



# Steeplechase

## NEWSLETTER



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

### Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club Information Session

*Friday Evening, April 3rd, 2009*

The Northwest Flyers Track Club will host a free open house / registration session for all middle and high school athletes and their parents interested in joining for the 2009 season. The event will be held on Friday, April 3, 2009, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the Champions Park subdivision clubhouse, 13635 Champions Park Drive\*\*, Houston, TX 77069. The session will begin with a very important program overview / orientation at 7:00 PM. All interested athletes and parents should report on time.

The Northwest Flyers is a youth (ages 6 -18) track organization, affiliated with USA Track & Field. The club provides a full program of “track” events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and “field” events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, shot put and javelin. **It is an excellent “off-season” program for young athletes who currently compete on their middle school or high school varsity track teams.**

The club was founded 22 years ago by Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the Northwest Houston area. Last year, the Northwest Flyers qualified 26 young athletes to compete at the U.S. Junior Olympics National Championships in Omaha, Nebraska.

Visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org> for registration forms and information prior to the session, or contact Linette Roach at (281) 587-8442 or [linette.roach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linette.roach@sbcglobal.net).

## For Your Safety

### Watch Your Speed – *Our Deputies ARE!*

Have you noticed when you are feeling like you are “stuck” behind a slow poke while driving and then realize looking at the speedometer the perceived “slow poke” is driving the posted speed limit! We all seem to be in a hurry these days and it is easy to want to just go faster - not realizing you then are going over the speed limit.

The posted speed limit on Steepleway Blvd., Paddock Way and Meadow Chase is 30 mph. For all other streets in Steeplechase the posted speed limit is 20 mph. Please be aware of the posted speed limit signs and do not speed.

We are a neighborhood filled with children playing, residents running, walking, biking, roller blading, etc. Please obey the speed limit and Stop signs, which means coming to a full complete STOP. Let's keep an eye out for each other and your fellow residents.

Our Sherriff Deputies are looking out for all the safety and protection of all residents by stopping and ticketing speeders and traffic violators.



## Safety in Numbers

In order to speed up the response time from our emergency professionals, whether it is fire, police, or ambulance, Deputy Chris Aguirre of the Harris County Sheriffs Department recommends we take a close look at our house numbers.

We all know the frustration of trying to find somebody's home or a business and not being able to find the street number. Imagine what our emergency professionals go through. Then imagine that a life is at stake!

If your house address numbers are buried under overgrown shrubs, have an incomplete address, or even worse, no address at all, you are playing with fire. You don't want an emergency response team wasting life saving time trying to find your home.

Your home address should be clearly marked with curb numbers, and house numbers, which are complete and easily read from the street. Trim back overgrown hedges that cover your numbers. Consider placing them in a location, which has lighting for nighttime visibility. And solar powered house numbers can be found in the local home improvement stores.

There is definitely safety in numbers! Take a look at your home today.

# STEEPLECHASE

## 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
Library.....	281-890-2665
Post Office.....	713-937-6827
Steeplechase Community Center .....	281-469-CLUB
Deed Restriction Issues (PCMI) .....	281-870-0585
Water/Sewer .....	281-240-1300
Architectural Control (PCMI).....	281-870-0585
Trash Pick-up (WCA).....	281-368-8397
(Wednesday & Saturday)	
Harris Co. Pct. 4 Road Maintenance.....	281-353-8424
Community Events.....	281-469-CLUB
Clubhouse Rentals:	
Private Events (Phyllis McFarland).....	832-922-8031
Community Group Events (Jinnie Kelley) .....	832-922-8030
Traffic Initiative .....	281-290-2100

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. ....	kelly@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Peel, Inc. Sales Office .....	advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

## Community Center Contacts

<b>Community Maintenance Concerns</b>	
PCMI.....	281-870-0585
<b>Clubhouse Rentals</b>	
Private Events and Community Groups	
(Phyllis McFarland) .....	832-922-8031
<b>Weekday Use of Club</b>	
Jinnie Kelley .....	832-922-8030
<b>Pool Company Contact</b>	
.....	TBA
<b>Board Member Contact</b>	
PCMI.....	281-870-0585

### Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Steeplechase Community Association Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter each month at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing. The deadline for ads is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

### Steeplechase Board of Directors

Cobblestone	Churchill	Green-Brook-Bridge
Judy Weed	Dean Green	Andy Sherbondy
Virginia Kelley	Nace Peard	Wade Wnuk
Kathy Dowling	Bill Kuschmeider	Michael Young
Joshua Stratmann	Michael Cirillo	Maurice Amidei
James Clarke	Greg Fredericks	Michael Brown

If you need to contact a director within your subdivision, please contact **PCMI** at **281-870-0585** and they will forward your request.

### Steeplechase Sanctioned Committees

<b>Security</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Landscape</b>
<b>Pool</b>	<b>Clubhouse</b>
<b>Playground</b>	<b>Tennis</b>

## Steeplechase Information Line: 281-469-CLUB - Option #3

### Classified Ads

**Personal classifieds** (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Steeplechase residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail to [newsletter@steeplechasetx.com](mailto:newsletter@steeplechasetx.com).

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$45, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc at 888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

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\* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

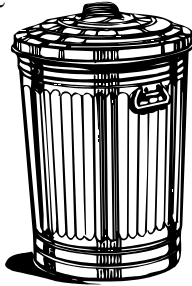
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\* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

## Heavy Trash

**Need to get rid of larger trash items such as a mattress, a bookcase, etc?**

WCA says that every Saturday trash collection is a heavy trash day. However, there is a two-item limit per address. WCA will not take construction debris, rocks, cement pieces, or the like. They will take appliances but if it is a refrigerator there must be a certificate attached to it from an authorized service location indicating that the Freon has been removed. If you have any questions about whether an item is acceptable for pickup, call WCA at 281-368-8397 and ask. Remember that WCA does not accept hazardous waste.



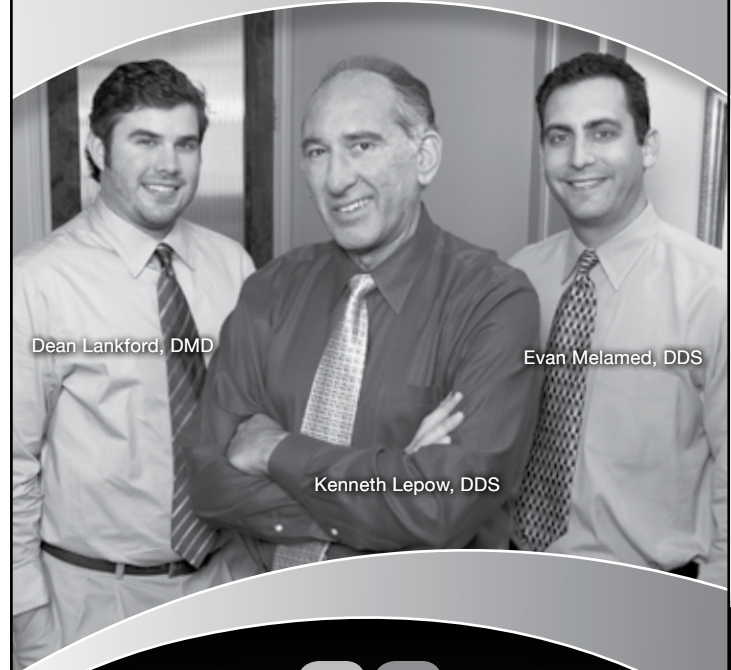
## Hazardous Waste

**If you have hazardous waste to get rid of, you need to look for special collections that are offered by Harris County and businesses that will recycle certain waste types.**

Harris County no longer will hold local community focused events. For example, they will not hold a recycling day specifically for Steeplechase. Harris County does hold these events routinely at County Parks or Maintenance Facilities. Visit the website ([www.cleanwaterways.org](http://www.cleanwaterways.org)) to find out when/where the next event will be held. After going to the website, look at the left column and there is a link under "Programs for HHW (household hazardous waste)". Click the link and you will see two boxes on the bottom of the page, one for Harris County and another for the City of Houston. In the Harris County box, click One Day Collection or Hazmobile Events to get locations and dates. There is also a link that defines what items are unacceptable in the box listing Hazmobile or One-Day Events. Finally, there is a listing of the City of Houston recycling locations. If you have any questions about Harris County activities, call 713-290-3000.

There is another website ([www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com)) that deals with recycling, etc. It has a box at the top that allows you to put in a product and a zip code and it produces a listing of nearby "recycling centers". I put in auto batteries and the site listed Wal-Mart at Eldridge & 1960, Advance Auto Parts on Jones Road, and Interstate All Battery Center on 1960.

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# STEEPLECHASE

## Attention Swimmers!

Steeplechase Stallions 2009 Swim Team Registration will begin soon. They are now entering their third season and welcome new and seasoned swimmers. Please come and sign up during our assigned registration days and times. **Register in person at the Steeplechase Club House Area On Saturday, March 14 or Saturday April 4 from 10 A.M. to noon.** All paperwork and payments must be turned in or mailed on April 4th. . Late Registration Fees assessed on April 5th. Also, you may sign up at the neighborhood website after March 14.

*Hope to see you there!!*



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## Cypress Christian School Students Provide "Socks for Little Souls"

Fifth graders at Cypress Christian School collected socks in February to donate to children at the Baptist Missions Center. In addition, the students made valentines for the children at the center. The "Socks for Little Souls" project began when the fifth grade classes were asked to find a way to share God's love with those less fortunate for Valentine's Day.

The mission of Cypress Christian School is "to equip students to engage and impact their world for Jesus Christ." Community service projects like "Socks for Little Souls" help to encourage students to make a difference in the lives of others both now and throughout their lifetimes.

Cypress Christian School is located at 11123 Cypress N. Houston Rd. at Jones Road and serves families of K-12 students in northwest Houston. For more information, call 281-469-7745 or visit the website at [www.CypressChristian.org](http://www.CypressChristian.org)



## Where Can You And Your Kids Find Great Friends? Steeplechase Moms Club

We are a group of moms that exchange babysitting services between families. We meet monthly to plan fun activities for our children, families, and ourselves. Our play dates are scheduled on Friday mornings, we host/co-sponsor seasonal parties, plan Mom's night out to a restaurant, and scrapbooking events. For more information on our next meeting call Candace at 832-237-2773 or visit us at [www.steeplechasetx.com](http://www.steeplechasetx.com) >community events & clubs.

## Attention All Seniors

We meet every Tuesday at 12pm at the clubhouse for fun, games and fellowship. All Seniors welcome – just come by!

## Want to Help Steeplechase Go Green?

Join our E-Mailing List at [www.SteeplechaseTX.com](http://www.SteeplechaseTX.com). Please add [webmaster@steeplechasetx.com](mailto:webmaster@steeplechasetx.com) to your address book to ensure you receive our emails. Your email address will not be shared, published, or used for soliciting.

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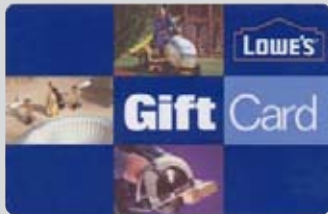
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## Recycling At Free Community Event:

*Help Us Recycle a Ton! Start collecting now!  
(and enjoy lots of other fun activities too!)*

**Where:** Cy-Fair Community Health & Wellness Expo  
Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress

**When:** Saturday, May 16th  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**What:** Paper, Plastic (#1,2,5 or 7), metal, phones,  
household batteries and electronics including  
computers, faxes, printer cartridges

**Why:** Do your part for the environment! Save the  
planet! You need to do "spring cleaning" !  
Show your family you can be "green" ! It's easy!

**Recycling area will be a drive up, drop off set up.**

**We CANNOT accept TV's, car batteries,  
microwaves, appliances, copiers or medical equipment.**

*Courtesy of Houston Computer Recycling, Sustainable Living  
Houston, and Abitibi Paper Retriever.*

**The Steeplechase Mom's Club and  
your Home Owners Association are  
sponsoring this years'**

## Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

***Come have fun with the kids (ages 0-10 years)***

**When:** Saturday, April 4 from 11 am – 1:30 pm

**Where:** Steeplechase Clubhouse Fields

***Please bring:** A dozen filled eggs (Chocolate is  
not recommended) Egg Hunt will begin at Noon.  
The Easter Bunny will be available for photos, so  
bring your camera. We will also have activities  
for the children, which include a moonwalk, craft  
activities, and food.*





## RAD Class offers Basic Self-Defense Training

The 2009 RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) classes for 14 and up are scheduled for April 13, 14 & 15, July 13, 14 & 15, and November 9, 10 & 11. They will be held at the Steeplechase Clubhouse from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. This is a highly acclaimed national program taught by specially trained Harris County Constables. Women of all ages have benefited from this course sponsored by our Steeplechase Community Improvement Association.

The instructors teach women to recognize different methods of staying safe and being aware of their surroundings. Learning escape techniques is also important, and throughout the class the ladies are taught several different punches and kicks. They are then given the opportunity to try out their new techniques on a RAD officer in protective gear. "It's the most fun part of the course," Jinnie Kelley says.

Watch for a new Kid's RAD class to be scheduled as well! For more information and to register for the classes contact Jinnie Kelley at 832-922-8030.

## Join the Steeplechase Crime Watch Program

What is a Neighborhood Crime Watch Program? It is a grass roots effort of neighbors coming together to reduce crime in the community. It involves getting to know your neighbors, working together with them to be alert to the potential for crime, and looking out for one another's interests. Neighbors working together through Neighborhood Crime Watch combat crime the most effective way, *before it starts!*

### ***MORE BLOCK CAPTAINS ARE NEEDED.***

If you are interested in participating as a Block Captain visit the website, [www.steeplechasetx.com](http://www.steeplechasetx.com) for more information and to register, or email [crimewatch@](mailto:crimewatch@steeplechasetx.com)



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Quoc Le, MD  
Alex Nguyen, MD  
Blandina Sison, MD  
Marian Allan, MD  
Anthony Yee-Young, MD  
Diana Malone, MD  
Shital Patel, MD  
Heidi Nashed-Guirgis, MD  
Luz Marquez, MD  
Jennifer Dong, MD  
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Brandi Valenzuela, PA-C  
Sydney Payne, PA-C

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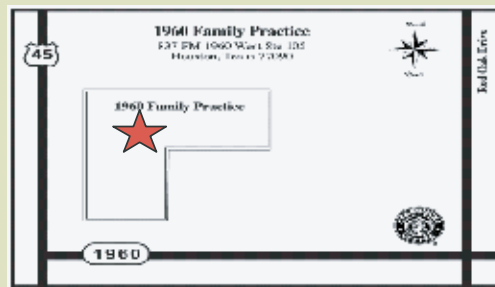
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**KARI HARRISON**  
Sales Representative

713-855-1731  
kari@PEELinc.com



**Peel, Inc.**  
www.PEELinc.com

311 Ranch Road 620 S Ste. 200 Lakeway, Texas 78734-4775

## Miscellaneous Information:

### *Writers Wanted*

Enjoy writing? The Steeplechase Newsletter wants you! We publish monthly and there's a need for profiles of interesting neighbors, nearby restaurants or businesses, and other stories of interest. Maybe you might want to write monthly column on a topic of your choosing (subject to editing, of course). Aspiring writers email newsletter@steeplechasetx.com.

**Next Open Residents Meeting: Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7pm**

## Hurricane Ike Repairs

The Steeplechase Board of Directors would like to thank you for continued efforts to repair your property following Hurricane Ike. We know that some repairs are delayed because many contractors are backed up. All repairs of Hurricane related damages must be completed by March 15th. Beginning March 16, 2009, hurricane damages will be treated as regular deed restriction violations. For more information contact PCMI @ 281-870-0585.



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## Need More Space? Reclaim the Space You Already Own

Submitted by Heather Bland-Ho

Many of us might be feeling the urge for more space. In the current economy, however, moving out or "up" might not be an option. But waiting out the housing downturn doesn't mean you need to put up with spaces that are stressing you out or bringing you down... RECLAIM THE SPACE YOU ALREADY HAVE AND FALL IN LOVE AGAIN with the home you already own!

Follow these simple steps to make your home work harder to meet your needs:

- 1. Prioritize:** What areas bug you the most? What are your trouble spots? From that list, which area, when improved, would have the biggest impact on your life?
- 2. Look with an Outsider's Eyes:** Pretend you're a stranger coming into the house- what do you notice? You can even ask a friend to help with this part... they will notice piles or unnecessary objects better and faster than you will.
- 3. Systematize:** What works and what doesn't work in the space? Create systems to help alleviate problems, such as putting baskets to corral errant shoes near a doorway or designating a home for newspapers and magazines that are always lying around.
- 4. Organize:** Get rid of things that you no longer need, are broken or don't serve a purpose. Keep only what you need, think to

be beautiful or love. Sort and purge to lighten up and focus on what's really important in life. Do you want to constantly pick hundreds of toys around the house? Or would you rather spend that time playing with your children?

- 5. Recognize when you need help:** Often we need another person to give opinions or to help keep the project moving along; enlist a friend or call a professional organizer. For a fraction of the cost of a new home, a professional organizer can help you transform your space and inspire you to do amazing things. I have worked with families to reclaim toyrooms, gamerooms, bedrooms, garages and many other spaces. Recently, one mom was overjoyed to see that her six-year-old daughter sat for two hours playing happily on her own because now she had the space to set up her Littlest Pet Shop "village." That same sweet girl also told her mom how happy she was to be able to do a cartwheel in her room again without hurting herself!
- 6. Realize the gain:** Congratulations- you've just made a major improvement to your home! You've reclaimed space you already own, without the cost and hassle of relocating. You've fallen back in love with your home, saving yourself thousands of dollars.



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10505 Jones Road at Fallbrook  
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Expires April 15, 2009





# STEEPLECHASE

## APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO MODIFY HOME OR PROPERTY

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE  
15995 N. BARKERS LANDING, SUITE 162  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77079  
Phone 281-870-0585  
Fax 281-504-1381

COMMUNITY: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNERS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

In an effort to protect the homeowner's rights and property values, it is required that any homeowner considering change or addition to their home OR property which would effect the exterior appearance **MUST** submit their request in writing to the Architectural Review Committee **PRIOR** to initiating any change or addition. If any change is made that has not been approved, the committee has the right to ask the homeowner to remove the improvement from the property.

PLEASE STATE PROPOSED  
CHANGE OR ADDITION(S) \_\_\_\_\_

**A LOT SURVEY OF THE PROPERTY INDICATING THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ADDITION, MODIFICATION OR STRUCTURE MUST BE ENCLOSED, ALONG WITH SPECIFIC DETAILS OF MATERIALS, COLOR, AND DIMENSIONS, INCLUDING HEIGHT.**

**YOUR LOT SURVEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROVIDED AT YOUR CLOSING. IF A LOT SURVEY CANNOT BE PROVIDED, PLEASE SUBMIT A DETAILED DRAWING OF THE PROPERTY SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE HOME AND EASEMENTS. THE PLACEMENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT MUST BE SHOWN INDICATING THE DISTANCE FROM SIDE AND/OR REAR FENCING.**

**IF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT HAS A ROOF, PLEASE SUBMIT AN ELEVATION DRAWING SHOWING HOW THE STRUCTURE WILL LOOK FROM A SIDE AND REAR VIEW.**

**NO LOT SURVEY IS REQUIRED FOR PAINTING, STAIN, SIDING OR ROOF REPLACEMENT.**

**COLOR SAMPLES ARE REQUIRED FOR PAINT, SOLAR SCREENS, ROOFING MATERIAL, BRICK OR SIDING.**

MATERIALS TO BE USED: \_\_\_\_\_

DIMENSIONS: HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ WIDTH \_\_\_\_\_ LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_

**FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE SURVEY AND ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN A DELAY AND/OR AUTOMATIC DISAPPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION.**

*I understand that the Committee will act on this request as quickly as possible and contact me in writing regarding their decision, however, the Committee is allowed from 30 to 45 days to respond. I also understand that in the event construction is not started within six (6) month from the date of approval, then a new application must be submitted. Further, I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure compliance with all applicable governmental ordinances, codes, permits, etc. affecting such improvement(s). I understand that I am not to begin any improvements until the Committee notifies me of their decision.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
HOMEOWNER'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CONSTRUCTION START/COMPLETION DATE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# ADVANCED

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# STEEPLECHASE

## Alternatives to Microsoft Office

*Submitted by Laurie Scott*

Anyone who works in an office and with a computer probably has Microsoft Office installed on it. Word, PowerPoint and Excel are found in almost every corporate environment. But when it comes time to buy software for your home computer, most people don't realize there are free and low-cost alternatives.

To start, Microsoft does offer an Office 2007 "Home and Student" edition that I've seen online for as low as \$80. This edition includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel and OneNote, but not Outlook, which is what many Office users expect with their "office" suite.

The most popular free option is probably Sun's Open Office 3 (available at [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)). It has powerful word processing, presentation and spreadsheet programs that are compatible with Microsoft Office, and also includes a graphics program and database (but again, no e-mail program.)

Another free alternative is a surprising name from the past. Lotus (owned by IBM) has resurrected its Symphony suite and is closer to Open Office than Microsoft Office. Its programs are IBM Lotus Symphony Documents, IBM Lotus Symphony Presentations and IBM Lotus Symphony Spreadsheets and also offer Microsoft Office compatibility.


Google has recently entered the office application fray with their own product (which are still in "beta" – a Google trademark), Google Docs. It offers Microsoft Office compatibility for Word and Excel with a twist, everything is stored online. You can access and share your files with anyone from anywhere. Some consider this the future, known as "cloud computing" (the internet is the cloud in computer network diagrams.)

Corel offers an \$89 alternative that is compatible with Office Word, PowerPoint and Excel, but includes VideoStudio LE for editing your home videos, and MediaOne SE for enhancing and organizing your photos.

At the time of this writing, the most popular (non-Microsoft) email client, Eudora is undergoing a rewrite but the older versions are still available at [www.eudora.com](http://www.eudora.com). If you're already using hotmail, yahoo mail, Gmail, or your Internet Service Provider's (ISP) web-based mail, then you don't need an e-mail client to run on your computer anyway.

So don't automatically feel like you have to fork out a couple hundred dollars just to have Office functionality at home. There are affordable and even FREE alternatives out there for you.

*Happy Computing!*



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notify you or your parents if your artwork  
was selected.]

SC

## STEEPLECHASE MARKET REPORT

Courtesy of "SUPER DAVE"

This market information report is provided to keep you informed of resale market activity in your subdivision.

	Aug 08	Sep 08	Oct 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Jan 09
\$160,000 & Above	1	2	0	0	0	0
\$140,000-159,999	0	0	0	2	1	1
\$120,000-139,999	3	0	1	1	1	1
\$110,000-119,999	0	0	1	1	0	0
\$100,000-109,999	2	0	1	0	1	0
\$100,000 Below	1	0	2	1	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
Highest \$/Sq Ft	72.49	72.49	72.49	72.49	79.73	78.45

This chart represents the homes that have sold and closed in the past 6 months according to the Houston Multiple Listing Service.

### Recent Sales By "SUPER DAVE" in Steeplechase

- 11402 Jocky Club Ct
- 12103 Canterhurst Way
- 9611 Secretariat
- 11307 Hambleton Way
- 11707 Meadowchase
- 9603 Meadowchase Ct
- 11510 Meadowchase
- 9826 Haverdown
- 9807 Paddock Ct
- 10134 Chiselhurst
- 11426 High Bridge
- 10110 Jockey Club
- 11307 Chiselhurst Way Ct
- 12323 Fetlock
- 9710 Cannock Chase Ct
- 11822 Yearling
- 11415 Jocky Club Ct
- 9611 E Savile
- 9806 Jocky Club
- 11615 Autumn Chase
- 12114 Yearling

## David "Super Dave" Flory



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- Top 9<sup>th</sup> Realtor in the US!\*\*
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\*According to information taken from the Houston Board of Realtors MLS computer.

\*\*Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2007, 3/2008