

www.riataranch.net

November 2009

Volume 4, Issue 11

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Riata Ranch Neighborhood Fall



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, FROM 7:00 AM TO 2:00 PM.

Please note that you need to register to participate as a seller. There is a \$5 non-refundable registration fee and a \$5 deposit for the yard sign. Sellers are required to post this sign issued by the homeowners association at the day of the sale. The proceeds of your registration will be used for advertising the sale and sign repairs

TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT US AT THE POOL ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES AND TIMES:

- Sunday, Oct. 4th from 1:00 pm 3:00 pm and
- Saturday, Oct. 24th from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

These are the only two dates available for registration and sign pick up. Please attend one of these dates to register. To receive your \$5 deposit back, you must return your sign at the pool on Saturday, Nov. 14th between 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

GRAFFITI; ART OR PEST? Expensive Either Vag.

In the last several months and increasingly the last couple of weeks we have been hit by graffiti in our neighborhood. Whether you consider graffiti an art form or vandalism; either way it does not belong on the Riata Ranch walls, fences and bridges.

In recent weeks the walls and fences on Riata Ranch boulevard were hit by graffiti 'artists'. The amount of paint they applied indicates that they spend a significant amount of time there either during daylight or using lights after dusk. What is most surprising is that nobody reported this!

If you observe individuals applying graffiti, practicing baseball in our tennis courts, or climbing or taking down fences, there is only one correct action: Call the police! Your name is not important but the call is. All repairs in our neighborhood are paid from your dues. Phone numbers can be found in every copy of the Riata Ranch Newsletter.

Another property value depreciating 'art form' is the beer and soda can littering of Riata Ranch Boulevard every weekend. If your guests are leaving your party or food fest; please ask them to drink up and trash the cans before they leave. They may not care about your neighborhood, but you and I do. Don't mess with Texas! Let's start in Riata Ranch!

Go Green Go Paperless

Sign up to receive *The Ranch Review* in your inbox. Visit PEELinc.com for details.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

Sheriff	
Fire Department	
Cy-Fair Medical Center	
Memorial City Hospital	
Poison Control	

SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD	
Posta Elementary	
Spillane Middle	
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Cy-Falls High	
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Cy-Fair College	

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Warner Cable	
Waste Mgt	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt	
United States Post Office	

LIBRARY

Cy-Fair College Library	

NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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. 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 or Debbie Spaw dspaw@scsmgnt.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



Riata Ranch



Pictures With Santa

at Bridgeland

NOVEMBER 28, 2009 2:00 - 5:00 PM LAKELAND ACTIVITY CENTER

Please bring an unopened, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots.

Capture your family's holiday picture with Santa! A professional photographer will be present to take your holiday picture. Pictures taken by the photographer will be uploaded to Shutterfly.com. Guest may also bring and use their own cameras.

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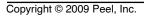
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CYPRESS RANCH *MUSTANG BAND NEWS*

The 2009-2010 school year has brought great things for the Mustang Band. The band has doubled in size from its inaugural year. In addition to regularly performing in the stands and on the field at the JV football

games at Cypress Ranch High School, the band performed at the opening of Compass Bank in Cypress on September 26. Under bright sunny skies, the Mustang Band performed a number of "pep" pieces in the Compass Bank parking lot. The highlight of the morning was a parade around the bank, including marching through the drive-thru lanes. Compass Bank officers and Mustang Band members are shown with a donation made by the bank to the band.

This fall the Cypress Ranch Mustang Band has debuted its new show," Australia" with a performance at Barber Hill High School, in Mont Belvieu on September 11, 2009. The show features specially commissioned music which evokes musical images from down under. The full show culminates with aboriginal chanting and motions.

In its first 5A marching competition at Blinn College in Breham on Saturday, October 3, the Mustang Band brought home first place trophies for marching, solo, and color guard. Although performing in a downpour, the band showed their commitment to their motto "Trust, Commitment, Excellence" by performing their "Australia" show with precision. The Mustang Band is under the direction of Russell Holcombe, Director of Bands, with assistance from Kyle Straub, director. Fairfield residents Kourtney Kech and Sarah Guhl are drum majors.

CY-WOODS HIGH SCHOOL WRAP 2010 – JEANS & JEWELS DANCE

All proceeds provide a safe After Senior Prom Party

Mark your calendars for the event of the year! Join us on Friday, January 29, 2010, from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm for an evening of dancing, dinner and a silent auction. The event will be held at the Northwest Forest Conference Center, 12715 Telge Road, Cypress, Texas. Tickets are \$30 per person.

For more information, visit the WRAP website www.cywoodswrap.org or send an email to cywoodswrap.org. Donations are currently being accepted for the silent auction. All donations and purchases for this event are tax deductible (501©3 organization).



WRAP - Wildcats Right After Prom, Inc.

Attention Cy-Woods 2010 Senior Parents! Please join us on Thursday, November 5th @ 7:00 pm in the Commons area at Cy-Woods High School for our WRAP General Parent meeting (earn 5,000 WRAP bucks for attending). For more information on WRAP, please visit our website at cywoodswrap.org, contact us via email at cywoodswrap@yahoo.com or join us on Facebook at http://www. facebook.com/WRAP2010.

The next WRAP General Parent meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3rd @ 7:00 pm.

SCRIPS – www.glscrip.com. Scrips is a term that means "substitute money". This program allows WRAP members to purchase gift cards for everyday expenses like food, clothing, and entertainment; and with each purchase, earn revenue for WRAP. Don't forget the holidays are coming and what better gift than a gift card, so plan early and order gift cards for everyone on your list. Please contact Lisa or Douglas Bell at douglaswbell@yahoo.com with any questions or to place an order. Orders can be placed at every monthly WRAP meeting.

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.

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Free Stuff for Your Computer (And Cell Phone)

Submitted by Laurie Scott

As holiday spending approaches, here are some free programs to make your computing easier and more fun with zero impact on your budget.

Everybody hates dealing with usernames and passwords at login screens, and as a result I see a LOT of people who have very easy passwords (like the name of their dog) not only for their computer but even for their online banking! Well, here's LastPass to the rescue (download from https://lastpass.com) with a password manager that works with Windows, Mac OSX and even Linux. With LastPass you can have strong passwords that are hard to impossible to remember, but don't have to remember because LastPass will remember for you. You passwords are encrypted using a master password that only you will know, so your private information is always safe. LastPass will work across all your browsers and computers. You can even retrieve your passwords online from another computer on their web site (where no one but you can access them.)

How about free music, legally! Amazon has over 1,000 songs in all styles from Blues to Folk to Rock to Opera. Many of these are new groups getting their music out, but I've seen everything from Alice Cooper to Andres Segovia to Jeff Beck to the Boston Pops. If you use iTunes, Amazon's download manager will seamlessly add your songs to iTunes for you. So load up your iPod and Zune with all this free music. This abbreviated link will take you to Amazon's free music page: http://tinyurl.com/TekChicFreeMusic

How does a free secretary sound? TimeCave.com will any message you create back to you or anyone you want at ANYTIME you want within 3 years. Do you keep a perfect calendar but your best friend is, shall we say "challenged" when keeping her calendar organized? Have a lunch date next week? Go to Time Cave and enter your message "don't forget about our lunch tomorrow", enter her email address and the day and time you would like it delivered. Now, even if YOU forget to remind her, Time Cave will.

Cell phone users, you're not left out. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to call 411 from your cell phone without having to pay a dollar or more for each call? Thanks to Google you can now get information for any city in the country by simply dialing 800-466-4411 (that's 800-GOOG-411). They have a voice recognition system that lets you tell it what you're looking for and it's amazingly accurate. So program that number into your phone and say goodbye to excessive 411 charges from your carrier.

Next month look for my annual "Geeky Gifts for the Techie in Your Life" Christmas article.



Healthy Tailgating This Football Season By Tarie Beldin

Now you finally know its fall, not because the temperatures are cooler, but because it is FOOTBALL season! With high school games on Friday nights, college games on Saturdays and professional games on Sundays, our weekends can be full of concession-stand food, barbecue, six-foot sandwiches and chips.

All of these game-day feasts can lead to extra calories, which can mean extra pounds, even before the holiday season arrives! The good news is that with a few changes, such as these tailgate makeover tips, you can decrease the fat and calories and increase the nutrition of your tailgating menu, without sacrificing taste:

TYPICAL TAILGATING FOOD

- Regular chips
- Queso or guacamole
- Fried or buffalo wings with ranch or blue cheese dressings
- Traditional burgers or chili
- Sandwiches or hoagies made with salami, high-fat cheese and mayo
- New England clam chowder
- Pork brats
- Potato salad
- Cookies and cakes
- Regular beer and wine
- Soda or juice



HEALTHY TAILGATING ALTERNATIVES

- Baked tortilla chips
- Salsa
- Boneless/skinless chicken breast tenders with wing or teriyaki sauces
- Burgers or chili made with lean ground beef or ground turkey breast
- Sandwiches or hoagies made with lean meats, low-fat cheeses and mustard on whole wheat bread
- Low fat gumbo
- Turkey brats
- Grilled corn on the cob

- Caramel or candied apples and low-fat brownies and desserts
- Light beer and wine spritzers
- Iced tea or diet lemonade

It is also never a bad idea to have a fruit and/or vegetable tray available for those who are vegetarian or for low-calorie snacking. If you have a favorite tailgating food or snack, allow yourself to indulge in it, but try to replace other tailgating options with healthier alternatives and be mindful of portion sizes.

Whether you are tailgating at the stadium or "tablegating" in your living room, it's easy to keep game day food fun, tasty and healthy. Most importantly though, remember, it is about the camaraderie and the love of the game, not the food. Consider having your own game of touch football during half time to burn off those extra calories!

With the last football games in both pro and college football set for the beginning of next year, we still have many opportunities to load up on calorie-laden and high-fat tailgating food. Practice these easy and tasty substitutions to help you stay healthy this football season.

Tarie Beldin is a registered and licensed dietitian at St. David's Round Rock Medical Center.



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Riata Ranch

Roth IRA Income Limits Lifted

Did you know that in retirement, taxes are second only to housing as the biggest cost? When you reduce tax expense, you reduce retirement risk. Roth IRAs offer tax-free withdrawals in retirement, and new Roth IRA changes could really benefit people now out of work who find themselves in a much lower tax bracket. This is because the tax on Roth assets is paid upfront. That's how Roth IRAs create a tax-free income stream when the



investor retires. Paying in post-tax dollars today, the saver gambles that income taxes will be higher in the future, which would make paying taxes on the assets now a smart thing to do. Do you think taxes are going to go up?

Traditional IRAs work in the opposite way-investors pay in pretax dollars now, paying income tax on withdrawals when they retire, a strategy that can pay off if an investor requires a smaller annual income in retirement, putting them in a lower tax bracket.

But as of Jan. 1, for the first time, people earning a modified adjusted gross income of over \$100,000 will be able to convert any amount of assets in their traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs. For higher wage earners,



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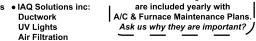
Greg Riddle Owner

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Submitted by Rich Keith

this is a prime opportunity to convert money into the Roth IRA to allow your money to have tax-free growth at retirement. For 2010 only, investors will also be able to spread those upfront tax payments over two years. And you don't have to wait until 2010. For

wager earners that make less than \$100,000 adjusted gross income, you can actually convert now. Converting now when the market remains at low levels means your tax bill may be reduced.

Now is the time to prepare. If you know that you are going to convert in 2010, begin accumulating the tax money now. You can estimate what the tax bill will actually be at the time of conversion, so why not add a little extra to your emergency fund to insure that you have enough to pay the tax bill for this exciting event?

The IRS' 2010 conversion "gift" is not limited to just your traditional IRA. If you have any old 401(k)s or any other retirement plans from a previous employer, those will also be allowed to convert as well. Now might be a good idea to convert them all. There are several restrictions; check with your tax advisor and your financial coach before to get all the details before making any decisions.



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SPECIAL EVENTS NEEDS SPECIAL PEOPLE!

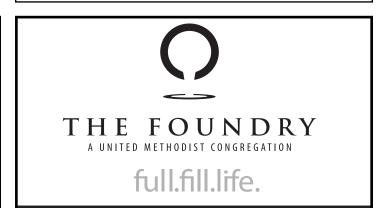
If you are looking for a way to get involved in our community, there is no better way that the Special Events Committee. If you have any questions please contact events@riataranch.net

NOTICE: TO ALL DOGS & THEIR 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*

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

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JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!

Fry Road Campus

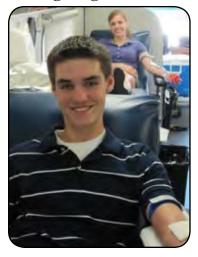
Movie Theatre on Hwy 290 & Spring Cypress Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service: 10:20 a.m.

Jones Road Campus

8350 Jones Road, ¼ mile off Hwy 290 on Jones Traditional Services: 8:15 a.m., 9:20 a.m., 10:40 a.m. Contemporary Services: 9:20 a.m., 10:40 a.m.

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LIFE-SAVING DONATIONS by Cypress Christian School Students



This fall, CCS students participated in an on-campus blood drive through the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. The Student Council sponsored a blood drive to offer students, family members, and the Cy-Fair community an opportunity to give the "gift of life" close to home. According to the GCRBC website, blood is always needed for individuals being treated for cancer, for babies that are born prematurely, for individuals with anemia, and for many others in need. Every donation can help save up to three lives.

As the holidays approach and the roadways become increasingly crowded with shoppers and travelers, there is an added need for blood. CCS students encourage you to give a "life-saving" donation to your local blood bank. For more information on how to give and the

locations of donation centers, please see www.giveblood.org.

Cypress Christian School is located at the corner of Cypress N. Houston Rd. and Jones Rd. For future blood drive information and other community events, please check the CCS calendar via www.CypressChristian.org.

Celebration Women's Ministry at Cypress UMC

Cypress Women's Ministry invites Village Creek residents to join them on Saturday, November 7th in our Fellowship Hall at 13403 Cypress N. Houston at 9am to 12 Noon. They are serving a light breakfast, having praise and worship, fellowship and prayer time. They gathering will feature guest speaker, Rev. Kelly McIntosh of Waller UMC. Her topic will be, "The Forgiven Daughter". There is no cost to this event but a love offering will be taken. The nursery is available upon request. Please contact Karen at celebration@ cypress-umc.org or RSVP by phone, 281-304-8888.



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Riata Ranch Homeowner's Association Newsletter - November 2009 11



Life In Riata Ranch

Ann Marie Gargano-Parks

www.RiataRanch-Neighbors.com

Comments are always welcome at: thatgirl@AnnMarieGargano-Parks.com

Price trends for the previous month...

Neighborhood Section	Active Listings	Pending Listings	Solds	Ave. Days on Market	Ave. Price per Sq. Ft
Section 1	2	-	1	185	68.63
Section 2	1	-	-	-	-
Section 3	2	-	1	116	68.09
Section 4	2	2	1	87	54.14
Section 5	-	-	1	97	65.44
Section 6	-	-	-	-	
Section 7	1	-	-	-	-
Section 8	1	-	2	39	74.14
Section 9	1	-	-	-	-
Section 10	1	1	-	-	
Section 11	1	-	1	14	64.46



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RE/MAX REALTORS have outsold their nearest three competitors combined for the past ten years, according to the Houston MLS.



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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