

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

December 2009

Volume 4, Issue 12

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

LETTER FROM

The Board

Hello Riata Ranch Community. I am sure by now, you are all aware that you have a new board serving in your Home Owners Association. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. Below are the new board members and their titles.

Drew Lapps - President

Yanira Summers – Vice President

Cindy Feris - Treasurer

Derek Abbot - Director

Caspar Hunsche - Director

What does the HOA board do for you? Well, we do a variety of things for you. Some of the things we do are to manage the budget and help maintain our neighborhood by voting on improvements to our parks and common areas. Your HOA has committees that consist of board members and some resident volunteers to handle all Community special events, deed restrictions and architectural improvements.

Monthly meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm. Some of the things we address are community safety, future special events, deed restriction violations, comments and concerns sent to us from you the homeowners and much more. Our primary goal of these meetings is to make sure that we are doing everything in our power to keep our neighborhood at its best for all of us!

Remember the HOA board is here for the residents of Riata and for the upkeep of the neighborhood. Please do not hesitate to let us know your thoughts, ideas and/or suggestions. You may visit us at Riata Ranch's website www.riataranch.net. While you are there, feel free to browse around. The website will always have updated information on what is going on in your community. It is much faster than waiting for your neighborhood paper. It is also a great source to find out about upcoming special events and any changes that may have occurred. The HOA board works closely with our SCS Management Company. You may also contact them with your questions or comments via this same website.

ASSOCIATION DUES

Do you ever wonder what your association dues go to? Well they go right back to you by maintaining our neighborhood and its grounds. For example, your dues cover pool care and maintenance, community grounds and landscaping, repair of any vandalism, street light outage and mosquito fogging. These are just some of the things your Association fees cover. Remember we need your Annual Dues so that we can make all of these things happen for you. Please know that we are here for you and that installment programs are available to assist you. Please take advantage of this and contact the management company to set this up if necessary. This year HOA fees only went up ten dollars to cover increasing costs. REMINDER: 2010 dues must be in by January 1, 2010 to avoid any penalties.

PAST/UPCOMING

Events:

GARAGE SALE – Looks like it was another successful community sale. Hope all that had a sale got rid of the clutter and made some cash at the same time.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA has been moved to December 12th, 2009 from 9am to 11am. It will be located at Kids-R-Kids at 10740 Barker Cypress Rd in the Gymnasium Area. Bring your own cameras and Santa will pose for pictures, read a story and listen to all of your Christmas wishes. See you there!!!



Happy Holidays!

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

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. 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@scsmgmt.com

Association Manager

SCS Management Services, Inc.

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POSTMA

Is your child a Postma Puma? Reports cards came out recently and I hope all the parents were happy. Wanted to inform everyone of the upcoming Holiday schedule for Postma Elementary. Postma will be out of school during the following dates: December 21, 2009 – January 1, 2010. School will resume on January 6th since January 2nd and 3rd are Professional Days for Teachers and a Holiday for the students. My disclaimer is that I took this information off the Postma website. Please contact your schools for more information and for any changes that may occur.

Also have a Merry Christmas or whatever you may be celebrating this year!!

SLOW DOWN ON CYPRESS N. HOUSTON!

The MPH is 35!

BOARD MEETING

We will be having our next HOA board meeting on 11/17 and one following on 12/15. Anyone may address the HOA Board, please contact Debbie Shaw at 281-500-7107 to schedule this.

Also we will be communicating in the paper and website of any upcoming or talked about improvements to our neighborhood starting in 2010. We want to inform the residents of Riata Ranch as best we can. Please address us with your comments and/or concerns through our website. All are welcome!

VOLUNTEERS

We NEED volunteers. In order to have special events, volunteers are a MUST. At this time it is only Cindy Feris and Yanira Summers. For our events to be a success, we need YOU! Please go to the RR website and click contact us and let us know how you may help. It will be greatly appreciated!



Christmas Eve Service

Rejoice in the glow of His light this Christmas

Join us for a Christmas Eve service at
Terra Verde Community Church

Rosehill Christian School
19830 FM 2920, Tomball Texas

Thursday, December 24th, 5:00 p.m.

Terra Verde Community Church
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www.TerraVerdeChurch.org

Riata Ranch

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Riata Ranch Community Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Riata Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail editor@riatranch.net.

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

JANUARY NWHC AGGIE MOM'S CLUB MEETING

With Guest Speaker Jackie Sherrill

Please join the NWHC Aggie Moms as they welcome, Jackie Sherrill, former head coach and athletic director at Texas A&M University to their January meeting. Jackie Sherrill will be discussing his book, *No Experience Required*, written by Caleb Pirtle III. This book was written in collaboration with the 12th Man Kickoff Team Foundation comprised of over 80 former players and founded in 2007. Come hear a truly inspirational story in which the 12th Man Kickoff Team brought Texas A&M fans and players together to win 3 consecutive Southwest Conference titles. The 12th Man Kickoff Team Foundation currently works to provide scholarships for students with financial needs and encourages students to follow their dreams.

The Aggie Mom's Club meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at the Houston Distribution Center conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the corner of Cutten Road and 7100 High Life Drive. Please come enjoy refreshments provided at 7 pm and learn about valuable information regarding student activities, scholarships, the Aggie Boutique, door prizes, and more. Help support our outstanding Aggie students!

The Aggie Mom's Club is accepting Scholarship Applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Applications must be postmarked no later than Feb. 7, 2010. Last year 8 scholarships totaling \$8,750 were awarded to area students.

For more information, check out our website at www.nwhcaggie moms.com.

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Recipe of the Month

Ham Roll-Ups

Ingredients

- Flour tortillas
- 8 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese (softened)
- 1 small can Hormel canned ham
- Picante sauce

Directions

Mix the cream cheese, ham, and picante sauce together. Spread on tortillas and roll up. Refrigerate several hours, then slice.



If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to articles@peelinc.com.



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Tips for Teaching Children about Table Manners

Submitted by Rebecca Beavers

Teaching your children table manners may sound old fashioned, but it never goes out of style. Having good manners shows your respect for other people, and it's more than saying "please" and "thank you." It's about helping your children develop habits and behaviors that will help them relate to adults and other children in a positive way. "To make your family mealtime time special and relaxing, slow down, sit and talk with your children and expect good behavior. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much easier and enjoyable it will become," said Dr. Mary Zurn, vice president of education for Primrose Schools. "This is important because children with good manners often find it easier to make friends and get along with others at school and at home."

Dr. Zurn offers five table manners tips to get parents started:

1. Start early: Don't wait until you think your child is "old enough" to learn polite behavior. Just as children learn to crawl before they learn to walk, they also learn manners in stages. Even infants watch parents for rules of expected behavior. Very young children can learn to sign key phrases such as "please" or "thank you" and then transition to the spoken words around age two. By age three, children should be able to stay seated at mealtime if you sit down with them.
2. Give specific feedback: Children learn best when they receive specific feedback about their behavior which is far more effective than generic praise. For example, instead of saying, "Good job," you can say, "I'm so glad you set the table."
3. Encourage polite conversation: Children as young as two can learn to engage in polite conversation at the dinner table with the right kind of guidance. As you are at the table eating together, show them how to take turns listening, talking, and asking questions.
4. Set a good example: Make sure your words and actions match. Children watch parents all the time for behavior clues. For example, if you want your child to eat broccoli because it's a healthy food choice, you will need to let them see you enjoy eating it as well.
5. Create a routine: Children learn best from consistency because it helps them know what to expect. Start with the repetition of a few simple steps such as putting a napkin in your lap when you sit down. Create a routine that is easy for them to repeat and remember. For more tips from Dr. Zurn and a list of book suggestions on teaching your children table manners, visit www.Dr.ZandMe.com.



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Lone Star College - *CyFair Perspective*

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES ON STAGE

This holiday in the Main Stage Theatre are "A Taffeta Christmas" set Dec. 3 through Dec. 13 and the free String Orchestra concert "Collage" set Dec. 7. For tickets and information call 281-290-5201 or go to LoneStar.edu/boxoffice.

L.I.F.E. LESSONS IN DECEMBER

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs in December include: learning about the Texas Rangers Dec. 2, tips for permanent weight loss, Dec. 9 and creating a holiday wreath Dec. 16. Programs will resume Jan. 13, 2010. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to LoneStar.edu.

HOLIDAY HAPPENING WITH A.L.L.

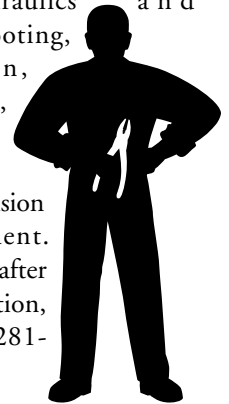
Celebrate the season with music, food and friends at the Dec. 10 Holiday Happening with LSC-CyFair's Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.) This event will be held at 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Heritage Lodge at Towne Lake. A.L.L. is designed for adults age 50 and better. For information, send an e-mail to LSCCFCE@lonestar.edu or call 281-290-3460.

REGISTER NOW FOR MINI-MESTER AND SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES

Catch up or get ahead this holiday season! Take a mini-mester course in December or register early for spring. Mini-mester classes begin Dec. 14. Spring semester classes begin Jan. 19, 2010. For information, call 281-290-3200 or 832-782-5000 or go online to LoneStar.edu.

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HAVE A HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON

and a Happy New Year!

Immediately after Halloween, people begin to focus on holiday shopping, decorating, baking and parties, parties, parties! Between office parties, happy hours, school functions for the kids, in-store food samples and large family gatherings, it is not surprising that the average American gains anywhere from two to seven pounds (or more!) between Thanksgiving and New Years! This year, you don't have to wait until you make



your 2010 New Year's resolutions to make some changes.

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS TO HELP YOU AVOID PACKING ON THE POUNDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

- You don't have to go to every party or dinner!
- Don't show up to a party hungry
- Size up the buffet before you grab a plate
- Decide what you really want to eat ahead of time
- Limit yourself to one trip to the buffet
- Fill your plate three-quarters full with fruits and veggies first
- Limit your alcohol intake
- Don't stand near the buffet table
- Eat with your non-dominant hand
- Chew gum when not eating

• Dance, talk and socialize—it's not all about the food!

The small appetizers typically served at parties are packed with a lot of calories.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PARTY FOODS, THE AMOUNT OF CALORIES THEY CONTAIN, AND HOW MUCH ACTIVITY WOULD BE NEEDED TO BURN OFF THOSE CALORIES:

- Two hot chicken wings with two tablespoons of blue cheese dressing contain 550 calories, and it would take a 150 pound person over two hours of vigorous housework to work off those calories.

(Continued on Page 9)

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Have a Healthy Holiday Season - (Continued from Page 8)

- One-half of a cup of mixed nuts contains 400 calories, and it would take a 150 pound person over one-and-a-half hours of walking to burn off those calories.
- One ounce of cheese served with one ounce of crackers contains 225 calories and it would take a 150 pound person almost 45 minutes of fast dancing to burn off those calories.

THERE ARE SOME HEALTHIER OPTIONS THAT YOU SHOULD CHOOSE OR SERVE ON A BUFFET LINE AT YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY PARTY:

- Boiled shrimp with cocktail sauce
- Bruschetta (tomato appetizer served with small pieces of toasted bread)
- Rather than the standard carrot and celery sticks, try an Asian theme with baby corn, snow peas and red pepper slices served with low-fat sesame or ginger dressing.
- Another option is to replace the standard chips and salsa with a mix of corn, black beans and salsa scooped inside of a bell pepper half.
- For a tasty dessert, make an eggnog flavored dip to serve with fruit, angel food cake or small gingerbread cookies.

In addition to choosing healthier options, try to eat normally

throughout the day. Don't try to starve yourself to "save up" calories before a party or dinner. Also, be sure to exercise regularly and get enough sleep. Most importantly, put the emphasis on spending time with family and friends, not on the food!

Thinking of giving cookies, fudge or a box of chocolates as a holiday gift? This year, try to give your family, friends and co-workers a healthier gift, such as a cookbook with quick and healthy recipes, sign them up for a cooking class or fill a recipe box with some of your own healthy recipes. You can also give gifts that encourage outdoor activity. Purchase pedometers, compasses or other gear that will encourage those you care about to be outside and active, they'll thank you later! - **Tarie Beldin**

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Cypress Cares



*Our troops need and deserve our support;
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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:

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.cypress-cares.org to view the troop responses, as well as more current information about upcoming events, donation ideas and more.



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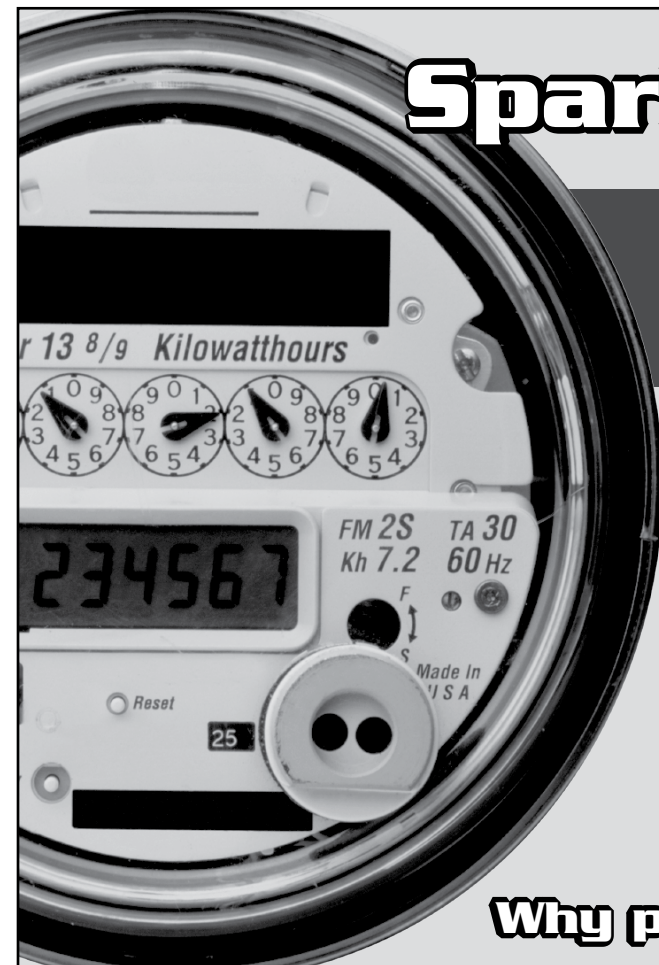
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7:00 p.m. Candlelighting & Communion Service with Chancel Choir
11:00 p.m. Acoustic Service

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**Merry
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Section 2	1	-	-	-	-
Section 3	2	1	-	-	-
Section 4	-	1	2	30	67.63
Section 5	2	-	-	-	-
Section 6	-	-	-	-	-
Section 7	-	1	1	246	62.36
Section 8	1	-	-	-	-
Section 9	1	-	-	-	-
Section 10	3	-	1	145	81.05
Section 11	3	-	-	-	-

According to information taken from the Houston Board of Realtors MLS computer.
This is not a solicitation of currently listed properties.

Call me today @ 281 460-5994

