22, 2009, from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., it is a fun-filled evening of shows, games, activities, food, gifts and prizes! Website for WRAP is cywoodswrap.org

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- Load dishwasher

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- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

- All Rooms
- Pick up and straighten
- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

Windows

- Clean entry window & one
- set of patio door windows
- Clean window over kitchen sink





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The Times - February 2009 9

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Soap Box Derby Park Coming to Northwest Harris County!!!

Greater Houston Soap Box Derby is hosting a Derby Day on Saturday, February 28, 2009, from 10AM until 2PM at the Hockley Community Center, located at 28515 Old Washington Rd. The public is encouraged to come out that day to see the soon-to-open Hockley Derby Park and to learn about Soap Box Derby racing. There will be something for everyone, both young and old, and admission is free. Derby Day events include Derby history and information, guided tours of the hill, a display of cars representing all race divisions, construction and speed clinics, test drives of Derby cars in the parking lot, a Pinewood Derby Race (bring your own Pinewood Derby car), and an exciting pit crew contest. Food and drinks will be available at reasonable prices. For registration information & directions, please visit houstonsoapboxderby.org.

Hockley Derby Park, which is adjacent to the community center, is currently under construction by Harris County Precinct 3 and is due to open in the fall of 2009. With the opening of this park, Greater Houston Soap Box Derby will be able to provide not only more racing events than the 3 events now held each year on the current West Park Drive Hill, but also accommodate a larger number of participants and spectators. The track was designed to be the same length, height and profile as "Derby Downs," the All-American Soap Box Derby's national track in Akron, Ohio.

Greater Houston Soap Box Derby invites local civic organizations and companies to become an active partner in this truly unique All-American youth tradition through event sponsorships and or volunteering.

About Greater Houston and the All-American Soap Box Derby

2009 is our 19th Year of Soap Box Derby in Houston. Soap Box Derby racing is a seventytwo-year-old All-American youth tradition. Soap Box racers are gravity powered with driver-controlled steering and brakes. There are three race car divisions - Stock, Super Stock and Masters - to meet varying age, size, weight and skill levels. The cars for all three

divisions are assembled from kits purchased from the All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio. A limited number of loaner cars are available for new drivers in the Houston area.

The Super Kids program promotes Soap Box Derby racing for children with disabilities. Harris County Precinct 3, headed by Commissioner Steve Radack, has constructed eight specially built two-seat, dual-control Super Kids cars for use in Houston's Derby. All-American Local race events are open to girls and boys who are at least 8 years of age; NDR Rally races are open to youth ages 7 and up. Race events are sanctioned by the All-American Soap Box Derby, National Derby Rallies, Inc. (NDR), and National Super Kids Classic

The Greater Houston Soap Box Derby is a charitable, tax-exempt corporation run by volunteers for the benefit of today's youth. Website: www.houstonsoapboxderby.org Email: ghsbd@hotmail.com Derby Line: 713/871-1304

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The Times - February 2009 11

<u>THE TIMES</u>

Long Term Care: Manage the Costs Submitted by Rich Keith

Yearly long term care costs have increased 15% since 2004 to nearly \$75,000 in 2007. And 75% of Americans have no long term care plans.

A recent survey from Genworth Financial's 2007 Cost of Care Survey found the average national cost of care for nursing homes, assisted living facilities and in the home has steadily increased over the past four years and has reached new highs that exceed most household incomes in the U.S. The rising costs of long term

care may, therefore, present difficulties for many Americans should they need to pay for long term care out of their own pockets.

A separate national poll conducted by Public Opinion Strategies for Genworth Financial with input from the Alzheimer's Association found that 75 percent of Americans have made no long term care plans and 59 percent expressed concern about being able to pay for long term care. Almost half of the respondents (44 percent) incorrectly believe that Medicare or their private health insurance will pay for their long term care needs. In actuality, health insurance and the federal Medicare program do not generally cover long term care.

Genworth's annual benchmark study surveyed more than 11,000 nursing homes, assisted living facilities and home care providers. It was conducted by CareScout between January and February 2007 to gain a comprehensive view of long term care expenses. The survey is available at www.genworth.com.

According to the survey, the average national cost in 2007 of a single year in a private nursing home room is \$74,806. To put this into context, one year in a private nursing home room costs nearly one and a half times the average full 4-year college degree in the U.S., including tuition, room and board. Note the College Board's national average for public colleges is \$51,184 for four years, making a single year in a nursing home 46 percent more expensive.

The cost of assisted living facilities has also increased sharply in the last four years, by more than 13 percent, to a new annual average cost of \$32,573 for a one-bedroom unit.



If given the choice between care in a facility such as a nursing home or an assisted living facility and care at home, 75% of national poll respondents said they would prefer care at home. However, the hourly rate for a home health aide has increased 2.7 percent since Genworth's 2004 Cost of Care Survey. The average cost for a 40-hour per week home health aide – \$52,977 a year – is more than the median household income in the U.S. of \$46,272.

The Alzheimer's Association recently reported that the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease has increased 10 percent in the last five years and that someone in America develops Alzheimer's every 72 seconds. Seventy-two percent of poll respondents said that the possibility of developing Alzheimer's disease makes planning for their long term care more important to them. Following are key findings from the survey, broken out by major category.

Nursing Homes: The average annual national cost of a private room in a nursing home is \$74,806 or \$204 per day, reflecting a 14.8 percent increase over 2004 rates. This remains the most costly care option.

Assisted Living: A private one-bedroom unit in an assisted living facility has an average annual cost of \$32,573, a 13 percent increase since 2004.

Home Care: The average hourly rate for Medicare/Medicaid certified and state licensed home health aides is \$25.47 an hour, a cost that translates to a \$52,977 per year for 40 hours per week.

With so many Baby Boomers heading into retirement, it's critical that long term care planning be integrated into every adult's retirement strategy. Paying for just a few years of long term care out of pocket can very easily deplete an entire life's savings and retirement. Not planning ahead can also limit the variety of choices available, such as the ability to live independently at home with assistance from a home health aide. Source: Genworth Financial, Inc.



US Olympian to Speak at Northwest Flyers Registration Breakfast on February 7, 2009

The Northwest Flyers Track Club will host its annual free information / registration breakfast on February 7, 2009 for all boys and girls and their parents interested in joining for the 2009 season. The breakfast starts at 8:30AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum located at 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

The breakfast is the annual opportunity for youth athletes to register for the 2009 summer track season, and to meet the Northwest Flyers coaches and staff, and other new and returning athletes. The event will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track & Field Olympic team.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (age 6 -18) track organization, affiliated with USA Track & Field (USATF), that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance, relays and sanctioned "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, shot put and javelin. The Northwest Flyers has approximately 195 members, boys and girls. The club was founded 21 years ago by Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the Northwest Houston area. The Northwest Flyers is a member of the "Win with Integrity" program, a partnership between USATF and the American College of Sports Medicine. "Win with Integrity" brings elite track & field athletes and school-aged kids together to promote healthy lifestyles, keeping active, and living with integrity through the sport of track & field.

For additional information on The Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at http://www.northwestflyers.org or contact Linette Roach at (281) 587-8442 or linette.roach@sbcglobal. net.

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Bridgeland Times. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all The Bridgeland residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or <u>advertising@</u> <u>PEELinc.com</u>. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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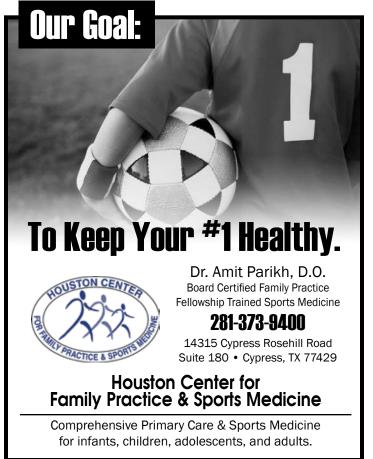
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Eyewitness to Majesty: Abandoning Self for Christ with Mindy Ferguson



Come, walk along with Peter as an eyewitness to the life of Christ. Watch Peter transform from Simon the ordinary fisherman, to Peter fisher of men. Peter will encourage you and inspire you. But most of all, he will challenge you to abandon self for Christ.

All women in the community are invited to join us on Tuesday evenings at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Fairfield for this eleven-week Bible study, featuring author and Cypress resident, Mindy Ferguson of Fruitful Word Ministries. Each week we will come together for 90 minutes of fellowship, music, prayer and indepth teaching by Mindy. Childcare is free with advance reservations. Please come and bring a friend!

DATES:

Tuesday evenings, February 3rd through April 21st.

TIME:

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Good Shepherd UMC, 20155 Cypresswood Drive,

Fairfield Subdivision (290 and Mason Rd)

<u>COST:</u>

\$13.00 for workbook

TO REGISTER CONTACT:

Good Shepherd UMC office at 281-373-2273 or Aynne Daugherty (aynnedaugherty@yahoo.com) at 281-373-1822 Visit Mindy's ministry website at: www.Fruitfulword.org

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Questions or Concerns?

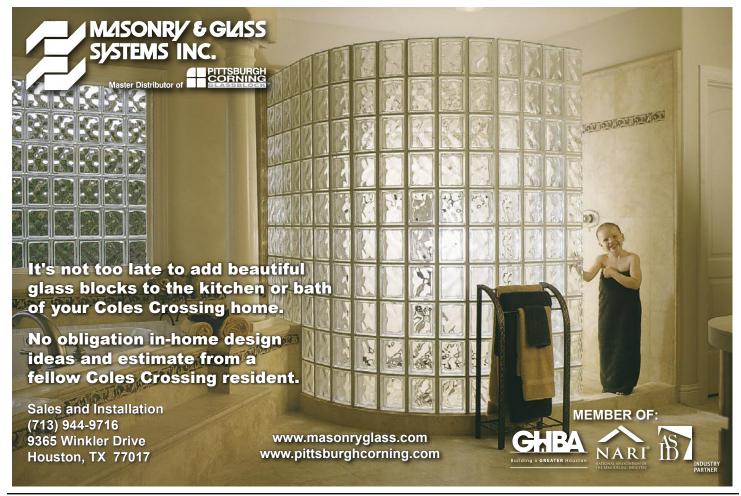
Call ECI of MHMRA Harris County at 713-970-4900 or visit www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis to find out more about ECI and to find your local program. ECI developmental screenings & evaluations are at no cost to families!



"Adventures in Mothering" at The MET Join the Adventure! Get Connected...with MOPS!

MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers, a program led by mothers themselves and designed for mothers with children ages birth to 5. These mothers all have a shared desire...to be the best mothers they can be!

For more information on meetings in Fairfield, please contact Renate Wheeler at renateqw@yahoo.com. They will meet on the second and fourth Fridays during the school year.



Virus and Spyware and Mail... Oh My!

Here we are in 2009, and the days of thinking that our anti-virus and anti-spyware software will protect us is over. We live in a time when organized crime all over the world is trying to either get your personal information directly or turning your computer into a "zombie" that without your knowledge attacks other computers or sends out spam. Even Apple computer has posted (rather quietly) a recommendation that Mac users consider using anti-virus software.

The generic term for viruses, spyware, etc. is malware, and malware authors are getting more and more creative in getting their hands into your computer. A particularly nasty approach being used is to trick you by popping up a window that says your computer is being scanned for viruses, and that upwards of 40 have been found. It instructs you to click on a button to download their "anti-



virus" software to clean your system. When you click on that button, you've just allow the spyware onto your system. It is a very convincing window and looks legitimate. Once downloaded, it adds insult to injury by telling you need to purchase the software to actually remove the viruses. Of course, it doesn't remove any spyware or virus, and getting you to send them money is just icing on their cake. The most common names for

this program is WinAntiVirus 2008 (and now a 2009 version) and Pro AntiSpyware.

The problem with these and many other malware programs is that they are increasingly difficult for your anti-virus and anti-spyware program to detect and almost impossible to completely remove. Many threats appear before the anti-virus companies even have a chance to update their software, leaving you completely unprotected.

So how can you keep your computer safe from such threats? The first thing you must do is be sure to keep your anti-virus up to date. If your subscription has expired, you should either renew it or else use one of the free anti-virus programs like AVG Free or Avast (they have paid versions but you don't need them). Microsoft's anti-spyware program "Defender" is included with Vista

(Continued on Page 17)



Virus & Spyware - (Continued from Page 16)

and can be downloaded free from Microsoft for Windows XP. Though the threat for Macs is low, programs like ClamXav and MacScan are available, as are programs from Symantec and McAfee.

Next is keep your operating system up to date. Both Microsoft and Apple frequently issue updates, and it's very important you patch your computer before the bad guys worm their way in.

Finally and most important is your behavior when using your computer. You can own a Volvo or Mercedes with 12 airbags and 5-way seat belts, but if your behavior is to drive 120 miles an hour, those safety features aren't going to help you when you hit a solid wall. Likewise, when you're using your computer, don't click on links or open attachments in email, even if it's from someone you know - they may not even know they sent it! If you're expecting it, then ok. Don't click on email links that look like they came from your bank, many people have given their banking login information to thieves because they thought they were logging into their bank, but really weren't. If you use Internet Explorer, be sure you've upgraded to version 7 (click on Help | About to see the version number.) If you're using Firefox, you should be using version 3. Safari users should be at 3.2 (4.0 will be released sometime "soon".) Don't click on pop-up's, and don't download music sharing sites like LimeWire, where malware is EVERYWHERE. Follow those few tips and you'll enjoy a much safer computing experience.







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What's at Stake? The Health of Your Trees

Most of us have trees in our front yards that were provided by our home builders. Did you know that the stakes supporting these trees need to be removed within the first year? This is because stakes provide artificial support that replaces a supportive trunk and root system.

Movement of the trunk helps strengthen the tree by thickening it and giving it taper from bottom to top. Trunk movement also stimulates root growth. The artificial support from the stakes leaves tree trunks weak and their root systems less developed.

Bottom line - all staking material needs to be removed after roots have established. This can be as early as a few months, but should be no longer than one growing season.

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."



More HELP for PETS ...

When a pet is lost, finding the pet means that time is of the essence. It takes time to create, print and distribute flyers. The flyers are many times illegible because of wind or rain. I certainly do not fault the pet owner because I have done this myself.

Frustrated, I thought there has to be a better way. So that is why we created Cypress Lost Pet Alert.com. The idea is to very quickly get the word out through an e-mail alert to as many neighbors as possible plus post the picture and information about the pet on the website under the specific neighborhood.

Once the email alert goes out to the specific neighborhood, many, many neighbors are now aware. If they happen to forward the email to their friends who have not signed up, it could mean hundreds of your neighbors are already alerted and are keeping their eyes open for your lost pet.

Cypress Lost Pet Alert.com is on-call 7 days a week from sun up to sun down and is FREE. We are glad to work with any informal email chains. The whole idea is to find lost pets quick for the good neighbors in Fairfield and surrounding areas.

Regards. **RB** Cox alert@CypressLostPetAlert.com www.CypressLostPetAlert.com

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Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Bridgeland residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail articles@peelinc.com.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com.





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Please join us for the Cy-fair Area Y-Me Breast Cancer Support Group. We meet the second Thursday of each month @ Kindred Hospital Houston Northwest from 6pm–7pm.

For more information please contact Tere Kelly@ 281-517-1008.

Attention Aggie Moms-The "Countdown" has begun!

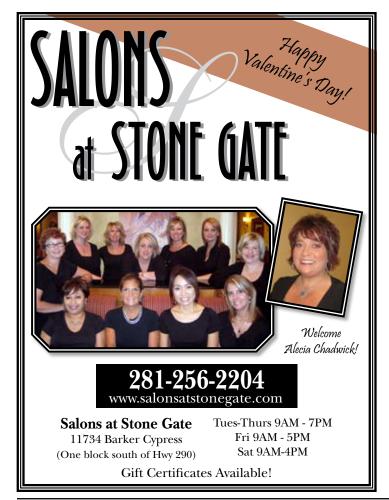
You are cordially invited to join the members of the Northwest Harris County Aggie Moms Club on Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting.

Come be enchanted as you listen to **Brian Blake**, Director of the George Bush Museum, describe the new space exhibit, *Beyond the Moon: NASA's Continuing Mission* that has "launched" in College Station! Additionally, he will talk about the re-modeling of the museum that has just been completed and bring us up to date on the unique events planned in the near future.

We will "blast off" for food, fun, and fellowship at the Houston Distributing Company, conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the corner of 7100 High Life Drive and Cutten Road, just south of FM 1960.

Don't miss out on this fun evening- it will be "out of this world"!!!

Shelly Fine-VP Programs 832-606-8170



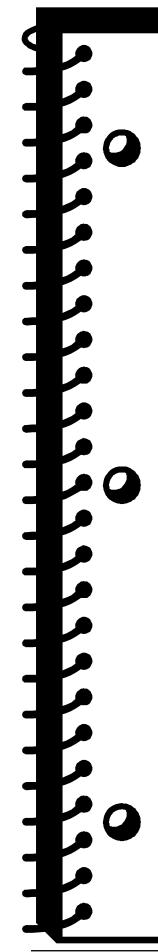


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- Kids Stuff-Section for Kids with news. puzzles, games and more!

Ready:

Set, Breakfast!

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The Times - February 2009 21



MAKE YOUR OWN CANDY FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!

Valentine's Day is Thursday, February 14 ... and it's a really really big holiday! According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. Since many folks give candy along with their cards, this year you might have fun making your own candy. Put some pieces of homemade white divinity in a clear bag tied with a red or pink ribbon, and your gift is sure to generate sweet thoughts (and probably some hugs and kisses as well)! There are many recipes for divinity, all fairly similar; so pick one from your favorite cookbook or Internet site, and start cooking. It's easy to make; and if you're a WeightWatchers member, this candy won't sabotage your good efforts-it's only one point per piece!

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Divinity

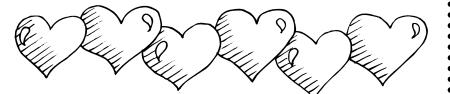
2 egg whites • 1/2 cup water 1/2 cup light corn syrup • 2 cups white sugar

MIX together water and corn syrup in a heavy pan, and bring to a boil. Add sugar and continue boiling until dissolved. Continue cooking over medium heat, without stirring, to the hard-ball stage (about 250° on a candy thermometer).

WHILE syrup mixture is cooking, beat egg whites in a large bowl until they just hold their shape. When the syrup is ready, pour it slowly over the egg whites in a steady thin stream, whipping slowly at the same time. Do not scrape pan.

BEAT candy mixture until candy can be dropped onto waxed paper into pieces that hold their shape. (This can take a while.)

YIELD: 40 pieces (about 1-1/2 pounds of candy) WeightWatchers Points: 1 point per piece





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