

# The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

December 2010

Volume 5, Issue 12

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Breakfast with Santa*

*December 4th, 2010 from  
9am to 11am.*

It will be located at Kids-R-Kids at 10740 Barker Cypress Rd in the Gymnasium Area. Bring your own cameras and Santa will pose for pictures, read a story and listen to all of your Christmas wishes.

*Hope to  
See You  
There!!!*

*Happy  
Holidays &  
Wonderful  
New Year!*

## Aggie Mom's Club *A Festive Holiday Social Evening*

The Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club invites you to join other Aggie moms for a festive social evening on Tuesday, December 14th. All current, future, and former Aggie moms are welcome to join us at 7 pm for some holiday fun in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The event will be held at the Houston Distributing Center conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the corner of Cutten Road and 7100 High Life Drive. Come and learn more about Aggie student activities, purchase great Christmas gifts from the Aggie boutique, win door prizes and book money for your students, and learn about upcoming scholarship opportunities. During the December celebration, we will have an "Aggie" Christmas ornament exchange. Please bring a wrapped Aggie tree ornament to exchange with other Aggie moms.

One of the main goals of the Aggie Mom's Club is to give scholarships to Aggie students. The NWHC Aggie Mom's Club is now accepting Scholarship Applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Complete applications and eligibility requirements are available at [www.nwhcaggiemoms.com](http://www.nwhcaggiemoms.com) and also at the general meetings. The application must be postmarked no later than Monday, Feb 7th, 2011. Last year 6 scholarships totaling \$6750 were awarded to area Aggie students. Please contact Vickie Hamley at 713-466-4494 or check out our website for more information!

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY

Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Fire Department.....	281-855-1110
Cy-Fair Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital.....	713-932-3000
Poison Control.....	800-222-1222

### SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD.....	281-897-4000
Posta Elementary.....	281-345-3660
Spillane Middle.....	281-216-1645
Cy-Fair High.....	281-897-4600
Cy-Falls High.....	281-856-1000
Cy-Woods High.....	281-213-1800
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
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## NEWSLETTER INFO

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.....	888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@Peelinc.com, 888-687-6444

### ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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 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.

## Association Dues

Good news. The HOA board voted and made the decision to NOT raise association dues this year. We were able to stay within our FY2011 budget with our current HOA rate.

Some things your association money goes to are to cover pool care and maintenance, community grounds and landscaping, water, repair of any vandalism, street light outage, fountain maintenance, special events and mosquito fogging. These are just some of the things your Association fees cover, they go right back to maintaining our neighborhood.



## Riata Ranch Homeowners Meetings

The Riata Ranch HOA Board of Directors encourages all homeowners to participate in the monthly board meetings. The meeting is held on the last Tuesday of every month. If you are interested in participating please contact SCS management in order to add your topic to the meeting agenda.

riatahoa@riataranch.net or  
Debbie Spaw, dspaw@scsmgmt.com  
Association Manager

SCS Management Services, Inc.  
7170 Cherry Park Dr., Houston Texas 77095  
Direct phone: (281) 500-7102, Direct fax: (281) 500-7172



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9AM to 2PM  
and  
6PM to 8PM

Pre-K3 through eighth grade  
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(281) 463-1444  
www.seasc.org

## RECYCLE

### *Do you know how easy it is to recycle?*

It costs you no money and just a little bit of time. Let me tell you what I do. I recycle my paper products such as magazines, computer paper, kid's old school work and all cardboard which includes shipping boxes and cereal boxes. I can fill up my recycle container pretty much in 2 days with these items. Think about it. If I can fill up my recycle container every 2 days think about how much trash you are putting into landfills when you can recycle it instead. You can drop these items off at any school and we have so many in the Cy-Fair area. Please think about doing this and saving our land for our children in the future.

## MORE ITEMS TO RECYCLE:

**Recycle your Target/Wal-Mart bags, glass and coke cans. All Targets now have a container to recycle all of the following:**

- Cell Phones
- Plastic Bags
- Glass
- Aluminum
- Plastic

I was so excited when I saw that Target did this that I recycle everything from my laundry containers to my beer bottles, to my coke cans! Plastic, Glass and Aluminum all go in the same container at Target so you don't even have to sort them!! Just start collecting it in a container, drive up to Target and put in their container (I even keep my plastic bag that I collected my items to use it for next time around). If this is too much then you have seen the recycling program offered in Riata Ranch for a small fee that is posted in this paper as well.

Use these easy outlet facilities to recycle as best you can. It really doesn't take much time and again the rewards are endless.

## When It Comes To SPORTS INJURIES ...



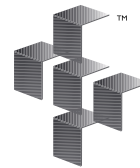
## We Have Your Bases Covered.

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**281-304-9113**



# Riata Ranch



## RECYCLING IN RIATA RANCH

*It's time we start recycling in Riata Ranch!!*

*"Please help us save the Earth one can or bottle at a time."*

*Contact A & B Recycling to help do your part and reserve your bins today!*



*Alex & Ben Hoffman*  
281-373-2114

### **\*\*Please Note:**

We ask for a one time deposit fee of \$5/each for your bins.

### **We provide:**

1. One bin for aluminum – for recycling cans and foil (No extra charge for recycling this for you.)
2. One bin for plastic - for all plastic with #1-5 and/or #7 (bottles, jugs and containers). Please wash out and remove caps since they jam the recycling machine. (\$10/month to recycle your plastic...that is only \$2.50/week to provide this service and help do your part.)
3. Weekly pick-up on Mondays.

**Alex and Ben Hoffman:** "We are two kids that live in Riata Ranch and are deeply concerned about the future of our planet, Earth. We noticed that we do not recycle in our neighborhood and feel it is time for us to recycle in order to reduce air and water pollution, conserve our natural resources, save energy, and help sustain our environment. Please join us in doing our part!!!"

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## Cy-Fair Republican Women Sponsor Walker Elementary

Cy-Fair Republican Women volunteer for many different causes throughout the year but one of their favorite ways to lend a helping hand is by spending time with the students at Walker Elementary School. For the past five years, this women's club donates their time and extra dollars to this CFISD underprivileged school.

In September, the club distributed Constitution Books to seven 5th grade social studies classes. "Last year, 5th graders used it on Constitution Day and later in the year when they studied government," said CFRW club President Mary Moss. "We take a lot of pride in helping this school out where we can and strive to make a difference in the lives of these kids."

Currently, Cy-Fair Republican Women are sponsoring a contest for the school, entitled "What the Constitution Means to Me." Fifth graders will write a one page essay on the subject and submit it to their teachers who will then select the top essay from their class. The best essays from the school will then be submitted to CFRW who will ultimately pick winners and present them with a twenty five dollar

gift certificate to Barnes and Noble. Winners will be announced at the school on December 8. This is also a day where CFRW will present all third graders at the school with dictionaries.

"The dictionaries are wonderful. They contain a great deal of valuable information, such as, maps, information about our presidents and our flag, a multiplication table, and a periodic table. For many, this may be the first book they've ever had in their house," Moss said.

Cy-Fair Republican Women donate their time to other causes as well. "We support our troops through Operation Interdependence," Moss said, "we collect money at our monthly meetings as well as toiletries. We also have an ongoing campaign to hand-crochet beanie caps to wear under their helmets and to keep them warm."

Cy-Fair Republican Women meet the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. and is open to all interested women. The meetings include lunch and a speaker. Meeting locations may change. For current information, check their website at cfrw.net



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Greg Riddle, Owner

## Lone Star College - CyFair Perspective

### IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR MINIMESTER, SPRING SEMESTER OR WEEKEND COLLEGE!

Catch up or get ahead with a mini-mester course starting Dec. 20. Get the courses you want and register early for spring semester. Weekday classes begin Jan. 18, 2011. Weekend College classes begin Jan. 21-23! For information, call 281.290.3200 or 832.782.5000 or go online to LoneStar.edu. For Weekend College information, call 832.482.1070 or go to LoneStar.edu/weekend-college.

### FREE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATIONS SET

Take a tour, learn about campus programs, meet with an advisor, choose a schedule and register for spring classes at LSC-CyFair's free New Student Orientations. Various sessions will be held at the campus at 9191 Barker Cypress Dec. 9 and Dec. 14 as well as Jan. 4, Jan. 6, Jan. 11 and Jan. 13. Sessions are free, but students must pre-register online at LoneStar.edu/cyfair-orientation to receive a confirmation with room location and parking information. Call 281.290.3430 or e-mail cfoutreach@lonestar.edu for information.

### TALENT IN THE BOSQUE GALLERY

The end-of-semester "Student Art Exhibition" continues through

Dec. 9 featuring LSC-CyFair's visual art students' work completed in their classes. Meet the artists Dec. 2 at a 4:30 p.m. reception. Go to LoneStar.edu/bosquegallery for gallery hours and information.

### CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT LSC-CYFAIR!

Mark the calendar for several family events to enjoy this holiday season. Hear the LSC-CyFair Concert Choir and Symphonic Band featuring Cy-Springs High School Choir in "A Holiday Ceoncert" Dec. 3-4. Or enjoy a free holiday concert of classic pieces by Handel, Mozart, Rutter and more in "String Power" Dec. 6. Or try a rousing show and a family favorite "projectjazz" Dec. 8. For information on these events, go to LoneStar.edu.

### FREE L.I.F.E. LESSONS IN DECEMBER

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs in December include "A Sentimental Journey" Dec. 8; and "Chicken Soup for the Bowl" Dec. 15. (no programs Dec. 22, Dec. 29 or Jan. 5 due to winter holiday.) Call the library at 281.290.3214 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to LoneStar.edu/library.

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## FINANCIAL FOCUS

*Still Time for Year-end Financial Moves But Hurry 'Cause...*



*Time is  
Running Out*

The holiday season is always a busy time of year, so you're probably pretty busy. But it is important to take some time now to evaluate year-end financial moves that may be beneficial in preparing for your financial future.

Which year-end moves should you consider? You will want to talk to your financial advisor and tax and legal professionals first, but here are a few ideas to get you started:

- **Boost your IRA contributions.** You have until April 15, 2011, to fully fund your IRA for the 2010 tax year, but the sooner you finish with your 2010 contribution, the quicker you can get started on your 2011 contribution — and the earlier in the year you fund your IRA, the more time you give your account the opportunity to grow.
- **Put more money into college savings plans.** If you have a 529 college savings plan for yourself or someone else, consider putting more money in before year-end. You can gift up to \$13,000 (\$26,000 per married couple) per person per year without gift tax consequences. However, this must be accomplished by year-end.

- **Be generous.** If you've been thinking of making charitable gifts, don't put them off any longer. As long as you make a donation to a qualified charity before the year ends, you can claim a deduction on your 2010 tax return. For example, if you donate \$100 to a charitable group [either a religious organization or one that has received 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service], and you're in the 25% tax bracket, you can deduct \$100 (with a tax benefit of \$25) when you file your taxes for 2010, providing, of course, that you itemize. If you donate stocks or other types of assets, you may also be able to save on capital gains taxes, because it will be the charity, not you, that eventually sells those assets.
- **Sell your "losers."** If you own investments that have lost value since you purchased them, you can sell them before 2010 ends and then use the tax loss to offset capital gains you may have earned in other investments. If you don't have any capital gains, you can use up to \$3,000 of your tax losses to offset other ordinary income. If your loss is greater than \$3,000, you can "carry over" the excess and deduct it from your taxes in future years. However, if you then want to repurchase the investment you sold, you'll need to wait at least 31 days to avoid violating the IRS' "wash sale" rules.
- **Take capital gains.** In 2011, the tax rate on long-term capital gains is scheduled to increase to 20% for most investors, up from the 15% rate it's been the last several years. If you have stocks or other appreciated assets that you were thinking of selling in the near future, you might want to do so before the year comes to a close. However, it's generally not a good idea to make investment decisions strictly because of tax consequences. If your appreciated assets are still a part of your overall financial strategy, you may be better off holding them for the long term, even with a higher capital gains rate.

Considering these moves before the year ends may help you better prepare to address your financial picture in 2011.



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#### Hours

Monday	Closed
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Friday	6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
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Sunday	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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## An American Holiday Tradition

Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, and goodwill. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate than us, especially impoverished children. For over half a century, one organization, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, is the unchallenged leader in looking after America's needy children at Christmas.

Though we know that gifts aren't the true meaning of Christmas, a child's expectation of a present from Santa is their innocent definition of hope. And, to try to bolster hope in our world is the least we can do. Do you remember counting the days until Santa arrived? Then, lying quietly in your bed on Christmas Eve hoping to hear reindeer on the roof? As adults, we cherish those memories, but for children waiting in their beds this Christmas, the worries of no presents under the tree can be all too real. Jobs have been lost and media reports continue to deliver



unfavorable news for many families and even the littlest children are frequently aware of the struggle to put food on the table.

The ultimate success of Toys for Tots depends on the support of the local community and the generosity of people, such as you, who help the U.S. Marines carry on the tradition of delivering toys to children who might otherwise be forgotten by donating toys and funds to purchase toys.

The Toys for Tots campaign in our area is being conducted once more by the Marine Corps League Tijerina Detachment #1295. This Detachment is named after and in

honor of James R. Tijerina, Katy High School Graduate, who died serving his country in Karma Iraq. All toys and funds collected remain in our local area. The toys are distributed through local assistance agencies and all families are screened and vetted. This year we are proud to include the children of our local military who are presently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If you would like to participate, please drop off a new unwrapped toy in the one of the toy bins located at the following Fairfield locations: Fairfield Chiropractic, Fairfield Recreation Center, Jitterbug Cafe, Kids R Kids or RE/MAX. The collections bins will be set up from November 15 thru December 17, 2010. The ages of the children are from infant to 17 years of age (as long as the child is in school). If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kimberly Drake at 281-758-0936.

## Electricity is **ON SALE** at StarTex Power!



Alan "Petrodamus" Lammey, host of 'Energy Week', can be heard every Sunday on 1070 KNTH in Houston.

I'm Texas Energy Analyst, Alan Lammey. In case you didn't know, electricity rates are currently at lows not seen in years, which means that NOW is the time to lock in a very low electricity rate with the provider that I highly recommend to all my radio show listeners: StarTex Power. StarTex Power is local and reputable, with some of the most competitive rates available in all of Texas. You can switch right online at [www.StarTexPower.com](http://www.StarTexPower.com)

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**PLEASE USE "NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER" as your referral!**



PUCT #10089





## Chili Cookers Wanted!

The Cy-Ranch High School FFA will be hosting its 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, December 4th, in the Cy-Ranch High School parking lot located off of Fry Road. A team of local judges will be used to judge the chili; but for all you Chili Eaters, plan on coming by and tasting some Chili samplings from the hot and spicy to the mild and tangy and cast your vote for the perfect Texas Chili. Tickets for chili are \$5 each, four for \$15, and children ages 10 & under are free. Additional food and beverages will also be available as well as games for children and adults.

Registration is going on now for Chili Cookers. Additional information on registration and the cook-off rules can be found at: [www.CyRanchFFAboosterclub.com](http://www.CyRanchFFAboosterclub.com) Chili cooking begins by 9AM and ends at 2PM. Judging will commence at 2:05PM. The Grand prize winner will receive \$500, 1st place winners \$100 per category, and 2nd place winners \$50 per category.

### BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

**\*TUTORING\*** Early Intervention Specialist is wanting to tutor your child ages 4-10. I will work with your child to help them become a GREAT READER!! Please call 979.229.3363 for more info.

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Cypress Ranch Athletic Booster Club Presents  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**  
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LONGWOOD  
*Golf Club*

**Saturday April 16, 2011**

Registration 11:30 a.m.

Shotgun Start 1:30 p.m.

Get your entry form at:  
[www.cypressranchmustangs.com](http://www.cypressranchmustangs.com)

- ☐ \$500 per foursome\*
- ☐ Hole-in-one prizes
- ☐ Closest-to-pin prizes
- ☐ Beat the coach contest
- ☐ Putting contest
- ☐ Silent auction
- ☐ Dinner (after tournament)

\* If a foursome enters before March 16, 2011,  
each player from that foursome will be entered in a  
Special Prize Drawing!!



If you or your company would like to  
be a hole sponsor, or if you need  
further information, please contact

**Bob McInerney**  
**(713) 906-6747**

## LONE STAR COLLEGE *CyFair Perspective*

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The end-of-semester "Student Art Exhibition" continues through Dec. 9 featuring LSC-CyFair's visual art students' work completed in their classes. Meet the artists Dec. 2 at a 4:30 p.m. reception. Go to LoneStar.edu/bosquegallery for gallery hours and information.

### CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT LSC-CYFAIR!

Mark the calendar for several family events to enjoy this holiday season. Hear the LSC-CyFair Concert Choir and Symphonic Band featuring Cy-Springs High School Choir in "A Holiday Concert" Dec. 3-4. Or enjoy a free holiday concert of classic pieces by Handel, Mozart, Rutter and more in "String Power" Dec. 6. Or try a rousing show and a family favorite "projectjazz" Dec. 8. For information on these events, go to LoneStar.edu.

### FREE L.I.F.E. LESSONS IN DECEMBER

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs in December include "A Sentimental Journey" Dec. 8; and "Chicken Soup for the Bowl" Dec. 15. (no programs Dec. 22, Dec. 29 or Jan. 5 due to winter holiday.) Call the library at 281.290.3214 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to LoneStar.edu/library.

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