

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

July 2010

Volume 5, Issue 7

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

Letter From the Editor

Hi Everyone! I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. There have been lots of things going on to keep busy. We have now had 2 annual Board Meetings, A BBQ event and a Safety Seminar. If you weren't at any of the 3 events I mentioned above where have you been???

There is lots of information in this issue so please read up. As always please go to our website at riataranch.net it has been updated and provides a wealth of knowledge regarding our neighborhood.

- *Cindy*

Park Improvements Begin

Most of you have probably noticed the activity in the park and around the playground. The work is the result of the Park Bonds that were passed in HCMUD #196 a few years back. The MUD met with the Riata Ranch HOA Board and went over plans drawn up with the landscape architect Sweitzer & Assoc. Once the HOA approved the plans, work was sent out for bid. Bids have been awarded and as you can see, work has begun. Over by the new parking lot, a new sidewalk is being put in to connect it with existing sidewalk by pool. Over behind the tennis court is the new location of the volleyball court. The old volley ball court will be part of the new and expanded children's playground. That playground will get new equipment and new surface. There will be shade structure going in there as well.

Outside the BBQ hut there will be a new covered pavilion and some of the sidewalk around there is being re-routed. This is just some of the things that will be happening. I will be giving more updates and information as we move along with these improvements. - *Mark Wyckoff, Vice President of HCMUD #196*

You Can Help Bring a Dog Park to 1960/Willowbrook Area

Submitted by Tiffany Moore

If you have ever taken your dog to a dog park you know how much fun they are for people and dogs too. You probably also know there is not one in our neck of the woods if you live in far NW Houston. The nearest off leash public dog park is Bill Archer Park in the Bearcreek Park area on Hwy 6 near I-10. If you have not ever been to a dog park you may soon get a chance to do so here in our own back yard. The Houston Dog Park Association (HDPa) is proud to be partnering with sponsor Barks 5th Avenue to bring a public dog park to far NW Houston. Land next to the Barks 5th Avenue facility on 1960 near Jones Rd. will be donated by the land owner to HDPa to build a public dog park on. HDPa will design, construct and manage the dog park. The plan is in preliminary stages now and more details will be shared at the Kick Off and Fund Raising event to be held October 2nd in the parking lot of Barks 5th Avenue at 10620 FM 1960 West, Houston, TX 77070.

We will be announcing the event details on our web site soon but you can mark your calendar for Oct. 2nd now. Leashed pets will be invited to the event and we'll have lots of fun for people and doggies including a dog and car wash, frisbee dog demonstrations, doggie costume contest, and lots of local vendor tables with freebies and goodies to give away and win. We are seeking vendors and will also need volunteers to help setup and work at the event from washing cars and dogs to entertainment and set up/clean up. HDPa is also seeking sponsors and vendors as well as entertainment for the event, contact HDPa to offer your services or reserve your space.

You can donate to the NW area dog park construction fund right now on our web site under Programs via Paypal or you can donate at the event. Dog park donations are tax deductible. HDPa has already raised over \$1000 for the NW area dog park. HDPa will be forming a "Friends of the NW Area Dog Park Committee" to help us plan and develop this new dog park and the event and we need volunteers. If you'd like to help us make this dream a reality for NW Houston dog owners email tiffany@houstondogpark.org to learn how you can help. HDPa is a 501c3 non-profit volunteer organization that advocates for dog parks and supports dog park patrons through education. Learn more about HDPa, how you can help, and what HDPa is doing to support dog parks all around Houston on our web site. For a map of all the dog parks around Houston visit www.HoustonDogPark.org. See you at the dog park!

Author Tiffany Moore is President of the Houston Dog Park Association and an Advisory Board Member on the Gragg Park Animal Campus project for BARC. www.animalcampus.org.

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. 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.
7170 Cherry Park Dr., Houston Texas 77095
Direct phone: (281) 500-7102, Direct fax: (281) 500-7172

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

NEW PRE-K MATH PROGRAM! Have a child going to Kindergarten in 2010 or 2011? Want to give them a solid math foundation? Math 4 Munchkins is a Pre-K math program that explores math through literature, art and music. Register online today at www.Math4Munchkins.com

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Contact A & B Recycling to help do your part and reserve your bins today!



Alex & Ben Hoffman
281-373-2114

****Please Note:**

We ask for a one time deposit fee of \$5/each for your bins.

We provide:

1. One bin for aluminum – for recycling cans and foil (No extra charge for recycling this for you.)
2. One bin for plastic - for all plastic with #1-5 and/or #7 (bottles, jugs and containers). Please wash out and remove caps since they jam the recycling machine. (\$10/month to recycle your plastic...that is only \$2.50/week to provide this service and help do your part.)
3. Weekly pick-up on Mondays.

Alex and Ben Hoffman: "We are two kids that live in Riata Ranch and are deeply concerned about the future of our planet, Earth. We noticed that we do not recycle in our neighborhood and feel it is time for us to recycle in order to reduce air and water pollution, conserve our natural resources, save energy, and help sustain our environment. Please join us in doing our part!!!"

With our **NEW** location, having a screening mammogram has never been easier!



NEW LOCATION

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Barker Cypress near the Berry Center

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FM 1960 near Jones Road

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Cypress Fairbanks Women's Imaging Center



www.CyFairWomensImaging.com

What's With The Dirt?

As many of you have already noticed: construction has started for the first phase of the improvements to the common areas. In the next weeks we will post more information about the full plans, but here are a few highlights and pictures:

Trail: The sports field parking will be connected to the trail around the pool. A picnic area is created in the wooded area off this trail. You can see the trail and picnic area framed today:



No trees will be removed to lay the trail or the picnic area.

Exercise equipment: Outdoor exercise equipment will be installed on the trail around the pool and the trail from the pool area to the tree on the trail around the 'creek'. Along the trails the framing for the concrete floors for the exercise equipment is in place:

(Continued on Page 5)

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What's With The Dirt? - (Continued from Page 4)



Playground enlargement: The existing playground will double in size. New equipment and floor will be installed. The play ground will have equipment for younger and older kids. The picture below shows the climbing rock for older kids (temporarily parked in the fields):



Volleyball court move to support the enlargement of the playground. The volleyball court will be situated next to the tennis courts. (see image below). And much more..

Check back here in the coming weeks as we disclose more details about the upcoming improvements. We hope to be able to post some of the architectural drawings of the plans..



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Riata Ranch

When There's Not Much Water Around,

You Learn To Use It More Efficiently

Sometimes it is not just what you do at home to use water wisely, but some other 'consumer choices' you make that can help save water. For example, did you know that buying recycled paper products – made from 100 percent recycled paper – require much less water in their manufacturing than do those same products made from virgin paper? Consider using the recycled variety of paper towels; the savings would add up to about 637 gallons a year. Here's another shocking statistic: every glass of water brought to your table in a restaurant requires the equivalent of another two glasses of water to wash and rinse the glass served to you. Since about 70 million meals are served away from home every day in this country, if only one in four people declined the glass of water, we'd save more than 26 million gallons of water a day. Ask your favorite restaurant to only serve water on request. The water we conserve today can serve us tomorrow.

(Taken from Mud196 water bill insert)

Home For The Summer Or Just Want Some Extra Money?

If you would like to add your name and phone number to the RR paper to babysit or dog sit for a fellow neighbor please send your information through the RR website which is: www.riataranch.net. We can then advertise your services in the RR paper for fellow neighbors who might need your services.

Car Decal

Have you received your complimentary RR car decals? We sent 3 to every household. If you would like additional car decals at \$1.00 each, please contact Michele Luttrell at SCS – 281-500-7107.

The decals are a tool to enable our Sheriff's officers to conduct their patrol of our neighborhood more effectively. This program is only successful if we have widespread participation from all residents so we urge you to participate by affixing a "RR" car decal to the lower left corner (driver's side) of your vehicle's back windshield.

I have seen more and more cars (including mine) that now have the decals attached. We can't make you do it but appreciate your participation.



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Recipe of the Month

MEXICAN LASAGNE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ pounds ground beef, browned
- 1 (16 oz) can refried beans
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- ¾ tsp garlic powder
- 12 uncooked lasagna noodles
- 2 ½ cup water
- 2 ½ cup salsa
- 2 cups sour cream
- ¾ cup sliced green onions
- 1 (2 ¼ oz) can sliced black olives
- ½ cup shredded pepper jack or Mexican blend cheese

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350. Lightly spray a 13x9" baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. Combine browned beef, oregano, cumin, and garlic powder. Place 4 lasagne noodles in bottom of baking dish. Spread ½ the beef mixture over noodles. Top with 4 more noodles and remaining beef mixture. Cover with remaining noodles. Combine water and salsa and pour over noodles. Cover with foil and back 1 ½ hours or until noodles are tender. Spread refried beans over top. Combine sour cream, onions and olives. Spoon over casserole and top with grated cheese. Bake, uncovered until cheese melts. Remove and let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Dates/Events to Remember:

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP
- AUGUST 2010 (EXACT DATE TBD)

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE =
SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 (RAIN OR SHINE)

Ideas

Do you have ideas for an article or story that you would like your Riata Ranch community to hear? If so, please go to <http://www.peelinc.com/> and go to the link to submit an article under the Residents tab.

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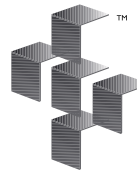


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FAIRFIELD SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Baseball and Softball is wrapping its season up but we have others around the corner. Summer Basketball is getting underway and we have Soccer and Volleyball in the Fall. We are making changes in two important areas. We have a new website so check it out. This is more user friendly especially for you MAC folks. We also have a new registration website. This one will allow your family to create a family account. Your contact info is retained as your children play in Fairfield Sports. No more entering in the same information for each sport and each year. Also its one stop checkout with one payment.

- Login is through the Fairfield Sports Website. <http://www.fairfieldsports.net>
- All families will be required to create an account the first time logging into our system. Please add all family members, players and parents by choosing the add children or add adult options (alternate contact information such as phone numbers and emails can be added when another adult is added to the account).
- This system will keep track of your account information for all sports that your children want to participate in. No more re-entering contact and address information each time you want to register.
- When each sport has its standard registration process usually 2-4 weeks before tryouts, you will be able to register and make payments

for any of the available programs. Through the registration system you will have access to all account information, including payments due, payments received, due dates, outstanding balances, etc.

- **If you have multiple players, please register them all at the same time. To do this after completing one registration click the continue shopping button to register another player.**
- The entire registration process occurs over a secure server using the highest security currently available.

FAIRFIELD SOCCER

Registration for another exciting year of Fairfield Soccer has begun. Our registration will go from June 19, 2010 to July 18, 2010. The fees for the 2010 season will be \$115 for 4-6 year olds and \$125 for 7-13 year olds, and individual sponsorship fees are \$15 per player. As teams have successfully done in the past, we recommend that you speak to local businesses and ask them for sponsorships (they will receive a plaque in recognition of their generosity).

NEW FOR THIS SEASON

We upgraded the uniforms (images will be posed to the Fairfield Sports Association Facebook page.) In the spirit of the World Cup this summer, all uniforms will be part of an International Series

(Continued on Page 9)

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Fairfield Sports Association - (Continued from Page 8)

from Xara Sports. We are very happy with the improved quality and look of the jerseys, and think you will agree. Also, this year we are including the jersey, socks, AND SHORTS, AND A SOCCER BALL with your fee. New, better quality jerseys, a complete uniform that includes socks and shorts, and a soccer ball; we hope you're as excited about the improvements in the uniforms as we are. The changes we've implemented also include a new training package for coaches. This package is optional to use, free, and will be included with your team uniforms when you pick them up.

START OF THE SEASON

The start of the season depends on the ability to have the fields ready on schedule. Three years ago, 10 people worked to prepare the fields and the work was complete in 4 hours. Two years ago we had 6 people and it took a day and a half. Last year only 3 people set up all of the fields and it took 4 days to complete. We are seeing negative participation in this effort, and I believe it is largely due to poor communication on our part, and your concern about the commitment when asked to volunteer. Therefore, this year I am scheduling Saturday, July 17th as the official field set up day, and I need 40 people to volunteer for only 1 hour. Just 60 minutes, and we'll have everything done... if we get enough people. I'm asking you to make this minimum commitment to make sure we can start

the season on time (again, the committee will be short staffed this year). We will meet at the Schiel Road fields (Weaver Complex) at 9:00am (and you'll be done by 10:00am).

FALL SOCCER SCHEDULE SUMMARY

- Registration opens June 19
- Field Maintenance – July 17
- Registration closes July 18
- Coaches Meetings
 - o 4/5 boys/girls July 20 7:00pm
 - o 6 boys/girls July 21 7:00pm
 - o 7/8 boys/girls July 22 6:30pm
 - o 9/13 boys/girls July 22 7:30pm
- Player Assessments will be conducted July 26-30 6:30pm
- Team selections will be August 1
- Practices can start August 2
- First weekend of games August 28
- Final week of season October 30, 2010
- Tournament November 1 -14, 2010
- Soccer Day SATURDAY NOV 20, 2010

- TROY GUIDRY, FAIRFIELD SOCCER, SOCCER@FAIRFIELD-SPORTS.ORG

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COMPUTING 101

How's Your Memory?

I run into this bit of confusion almost every day – people deleting files to give them more “memory”. Deleting files may give you more hard drive space, but it won't give you more memory.

Let's start with the hard drive. The hard drive in your computer is your filing cabinet. This is where Windows and all your programs are installed. ALSO, this is where ALL your documents, music, photos and movies are stored. Your hard drive is your storage in the same way that you may have music CD's or DVD's stored on a shelf, or your important papers in a filing cabinet. Getting a bigger hard drive simply gives you more storage. A Terabyte hard drive can hold the equivalent of 1,000 copies of the Encyclopedia Britannica. No one listens to all their music at the same time, or looks at all their photos or movies at the same time – we take what we want from “storage” and use the particular item at the time we want to. That takes us to memory.

Memory is made up of small chips inside your computer. They work kind of like an old calculator. Turn off the power and it goes blank. Turn on the power and you start filling it all over again. Memory is what your computer uses when it's actually working on something. The processor inside your computer (probably by AMD

or Intel) is what actually does the thinking. Because memory chips are MUCH faster than your hard drive, the computer pulls what it needs at the time into memory FROM the hard drive.

Let me put it into non-computer terms. You have a wall in your office filled with filing cabinets filled with papers; this is your hard drive. You have a desk that you work at that's 3 feet wide and 2 feet deep; this is your memory. YOU are doing the thinking and working with the papers; this is your processor. What happens when you have more papers to work with than desk space? You start shuffling papers around, maybe putting them into stacks and moving stacks around – this slows getting your actual task done. If you had a bigger desk, you wouldn't waste time shuffling papers. This is where more memory comes into play.

So deleting files from your hard drive doesn't speed up your computer any more than throwing away papers in your filing cabinet helps you get the task at your desk done.

When your computer wants to use more memory than it actually has, it does what we do when we get more information than we can remember – write it down! We use paper; the computer uses the

(Continued on Page 10)

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Don't Waste Your Money - (Continued from Page 11)

hard drive. To "add" to its memory, the computer uses unused space on the hard drive to "extend" its memory. The problem with this is writing to the hard drive is MUCH slower, your computer slows down. The solution, close programs that are running you don't need OR buy more memory. The good news? Memory is cheap! Sites like www.crucial.com will peek inside your computer, tell you what you have inside and what you can upgrade with. The Windows Task Manager will tell you how much of your memory you're using. If you're using 80% or more, you'll be noticing a dramatic decrease in speed. Installing memory isn't hard in most computers, but if you're not comfortable call a professional.

Goodbye Windows 2,000! On July 13th, 2010, all versions of Windows 2000 and Windows XP RUNNING SERVICE PACK 2 will reach the end of support. Microsoft will no longer be updating these products. If you have a system running Windows 2000, it's time to move that machine up to XP. If you're still running Service Pack 2 in XP, you need to download Service Pack 3 to continue getting updates. Go to <http://www.update.microsoft.com/microsoftupdate> to get Service Pack 3, or consider upgrading to Windows 7. Windows XP with Service Pack 3 will continue to be supported by Microsoft through April 8, 2014.

- Submitted by Laurie Scott


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Neighborhood Section	Active Listings	Pending Listings	Solds	Ave. Days on Market	Ave. Price per Sq. Ft
Section 1	3	-	-	-	-
Section 2	3	-	-	-	-
Section 3	6	-	1	10	76.37
Section 4	2	1	-	-	-
Section 5	6	-	1	11	77.55
Section 6	1	1	-	-	-
Section 7	1	-	-	-	-
Section 8	2	-	-	-	-
Section 9	1	-	-	-	-
Section 10	3	-	-	-	-
Section 11	2	2	1	23	72.25

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