



THE Bulletin

The Ranch at Brushy Creek

January 2012

Official Publication of The Ranch at Brushy Creek HOA

Volume 4, Issue 1



Tour of Lights WAS A SUCCESS!

We had the biggest Tour of Lights turnout yet. The night was a huge success!! To all of the neighbors who got their lights up in time for our event, kudos!! We sent out 17 hayrides, drank 350 cups of hot cocoa, hot cider and caramel milk, ate 8 dozen cookies and almost 400 s'more brownie bites. All the while, enjoying the live Christmas carols from Courtney and Ullrich. Not to forget, our strolling jolly ole St Nick visiting with the kiddos.

Thank you to my fellow social committee members and volunteers who helped make this such a successful event. Big thanks to our Sponsors: Standard Pacific Homes, Highland Homes, Bellini's Texas Grill, Realtor Bob Duron and Courtney Sanchez. We appreciate you!!

Candace Lambert
Social Committee Co-Chair



Hi neighbors,

Happy New Year! I am excited about 2012 and hope you are, too. As the new social chairman for our neighborhood, I am wanting to hear from you. We have many wonderful events already in place for the children, but let's not forget about the adults. We like to have fun, too. Contact me at RBCsocialcommittee@gmail.com with your ideas. I'm looking forward to a great year for all of us here at "The Ranch."

Grace Sullivan

PETS CORNER

New Year...Green Year

Who wants to be healthier? You? Your family? Your Pets? I think the answer is a resounding YES...we all want and can be healthier and more cognizant of the impact we have on our environment. How about your pet going green? How hard could it be?

Here are some examples of how to be healthier and greener. (I have personally tried and can attest to most that they have worked well for our family.)

Cleaning the house – Baking Soda is a good cleaning tool. In addition, we like to use a lot of vinegar/water and a little Dawn dishwashing detergent when we need a little more cleaning power. These homemade options work for windows, counters, wiping down any hard surfaces and also for any stains on the carpet.

For the tile, I use a steam mop (only water & heat are used for cleaning). You can also use the steam mop to sanitize the carpet, doggy beds, and people beds. If I could recommend just one thing, a good steam mop is it—it is the best \$100.00 I've ever spent! Just make sure to do your research and get a good steam mop that gets to a temperature that will kill germs and bacteria.

Lawn & Garden treatments – we try not to use any herbicides or pesticides (although occasionally we do have to resort to them). Our main go-to product for the yard is Food-grade Diatomaceous Earth (DE). What the heck is that you ask? ...Diatomaceous earth (DE) is the remains of microscopic one-celled plants (phytoplankton) called diatoms that lived in the oceans and lakes that once covered the world. Food grade diatomaceous earth is EPA approved to be mixed with grains to control mealworms and other pests and approved against indoor and outdoor crawling insects. Food grade diatomaceous earth makes a very effective natural insecticide, due to the razor sharp edges of the diatom remains. It is not a poison, but rather a physical killer. When

(Continued on Page 3)

THE BULLETIN

BOARD & MANAGEMENT

RBC PROPERTY MANAGER

Randy Vogel..... 512-502-7506
..... Randy.Vogel@Goodwintx.com

RANCH AT BRUSHY CREEK HOA BOARD

Deerrick Matlock, President.....dlmatlock99@gmail.com
Vineet Rohatgi, Vice President.....vrohatgi@gmail.com
Freddie Jimenez, Treasurer rep9ile@hotmail.com
Anastasia Manning, Secretary anastasia.manning@gmail.com
Blake Contine, Member At Large.....
.....blake@pioneerdevelopment.net
Fred Herdman, Advisory Member.... Fred.Herdman@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Architectural Committee
Derrick Matlockdlmatlock99@gmail.com
Landscape Committee
Byron Stephens.....byronstephens@earthlink.net
Public Relations Committee
Erin Lundieerin.lundie@gmail.com
Pool Committee
Byron Stephens.....byronstephens@earthlink.net
Social Committee
Grace Sullivan..... rbcsocialcommittee@gmail.com
Neighborhood Watch
Vineet Rohatgi.....vrohatgi@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER INFO

Editor

Erin Lundieerin.lundie@gmail.com

Publisher

Peel, Inc.www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181
Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Bulletin. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Ranch at Brushy Creek residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

At no time will any source be allowed to use the The Ranch at Brushy Creek HOA 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 The Ranch at Brushy Creek Home Owners Association and Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of The Ranch at Brushy Creek 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.

**NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

Pets Corner- (Continued from Cover Page)

diatomaceous earth comes in contact with the insects, the sharp edges lacerate the bugs causing death from dehydration, which can happen pretty quickly in the Texas heat. When applying DE to your yard & garden, please make sure to wear a mask and keep your dogs away so that the small, sharp DE particles are not breathed in. You can even use DE inside the house, for instance to keep fleas off carpets.

Natural Dewormer Treatment Do you want a natural wormer for your dogs and livestock? Food grade diatomaceous earth has been used for at least two decades as a natural wormer for livestock. To be most effective, food grade diatomaceous earth must be fed long enough to catch all newly hatching eggs or cycling of the worms, a minimum of 60 days is suggested by many. Food grade diatomaceous earth works in a purely physical/mechanical manner, not "chemical" and thus has no chemical toxicity. Best yet, parasites don't build up a tolerance/immunity to a chemical reaction, so rotation of wormers is unnecessary. It is perfectly safe for oral consumption. Please research on the amount needed for each individual pet and the best way to feed.

Doggy Waste Disposal – all of us contend with this on a daily basis. What are some options for making this as "green" as possible? Pet waste in large sub-division quantities is not a natural part of the eco-system and pollutes our ground water and soil. (Just leaving your dog's natural dog poop lying

around the neighborhood where we all walk and roll, is NOT a "green or considerate option). The ideal solution is placing the waste in a plastic bag, tightly secured, so that the contents do not leak into the landfills and end up in our water system. Unfortunately, that does add more plastic into our eco-system, but is a much healthier solution than not picking up and disposing at all. There are a few products on the market that can help make this chore a "greener" solution. One of those is the use of bio-degradable waste bags that are designed to dissolve in the sewer system when you flush them (I have not seen, nor used this, but have read about them). Scooping and disposing fecal matter directly into the toilet is also something to consider, as it goes to a treatment plant, not into the groundwater.

Support "Green" Companies – just being aware of our environment and more natural products helps everyone in the long run. Those companies that make an effort to reduce energy consumption, paper consumption and use recycled and biodegradable materials are engaging in eco-friendly practices. The lesser the packaging the better. If there is packaging, it should be recyclable materials to be further recycled. You may have to pay a bit more from these companies, but the long-term solutions are priceless.

Dog toys, do you really need any more? – If so, consider eco-friendly toys that you can make from materials that you are

discarding. Socks...need I say more? The old sock with a hole in it can be a very fun toy. Easy enough to just knot both ends of the sock and make a tug toy that you & your pet can play with. You may not even realize the bonding and exercising you could get from this almost discarded item! How about using a long sock and placing an empty water bottle inside of it? Dogs just love the sound of crackling plastic caused by and tossing around this home-made toy. Why spend \$10.00 at the store when you can make it yourself? If you do plan to buy toys for your pet, buying "green" toys that are made with organic, dye-free cotton or hemp are strongly recommended. Many mass-produced cheapo products are often sprayed with pesticides, somewhere in processing. Just think, your best pal is placing this toy directly in his mouth. Which product would you want him to use?

This is just a small sampling of ways in which to make this New Year a Green Year for you and your animal companions. Just think...if all of us decided to use just one of these solutions, how much better our world could be. Are you ready to be part of the solution? I hope so...ENJOY 2012 !

(And send your pet photos to petscorner@debbyandmike.com).



FINE EYEWEAR

Eyecare and Sunglass Boutique

*The uncommon union of personal eyecare
and fine optical boutique*



Unique Eyewear
Precision optics
Advanced eye care



2800 E. Whitestone Blvd Suite 210

512.260.9779

www.FineEyewear.Net

LAYERS OF PROTECTION



CONSTANT VISUAL SUPERVISION



LEARN TO SWIM



WEAR LIFE JACKETS



MULTIPLE BARRIERS ON ALL POOLS & HOTTUBS



KEEP BACKYARDS & BATHROOMS SAFE



ALWAYS CHECK POOL/HOTTUB FIRST FOR MISSING CHILD



LEARN CPR



COLIN'S HOPE
Increasing water safety awareness and standards



In 2011, more than 50 Central Texas children have drowned or nearly drowned. This number is higher than in recent years. Please continue to keep kids safe in and around the water.

Drowning is Preventable



For more information, check out our website at
www.colinshope.org

SAT., JAN. 21 @ EMPIRE AUTOMOTIVE WAREHOUSE (604 E. 7th) 8-11 PM

TIX: \$20 ONLINE, \$30 AT THE DOOR



TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD DROWNING

LIVE MUSIC FROM MORE CRAWBELL AND DJ KURV

TASTY FOOD SERVED UP FROM THE SIDE BAR AIRSTREAM * TRAILER

BEVERAGES FROM: DEEP EDDY SWEET TEA VODKA, SAAVY VODKA, ZICO COCONUT WATER, CLIF FAMILY WINERY, A LOCAL BEER TBA

EVENT T-SHIRTS SERVED UP FROM THE SANCTUARY PRINTSHOP EL CAMINO

BEST * WATER INSPIRED * ART AUCTION EVER



CLIF FAMILY WINERY



NATURALLY POWERED ZICO

HONEST tea



SAT., JAN. 28 @ NITRO SWIMMING (BEE CAVE) 1-5pm

Visit us online



Register Online: \$35 - Ages 7 to 17
Olympic Swimmer Instructors

Brendan Hansen ★ Kathleen Hersey
Garrett Weber-Gale



Children who drown often do not scream, splash, or struggle. They can silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.