



Steeplechase

NEWSLETTER



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

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for the following Steeplechase events in 2011!

03/24/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour at On The Box
04/28/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour
05/03/11:	Open Residents Meeting
05/26/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour
06/23/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour
07/28/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour
08/02/11:	Open Residents Meeting
08/25/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour
09/22/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour
10/27/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour
11/01/11:	Open Residents Meeting
11/22/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour
12/22/11:	Steeplechase Resident's Happy Hour



SAFETY CORNER

TIP OF THE MONTH **SAFEGUARD YOUR CHILDREN**

Learn the warning signs that your child might be involved with drugs or gangs.

Spend time listening to your children or just being with them. Help them find positive, fun activities that they can take part in.

Always know, and know about your child's activities.

Know where your child is, and when he or she will return. If your child is at a friends house, make sure you have exchanged contact information with the other parents.

Be sure you and your child are clear on your rules and expectations for activities. Make absolutely clear what is OK and what is not.

Teach your child Internet safety tips. The people they talk to online might not be who they say they are.

A great thing about kids is their natural trust in people, especially in adults. It's sometimes hard for parents to teach children to balance this trust with caution. But kids today need to know common-sense rules that can help keep them safe—and build the self-confidence they need to handle emergencies.

Lynn Cirillo
Steeplechase Security Coordinator



Go Green Go Paperless

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Visit PEELinc.com for details.

STEEPLECHASE

IMPORTANT

Telephone Numbers



Emergency.....	911
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Cy-Fair Fire Dept	911
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-890-4285
Animal Control	281-999-3191
Center Point (Street lights)	713-207-2222
http://cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage	
Neighborhood Crime Watch	SteeplechaseSecurity@gmail.com
Library.....	281-890-2665
Post Office.....	713-937-6827
Steeplechase Community Center.....	281-469-CLUB
Deed Restriction Issues (PCMI)	281-870-0585
Water/Sewer	713-405-1750
Architectural Control (PCMI)	281-870-0585
Trash Pick-up (Best Trash, LLC) (Wed. & Sat.)	281-313-BEST
Harris Co. Pct. 4 Road Maintenance	281-353-8424
Harris Co. MUD #168.....	hcmud168board@gmail.com
Community Events.....	281-469-CLUB
Clubhouse Rentals: Private Parties and Community Events (Phyllis McFarland).....	832-922-8031
Traffic Initiative	281-290-2100
Private Pool Parties	713-416-5161

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. (Advertising).....	kelly@PEELinc.com , 888-687-6444
Articles.....	newsletter@steeplechasex.com

Community Center Contacts

Community Maintenance Concerns

PCMI	281-870-0585
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Clubhouse Rentals

Private Parties and Community Events (Phyllis McFarland).....	832-922-8031
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Pool Company Contact

Texas Aquatic Enterprises, Inc.	713-416-5161
.....	www.texasaquaticenterprises.com

Board Member Contact

PCMI	281-870-0585
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Schools

Emmott Elementary.....	281-897-4500
Campbell Middle School.....	281-897-4300
Cy-Ridge High School.....	281-807-8000

Want to Help Steeplechase Go Green?

Join our E-Mailing List at www.SteeplechaseTX.com. Please add webmaster@steeplechasex.com to your address book to ensure you receive our emails. Your email address will not be shared, published, or used for soliciting.

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

Steeplechase Community Improvement Association Board of Directors

Maurice Amidei	Robert Kaechler	Nace Peard
Michael Cirillo	Virginia Kelley	Kari Suttles
James Clarke	Bill Kuschmeider	Wade Wnuk

If you need to contact a Director, please contact PCMI/Severn Trent at 281-870-0585 and they will forward your request.

Steeplechase Sanctioned Committees

Architectural	Playground	Communications
Security	Welcome	Tennis
Pool	Landscape	Clubhouse

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HOW TO SCREW-UP A CAR THIEF'S DAY

It takes less time for a professional thief to break into your car, start it up and drive away as it does for you to walk into 7-11, plunk down three bucks for a bagel and coffee and emerge to watch your ride recede into the distance. And don't presume your elderly clunker's immune; the most stolen vehicle of 2008, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, was the 1994 Honda Accord.

"We know that thieves never miss an opportunity to make a quick buck by stealing a car," says Joe Wehrle, president and CEO of NICB. "They work weekends, nights and holidays and ironically, they are particularly busy on New Year's Day and Labor Day."

While there isn't any way to stop a crook who really wants your ride and has the tools and know-how to make it happen, the following tips can help your car become a less inviting target and slow down, discourage or actually prevent car theft.

Park in plain sight

Our natural inclination is to hide something we don't want anyone to steal, but for cars, visibility is the key to safety, say experts. Thieves prefer to work out of sight of people and electronic recording devices, so leave your car in a well-lit, populated area.

Take your keys---always.

If you think this tip falls into the "duh" section of car theft prevention, try Googling the phrase "keys in ignition" or similar and you'll see many trusting souls leave the equivalent of a sign reading "FREE CAR!" hanging from their ignition switches on a daily basis. Car theft is often a crime of opportunity, so shut yours off and pocket your keys even if you're only ducking into a convenience store.

Don't hide your keys anywhere within or outside the car.

You know those magnetic key holders you

can buy to store your spare key? Leave it in your house on the fridge, not under bumpers, in the glove compartment or anywhere in the car. Thieves know all the hiding places you do, and probably a few more.

Use a variety of methods to slow would-be thieves.

Car alarms are ubiquitous and often go ignored. When used in tandem with other theft prevention methods, though, they will make a thief naturally try to work faster, and if he comes across other security measures, he may give up altogether and move on. Apply the emergency brake, turn your wheels hard left or right and set the car in "park" or in gear, making it more difficult for you to be quickly towed, and consider using a vehicle recovery system like LoJack or an engine immobilizer device such as Ravelco.

(Continued on Page 4)



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How to Screw-Up a Car Thief's Day - (Continued from Page 3)

Disable your battery if parking long-term

A thief won't spend time trying to diagnose an apparent engine problem. Consider yanking one of the cable wires to your battery if you're leaving your car parked at an airport or anywhere else where it will sit unattended for more than a few days.

Sign valuable parts

Take the time to embed your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the inside of your trunk, inside your doors, on your sound system components and any other pricey parts thieves like to chop. If you don't feel like doing it yourself, contact your local police precinct or even your insurance company, some of whom offer free VIN etchings

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PUCT #10089

Online Service Option for Citizens Reporting Crimes

The Sheriff's Office has implemented an on-line service called "CopLogic" for Harris County citizens to report crimes. **This is for reporting lost property, theft or vandalism ONLY and when the complaint has NO suspect information.** This service is provided as an option to the citizen in lieu of waiting for a unit to respond to their location.

Examples of incidents that can be reported via CopLogic:

1. LOST PROPERTY: When property is missing or lost, i.e. leaving items in a restaurant or missing from home.
2. THEFT: Property is taken without the owner's permission.
3. VANDALISM: The act of changing, modifying or defacing public or private property, i.e. graffiti, knocking over a mailbox, throwing a rock through a window, etc.

To access this service, please visit the Sheriff's Office web site: www.hcso.hctx.net

- Click on "Report Crime" link at top of screen
- Click on "Report an Incident"
- Follow instructions on the screen for filing an offense report

CopLogic is an alternative method for the citizen to report the crime quickly, get a case number and print a copy of the report. It does not replace entering a call for service for a unit to respond if the citizen prefers to see a unit or does not have access to the Internet.

ARE YOU RECEIVING Neighborhood Security Alerts?

Interested in receiving neighborhood security alerts? If so, please send an email request to steeplechasesecurity@gmail.com. Remember, for your safety, emails are sent using 'blind copy' (BCC) so you will need to add steeplechasesecurity@gmail.com to your safe senders list.

Already on the security alert distribution list? Please make sure if you have changed your email address, to email steeplechasesecurity@gmail.com so you don't miss-out on important notifications.

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ELECTION RESULTS

The Board of Directors would like to announce the results of the elections held on Monday night, February 7th. Before the new board is announced, it is important to recognize the contributions of board members who have just completed terms and who were either not elected or decided not to run for re-election. Thank-you for your efforts, energies, sacrifices of time, dedication and leadership; you have had a lasting affect on our community and the Board of Directors and homeowners alike owe you a debt of gratitude. Those members are as follows:

- Kathy Dowling
- Greg Fredericks
- Andy Sherbondy
- Tricia Winters
- Mike Young

Two new board members were elected and seven members of the out-going board were re-elected. Together, these nine individuals will comprise the new Board of Directors for the Steeplechase Community Improvement Association (SCIA). The Board will face its share of challenges that will affect our neighborhood and it is important to remind all homeowners that there is safety in numbers. The Board

enthusiastically desires to establish several different committees that will help to guide key decisions that affect our homes, our families and our neighborhood. Getting involved where you live and being a volunteer is one of the most selfless acts you can commit. It is with the utmost sincerity that we would like to invite our homeowners to join a committee (Architectural, Security, Welcome, Playground, Pool, and Landscape to name a few). Additionally, we would like to have more suggestions from our homeowners on what would make Steeplechase a better place to live. For more information regarding volunteering or to offer suggestions please email our management agent Joanne Williams of PCMI/Severn Trent at jcwilliams@stes.com.

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@steeplechasex.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.

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Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club Information Sessions

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 7TH, 2011 AND
FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 22ND, 2011

The Northwest Flyers Track Club will host 2 open house/registration sessions for all middle and high school athletes and their parents interested in joining for the 2011 season. The events will be held on **Thursday, April 7, and Friday, April 22, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM** in the **Cypress Room at the Methodist Willowbrook Hospital**, 18220 Tomball Parkway, Houston, at the corner of FM 1960 and Highway 249. The sessions 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, 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 24 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 36 young athletes to compete at the US Junior Olympics National Championships in Sacramento, California.

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



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Boy Scout Fundraiser LAWN AERATION



The boys from Boy Scout Troop 1830 are trying to earn some money for their summer High Adventure trip by doing lawn aeration.

Lawn aeration is the secret weapon in making your lawn healthy. Aeration involves making holes in the lawn by pushing a rod into it and "coring", extracting a plug of soil. By aerating your lawn, you provide the following benefits to your lawn and its root system:

- Oxygen gets to the roots and the soil allowing it to "breathe"
- Fertilizers and nutrients get access to the root system
- Water is able to better soak the soil and reach the root system
- Helps to break up thatch
- Tight, compacted soil is loosened up allowing the root system to grow



We will be using a heavy duty lawn aerator, and we will have flags to mark areas to avoid (e.g. sprinkler heads).

Cost: \$40 for front yard

Cost: \$70 for both front and back yards

When: March 5

Contact: Vaughn Jorgensen

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Tips for Mastering the Farmers' Market

By Melanie Dragger, M.Com.

Many people are taking steps to improve their health and the environment by eating organically grown and raised foods. While some people are selecting organic items at their local grocery store, farmers' markets are becoming increasingly popular. Over the past year, according to the Department of Agriculture, the number of farmers' markets in the U.S. increased by 858, or 16 percent, from 5,274 in 2009 to 6,132 in 2010. When the USDA first began tracking farmers' markets in 1994, there were only 1,755 markets.

Outside of growing your own produce and raising your own livestock, shopping at a farmers' market is the best way to obtain fresh, local, and seasonal fruits, vegetables, and herbs, as well as farm-fresh eggs, meat, poultry, and dairy products. Many farmers' markets also offer artisan breads, honey, and seasonal jams, jellies, and preserves.

Below are tips to help you master your local farmers' market:

1. Do Your Research – Before heading to the market, research what produce is in season in your area. Since all products sold at a farmer's market may not be organic, and some organic products sold may not be certified, familiarize yourself with the organic certification process and product labeling. Information on the USDA's National Organic Program can be found at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.
2. Bring Your Own Containers – While some

vendors have bags and boxes available for customers, bringing your own containers is the best way to ensure you will be able to transport and protect your purchases properly. Additionally, recycling containers helps the environment by reducing the number of natural resources used to produce new ones.

3. Bring Cash – Swing by your bank or ATM before hitting the farmers' market. Most vendors do not accept checks or credit cards. Bring small bills, since it may be difficult for some vendors to make change.
4. Go Early or Go Late – The best items usually go first, so try to get to the market early. However, before making a purchase, take a quick trip down the aisles, since prices can vary greatly among vendors. If you can't make it to the market when it first opens, go at the end of the market day to catch deals from vendors trying to unload their remaining products.
5. Speak with Vendors – Shopping at a farmers' market allows you an opportunity to speak directly with growers and farmers. Not familiar with Swiss chard? Looking for a new way to prepare eggplant? Most vendors love to share their knowledge, including discussing their production methods, providing storage and transportation advice, and sharing recipes and cooking tips.

Buying organic products at your local farmers' market offers numerous benefits, including boosting the local economy, reducing the amount

of toxic chemicals that enter your body and the environment, and decreasing the amount of fossil fuels used to transport products to consumers. However, organic products can be more expensive than conventionally grown and raised products, and some organic products may be difficult to find in some areas. If going 100% organic is not feasible, use the following list as a guide. According to the 2010 report of the Environmental Working Group, a non-profit organization specializing in research and advocacy related to public health and the environment, these 12 fruits and vegetables consistently contained the highest amount of pesticides when conventionally grown, and should be consumed in organic form when possible:

1. Celery
2. Peaches
3. Strawberries
4. Apples
5. Blueberries (domestic)
6. Nectarines
7. Sweet Bell Peppers
8. Spinach
9. Cherries
10. Kale/Collard Greens
11. Potatoes
12. Grapes (imported)

The EWG's annual ranking of produce pesticide contamination is based on its analysis of tests conducted by the USDA and the federal Food and Drug Administration. More information on the EWG, as well as the full list of fruits and vegetables ranked, can be found at <http://www.ewg.org>.



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The M.A.N.E. Event – Mustang Stampede 2011 1K & 5K Fun Run

The M.A.N.E. Event will host its first annual Mustang Stampede on Saturday, April 9th. The Fun Run will be located at the Bridgeland Activity Center and will start at 8AM. Children and adults can participate in either the 1K or 5K run. Early registration fee for adults is \$25 and for children and students the fee is \$15. It's a great event for the entire family, so come and join the fun. All proceeds and donations go to support the 1st graduating class of seniors at Cypress Ranch High School. The M.A.N.E. Event is a non-profit organization sponsoring a drug and alcohol free after-prom event for the Cy-Ranch senior class. Visit www.sites.google.com/site/mustangstampede2011 for more info.

**NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

Lone Star College CyFair Perspective

Free Spring Business Success Seminars Series Set

The Business Success Seminars are back with a free spring series. Topics are: "The CEOs of Networking" March 23, "QuickBooks for Small Business" March 30, "LinkedIn – The Ultimate Business Place in Social Media" April 6, "Wow, I wish I knew that BEFORE I started my business!" April 13, "The Hidden Power of the Elevator Pitch" April 20 and "Beyond the Bullet Point" April 27. Seminars are held Wednesdays from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. in library room 131, on the campus at 9191 Barker Cypress. No sign up is required and there will be door prizes. Sponsoring this series are the Small Business Development Center and the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library. For information, go to LoneStar.edu/library/business-seminars or call 281.290.3214 or 832.482.1057.

Save-the-date scholarship and open house notices

Many scholarship opportunities with varying requirements and award amounts are available at Lone Star College-CyFair. The new scholarship application deadline for the fall semester is April 1. Go to LoneStar.edu/scholarships-cyfair for information. LSC-CyFair's Open House, set 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. April 2, will feature an academic fair with representatives from the academic and workforce programs, presentations on admissions, advising, testing and financial aid as well as free refreshments and campus tours. Go to LoneStar.edu/openhouse for information.

Look What's on Stage and in the Gallery

On stage, enjoy "MusicNCompany" an instrumental variety show March 10. For event information, go to LoneStar.edu/boxoffice. In the Bosque Gallery, "Lookie" by Wendy Wagner continues until March 10, then visit "Visual Communication Program Exhibition" featuring student portfolio pieces March 28 through April 7. The closing artist reception is at 4:30 p.m. April 7. For gallery information, go to LoneStar.edu/bosquegallery.

To Jump Start College Career – Attend Dual Credit Information Sessions

High school juniors and seniors can earn high school and college credit in classes such as English, math, history, psychology, economics and more. The classes are transferable to most public universities and colleges. Tuition is free, though some fees do apply. Fee and textbook scholarships are available. LSC-CyFair and the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District are co-hosting this information session for 10th- through 12th-graders and their parents March 30 and April 12 at LSC-CyFair. For information, call 281.290.3947, e-mail cfcinfo@lonestar.edu or go to LoneStar.edu/jumpstart-cyfair.

L.I.F.E. Lessons in March

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 include

(Continued on Page 11)

Lone Star College-CyFair Persp. -(Continued from Page 10)

"What's That Noise in your Attic?" March 2, "Beyond the Foot Massage - The Feet Don't Lie" March 9, No Workshop - Mid-Semester Break March 16, "Secrets of the Bible" March 23 and "Lone Star Stalag" March 30. Call the library at 281.290.3214 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to LoneStar.edu.

Free Cinema WOW! at the Library Movies and Discussions Continue

LSC-CyFair professors will host six films immediately followed by an engaging discussion set March 8 and March 22 in honor of Women's History Month and April 5 in honor of Earth Day (which is April 22.) The series ends April 19 with a film that chronicles the impact of divorce. All films are shown at 6:30 p.m. in room 131 of the library and light refreshments will be served. For information, call 832.482.1045 or go to LoneStar.edu.

Get Licensed to Drive Teen Driver's Education Available

Two classes for teens, ages 15 to 17, are available March 22 and April 19. The driver's education course covers road rules, road signs and laws to prepare the teens for the Department of Public Safety's written exam. Other topics are car maintenance, effects of drugs

and alcohol, laws and penalties for drinking and driving, emergency situations, basic driving procedures, road rage, and insurance. Parents are responsible for the in-car instruction. Students are required to purchase the Texas Traffic Safety Education Student Manual, which is available at the campus bookstore. Register in person in the Continuing Education office in MOD1. For information, call 281.290.3460.

Prom Dress Donations and Give-Away for Teens in Need

The Seventh Annual Prom Dress Give-Away benefiting teens without the financial means to purchase a dress for prom is set at Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library, 9191 Barker Cypress from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays April 10, April 17 and April 24 in the library, room 131 as well as by appointment. Drop off donations of prom dresses, jewelry (broken pieces to be refurbished accepted as well), unused make up samples, shoes, purses and accessories at the library's Customer Service Desk located on the LSC-CyFair campus at 9191 Barker Cypress. Teens in need of a dress should contact the Youth Service Specialist at their high school or Prom Closet organizers Nancy Flanakin at meaford8510@yahoo.com or LSC-CyFair Teen Librarian Elise Sheppard at elise.j.sheppard@lonestar.edu or 281.290.5248.



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