

April 2012  
Quarterly Newsletter

# Katy Creek Ranch Newsletter

Sterling Association Services (832) 678-4500

## Katy Creek Ranch Important News:

*Keep all pets on a  
leash at all times.  
It's the law!*

*Trash days are  
Tuesday and  
Friday.*

## Spring is in the Air



Any way you slice it, last year wasn't pretty for our landscapes and gardens. While we never really know what lies ahead with this crazy Texas weather, the odds are huge that this year will be better than last, so it's OK to venture back into the garden.

It's a great time to fertilize your yard and hopefully with more rain this year, our lawns will come back greener and healthier than last year. Try planting some colorful flowers to add to the beauty of our neighborhood. It's uplifting to see everything in bloom in the spring.

## Happy Easter

A recipe to make a tasty, edible Easter basket using ice cream.

**Prep Time:** 20 minutes

**Total Time:** 20 minutes

### Ingredients:

Softened Vanilla, Lemon, or Coconut Ice Cream  
Vanilla Cookie Crumbs  
Green Tinted Coconut  
Jelly Beans

Fill a 9 ounce plastic cup about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way full with the softened ice cream. Top with about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of vanilla cookie crumbs. Top with green tinted coconut "grass" and jelly beans for an edible Easter basket!



### **Why We Have an Architectural Review Process**

Like many community associations, we have a set of written design review standards and processes. Some homeowners mistakenly believe these standards restrict their freedom of individual expression; actually they provide a framework within which each homeowner can express individual tastes and preferences. The standards have been carefully developed to reflect a balance between individual rights and the good of the entire association—that is, property values.

OK, but why do we need processes and guidelines to maintain architectural standards?

Perhaps most importantly, we need a basis for treating all homeowners fairly and reasonably. Written guidelines allow you and the design review committee to work from the same criteria.

Sometimes architectural requirements can be complex. The guidelines show you exactly what is required, and helps you design improvements that comply with the community's standards.

And then there's the application and approval part of the process. The review committee members assure you they want the paper work to be as simple as possible for everyone. The guidelines take the guesswork out of your application and their decision making.

In fact, they not only provide criteria for the current committee to make appropriate decisions, but for successive committee members to make consistent decisions in the future. Without the criteria in the guidelines, the application approved today may result in construction deemed unacceptable by new committee members upon completion.

One last purpose of the guidelines is to clarify the association's authority in this area. State statutes and our governing documents give the association a legal right to enact and enforce design review standards. The guidelines spell this out so everyone understands they must comply even if they don't agree.



### Tips for Reducing Waste

Being careful about what you buy, consume, and throw away may not seem all that exciting even for the most committed environmental steward. But efficient daily practices and a little old fashioned common sense are good for the environment and your bottom line.

Use this checklist to see how many waste management and recycling practices you've implemented. Then make a plan of action to expand your efforts.

- ☐ Make waste reduction a priority in your home.
- ☐ Evaluate the waste you generate to identify and reduce your greatest sources of waste.
- ☐ Measure the volume or weight of the garbage you generate and set measurable reduction targets.
- ☐ Reject wasteful consumption by carefully considering what you need and buying products that last.
- ☐ Purchase products with minimal packaging or packaging that can be recycled, or buy in bulk.
- ☐ Use cloth napkins, cloth lunch bags, sponges/dish rags, reusable plates, and reusable coffee filters instead of paper alternatives.
- ☐ Repair or donate older or unwanted equipment and household goods to local charitable groups, rather than dispose of them.
- ☐ Purchase durable furniture and equipment or products made of recycled material to reduce waste from inferior products.
- ☐ Purchase recycled paper products, such as office paper, bathroom tissue, etc.
- ☐ Set up an area to collect recyclables of paper, glass, cardboard, aluminum, tin, and plastic.
- ☐ Compost outdoor wastes such as grass clippings, leaves, and kitchen waste (no meat or onions).

## Numbers you should know

Emergency	911
Fort Bend Sherriff	281-342-6116
Water/Sewer - Harris/Ft Bend Mud #5	713-405-1750
Gas - Center Point Energy	713-659-2111
Trash – Republic Waste	713-849-0400
Street Light repair/outage <a href="http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage">www.centerpointenergy.com/outage</a>	713-207-2222 - Must have # on pole
Rylander Elementary	281-237-8300
Cinco Ranch Jr. High	281-237-7300
Cinco Ranch High School	281-237-7000

## Katy Creek Ranch Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 1 April Fool's Day	2	3 Trash & Recycle	4	5	6 Trash & Big Items School holiday	7
8 Easter Sunday	9	10 Trash & Recycle	11	12	13 Trash & Big items Early dismissal	14
15	16	17 Trash & Recycle	18	19	20 Trash & Big Items	21
22 Earth Day	23	24 Trash & Recycle	25	26	27 Trash & Big Items	28
29	30	May 1 Trash & Recycle	2	3	4 Trash & Big Items	5 Cinco de Mayo Day
6	7	8 Trash & Recycle	9	10	11 Trash & Big Items	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15 Trash & Recycle	16	17	18 Trash & Big Items	19
20	21	22 Trash & Recycle			25 Trash & Big Items	26 <u>Pool Opens for Summer</u>
27	28 School holiday Memorial Day	29 Trash & Recycle	30	31 <u>Last Day of school</u>	June 1 Trash & Big Items	2
3	4	5 Trash & Recycle	6	7	8 Trash & Big Items	9
10	11	12 Trash & Recycle	13	14 Flag Day	15 Trash & Big Items	16
17	18	19 Trash & Recycle	20	21	22 Trash & Big Items	23
24	25	26 Trash & Recycle	27	28	29 Trash & Big Items	30

## Free Museums

Spend your day exploring Houston's museums, while saving big with a well-edited list of the city's most-loved free things to do. Fortunately, for locals and visitors alike, more than a dozen of Houston's most memorable museums won't break the bank-in fact they won't even cost a dime.



*The Menil Collection*

[The Menil Collection](#)- a local treasure, global destination and one of the top free attractions in Houston-opened to the public in June 1987 to house the art collection of philanthropists John and Dominique de Menil. Widely considered one of the greatest of the twentieth century, the collection consists of more than 16,000 works dating from the Paleolithic era to the present day. Although historically vast, it uniquely resists the conventional museum model of the encyclopedia. Instead, within the four areas that largely define the collection-Antiquity, Byzantine and Medieval, Tribal, and Twentieth-Century Art (with a concentration in Surrealism)-one finds a selective-and even wonderfully eccentric-approach to collecting and displaying art.

[Rothko Chapel](#) is a serene place to meditate in the middle of Houston's Museum District near The Menil Collection. Founded by John and Dominique de Menil (of Menil Collection fame), Rothko is a non-denominational chapel and exhibit space for modern art that draws thousands of visitors each year.

Dubbed the Garage Mahal, the [Art Car Museum](#) is unlike anything you've ever imagined. It's the only place you'll find the antennae and wing-cloaked Roachster or the Honda motorcycle that has been transformed into a shiny red rolling stiletto art car.



Museums cont.

Houston's [Contemporary Arts Museum](#) focuses on showing new work from national and international artists. In addition to hosting exhibits, the CAMH also offers lectures, special programs and a stellar shop chock-full of unique books and gifts.



*Holocaust Museum Houston*

Dedicated to remembering victims of the Holocaust and honoring the survivors, the [Holocaust Museum Houston](#) works to educate future generations about the dangers of hate and prejudice. Check out the education center and the permanent exhibit, *Bearing Witness: A Community Remembers*, which focuses on stories of Holocaust survivors living in the Houston area.

See the work of local and national artists who focus on using materials like fiber, metal, glass, clay and wood at the [Houston Center for Contemporary Craft](#). Located next door to Lawndale Art Center, the

HCCC has innovative exhibits and unique gifts in the Asher Gallery. Admission is always free.

Located in the Museum District, the [Lawndale Art Center](#) is a staple of Houston's art scene. Four galleries are contained in the art deco structure, which serves as a backdrop for annually changing exhibits and events like Dia de los Muertos and The Big Show.

Set in a former auto shop, Midtown's [Station Museum](#) is a private organization dedicated to thought-provoking contemporary art displays. The museum does not feature a permanent collection, but does offer three-to-four changing shows each year. A variety of sculptures, drawings, videos and photographs often fill the space, focusing on everything from the fall of Communism and the freeing of Eastern Europe from Soviet control to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and life growing up in the United States.

Situated inside downtown's Sam Houston Park, the [Heritage Society Museum](#) is the city's only interactive, outdoor museum. The site features structures dating back to the 1820s, including a 4th-ward cottage and a Greek revival house build for Rice University founder William Marsh Rice. The museum itself is free, but guided tours are \$10.

Set in Houston's Third Ward, [Project Row Houses](#) is a nonprofit art initiative aimed at creating a positive place for local artists to work. Some of the shotgun-style houses are dedicated to art and photography, while others are devoted to the literary and performing arts.



*The Heritage Society*

Museums cont.

[Blaffer Art Museum](#), the University of Houston's laboratory for the visual arts and contemporary culture, focuses on the art of the past 100 years and its artistic, cultural and intellectual antecedents. Following a facility expansion in 1999, the museum now presents and/or originates between six to eight exhibitions annually.

[Rice Gallery](#) is the only university museum in the United States devoted to site-specific installation art. Five times a year, Rice Gallery invites contemporary artists to create new installations on-site. Rice Gallery funds the artist's creative process from start to finish, and installations here can become a turning point in an artist's career. Young artists have the opportunity to expand their processes into well-developed, large-scale works, while mid-career and established artists can "fine-tune" their ideas and methods.

[Houston Center for Photography](#) is one of only a handful of non-profit spaces around the country that is committed to showing great new photography. HCP has shown work from some of the greatest photographers of the twentieth century, in addition to the work of many emerging photographers who have gone on to great artistic success.

The [Czech Cultural Center](#) celebrates the culture of Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia with events and exhibitions. The center features language classes, a museum, archives, genealogy resources, event facilities, library and an ecumenical chapel. Exhibits include Czech crystal, glass, porcelain, pottery, antique furniture, jewelry, folk costumes and fine art.

### Do It Yourself Pest Control

Pests inside your home can be annoying, harmful and downright scary. Fortunately, there are many steps you can take to combat pest problems. Of course, your first stop can be your last by calling an exterminator—and don't hesitate to call the manager if you need a recommendation. But you can often save time and money by doing it yourself. Here are some methods for treating bugs locally.

Boric acid powder, like Borid, works as localized pest-control for spot-specific problems. Just sprinkle it behind the refrigerator or around the stove, washing machine or wherever you suspect pests are. It kills roaches, water bugs, ants, fleas and silverfish. Many pest control powders continue working for more than three months. Be sure to read the precautions—these powders can be harmful to infants and pets.

Many insecticide sprays that professionals use, like the water-soluble Demon-WP, and the proper sprayers to apply them are readily available in stores or online. Generic brands are usually available at lower cost. Be sure to follow all instructions carefully. Be wary of taking on large projects, like treating for termites, which can involve drilling, digging and more. Staple products, like Combat, can also be effective, if you know what pests they should be used against. Combat is used specifically to target ants and roaches. The pests take the bait back to their nests, where presumably it destroys the entire infestation. This can be a good, cheap method—but again be aware of safety precautions.

Remember, all these methods are effective, but you can also eliminate bug problems by identifying why they're coming into your home. For example, ants are almost always a sign of excess moisture in your house or yard. Other pests are attracted to trash and food remnants. Eliminate whatever is attracting the pests, and you will eliminate the need for insecticides.

## STERLING ASSOCIATION SERVICES

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**Did you know** ....? LaCenterra hosts a Farmers Market every Saturday from 9:00 to noon. Some of the items for sale are local honey, free range eggs, grass-fed beef, herbs, seasonal produce and baked goods.

Individual garage sales are against deed restrictions. Katy Creek Ranch offers homeowners to have a garage sale twice a year.

Some restaurants where kids eat free are:

Denny's – Tuesday & Sat. 4-10 pm – 6920 Fry Rd or Katy Mills Mall – 10 and under  
Black Eyed Pea- Tues after 5:00 – 410 Mason Rd  
Fish City Grill – Mon – Tues in LaCenterra behind Perry's  
James Coney Island – Wednesdays – 740 Mason Rd  
La Finca Mexican – Mon – Wed – 23930 Westheimer Pkwy  
Preston's Bar & Grill – Sundays 26440 FM 1093 Rd

**All free meals are with a purchase of an adult meal and MOST are for children 12 and under.**

Do you have too many of those plastic bags from the grocery store? You can take them to the bins inside Wal-Mart, Kroger and Target and they will be recycled.

### ***We would love to hear from you...***

This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly newsletter. Anyone wishing to add anything to the newsletter should e-mail ddiggle@comcast.net or lilyranchdrive@gmail.com. We want this to be an informative newsletter for all of our community. Our Management Company is **Sterling Association Services Inc.** You may call them at 832-678-4500 or email to ry@sterlingasi.com with any questions you may have. You can also reach the home page at [www.sterlingasi.com](http://www.sterlingasi.com)

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

**[katycreekranchhoa.com](http://katycreekranchhoa.com)**