

# The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

November 2011

Volume 6, Issue 11

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

## SPECIAL JOINT COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, November 15, 2011

7:15pm to 8:30pm

**Home Safety Presentation:  
Important Tips for the Holidays and Beyond**  
Presentation By:  
**Sheriff Deputy Ricci Guajardo**  
(Community Sheriff Deputy)

Topics that will be covered:  
Landscaping for Safety  
Door/Window Locks and Security  
Vehicle Protection Measures  
Social Networking- Working Against You  
Out and About Precautions

Mr. Chuck O'Malley, owner of Langham Creek Ace Hardware, will have all recommended safety equipment on hand for viewing and demonstrations after the formal presentation. Limited opportunity to make immediate purchases will be offered. Our thanks to Langham Creek Ace Hardware for giving us the added benefit of having the proper equipment on hand, instead of trying to remember what was presented during the program! Mr. O'Malley's expertise will not only add to the program, but help homeowners protect their property!

The presentation will be held at the Sterling Country Club at Houston National- only 5 minutes from Riata Ranch. 16500 Houston National Blvd., located just off Queenston between Cypress North Houston and Tuckerton.

**The entire program is open to everyone in the community and FREE of charge!**

Thank you to all the participating Homeowners Associations, Mr. Chuck O'Malley who owns Langham Creek Ace Hardware and Mr. Rene Rangel who is CEO of Sterling Country Club at Houston National, who allowed this event to be free to our community!

*Don't miss this great opportunity to participate  
in one of the best Home Safety Programs FREE of charge!*

## 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
Postma Elementary .....	281-345-3660
Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
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
Comcast Cable/High Speed Internet.....	713-341-1000
Waste Mgt .....	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt.....	281-463-1777
United States Post Office .....	800-275-8777

### LIBRARY

Cy-Fair College Library.....	281-290-3210
------------------------------	--------------

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### NEWSLETTER

Co-Editors.....	rjose@rrhoa.net
Jennifer Hobock & Randy Jose	
Peel, Inc.....	888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@Peelinc.com

### ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email [rjose@rrhoe.net](mailto:rjose@rrhoe.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.

## Activities and Tidbits of Interest

### WHERE DID MY GRASS GO????

The drought combined with brown patch issues has taken a serious toll on many of our lawns. You wonder why one neighbor has a dead lawn and right next to it, a green manicured lawn. Why me?? Of course, there are some where the lawns simply have not been watered, fertilized or treated for insects and diseases. However, in these conditions luck has a lot to do with the survival of even the best kept lawns. The main issues are the need for extra watering, probably a daily watering is needed for those lawns with large trees. It is the root system of the large trees that takes up gallons of the water you put on the lawn. This puts some of us in a bind if we are trying to conserve water and yet keep our grass. For others, even daily watering does not save the lawn and it will look spotty as to the areas of grass and dirt/roots.

The best thing you can do to resolve some of these issues for starting new grass planting/sodding is to deep water the trees (refer to Randy Lemonís Garden Line on the KUHF web page) and cut out surface roots, especially those wandering towards your foundation or the sidewalks/driveways. Mostly, these roots are expendable for older trees but it is always a good idea to spend the few bucks and have a tree specialist decide which roots live and which don't. Also, thinning the trees is great for allowing more light to reach the grassy areas of the yard and giving the grass (especially St. Augustine) a chance to survive. Thinning also is a good idea to reduce tree/house damage during hurricanes (it is the season) and episodes of high

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## Tidbits of Interest.. - (Continued from Page 2)

winds. If you cannot get your St. Augustine to grow in areas of the lawn even after deep rooting and thinning; you can try seeding with seeds adapted to growing in the shade.

When seeding, take the time to till the soil up, maybe add some new top soil, I like to add a bag of gypsum to break up the soil and improve water penetration (works for me) or use some of the commercial products at your local garden shop. The new sod or grass should be watered twice a day until you have good growth. I like watering about 30 minutes for my sprinkler system. Make sure when planting seeds that you do not over water and wash the seeds away. That is why you till them into the top inch of soil when planting. Then as you look over your six hours of hard labor, the sky descends with a mass of birds coming for the feast.. that's nature!! Your choices are play scarecrow for three or four days; reseed for three days in a row (they will get about 50% of your seeds) or you might try bird resistant seeds in no such thing as bird proof.

These are personal tips and not professional advice. It is what I have had some success with but if you look at my lawn today, it will not reflect master gardener or professional, but I do have grass.

On top of this aggravation you may receive a letter from the HOA advising you of a deed restriction violation in maintain lawns/ landscape. Our board continues to consider these issues and have

worked to limit the letters going out regarding lawns and dead plants.

However, be advised that as spring time arrives we will be looking for activity in replanting and maintaining the gardens (no dead plants and grass). Show us you are working on the landscaping and we will try to acknowledge that effort by not sending out advisory letters. Pretty sure most homeowners would use other descriptives for these letters but this is a family newsletter!! Truly though, the deed restriction letters are meant to be advisory in nature and should be taken that way. We know there is a reasonable probability that you cut your lawn or repaired that shutter the day after the inspection.

The board is considering changing the process so that we can better monitor resident activities and prevent many of those letters mentioned above from being sent out. Hang in there with us and the process will get better. We try not to get ourselves into the mentality that everything is running just fine there is always room for changes and improvements and as a board we will continue to work with the whole neighborhood. As requested last issue.. please use the rrhoa.net webpage to have input into any aspects of the Riata Ranch protocols or facilities that are important to you or let us know what things we need to add to community activities or resources. Every one of your messages will be attended to.

- Randy Jose, HOA VP

(Continued on Page 4)

## The New Emergency Room Standard has been Set

- Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year
- Physicians Board Certified or Board Eligible in Emergency Medicine
- Licensed, free-standing emergency medical care facility

**Any type of emergency, day or night. Ready or not...we are.**

### PEARLAND

3115 Dixie Farm Road, Suite 107  
FM 518 at Dixie Farm Road  
**281-648-9113**

### CYPRESS

17255 Spring Cypress Road, Suite A  
Spring Cypress at Skinner Road  
**281-304-9113**

### ATASCOCITA

19143 W. Lake Houston Parkway  
W. Lake Houston Pkwy at FM 1960  
**281-540-9113**

**txercare.com**



Accredited by the Joint Commission of  
Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations  
for our commitment to excellence.



**T E X A S  
EMERGENCY CARE  
CENTER™**

# Riata Ranch

Tidbits of Interest - (Continued from Page 3)



Cub Scout Pack 438 of Rennell Elementary is collecting old cell phones and/or cell phone accessories as part of our annual Cell Phones for Soldiers collection campaign. Bring your old cell phones and accessories (gladly accepted, but not required) to our donation box at PostNet, located at 12321 Barker-Cypress Rd. #600 Cypress, TX 77429 in the Randall's shopping center. The phones will be shipped to Cell Phones for Soldiers and either be reconditioned and reprogrammed for reuse, the ultimate form of recycling, or dismantled and recycled. For every phone recycled, a deployed U.S. soldier will receive a prepaid calling card to stay in touch with loved ones. For more information on the program, visit [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com).

Thank you for supporting our soldiers!

## RECYCLING

This is a reminder that we have a couple of young residents who are trying to start a recycling program in Riata Ranch. Residents are encouraged to call in and join in the recycling effort. This program, as you may have noted from previous newsletters, is being conducted through the efforts of Alex and Ben Hoffman. Riata Ranch residents can sign up for this program by calling them (281-373-2114) and arranging to obtain your two recycling bins (@\$5 per bin). Be the first to jump on this very important environmental program. Thanks to Alex and Ben the program is growing. With continued support we can become a recycling friendly community.

## POOP

Yet again, not much of a response from the last newsletter regarding this problem. Too much poop on our trails, sidewalks and general field areas still exists. People surely can afford the bags available in all stores to pick up the messes. There is no such thing as a small dropping or deposit. As a courtesy to your neighbors please try to pay more attention to this issue when walking your dogs. There was no significant response to the need for trash cans so this will be taken up at the board level. You can still get information on this problem at [info@pickupthepile.com](mailto:info@pickupthepile.com) if you are interested in helping out with this problem.

(Continued on Page 5)

**Dynamic Air & Heat**  
TACLB 1985BE  
[www.dynamicairandheat.com](http://www.dynamicairandheat.com)  
**832-593-7555**

**Furnace Check-Up**  
**\$39.95**

Cannot be combined with any other offer, coupon, or special.  
Expires 2/29/2012

**Furnace Tune-Up**  
**\$89.95**

Cannot be combined with any other offer, coupon, or special.  
Expires 2/29/2012

**10% Discount Plus No Service Charge**

With Approved Repairs  
Cannot be combined with any other offer, coupon, or special.  
Expires 2/29/2012

**Ruud Furnace Starting At \$1000**

Upgrade your furnace now to be prepared for the new high efficiency air conditioners of tomorrow.

Ask us how they work together!!!

**FREE Price Quotes Financing (WAC)**

## Bashans Painting & Home Repair

**Commercial/Residential**  
**Free Estimates**

**281-347-6702**

**281-731-3383** cell

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Garage Floor Epoxy
- Hardi Plank Installation
- Custom Staining
- Wood Replacement
- Roofing
- Sheetrock Repair
- Gutter Repair/Replacement
- Interior Carpentry
- Faux Painting
- Cabinet Painting
- Door Refinishing
- Wallpaper Removal and Texturizing
- Window Installation
- Pressure Washing
- Trash Removal
- Fence Repair/Replacement
- Ceiling Fan/Light Fixtures

**References Available • Fully Insured**  
**NO PAYMENT UNTIL COMPLETION**  
[bashanspainting@earthlink.net](mailto:bashanspainting@earthlink.net)



**Tidbits of Interest - (Continued from Page 4)**  
**TABLES**

By the time this newsletter reaches your home, four more picnic tables will have been installed in the pavilion area of the park. This will make it easier for residents to have events and gather around the BBQ hut. It will provide more comfort for those using this facility while at the playground or for those who rent the facility for parties and other social gatherings. It is available for all residents, just contact the HOA management.

**MEET SANTA**

**December 3rd (Saturday from 12noon to2pm) at Kids R Kids**

Meet and greet with Santa is scheduled again this year for our children who love to meet with Santa Claus. There will be donuts and drinks for all to enjoy. There will be an opportunity for each kid to have his or her picture taken with Santa. To add to the fun, Santa will read a book to those kids who want to have this special time with Santa. It is a come and go thing but most people stay for an hour or so and socialize with other neighbors/residents while enjoying some eats and drinks. A special activity will be available to some of our young guests where they can access crayons and coloring pages as well as being an opportunity for the kids to write a letter to Santa, who will take it with him to the North Pole. Save the date: December 3, 2011.

- Cindy Feris RRHOA Director of Special Events

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**FOR RIATA RANCH**

**November 15 ..... Riata Ranch  
Community Meeting**

**December 20 ..... No Community Meeting**

*Go to the Riata Ranch web page for complete calendar  
AND RR information: [www.rrhoa.net/calendar](http://www.rrhoa.net/calendar).*

There is an interest in finding out how many residents read this newsletter. Please respond to [rjose@rrhoa.net](mailto:rjose@rrhoa.net) if you wish to have us maintain this format for community communication. If you would prefer information coming to you via the web page- again send an email and let us know. We are looking for the best way to keep you informed of our Riata Ranch community activities. You might even want to send along a big thanks to board member Cindy Feris who has previously worked tirelessly to make this newsletter a possibility.

*-Jennifer Hobcock and Randy Jose, Co-editors.*

**NO COMMUNITY MEETING  
DECEMBER 20TH**

**community of faith**

Check out our website for events coming up!  
**www.cof.tv**

832-875-2520  
Hwy. 290 at Becker Rd.

**SERVICE TIMES:**  
Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.  
Sundays at  
9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. TV time  
on LOCAL  
KPRC

**Pastor Mark & Laura Shook**

## Thwarting Turkey Troubles

The holiday season is officially upon us! Now that the candy and costumes have been put away, we can start preparing our house for friends, family and good food! The holidays get hectic, and it becomes increasingly important not to forget our furry friends during this time. It is not uncommon for our dogs to become stressed, lost or poisoned during Thanksgiving festivities. With a little prevention, you can keep your dog safe this season!

**Dogs Like Routine!** As our schedules become more chaotic, so does our routine. With all the running around, parties, and odd meal times, it is not uncommon for the family pet to get overlooked. Try as much as possible to keep your dog on his normal routine. Feed him at the same time, try and remember his walks (even if they are shortened) and do not leave him in the house or yard all day while you are gone. If you are going out of town (even for a day), find a pet sitter you trust or board your dog at a local facility. Leaving your dog in the backyard with a container of food and a big bowl of water is not only unacceptable, it is downright dangerous. This is also a perfect time to brush up on his basic obedience. Not only will it tire his mind, it will help you prevent bad behaviors during Thanksgiving weekend!

**Dogs are quick!** It only takes one second for a dropped piece of turkey or candy to wind up in your pups mouth, before you even realize it hit the ground. If you have a house full of people (especially if there are children around), it is only a matter of time before your dog receives an

unintended 'treat'. Holiday temptations range from food out on counter tops, leftovers on the table, children who like to feed dogs and trashcans that can be knocked over. Many of the foods we eat around Thanksgiving can be deadly to our dogs. Turkey drippings, fat trimmings and butter can all cause pancreatitis; which is a life threatening condition. Most of us know that cooked bones can splinter and cause internal injuries and chocolate is poisonous to pups, but did you know that grapes, raisins, onions and avocados are poisonous as well? Make sure that all unattended food is covered and stored out of your dogs reach, and that garbage cans are taken outside immediately after the meal is done.

**Dogs get stressed!** Even the mildest mannered dog can become stressed when people come to the house. The commotion of the door bell ringing every 10 minutes, people laughing and talking, children running around screaming and playing and the smell of tempting food can be very taxing on a dogs nerves. Children can also cause immense stress to even the calmest dog. Children should NEVER be left alone with a dog. EVER. Their interactions should always be supervised. To cope with the stress, dogs will do things they normally would not. Some of the most common behaviors we see are growling at people (even familiar people), darting out the front door, cowering under a table and getting underfoot. It is a good idea to set up a special room in the house for your dog with a good chew bone, water and the television or

*(Continued on Page 7)*



### Engage minds and hearts will follow.

At Primrose, you'll discover a childhood education approach unlike any other. Our proprietary, accredited curriculum assures that children are nurtured emotionally, physically and intellectually.

**Primrose School of Barker-Cypress**  
16555 Dundee Road | Cypress, TX 77429 | 281-225-0123  
[www.primrosebarkercypress.com](http://www.primrosebarkercypress.com)



**Primrose Schools**

The Leader in Educational Child Care®  
[www.primroseschools.com](http://www.primroseschools.com)

Educational Child Care For Infants through Private Kindergarten  
and After School

Each Primrose School is privately owned and operated. Primrose Schools and The Leader in Educational Child Care are trademarks of Primrose School Franchising Company. ©2008 PSFC. All rights reserved.

# HI-TECH MECHANICAL

For your Air Conditioning and Heating needs

**\$68<sup>00</sup>**

\*One System

**Fall Safety Check  
on Gas Furnace\***

**Additional Systems \$54<sup>00</sup>**



**TRANE®**

*It's Hard To Stop A Trane.™*



**Comfortmaker®**  
Air Conditioning & Heating

# 713-937-4400

TACL-A011183C

*Mastercard, Visa, and Discover Accepted*

## Thwarting Turkey Troubles - (Continued from Page 3)

radio on. It not only keeps them from getting underfoot in the kitchen, but gives them a stress free place to relax while the festivities are going on. When the activity dies down, you can let your dog out to greet the remaining guests when you are no longer side tracked and able to focus on observing his interactions and behavior.

Brushing up on (or learning) basic obedience commands can help control unruly behavior as well. If a dog is sitting, they cannot jump. If a dog knows 'leave', they will not pick up a dangerous bone. If they respond to 'come', they will not get lost if they dart out an open door. If they know 'stay', they will not be underfoot while you are preparing meals or eating dinner. The Holidays are stressful for all of us, but with these simple tips, you will not have the added stress of a trip to the Emergency Clinic during your holiday weekend. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

- Katie Hiatt



At no time will any source be allowed to use the Riata Ranch Community Newsletter contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from the Riata Ranch Homeowners Association and Peel, Inc. The information in the Riata Ranch Community Newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Riata Ranch Community residents only.

**DISCLAIMER:** Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

\* 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.

\* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

\* 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.

# REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

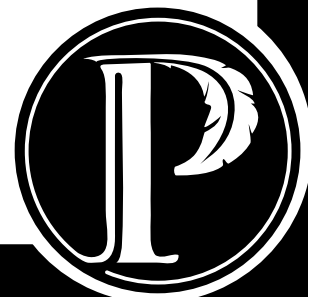
*and many others...*

- Atascocita CIA
- Blackhorse Ranch
- Bridgeland
- Chelsea Harbour
- Coles Crossing
- Copperfield
- Cypress Mill
- Cypress Point
- Eagle Springs
- Enchanted Valley
- Fairfield
- Fairwood
- Harvest Bend The Village
- Kleinwood
- Lakemont
- Lakes of Fairhaven
- Lakes of Rosehill
- Lakes of Savannah
- Lakes on Eldridge
- Lakes on Eldridge North
- Lakewood Grove
- Legends Ranch
- Longwood
- North Lake Forest
- Riata Ranch
- Riverpark on the Brazos
- Shadow Creek Ranch
- Silverlake
- Southgate
- Steeplechase
- Stone Forest
- Stone Gate
- Summerwood
- Village Creek
- Villages of NorthPointe
- Willowbridge
- Willowlake
- Willow Pointe
- Winchester Country
- Winchester Trails
- Windermere Lakes
- Wortham Villages

**CONTACT US TODAY  
FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION  
1-888-687-6444**

[www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)  
[advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com)

**PEEL, INC.**  
community newsletters





**PEEL, INC.**

308 Meadowlark St.  
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PEEL, INC.

RR



# BRILLIANT ENERGY

ELECTRICITY PROVIDER

**Brilliant Energy = Seriously LOW Electricity Rates**

**Brilliant Energy's Electricity Rates Challenge The Rates of Every Other Electricity Provider in Texas!**

**Lock-in a low electricity rate for up to 3-years!**

**Easy Online Sign-Up at [BrilliantElectricity.com](http://BrilliantElectricity.com)  
USE "NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER" AS REFERRAL**



**Brilliant Energy is recommended by Texas Energy Analyst, Alan Lammey the host of the 'Energy Week' radio show on NewsTalk 1070 KNTH!**

**Ask the "Energy Analyst":  
281-658-0395**

**Great Business Rates Too!**

Brilliant Energy Texas PUC #10140

