



Steeplechase

NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of The Steeplechase Community Improvement Association, Inc. and Steeplechase

YOUR FENCES...

Ever wonder what to do with your fences when they get old or get beaten up with your neighbor hanging up ornaments? Or better yet, when you have to replace a picket because your neighbor's kid kicks a soccer ball and breaks it? It might be a small issue replacing the picket for just a couple of \$\$\$ but now it looks like you just had a tooth replaced with another one of a different color...

Well, I don't really have a solution on how to make it look better but the reality is that you just have to get it done, like it or not. What I would like to do is to caution you if you have to replace a section of your fence. It might be that you decide to replace a fence that's taller, stronger and of a different pattern. Or better yet, use a different material that will never rot... like fiberglass material.

But before you go down that road, please check with your HOA architectural committee. Or you can also look at your residential deed restrictions. It contains a lot of information but if you look under Article VII (link below), you will find some verbiage about your fence requirements. It does not specially go into detailed fence design but some of the main information are; fences height to be between 6' – 8', chain link fences are not permitted and gates of similar height.

I am a realtor and have come across other HOA's that are very specific and strict on their fence requirements. This is for a valid reason. Have you ever wondered when you drive into a neighborhood and there's a certain feel to it? It's organized, well managed, and looks "clean". It does not have to be a high-end neighborhood; it's just having homeowners that are responsible for their own property. Homeowners that take pride in their property.

(<http://steeplechasecia.com/ResourceCenter/37721/Resource-Center>)

Robert Chan (Realtor)
Homes@hometrader4U.com

Be a Good Neighbor

Be a good neighbor by being aware of what not to flush or pour down your household drains. Here are a few examples:

- Diapers
- Facial Pads
- Facial Tissue
- Dental Floss
- Paper Towels
- Cigarettes
- Cotton Swabs
- Cotton Balls
- Baby and Adult Wipes
- Dead Goldfish
- Women's Hygiene Products
- Hair
- Scoops of Kitty Litter
- Band-Aids
- Gum & Candy Wrappers
- Grease
-and many more

For more information go to pattypotty.com

Join Patty's potty patrol: NO WIPES IN THE PIPES!!

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IMPORTANT

Telephone Numbers



Emergency.....	911
Sheriff's Dept.....	713-221-6000
Cy-Fair Fire Dept.....	911
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-890-4285
Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
Center Point (Street lights).....	713-207-2222
http://cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage	
Neighborhood Crime Watch.....	SteeplechaseSecurity@gmail.com
Library.....	281-890-2665
Post Office.....	713-937-6827
Steeplechase Community Center.....	281-586-1700
Deed Restriction Issues (CMC).....	281-586-1700
Water/Sewer.....	713-405-1750
Architectural Control (CMC).....	281-586-1700
Trash Pick-up (Best Trash, LLC) (Wed. & Sat.).....	281-313-BEST
Harris Co. Pct. 4 Road Maintenance.....	281-353-8424
Harris Co. MUD #168.....	hcmud168board@gmail.com
Community Events.....	281-586-1700
Clubhouse Rentals: Private Parties and Community Events (Jinnie Kelley).....	832-922-8030
Traffic Initiative.....	281-290-2100
Private Pool Parties.....	281-446-5003

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Community Center Contacts

Community Maintenance Concerns

Chaparral Management Company..... 281-586-1700

Clubhouse Rentals

Private Parties and Community Events
(Jinnie Kelley)..... 832-922-8030

Pool Company Contact

Aquatic Management of Houston..... 281-446-5003
www.houston-pmg.com

Board Member Contact

Chaparral Management Company..... 281-586-1700

Schools

Emmott Elementary.....	281-897-4500
Campbell Middle School.....	281-897-4300
Cy-Ridge High School.....	281-807-8000

Contact the Management Company

www.steeplechasecia.com
or by phone 281-586-1700

Jack and Jill of America Associates Plan "Puttin' on the Ritz" Charity Gala



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.



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AHFC Junior Hurricanes (JHSL) Registration Now Open for Spring 2017

The Junior Hurricanes Soccer League (JHSL) is led by professional United States Soccer Federation (USSF) licensed staff and is designed for boys & girls who want to play and have fun in a safe and developmentally appropriate environment. The JHSL program is being offered at multiple locations and in conjunction with CFSA at the Schiel Road Complex. To learn more about each location and to register please visit www.albionhurricanes.org.

For those wishing only to train, join us in Katy for AHFC Friday Night Academy. Visit Katy Youth Soccer to register for this Friday Fun Program.

AHFC is proud to partner with New Territory and offer New Territory Thursday Night Academy, a 5-week Skills Program.

Email us at jhsl@albionhurricanes.org for more information or questions.

Office Phone: 713-939-7473



Cy-Fair Republican Women February Meeting

Tuesday, February 14th will be CFRW General Meeting from 10:30 AM - Noon.

Meeting is \$3 -- Meeting w/Lunch at Noon is \$20.

Hearthstone Country Club, 7615 Ameswood, Houston, TX 77095

All are welcome! Enjoy like-minded fellowship and relevant speakers. One of our goals is to bring understanding of our system of government to the community.

RSVP to www.cfrw.net by February 7th.

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Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club Holds Registration for 30th Anniversary Season

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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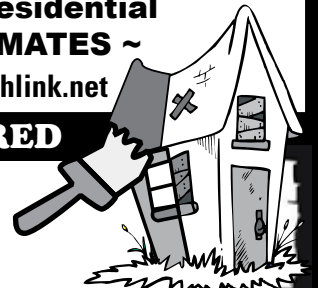
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Short Story: *The Mystery*

by Lou Kamradt

It was a beautiful balmy evening. I stepped out onto the back porch and looked up at the sky which was brightly lit with stars - hundreds of stars. I loved living at the edge of town this way so I could see the open sky.

I couldn't help but to notice one star brighter than the others. Then I realized that it was moving fast across the sky. Wow, I don't usually see a falling star and this was really pretty as it came towards me. Hmmm it seemed to be getting larger as it fell across the sky.

It was coming in my direction and growing as it fell my way. I could see that it was coming right down to the earth. In fact it was falling down towards my land. It was coming down to the other side of my hill out by the barn. I had a few farm animals and could hear them snorting.

I stood mesmerized as I watched the large ball getting bigger and bigger and falling down on the other side of the hill. The light was almost blinding. I heard a soft crash in the trees and bushes and knew that it had landed. --- *To be continued. Part 1 of 3.*

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Now Hiring

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD is now hiring for the spring season of the SPLASH! swim lessons program. The season begins Feb. 27 and runs through May 18. Lessons take place Monday-Thursday, with three time slots offered for participants beginning at 5 p.m. Instructors are needed for all time slots and instructors may be scheduled for up to three hours per night depending on availability and enrollment. Applicants should possess strong swimming skills, excellent communication skills and a desire to work with children, as well as the ability to occasionally teach beginning level adult swimmers. Hourly rates begin at \$18/hour.

Interested individuals should email communityprograms@cfisd.net or call 281-517-6841.

Bring the World to Your Child By Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

By Vicki Odom

If you've read the newspaper lately, you know that the world can be a scary place: wars, economic crisis, revolutions, climate change, border disputes, refugees, and protests. So, how do we teach our children about the world, and the variety of people in it, when most of the examples we read about in the press are so negative?

One life changing way to broaden your child's world view is to volunteer to host a high school foreign exchange student. Foreign exchange programs have been around for almost 100 years, and their mission has always been the same - to educate people about different cultures through person-to-person exchange. What better message to pass on to your children?

There are quite a few misconceptions about foreign exchange programs - especially around who can host. The biggest misconception is that you must have high school aged children when you host a high school exchange student. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"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 Connie Coutu, Regional Manager for Ayusa, a non-profit 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."

Families with young children find that hosting an exchange student provides their children with an especially unique educational experience in the form of an international big brother or sister. Without even realizing it, children learn about different types of people and different cultural traditions.

"My daughter Kelsie feels as if Isabelle, our exchange student from Germany, is an older sister to her," said Melissa Hughes, an Ayusa host mom from Ashville, North Carolina. "They have confided in each other, have had movie nights together, and have gone to the mall together - much like natural sisters would do. Kelsie will never forget Isabelle and they have already planned future get-togethers when they are older."

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

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(Continued from Page 5)

community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

"In Tunisia, we always hear about Americans and American life style, in movies, media, songs, everything, and I know it is different, and I wanted to figure out this difference myself," said Asma, a bubbly high school student from Tunisia who spent a school year living with the O'Donnell family in Anchorage, Alaska.

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

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 Coutu. "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 Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.



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Common Structural Termites

There are three main types of termites that can cause problems for homeowners in Texas- native subterranean termites, formosan subterranean termites and drywood termites.

Native subterranean termites have nests in the soil and must maintain contact with soil or an above-ground moisture source to survive. If native subterranean termites move to areas above ground they make shelter (mud) tubes of fecal material, saliva and soil to protect themselves.



Native subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

Formosan termites are a more voracious type of subterranean termite. These termites have been spread throughout Texas through transport of infested material or soil. Formosan termites build carton nests that allow them to survive above ground without contact with the soil. Nests are often located in hollow spaces, such as wall voids.



Formosan subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants (and can be found living and feeding on trees), consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native subterranean termites feed only on spring growth. Formosan termites have also been known to chew through non-cellulose materials such as soft metals, plaster or plastic.

Drywood termites do not need contact with soil and reside in sound, dry wood. These termites obtain moisture from the wood they digest. Drywood termites create a dry fecal pellet that can be used as an identifying characteristic. They have smaller colonies- around 1,000 termites- than subterranean termites; they also do not build shelter tubes.



Drywood termite fecal pellets.

If you are concerned that you may have termites, call a pest management professional to inspect your home for termites.

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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