

THE TALON

January 2016

Official Publication of the Eagle Springs Community Association

Volume 8, Issue 1

New Events for 2016

Family Scavenger Hunt & Teen Pool Night

*See inside for
more details!*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1..... Happy New Year!
- 6..... Onsite Office reopens
- 6..... Twin Villas HOA Meeting
7-8:30 / Valley Springs Clubhouse
- 8..... Scrapbook Club
12 - 10 pm / Eagle Springs Clubhouse
- 9..... Fiber and Yarn Club
7 pm / Eagle Springs Clubhouse
- 14..... ESCA Board Meeting
5 pm / Valley Springs Clubhouse
- 12..... Landscape Committee Meeting
7 pm / Valley Springs Clubhouse
- 12..... Book Club
8 pm / Eagle Springs Clubhouse
- 15..... Safety Advisory Committee Meeting
7 pm / Valley Springs Clubhouse
- 18..... Martin Luther King Day
No School in Humble ISD
- 27..... Fiber and Yarn Club
7 pm / Eagle Springs Clubhouse

ONSITE OFFICE HOURS

Winter Hours are in Effect!
Effective November 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016, Winter
Hours will be in effect. Winter Hours are:
Wednesdays 1-6 pm | Saturdays 9-1 pm
If you need assistance, please email
Help@InsideEagleSprings.com

COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION

EAGLE SPRINGS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors AsktheBoard@InsideEagleSprings.com
Crest Management Co. 281-579-0761
 Community Manager..... Bill.Higgins@Crest-Management.com
 Clubhouse Rental..... Help@InsideEagleSprings.com
 ActivitiesActivities@InsideEagleSprings.com
 Website Administrator..... Help@InsideEagleSprings.com
 Newsletter Help@InsideEagleSprings.com

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emergency 9-1-1
 P-4 Constable Dispatch..... 281-376-3472
 Humble ISD Police (Schools)..... 281-641-7900
 Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept (AVFD)
 Non-Emergency Number 281-852-2181
 Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
 Texas Poison Control Center 800-222-1222

UTILITIES

Electric, (multiple providers) www.powertochoose.org
 Power Outages 713-207-7777
 Street Light Outages 713-207-2222
 Gas, Centerpoint Energy..... 713-659-2111
 Gas Leaks 713-659-2111
 Water, Severn Trent 281-579-4500
 24 Hour Emergency Number 281-209-2100
 Humble Post Office..... 281-540-1775
 Trash & Recycle, Best Trash..... 281-313-2378

TELEPHONE/TV/INTERNET PROVIDERS:

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 Comcast..... 800-266-2278
 DISHNetwork 877-903-3813
 DirecTV..... 888-777-2454

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 Website www.humble.k12.tx.us
 Eagle Springs Elementary 281-641-3100
 Atascocita Springs Elementary..... 281-641-3600
 Timberwood Middle School..... 281-641-3803
 Atascocita High School 281-641-7500

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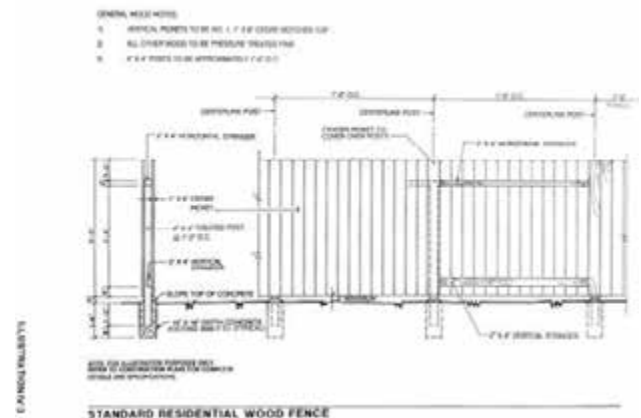
did you know?

The fencing standards within the Eagle Springs's Residential Design Guidelines do not permit the use of cap and/or bottom rot boards on any fencing other than what is indicated in the guidelines. The Board of Directors for the Eagle Springs Community Association has made and passed a motion to enforce any fencing that is not in compliance with these standards. Therefore, if you find that any or all sections of your fence does not comply with the below standards, you may receive a letter in the mail requiring the fence to be brought into compliance.

The only fencing that is permitted to have a trim cap and/or bottom rot board are the following:

- Corner Lot Fencing (abutting the street – Homeowner's responsibility to maintain)
- Greenbelt Fencing (Homeowner's responsibility to maintain)
- Main Thoroughfare Fencing (parallel to Timber Forest, Will Clayton Parkway, Eagle Springs Parkway or Valley Lodge Parkway) – (HOA's Responsibility to maintain)
- Common Area/Landscape Reserve Fencing (Homeowner's responsibility to maintain)

ALL other fencing is considered standard residential fencing and should comply with the below illustration showing no trim cap and/or bottom rot boards. (Illustration IV-3 in the Residential Design Guidelines):



More did you know!

1. All Fence replacements and extensions require the submittal of an EMR (Exterior Modification Request).
2. Holiday Decorations and lighting need to be removed by January 31st (this includes light clips).
3. Trash bins and/or bags (this includes lawn care bags) may be left out for trash pick-up no earlier than 6pm the day before trash day. Any other time of the day on a non-trash day the trash receptacles and/or bags (this includes lawn care bags) need to be stored out of public view, such as behind the fence or in the garage.
4. Please remember that there is a leash law in Harris County and to leash your pets when they are outside.



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We realize you have a choice so we appreciate the opportunity to earn your business. Building clients for life while giving back to the community in order to make a difference!

Happy New Year!

With the New Year comes New Year Resolutions. Below are a couple tips courtesy of HGTV.

1. Streamline the stuff

One of the best and least expensive ways to feel better about your home is to clear it of clutter. Each year most of us acquire a mountain of stuff. Without some regular purging, cabinets and drawers get jam-packed and it becomes hard to find the things you use and enjoy the most. (All that clutter also makes your house look dated and dirty, designers say.)

This year resolve to go room-by-room periodically clearing anything that you don't use, wear or love and donate it to charity. After that, think twice about what you bring in, says Antoinette Nue, an Atlanta consultant who specializes in helping people simplify and go green.

"Fill your home with the things that raise your energy level and make you feel good, and get rid of the things that drain your energy or are broken," she says.

Stash useful (but not beautiful) items such as DVDs, remotes and those kicked-off shoes in simple woven baskets. Group similar items together on sleek trays, says Stuart McCormick, a designer with Liz Levin Interiors in Washington D.C.

Clear your counters of everything you don't use on a daily basis. And get ready to breathe a little easier in your own home.

2. Work out a weekly system for keeping your house clean

Here are a few tips for keeping the mess under control from Jeff Campbell, author of the book *Speed Cleaning* and owner of the Clean Team housekeeping service in San Francisco.

Daily: Dishes go in the dishwasher every night - no excuses! Dirty clothes go in the hamper and jackets or clean clothes are hung in the closet. Bring everything back to its assigned place.

Weekly: Clean your entire house, using these tips:

1. Keep all of your cleaners, as well as rubber gloves and spare cleaning cloths - in a portable carryall that moves with you from room to room.

2. Stash cleaning implements such as a toothbrush, scraper, sponge, a few cleaning cloths and plastic bags in a builder's apron that you wear when you clean. Hook your glass cleaner and all-purpose cleaning spray on the loops to keep your hands free as you work around the room clockwise, cleaning from high (cabinets) to low (floors.)

3. Focus on one type of cleaning at a time. It's faster, Campbell says. Wipe down fingerprints on all of the cabinets, for instance, before moving on to spraying and wiping counters. Then move on to windows and mirrors and appliances. Once that's done move on to sweeping and then mopping floors.

For optimum efficiency, enlist the help of your family. If you can, divide the jobs among at least three parties: One of you can do the dusting/vacuuming and changing beds, the other can do the bathroom cleanup, leaving only the kitchen and trash emptying for you to handle. The upside? You can get the whole house done in 45 minutes, Campbell says, leaving more time on the weekends for the park or the movies.

I look forward to working with many of you in 2016 as you sell and purchase homes. Call me today to schedule an in person meeting to discuss the market and my proven marketing plan to sell your home. Thank you for your continued trust in me to be your preferred Realtor. Have a fabulous 2016!

Rebekah Snipp

P.S. Don't forget April 15th is the deadline for area High School Seniors to submit an application for the Rebekah Snipp Scholarship. Visit rebekahsnipp.com for details.

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BBQ Cookoff...wet but wickedly successful!

After a rescheduling due to weather (which seems to be the norm for 2015), teams came together and braved hard rains the morning of November 21st to deliver a successful cook off! 12 teams battled for first place, with the overall honors going to Just 4 Fun Cookers.



Congratulations to all of the teams for all of their hard work and willingness to change weekends and *still* brave the elements.

Residents came out and listened to Southern Crown, our featured band, and enjoyed a hay ride, inflatables, pony rides and a rock wall. Funds raised from sandwich purchases totaled over \$780.00 and were donated to the Atascocita High School Shattered Dreams project. THANK YOU for helping to support this cause to raise awareness of the effects of drunk driving.

Huge thank you to our volunteers, Atascocita High School JROTC and Summer Creek High School NHS, who come out and support our events! Another shout out to Michelle Button, who without her help in organizing the judges' tables, we wouldn't be so organized. Thank you also to our volunteer judges who donate their Saturday afternoon to tasting delicious dishes cooked by our teams.

And finally, thank you to Tin Roof for their BBQ sauce donation, and to Redfin Realty, with their generous donation of \$250 to our grand prize winners. We are always appreciative of the support of community businesses!

A puppy is lying on a white surface, surrounded by blue dumbbells and a measuring tape. The puppy is looking up at the camera. The text "JUST DO IT!" is written in large, bold, blue letters to the right of the puppy. Below the puppy, the text "SELL US YOUR CAR!™" is written in large, bold, white letters on a dark blue background. At the bottom, the text "TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM" is written in large, bold, black letters on a yellow background, with a small Texas state flag logo to the left.

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Just 4 Fun Cookers Grand Prize Winners

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Q

1st place

Finish Pro Refinishing

2nd place

Doubleback Boys

3rd place

Chicken

Smokey and the Bandits

1st place

Just 4 Fun Cookers

2nd place

Team Yes Dear

3rd place

Desserts

Finish Pro Refinishing

1st place

Just 4 Fun Cookers

2nd place

Rib Ticklers

3rd place

Ribs

Coming in Hot

1st place

Team Yes Dear

2nd place

Doubleback Boys

3rd place

Brisket

Just 4 Fun Cookers

1st place

Platinum Cookers

2nd place

Rib Ticklers

3rd place

Two New Events in 2016

Happy New Year! 2016 will be bringing back all of our favorite events from 2015 (hopefully without the rain!), but this year promises a couple of new events!

First, we are excited to bring in a family scavenger hunt! This event is fun for the whole family and isn't the same kind of scavenger hunt you did as a child. Be sure to have your smartphone charged and watch for this event in April. The winning family will get an awesome grand prize!

And in an effort to cater for the teen crowd, we'll be hosting a teen swim party, complete with music, pizza and drinks, on a Saturday night in June. This event will require many parent volunteers to chaperone, so be on the lookout for volunteer sign ups in May.

We are still working to bring new, fresh events to Eagle Springs for 2016. Check InsideEagleSprings.com for an event calendar for 2016. If you'd like to see something at an event, or have ideas for a new event, please feel free to email Activities@InsideEagleSprings.com. The best ideas always come from our residents!

Sports Field Committee Field Draft Coming Soon!

The Sports Field Committee will hold its spring softball field reservation draft this month. Please watch InsideEagleSprings.com and eblasts for more information.



Start 2016 with a bang

Here's a few things to consider as we start the year:

Shop Energy rates - history shows January is a good month to get great energy rates. A great website to help compare rates is www.powertochoose.org

Home repairs - If there's a chance you'll be moving this year, January is a great time to start thinking about home repairs. Here's a few things you can do that will cost you very little and yet have a huge impact on your home:

- Clean the gutters
- Power wash the driveway
- Landscaping - this doesn't have to be

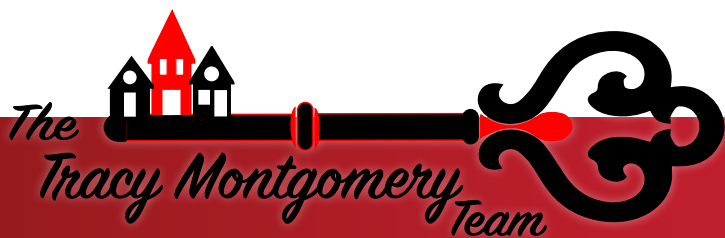
complicated. Fresh mulch and trimming the trees is a great start

- Fresh paint - interior and exterior
- Professional carpet cleaning

New homeowner's - don't forget to file for your homestead. You can do so between January and April. Do not delay. The website to get your form is www.hcad.org/pdf/forms/2015/11-13_v1015.pdf If you have any questions please feel free to give us a call.

We wish you a happy and successful 2016. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your lives. We look forward to helping with all your real estate needs in 2016.

- The Tracy Montgomery Team



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Sandy Brabham
Cell: 713.503.8110

Lisa Hughes
Cell: 281.323.5894

Melissa Nelson
Cell: 832.527.4989

Robyn Choiniere
Cell: 832-312-6220



If you know of someone who would appreciate the level of service my Team provides, please call me with their name and business number. I'll be happy to follow up and take great care of them.



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How does our community work?

How are decisions made regarding our community? Who is tasked with making these decisions? In an effort to educate our community about how Eagle Springs is run, The Talon is highlighting the structure of how our community operates and makes decisions.

What is a homeowner's association? A home owner's association (HOA) is defined as "An organization of homeowners of a particular subdivision, condominium or planned unit development. The purpose of a home owners association is to provide a common basis for preserving maintaining and enhancing their homes and property. Most homeowners' associations are non-profit corporations. The associations provide services, regulate activities, levy assessments, and impose fines. Each member of the Eagle Springs Community Association pays assessments. Those assessments or dues are used to pay for expenses that arise from having and maintaining common property." What does this mean? If you own a home in Eagle Springs, you are a member of the HOA!

What is the HOA Board of Directors? The Board of Directors consists of 5 people, which is currently 4 residents and developer member, all voted in by Neighborhood Voting Representatives. Resident Board members are in charge of making decisions regarding the budget, the landscaping and amenities within Eagle Springs, and enforcing the deed restrictions. The Board is in charge of a budget in excess of 3 million dollars. This is why it is so critical for residents to vote for your Neighborhood Voting Representative!

So what is a Neighborhood Voting Representative (NVR) and why do we have them? Due to the number of homes to be developed in Eagle Springs, the Governing Documents provide for a representative system of voting. The primary role of the Neighborhood Voting Representative is to cast all votes attributable to Units in the Neighborhood for election of directors, amending the Declaration or By-Laws, and all other matters provided for in the Declaration and By-Laws that would require a membership vote. Additionally, the NVR's and their Alternates are encouraged to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors. The NVR's play a vital role in the governance of the community, not only by representing their neighborhood in elections and votes, but also by being a voice to the Management Company and Board of Directors at the meetings.

So then what is the management company and what does it do? The management company is hired by the HOA to carry out the day-to-day business of the community. The management company finds bids for contracts, follows up on maintenance issues, and collects dues. The management company does not make decisions regarding budget, deed restrictions, etc.

All Board Meetings, agendas, minutes of past meetings and NVR contact information can be found on InsideEagleSprings.com. Also, if you have a question regarding our community, you can "Ask the Board" via the website as well.

Congratulations to Our New Neighborhood Voting Representatives

Arbor Heights	NVR Kevin Lee
Arlington Park (includes Twin Villas and Newfield Park)	NVR Michelle Dueitt
.....	Alt Charlie Watson
Barton Ridge	NVR Vince Feleccia
.....	Alt Jenny Vincent
Beringer Place	NVR Tammy Theriot
.....	Alt Ebbie Jones
Biscayne Bend	NVR Phil Marlowe
Cades Crossing	NVR Tricia Frazier
.....	Alt JD Martin
Cedar Meadows	None
Chandler Crossing	NVR James Guynes
Cottage Grove (includes Sutters Creek)	NVR Terri George
.....	Alt Staci Morales
Crescent Ridge (includes Hunters Glen, Montecito Point, Meridian Cove, & Caliterra Chase)	NVR Susan McFarland
Cross Creek	NVR Sara Burkhalter
.....	Alt Deedra Grantham
Hawthorne Ridge	NVR Karen Crosby
Kendall Hollow	NVR David Lurie
Laurel Ridge (includes Logan Ridge & Laurel Woods)	NVR Michael Hamlin
.....	Alt Amina Ray Baldwin
Legacy Pointe	NVR Deborah Ledet
.....	Alt Donnal Spence
Meadow Lodge (includes Meadow Lake)	None
Preston Village	NVR Lucas Smith
Princeton Park	NVR Richard Skinner
.....	Alt Tammy Ramcharan
Sierra Bridge	NVR Stacey Stidham
Sterling Creek (includes Aspen Glen & Yukon Forest)	NVR Tory Western
.....	NVR Enrique Martinez
Valley Creek	NVR Enrique Martinez



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LAKE HOUSTON LADIES CLUB JANUARY MEETING

Lake Houston Ladies Club will have their meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest, Humble TX 77346. Our speaker will be Trudy Chuoke LeSage. Trudy continues in her father, Johnnie Chuoke Jr.'s footsteps, and now writes "The Happy Handy Man" newspaper articles. She will answer questions, offer product suggestions, give tips for those hard-to-solve jobs and provide DIY advice. Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization that welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Several Interest groups are available which include: Reader's Choice, Bridge, Bunco, Lunch and Look, Tea Time, Movie Group, Supper Club, Mah Jongg, and Girl's Night Out. Please join us. New members are always welcome. Reservations need to be made by Friday, January 8, 2016. For more information about the club and for luncheon reservations go to <http://www.lakehoustonladiesclub.com/> or call Linda at 832-379-3009.

Old Man Winter is Approaching... Is Your Yard Ready?

With winter approaching now is the time to begin working on winterizing your sprinkler system and yard. It is a good idea to check the sprinkler system for leaks and/or broken sprinkler heads. You will want to cover any exposed pipes with insulation such as foam tubing.

In addition, you need to look at cutting back and/or changing your watering schedule. If you need to water your yard do so during the middle of the day. Watering during the day will allow for sunlight to warm things up and time for the yard and plants to absorb the water. The cold winter air at night can cause mold and mildew to grow on the yard and plants.

The Landscape Committee will host their annual tree sale in the Spring of 2016. Stay tuned to the Talon and check insideeaglesprings.com for more information.

No December meeting. Next meeting is January 12th, 7pm Valley Springs Clubhouse.



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Springtails

Springtails are very small, jumping insects that can sometimes become a problem inside homes. Springtails are usually found in areas of moisture, so indoors they may be located near potted plants, sinks, bath tubs or kitchen compost areas. These insects are typically found outside in gardens, near swimming pools or near where there is excessive moisture or standing water.

Springtails are small (about 1/16 of an inch long), wingless and come in various colors. These insects have a "tail" that latches into a space on the underside of the body that they can use to "jump" several inches into the air.

Springtails are considered a nuisance insect, but some may chew on roots and leaves of sapling plants. They usually do not cause enough damage to warrant control measures to be taken. If you have springtails in your home it points to a moisture problem that should be fixed.

Options for helping reduce springtail problems:

- Remove excessive mulch and/ or leaf litter near the home
- Change watering schedule to reduce the amount of moisture near the home

• Use fans or dehumidifiers to reduce moisture indoors

- Seal cracks, crevices, pipe & wire penetrations on the outside of the home
- Replace or repair any screening on doors and windows that is damaged
- Replace weather stripping around doors and windows that does not provide a good seal
- Suck up any indoor infestations with a vacuum

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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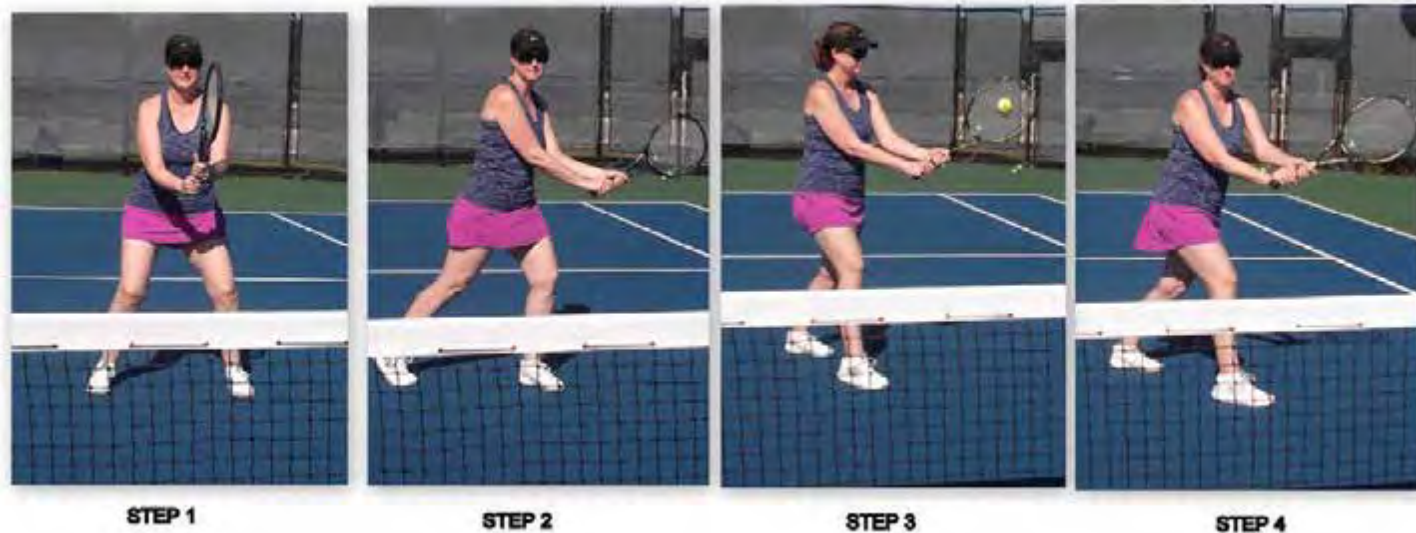
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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco
Owner, Manager and Director of Tennis
Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX



In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand and a forehand volley. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a two-handed backhand volley for a right hander. This stroke is used whenever the player is forced to hit a ball in the air. In these pictures player Robyn Fuller from the Grey Rock Tennis Club demonstrates the proper form and technique.

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 next to the right hand. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are a shoulder width apart and the body is in equal balance. For beginners it is okay to use the forehand and backhand grips for the forehand and backhand volleys. As the player gets stronger and the balls come at a faster speed, it will be best to use the continental grip for both volleys.

Step 2: Back Swing: Since the volley is usually executed when a player is close to the net and there is very little time to react to the

incoming ball, the back swing is very short. The left hand will make a slight change of the grip and the right hand will be relaxed and loose. The left shoulder should take a short turn and the head of the racket should align to the flight of the ball. The left wrist should be “cocked” back slightly and the head of the racket should be above the wrist. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

Step 3: Point of Contact: The right foot is now taking a step forward and the racket is making contact with the ball. It is important to keep the left shoulder closed and not rotate the right hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility to find the proper point of contact and give power to the ball.

Step 4: Follow Through: Once the racket has made contact with the ball, the follow through is very short to allow the player to immediately get back to the ready position. The right arm should be close to the body.

Look for in the next Newsletter: The Serve



FACT:

A four-year-old may ask constant “why” questions to understand the world.



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POSTURE TIPS FOR MOMS AND DADS

Mike McTague PT, DPT, OCS

Lifting and carrying a child, picking up toys off of the floor, and pushing a stroller are normal daily tasks for many parents. Below are some quick tips to avoid overstraining your spine and other body areas.

LIFTING YOUR CHILD FROM THE FLOOR

When picking your child up off the floor, you should use a half-kneel lift. First, stand close to your child on the floor. While keeping your back straight, place one foot slightly forward of the other foot, and bend your hips and knees to lower yourself onto one knee. Once down on the floor, grasp your child with both arms and hold him or her close to your body. Tighten your stomach muscles, push with your legs, and slowly return to the standing position. To place your child onto the floor, the same half-kneel technique should be performed.

CARRYING/HOLDING YOUR CHILD

When holding or carrying your child, you should always hold him or her close to your body and balanced in the center of your body. Avoid holding your child in one arm and balanced on your hip. When using a child carrier be sure to keep your back straight and your shoulders back to avoid straining your back and neck.

PICKING UP TOYS FROM THE FLOOR

As a parent you will too often be involved in cleaning up after your child. When picking toys up from the floor, keep your head and back straight, and while bending at your waist, extend one leg off the floor straight behind you. This is often called a “golfer’s lift”, as you may see some “seasoned” golfers retrieve their ball from the hole this way.

LIFTING YOUR CHILD OUT OF THE CRIB

If your child’s crib has a rail that lowers, you will want it in the lowest position when lifting your child out of the crib. As you lift, keep your feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent. Arch your low back and, while keeping your head up, bend at your hips. With both arms, grasp your child and hold him or her close to your chest. Straighten your hips so you are in an upright position, and then extend your knees to return to a full stand. To return your child to the crib, use the same technique and always remember to keep your child close to your chest.

PUSHING A STROLLER

When pushing your child in a stroller, you will want to stay as close to the stroller as possible, allowing your back to remain straight and your shoulders back. The force to push the stroller should come from your entire body, not just your arms. Avoid pushing the stroller too far ahead of you because this will cause you to hunch your back and shoulders forward.

Children and parenting are stressful enough. Focus on proper body movement and enjoy those kiddo’s without unneeded aches and pains.



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The Benefits of Hosting Span Borders

Traveling the world and experiencing new cultures is something many dream of but few are able to do. Hosting an Ayusa exchange student provides the opportunity to experience the world while bringing other benefits to their family and local community.

For schools, opening their doors to an exchange student provides their students the opportunity to experience new cultures and expand their understanding of the global society. Not only will students be able to expand their circle of friends, they will be able to reference different perspectives of world events. The new perspectives that both local and exchange students gain through the exchange experience are invaluable for the ever-expanding global community.

Ayusa exchange students are eager to learn and participate in school and community programs. They take their role as ambassadors for their country seriously. Ayusa students are not simply bystanders to their program year; they are active participants looking to make a difference in their host school and community.

Aysua exchange students are strong academic performers, well-rounded, and open-minded. Prospective students go through an extensive interview process in their home countries and are evaluated for maturity, strength of goals, leadership skills, and academic

background. Ayusa honors all school enrollment standards, academic requirements and student placement criteria specified in school or district policies.

Host families also reap the benefits of opening their home by sharing their America. When they share with their exchange student, they are also able to see America with fresh eyes through the student. Families often learn new things about the U.S. and have different perspectives after hosting. The experiences and memories that are shared during the program last a lifetime and span international borders.

For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.

About Ayusa

Ayusa is a non-profit educational organization that promotes global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and leadership program programs for high school students from around the world. Ayusa offers unique, richly personal cross-cultural experiences for students, volunteer host families, schools, and local communities.



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RIDICULOUSLY CLEVER HOUSEHOLD HINTS

- The simplest way to slice a bunch of cherry tomatoes is to sandwich them between two plastic lids and run a long knife through all of them at once!
- Keep brown sugar soft by storing with a couple of marshmallows
- Install a regular coat rack low down the wall to store shoes safely off the floor
- Organize jewelry on a corkboard for easy viewing when deciding how to accessorize an outfit
- Fill an old wooden box with skewers to make an all-purpose knife block
- Remove pet hair from furniture and carpets with a squeegee.
- Cover paint trays with aluminum foil to make cleaning up afterwards a breeze.
- Flip the toaster on its side to make grilled cheese.
- Use a large muffin tin to cook stuffed peppers in the oven - it will help keep them upright.
- To prevent potatoes from budding, add an apple to the bag.
- Add half a teaspoon of baking soda to the water when hard-boiling eggs to make the shells incredibly easy to peel off.
- Use non-stick cooking spray in votive holders to prevent wax from sticking to the sides
- WD-40 can be used to remove crayon marks from any surface!
- When hanging a picture frame, put a dab of toothpaste on the frame where you need the nails to be. Then simply press against the wall to leave marks (which can later be wiped) as guides for hammering in the nails.
- Sprinkle salt in the spaces between patio slabs and at the bottom of walls to get rid of pesky weeds (but be careful NOT to get salt near plants you want to keep as salt will kill them!)
- To clean a wooden chopping board, sprinkle on a handful of Kosher salt and rub with half a lemon. Rinse with clean water and dry to ensure it is clean and germ-free. You can use the same lemon and salt to clean brass.
- Use ice-cubes to lift out indentations made by furniture on your carpets.
- Prevent soil from escaping through the holes in the base of flowerpots by lining them with coffee filters
- To sharpen scissors, simply cut through sandpaper.
- Rub a walnut on damaged wood furniture to cover up dings.
- To prevent your eyes watering while chopping onions, wipe the chopping board with white vinegar (which won't affect the taste of the onions.)
- Drop a couple of denture cleaning tablets into the toilet bowl at night to clean stubborn stains.
- Use a can opener to open those annoying blister packs and avoid cutting yourself.
- Use a cut potato to easily remove a broken light bulb.
- Use chalk to remove grease stains from clothes. Simply rub chalk on the stained area and wash as normal. The chalk will absorb the grease and be washed away in the cycle.
- Freeze grapes to chill white wine without watering it down.
- Use a rubber band to rescue a stripped screw.
- Wrap rubber bands around the ends of a coat hanger to prevent dresses from falling off.

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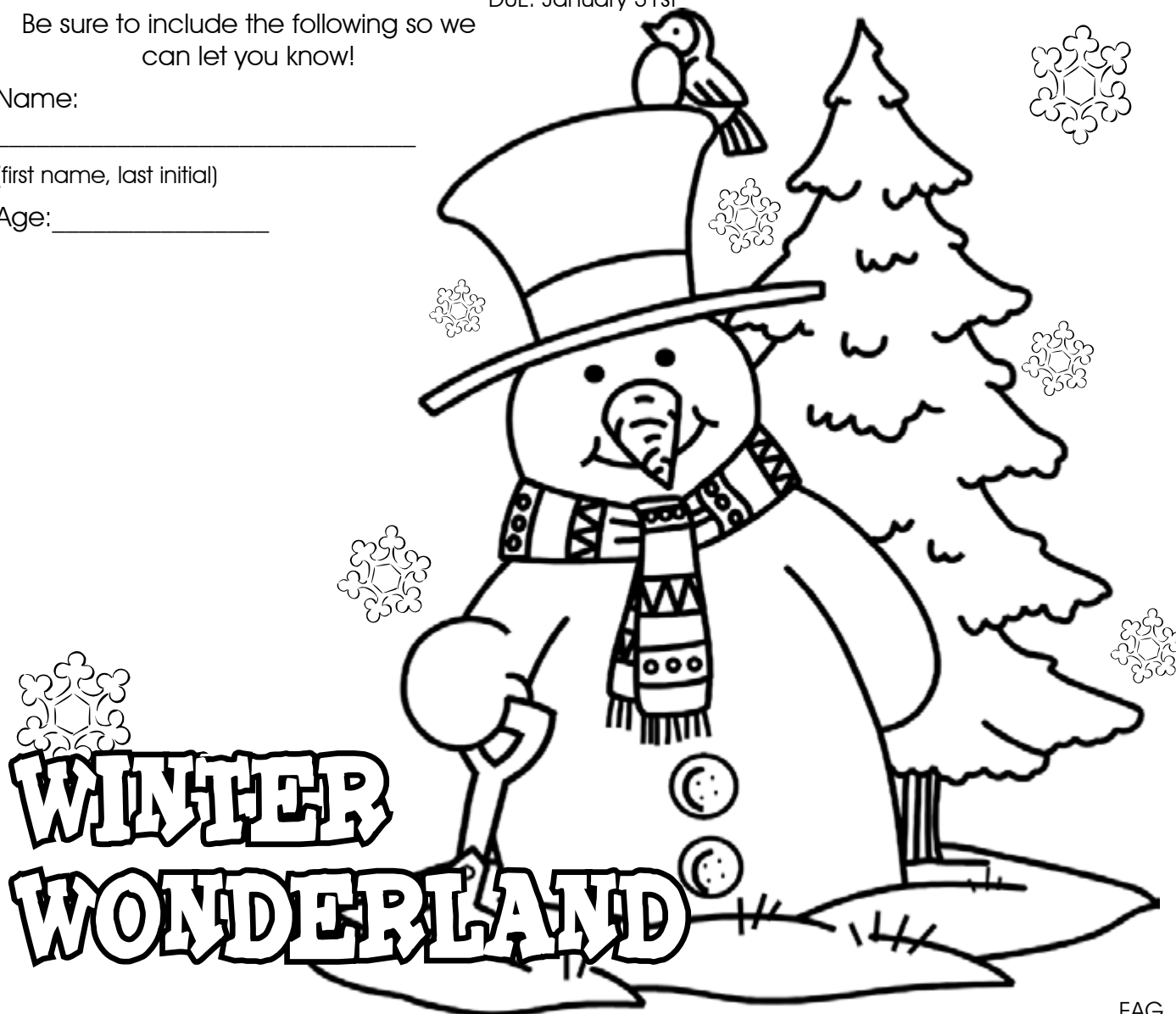
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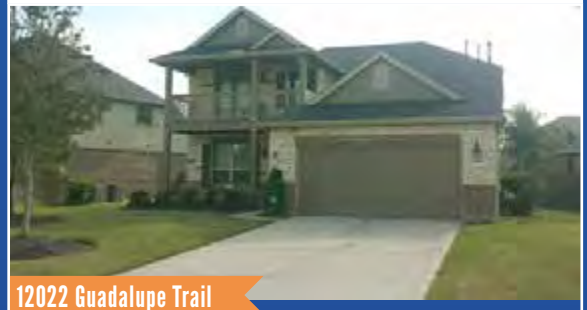


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