

www.riataranch.net

September 2006

Volume 1, Issue 7

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

#### Fall Community Garage Sale Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. Rain or Shine

You asked for it, so here it is – the Fall Community Garage Sale. Clean out your garages and attics and make some money! There will need to be at least 100 families registered and paid by September 16th for Riata Ranch to have its garage sale (per HOA rules). Otherwise the garage sale will have to be cancelled.

There are 2 ways to register: either email your registration information (name, street address and home phone number) to RiataRanchGarageSale@yahoo.com or call Debbie Brown at 281-304-1771. (Note: Adriana Gosselin, who was listed as the contact person last month has since moved from Riata Ranch so the new Garage Sale Coordinator is Debbie Brown, who graciously agreed to step in and Chair this event.)

You can register on-line or by phone any time from now up through September 16th. There will also be an in-person registration session. It will be on September 9th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the pool area. At this time you will pay your \$5 registration fee (if you haven't already), pick up your Garage Sale sign and find out any last minute details. The registration fee covers the cost of advertising.

Important Dates:

Now through September 16th – On-line and telephone registration (see info above)

September 9th, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. – In-person registration at the pool (see info above)

September 16th - Registration deadline

September 30th, 8:00 a.m. – Garage Sale (Rain or Shine)

FYI: The HOA rules state that private garage sales are not allowed. Community garage sales are okay as long as they are a community sponsored event and meets the minimum participants requirements.

GAKAGE

SALE

### Vandalism? Suspicious Activity? REPORT IT!!

As the Security Committee comes together, residents have been using security@riataranch.net to let us know about situations around the neighborhood. That's good, but it only part of the solution. The crime also needs to be reported to the Sheriff's Department.

We are fortunate to have a very low crime rate in our community and most of the crimes that are committed are acts of vandalism, such as egging a house. Still, if you're the victim of one of these acts, it is a very serious situation. The Sheriff's Deputies that patrol our community have been very proactive. They take every report seriously so please take the time to report the smallest of incidents.

Something that you may dismiss as unimportant may actually be the missing piece of the puzzle for which the officers are looking. For example, in a recent discussion with a citizen, Officer Rick was given the description of a car which lead to the arrest of some burglars in our area. This bit of information didn't seem important enough to report at the time, but it was a critical piece of information for Officer Rick a brought a short crime wave to a halt.

So use our security email, but also report what you see. It will help us all.

#### **Stop Trashing Riata Ranch**

Some members have expressed frustration at the littering that is noticeable along the main roads of our community. Beer cans and bottles, fast food waste, and cardboard signs litter the side of the road, taking away from our otherwise beautiful community. Certainly, anyone with pride in where they live is bothered when they see the trash.

The use of a trashcan is not a difficult skill to master. Still, some people are just too lazy to do the right thing. So we need your help. What ideas do you have to help stop the littering? Is there a way to encourage the use of a trash can? Is there a way to police the situation? Please submit your input to riatahoa@riataranch.net.

# View *The Ranch Review* each month on-line at www.PEELinc.com

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### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

#### Emergency

Sheriff	713-221-6000				
Fire Department	281-855-1110				
Cy-Fair Medical Center					
Memorial City Hospital					
Poison Control					
Schools					
Cypress Fairbanks ISD	281-897-4000				
Birkes Elementary	281-345-3300				
Spillane Middle	281-216-1645				
Cy-Fair High	281-897-4600				
Cy-Falls High	281-856-1000				
Cy-Fair College	281-290-3200				
Utilities					
HCMUD #196					
Billing	281-579-4500				
Repairs	281-398-8211				
Centerpoint Electric	713-207-2222				
Centerpoint Entex Gas	713-659-2111				
AT&T/SBC	800-464-7928				
Warner Cable	713-462-9000				
Waste Mgt	713-686-6666				
HOA, SCS Mgt	281-463-1777				
United States Post Office	800-275-8777				
Library					
Cy-Fair College Library	281-290-3210				
Newsletter Publisher					
Peel, Inc	888-687-6444				
Advertising advertising @Peelinc.com, 888-687-6444					

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### **Children for a Better World!**

Children giggled, played and painted together, decorating coin canisters to be placed in the community to raise money for a project called Pennies for Peace. The project is headed up by the non-profit Central Asia Institute and is committed to building schools and educating children in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Interested in joining a playgroup that does more than play? Join us on the second Thursday of each month for fun kid crafts and a chance to help children around the world. Next month's activity will be flower pot painting to raise money for Maiti Nepal, a non-profit group that rescues and rehabilitates child slaves. Call Katie at 713-398-3829 or Shamim at 832-641-9066 for more details.





### Speech and Language Therapy

Conveniently located in the Cypress-Fairbanks area at 8955 Highway 6 North, Suite 150 (at Huffmeister) Houston, TX 77095

Call today to schedule your consultation! 832-593-6767

www.speechemporium.com

Kristie K Gatto, MA, CCC-SLP Jennifer A Swearengin, MA, CCC-SLP

Insurance accepted

### What's Happening At Cy-fair College?

It's not too late to register and Start Something now!

Cy-Fair College is the place to be! Continuing education, Weekend College and late start fall registration are under way at Cy-Fair College and at the Fairbanks Center. With courses designed to transfer to four-year institutions, two-year associate degrees and career programs developed to meet the needs of tomorrow, Cy-Fair College has everything to meet your interests as well as academic and workforce needs. Convenient payment plans as well as weekend, evening and distance learning classes are available. Call 281-290-3200 or 832-782-5000 for information; go online; or visit one of our conveniently located campuses at 9191 Barker Cypress or 14955 Northwest Freeway.

Mark Your Calendars for Cy-Fest

Cy-Fair College will host a free community day for all ages in the Cy-Fair Community from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14. Cy-Fest, the college's gift to the community, will feature food vendors, a variety of musical and dance performances, a petting zoo, children's games, crafts and storytime, a video gaming contest, moonwalks, kiddie adventure train, a fire truck and more! For information go online to www.cy-faircollege.com.

Library Hosts MFA-Houston "Modern Designs" Traveling Exhibit The Cy-Fair College Branch Library is hosting the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's latest traveling exhibition "Playful, Sleek, and Bold: Modern Designs for the Home" through Oct. 23. The exhibition features 20 decorative arts objects made by seven designers from the 1930s to 2001.

Faculty Art in the Gallery

This is the once-a-year exhibition where Cy-Fair College's full-time and adjunct art faculty members show their work. This exhibition runs Sept. 12 through Oct. 4. A reception to meet the artists is set for 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sept.14 in the Center for the Arts Gallery, located at 9191 Barker Cypress. Call 832-482-1038 for gallery hours and information.

#### Fall Summer Film Series Under Way

The Cy-Fair College Fall Film Series is a continuing education course called Film Appreciation. The series is presented at no charge. A professor at the college hosts each film and an in-depth discussion after the movie. This fall series class begins Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. with "Good Night, Good Luck" and with Jeff Shine and Alex Smith as hosts. Registration is available at all the film events. All films are shown at the Barker Cypress campus in ART 102. For the fall schedule (Continued on page 5)



### Garbage stinks!

If you are like me you have noticed that Waste Management does not always pick up all of the bags of trash, even when trash is put on the curb for Friday bulk pick-up day. I decided to find out what the problem was and called Waste Management.



They said that the main reason that garbage does not get picked up is because the bags weigh more than the maximum allowed 40 lbs. For instance, the bags of grass you put out on the curb before trash day may get rained on and add extra weight. They suggested splitting the

bags among several bags so that they do not weigh more than 40 lbs each. For a rule of thumb, 5 gallons of water weighs about 40 lbs.

#### Please - Put Your Dog on a Leash!

Leash laws apply in Riata Ranch and complaints received by the HOA regarding dogs have risen. If you are walking your

dog, please be considerate of your neighbors and respect the law. Put your dog on a leash. Also – CLEAN UP after your dog. No one likes to step in the mess left behind by your dog. Certainly, the kids should be able to play in the park without fear of a loose dog or worrying about getting

> a mess all over their shoes and clothes. So take the time to clean up the mess from your dog!



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## Classifieds

**For Sale:** Jackson Dark Wood Armoire, from Pier 1, \$600 o.b.o. Matching end table, \$100 o.b.o. Both pieces like new. Pictures available. Call 713-775-5753 or email Brandon at buhansen@ gmail.com

**For Sale:** Three piece, full bedroom set from N. Carolina. Triple dresser w/ mirror, full size headboard, and nightstand. One owner and in great condition, asking \$800.00. Call 713-294-7872.

**Help Wanted:** Riata Ranch Mom is looking for after school care for my daughter. Will need help Wednesday - Friday from 2:30 PM to 6:00 PM. \$10/hr. (281) 304-6225.

### **Business Classifieds**

MAID SERVICES: We want to CLEAN your home. Bonded. Will furnish supplies. A family owned business since 1987. FREE ESTIMATES. Call us at 281-859-3162 281-236-2932 (cell). WORSHIP LEADER NEEDED: Adventure Christian Community, a local emerging church, is seeking a worship leader. Must be talented on guitar as well as vocally, and able to lead worship acoustically. Position is part-time. For more info, contact: nate@DiscoverAdventure.org; 832-661-6886;

www.DiscoverAdventure.org"

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### **Riata Ranch Boulevard Parking Problem**

The Board continues to work through the red tape required to restrict parking on Riata Ranch Boulevard alongside the park.

Harris County is working with us, but ever so slowly. Officer Rick has committed to paying the county a visit and giving them his recommendation in and effort to expedite things.

We are frustrated but committed. We will continue to work the issue until resolved to our satisfaction. Hopefully, by the time this article is published, there will have been some visible progress. If not, rest assured that we are continuing our efforts to restrict the parking, making things safer for all.

If you are one of those parking on the street by the park – PLEASE STOP! It is unsafe. We need the help of all of those involved to keep the park and surrounding area a fun and safe place to be.

### This Is Your Newsletter!

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email the editor at editor@riataranch.net. Articles for the newsletter are finalized on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



#### Cy-Fair College - (Continued from page 3)

or information, call 281-290-3257, e-mail robert.obrien@nhmccd. edu or visit http://faculty.nhmccd.edu/robobrien/Film\_Series.html. Add Some L.I.F.E. to Your Week

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Cy-Fair College Branch Library (Room 131.) September programs include "60 Sites 60 Minutes" Sept. 6, "Concert Music – 80s to the Millennium" Sept. 13, "Museum Trip" Sept. 20 (includes free bus ride and admission with reservations) and "Rosie the Riveter" Sept. 27. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for monthly L.I.F.E. program information or check the library web page online at http://cfclibrary. nhmccd.edu.

Library Offers Free Computer Classes and Book Clubs

The Harris County Public Library Cy-Fair College Branch offers free computer workshops, including a family-friendly class. Topics range from basic computer functions to introductions to the Internet and various software programs. A variety of monthly book clubs are also available including, history, women of the world, democracy, and sports page. There are plenty of youth programs with activities and book clubs for teens and storytime for younger children. Go online to http://cfclibrary.nhmccd.edu for information.

#### **Attention Homeschoolers!**

Are you a homeschooling family in the Cypress area? If so we have great news for you! Cypress Homeschool Association is a newly formed organization for the support and encouragement of parents and children in the Cypress area.

We offer monthly meetings, field trips, park days, classes and more! We serve homeschoolers of all ages, from infant to high school. Take advantage of the great resources we can pool together right here in Cypress and call or email us today.

Everyone is welcome!

Contact Rene at 281-304-9202 or email us at cypresshomeschool@ hotmail.com.



### **Fire Sale Tree Liquidation**



In most families, either the husband OR the wife takes care of all financial affairs. Even if it is a shared duty, neither may have a complete handle on the location of the vital documents that would be needed if one or the other were to die suddenly or become impaired by a grave illness. If you are single and tragedy was to befall you, someone in your family would have to take care of your affairs for you and/or your children. These are not pleasant thoughts. None of us want to think about death or losing a loved one and yet tragedy strikes families everyday. The greatest gift you could give to yourself and your family is the complete organization of your important documents and financial information. This book gives you a place to record and store the documents that would be needed to carry out financial obligations or close out the estate of a family member. Protective sleeves are provided to put such things as birth certificates, insurance policies, medical directives, a copy of your will and much, much more.

Visit: <u>www.timelesskeepers.com</u> for more information and ordering instructions.

# **Texas Events - September**

1-10—HOUSTON: Courbet & the Modern Landscape Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. 713/639-7300

1-12—HARLINGEN: Independent Artist Exhibit Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum, 2425 Boxwood. 956/216-4901

1-14—HOUSTON: The Architecture of Gee's Bend Quilts The Audrey Jones Beck Building, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. 713/639-7300

1-14—NASSAU BAY: Figurative Art Exhibition includes figurative works and portraits. The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake. www. taaccl.org 281/335-7777

1-24—GALVESTON: Al Souza — Addenda Galveston Arts Center. www.galvestonartscenter.org 409/763-2403

1-Oct. 1—HOUSTON: CraftHouston 2006: Texas Showcases the best of contemporary craft artists from throughout Texas. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St. www.crafthouston. org 713/529-4848

4—FREEPORT: Cutty Sark Regatta Bridge Harbor Yacht Club. 979/233-2101

7-9—GALVESTON: Galveston Uncorked Local restaurants showcase their own specialties and pair them with wines to accent the different foods. Historic Downtown District. 409/771-8600 7-Nov. 9—HARLINGEN: Independent Artist Exhibit — Hispanic

New To The Neighborhood And Need To See A Doctor Today? After Hrs Or The Weekend And Your Doctors Closed? Don't Want The Cost Or The Wait Of An Emergency Room Visit? The Solution? Your New Neighborhood Urgent Care Center.



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MON-FRI 9AM-9PM SAT 10AM-8PM SUN 11AM-6PM MOST INSURANCE, CASH AND MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



8—PORT ARANSAS: Champagne Cruise/Mini Taste of Port Aransas Cruise the harbor, and enjoy good food and music. Fisherman's Wharf. 361/749-6222 ext. 273

8-9—PORT ARANSAS: FLW Kingfish Tournament Robert's Point Park. www.flwoutdoors.com 270/703-2500

9—EDNA: Lake Texana 25th Birthday Celebration Includes Buffalo Soldiers, Austin's Rangers, hunting simulation, Operation Game Thief trailer, canoeing, barbecue dinner, vendors and more. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lake Texana State Park. 361/782-5718

9—LAKE JACKSON: Brazosport Relay Triathlon 979/238-5037

9—LAKE JACKSON: Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza Bird Observatory. 979/480-0999

9—WEST COLUMBIA: Brazoria County Bluegrass Concert Bands perform beginning at 7 p.m. American Legion Hall. www. westcolumbia.org 979/864-1564

9—WHARTON: Fiesta Hispano Americana Riverfront Park. 979/532-0578

9-10—HOUSTON: 60th Semi-Annual Houston Camera Show Marriott Hotel — Hobby Airport. 713/868-9606

(Continued on Page 8)



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#### **Giving you the POWER to choose.**

Dear Riata Ranch Residents,

We understand that rising electricity costs effect your lifestyle. By choosing Spark Energy, it is not a question if you will save money; it is a question of how much. In addition to lowering your electricity payments, we give you peace of mind, as we can guarantee that your cost will not change for a full year!

### Switch today to Spark Energy!

### **Online Advantage 12 Plan**

- \* Low fixed rate
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Making the switch is simple!

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### Spark Online Advantage 12

### 12.9 cents/kWh

Retail Electric	Current	Current Spark Energy's		Approximate savings/year with
Provider (REP)	Rate/kWh	Monthly Bill	Monthly Bill	Spark Energy's Rate
Reliant Energy	16.3	\$329.10	\$262.95	\$793.80
TXU Energy	15.4	\$309.25	\$262.95	\$555.60

Monthly bill calculated based on an average household usage of 2000 kWh/month.

\* Rate Subject to Change \* Subject to terms and conditions For more information: Todd Thoman, V.P. Marketing 713-977-5634 tjt@sparkenergylp.com

\* Automatic Payment Required (auto bank draft or credit card)

#### **Texas Events** - (Continued from Page 6)

9-10—HOUSTON: Bluegrass Festival Features two days of downhome bluegrass music by many of Texas' most popular bands. Includes bushel baskets full of mount-watering country-style foods from link sausage to smoked turkey legs. Traders Village. www. tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500

9-10—KATY: Antique & Collectible Market Katy ISD Merrell Center. E-mail: info@cwgs.com • www.cwgs.com 512/441-2828

9-10—KEMAH: Zydeco Festival Features Cajun food and entertainment. Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880 or 877/285-3624

10—DACOSTA: German Fest Hosted by the Golden Crescent Chapter of Texas German Society. Begins at noon. Sons of Hermann Hall. 361/578-6658

10—SANTA FE: Mark Towns Flamenco Jazz Begins at 6:30 p.m. Haak Winery, 6310 Ave. T. www.haakwine.com 409/925-1401

11—HARLINGEN: Candlelight Vigil Memorializes those who lost their lives and the heroes involved in attempting to save and saving lives during and after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Begins at 7 p.m. 956/423-0250

14, 16-17—HOUSTON: Houston Symphony Orchestra Includes John Adams' On the Transmigration of Souls, a piece inspired by the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001. www.houstonsymphony.org

14-17—ROCKPORT: Hummer/Bird Celebration Informative, educational programming centers on migrating hummingbirds and other birds. Vendors area includes bird/nature-related items. ACISD School Complex. www.rockport-fulton.org 361/729-6445

15—DEER PARK: Deer Park Chamber Golf Tournament Includes two shotgun starts — 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Florida scramble, and one-arm bandit contest. Battleground Golf Course. www.deerpark. org 281/479-1559

15—VICTORIA: Country Opry Hours are 7:30 to 10 p.m. Victoria Community Center Annex. 361/552-9347

15-16—BAYSIDE: Hummingbird Hayrides Watch hundreds of hummingbirds in the wild feeding off the native Turks cap. An experienced birder helps identify the birds. Reservations required. Fennessey Ranch. 361/529-6600

15-17—CLEAR LAKE AREA: Gulf Coast Film & Video Festival Includes film showings, film and television celebrity guests, awards, food and more. www.gulfcoastfilmfest.com 281/333-5804

15-17—HARLINGEN: 15th Annual Narciso Martinez Conjunto Festival Enjoy typical South Texas conjunto music, food, beverages and dancing. Narciso Martinez Cultural Art Center. 956/361-0110 16—BAY CITY: Market Day Courthouse Square. www.visitbaycity. org 800/806-8333

(Continued on Page 10)



### Cypress Assistance Ministries Help Restock the Food Pantry

Cypress Assistance Ministries, CAM, located at 11202 Huffmeister, provides a safe place for individuals or families to tell their stories and offers some measure of hope during difficult times. We partner with the community each month to meet the most pressing needs of families facing crisis in the Cypress-West Houston community.

#### **Food Pantry Needs**

With the summer season ending and the new school year beginning, the Food Pantry shelves are depleted of the following items.

- · Canned Vegetables
- · Dried Beans
- $\cdot$  Cold and Hot Cereal
- $\cdot \text{ Canned Fruit}$
- $\cdot$  Canned Meat

Meat, dairy products, and fresh fruits and vegetables are luxury items and always a welcome donation.

#### **Operation Jobs Program**

Operation Jobs offers networking, counseling and resume writing as well as interview and job search techniques for unemployed and underemployed persons in the community. For many, job opportunities begin with GED and ESL training. CAM offers GED classes year-round and free of charge. GED classes meet Monday and Wednesday, 6 to 9 PM. English as Second Language classes meet Tuesday and Thursday, 6 to 9 PM. Call for registration information and class availability.

#### Angels' Attic Resale Shop

CAM's Angels' Attic Resale Shop is open to the public and carries a wide variety of household items, clothing, and furniture, as well as, craft items and new jewelry. Your donations of gently used clothing, household items and furniture stock this beautiful resale shop and help support the ministry services and Food Pantry at CAM.

#### Volunteers

Volunteers are needed in the Food Pantry, Angels' Attic and the Donations area. Please see our Web site: www. cypressassistanceministries.com for a description of these and other volunteer opportunities.

Donations to Cypress Assistance Ministries can be made Monday through Wednesday from 10AM - 6PM and Thursday through Saturday from 10AM - 3 PM.



### **Attention Teenage Job Seekers**

Need some extra cash for the summer? Use THE RANCH REVIEW to find some work.

Fill out the form and send it to The Ranch Review, care of SCS Management. You will need to have your parent's signature on the form before your information will be published.

We hope to have your form turned in soon and get that extra money coming in!!

Not available online

**Teenage Job Seekers** 

Please place my name on the TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS list in the RANCH REVIEW.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Please check appropriate boxes:

- □ Baby-sitting
  - Pet Care
  - □ House/Plant Care
  - □ Lawn Care

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_

I give my permission for my child's name and phone number to be entered in THE RANCH REVIEW as a TEENAGE JOB SEEKER

Parent's Signature

Clip and mail to: The Ranch Review c/o SCS managemenet 7170 Cherry Park Drive Houston, TX 77095

#### **Street Light Out?**

Don't drive around in the dark! Report it. It's easy. Just call 713-207-2222 and list the following:

- The pole number, which is stenciled on the pole
- The nature of the problem; completely out, flickering, etc.
- Location of the pole, such as the nearest street corner.

#### Texas Events - (Continued from Page 8)

16—CORPUS CHRISTI: Diez y Seis Celebration Includes mariachi bands, Tejano bands, local and regional dance groups, and more. Heritage Park. 361/883-0639

16—CROSBY: Harvest Moon Festival Features family fun, games, prizes, food, craft booths, live entertainment, country store and magic show. Crosby United Methodist Church, 1334 Runneburg Road. www.crosbyumc.org 281/328-2616

16—HARLINGEN: Bei Shaolin Martial Arts Open Tournament Veterans Memorial Academy. 956/425-2468

16—PORT ARTHUR: Mexican Fiesta Includes folkloric dancers, queen contest, food booths and dance. O.C.A.W. Hall 409/982-8300

16—RICHMOND: Fiestas Patrias Celebration Includes authentic Mexican mariachi, ballet folklorico dancers, Fiestas Patrias queen coronation, contests and more. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Fort Bend Museum. www.fortbendmuseum.org 281/342-6478

16—WEST COLUMBIA: Adopt-A-Beach Clean Up 979/864-1564

16—WEST COLUMBIA: Bells Across America Liberty bell is rung at 4 p.m., celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. 214 N 14th St. www.westcolumbia.org 979/345-3123

16-17—BEAUMONT: LaDolce Vita A seven course vintner's dinner is planned by a guest vintner and chosen chef. Each course will be

carefully paired with a different wine. Dishman Art Museum. dept. lamar.edu/cofac/art/dishman.htm (no www) 409/880-8959

16-17—HOUSTON: Seventh Annual Houston Hot Sauce Festival www.houstonhotsauce.com 281/558-3518

16-17—KEMAH: Fall Kids Festival Includes face painting, hands-on education and crafts, magic shows, live music, Mad Scientist, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, petting zoo and more. Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemahboardwalk.com 877/285-3624

16-17—NEEDVILLE: Citywide Garage Sale 979/793-6357

17—GALVESTON: Gulf Coast Volleyball Association Fall Classic Tournament Check-in before 8:30 a.m. Stewart Beach. www.gcva. net 832/928-4120

17—VICTORIA: Harvest of Fun Festival Victoria Community Center. 361/575-4581

19-Nov. 4—HARLINGEN: Dia de los Muertos Exhibit Altars created by the community are exhibited. Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum. 956/215-4901

21-24—GROVES: Pecan Festival Includes carnival, craft and food vendors, golf tournament, horseshoe tournament, pecan toss, pecan-eating contest, stick horse races, pet show and continuous entertainment. Lion's Park. www.texaspecanfestival.com 409/962-3631

21-Oct. 26—NASSAU BAY: Fiber Works Juried Exhibition with (Continued on Page 12)



# Peel, Inc. Printing & Publishing

Publishing community newsletters since 1991

We currently publish newsletters for the following subdivisions:

Barker Ranch Cherry Creek on Brodie Ln. Circle C Ranch Courtyard Coventry Davenport Ranch Estates of Shady Hollow Granada Hills

### Austin Area Harris Branch

Harris Branch Highland Park West Balcones Area Hutto Parke Lakeside Estates North Acres Park & Lakeside of Blackhawk Ridgewood

> Dallas Area Eldorado

### Houston Area

Berkshire Cypress Mill Fairfield Harvest Bend, The Village Hastings Green High Meadow Ranch Lakes on Eldridge Lakes on Eldridge North Riata Ranch Ridge Lake Shores Sommerall Steeplechase Strathmore Summerwood Village Creek Villages of Langham Creek



Scenic Brook Settlers Estates/Crossing/Overlook Sendera Shadow Glen Stone Canyon Travis Country West Villages of Hidden Lake Westcreek

Waterford Harbor White Oak Bend Willowbridge Willowlake Willow Pointe Winchester Country Winchester Trails Wortham Village

Kelly Peel, Sales Manager kelly@PEELinc.com ● 512-989-8905 512-989-8905 www.PEELinc.com

#### Texas Events - (Continued from Page 10)

Houston Area Fiber Artists The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Parkway. www.taaccl.org 281/335-7777

22—HARLINGEN: Boots & Diamonds Fund-raiser features live music, diamond dip and silent auction. Music performed by Little Joe y la Familia. Hours are 8 p.m. to midnight. Casa de Amistad. 956/423-9304

22-23—PORT ARANSAS: Kenner Owners Fishing Tournament Tournament is for owners of boats manufactured by Kenner. Roberts Point Park. www.kennerboats.net

22-24, 28-30—VICTORIA: Dearly Departed Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. www.theatrevictoria.org 361/576-6277

23—EDNA: National Hunting & Fishing Day Program Learn knot tying, casting, fish identification and more. Hours are 2 to 4 p.m. Lake Texana State Park. 361/782-5718

23—GALVESTON: Robert Earl Keen Begins at 8 p.m. The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894

23—HARLINGEN: A Blast from the Past Includes music, costumes and more. Reservations required. Golden Palms Retirement & Health Center. www.goldenpalmsrgv.com 956/389-4014

23—PORT ARANSAS: Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup Mustang and St. Joseph Islands. 361/749-7423

23—PORT ARTHUR: Solid Gold Rock 'n' Roll Show Entertainers include Johnny Preston, Bobby Vee and Chris Montez. Pays tribute

to Buddy Holly, The Big Bopper and Richie Valens. Carl Parker Multipurpose Center. 409/984-6101

23—SANTA FE: Captain's Cuisine Enjoy an epicurean evening. Santa Fe High School. E-mail: sfchamber@houston.rr.com • www. santafetexaschamber.com 409/925-8558

23—SANTA FE: Wine & Stars Haak Winery. www.haakwine.com 409/925-1401

23—SURFSIDE BEACH: Fall Beach Clean-up Surfside Beach and Quintana Beach. 979/864-1541

23—WHARTON: Rotary "Legends of Country Music" Gala Civic Center. 979/282-6020

23-24—SPRING: 23rd Annual Long Horn Rod Run Hundreds of vintage autos are displayed. www.otsid.com 281/288-2355

24—HARLINGEN: Folkways Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum. 956/216-4901

24—SANTA FE: Summer Concert Farewell: Ezra Charles Haak Winery. www.haakwine.com 409/925-1401

24—TEXAS CITY: Hummingbird & Butterfly Nature Watch Members of local birding and gardening groups answer questions about local birds and butterflies. Bay Street Park. www.texas-citytx.org 409/643-5990

24—VICTORIA: Czech Heritage Festival Features music, auction, country store, Tarok tournament and Czech stew. Victoria Community (Continued on Page 14)



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#### Vacation Watch

At your request, the Harris County Sheriff's Department will put your house on VACATION WATCH. Just go to www. riataranch.net and look for the Vacation Watch form in the FORMS and DOCS section.

Your completed form will need to be submitted to the Sheriff's Department 7 days prior to departure, or just call 713-221-6000.



Family Fun Center 13529 Skinner Road Suite H Cypress, Texas 77429 281-304-6565 Lazertag & Inflatables Birthday/Team Parties Private Parties Corporate Functions

# Sudoku

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.



# Do you have a Home Based Business right here in Riata Ranch?

You can get information about your service or products to every home in Riata Ranch, by running a business classified in The Riata Ranch HOA Newsletter. It is a great way to get your name and contact information to many potential customers in your neighborhood. The cost is \$45 for up to 40 words. Display ads are also available. For more information, please contact Peel, Inc. at 888-687-6444 or *advertising@PEELinc.com*. The deadline is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.



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Texas Events - (Continued from Page 12)

Center. 361/575-0820

27-28—TEXAS CITY: Chamber Golf Tournament Bayou Golf Club. www.texascitychamber.com 409/935-1408

27-30—ORANGE: Lions Carnival Includes rides, food and more. Lions Den Park. 409/883-3536 or 409/883-1010

28—GALVESTON: American Decorative Styles: Empire 1810 through 1840 Reservations required. Michel B. Menard House, 1605 33rd St. 409/762-3933

28—HARLINGEN: Fall Pops Concert Begins at 8 p.m. Harlingen Municipal Auditorium, 1204 Fair Park Blvd. 956/428-6003

28—VICTORIA: '50s Sockhop Fund-raiser National Guard Armory. 361/576-1259 or 361/572-0725

28-Oct. 1—CORPUS CHRISTI: Celebration of Flight Hawk Watch 361/241-2617

29—HOUSTON: Laughter & Reflection with Carol Burnett: A Conversation with Carol where the Audience Asks the Questions Begins at 8 p.m. Jones Hall. www.spahouston.org 713/277-4SPA

29-Oct. 1—BROWNSVILLE: Chicago 1 Dean Porter Park. www. camilleplayers.cjb.net 956/542-8900

29-Oct. 1—CORPUS CHRISTI: Bayfest Three stages provide musical entertainment. Includes more than 30 different types of foods and numerous family fun opportunities. North Shoreline from

Power to Resaca streets. www.bayfesttexas.com 361/887-0868 or 361/854-8492

29-Oct. 1—KEMAH: Ninth Annual Jazz Fest Enjoy a line up of the nation's best jazz performers. Kemah Boardwalk. www. kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880

29-Oct. 1—LAKE JACKSON: Gulf Coast Golf Fest 54-hole tournament. Wilderness Golf Course, Riverside Country Club and Columbia Lakes Resort. 979/265-2505

29-Oct. 7—ROSENBERG: 70th Annual Fort Bend County Fair Offers big name entertainment, midway rides, food vendors, youth and adult exhibits, bands, country dancing, pro rodeo and more. www. fbcfa.org 281/342-6171

30—BAYSIDE: Fall Hawk Watch Watch raptors as they take off from their overnight roosts on the river and see kettle after kettle forming all day. Fennessey Ranch. www.fennesseyranch.com 361/529-6600

30—CORPUS CHRISTI: Conquer the Coast Includes 65- and 25mile rides. Solomon P. Ortiz Center. www.conquerthecoast.com 361/883-4517

30—GALVESTON: Artwalk Galveston's Historic Downtown District. www.galvestonartscenter.org 409/763-2403

30—GALVESTON: Wal-Mart Kids All-American Fishing Derby Open to kids ages 5 to 15. Preregistration required. Galveston Island (*Continued on Page 15*)



**Texas Events** - (*Continued from Page 14*)

State Park. E-mail: fishingeventplanner06@yahoo.com 409/737-1222

30—HARLINGEN: Second Annual Bike Rodeo & Third Annual RAHC Health Fair Applications required for bike rodeo. Regional Academic Health Center. 956/365-8900

30—HOUSTON: 2006 Komen Houston Race for the Cure www. komen-houston.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr\_id=1010

30—INEZ: Inez Volunteer Fire Department Fund-raiser Includes a meal and auctions. Inez Community Center. 361/573-3076

30—PORT ARANSAS: Conquer the Coast Bicycle Ride Offers 18-, 25- and 65-mile rides. Port Aransas and Corpus Christi. www. conquerthecoast.com

30—ROCKPORT: 2006 Hidden Garden Tour Visit some of the area's private gardens plus the Green Acres Demonstration gardens. Bus tour tickets must be purchased in advance. Begins at Green Acres at the Aransas County Extension Office. 361/790-0103

30-Jan. 1—CLEAR LAKE AREA: Strange Matter Space Center Houston. www.spacecenter.org 281/244-2100

**Texas Events** has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.



# AESTHETIC AND FAMILY DENTISTRY DR. A. SUNDRANI



# Dental Tip of the Month.

## Fluoride, what is it all about?

Dear Friends,

Fluoride helps prevent tooth decay and even reverses early signs of tooth caries. How does it work? Fluoride makes the tooth structure stronger by mineralizing the tooth so the enamel is more resistant to acid attacks. Acid comes from the bacteria that breaks down the sugars taken from the food we eat. Repeated acid attacks can cause tooth decay.

Systemic fluorides are those that you ingest into the body and become incorporated into forming tooth structures. That is why kids, who have teeth forming, need more fluoride when they are young (so the fluoride can get incorporated into the tooth structure early).

As adults, I recommend having topical fluorides applied as frequently as possible. This strengthens and re-mineralizes the teeth and creates a tooth surface more resistant to decay. I can help you assess whether you are receiving adequate levels of fluoride.

If you want to know more about sources of fluoride and how much is good for you or your family, we'd be pleased to discuss this with you at your next appointment.

In the mean time, if you have any dental related questions, please email me at sundranidds@yahoo.com, and I will happily respond to your inquiries.

Your Dentist,

Dr. Sundrani

#### sundranidds@yahoo.com

(281) 225-9906 Hwy 290 @ Barker Cypress Rd. www.sundentalsmiles.com



# **Parents, Eat Your Words!**

Are you pleased with your progress toward healthful nutrition and fitness habits but frustrated with your children's?

Do you suspect that the lunches you send to school are traded or thrown away? Do you shudder at the sight of your pantry shelves displaying high-fat snacks and sugary cereals that you vowed you would never buy? Can you really win the battle against advertising, peer pressure and kids' love affairs with sugar and fat?

#### The bad news and the good news

Kids today are fatter and less fit than previous generations. Between the mid-1960s and the late 1970s, obesity increased 54 percent among young children (ages six to 11) and 39 percent among adolescents (ages 12 to 17). Recent studies show that obesity has continued to increase into the '90s.

Food companies spend millions of dollars on television advertising to convince children that high-fat, high-sugar, processed foods are worth eating. Food is consumed because it's cool, fun or comes with a free toy rather than for its impact on health or even for its taste! So what's a parent to do? Eat your words! The fact is that parents who have adopted a lifestyle that includes healthful foods and regular exercise are living role models for their children.

We know that the behaviors children see most often at home are the ones they will be most likely to adopt for themselves and parents'

efforts to promote healthy food habits do make a difference.

The first step is to stop battling with your kids about food. You may need to slow the rate of change in your children's food choices and offer reasonable alternatives as you gradually reduce those high-fat, high-sugar foods. Be sure to include some of their favorite foods in daily meals.

#### Stack the deck

Much of nutrition is common sense. For instance, stock the kitchen with a majority of healthy items, keeping in mind that kids want some of their favorite foods, which may be sweet and/or salty.

Buy pretzels, which are low in fat, instead of greasy chips. Keep cut-up vegetables and ready-to-eat mini-carrots in the refrigerator. Sprinkle air-popped popcorn with grated parmesan cheese instead of butter.

A good way to get kids involved and committed to healthy eating habits is to involve them with the food shopping and preparation. There are lots of children's cookbooks on the market; select one that emphasizes ways to modify many favorite foods rather than eliminate them. Children who feel competent to select and prepare food will make more intelligent food choices.

(Continued on Page 17)



#### **Fit Facts** - (*Continued from Page 16*) **Balance is everything**

The key to keeping kids happy and healthy is to strike a balance between foods that are good for you and those that just taste good, between leisure or TV time and physical activity.

Which brings us to the other side of the healthy living equation. The most obvious impact of inactivity on kids is the strong association between the number of hours spent watching TV and the level of obesity among youngsters.

Make physical activity a family affair. Go for walks, fly kites, rollerblade around the neighborhood, play miniature golf or other sports. Anything that gets you moving together will no doubt be good for you, too.



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# Sudoku Solution



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#### Caroline's Kids Corner! Hi! School has already started and for me it is going great! If you are starting middle school this year you have to get a locker shelf! It gives you more room and you are more organized than your worst enemy is! MU HA HA HA HA HA!!!! No not really. Those show offs are always trying to seem organized!!! Tip: Always do your homework early so you do not have to worry about it later! I hope you have a great school year and do not get into much trouble! Here are some wordy gurdys for you to figure out! Use the clues to find two words that rhyme! For example: Heavy kitten? Answer = fat cat. 1 beige carpet-\_ 24 2 little corner to keep reading material-\_ **1**5 3 bragging about riding a bike down a hill-\_\_\_\_\_ 13 25 4 a husband who puts on some weight-22 16 5 being sad without tears-\_ Have fun on weekends and then work hard at school! I think 12• •26 that there should be 5 days of fun and 2 days of school. But then everyone would not learn as much. I say, as long as you know safety rules and how to write and read then you're good! 11• 27 I hope you like my articles!! •10 28• Answers: 9. •29 1 boring flooring 35 •3 2 book nook 3 coasting 8• •30 boasting 4 chubby hubby 5 dry cry **7**• • 31 33<sup>®</sup> 32 Start Here

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# Life In Riata Ranch Ann Marie Gargano-Parks www.RiataRanch-Neighbors.com

Neighborhood Section	Active Listings	Pending Listings	Solds	Ave. Days on Market	Ave. Price per Sq. Ft			
Section 1	4	1	-	-	-			
Section 2	2	3	-	-	-			
Section 3	2	1	-	-	-			
Section 4	5	-	-	-	-			
Section 5	8	-	1	14	69.67			
Section 6	5	-	1	143	77.75			
Section 7	3	-	1	98	65.13			
Section 8	5	-	1	45	63.49			
Section 9	2	-	1	3	63.49			
Section 10	1	1	1	65	64.64			
Section 11	7	-	-	-	_			

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