

# The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

August 2009

Volume 4, Issue 8

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

## Letter from the Editor

At the homeowners meeting in June you elected a new board of directors. The new board exists of 4 new directors and 1 director (Drew Lapps) that served on the previous board a couple of months before the elections to replace director Kilpatrick who was unable to complete his term. In summary: we are pretty much a brand new board.

First and foremost we would like to thank Kelly Doyle, President of the 2008-2009 Board and her fellow directors Mark Wyckoff, Sandy Thibodeaux, Bryan Treese, and Drew Lapps (replacement for unfinished term of Michael Kilpatrick). During their respective terms they had some serious challenges to address.

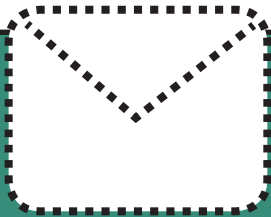
As a new board we have had an orientation meeting and had our first monthly board meeting in June. One of the topics we discussed is to increase communication to the homeowners. This newsletter is one of the media we consider appropriate as every home in Riata Ranch receives a copy. Additionally we recommend you to sign up for the Riata Ranch mailing list by going to [www.riataranch.net](http://www.riataranch.net). As a homeowner we encourage you to continue to contact SCS Management for any concerns or issues and suggestions through the Riata Ranch website. Please make sure you include your contact information, so we can respond to you. The HOA board meets once a month, not all responses will be immediate.

Starting this issue of the Riata Ranch newsletter we will address a topic that is current for the board and/or our neighborhood. This month the topic was taken from the discussions from the annual homeowners meeting: Greening Riata Ranch. On your behalf the board has researched how waste management is organized in Riata Ranch and discussed what homeowners can do today in lieu of having organized recycling of our waste. Please read: Who is in charge of greening your waste?

Regards,  
*Caspar Hunsche*

## Go Green Go Paperless

Sign up to receive *The Ranch Review* in your inbox. Visit [PEELinc.com](http://PEELinc.com) for details.



## Golf Tournament Cy-Fair CERT

Cy-Fair CERT - Community Emergency Response Team - will hold a golf tournament on Friday, Oct 2, 2009 at the Bear Creek Golf Club, Masters Course. The tournament format will be a 4 man scramble with a shotgun start at 9 am.

Early bird entry fee is \$85 per golfer for registrants through 8/31/09, with the fee increasing to \$100 per golfer on 9/1/09. Entry includes 1/2 cart, lunch, gift bag and 4 free future rounds of golf per golfer at an Arnold Palmer course in Houston. We'll have contests and prizes will be awarded.

Sponsorships are available from \$50 to \$1000 with banner recognition. A sponsor advertising table will also be set-up.

Tournament proceeds will benefit Cy-Fair CERT and our project to place storage containers filled with emergency supplies in our neighborhoods. CERT has over 250 trained Cy-Fair members who volunteered in local neighborhoods after Hurricane Ike.

For more information about our tournament, obtain an entry form or get information about CERT training please contact [tpopemobley@yahoo.com](mailto:tpopemobley@yahoo.com)



# 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-Woods High.....	281-213-1800
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 INFO

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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

### ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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](mailto: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.

## Riata Ranch Homeowners Meetings

The Riata Ranch HOA Board of Directors encourages all homeowners to participate in the monthly board meetings. The meeting is held on the last Tuesday of every month. If you are interested in participating please contact SCS management in order to add your topic to the meeting agenda.

[riatahoa@riataranch.net](mailto:riatahoa@riataranch.net)

or

Debbie Spaw

[dspaw@scsmgmt.com](mailto:dspaw@scsmgmt.com)

Association Manager

SCS Management Services, Inc.

7170 Cherry Park Dr.

Houston Texas 77095

Direct phone: (281) 500-7102

Direct fax: (281) 500-7172

[RiataRanch.net](http://RiataRanch.net)

*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](http://www.PEELinc.com)**



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## Who is in charge of greening your waste?

At the annual homeowners meeting the 2008-2009 board was presented the question why the Riata Ranch board of directors is not addressing the lack of recycling of our collected waste. (i.e. no separate collection of cans, glass, paper, batteries and so on).

### *Here is what the board found researching this matter so far:*

- Your waste collection is paid for and managed by the MUD district. Riata Ranch HOA is only responsible for trash collection and disposal in the common areas. (Trash bins near the tennis court, barbeque building and the swimming pool. Thus you do not pay for your home waste collection through your homeowners dues but through your MUD payments. All residents can submit ideas and suggestions to the MUD board.
- Previous Riata Ranch boards did request the MUD district what the implication is of collecting recyclable materials. The outcome: Waste Management (the current contractor for waste collection) would increase it's fees to the MUD district with ~33%. The MUD district would have to pass those extra cost on to the homeowners. This would be an increase of MUD taxes annually. Homeowners can contact the MUD district for more information about their waste management services.

So, if our current waste management contract is not managed

through the Riata Ranch homeowners association, what alternatives do we have? The answer is two-fold.

### **First: Recycle!**

Take control and start recycling yourself. You do not have to be a tree hugger to recycle. Several items can be recycled by simply returning them to the store (for example: batteries, plastic bags, printer toner and ink). Plastic shopping bags for example are collected and recycled by most supermarkets, including HEB, Randall's, Kroger and Walmart. Paper collection bins are available at every school and library in our area. Make it a habit to drop paper in a crate or box in the garage and take it with you when you go to the library or school. Aluminum cans are accepted at the Science Resource Center on Telge Road.

### **All-in-One Addresses:**

The companies listed below take your separated paper, cardboard, aluminum, tin, and glass waste, as well as other recyclable materials. Please verify opening hours and limitations in quantities. Some locations require proof of residency in the Houston area). All the information is posted on the websites listed:

**Windfern City Of Houston Neighborhood Depositories**  
(Accepts Junk Waste and Recyclables.)

*(Continued on page 4)*



## COLIN'S HOPE

*Increasing water safety awareness and standards*

### FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DROWNING

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children ages 1-4



### DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of unintentional injury-related death ages 1-14.

For more information, check out our website at

**[www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)**

### DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" – no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

### DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.



Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.

# Riata Ranch

## Greening Your Waste - (Continued from Page 3)

Free to City of Houston residents) 6023 Windfern Rd, Houston, TX 77040) Distance: ~10 miles.

Open: Wed-Sun 10am-7pm (daylight: 9am-6pm)  
[www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/windfern.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/windfern.html)

### **Vista Fibers**

1200 Brittmoore Road, Houston, TX 77043

Distance: ~15 miles.

Open: 24hrs/7days [www.vistafibers.com](http://www.vistafibers.com)

### **Westpark Consumer Recycling Center**

(Includes limited amounts of: latex paint, used oil, used oil filters, anti-freeze or a car-type or rechargeable battery)

5900 Westpark Drive, Houston, TX 77057

Dist: ~25 miles.

Open: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm

<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/westpark.html>

The easiest way to organize this is to put a few bins in your garage: One for paper, one for glass and cans. Make sure you take care with the hazardous household waste items they are a threat to children and pets. For more tips on recycling simply Google the word: "recycling" or alternatively browse websites such as earth911.com or recycleinfo.org.

### **Secondly: Riata Ranch programs**

Additional to homeowner recycling, the board of Riata Ranch

homeowners association is also interested in community recycling programs. Over the next couple of months we will investigate whether community programs as established in other neighborhoods are feasible for Riata Ranch. The objective is to look at cost neutral solutions that would reduce the distance traveled to properly dispose of recyclable products. Please feel free to submit ideas (preferably with example subdivisions to SCS management using the [www.riataranch.net](http://www.riataranch.net) website).

### **What's my number?**

Identifying the type of plastic you are attempting to recycle is not hard. The Society of the Plastics Industry developed a coding system for plastics (or better polymers) as early as 1988. Most plastic containers and for example car parts are now marked with this coding system.

This symbol indicates a PET plastic. Most soda bottles, vinegar bottles, medicine containers have this symbol engraved in the bottom.

Similarly containers for laundry/dish detergent, fabric softeners, bleach, milk, shampoo, conditioner, motor oil are marked #2. The logo is the same but contains a number two and the letters HDPE.

Most recycling centers don't require you to separate plastics by type, only filter out those that they don't accept. #1 and #2 are the widest accepted.



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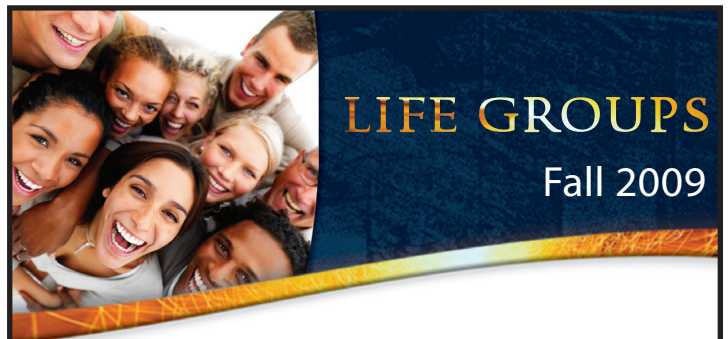


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Contemporary Service: 10:20 a.m.

### **Jones Road Campus**

8350 Jones Road, 1/4 mile off Hwy. 290 & Jones  
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Contemporary Services: 9:20 & 10:40 a.m.



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## Cy-Fair CERT Community Emergency Response Training

Are You Prepared? This free emergency response training will again be offered at Lone Star College at Cy-Fair, 9191 Barker Cypress, Cypress TX 77433 starting on Sept 2-Oct 21, 2009. It is an 8 week course, every Wed from 6 to 9 pm. There is NO cost to you! A training manual and starter backpack of supplies is also provided. The course is taught by professionals in their field. Classes cover:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Small Fire Suppression
- Medical Operations and Triage
- Light Search and Rescue
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism Awareness
- Disaster Simulation Drill

CERT training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. If emergency personnel are not available, you can use this training to save lives and protect property. For more information, see [www.harriscountycitizen corps.com](http://www.harriscountycitizen corps.com).

To sign up for training, contact Terri Pope-Mobley at [tpopemobley@yahoo.com](mailto:tpopemobley@yahoo.com). Be aware and be prepared!



Attention Cy-Woods 2010 Senior Parents! 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.

Please join us on Thursday, August 20th @ 7:00 pm in the Commons area at Cy-Woods High School for our 1st 2009-2010 WRAP General Board meeting. For more information on WRAP, please visit our website at [cywoodswrap.org](http://cywoodswrap.org) or contact us via email at [cywoodswrap@hotmail.com](mailto:cywoodswrap@hotmail.com). We look forward to seeing you on August 20th.

## Spark Power Bank

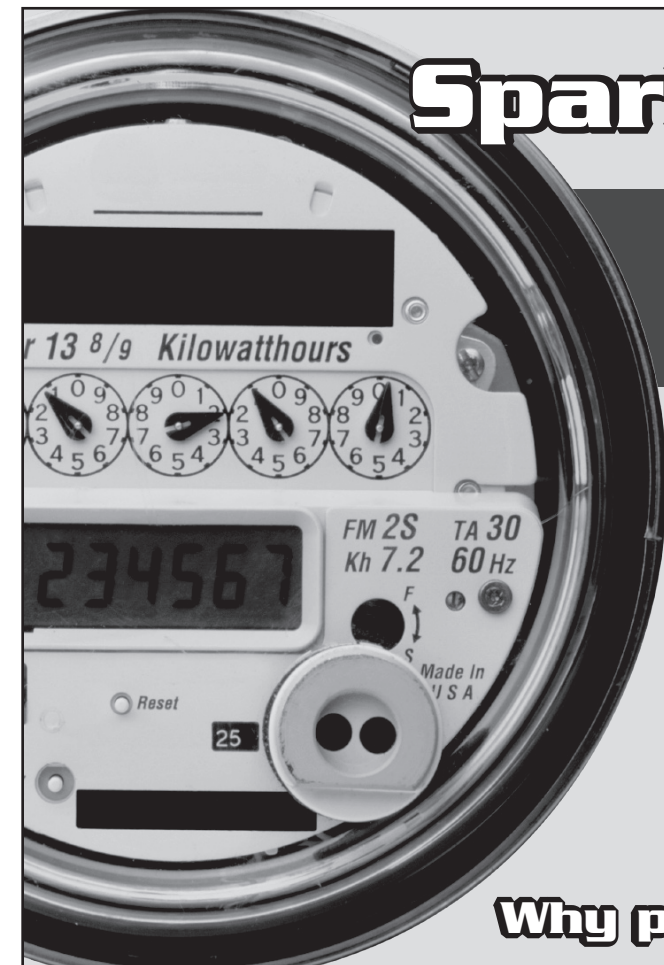
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**Why pay more than you have to?**



## The Science of Grocery Shopping

*Submitted by Kelly Bruneman, Certified Nutrition Specialist*

The grocery store can be a scary place! All those aisles filled with grocery goodness! What is healthy and what isn't? How do you know where to start and what to buy? Follow these simple rules to ensure that you get the most out of your grocery shopping experience:

### • STAY TO THE OUTSIDE

- Most everything you need is on the perimeter of the store. Your produce, meats, and dairy cases are all on the outside. The aisles are where the boxed and processed foods reside.

### • ORGANIC...IS IT WORTH IT?

- Not all things are necessary to buy organic. The following produce list is often referred to as the "Dirty Dozen" because they contain the highest levels of pesticides.
  - THE DIRTY DOZEN: Peaches, Apples, Sweet Bell Peppers, Celery, Nectarines, Strawberries, Cherries, Pears, Grapes (Imported), Spinach, Lettuce, Potatoes.
  - THE LEAST CONTAMINATED: Onions, Avocado, Sweet Corn (Frozen), Pineapples, Mango, Asparagus, Sweet Peas (Frozen), Kiwi Fruit, Bananas, Cabbage, Broccoli, Papaya.

- Beef, Poultry, and Dairy are also worth the organic price because they are produced without growth hormones and antibiotics.
- Currently the USDA has not developed organic certification standards for seafood.
- REMEMBER: buying organic foods that aren't good for you doesn't make them healthy!!

### • BUY FROZEN

- Frozen fruits and vegetables are often flash frozen locking in nutrients better than canned foods.
- Frozen fish and chicken is also flash frozen at the source locking in nutrients and making them convenient alternatives to store in your freezer.

### • DON'T BE AN IMPULSE BUYER

- Make a list according to how your grocery store is laid out and STICK TO IT! If ice cream isn't on your list, don't go down the ice cream aisle.
- Don't go to the grocery store when you are tired, hungry or irritable. This almost always leads to impulse buys.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

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## The Science of Grocery Shopping- (Continued from Page 6)

- If possible, don't take the kids! Grocery stores target impulse buyers and almost all kids are impulse buyers!
- Don't get distracted at the checkout line. As you are waiting to check out grocery stores stock the racks with tempting candy bars and sodas. Don't be fooled! If you think you might give in bring in water with you and pop a piece of sugar free gum! Or flip through the latest gossip magazine until it is your turn to pay.
- If you don't buy the junk food, you won't have it in the house!

### • CHECK OUT THE LABEL

- THE FDA requires that all ingredients be listed in descending order of predominance by weight. Try to pick foods that have a short ingredient list that don't have many artificial ingredients.
- Look for foods that have ingredients that you can pronounce
- Choose foods that are "real". Examples are 100% fruit juice or 100% whole-grain items with as little processing and as few additives as possible. If you want more salt or sugar, add it yourself.

Finally, just take a deep breath and go for it! You are in control and remember if you don't buy it; it won't find its way into your house!

## Vacation Watch

At your request, the Harris County Sheriff's Department will put your house on VACATION WATCH. Just go to [www.riataranch.net](http://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.

## NOTICE: TO ALL DOGS

Woof, Woof, Bark, Ruff, Ruff, Woof, Woof, Wag!..... Wag!.....Wag! *Bark, Riata Ranch*

### Translated for dog caregivers:

Listen, you always have to wear your leash when you are in the park and trails.

Also, if you poop on the trail, have your caretaker scoop it up! *Thanks! Riata Ranch*

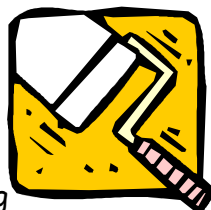
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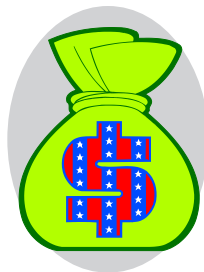
**CALL TODAY!! 832-364-6533**



## A Sensible Plan for College Funding

*Submitted by Rich Keith*

As a parent, you may feel a moral obligation to fund your children's education, but you don't want to sacrifice your current lifestyle or rob your future retirement in order to fund education costs. Well, to make funding both their education and your retirement a non-issue, you must consider how to:



- Maximize your cash flow so that you can invest funds in education and retirement accounts. This includes both reducing debt and lowering expenses.
- Utilize the numerous education tax incentives provided by the IRS to reduce taxes and produce so-called "tax scholarships" for your family.
- Qualify for merit and need-based financial aid offered by colleges

If you can maximize the benefits produced by the above strategies, you may not have to compromise your education and retirement goals. Historically, we see that college costs have risen at 2 to 3 times the inflation rate of the Consumer Price Index. And college really costs you more than you think because it is paid with after-tax dollars. Depending on which tax bracket you are in, the amount you must

earn to pay for college is a good deal more because you must first pay the IRS...before you pay the college.

How old will you be when your last child graduates from college? Assume that you are 45 years old and you plan to retire in 20 years and that a public college costs \$60,000 for 4 years. You take the money out of your retirement savings today. The money you give to a public college for four years will cost your retirement fund about \$280,000 at an 8% return. Elite colleges cost more, but there is a hidden benefit which we will get to later. And remember, these numbers are for just one child's college education.

Clearly this presents a funding dilemma shared by parents everywhere: how to fund college and retirement? Experts agree there are two methods to make this work:

The first method is by using your money through: (A) paying out of your current income, (B) paying with withdrawals from your savings accounts, or (C) borrowing. Most people use some combination of all three. The second method is to use money from others. This comes in the following forms: (A) financial aid, (B) by using special education tax strategies, (C) gifts from relatives, or (D) your child's resources (his/her income and assets). We will explore this topic in future columns, how to make a sensible, methodical plan for funding college expenses.



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## Personal Classified Ads

The RANCH REVIEW runs personal classified ads that are FREE to residents. If you would like to place and add, please email your submission to [editor@riataranch.net](mailto:editor@riataranch.net). Your submission must be received by the 10th of the prior month.

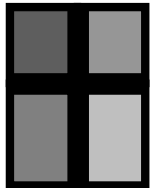
## Sudoku

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

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

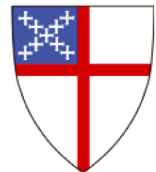
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*Our Mission*  
St. Aidan's is an Episcopal church where people come together to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit as disciples of Christ, building a relationship with God and others, while reaching out to the community.



## Worship Service

### Sunday, August 30th

*St. Aidan's Day – ALOHA Sunday*  
A celebration of the saint we are named after and a party for all ages immediately following the 10:30am worship service.

### Every Sunday at St. Aidan's

8:00am Worship with  
Children's Sermon  
9:15am Fellowship Breakfast  
10:30am Worship with  
Children's Chapel

### Summer Schedule

During the summer months, we will be taking a break from our Sunday morning Sunday school classes, as well as our Wednesday Evening Worship. We will resume with these two programs in the Fall.

*Nursery care provided at all Worship and Programs.*

*For more information, contact us by phone at 281.373.3203 or on the web at [www.staidanshouston.org](http://www.staidanshouston.org)*



You are invited to worship with us at our new church located at 13131 Fry Road, Cypress, TX 77433.



Our Priest, Father Justin, looks forward to meeting you!

# Riata Ranch

## 290 Cypress Business Networking Group

The 290 Cypress Business Networking Group meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 am at Newk's Express Café located at Hwy 290 and Spring Cypress in the Kroger Shopping Center near the Cinemark Theater. The group is open to all business owners and professionals who want to increase their exposure to the residents of Cypress and the surrounding areas. There is no cost to attend the meeting. If you would like more information, please call Ken Parker at 281-384-1562. Visit our new website at 290Cypress.com



making great things happen.

### Attention Kappa Delta Sisters ...

The Houston Northwest Kappa Delta Alumnae Association holds meetings the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Visit [www.kdhnwaa.com](http://www.kdhnwaa.com) for all the details.



## The Tri-County Quilt Guild

*Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm*

Meeting Place: Fairfield Baptist Church, 27240 Highway 290  
(Between Muescke and Mason Rd) Cypress, TX 77433-4907

website: [www.tricountyquiltguild.org](http://www.tricountyquiltguild.org)

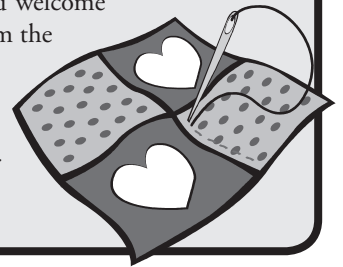
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# Cypress Assistance Ministries



## School Supplies Needed

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www.cypressassistance.org

Families of hundreds of school-aged children in the Cypress area are depending on CAM to assist them with necessary school supplies for their children. These start-up supplies can be impossible to fit into an already strained budget. **Your donations of the following would be greatly appreciated:**

- pencil boxes/pouches
- scissors
- new socks and underwear in adult sizes
- pocket folders with brads
- washable markers
- large & small packages manila paper
- large & small packages multi-colored construction paper

- pencil boxes/pouches
- scissors
- new socks and underwear in adult sizes

**For the Food Pantry, donations of the following will help families with children home for the summer:**

- Peanut butter & jelly
- Sweetened Drink Mixes
- Spaghetti Os
- Snack Foods
- Canned Meats
- Powdered milk
- Toilet Paper/Paper towels



*Donations can be made Monday through Wednesday from 10AM – 6PM and Thursday through Saturday from 10AM – 3PM For a description of the services and volunteer opportunities at Cypress Assistance Ministries please see our web site, [www.cypressassistance.org](http://www.cypressassistance.org).*

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## Is Your Home an Internet Broadcaster? (It might be and you don't even know it)

*Submitted by Laurie Scott*

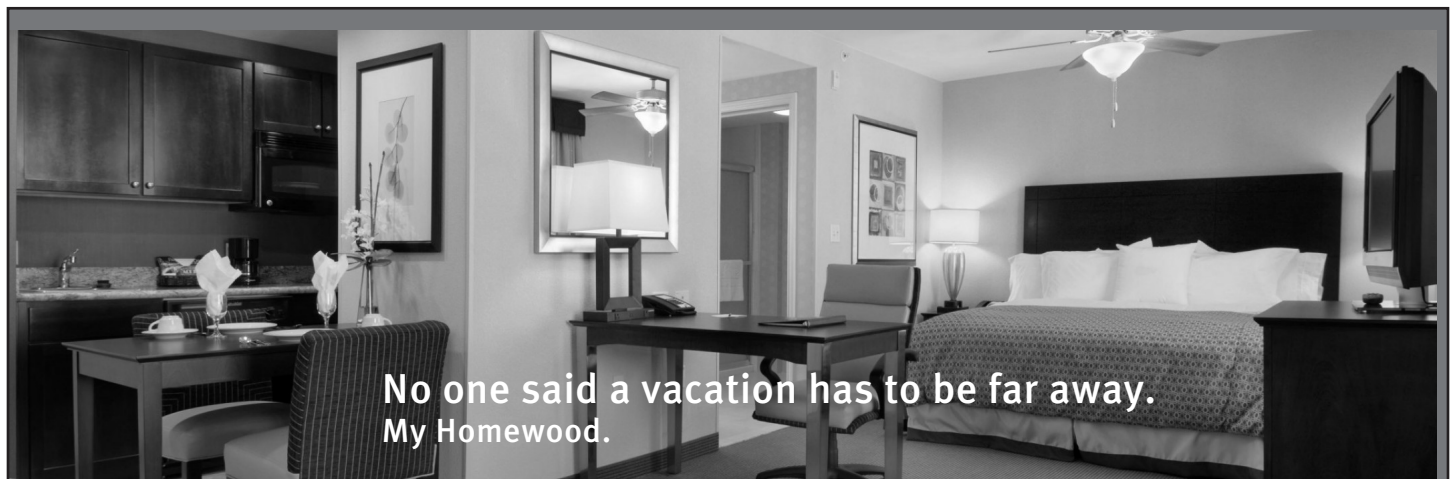
Laptop computers have made computing mobile and very convenient. Wireless routers in our homes have made it possible to use our computers anywhere in the home, and not just where the connection comes into your home.

If you have a wireless router at home, then you are using one of three possible levels of security, 1) none, 2) poor and 3) what you SHOULD be using. "None" is real simple, open the box, plug in the router, connect to the Internet. With this connection, ANYONE within range, meaning your neighbors, passersby and that annoying teen-age kid down the who likes to hang around your house in the evening can use your wireless network to access the internet or worse, access your computers at home. Also, any illegal activity over the Internet is going to be traced back to your home, not to the person or computer that may have done it.

I often tell the story of the time I moved to Austin from Sacramento 4 1/2 years ago over the Thanksgiving holiday. I stayed overnight with a friend in Flagstaff, Arizona at her parents' home. Lots of relatives were there and they all smoked (and smoked a lot). Even though it was 35 degrees outside, I went and sat in my car for an hour just to breath fresh air. While in my car I powered up my

laptop and discovered a completely unsecured network within range. I connected to it and took the opportunity to check my email and do some web surfing. Then the good Samaritan in me decided to do them a favor. I figured they hadn't changed the default password on their router, and sure enough I was right. I logged onto their router and took a screen shot of it. Since they were also using the default name for their computer network, I changed mine to match and could see that they had a computer turned on with one of their hard drives shared (no, I didn't peek at it.) I also saw that they had an Epson printer connected to it, so I downloaded the printer driver and installed it on my laptop, opened Microsoft Word and pasted the screen shot of their router into it. I also included instructions on how to keep prying eyes out of their network, thanked them that I was able to check my email, and then I PRINTED the document out on their printer. Keep in mind I have no idea which house I had connected to. I imagine if they were home that they were a little shocked to have their printer start all by itself and print a note from a complete stranger. Lucky for them I wasn't someone who wanted to copy their files, plant a virus or lock them out of their

*(Continued on Page 13)*



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Houston, TX 77065  
Tel: 832-237-2000

## Is Your Home an Internet Broadcaster? - (Continued from Page 12)

own network.

The two levels of security that are usually displayed with a padlock symbol are WEP and WPA. WEP falls into the "poor" category of security. WEP will keep honest people out of your network, and will prevent someone from accidentally getting connected to your network, but WEP was "cracked" several years ago, and nowadays it only takes a laptop and 60 seconds to break into a network secured with WEP.

What you should be using is WPA (or WPA2) to provides a connection that (with a good password) can't be cracked in a comfortable lifetime. Log into your router (usually at <http://192.168.0.1> or <http://192.168.1.1>), go to the wireless security settings and set it for WPA. Then change your laptops and other wireless devices to match.

There are many different routers on the market, but there are a few standard rules to follow: Changing the security settings on your router should always be done with the computer attached to the router via a network cable - don't change it over a wireless connection. If you make a mistake, you won't be able to get back in to fix it. In the wireless security settings on your router, you will see WEP and SHOULD see WPA as options. If you don't see WPA as an option, your router is probably several years old. Go to the manufacturer's support page on their web site and look for updated "firmware" to

download. Download the firmware and update the router per the instructions provided by the manufacturer. If the latest firmware doesn't provide WPA encryption, then it's time for a trip to Best Buy or Fry's for a new router. ANY new router will provide WPA encryption. Next use a strong password. A strong password should be at least 12 characters long, feel free to make it a lot longer - the longer the better. Be sure to use upper and lower case letters, use numbers AND use special characters like # \* ( \ } [ @ ! &. Write it down and put it in a safe place. If it helps, use 2 or 3 non-related words or numbers that you know but no one is likely to guess. Something like maybe the city you got married in with the year of your first car and the name of your brother's daughter. It might look something like Dallas@1989!Samantha#.

Even people you know you won't guess this. Be creative and have fun, but **MAKE IT STRONG!**

Next month I'll talk about keeping your information secure when you're online both at home and away.





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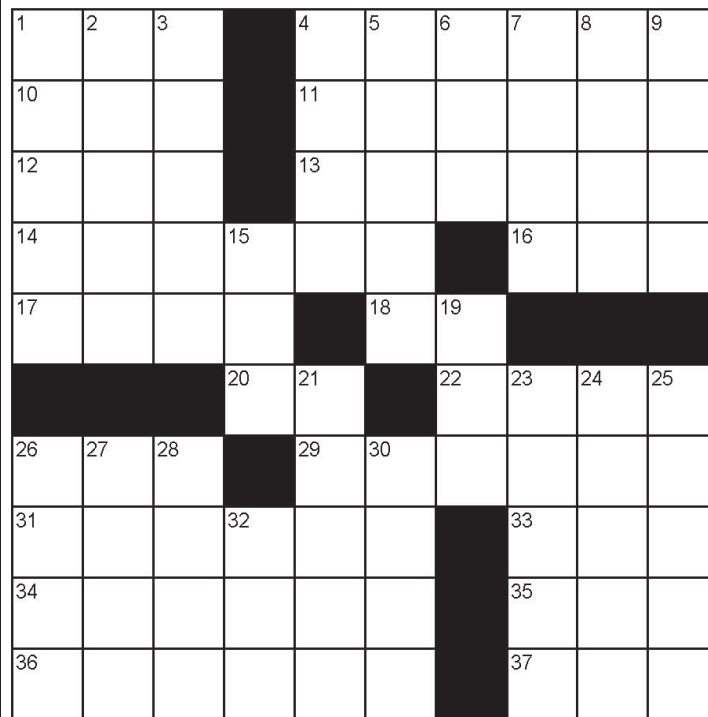
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Harvest Bend The Village	Willowbridge
Lakes of Fairhaven	Willowlake
Lakes on Eldridge	Willow Pointe
Lakes on Eldridge North	Winchester Country
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Legends Ranch	Windermere Lakes
Longwood	Wortham Villages

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## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. Belong
4. Elevator alternative
10. Fire remains
11. Short guy, hairy feet
12. Manipulate
13. Indoor
14. Coaxing
16. Condensation
17. Adolescent
18. South Carolina (abbr.)
20. New Jersey (abbr.)
22. Hornet
26. Rock
29. Loves
31. Demonstrate
33. Government agency
34. Subordinate
35. Cause of sickness
36. Elapse (2 wds.)
37. Surface to air missile

### DOWN

1. Finds \_ -
2. Make available
3. Not here
4. Tibia
5. Fire iron
6. Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
7. As previously cited
8. Cycle
9. Soup
15. Hotel
19. Cash with order (abr.)
21. Rachel's husband
23. Regions
24. Reddish brown
25. Sacred song
26. Pearls
27. Vile
28. Brief
30. Refuse to believe
32. Pinch

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**Ann Marie Gargano-Parks**

Visit me at

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Comments are always welcome at:  
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*Price trends for the previous month...*



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Section 1	3	-	2	78	66.14
Section 2	1	1	-	-	-
Section 3	2	4	-	-	-
Section 4	6	-	1	28	65.88
Section 5	-	2	2	97	67.40
Section 6	1	1	1	27	79.08
Section 7	1	-	-	-	-
Section 8	2	2	-	-	-
Section 9	-	-	2	200	71.35
Section 10	3	-	-	-	-
Section 11	-	1	-	-	-

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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