

News For the Residents of Stone Gate

October 2009 - Volume 2, Issue 10

Holiday Classic Comes to Life in Houston Repertoire Ballet's ...



Jared Matthews and Yuriko Kajiya perform in Houston Repertoire Ballet's The Nutcracker, which will be held Dec. 4-6 at Tomball High School. Photo credit: Kym Merrill

The Nutcracker, the beautiful, rich ballet telling the story of a 19th century girl and her magical nutcracker, will be presented by the Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB) with The Regional Arts Council December 4-6 at Tomball High School Auditorium, 30330 Quinn.

HRB's full-scale production of the beloved holiday classic presents young ballerinas from neighborhoods and areas including Cole's Crossing, Copperfield, Copper Grove, Copper Lakes, Concord Bridge, Twin Lakes, Winchester Country, Cypress Mills Estate, Bonaire, Powder Mill Estate, Fairfield, Lakewood Oaks Estates, Jersey Village, First Colony, Aberdeen Trails, Glennloch Farms, Longwood, Champions, Steeplechase, Hunterwood, Hunter's Valley, Rock Creek, Cimarron, Timberlake Estates and Winchester Trails.

Guest artists are Yuriko Kajiya and Jared Matthews of American Ballet Theater in New

York, who will perform the roles of The Sugar Plum Fairy and The Cavalier. Matthews grew up in Jersey Village and was a member of the Houston Repertoire Ballet, training under artistic director Victoria Vittum.

Performances will be held Friday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. A special Arts and Education performance and educational seminar, suitable for younger audiences and youth groups, will be presented Sunday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.hrbdance.org or by calling HRB at 281-861-0199, or the TRAC office in Tomball at 281-351-ARTS (2787). Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors/students and \$8 for the Arts and Education performance. Major funding for HRB is provided by ConocoPhillips Company and StatoilHydro. The Nutcracker is funded in part by grants from Harris County and the Texas Commission on the Arts through the Houston Arts Alliance.



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Newsletter Information

Publisher

Welcome to The Sun

A newsletter for Stone Gate residents by Stone Gate residents.

The Sun is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Stone Gate residents. Each newsletter will be filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at www.PEELinc. com or you can email it articles@peelinc.com. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome. Our goal is to keep you informed!

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Sun. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Stone Gate residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or *advertising@PEELinc.com*. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Stone Gate residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail <u>articles@PEELinc.com</u>.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or *advertising@PEELinc.com*.

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Stone Gate, Canyon Lakes, Canyon Lakes West & Canyon Lake Villages

Fall Community Garage Sale Saturday, October 10th from 7:00AM – 12 NOON

You'll find treasures galore in our community-wide garage sale, over 100 families participating! Residents will be selling their items from individual garages.

Our communities are located at Barker Cypress and 290, just south of 290.

For any questions, please contact Jennifer Clark, Director of Community Events at jclark@canyongate.com.

Teenage Job Seekers

Attention Teenagers

The **Teenage Job Seekers** listing service is offered free of charge to all Stone Gate teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to <u>articles@PEELinc.com</u> by the 9th of the month!

Business Classified

KIDS CAVES!!!!!!: What? Dad has his "Man Cave", Mom has the "Spa", give your child his or her very own Kid Cave. Custom decorated bedroom or play area. Decorative Painting, Fairytale Characters, Accessorizing, etc. www.KidCavesbyDesign.com or Jodi at 281-256-9267.

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A Sensible Plan for College Funding

Submitted by Rich Keith

How you fund college expenses is divided naturally between using your money, and by using other peoples' money. This sounds simple but each scenario requires understanding of the long-term impacts. In this article we are going to focus on free money, and on "Tax Scholarships," where the Federal Government helps you send your child to college through tax savings and other methods.

Recently the federal government boosted financial aid for higher education, including various tax breaks. An expanded version of the Hope Scholarship tax credit appeared called the American Opportunity tax credit. The new credit can save taxpayers as much as \$2,500 in tax, or \$5,000 for two collegians, and a refund of \$1,000, if you satisfy certain rules.

Remember that you can't claim the American Opportunity credit for expenses paid with withdrawals from a 529 plan. So you may wish to limit 529 withdrawals so some college expenses are paid with other money, to allow the use of the new tax credit. Some students won't qualify for the American Opportunity credit. Fortunately, a Lifetime Learning tax credit provides a maximum annual credit of \$2,000 for tuition and fees, subject to rules.

The tax advantages of 529 plans are many. A down year for stock funds, combined with a poor year for many bond funds, has driven

down the value of many folks' 529 accounts. People with younger children can keep contributing and look to a rebound. Parents of college and pre-college students, though, may have few options other than using 529 plan withdrawals to pay for higher education. Having said that, it may be better to pay for college from cash flow or from cash reserves. This delays liquidation of 529 assets as long as possible, allowing for a recovery. Remember to reimburse yourself from your 529 plan before the end of the calendar year in which the expenses were incurred.

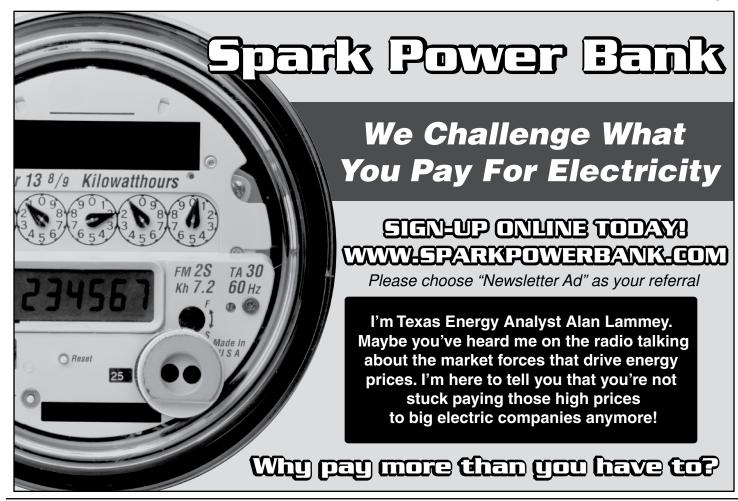
If the market does not come back in time for your needs, you still have options. If you have other funds that can cover college bills without disrupting your financial plan, keep the money in the 529 as long as feasible, in hopes of future tax-free growth. Of course, if a child is finishing school and there is no younger sibling who could use the funds in the future, then you should spend down your 529 funds. Tax tip: parents of college-bound children should realize net losses in their taxable accounts to lock in tax benefits. The proceeds can be reinvested in 529 accounts so that any future gains from today's low levels can be withdrawn, tax-free, to pay for college later on; perhaps in graduate school. Check with your financial coach and tax advisor for full details.



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November 21st & 22nd at Trader's Village

Accepting Donations Until Thursday, November 19th.



Items can be dropped off at Jersey Village Baptist Church parking lot corner of Rio Grande and Jersey Drive across from the fire station at the following times:

OCTOBER

Tuesday	10/20/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	10/22/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10/27/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	10/29/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday	11/03/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	11/05/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	11/10/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	11/12/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	11/14/09	10:00 a.m. – Noon
Sunday	11/15/09	10:00 a.m. – Noon
Mon - Thurs	11-19/09	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

To donate items at other times or if you have any questions please contact:

Rhonda Coolures	713.256.1811
Joe Bontke	713.907.2855

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Knights of Columbus

Knight of Columbus Council 8771 is sponsoring a Golf Tournament benefiting the Cypress Assistance Ministries and Youth Activities on Monday, October 5 2009 at Longwood Golf Club.

For more information and registration please see http://www.kofc8771.org.

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Saturday 8am-1pm

Sunday Noon-3pm

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meet our team

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Blandina Sison, MD

Anthony Yee-Young, MD

Diana Malone, MD

Shital Patel, MD

Heidi Nashed, MD

Luz Marquez, MD

Jennifer Dong, MD

Asma Ahmed, MD

Vu Anh Phung, MD

Annie Hoang, MD

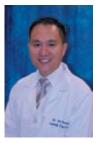
Tami Berckenhoff, PA-C

Brandi Valenzuela, PA-C

Sydney Payne, PA-C



1960 Family Practice Is Pleased To Introduce Our Newest Physicians



Dr. Vu Phung joined 1960 Family Practice in July 2009. Dr. Phung graduated from Texas Tech University and is board certified in Family Medicine. He completed his residency in Family Practice and in pursuing his special interest; he completed his fellowship in Geriatric Medicine. Dr Phung welcomes patients of all ages to his practice.



Dr. Annie Hoang joined our practice in August of 2009. She graduated from Texas A & M University and finished her training in Family Practice at Texas Tech University. She is board certified in Family Medicine and has been providing comprehensive care for adults and children with compassion and kindness for the past 10 years. She welcomes all new patients to her practice.

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Mammograms - 1960 Digital Imaging offers Digital Mammograms. Women should have a baseline mammogram beginning at age 35. Mammograms are recommended every 2 years through age 45. Women over the age of 45, should have a mammogram every year.

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Get Ready for Windows 7

For Lovers of XP and Haters of Vista Submitted by Laurie Scott

Users of Microsoft Windows have been waiting a long time for a great upgrade from Windows XP. Well, I have good news - Windows 7 is coming.

On October 22nd, the successor to the less than popular Windows Vista will begin to ship with new PC's and be available in stores and online. If you bought a new PC with Vista Home Premium installed in the last 3 months, you're probably going to get a free upgrade disk from the manufacturer.

Should you upgrade your current PC? There are some very compelling reasons to do so. In almost every area Windows 7 outperforms Vista and even XP in the time it takes to install, copy files on the hard drive or move files over a network. It also doesn't need quite as much memory to run well. It has MUCH better security than XP and is less annoying than Vista. Vista users know about the constant pop-ups of the UAC (User Account Control) every time you make the slightest change to the system, encouraging many to disable it altogether. Windows 7 has modified it so that it can be adjusted to be less intrusive while still protecting you from unwanted program installations. This makes it much easier to run as a regular user rather than an administrator (an almost impossible task in XP), providing better protection from viruses and trojans.

The Media Center provides support for playing Blu-Ray discs (if you have a drive that can play them), and the Home Group feature makes sharing files and printers between computer really simple.

Windows Live is a separate but I think important product from Microsoft that works well with Windows 7. It's a set of free online products that features SkyDrive, offering 25 gigabytes of online storage, and Family Safety, that in conjunction with your Windows user accounts provides access control to web content, and provides activity reports as well as administrator access (i.e. the parent) from any computer, anywhere.

The Professional version of Windows 7 includes the ability to run Windows XP as a "Virtual Machine" in a window, so if you have programs that need XP to run, you can run them in the virtual machine while continuing to run everything else in the Windows 7 environment (I know, that was geeky and your eyes probably started to glaze over, but it's a great feature none the less.)

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors - The People of the United Methodist Church

(Continued on Page 11)



Get Ready for Windows 7 - (Continued from Page 10)

System requirements for Windows 7 are a 1GHz or faster processor and at least 1GB of memory. You can perform a check of your computer by downloading the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor from microsoft.com. The upgrade for Windows 7 Home Premium will be \$119, but Microsoft will also be making a "Family Pack" available, giving you 3 licenses for \$149.

I've been using Windows 7 since the Beta version was released in January, having it on 3 systems without problems, including 2

desktops and 1 laptop. The interface is much cleaner with lots of great small features too numerous to list here. So if you're ready for a new computer, but it's not presently in your budget, consider upgrading your current computer to Windows 7.

The only regret you'll have is that it took Microsoft so long to finally get it right.



Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta at Fairbanks Library

The Fairbanks Branch of Harris County Public Library invites you to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at our fiesta on Saturday, October 10, from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. The library will have various craft activities for children, face painting, music, refreshments, door prizes, and a piñata for our celebration. The Fairbanks Library is located at 7122 N. Gessner, inside the William "Bill" Bane Park. For more information, call the library at (713) 466-4438.

Who: Harris County Public Library -

Fairbanks Branch

What: Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta

When: Saturday, October 10, 2009 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Where: Fairbanks Branch

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Attention All Aggie Moms

(And Future Aggie Moms)

Please join the members of the Northwest Harris County Aggie Moms Club as we welcome members of the Texas A&M Student Government Association to speak at our October meeting. Come listen as we learn more about the Student Government Association and all of the wonderful things they are doing for our Aggies. Find out more about all of the awesome opportunities available for our students to get involved at Texas A&M. The Aggie Moms Club is organized for charitable and educational purposes to promote Texas A&M University, to contribute to the welfare of our students, and to provide support for students and parents.

We will meet for food, fun, and fellowship on Tuesday, October 13th at 7 pm at the Houston Distributing Company located near Willowbrook Mall at the corner of 7100 High Life Drive and Cutten Road, just south of 1960. This is a great time to meet other Aggie moms, find out important details about life at Aggieland, buy care packages for your student, and get great advice from other Aggie parents.

The Aggie Moms will also be hosting their annual China Luncheon and Style Show Fundraiser on Saturday, October 17th beginning at 10:30 am at the Lakewood United Methodist Church on Louetta. Check out our website for ticket information and details about all upcoming events at www. nwhcaggiemoms.com or contact Robin Galvin at 713-705-2428.



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Fry Road Campus

Movie Theatre on Hwy. 290 & Spring Cypress Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service: 10:20 a.m.

Jones Road Campus

8350 Jones Road, 1/4 mile off Hwy. 290 & Jones Traditional Services: 8:15, 9:20 & 10:40 a.m. Contemporary Services: 9:20 & 10:40 a.m.



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Crossword Puzzle 12 13 15 19 22 26 28 29 30 32 31

ACROSS

- 1. Syllables used in songs (2 wds.) 1. Worship
- 5. Swiss mountains
- 9. Waterless
- 10. Expression
- 11. Unwanted plant
- 12. Striped animal
- 13. Seasickness symptom
- 15. Affirmative
- 16. Set loose
- 18. Pups
- 21. Epoch
- 22. Vapors
- 26. Vapor
- 28. Singing voice
- 29. Japanese city
- 30. Not mine
- 31. In (together)
- 32. Skewer

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

DOWN

- 2. Domain
- 3. In of (instead of)
- 4. Totals (2 wds.)
- 5. Wood chopper
- 6. African country
- 7. Tiny skin holes
- 8. Hit
- 10. Rhododendron
- 14. Mystery
- 17. School writings
- 18. Spanish coins
- 19. Salaam
- 20. Encomium
- 23. Pig food
- 24. Decorative needle case
- 25. Classify
- 27. American Kennel Club (abbr.)

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(first name, last initial)

Email Address:

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[This information will only be used to notify you or your parents if your artwork was selected.]

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