

Ivy Point, Pinehurst, Club Point, Golf Villas, The Shores, The Pines and Estates of Pinehurst

January 2017

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 7, Issue 1

# CHRISTMAS YARD DECOREATION WINNERS

Thank you Atascocita Garden Club for awarding three winners this year. Thanks homeowners for getting your decorating done early. Great job was done by all.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

- 1. Toni and Rickey Beasley @ 8323 Laurel Leaf
- 2. Paula and Larry Purcell @ 20430 Perry Oak
- 3. Lisa and Frank Dziedzic @ 19727 Pinehurst TRAIL



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ACIA Happenings - January 2017 1

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Community Asset Mgmt, (CAM).	

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Robert Comstock, Chair	rcomstock1@comcast.net
Bart Peterschick	bart@humblesignco.com

#### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emergency9-1-1	
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	
Gas, Centerpoint Energy	
Gas Leaks	
Water, Severn Trent	
24 Hour Emergency Number	
Telephone, Centurylink	
Trash, Waste Management	
Humble Post Office	
Harris County MUD #132	
Harris County MUD #151	

#### SCHOOLS

Humble ISD	
Website	www.humble.k12.tx.us
Pine Forest Elementary	
Maplebrook Elementary	
Atascocita Middle School	
Atascocita High School	

#### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

Editor - Sue Boaz Raymond ...... sueboazraymond@comcast.net Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com

# LAKE HOUSTON

Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization dedicated to connecting women through monthly luncheon meetings, social activities and interest groups.

Our next luncheon meeting is Tuesday, January 17 from 10:00-12:00 at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest Drive, in Humble, TX. The cost is \$15/person for lunch and entertainment.

Suzan Styron from St. Luke's Foundation will give a lecture on "Improving Your Memory" This fun lecture will provide tips and techniques to improve your memory, attention, and overall cognitive health.

The club welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Many interest groups are available including: Readers Choice, Tea Time, Lunch 'N Look, Movie Group, Supper Club, Girl's Night Out, and many game groups (Bridge, Mah Jongg, Pokeno, Canasta, Bunco). There are also social events through the year that include spouses or significant others. The club is an excellent way to meet new people and make new friends.

To learn more about the club go to our website: www.lakehoustonladiesclub.com , or call Linda at 832-379-3009.



# **FUNGUS GNATS**



Fungus gnats often become a problem in homes due to an overwatering problem. Since this time **EXTENSION** of year can bring poinsettias or other

plants into the home, fungus gnats are a pest to watch for.

Fungus gnat adults are small, black, long-legged flies with long antennae. Most adults are about 1/16 an inch but some can get up to 1/2 an inch. They are weak fliers and generally remain near potted plants, growing media, foliage or leaf litter.

Larvae, or immatures, have a black head capsule and long whitish body without legs. They feed on organic matter such as mulch, compost, grass clippings, plant roots and fungi. When conditions are very moist, fungus gnat larvae can become abundant and may leave slime trails on media that looks similar to trails left by snails or slugs.

While these gnats are a nuisance they are fairly easy to manage. Indoors, it is a good idea to use yellow sticky cards as a monitoring tool. Potato pieces may also be used as a monitoring tool for fungus gnats. To do this, imbed a peeled potato cube into media and inspect the underside of the potato and the media directly below it twice a week for fungus gnat larvae.

To manage fungus gnat populations, work on reducing excessively

moist conditions. Avoid overwatering and make sure that there is good drainage. The surface of container soil should be allowed to dry before watering again.

If using compost, make sure that items have been fully composted. Compost piles should be turned regularly and kept away from doors or windows. Inspect all doors, windows, vents and screens for a good seal to reduce the number of gnats that may enter a structure.

Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis or the nematode Steinernema feltiae can be applied in containers to control larvae. Either spray on the media or apply as a soil drench. Biologicals work best when they are applied early in an infestation. If a population is already large, they may not provide the control desired.

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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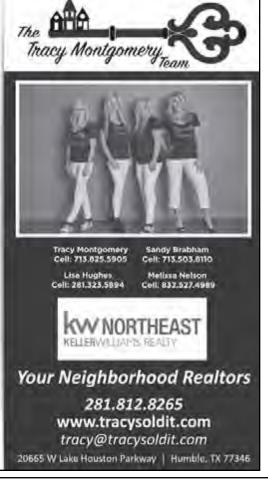


THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO HELP YOU YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WITH YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS IN 2016. WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND REFERBALS, WE WANT TO HELP YOU DO SOMETHING FUN THIS MONTH. WE ARE GIVING AWAY 4 TICKETS TO GO ICE SKATING AT THE GALLERIA AS OUR RAFFLE FOR JANUARY.

Enter to win by sending us an email. Put ICE Skating in the subject line. Send us your name, address and phone number where you can be reached if you win.

## TracyMontgomeryTeamRSVP@gmail.com CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ROGERS FAMILY FOR BEING LAST MONTHS WINNER!

When buying or selling a home, there are countless factors to consider. If you are thinking of moving in 2017, please give us a call. You'll be able to breathe easy-with a true professional team in your corner!



# **FYI From Harris County Precinct 2**

Harris County has developed a mobile service request platform to provide citizens and employees of Harris County the ability to submit requests for non-emergency services such as: graffiti, mowing, street signs, debris removal, street repairs, dead animals, ditches, and potholes. The service request then gets routed to the correct precinct to remedy the problem. The Service Request mobile application can be shared or collaborated with other jurisdictions with minimal development effort by using available GIS information.

**Application Features** 

- Saves user profile for application reuse
- Capture or use existing photo to attach to service request
- Automatic routing of request to correct Harris County precinct
- Address location awareness using GPS
- Determination of whether location of request is outside Harris County
- Input description of service request
- Store submitted Service Request on phone
- Email sent to citizen with request id to reference

Go to http://www.harriscountytx.gov/apps.aspx to download the correct app for your device.

The ACIA area has been redistricted and is now in Precinct 2. Mr.

Jack Morman is the current Harris County Commissioner. The new Commissioner Precinct lines go into effect immediately. Precinct 2 gains substantial new area in the Northeast, including the May Community Center and May Park.

#### For more information about Precinct 2 go to: http://www.hcp2.com/

A representative from Precinct 2 has scrutinized our area and noticed the numerous drain lines cut into the curbing that drain water into the streets. Discharging drain water into the streets is illegal unless the homeowner has obtained a Harris County permit and paid a \$5000 bond. Precinct 2 will not pursue enforcement at this time; however, this is a major concern. Cutting into the curb causes substantial damage to the curbing which can further deteriorate with time. Large chunks of concrete curbing have been noticed falling away from the curb and migrating into the street. These concrete chunks can be a serious driving hazard. If residents install drain lines, a Pop-up Drain Emitter is recommended. The pop-up drain emitter allows water to be diverted and released to water-safe areas away from structures, erosion-prone landscapes, and poor drainage areas. The special design allows the emitter to open with a negligible amount of pressure. Since the emitter is closed during dry weather, debris can't enter the drain pipes. The pop-up emitter is opened by the hydrostatic pressure of water flowing through the drain pipe and as the flow diminishes the emitter closes. The Pop-up Drain Emitter is available from local home improvement stores.

# **TENNIS NEWS**

PLEASE NOTE: The gate at these new courts at the Shores has new locking system. One MUST use the new key to unlock from the outside AND inside. Just make very sure once you enter the courts you still have the key with you. For security reasons the gate will automatically lock once it is closed. To exit, use your key.

The lock at the Pinehurst Courts is also being updated and will be the same lock as that at the Shores. One will use the same key for both courts. The old keys will NO LONGER work. Go to CAM (Community Asset Management Co.) to purchase your key for \$15.00. The address is 9802 FM 1960 Bypass W, # 210, Humble, Tx 77338. Phone: 281.852.1155

The Friday morning Ladies Fun Tennis continues. Please be advised this currently is every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. This is for any age and any level of experience.

The clinics continue on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. This is also for all levels and ages. Please watch for your individual group e-mail on the Distribution List to confirm the time weekly. Recently the Pinehurst lights were not working so some of the clinics started at 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to have your name added to the Distribution List in order to receive a reminder e-mail on either of these please contact Pam Hailey or Sue Raymond.

> pamelagenehailey@yahoo.com sueboazraymond@gmail.com

E-mails will be sent out on Mondays or Tuesdays for the following Thursday and Friday's tennis to confirm for the week. You now MUST RSVP you're your confirmation. There must be at least two commitments confirmed for each of these activities

I want to thank Pam Hailey for continuing to do an awesome job with handling these clinics and the ladies fun play. You are truly appreciated Pam. Volunteers at any level of play are invited to assist.

Sue Raymond ACIA Tennis Committee

# MESSAGE FROM: ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL

No building, structure, fence, wall, or other improvements shall be commenced, erected, constructed, placed or maintained upon the Properties, nor shall any exterior addition to or change or alteration therein be made until the detailed plans and specifications therefore shall have been submitted to and approved in writing as to compliance with minimum structural and mechanical standards, location and situation on the Lot, and as to harmony of external design or location in relation to property lines, building lines, easements, grades, surrounding structures, walks, and topography (including the orientation of the front and rear of any such building with respect to the Lot lines), by the Architectural Control Committee constituted as provided herein. The submitted plans and specifications shall specify, in such form as the Architectural Control Committee may reasonably require, structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing detail and the nature, kind, shape, height, exterior color scheme, materials to be incorporated into, and location of the proposed improvements or alterations thereto. In the event said Architectural Control Committee fails to approve or disapprove such plans and specifications within thirty (30) days after said plans and specifications have been submitted to it, approval will not be

required and the provisions of this Section will be deemed to have been fully complied with; provided, however, that the failure of the Architectural Control Committee to approve or disapprove such plans and specifications within such thirty (30) day period shall not operate to permit any structure to be commenced, erected, placed, constructed or maintained on any Lot in the Properties in a manner inconsistent with any provision of this Supplemental Declaration. Without limitation of the powers herein granted, the Architectural Control Committee shall have the right to specify requirements for each Lot as follows: minimum setbacks; the location, height, and extent of fences, walls, or other screening devices; and the orientation of structures with respect to garage access and major entry and frontage. The Architectural Control Committee also shall have full power and authority to reject any plans and specifications that do not comply with the restrictions herein imposed or meet its minimum construction requirements or architectural design requirements or that might not be compatible, in the sole discretion of the Architectural Control Committee, with the design or overall character and aesthetics of the Properties.



# FINDING RESOLUTION

I am a goal-oriented, list-making individual. It's how I'm wired, and it has helped me be productive and successful in many ways. However, being goal-oriented doesn't always work so well when building relationships. What if the other individual doesn't have the same goals as you do?

This has been the case many times in my life, and my tendency was to bulldoze over them with my lack of concern for their goals. My goals were better, more thought out, more important, etc. What does that do to this relationship that I valued to work on so much? It completely undermines the whole thing! So, how did I learn to stop this destructive pattern in my relationships? Horses!

How many of you have tried to get an animal that weighs over 1000 pounds to meet your personal goals? It's not easy. Yes, it is possible to force them to do many things, but can you catch them easily the next day? Do they really want to have a relationship with you after you have met said goals? Mine didn't.

Mine ran away and fought many things I tried to "teach". What did it take for me to listen to the horse's thought on our relationship? An unplanned dismount is the nicest way I've heard it phrased. When a horse goes to bucking, it is pretty clear it doesn't respect your leadership. A wise man once asked me what happened before that buck. I answered, "Lots of little things that I ignored, actually."

I'm too old to ignore those little signals anymore. It hurts to hit the ground with that kind of force! As I've learned to listen to horses better, it has also helped me to listen to people better. Have you ever asked a friend what they want to receive out of the relationship you have? Do they have needs that aren't being met? If they aren't treated respectfully and valued, they may not stick around.

Setting goals is still helpful, especially in helping me think of the steps to help myself achieve them. I just want to make sure I am not ruining relationships along the way. So, my goal setting looks different now as I make sure it includes the friends I value the most.

These are a few of my relational goal ideas for the next year. They are all oriented toward preventing those blow ups, like my horse gave me, with one of my friends or husband.

Be a better friend by:

1. When feeling annoyed or offended- stopping to question why and if it is really that important?

2. Plan monthly dates to build relationships.

3. Check in with my friends to find out their needs, before they ask!

4. Be more available by being less BUSY- say no to more things, so I can say yes to important ones.

5. LISTEN better- friends are giving you early signs of needs, but we are distracted with our own.

\*\*If you find these things to be true in your own life, and would like to make a change, please visit our website at www.fivehorses.com to learn more about our new Goal-Setting Workshop this January\*\*

# TRAVEL THE WORLD WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR Hometown by Hosting A Foreign Exchange Student

### By Sandra Dawe

Who hasn't dreamed about walking among the Egyptian pyramids, soaking in the sun on a beach in Spain, or wandering along the Great Wall of China? Every parent wants to give their children a taste of the world, but the economic reality of international air travel for a family, not to mention hotels, passports and food, makes it tough for most of us to consider except in our daydreams.

There is a way to give your children the world – without leaving your living room. How? Host a foreign exchange student from a country you've always admired! Fascinated by France? Curious about China? Intrigued by India? By welcoming an international student from one of these countries into your home, you instantly open a portal to a far off land. "We had been intrigued about hosting for years and now we are continuously learning about cultures around the world without having to travel." according to Sandra Reynolds, an Ayusa host mom from Katy, Texas. "Hosting isn't only about giving to others, it also gives in return."

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world. Ayusa matches host families with students from more than 60 different countries including Argentina, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English – and all high school exchange programs

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## **Premier Preschool Nurtures Literacy Skills** at All Ages



Research shows that the first five years of a child's life hold the most potential for development – consider it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for learning! During these years, it's crucial to nurture early literacy skills, like rhyming and letter and sound recognition, which lay the groundwork for fundamental abilities such as reading, writing and spelling.

As with any skill or subject, there's no one-size-fits-all approach to teaching literacy skills, especially since children learn to read and write at different rates and ages. At Primrose School of Atascocita, teachers understand the need to support children based on their individual needs. The Primrose-exclusive approach, called *Balanced Learning®*, offers varied experiences that spark children's curiosity regardless of their learning style through a balance of purposeful play with nurturing guidance from teachers.

"Balanced Learning is special because it takes into consideration children's developmental levels and provides different, connected experiences so that they can learn in their own way and at their own pace," said Matt Evers, Franchise Owner of Primrose School of Atascocita. "Whether it's literacy skills, motor skills, music, arts, science or life skills, the learning is just natural and fun for the children."

## Primrose School of Atascocita

20027 W Lake Houston Pkwy Atascocita, TX 77346 281.812.6361 PrimroseAtascocita.com



#### The Balanced Learning Approach to Reading and Writing

Every day, Primrose children participate in literacy lessons that are taught in a fun, game-like way. Using rhymes, poems and songs, children exercise oral fluency skills – the ability to communicate clearly – and memory, comprehension skills, new vocabulary and phonological awareness. Similarly, children are guided by teachers at the classroom Writing Center to practice writing at their own level, using meaningful writing activities.

Part of what makes Balanced Learning unique is that these literacy lessons are woven into classroom experiences throughout the day. For example, teachers explain and use appropriate higher-level math, science and engineering vocabulary during STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) experiences. Throughout the day, children sing songs and recite poems frequently to develop their oral fluency – an important step toward learning to read. Additionally, children engage in meaningful writing projects that vary from drawing or listing their observations as part of an age-appropriate science experiment to creating thank you notes for loved ones during character development lessons.

"At Primrose, we give children opportunities throughout the day to practice reading, speaking, listening and writing to help them view these skills as not only important, but also a natural and enjoyable part of their everyday lives," said Matt Evers "Children experience the activities as play and fun, but in reality, each element of the Primrose approach is designed with a purpose to help them develop the foundational skills they need to succeed later on."

#### **Encouraging Reading and Writing Skills at Home**

Parents can encourage literacy skills at home through simple activities, like reading with and talking to children, which has been proven to benefit language skills from the time children are born. Examples of other activities that support literacy skill development include:

- Reading cardboard books with infants and toddlers so they can hear language while turning the pages and pointing to familiar objects on the page.
- Practicing animal noises with toddlers to help them identify and replicate different language sounds.
- Playing rhyming games with preschoolers, like trying to name as many words that rhyme with "cat."
- Encouraging both gross and fine motor skill development, which aid children in learning to write. Running and climbing outdoors builds gross motor strength, and stacking and dressing activities grow fine motor skills.
- Making writing easily accessible for children by setting up a writing/drawing table in a common area at home with paper, crayons, markers and more.

To learn about Primrose School of Atascocita, visit PrimroseAtascocita.com or call 281.812.6361. For more helpful parenting tips and information, visit our blog at www.PrimroseSchools.com/blog and sign up for the Pointers for Parents newsletter.

## The Leader in Early Education and Care®

### (Continued from Page 6)

are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

"We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes – families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families," says Sandra Dawe, Community Representative with Ayusa, a non-profit that promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. "The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture."

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

"Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience – for the student, the host family, and the host community," says Mrs. Bray. "There is no better way to teach your children about the world around them than through welcoming an international high school student into your home."

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Sandra Dawe by e-mail at sdawe@ayusa.org or call 832-642-1248.





# **NORTHWEST FLYERS YOUTH TRACK CLUB**

The Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club will celebrate its 30th Anniversary Season by hosting its annual free Registration/ Orientation breakfast on Saturday, February 4th, 2017, for all boys and girls who are interested in joining for the 2017 track season. The breakfast starts promptly at 8:30 AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum located at 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

The event is an opportunity for youth athletes to register for the 2017 spring/summer track season, and to meet the Northwest Flyers coaches, staff, and other new and returning athletes. The event will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track &Field Olympic organization (USATF). All athletes and parents who wish to join the Northwest Flyers must attend the orientation.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (ages 6 -18) track club, affiliated with USA Track & Field (USATF), that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and sanctioned "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put, discus and javelin.

For additional information on the Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at http://www.northwestflyers.org; contact Linette Roach at linette.roach@sbcglobal.net; or "Like" the club on Facebook.



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# How to Keep Your New Year's Resolutions

The new year has arrived, and you have already drawn up your resolutions. Now, how to stick to your plan?

Steps:

- 1. Put it all on paper. Write your resolutions down, and keep them in an accessible place as reminders - tape them to your mirror, write them in a journal or put them on your refrigerator door.
- 2. Mark your calendar. Set deadlines for yourself to tackle each step toward reaching your goal, one at a time.
- 3. Start as soon as possible. Go out and purchase the necessary equipment or literature; call now and set up an appointment with your dentist, your doctor, your trainer, your accountant....

- 4. Find a role model. Is there anyone who has succeeded in fulfilling an ambition like yours? Look to this person as a reminder that it is possible to achieve your goal.
- 5. Check your progress regularly, and give yourself an occasional reward for your efforts. Make sure the reward isn't contrary to your resolution; celebrate a cigarette-free month with a weekend trip or a new outfit, not with a cigarette!
- 6. Inform friends and family of your goals, and recruit them to regularly remind and support you in your endeavors.

Tips:

• Don't sweat the setbacks; persistence is the key.



DOWN

Elevated
 Broken in

4. Loafer

6. Liable

7. Gyrate

9. At sea

15. Drug

23. Radical

25. Talky

28. Energy

1. Baseball player Yogi

5. Eastern religion

8. Burial chamber

19. Compass point

24. Got out of bed

26. Singing voice

30. Not women's

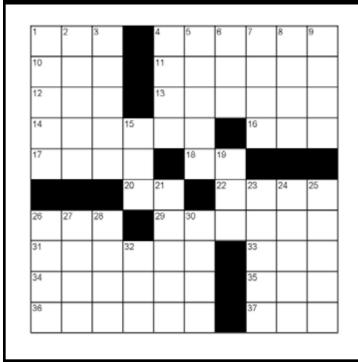
32. Flightless bird

21. Israel's former name

27. Organization of Petroleum

**Exporting Countries** 

## **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



#### ACROSS

- 1. However
- 4. Brand of soda10. Environmental protection agency (abbr)
- 11. Large zoo animals
- 12. Revolutions per minute
- 13. Timely (2 wds.)
- 14. Careen
- 16. BB association
- 17. Totals
- 18. We
- 20. Disc jockey (abbr.)
- 22. the hatchet, forgive
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ the natchet, long
- 26. Move up and down29. Famous female pilot Earhart
- 31. For each one
- 33. Teaspoon (abbr.)
- 33. Teaspoon (abor.)
- 34. What a pastor gives35. Representative
- 36. Scours
- 37. Whichever
- View answers online at www.peelinc.com
- © 2006. Feature Exchange

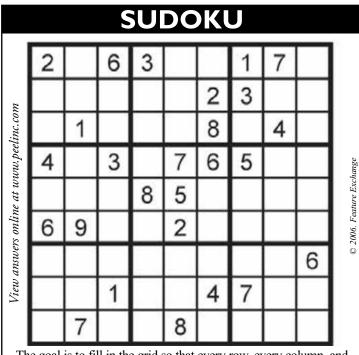


## "Puttin" on the Ritz"

The "Awesome, Amazing, Associates" of the Jack and Jill of America, Inc., North Houston Suburban Chapter will hold a "Puttin' on the Ritz" dance on Saturday, March 4th, 2017. The event will be take place from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Northgate Country Club, 17110 Northgate Forest Drive, Houston, Texas. The suggested attire is formal black and white.

"Puttin' on the Ritz" will benefit the Jack and Jill of America Foundation, which supports education, literacy, scientific and charitable projects that benefit children. Tickets are \$65 per person. To purchase tickets, please contact Shirley Carter, at 281-222-7765 or sjmcarter@att.net.

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is a non-profit family organization which is dedicated to nurturing future leaders by supporting children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving and civic duty. More information about the organization can be found at www. jackandjillinc.org.



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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**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com.





**Description:** The position includes marketing our community newsletters to local and area businesses. It is a flexible position that allows you to work from home and set your own hours.

**Roles:** Stimulate new advertising accounts in our community newsletters. Maintain current accounts assigned to you by Sales Manager. Service your accounts by assisting them from ad design to final proof approval.

**Skills:** Excellent communication through email and phone, with high level presentation and relationship-building skills. Strong prospecting and business development skills are a must. Previous sales experience preferred but not required.

Benefits: Commission Based Apply by sending resume to jobs@peelinc.com



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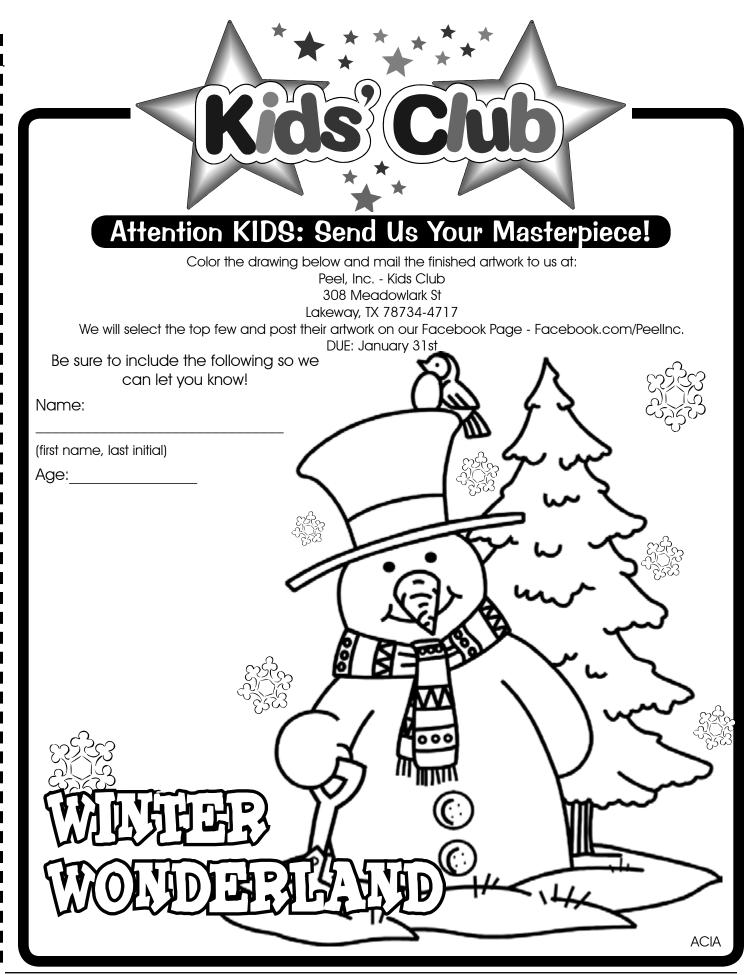
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