



ACIA

Happenings

Ivy Point, Pinehurst, Club Point, Golf Villas, The Shores, The Pines and Estates of Pinehurst

December 2016

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 6, Issue 12

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The ACIA Board of Trustees want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. Christmas is that time when families get together for good times, good food, share presents and maybe a party or two. ACIA hopes everyone makes the best use of this time for creating all those special memories that you will have for a lifetime. To ensure that you have those exceptional great memories, please Do Not Drink and Drive. Use a designated driver who does not drink for your Christmas Celebrations, or call a cab. As free rides are announced in the Humble/Atascocita/Kingwood areas we will try to post them on the ACIA website: aciahomeowners.org. If you have not signed up for this awesome tool, please do. Fewer than half of the residents of ACIA are signed up for this site.

It is anticipated that AAA will continue the Topsy Tow Program again this year. They started this New Year's Eve program a few years ago. It tentatively will be from 6 p.m. December 31 to 6 a.m. January 1, 2017. The service provides a free tow up to 10 miles from the point of pickup (beyond 10 miles is customers cost). You do not have to be an AAA member to participate. If you need to request a Topsy Tow call (800) AAA-HELP (222-4357).

Please make this a safe time with only good and precious memories for your best Christmas Season ever.

ACIA Trustees

Christmas Yard Decorating Contest

The ACIA, in collaboration with the Atascocita Garden Club, announced a Christmas Yard Decorating contest. Any resident can nominate a yard within the ACIA boundaries. The Atascocita Garden Club will choose the winner/winners and the winners' yards will be featured in the January 2017 newsletter and on the ACIA website. The Atascocita Garden Club will judge yards the week of December 1. Please have your outside lights on by dark if you wish to participate. Submit your nominations by email to Tammy Broussard with the Atascocita Garden Club @Trbrouss@embarqmail.com or to any ACIA Trustee.



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

BOARD MEMBERS

Ric Halbrook, President rhalbrookacia@gmail.com
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Dr. Adam Bauserman, Secretary N/A
Edwin D'Artois, Trustee dartois@embarquemail.com
Dr. Michael Say, Treasurer msay.acia@yahoo.com
Community Asset Mgmt, (CAM) 281.852.1155

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Bob Garlington, Board bgarlingtonacia@gmail.com

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

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Robert Comstock, Chair rcomstock1@comcast.net
Bart Peterschick bart@humblesignco.com

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emergency 9-1-1
P-4 Constable Dispatch 281-376-3472
Humble ISD Police (Schools) 281-641-7900
Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept (AVFD)
 Non-Emergency Number 281-852-2181
Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
Texas Poison Control Center 800-222-1222

UTILITIES

Electric, (multiple providers) www.powertochoose.org
 Power Outages 713-207-7777
 Street Light Outages 713-207-2222
Gas, Centerpoint Energy 713-659-2111
 Gas Leaks 713-659-2111
Water, Severn Trent 281-579-4500
 24 Hour Emergency Number 281-209-2100
Telephone, Centurylink 877-290-5458
Trash, Waste Management 888-964-9734
Humble Post Office 281-540-1775
Harris County MUD #132 www.hcmud132.com
Harris County MUD #151 www.hcmud151.org

SCHOOLS

Humble ISD 281-641-1000
 Website www.humble.k12.tx.us
Pine Forest Elementary 281-641-2100
Maplebrook Elementary 281-641-2900
Atascocita Middle School 281-641-1000
Atascocita High School 281-641-7500

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor - Sue Boaz Raymond sueboazraymond@comcast.net
Advertising advertising@PEELinc.com

New ACIA Trustee

Congratulations to Dr. Adam Bauserman. Dr. Bauserman was elected November 10, 2016 as the new

ACIA Trustee. The ACIA Board is very pleased to have you join the team and we look forward to working with you. Dr. Bauserman replaces Sue Raymond. Thank you Sue for serving for the last three years.

LAKE HOUSTON LADIES CLUB

– December Meeting

Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization dedicated to connecting women through monthly luncheon meetings, social activities and interest groups.

Our next luncheon meeting is Tuesday, December 20 from 10:00-12:00 at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest Drive, in Humble, TX. The cost is \$15/person for the lunch and entertainment.

Jay Cantu from the Liberty Opry will be our Emcee and singing partner for our Holiday Christmas Carol Karaoke party. Put on your holiday sweater and come sing along.

The club welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Many interest groups are available including: Readers Choice, Tea Time, Lunch 'N Look, Movie Group, Supper Club, Girl's Night Out, and many game groups (Bridge, Mah Jongg, Pokeno, Canasta, Bunco). There are also social events through the year that include spouses or significant others. The club is an excellent way to meet new people and make new friends.

To learn more about the club go to our website: www.lakehoustonladiesclub.com, or call Linda at 832-379-3009.



IPM...Integrated Pest Management

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

IPM is short for Integrated Pest Management and is the blending of effective, economical and

environmentally sound pest control methods into a single flexible approach to manage pests. When utilizing IPM, we hope that you can avoid or reduce pest problems.

Here are some things to reduce the number of pests in your home:

Reduce food or water resources for insects:

- Encourage family to eat in one location. This makes it easier to clean since spills and crumbs are not spread around the house.
- Clean up any spilled food or drink as soon as possible.
- Sweep & vacuum regularly. This helps to remove food crumbs, pet hair and other things that insects may feed upon.
- Do not leave dirty dishes in the sink overnight. Even small bits of food can be a meal for insects.
- Do not leave pet food out overnight. Again, can be a free meal for insects.
- Remove old newspapers, magazines and books that are unused.

Silverfish love to feed on these types of items.

- Repair plumbing leaks to get rid of water sources required by insects.
- Use a plastic bag to line garbage cans to make garbage easier to remove.
- Remove garbage on a weekly basis, possibly more during warmer times of the year.

Reduce areas where insects may live:

- Clean drains with a stiff brush & then flush with boiling water. There are small flies that can grow in the slime layer of drain pipes. The stiff brush will loosen the slime and the boiling water will flush it away.
- Remove tree stumps and any dead branches in the yard to avoid carpenter or acrobat ant populations living in these areas.
- Remove debris (firewood, bricks, stones, etc.) away from the home. These areas can be inhabited by a variety of arthropods including spiders, scorpions and cockroaches.
- Clean closets on a quarterly basis to reduce the chance of spiders moving in.

Reduce moving insects into the house:

(Continued on Page 4)

Happy Holidays! Enter to Win a
\$100 Toys R Us Gift Card

The Tracy Montgomery Team is giving away a \$100 gift card to Toys R Us. We know that you are going to be shopping for some special gifts and thought you might like to have a little extra spending money. Anyone can enter to win our monthly raffle.

Send us an email to have a chance to win. Put \$100 GIFT CARD in the subject line and give us your name, address and phone number where you can be reached if we draw your name.

TracyMontgomeryTeamRSVP@gmail.com

Congratulations to the Knudsen Family for winning last month's raffle. We hope you enjoy watching the Nutcracker!

There are several buyers looking to purchase a home in your neighborhood. We can help you get your home ready to sell. Give us a call today to set up an appointment.



Tracy Montgomery
Cell: 713.825.5905

Sandy Brabham
Cell: 713.503.8110

Lisa Hughes
Cell: 281.323.5894

Melissa Nelson
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(Continued from Page 3)

- Inspect all items for pests before bringing them into the house. Insect pests can be brought into the home with such items as potted plants, boxes full of things inherited from a family member, on used clothing or furniture, among other things.
- Prune tree limbs that touch or overhang the home & prune back and shrubs that touch the home. When shrubs or trees touch or overhang the home, they can be used as bridges for insects to get onto the home and then move inside.
- Seal entry points on the outside of the home with sealant, expanding foam or copper mesh screening. Pipe penetrations, weep hole or cracks can allow insects, spider or other animals move into the home.
- Store food in sealed plastic or glass containers to keep pantry pests out.
- Keep screens, weather stripping and door thresh holds in good repair. Many insect pests are very small, so even a small tear in a screen or crack under a door can allow them to come inside.
- Use yellow bulbs in outside lights to reduce the number of insects coming near doorways.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

Your Community Newsletter and ACIA Web

The Atascocita Happenings Newsletter is a great tool for the community and the ACIA Board to share information. This publication will grow if everyone participates. If you are involved in a community club or activity, please e-mail information about your activities and meeting for inclusion in the newsletter to sueboazraymond@comcast.net. If you have any ideas for the newsletter, please let us know and we will try to incorporate them into the publication. The deadline for submission is the 8th day of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.


This newsletter is also available online. Do you have an iPhone? If so, please download the Peel, Inc. iPhone app (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/peel-inc./id866041578?mt=8>). Once downloaded, find your community and subscribe to your newsletter.

Please also sign up for your ACIA website @ aciahomeowners.org. Currently there are 1054 residents signed up of the 2,496 total homeowners. Everything residents need is on this site. Updated information is posted very often. All the forms and contact information is there at the click of a button or two.

ALL RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SIGN IN @ ACIAHOMEOWNERS.ORG TO BE KEPT IN THE LOOP FOR ALL ACIA NEWS AND E-BLASTS



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ACIA HAPPENINGS

We Want a "Waste-Free" Community!

It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, you just might step in one such reminder! Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and other pets. One of the most common problems of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter. When walking your dogs in the ACIA community, remember that they should be leashed. **It's the law!**

Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie to pick up the waste and then dispose of it properly. Bags are provided at both of the ACIA Parks. Please take a few simple steps to clean up after your pet. You also contribute to the beautification of this community. This helps to eliminate one of the most irritating nuisances in our community. Some go a step further and actually take along a trash bag to pick up pieces of trash as they enjoy their walk.

The gully areas also provide a great place to walk your pets. The Flood Control District mows these areas four times per year. Some of the neighbors also keep the area behind their homes mowed on a regular basis. **Yes, dogs must be leashed at all times when they are**

out of your back yards (even at the parks and gullies).

Thanks to all who did a great job in keeping leaves, pine needles, etc bagged for trash pickup and kept the drainages clear during the October/November heavy rains. No flooding was reported in the ACIA area and it was noted that water flowed quickly and properly to these drains.

Thank you for your cooperation!



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ACIA HAPPENINGS

Illegal Drains

A representative from Precinct 2 has scrutinized our area and noticed the numerous drain lines cut into the curbing that drain water into the streets. Discharging drain water into the streets is illegal unless the homeowner has obtained a Harris County permit and paid a \$5000 bond. Precinct 2 will not pursue enforcement at this time; however, this is a major concern. Cutting into the curb causes substantial damage to the curbing which can further deteriorate with time. Large chunks of concrete curbing have been noticed falling away from the curb and migrating into the street. These concrete chunks can be a serious driving hazard. If residents install drain lines, a **Pop-up Drain Emitter** is recommended. The pop-up drain emitter allows water to be diverted and released to water-safe areas away from structures, erosion-prone landscapes, and poor drainage areas. The special design allows the emitter to open with a negligible amount of pressure. Since the emitter is closed during dry weather, debris can't enter the drain pipes. The pop-up emitter is opened by the hydrostatic pressure of water flowing through the drain pipe and as the flow diminishes the emitter closes. The **Pop-up Drain Emitter** is available from local home improvement stores.

NOTICE OF NO REGULAR BOARD MEETING FOR DECEMBER

Dear Homeowners:

The Board of Directors for the Atascocita Community Improvement Association will NOT hold a regular meeting in December. The next regular scheduled ACIA Board meeting will be held Monday, January 23, 2017 at The Overlook, 20114 Pinehurst Drive, Atascocita, TX 77346.

The subject of the meeting is general business of the Association, including discussion of items related to the Association budget and expenditures as well as discussion of items related to the assets owned by the Association.

Items that may be discussed in executive session include: actions involving personnel, pending or threatened litigation, contract negotiations, enforcement actions, confidential communications with the Association attorney, and other business that is confidential by request of the affected party.

Very Truly Yours,

Atascocita Community Improvement Association





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Premier Preschool Nurtures Literacy Skills at All Ages



Research shows that the first five years of a child's life hold the most potential for development – consider it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for learning! During these years, it's crucial to nurture early literacy skills, like rhyming and letter and sound recognition, which lay the groundwork for fundamental abilities such as reading, writing and spelling.

As with any skill or subject, there's no one-size-fits-all approach to teaching literacy skills, especially since children learn to read and write at different rates and ages. At Primrose School of Atascocita, teachers understand the need to support children based on their individual needs. The Primrose-exclusive approach, called *Balanced Learning*®, offers varied experiences that spark children's curiosity regardless of their learning style through a balance of purposeful play with nurturing guidance from teachers.

"*Balanced Learning* is special because it takes into consideration children's developmental levels and provides different, connected experiences so that they can learn in their own way and at their own pace," said Matt Evers, Franchise Owner of Primrose School of Atascocita. "Whether it's literacy skills, motor skills, music, arts, science or life skills, the learning is just natural and fun for the children."

Primrose School of Atascocita

20027 W Lake Houston Pkwy
Atascocita, TX 77346
281.812.6361
PrimroseAtascocita.com



The *Balanced Learning* Approach to Reading and Writing

Every day, Primrose children participate in literacy lessons that are taught in a fun, game-like way. Using rhymes, poems and songs, children exercise oral fluency skills – the ability to communicate clearly – and memory, comprehension skills, new vocabulary and phonological awareness. Similarly, children are guided by teachers at the classroom Writing Center to practice writing at their own level, using meaningful writing activities.

Part of what makes *Balanced Learning* unique is that these literacy lessons are woven into classroom experiences throughout the day. For example, teachers explain and use appropriate higher-level math, science and engineering vocabulary during STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) experiences. Throughout the day, children sing songs and recite poems frequently to develop their oral fluency – an important step toward learning to read. Additionally, children engage in meaningful writing projects that vary from drawing or listing their observations as part of an age-appropriate science experiment to creating thank you notes for loved ones during character development lessons.

"At Primrose, we give children opportunities throughout the day to practice reading, speaking, listening and writing to help them view these skills as not only important, but also a natural and enjoyable part of their everyday lives," said Matt Evers. "Children experience the activities as play and fun, but in reality, each element of the Primrose approach is designed with a purpose to help them develop the foundational skills they need to succeed later on."

Encouraging Reading and Writing Skills at Home

Parents can encourage literacy skills at home through simple activities, like reading with and talking to children, which has been proven to benefit language skills from the time children are born. Examples of other activities that support literacy skill development include:

- Reading cardboard books with infants and toddlers so they can hear language while turning the pages and pointing to familiar objects on the page.
- Practicing animal noises with toddlers to help them identify and replicate different language sounds.
- Playing rhyming games with preschoolers, like trying to name as many words that rhyme with "cat."
- Encouraging both gross and fine motor skill development, which aid children in learning to write. Running and climbing outdoors builds gross motor strength, and stacking and dressing activities grow fine motor skills.
- Making writing easily accessible for children by setting up a writing/drawing table in a common area at home with paper, crayons, markers and more.

To learn about Primrose School of Atascocita, visit PrimroseAtascocita.com or call 281.812.6361. For more helpful parenting tips and information, visit our blog at www.PrimroseSchools.com/blog and sign up for the Pointers for Parents newsletter.

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ACIA HAPPENINGS

Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club

The Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club will celebrate its 30th Anniversary Season by hosting its annual free Registration/Orientation breakfast on Saturday, February 4th, 2017, for all boys and girls who are interested in joining for the 2017 track season. The breakfast starts promptly at 8:30 AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum located at 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

The event is an opportunity for youth athletes to register for the 2017 spring/summer track season, and to meet the Northwest Flyers coaches, staff, and other new and returning athletes. The event will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track & Field Olympic organization (USATF). All athletes and parents who wish to join the Northwest Flyers must attend the orientation.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (ages 6 -18) track club, affiliated with USA Track & Field (USATF), that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and sanctioned "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put, discus and javelin.

For additional information on the Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org>; contact Linette Roach at linette.roach@sbcglobal.net; or "Like" the club on Facebook.



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ACIA HAPPENINGS

Preventing Injuries on the Ski Slopes

By Kelly Cunningham, MD, Orthopedic Specialist

As a former US Olympic Men's Ski Team physician and orthopedist, every year during the winter months I treat many ski & snowboard injuries in Austin recreational athletes of all ages and abilities.

For 15 years, as a traveling doctor for the team, I accompanied the athletes throughout the US, Canada and Europe on the World Cup tour and was responsible for the triage, stabilization, and treatment of injuries in these world-class skiers.

One of the most frequent questions I get this time of year from my patients who ski is

"How can I avoid hurting myself on the ski slopes?"

So what do I tell recreational skiers about staying healthy on the hill?

First and foremost, adjust to the altitude in your first few days. While there are medications that will improve your blood oxygen, they require a prescription and can have side effects. Perhaps the easiest to take along are low-dose aspirin or ginkgo biloba, as both are safe (unless allergic) and easy to take. Low-level exercise and lots of water (especially during the first night) are also key, as is abstinence from alcohol during the first 24 hours at altitude. Early trip moderation equals a better mountain experience!

Modern skis, boots, and bindings are universally safe now, unlike in decades past. Multi-release bindings help you come out of your skis safely in a fall and with less stress on your knees, the most commonly injured joint in a skier. Make sure they are set correctly.

Speaking of knees, in most solid, intermediate skiers, unlike beginners (learning to stop) and racers (ACL injury from shear forces), serious knee injuries are actually quite rare.

The best way to protect yourself from ski injury is:

Get in good "ski-shape"

6 weeks of strength and some aerobic training will suffice

Ski within your limits

Stay relaxed, focused & well hydrated

Watch out for that last, fatigued run of the afternoon

If you fall, fall forward and throw your hands in front of you

it's proven that less knee and shoulder injuries occur in the forward lean of a fall.

And always, always, wear a helmet!

Before you ski, take time to take stock of your physical condition, especially your knee, shoulder and hip joints. Pre-trip aches and pains will not make for an enjoyable ski trip!



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Timely Tips for December Gardeners

Working in your garden is an excellent escape during the holidays. It's a great time of year to do some of the heavy work in the landscape as opposed to sweating it up in the heat of the summer.

Don't put up the mower yet. Although turf grasses have stopped growing, you can use the mower to chop up and recycle the leaves back into the lawn or for a compost pile. Prepare gas-powered engines for winter. The owner's manual is the best guide to winterizing a lawn mower, tiller, garden tractor or other equipment.

Drain and store garden hoses and watering equipment in a readily accessible location. Lawns and other plants may need an occasional watering during prolonged dry spell.

In general, once the weather gets and stays cold, pruning of deciduous plants (ones that lose their leaves) can be safely done. Evergreen hedges can be sheared or cut back in the winter also. Wait until February to prune your roses. Remember – Do Not Top your Crapemyrtles! Simply prune to remove seed heads and shape.

Prepare for the cold weather before it hits! One of the best things you can do for your landscape plants is to provide a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch. Mulching is necessary year round but during the colder periods it provides a layer of insulation for the roots. Water your landscape well before a cold spell. A drought stressed plant is more

susceptible to freeze damage. For more tender plants, purchase frost cloth for extra protection. Cover the plant completely allowing the edges to come all the way to the ground, utilizing the heat which radiates from the ground.

December is a perfect time to plant trees and shrubs so they can develop a strong root system for next Spring. Cool weather color such as Pansies, Snapdragons, Cyclamen, Flowering Cabbage and Kale add splashes of color to your landscape. Spring flowering bulbs can be planted now once they have been properly chilled. Make your home beautiful for the Holidays with a stunning assortment of floral quality Poinsettias, Cyclamen, freshest greenery and Christmas Trees. Add a mix of new indoor and tropical plants to energize your home.

Remember to provide food and water for the birds this winter. You can attract just as many birds with a bird bath as with food, especially during the dry spells. To draw a diversity of birds provide a variety of seeds, like sunflower, thistle, safflower and millet; plus suet. Once you begin putting out bird food, continue feeding them through the spring time.

Information is courtesy of Calloway's Nursery at www.calloways.com.





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ACIA HAPPENINGS

Microwave Peanut Brittle

<http://www.food.com>

Be careful! This is a hot and sticky recipe.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup white Karo
- 1 dash salt
- 1 cup shelled raw peanuts (or pecans, walnuts, sunflower seed, etc.)
- 1 tablespoon butter or more. With peanut brittle, more is better.
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

DIRECTIONS

Line baking sheet with wax paper.
Spray wax paper, spoon, and anything else the brittle touches with Pam.
Combine sugar, salt and Karo in a 3 quart microwave safe glass bowl.
Stir in peanuts.
Microwave on high until light brown (8 to 10 minutes) stirring at least 2 times during cooking.

Remove from microwave and stir in remaining ingredient adding baking soda last (mix will be foamy).
Stir quickly and pour onto wax paper.
Spread thin for brittle candy.

Note: You can use any type nuts you prefer or even sunflower seeds (which is my favorite).



REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

and many others...

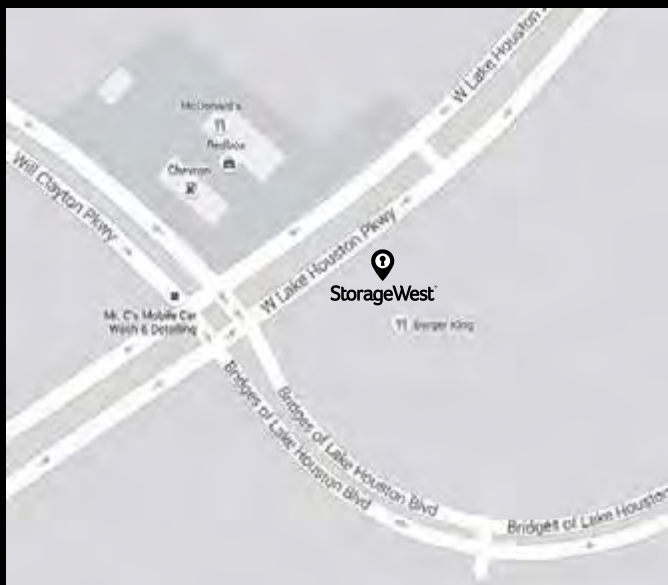
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- Fairfield
- Grand Lake Estates
- Lakeshore
- Lakes of Fairhaven
- Lakes of Rosehill
- Lakes on Eldridge
- Lakes on Eldridge North
- Laurel Creek
- Legends Ranch
- Meyerland
- Normandy Forest
- North Lake Forest
- Park Creek
- Park Lakes
- Riata Ranch
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Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com.



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NOW HIRING

Advertising Sales Representative

Description: The position includes marketing our community newsletters to local and area businesses. It is a flexible position that allows you to work from home and set your own hours.

Roles: Stimulate new advertising accounts in our community newsletters. Maintain current accounts assigned to you by Sales Manager. Service your accounts by assisting them from ad design to final proof approval.

Skills: Excellent communication through email and phone, with high level presentation and relationship-building skills. Strong prospecting and business development skills are a must. Previous sales experience preferred but not required.

Benefits: Commission Based
Apply by sending resume to jobs@peelinc.com



PEEL, INC.

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Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: December 31st

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: _____
(first name, last initial)

Age: _____



ACIA



PEEL, INC.

308 Meadowlark St. South
Lakeway, TX 78734

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Billie Jean's Team

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Really Big News!

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TEAM WORK...Whoever said "Many hands make light work" really understood a team work concept. Each member of my team (including you) will have specific duties towards our common goal to ensure the strength and endurance needed to get this transaction closed.



BILLIE JEAN HARRIS

713-825-2647 (Cellular)

713-451-4320 (Direct)

713-451-1733 x106 (Office)

bharris@remax-east.com

www.billiejeanharris.com



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