



SEPTEMBER 2013

Official Publication of Legends Ranch Property Owners Association

VOL 7, ISSUE 9

LEGENDS RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY

OCTOBER 12, 2013

FUN FOR THE KIDS

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BACK TO SCHOOL! Wait, Didn't Summer Just Begin?

by Sarah Bloch, LR Resident

September is here already and the kids are back to school. Here is some helpful information:

The school system's cycle is one in which nearly every detail is already laid out for you, with everything clearly defined and screaming "advanced planning and preparation". Bus schedules, school schedules, dates for instruction or closure—even make-up dates for inclement weather, and don't forget...each clearly-defined policy you need to know about as a parent of a school-aged child in Conroe ISD.

We are outside a 2-mile radius of these schools, so are afforded the luxury of district bus transportation as an option. If you do drop-off/pick-up, keep in mind the line of cars and the rule about no cell phone use in school zones. If you're not home for a bus drop-off, the driver won't drop your child off, but will deposit him or her back at the school.

Basics: Which school, bus, meals, supplies, teacher? Visit www.conroeisd.net. For LR, those entering public elementary school will attend Birnham Woods Elementary for pre-K through 4th Grade (<http://birnham.conroeisd.net>), Cox Middle School for 5th & 6th (<http://cox.conroeisd.net>), York for 7th & 8th (<http://york.conroeisd.net>), Oak Ridge High School 9th Grade Campus or Oak Ridge High School 10th-12th (<http://orhs.conroeisd.net>).

Parent of pre-schoolers? Once your child is close to a school start, think April for when Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Roundup registrations begin. Same goes for Mother's Day Out programs...think April to prepare for the full school year ahead.

Child entering Birnham Woods Elementary? This was their first year to offer online registration with scheduled appointments to bring the paperwork in to complete the process—it worked great! And our local population growth includes Snyder Elementary opening in Benders Landing this fall. Some students had to transfer out of BWE in fact!

Before- and After-School programs are offered by local child development centers with transportation service from the school to

(Continued on Page 3)

LEGENDS RANCH

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Property Tax

Montgomery County Tax	936-539-7897
Conroe ISD	936-709-7751
Montgomery MUD #89	713-932-9011

Your Community Homeowners Association

RealManage	866-473-2573
Legends Ranch Clubhouse.....	281-681-9750
Legends Ranch SplashPad	281-419-2130
Gate Attendant Office.....	281-296-0433

Police & Fire

Emergency	911
Montgomery Sheriff	936-760-5800
Pct. 3 Constable Office	281-364-4211
S. Montgomery Co. Fire Dept. Non-Emergency.....	281-363-3473
Montgomery County EMS Non-Emergency	936-441-6243
Crime Stoppers	713-222-TIPS
Poison Control.....	800-222-1222
Texas DPS	713-681-1761

Utilities

Electricity (TXU).....	800-368-1398
Electricity (TXU New Service)	281-441-3928
Electricity (Centerpoint)	713-207-2222
Gas (Centerpoint).....	713-659-2111
Water/Municipal Oper. & Consulting	281-367-5511
Canyon Gate Connect	281-296-9584
Best Trash	281-313-2378
Street Light Outages.....	713-207-2222
Cable/Internet/Phone...COMCAST	713-341-1000

Public Services

Local US Post Office.....	281-419-7948
Toll Road EZ Tag.....	281-875-3279
Voters Registration.....	936-539-7843
Vehicle Registration	281-292-3325
Drivers License Information	936-442-2810
Montgomery County Animal Control	936-442-7738
Montgomery Chamber	281-367-5777

Area Hospitals

Memorial Hermann	281-364-2300
St. Luke's	832-266-2000
Conroe Medical Center	281-364-7900

Conroe ISD

Birnam Woods Elementary	281-863-4200
Cox Intermediate	281-465-3200
York Junior High	832-592-8600
Oak Ridge High	832-592-5300

Private/Parochial

First Baptist Church	936-756-6622
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	936-756-3848
St. Edward Catholic.....	281-353-4570
St. James Episcopal Day	936-756-4984

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Back to School (Continued from cover)

their location. Otherwise look into options for sports and activity programs at nearby businesses.

Best wishes to those starting school for the first time or transitioning into a new grade or new school, and to all those behind the scenes making it possible...parents, teachers, volunteers, the whole 'village' of us here on the 'Ranch' helping to raise children well in our community.

Resources:

- Finding Childcare: <http://www.collabforchildren.org/>
- Preparing for Kindergarten or preparing for homeschooling or trying to teach your child to read: www.icanteachmychild.com/
- The Woodlands Mall features current sales for stores at: www.thewoodlandsmall.com/sales (*Talbots offers 15% off regular priced merchandise year-round for teachers)
- Resources for homeschooling or pre-school or parents tutoring children year-round: Lakeshore Learning-The Woodlands www.lakeshorelearning.com has a Teachers Club offering 15% off discounts & Teacher Workshops
- Find Teacher Discounts nationwide: www.giftcardgranny.com/blog/the-complete-list-of-66-teacher-discounts/
- For homeschooling, get a Teacher ID via: www.homeschoolbuyer-sco-op.org.

Helpful Safety Tips & Guidelines:

- **Route & Routine:** Go over the route or daily routine with your child and practice before school begins to best prepare for the logistics involved in getting to/from school safely.
- **Strangers:** instruct your children to be cautious of strangers who approach them while at the bus stop or during their walk or bike ride home. Make sure to teach them how to handle a situation that might be suspect.
- **Driving:** be extra safe while driving when school begins. There will be more cars & buses on the road, as well as children on foot & on bicycles. In Texas, there is NO cell phone use while in school zones. Please pay attention!
- **Proper Footwear & Bicycle working properly:** While flip flops & backless shoes are popular, there have also been many accidents on crowded school stairways which have resulted in serious injury, as even being stepped on from behind with these types of shoes can cause falls. If riding a bicycle to school, have the brakes checked out to insure they are working properly.
- **Hot temperatures in late August:** make sure your child has plenty of water & wears light clothing. Make sure that packed lunches won't spoil by including insulated bags or frozen packs. Idea: freeze the bottle of water to put inside of the lunch bag.
- **School Supplies in Tow:** keep sharp objects such as pencils & scissors in a padded case.



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Possible Water Savings

- High-efficiency toilets, water-efficient washing machines, rainwater harvesting systems, and water-efficient landscaping can all help reduce water use.
- Water-efficient showerheads and aerators for faucets can significantly reduce the amount of water you use. In fact, installing a water-efficient showerhead is one of the most effective water-saving steps you can take inside your house.
- Leaky faucets and toilets can waste thousands of gallons of water monthly, and they are inexpensive to fix. A few small changes in your water use habits can make a huge difference in water savings.
- In the summer, outdoor water use can account for 50 percent or more of total water use. With proper management, you can have a beautiful, healthy landscape and reduce your water use significantly. This can amount to hundreds of dollars in savings a year in water and often wastewater costs.

INDOOR TIPS

Bathroom

- Replace your showerhead with a water-efficient model.
- Get in the shower as soon as the water becomes warm enough.
- Take short showers.
- Take a shower instead of a bath. A shower with a water-efficient showerhead often uses less water than a bath.
- Reduce the level of water used in a bathtub by 1 or 2 inches if a shower is not available.
- Turn off the water while you are shaving. Fill the sink with hot water instead of letting the water run continuously.
- Replace your old toilet with a high-efficiency toilet that uses 1.3 gallons per flush.
- Test toilets for leaks. Once in awhile, take the top off of your toilet tank and watch it flush. Do you notice any leaks? Yes? Replace the flapper or rubber washer. Don't forget about those less obvious leaks. Add a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet to the water in the tank, but do not flush the toilet. If the coloring appears in the bowl within a few minutes, the toilet has a leak that needs to be repaired.
- Never use the toilet to dispose of trash.
- Don't waste water when brushing your teeth or washing your hands. Shut off the water until it's time to rinse.

Kitchen

- Run the dishwasher only when full. This practice will save water, energy, detergent, and money. If your dishes are not very dirty, use the short wash cycle. You can spend less money on water and energy by installing a high-efficiency dishwasher.
- Install faucet aerators. You'll never notice the difference, and you'll cut your sink water consumption in half! Also, don't ignore leaky faucets; they waste lots of water.
- Keep a container of water in the refrigerator. It will be refreshingly cool and won't waste water.
- Dry scrape dishes instead of rinsing. Your dishwasher will take care of the rest.
- Use garbage disposals sparingly. They can waste water unnecessarily.
- Soak pans rather than scrubbing them while the water is running.
- Rinse your vegetables in a pan of cold water; it doesn't take gallons of water to get the dirt off.

Laundry room

- Conventional washing machines use 32 to 59 gallons of water per load.
- Wash only full loads.
- Use the lowest water level setting on the washing machine for light or partial loads whenever possible.
- Use cold water as often as possible to save energy and conserve hot water for uses that cold water cannot serve.

Additional tips

- Don't ignore leaky faucets; they are usually easy and inexpensive to repair. Turn off the valve under the sink until you get around to repairing the leak. A slow drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water each day and will add to the water bill.
- Know where your master water shut-off valve is in case a pipe bursts. Insulate hot water pipes. You won't waste water waiting for it to get hot, and you will save energy too.
- Install water-softening systems only when necessary, and if you have one, save water and salt by running the minimum amount of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness.
- Replace water-to-air heat pumps and air conditioners with air-to-air if you are purchasing new units. They are just as efficient and do not waste water.
- Find other uses for water rather than letting it go down the drain, such as watering house plants with fish tank water.

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Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors of all ages needed! www.tinych.org/signup
September 8: 5th annual Colin's Hope Kids Tri, and All Star Burger Fundraiser (10% of sales donated).
October 19: Sharkfest Austin Swim benefiting Colin's Hope. Volunteers needed.
November: Underwater Holiday Photos (multiple days and locations).
February 16: Austin Marathon. Runners, walkers, and water stop volunteers needed.

Be a Water Guardian and Watch Kids around Water. Drowning is preventable!

Thank you to all who supported our efforts this year to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning!

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Rayford Road Civic Association

Meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of Each Month at 6:30pm
Imperial Oaks Clubhouse, at 1910 Havenhouse Drive, Spring, Texas 77386

5 reasons why you should join...

1. Boost Your Community Pride

By bringing together 25 communities east of I-15, RRCA represents over 10,000 local residents. The time has come for us to join together and focus our community resources in achieving success.

2. Strengthen your Community by Supporting Local Leaders

The Rayford Road Civic Association is a means of supporting current leaders, identifying potential leaders, expressing community concerns, problem solving, and providing community direction to help our community prosper.

3. Raise Our Overall Community Presence

By joining forces, we can work together to express concerns with our officials at the County, State, and Federal levels.

4. Be Involved with Effective Community Planning

Rayford Road Civic Association is committed to the continued overall development of effective community planning by working with all those involved to improve the quality of life for our residents. We will strive to protect the value and beauty of our homes and neighborhoods. We will work with government officials and public servants to protect and serve our residents.

5. Be Connected to Your Community

Rayford Road Civic Association connects you with those that have answers to your questions and resources to get the issues addressed.

Join us on Facebook at [Rayford Road Civic Association](#) or email us at JoinRRCA2Gmail.com



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Labor Day - September 2: 12pm - 8pm

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August 31-September 29 (Weekends Only)

Saturday & Sunday: 10am - 8pm

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Gardening Tips for September

September is here, but summer temperatures are still with us. So, check your garden and lawn for signs of heat and water stress.

Late September or early November is the time to apply a preventative fungicide to your lawn. There are several good ones on the market, such as “Eagle Turf” by Nitro-Phos, and “Fungus Control” by Scotts. Both of these are granular products. If you prefer a liquid product, then there is “Infuse” by Bonide. This one comes in a hose-end applicator.

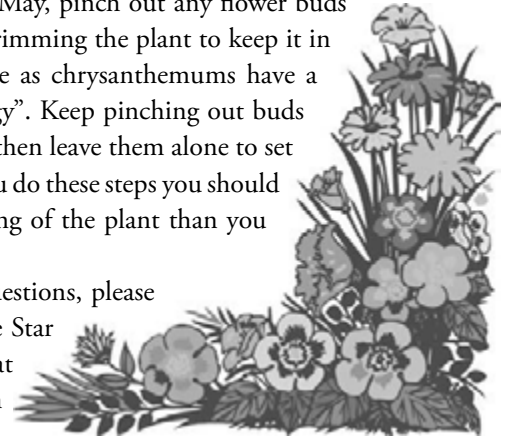
September is the time to separate your perennials. Now is also the time to give your Azaleas their last feeding of the growing season. September will see the nurseries starting to stock chrysanthemums. This perennial comes in a wide range of colors, ranging from white to purple. They also come in a wide range of flower shapes, such as “daisy”, “pom-pom”, and “spoon”.

Mums are “Day length sensitive” plants, this means that they will not bloom until the number of hours of daylight begins to decrease in the fall. One of the downsides to this is that blooming can be

delayed or stopped by having a bright alternate light source close by, such as street lights or a bright porch light.

Even though mums will die down to the ground in the winter, they will come back up in Spring and should bloom again during April or May. After May, pinch out any flower buds that form and start trimming the plant to keep it in a nice rounded shape as chrysanthemums have a tendency to get “leggy”. Keep pinching out buds until the end of July then leave them alone to set bud for the Fall. If you do these steps you should get a heavier blooming of the plant than you would otherwise.

If you have any questions, please come see me at Lone Star Ace or contact me at troy@lonestarace.com



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