

THE Current

SHADOW CREEK RANCH

NOVEMBER 2012

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SHADOW CREEK RANCH

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 11

KIDS' TENNIS PLAYDAYS AT SHADOW CREEK RANCH

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Let's come together share a sport, be healthy and happy!

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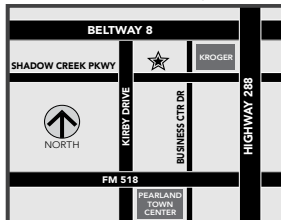


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COMMUNITY ISSUES

I am a resident of Shadow Creek Ranch and a member of the homeowners' association. I am writing you regarding two issues which need to be addressed.

One is the maintenance of the walkway or sidewalk around our community. I am a regular walker/jogger and I see this amenity in need of refurbishing. Due to constant climate exposure, it develops cracks and what I am most concerned is it causes the concrete slabs to expand and make the pavement uneven. It becomes a public hazard if not remedied. In fact, there was already an incident where a jogger tripped and suffered knee bruises. This time it might just be a minor knee injury but may translate to something major like head injury if nothing is done about it. Freak accidents can happen to anybody especially vulnerable are small children. This is a safety issue and needs to be resolved with utmost urgency.

Another is the continuing presence of a pool of water whole year round on the entrance/exit to Kelsey Pointe subdivision. This is located on the corner of Clear Lake Loop S and Silent Shores Lane. The water comes from rain and the sprinkler system. It does not drain to the canal system because that area of the street is a bit lower in elevation. A mere chipping of the street edges to let the water run to the drainage will easily resolve the problem. Obviously, people who are supposed to do something about it choose to look at it with blind eyes.

We all know the deadly effect of West Nile Virus carried by mosquitoes which by now caused a number of fatalities. This pool of water stagnates and is an excellent breeding ground for mosquitoes. If remained unchecked all people in our community as well as the surrounding areas will be at risk. Aside from being an eyesore this is a health issue which also makes its resolution more urgent.

I am hopeful that these issues are promptly addressed so that when I do my regular walking and jogging I feel the confidence that my environment is safe and clean.

A concerned resident,

Juventino R. Yuvienco

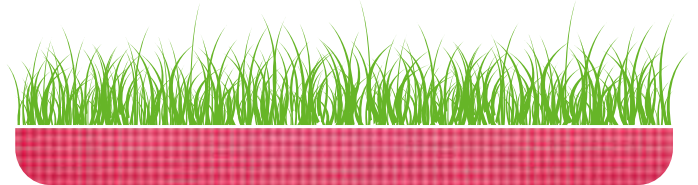


SHADOW CREEK RANCH CAMPING AND BACKPACKING CLUB

Are you looking to break away from it all, get some exercise, and enjoy hiking and camping activities?

Then consider joining the Shadow Creek Ranch Camping and Backpacking Club. We meet once a month to plan 1 to 2 day camping and backpacking trips in and around the Houston area.

Come join us! Meet new friends and have some fun. Contact Wayne Slaughter at kwsla1@mac.com or 713-392-6728 for further details. Hope to see you on our next adventure.



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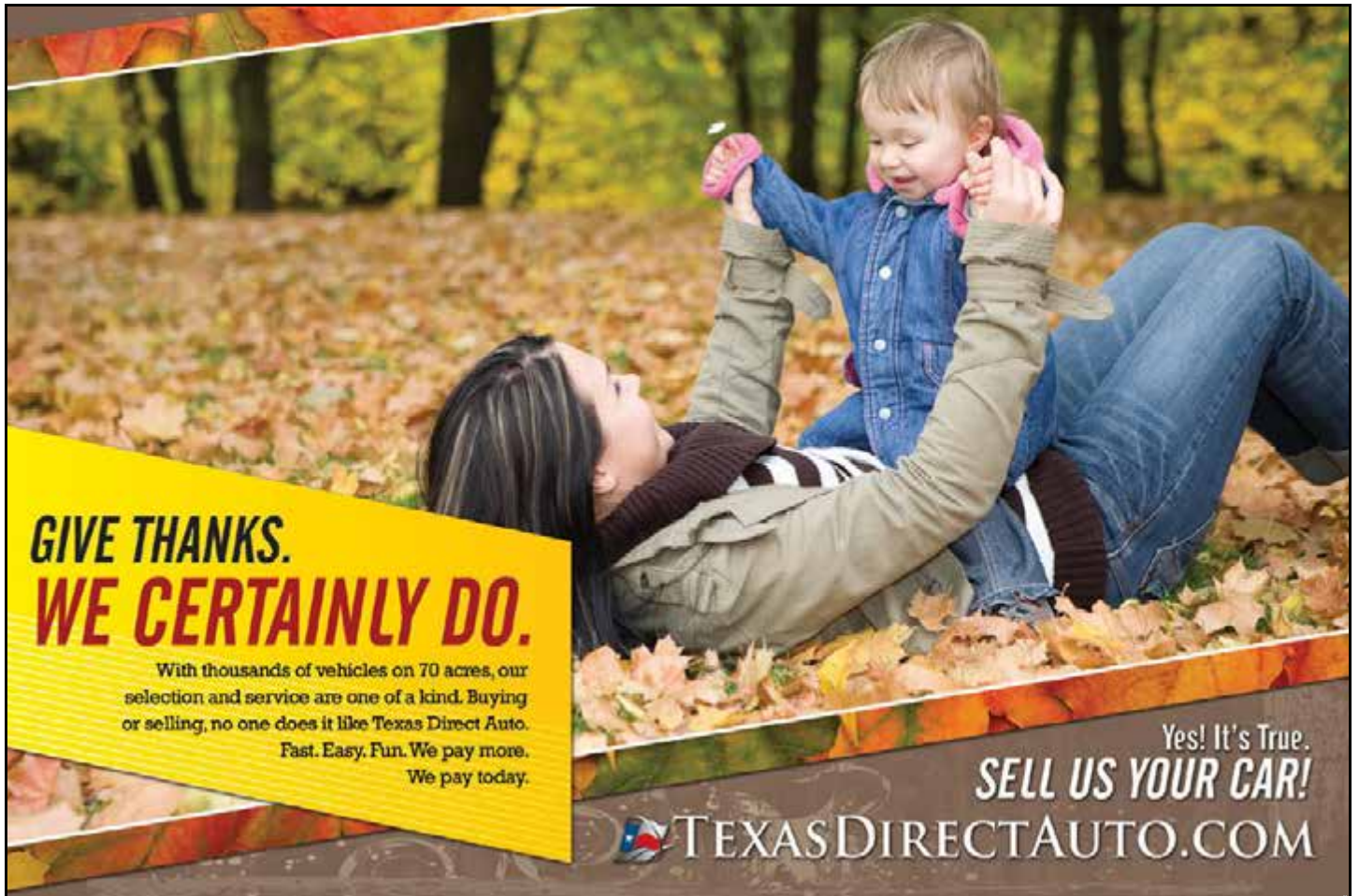
Pearland Toastmasters "Dining With The Stars" *Characters Welcome*

Pearland Toastmasters joined Dining Out Toastmasters for a Celebrity Toastmasters Meeting conducted in character at the Fish Company Restaurant inside the Pearland Bass Pro Shop. "All those interesting characters added to the night's entertainment. It was an outstanding example of how to host an event and make it extraordinary. All the costumes, speeches and evaluations flowed with the theme adding to our enjoyment," says Vice President of Education of Pearland Toastmasters, Tracey Peterson.

**Be our guest, Wednesday mornings 7-8am
Pearland's Vic Coppinger YMCA,
2100 YMCA Drive, Pearland, TX 77581**

Our members strive to make each meeting fun, educational and enjoyable! We know you'll have a great time observing our members "in action!" To find out more information: visit www.PearlandToastmasters.com and contact Tracey at 713 854-1815.

"The mission of a Toastmasters club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every individual member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills which in turn foster self-growth and personal growth."



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2. **Plastic Shopping Bags! Special collection all week from Nov. 10 to Nov. 17, 2012.**
3. **Free Paint will be given away!** (No specific color requests)
4. **Recycle anything that you would normally bring to the Recycle Center that day.**

For more information on Recycling and Pearland Recycles Day visit



www.mykpb.org or call 281-652-1659



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Solar Savings

For those of us living here in Houston, we're all acutely aware that the sun is a plentiful, if not unrelenting, source of heat and sunlight (okay, the heat is really a byproduct of the intense sunlight). And for many of us I bet that we've thought, "Gosh, if I could harness just some of that free sunlight..." The harder part is trying to answer the obvious questions about installing a solar array or solar panel system on the roof of your home - "How much electricity would it generate and how much money could I save on my electric bills?"

Without having to know much about solar or needing to contact a solar installer or solar company, you can easily get those estimates at your fingertips. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which is operated by the US Department of Energy, has created a website allowing anyone to calculate the amount of electricity a solar panel array system would generate. Here's the website (notice that it already takes into account that you're in Houston): <http://rredc.nrel.gov/solar/calculators/PVWATTS/version1/US/Texas/Houston.html>. Once on the website, for your initial estimate, you can use the default information presented and just click on "calculate" at the bottom. On the results page you will see that in Houston, a South facing solar panel array (which means the Array Azimuth = 180 degrees) that's built for 4 kW of electricity generation, would generate 4879 kWh in a year and save you \$473.26. To give you a better estimate, there are 3 settings you can go back and change:

Array Azimuth in degrees, DC Rating in kW, and Cost of Electricity in cents.

Array Azimuth: If you're considering placing your solar array on the side

of your roof that gets the most sunlight and that part of the roof faces due South, then the Array Azimuth would be 180 degrees. If your proposed solar array will be facing Southwest, the azimuth would be 225 degrees. Southeast would be 135 degrees. And so forth. The more accurate your submission, the more accurate your estimate.

DC Rating: The DC Rating (in kW) default is 4 kW in the calculator. This would be the "size" of electricity generation by your solar array - basically, by adding (or subtracting) more solar panels to your proposed system, the DC Rating would increase (or decrease). Makes sense - if you add more solar panels to your array, you'll increase the amount of electricity generated and therefore increase the amount of money saved.

Cost of Electricity: The default is the Texas state average of 9.7 cents per kWh. For those of you with an electricity provider with higher (or soon to be higher) rates, you should change the rate accordingly to get a more realistic estimate.

So that's it, an easy way to determine what you would be generating with a solar array on the roof of your home. This is a simple but fairly accurate way to determine the benefit of installing solar on your home. Of course, YMMV (your mileage may vary) but by getting a fairly accurate estimate of the amount of electricity generated and the money saved, you can better determine whether or not installing a solar array on your roof would make financial sense for you and your family. If you have any questions, please ping me at lecc89@gmail.com.



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Tennis Tips

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco

HOW TO HIT A ONE-HANDED BACKHAND

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a Forehand and a Two-Handed Backhand. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a one-handed backhand for a right hander. This stroke is still used by many league and tournament players since it gives players a wider range of reach and flexibility to hit slices and drop shots.

Step 1: Ready position: The body is facing the net. The right hand is holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is on the throat of the racket. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are shoulder width apart and the body in is good balance.

Step 2: Back swing: When the opponent's ball is headed to the backhand side, the left hand takes the racket back and the right hand changes the grip with one quarter turn placing the index knuckle at the upper ridge of the handle. The body should start taking the racket back before the ball bounces. Notice the turn of the upper body and the right foot leading the left foot. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

Step 3: Point of Contact: The eyes now shift toward the point of contact which should be about 12-18 inches in front of the right foot.



The right hand is holding the racket tight. The racket has made contact with the ball and weight of the player has shifted toward the point of contact. It is important to keep the right shoulder closed and not open the left hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility and power on the ball.

Step 4: Follow Through: Once the racket has made contact with the ball, both of the arms need to be extended for better balance. The right arm should be straight and the follow through upwards above the head.

Look for next Issue: The Forehand Volley

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