

# THE *Current* Shadow Creek Ranch

JANUARY 2015  
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1



## Register Now for Spring Soccer 2015

Come join Pearland's premier youth soccer club! Registration for Pearland United is now open through January 31, 2015 for recreational spring soccer for boys and girls, ages 4 to 11. We offer co-ed introductory soccer for ages 4 to 5, boys' and girls' soccer academies for ages 6 to 10 and recreational soccer for ages 10 to 18. Our introductory soccer program will train once a week (your choice of practice location at Westside Events Center or Independence Park) with a professional curriculum and trainer oversight. The soccer academy teams will receive 2 ½ hours of training per week with licensed professional trainers at Pearland's Centennial Park. Ages 10 to 18 recreational teams practice twice a week with trainer oversight. Come help us continue to grow the sport of soccer in Pearland! Registration and more information about our programs at [www.pearlandunited.com](http://www.pearlandunited.com).



## Nolan Ryan Junior High Band

On Saturday, November 8th, members of the Nolan Ryan Junior High Band competed for places in the 2014-15 Region 17 All-Region and All-District Bands. Over 1,100 students representing the best players from 10 school districts auditioned throughout the day at Friendswood Junior High. The students from Nolan Ryan Junior High performed very well, earning 44 places in All-Region and All-District bands, the highest number ever at Nolan Ryan Junior High! The band at Nolan Ryan Junior High is directed by Josh Mooney, Freddy Patrick, Hannah Colvin, and Lou Boldrighini.

### **Nolan Ryan Junior High Band students qualifying for 2014-15 All-Region and All-District bands are:**

Irene Diango, Catherine Tang, Megan Nguyen, Sophia Olalia, Sabrina Thomas, Lexi Poole, Sanjana Bheri, Maren Tonini, Lawrence Castacio, Christina Lewellyn, Aountwone Pow, Bethany Lin, Gena Lee, Alyssa Ocampo, Kylie Ede, Sam Qiao, Geremi Alvarez, Gether Minon, Anina Shajimon, Lee Ecat, Michelle Vu, Richard Lin, Jasmin Sunny, Elijah Garcia, Johnny Quach, Brian Phan-Tran, Tyler Beckman, Valerie Gerard, Daniel Luna, Hanna Feldschau, Nicco Simbajon, Gabriel Aguirre, Ben Greer, Sayjah Davis, Jennifer Li, Wesley Shippy, Angelo Johnson, Tonny Thai, Myles Davis, Everzon Ermitanio, Alicia Sanchez, Lianne D'Souza, Denali Klein, and Joshua Sam.

# SHADOW CREEK RANCH

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Alvin ISD Transportation .....	281-331-0960

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## Worn American Flag Drive to be held January 10th and 11th

The United States Code (USC) is the official, subject matter order, compilation of the Federal laws of a general and permanent nature that are currently in force. Title 36 of the USC pertains to Patriotic Societies and Observations. Chapter 10 under this Title describes Patriotic Customs. Exact rules for use and display of the United States flag can be found in sections 173 – 178 of Chapter 10, collectively referred to as “The Flag Code”. <http://www.usflag.org/uscode36.html#36>

Pursuant to “The Flag Code”, there are rules describing when and how to retire a worn American flag. Flags are often retired with some sort of ceremony. These ceremonies are often performed by veterans’ organizations paying tribute to all the flag represents in our

society. This activity is also often carried out by groups within Scouting, Girl Scouts of the USA or Boy Scouts of America.

Xavier P., a resident of Shadow Creek Ranch, will be organizing an American flag drive the weekend of January 10th and 11th to provide a means for members of our community to donate American flags that have become worn, torn or are otherwise unserviceable for proper “retirement”.

If you have an American flag you wish to donate for retiring, please contact Iris Bolton, [irisbolton13308@comcast.net](mailto:irisbolton13308@comcast.net), prior to January 10, 2015 to learn where to donate your worn American flag. All sizes and fiber-types will be accepted. Thank you for allowing Xavier to provide this service to our community.



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# Alvin ISD Enrollment Continues to Soar

Student enrollment continues to soar in Alvin ISD as the number of families moving into communities within the District increases. The student enrollment growth is driven by the development of new homes, numerous multi-family housing units, and the addition of new master planned communities.

The west side of the 252 square mile district has seen the largest increase in student enrollment, based largely on its proximity to Downtown Houston and the Medical Center. Numerous new home developments, such as Meridiana, Pomona, and Sedona Lakes have increased housing production in this area, and will continue to do so. In the second quarter alone, 773 new homes were started within the school boundaries of Alvin ISD, with 1,403 vacant developed lots ready to begin construction in the near future.

The Alvin ISD Board of Trustees recently received a presentation from Templeton Demographics. Templeton provides a bi-annual report on the areas of Alvin ISD that are experiencing the greatest amounts of growth. In addition, he provides the District with projections, up to 10 years out, illustrating how this growth will impact student enrollment, and school capacity.

This year alone, Alvin ISD schools welcomed more than 1,000 new students, which places a strain on the already packed facilities. 18 out of 23 Alvin ISD campuses have reached permanent building capacity, which is the number of students that the facility was originally built for. 13 out of 23 campuses have exceeded not only the permanent building capacity, but have even surpassed the flex capacity. Flex capacity, also known as temporary capacity, is the additional space added to facilities by utilizing temporary buildings, or repurposing areas of the building not originally designed to be used as a classroom.

Community support of past school bond elections has enabled the District to add the needed classrooms by building new schools and expanding older ones. The most recent campus, Dr. James "Red" Duke Elementary, which is located in Manvel, near the Pearland Town Center, opened over its student capacity. Construction of Manvel Junior High and Shadow Creek High School are currently under way. Manvel Junior High is scheduled to open August 2015, while Shadow Creek High School will open at the start of the 2016 school year. Plans are also under way for the construction of Bill Hasse Elementary in Alvin, and Elementary 16 in the new home development of Meridiana, located in Manvel. "The opening of the new campus will alleviate some of the overcrowding; however, when

more than 1,000 new students are coming to Alvin ISD every year, providing our students with needed classrooms and instructional spaces continues to be a top priority," said Daniel Combs, Alvin ISD director of communications.

According to Templeton Demographics, "The District will continue to need additional facilities to accommodate the continued influx of students. It is expected that within five years Alvin ISD will welcome more than 5,000 additional students which will increase total enrollment from the current 20,914, to nearly 26,000."



*Alvin ISD students excited to learn and simply enjoy school.*

"Our mission is to provide engaging and meaningful educational opportunities for every Alvin ISD student, in a safe and secure learning environment," said Dr. Elizabeth Veloz-Powell, deputy superintendent of academics. "In order for our educators to continue the trend of providing outstanding learning opportunities for every student every day, we must continue to plan for solutions that provide our students with the needed instructional spaces."

Alvin ISD is located just south of Houston, within minutes of the medical center, and other big city amenities. With a district that covers more than 250 square miles, comes an array of options and opportunities for the citizens. Alvin ISD spans across multiple cities, some of which include Pearland, Manvel, Rosharon, Iowa Colony, and of course Alvin.

To stay abreast of all things occurring in Alvin ISD, visit [www.alvinisd.net](http://www.alvinisd.net) or follow the District on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/alvinisd](https://twitter.com/alvinisd).





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# Alvin ISD Hosts First Annual International Festival

Alvin ISD hosted the first of many planned International Festivals on December 4. The festivities took place at Nolan Ryan Junior High, which is also the campus that led the planning and execution of the event. Hundreds of students and parents were in attendance, as nearly all of the district's junior high campuses participated.

"We were extremely proud of the turn-out, as this was a great opportunity for Alvin ISD families to experience an array of cultures through educational booths, food, and performances," mentioned Christina Lovette, Nolan Ryan Junior High principal.

The evening consisted of an opportunity for families to check-in and receive a specially designed passport to get stamped once they visited the multitude of booths that represented more than 20 countries. Mexico, Brazil, Columbia, India, Thailand, Jordan, Germany, Greece and even the United States, were a few of the countries that were showcased. While visiting the booths, students and families had an opportunity taste cuisine from the countries, and view typical attire worn by the natives.

"The students and volunteers did an outstanding job dressing up in traditional clothing that represented each of the countries," said Lovette.

In addition to visiting booths, attendees also had the opportunity to watch a variety of performances by various organizations and individuals. The Greek Dancers of Houston performed, as well as Mexican folkloric dancers, Philippine dancers, and Bollywood dancers. There was also a Xinjian Chinese performance, as well as music played by members of the Pranavam School of Arts. The Fairview Junior High dance team also did an African dance.

Local vendors supported the districtwide event by providing food and services. A special thank you to Russo's New York Pizzeria, Joe's Barbeque, Jason's Deli, the Brazoria County Library, and Tashmina Gandhi and Jenniffer Herrera for providing Henna and face paintings.

"Event coordinators worked tirelessly to ensure that the festival ran smoothly and efficiently," added Lovette.

Committee members were Dana Green (lead), Bianca Hunter (co-lead), Reginald Taylor (co-lead), Andrea Dean, Shanda Edwards,



*(left to right) Alvin ISD students and parents had a great time showcasing their country of choice; Alvin ISD students having a great time at the first annual Alvin ISD International Festival; Alvin ISD Board Member, Vivian Scheibel and son Alex enjoy the festivities and sharing information about Ireland.*

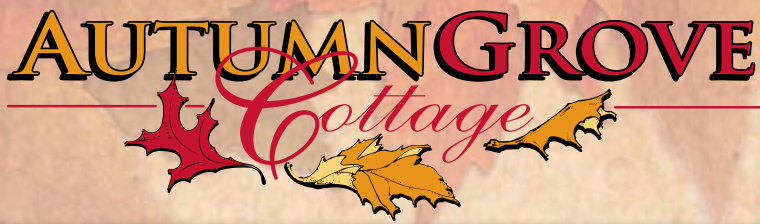
Rene Kidder, Melissa Hernandez, Amy Keller, Elan Fontenot and Principal Christina Lovette.

"This event would not have been possible without the help of many," mentioned Dana Green, Nolan Ryan Junior High teacher and lead coordinator for first annual Alvin ISD International Festival.

The District plans to host a districtwide International Festival each year, in an effort to celebrate the diversity and cultures that make up Alvin ISD.

To stay abreast of all of the great things occurring in Alvin ISD, visit [www.alvinisd.net](http://www.alvinisd.net).





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## TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional  
**Fernando Velasco**



### THE MODERN GAME: “THE FOREHAND RETURN SERVE DROP SHOT”

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are happy with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may already be playing for leagues or in tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute “The Return Serve Drop Shot.” This shot is used when an opponent is expecting a deep service return and the player “surprises” the opponent with a short angle drop shot. It can be used in both singles and doubles play.

In the illustrations, Fernando Velasco, Director of Tennis and teacher at of the Grey Rock Tennis Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Velasco is presently ranked #1 in Singles and Doubles in the USTA Men’s 70 Division in Texas, and #13 in Singles

and #8 and #10 in Doubles in the US.

**Step 1: The Back Swing:** When Fernando sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, and his eyes are focused on the incoming ball.

**Step 2: The Point of Contact:** The success of the drop shot is to “cup” under the ball with the strings. The grip is relaxed and ready to push the ball forward and under the ball as he makes contact with it. His left shoulder is almost opening and his weight is moving through the shot.

**Step 3: The Follow Through:** In order to get maximum underspin, Fernando is keeping the right hand extended as long as possible. His weight is going forward. The left hand is left leaning forward for better balance.

As the shot goes over the net, and it was successful, Fernando will run towards the net, expecting his opponent to either lift the ball short, or try to drop shot his drop shot.

*Look in the next Newsletter for: “The Backhand Return Drop Shot”*



# SHADOW CREEK RANCH

## SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email the picture to [shadowcreekranch@peelinc.com](mailto:shadowcreekranch@peelinc.com). Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).



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				2		4		
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	7		3	8				
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	5							9
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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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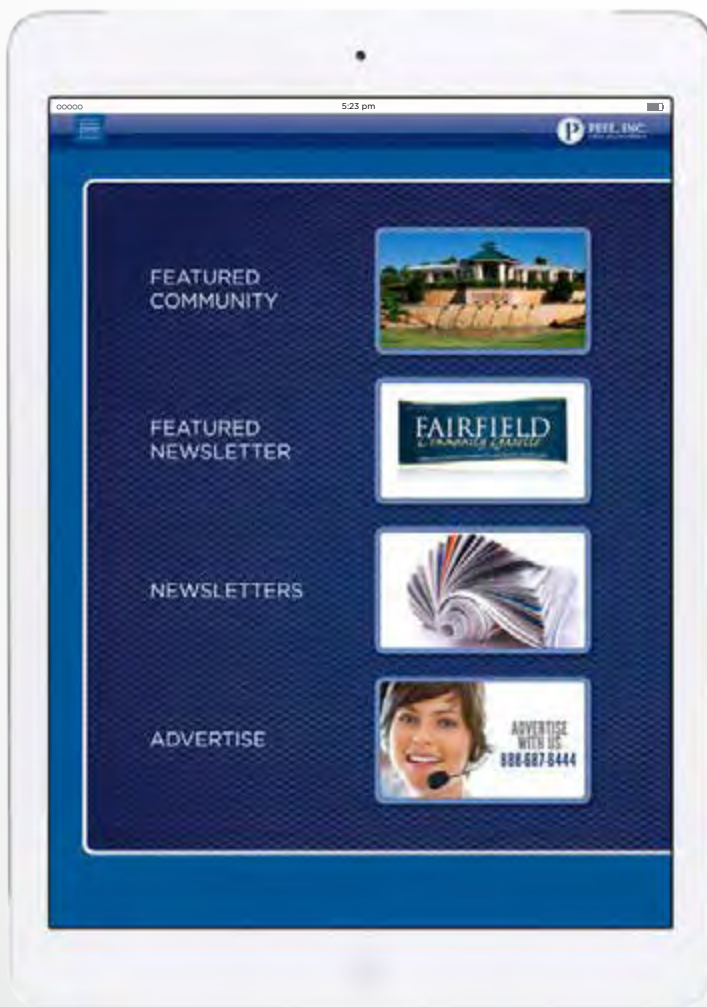




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