

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

December 2011

Volume 6, Issue 12

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

Meet Santa!

**DECEMBER 3RD
SATURDAY FROM 12NOON TO 2PM
AT KIDS R KIDS**

Meet and greet with Santa is scheduled again this year for our children who love to meet with Santa Claus. There will be donuts and drinks for all to enjoy. There will be an opportunity for each kid to have his or her picture taken with Santa. To add to the fun, Santa will read a book to those kids who want to have this special time with Santa. It is a come and go thing but most people stay for an hour or so and socialize with other neighbors/residents while enjoying some eats and drinks. A special activity will be available to some of our young guests where they can access crayons and coloring pages as well as being an opportunity for the kids to write a letter to Santa, who will take it with him to the North Pole. Save the date: December 3, 2011.

- *Cindy Feris*

RRHOA Director of Special Events



Activities and Tidbits of Interest

WHERE DID MY GRASS GO????

The drought combined with brown patch issues has taken a serious toll on many of our lawns. You wonder why one neighbor has a dead lawn and right next to it, a green manicured lawn. Why me?? Of course, there are some where the lawns simply have not been watered, fertilized or treated for insects and diseases. However, in these conditions luck has a lot to do with the survival of even the best kept lawns. The main issues are the need for extra watering, probably a daily watering is needed for those lawns with large trees. It is the root system of the large trees that takes up gallons of the water you put on the lawn. This puts some of us in a bind if we are trying to conserve water and yet keep our grass. For others, even daily watering does not save the lawn and it will look spotty as to the areas of grass and dirt/roots. The best thing you can do to resolve some of these issues for starting new grass planting/sodding is to: deep water the trees (refer to Randy Lemon's Garden Line on the KUHF web page) and cut out surface roots, especially those wandering towards your foundation or the sidewalks/driveways. Mostly, these roots are expendable for older trees but it is always a good idea to spend the few bucks and have a tree specialist decide which roots live and which don't...

also, thinning the trees is great for allowing more light to reach the grassy areas of the yard and giving the grass (especially St. Augustine) a chance to survive. Thinning also is a good idea to reduce tree/house damage during hurricanes (it is the season) and episodes of high winds. If you cannot get your St. Augustine to grow in areas of the lawn even after deep rooting and thinning; you can try seeding with seeds adapted to growing in the shade. When seeding, take the time to till the soil up, maybe add some new top soil, I like to add a bag of gypsum to break up the soil and improve water penetration (works for me) or use some of the commercial products at your local garden shop. The new sod or grass should be watered twice a day until you have good growth. I like watering about 30 minutes for my sprinkler system. Make sure when planting seeds that you do not over water and wash the seeds away. That is why you till them into the top inch of soil when planting. Then as you look over your six hours of hard labor, the sky descends with a mass of birds coming for the feast.. that's nature!! Your choices are play scarecrow for three or four days; reseed for three days in a row (they will get about 50% of your seeds) or you might try "bird resistant" seeds – no such thing as bird proof.

(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

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Repairs	281-398-8211
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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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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.

Cypress Ranch High School Orchestras

Submitted by Elizabeth Ledford

The Cypress Ranch High School Orchestras present a Winter Concert and Silent Auction Thursday, December 8. Silent Auction will begin at 5:30 PM in the CRHS Commons. A concert of holiday favorites and winter-inspired selections will follow at 7:30 PM in the Auditorium. Come with your family and friends and get into the spirit of the season! 10700 Fry Rd, Cypress 77433



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Target Heart Range... - (Continued from Cover Page)

These are personal tips and not professional advice. It's what I have had some success with but if you look at my lawn today... it will not reflect master gardener or professional, but I do have grass...

On top of this aggravation you may receive a letter from the HOA advising you of a deed restriction violation – maintain lawns/landscape. Our board continues to consider these issues and have worked to limit the letters going out regarding lawns and dead plants. However, be advised that as spring time arrives we will be looking for activity in replanting and maintaining the gardens (no dead plants and grass). Show us you are working on the landscaping and we will try to acknowledge that effort by not sending out “advisory letters”. Pretty sure most homeowners would use other descriptives for these letters but this is a family newsletter!! Truly though, the deed restriction letters are meant to be advisory in nature and should be taken that way. We know there is a reasonable probability that you cut your lawn or repaired that shutter the day after the inspection. The board is considering changing the process so that we can better monitor resident activities and prevent many of those letters mentioned above from being sent out. Hang in there with us and the process will get better. We try not to get ourselves into the mentality that everything is running just fine... there is always

room for changes and improvements and as a board we will continue to work with the whole neighborhood. As requested last issue.. please use the rrhoa.net webpage to have input into any aspects of the Riata Ranch protocols or facilities that are important to you or let us now what things we need to add to community activities or resources. Every one of your messages will be attended to. Randy Jose. HOA VP



Cub Scout Pack 438 of Rennell Elementary is collecting old cell phones and/or cell phone accessories as part of our annual Cell Phones for Soldiers collection campaign. Bring your old cell phones and accessories (gladly accepted, but not required) to our donation box at PostNet, located at 12321 Barker-Cypress Rd. #600 Cypress, TX 77429 in the Randall's shopping center. The

(Continued on Page 4)

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Riata Ranch

Tidbits of Interest.. - (Continued from Page 2)

phones will be shipped to Cell Phones for Soldiers and either be reconditioned and reprogrammed for reuse, the ultimate form of recycling, or dismantled and recycled. For every phone recycled, a deployed U.S. soldier will receive a prepaid calling card to stay in touch with loved ones. For more information on the program, visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

Thank you for supporting our soldiers!

RECYCLING

a reminder that we have a couple of young residents who are trying to start a recycling program in Riata Ranch. Residents are encouraged to call in and join in the recycling effort. This program, as you may have noted from previous newsletters, is being conducted through the efforts of Alex and Ben Hoffman. Riata Ranch residents can sign up for this program by calling them (281-373-2114) and arranging to obtain your two recycling bins (@\$5 per bin). Be the first to jump on this very important environmental program. Thanks to Alex and Ben the program is growing. With continued support we can become a recycling friendly community. CALL....

TABLES

by the time this newsletter reaches your home, four more picnic tables will have been installed in the pavilion area of the park. This will make it easier for residents to have events and gather around the BBQ hut. It will provide more comfort for those using this facility while at the playground or for those who rent the facility for parties and other social gatherings. It is available for all residents, just contact the HOA management.

POOP

yet again, not much of a response from the last newsletter regarding this problem. Too much poop on our trails, sidewalks and general field areas still exists. People surely can afford the bags available in all stores to pick up the messes. There is no such thing as a small dropping or deposit.... As a courtesy to your neighbors please try to pay more attention to this issue when walking your dogs. There was no significant response to the need for trash cans so this will be taken up at the board level. You can still get information on this problem at info@pickupthepile.com if you are interested in helping out with this problem.

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You're Invited!

Christ Church Performing Arts Company would like to invite you to share in a fun and entertaining show that celebrates the Christmas Spirit, "Sendin' Out Love".

"Sendin' Out Love" a Children's Musical about a Card Factory Management Team and the debut of their new Christmas Card Line, is full of Broadway style songs and dance numbers that will delight your heart.

We have Two Shows on Sunday Dec 11th, at 9:00 and 11:00. At Christ Church HNW, 16333 Meuschke, 2 miles north of 290. CCPAC was born out of a desire to establish a place for students to develop their creative gifts and abilities in the performing arts, and at the same time, provide excellent entertainment for our families and community. The majority of the students in this, our first show, are Elementary and Middle School Students from Fairfield, and some from the surrounding Cypress area. For more information, visit our website at christchurchhnw.com or call Juliet Geil 760-696-6384.



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It's All About the Students!

from a volunteer's view

It was barely 8:00 in the morning on Friday, Oct. 14th. They were beginning to arrive. Upon checking in; name badges were handed out along with a bright red folder full of the day's agenda and the conference material. There was even an eco-friendly tote bag full of coupons and goodies generously donated by local area businesses. The room was huge and full of tables decorated with bright paper blocks spelling out the main part of this year's theme. "Teamwork".

This was the annual VIPS Fall Conference held by the CFISD VIPS Executive Board at the Berry Center in Cypress. The schedule was full. It consisted of everything from learning how to turn a popsicle stick into a fun treat for a teacher or volunteer to tips on helping our students handle stress. The attendees could choose from a variety of 50 minute sessions that covered topics such as: Internet Safety, Reaching Out to Diverse Volunteers, Guidelines and Best Practices for Fundraising and even Taking Care of Your Personal Health While Maintaining a Busy Lifestyle.

Something was most impressive about this conference to one volunteer. This audience of 200 plus was comprised of men and women, volunteers and school staff - not limited to Cy-Fair ISD.

There were 4 other area districts represented at this conference: Alief ISD, Fort Bend ISD, Houston ISD and Spring ISD. The current budget environment has left our school districts vying to be first in line for every resource of financial and physical support they can find. But for one day in October, the district boundary lines came down. There was no competition. There was no hidden agenda. Despite the traffic and everyday challenges, educators and volunteers from schools all over our county came together for a common purpose: improving their volunteer program thereby affecting the students in a positive way. This was simply an opportunity to attend an event that focused on several different areas of how to build on their volunteer resources in order to enhance the children's education.

While that volunteer sat looking out over the diverse crowd; she couldn't help but see a universal theme, "Yes, in this room, it's truly all about the students".

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“Teamwork is Key” With Cy-Fair ISD Volunteers

Are you looking for the #1 ranked team that embraces your diverse talents, where you are always a “starter”? It’s not too late to join the Volunteer Team in the Cy-Fair Public Schools.

VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) in Cy-Fair ISD center the attention of their service on supporting students and staff and making a significant contribution to the education of children. These are dedicated individuals; they give freely of their time and resources and have an impact on the academic and personal development of Cy-Fair ISD students. Cypress-Fairbanks ISD is fortunate to be able to draw from a diversity of skills and knowledge in its community.

If you are interested in being involved in Cy-Fair schools as a volunteer and making a difference, or would like more information, please contact Pam Scott, Partners in Education Director at 281-894-3950.

Cy-Fair ISD Volunteer Events for November & December 2011

HOW TO REGISTER FOR TRAINING

Register for training by emailing the PIE office at vipsrsvp@cfisd.net. Provide your name and the name and date of the training you wish to attend. Registration is required to guarantee a seat and training materials.
Adults only please.

“TEAMWORK IS KEY”

November 14 Elementary Language Arts Training – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Berry Center

This training is designed for volunteers and parents helping Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade students. You will learn how to read aloud interactively to a class in order to help boost their comprehension.

November 15 Elementary Math Training – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Berry Center

Participants will learn the approach to the 4-step process, model drawing, and actions used in the math classrooms.

November 17 VIPS Liaison and Coordinator General Meeting – 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Berry Center

Open to all CFISD volunteers, parents, staff and community members. Get the latest information on CFISD volunteering and learn ways to improve your volunteer program through networking with other volunteers in our district!

December 6 Multicultural Meeting – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Berry Center

Open to all CFISD school staff, volunteers, parents and community members. The purpose of the CFISD Multicultural Committee is to raise the level of cultural understanding and respect by sharing information with the CFISD community to encourage cultural sensitivity and parental involvement to strengthen student success.

Something new this year: While you’re on Facebook, be sure to check us out!

www.facebook.com/pages/Cy-Fair-ISD-Volunteers



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