

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

September 2011

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Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

Riata Ranch Community Meeting

GET INFORMED!

To encourage increased involvement with residents, the HOA board started a new (and hopefully innovative) program on August 16th. The idea is to have a monthly community meeting at a convenient location and time. It is our goal as a board to provide programs that will allow for residents to become more involved in the Riata Ranch community.

Whether you drop by for a few minutes or stay for a while, please join us for refreshments and a casual meet and greet. We will discuss what is going on in the neighborhood, and would love for you to share your ideas on how to make our community better!

Our next meeting is scheduled for
September 20th.

Dates: Every 3rd Tuesday

Times: 7:15pm - 8:30pm

Venue: Kids 'R' Kids

The venue is accessible by bike or on foot, or if you must by car (sufficient parking available).

This trial program is made possible by Darold and Wendy Frederick, owners of Kids R Kids on Barker Cypress, who generously open their facility for our meetings. Refreshments will be provided through the generosity of Pizza Express



PREP YOUR PET FOR HURRICANE SEASON

We are officially smack dab in the middle of hurricane season. Living by the coast, we are somewhat desensitized to Hurricane watches and warnings. After Katrina and Ike, those warnings and watches are catching our attention this year. Many of us have our evacuation route mapped out, check-lists at the ready and supplies already stored in the closet. Are your pets included in your evacuation plan? Here are some tips to ensure your smaller family members stay safe during an emergency:

- Make a list of all the items your pet(s) will need for 3 weeks or longer. This includes vaccination records, collar (or harness) with identification and a leash, food, water, medications, bowls, blankets and beds, favorite toys, a crate or carrier for transport and anything else familiar to your pet. This list can be used if an emergency evacuation is in order, or if you find yourself 'sheltering in place'. During times of high excitement, a list will ensure that nothing gets left behind (including your pets!). Also remember that you may not be able to go back home for a while, power may be out or vet clinics may be closed due to the storm. Take this into consideration when making your list. If possible, have a box you can put essential supplies in, so if evacuation is necessary you can pick it up and go.
- Do not leave pets outside. While this is recommended anyway, it is especially imperative during hurricane season. Pets can sense even the slightest changes in barometric pressure. They can predict storms better than we will ever be able to. Even the most well behaved pet can act unpredictable when a storm is looming.
- If it is necessary to evacuate, take your pets with you. Flooding and storm surges can pose danger to pets left behind (especially outside), and may prevent you from getting back to your pet to feed them or render assistance after the storm. Power outages can also leave a pet without air conditioning which could lead to heat exhaustion and death. Pets left outside are in danger of wild critters (such as snakes, rodents and insects trying to seek shelter during a storm), downed power lines, exposure to the elements, tainted water and starvation.
- Be prepared with vaccination records. Many times, you will have to leave your pets with other people during an emergency. Shelters and boarding facilities require proof of vaccinations before they will take any pet into their facility. Make sure your pet is current on all vaccinations before a storm hits. If it is

(Continued on Page 3)

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
Postma Elementary	281-345-3660
Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
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
Comcast Cable/High Speed Internet.....	713-341-1000
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

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Advertising.....	advertising@Peelinc.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email rjose@rrhoe.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.



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Pet Tips - (Continued From Cover)

necessary to leave them at a facility, make sure all of your pets belongings are labeled with your first and last name so they do not become lost in the shuffle.

- When evacuating, keep small animals in wire cages if possible. This provides better ventilation since they may be living in it for a while. Dogs should always remain on leash when outside. Even well behaved dogs can become impulsive during times of stress.
- Take a photo of your pet(s) and keep them with you. Should you need to find them after a disaster; a picture for the shelters and rescues to look at will make it easier to locate them.
- Micro chipping your pet is the best way to ensure they stay safe. Collars and tags can get caught on debris and fall off. A microchip is a safe way to further protect your pet. Contact information and medical needs can all be stored in the microchip database. If someone finds your pet, they will be able to care for them until you can be reunited.

Dogs, cats, reptiles, birds, small animals and fish all need to be taken into consideration during an emergency. Don't forget them this year! With a little bit of planning, you can be assured that your WHOLE family will be prepared and stay safe this

Dates to Remember for Riata Ranch

September 5 CFISD: Student Holiday
September 17 Third Day - Make Your Move Fall Tour
September 20 Riata Ranch Community Meeting
October 1 Neighborhood Garage Sale
October 10 CFISD: Student Holiday
October 18 Riata Ranch Community Meeting

GO TO THE RIATA RANCH WEB PAGE FOR COMPLETE CALENDAR AND RR INFORMATION:

www.rrhoa.net/calendar.

There is an interest in finding out how many residents read this newsletter. Please respond to rjose@rrhoa.net if you wish to have us maintain this format for community communication. If you would prefer information coming to you via the web page- again send an email and let us know. We are looking for the best way to keep you informed of our Riata Ranch community activities. You might even want to send along a big thanks to board member Cindy Feris who has previously worked tirelessly to make this newsletter a possibility.

*Jennifer Hobock and Randy Jose
Co-editors.*

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EXERCISE STATIONS

In 2010 exercise stations were installed in Riata Ranch park. Much of the success of this new project is due to the efforts of the MUD #196 Board of Directors. They worked with our HOA board to provide this new addition to our community park. The equipment is available to all residents of 13 years of age and over. Thanks to Barbara Fox and Caspar Hunsche you can now go to our web page www.rrhoa.net/exercise and download the userguide as provided by the manufacturer. Additionally you can print a workout log that helps you track your progress. Get exercising for even a small amount of time and you will amaze yourself at how quickly your endurance grows. The new playground equipment has been installed and ready for use by our kids according to Barbara Fox who has coordinated this project, again with the input from the MUD #196 Board members. Thanks to everyone, it looks great.

Consult your healthcare professional before starting any fitness program. This is especially important if you are pregnant, sedentary, or have pre-existing health conditions, such as back or heart problems.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ADULT
ACTIVITY AND EXERCISE?

Lifelong fitness is a great investment and can provide terrific health benefits. When you are in your best physical condition you will be able to fight off illnesses and diseases more effectively. Exercise will help you feel better and create a stronger heart, lungs, skeletal system and muscles. Plus, you being a healthy adult also sets a good example for the kids in your family and community.

The web page will also provide additional information regarding the following benefits to a regular exercise program:

- Pain Reduction:
- Increased Muscle Strength and Endurance:
- Increased Core Strength:
- Increased Flexibility:
- Improved Ability to Perform Daily Tasks:
- Improved Quality of Life:
- Weight-Bearing Exercise Combats Risk of Osteoporosis:
- Cardiovascular:
- Psychological Benefits:
- Social Benefits:

THE NEW EQUIPMENT IS WAITING FOR YOU!!



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www.cof.tv

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SERVICE TIMES:
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Sundays at
9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. TV time
on LOCAL

Pastor Mark & Laura Shook

THERE'S MORE TO POOP THAN MEETS THE EYE!!!

There is a problem in Riata Ranch with residents not picking up after their pets in our park and walkways. It is a little more than disgusting as noted below. This is apparently a national problem as indicated from the information copied from the web page

www.pickupthepile.com

The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirms pet waste can spread parasites including hookworms, ring-worms, tapeworms and Salmonella.

Pet waste also contains E. Coli and other harmful bacteria including fecal coliform bacteria, which can cause serious kidney disorders, intestinal illness, cramps and diarrhea in humans. (There are 23 million fecal coliform bacteria in a single gram of pet waste!)

Dog poop often contains roundworm larvae, which can cause blindness. If a human ingests a roundworm larva, it can migrate through the body causing disease to the brain, lungs, kidneys, liver, heart or eyes.

So when people (especially children) touch soil, dog toys or anything that has been in contact with dog feces and then touch their mouths, they can become infected. Dog poop doesn't just "wash away" or disappear. So if you're not disposing of your dog's waste, you're putting yourself, your family, your dog and your water supply at risk.

OF INTEREST:

There are approx. 73 million dogs in the US.

Statistics show that nearly 41% do not pick up after their dog. (probably higher at RR?)

That's 29 plus million dogs producing approx. 10 million pounds of poop per day left to wash into our lakes, streams and storm drains.

(all information is from

Be a part of this national campaign - Pet Waste Hazardous Material

A national effort to educate pet owners coast to coast.

NATIONAL PICK UP THE PILE CAMPAIGN

Pick up the Pile is a national movement educating pet parents on the hazards of pet waste. Some still believe dog poop is fertilizer. In fact, fertilizer is bacteria which can be harmful to our environment.

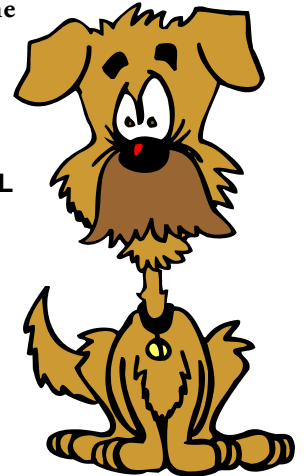
Become a part of this effort at Riata Ranch and nationally by picking up after your pet and helping spread the word. The national goal is "no poop left behind". Your board and neighbors agree. We will be working with this national group as time goes on and we find out more about the program. The web page states that HOA's across the country will be taking part in this campaign. It's a national issue for all neighborhoods, so we all need to do our part.

Remember: If you don't pick up your mess, you could be fined. Yes, it's the law, pet waste is toxic litter.

On a positive note:

- Hire a poop scoop service or make it a part of your lawn care maintenance.
- Pick up while on walks.
- Use eco friendly baggies
- Use a cloth type glove inside the baggie, rubber isn't user friendly... it sticks to the plastic.

IF INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A LOCAL RIATA RANCH EFFORT, EMAIL US YOUR SUPPORT. RJOSE@RRHOA.NET



All Information from pickupthepile.com.

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PIPES, PIPES, PIPES EVERYWHERE??

Most of you should not see any more of the trucks, tractors, pipes and the associated traffic and noise issues. The MUD district project was scheduled to be completed by September 1st according to our best sources. If not, hang in there as it is almost over.

The expanding population in our West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) will reach 565,386 by 20/50, significantly increasing water demands which now stand at around 21 billion gallons (2009). To meet this need and halt subsidence, the WHCRWA has developed a Ground Water Reduction plan. This plan mandates that by the year 2010 we were to have a 30% reduction in the use of ground water (this was met) and a 70% reduction by 2020. Essentially all the 125 local water districts (including MUD#196) will be getting their surface water supply (Lakes) from the City Houston. The work you have been seeing the last couple of months is the installation of new pipes to move this water from Houston's Jersey Village water plant to all the local MUD and water districts in this area. It has been an inconvenience but a valuable program for future water demands in this growing population area. Your MUD #196 board has been literally, in the field, keeping track of the

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Alex & Ben Hoffman
281-373-2114

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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!!!"

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