

THE Ranch Review

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A Newsletter for Riata Ranch Residents

Just Add Water

It's hard not to think about water. Just how much water are you using? Is it more or less than your neighbors?

In our community, water usage varies greatly by season. In the hotter, summer months more people are running their sprinklers and filling their swimming pools.

Did you know the typical 14 X 28 ft. pool holds 16,000 – 18,00 gallons? Larger pools can hold double that amount. Don't forget about that irrigation system. Watering your ½ acre lot four times a week can use 45,000 gallons a month, or more.

Inside your home, your typical family of four uses 240-320 gallons per day! According to Texas A&M, the largest water users are the shower, clothes washer and toilets, accounting for about two-thirds of the water used in an average household. Toilets use up to 27% of the household water supply while clothes washers use 20.9% and showers account for 17.3%. Faucets account for about 15.3% and leaks account for 13.8% of a family's water use. Dishwashers, baths, and other account for the remaining water use. Assuming you have a new water saving showerhead, a four-minute shower uses about 8 gallons of water; older showerheads run at 5 gallons or more per minute. Washing machines can use anywhere from 20-57 gallons per load. Front-loaders tend to use less water and some new high efficiency machines use not only 40-50% less water but less electricity too. Do you know how much water your machine uses per load?

Let's talk about toilets. Older toilets can use 3-7 gallons per flush; newer models are less than half of that. No matter what the model, if its leaking, it's costing you money. A moderate toilet leak will generally waste 6,000 gallons of water a month – that's \$50-\$70 depending on rates! If it's just a flapper or floater that needs replacing, it will cost you around \$3 at your nearest home improvement store. A simple and quick way to determine if your toilet is leaking is to insert a couple drops of food coloring into the tank and don't flush your toilet for 20-30 minutes. Then, check to see if there is color in the toilet bowl. If there is, then you have a running toilet leak. More serious problems should be addressed by a licensed plumber.

Lastly, don't dismiss that pesky leaking faucet. One faucet leaking at a very typical rate of 10 drips per minute, is wasting close to a gallon of water per day. Got a fast drip going? A faucet or showerhead that drips 60 drips per minute wastes 5 gallons of water a day. That's 2,082 gallons per year.

No one wants to be seen as the neighbor who wastes water, especially when your water provider may issue voluntary and/or mandatory rules about water usage during the upcoming summer months. It's always nice to be as eco-friendly as possible, and understanding your water usage often results in savings on your home water bills.

For more information:

- <https://water.tamu.edu/save-water-at-home/> (TAMU Water Education Network)
- <https://water.usgs.gov/edu/activity-drip.html> (Faucet drip calculator)
- <http://www.severntrentservices.com/uploads/how%20much%20water%20does%20my%20irrigation%20system%20use.pdf> (irrigation system usage)

TACOS FOR TOTS

Submitted by Juan Lozano

Fairfield's Juan & Yadira Lozano Family will be hosting their 4th annual World Down Syndrome Awareness Day at their restaurant Tacoland. Free face painting and balloon artist will be at Tacoland 3pm-4pm. Free meal all day to any down syndrome friend, and 20% discount for their families. Any kid that come wearing silly socks get a free toy and a free taco, adults wearing silly socks get a free taco.

Tacos for Tots
2224 NW Freeway
Cypress TX 77429



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HOA, Crest Mgt.....	281-579-0761
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Cy-Fair College Library.....	281-290-3210
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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email your articles to riataranch@peelinc.com by the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.

Aeration Now Can Help Your Spring and Summer Irrigation

In order to prepare your lawn for a healthy spring growing season, you should employ basic lawn care practices at this time of year, which includes aerating your yard. It is important that nutrients reach the soil beneath your grass, and aeration can help you get that done.

Aeration involves making small holes in the soil to allow air, water and nutrients to get to the grass roots.

This helps the roots grow deeper and produce a stronger, more vibrant lawn.

Aerating helps alleviate soil compaction. Compacted soils have too many solid particles in a space, which prevents proper circulation of air, water and nutrients within the soil. Excess lawn thatch or heavy organic debris buried under the grass surface can also starve the roots from these essential elements.

So when is the right time to get this aeration done? These next six to eight weeks leading up to the spring season, when grass begins to grow again, is a good time to aerate.

The two main aeration tools are the spike aerator and a plug aerator. The spike aerator poke holes in the ground with a solid piece of metal. Plug aerators remove a core or plug of grass and soil from the lawn. Most landscaping companies and horticulturists recommend the use of the plug aerator. The machines can be rented or you can have a lawn care service aerate for you. After aerating, it's always a good idea to apply about a half-inch of compost over the aerated yard. The compost fills in the holes left by the plug aerator and brings organic materials into the root zone.

If you have noticed that your turfgrass isn't looking its best or that water has difficulty penetrating through the soil surface, it may be time to aerate your lawn. Lawns with clay soils that get a lot of foot traffic typically require aeration more often as they become compacted over time. Here's a great tip to check to see if your yard needs to be aerated.

Using a shovel, dig a square-foot section of grass about six inches deep and take a look at it. If the grass roots don't extend further than two inches deep into the soil, your lawn would benefit from aeration.

If you plan to aerate your own yard, here are a few helpful tips to get the job done.

- Before you get started, make sure the soil is moist enough. There's nothing more frustrating than trying to aerate soil that is bone dry. Aerating the day after a rain shower or watering your lawn the day before is advised.
- Most aeration machines cover only a small percentage of soil surface per pass, so make multiple passes over the most compacted areas. Save resources (and your energy) by leaving unaffected areas alone.

(Continued on Page 3)

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- The soil plugs can be left on the ground after aeration and allowed to decompose. Or, you can rake them into piles to throw in the compost bin. However, this isn't necessary as it should take about two to four weeks for the soil cores to break down naturally. Sprinkle compost (sand or peat moss can be used instead of compost) over the lawn to fill in the holes.
- An aeration myth is that if you apply a pre-emergent herbicide on your lawn in the spring, aerating your lawn will destroy the herbicide "barrier." This is not true — research shows that aeration will not affect crabgrass control or weed prevention.

After aerating, it's important to continue appropriate lawn care practices.

Aerating will help you save water over the spring and summer seasons. Instead of running off or only penetrating a few inches, water will be better absorbed in an aerated yard. That makes your entire landscape and your water bill happier.

Did you know...

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, outdoor water use varies greatly depending upon geographic location. In dry climates such as that in the Trinity Glen Rose District, a household's

outdoor water use can be as high as 60 percent. Some experts estimate that as much as 50% of that irrigation water is wasted due to inefficient watering techniques, wind and evaporation.



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Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital Celebrates First Anniversary of Opening

CYPRESS – More than 700 babies born, one thousand surgeries completed, and 14 thousand Emergency Center visits. These are just a few of the accomplishments Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital will be celebrating on the first anniversary of opening on March 31, 2018.

“We’ve seen amazing growth in the hospital’s first year of operation. I am proud that the community has embraced us as a trusted care provider. We will continue to expand services in the years to come to meet the needs of this growing community,” said Heath Rushing, Senior Vice President and CEO of Memorial Hermann Cypress.

Since opening, the 81-bed facility has added a High-Risk Pregnancy Center, Wound Care, and robotic surgery capabilities. The hospital also began its journey toward becoming a designated Level III trauma center and Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

“It takes time to demonstrate the consistent, high-quality care offered at the hospital in order to receive these designations. We feel confident that we will show the state that we can handle seriously injured and ill patients, and ultimately receive both designations,”

said Jessica Rivas, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Memorial Hermann Cypress.

Memorial Hermann Cypress invites members of the community to attend a First Anniversary Celebration on April 7, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The family-friendly event will have carnival-style food and games and a live DJ, as well as opportunities to meet affiliated physicians and receive free health screenings.



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SHIELD BEARERS

Shield Bearer received a visit from Texas-10 U.S. Congressman and Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Michael McCaul, in January. Leadership from Shield Bearer participated in a roundtable discussion with McCaul focused on prevention programs and complex trauma recovery counseling services for human trafficking survivors.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with local organizations that provide a frontline response to this tragedy, supporting families and local communities,” stated Congressman McCaul.

Shield Bearer Executive Director Roy Wooten shared, “It is evident that Congressman McCaul cares deeply about what is happening in terms of human trafficking in Houston and throughout the United States. We appreciated the opportunity to share the work that Shield Bearer and our partner ministries are doing to help human trafficking survivors heal and thrive.”

Congressman McCaul has authored or coauthored five key pieces of legislation to combat human trafficking, including the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act of 2017 and the Frederick Douglass Victims Prevention and Protection Act. He urges the community “to stand up against

human trafficking, uphold human rights, and prevent individuals from becoming victims of this heinous crime. Human trafficking is a deplorable human rights violation and it is unacceptable to allow this exploitation of the vulnerable continue.”

For more information about human trafficking prevention and recovery or additional programs and services offered at local non-profit Shield Bearer, visit shieldbearer.org, call (281) 894-7222, or attend a free Community Breakfast the first Tuesday of each month at 12340 Jones Rd Ste 290, Houston, TX 77070.



Join Shield Bearer for the the 3rd Annual Running for Hearts 5K Family Fun Run and Walk on April 7, 2018 at Windwood Church. Enjoy a fun family morning and help local families affected by the trauma of Hurricane Harvey, human trafficking, crime, war, domestic violence, and more. Registration is open now at shieldbearer.org/5K.



SHIELD BEARER
shieldbearer.org

RUNNING FOR HEARTS
5K FAMILY FUN RUN AND WALK

SAT. APRIL 7, 2018
7 AM - 11 AM
Windwood Presbyterian Church
10555 Spring Cypress Rd.
Houston, TX 77070

Registration and Fundraising at:
shieldbearer.org/5K
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Join us in support of survivors of trauma including Hurricane Harvey, human trafficking, domestic violence, war, and crime.

Proceeds benefit Shield Bearer, a 501c3 nonprofit offering professional counseling services and programs for victims of crime, abuse, human trafficking and more. To find out more, visit shieldbearer.org or call (281) 894-7222.

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