



THE WOODLANDS

September 2004

Warming The Patio

By James Tilley, President

Here it is September already and in a few days the schools will be buzzing and the weather will begin to get cooler. So you might be wishing you could use your patio right through the winter. Maybe these cooler evenings don't have to cool your outdoor enthusiasm. What can you do? How can you keep your deck or patio comfortable regardless of the temperature?

I have been at several Woodlands homes recently that are using various deck heaters. You've seen them... and probably experienced them... at all the restaurants around here with outdoor dining decks. Maybe it's time to consider a deck heater for your own favorite outdoor space. If you have ever been warmed by one of these little appliances at your favorite restaurant, you know they can bring some special magic and enjoyment even in the chilliest of evenings. If you happen to be entertaining, they comfortably extend your house out on to the deck or patio and this can be year-round.

Most of these heaters are fueled by propane... the same fuel as your gas grill. Many of these heaters require no installation at all... just position where you want warmth and comfort. These heaters are also available in natural gas so you can tap in to your furnace's natural gas source in the house. However, this will require gas plumbing and normally require city permits and city inspections... even at home.

Some of the "southwest" patio heaters are fueled by the same wood you normally would use in your fireplace. I am sure you have seen the pot belly shaped terra cotta models. Of course many of the other wood burning styles are simply variations of fire pits constructed in the middle of the patio. Several companies even offer simulated logs for fire pits that use propane burners as a high-output heat source.

The propane-fueled heaters operate on the principle of simple infrared radiant heat and reflection. They generate amazingly good heat using very little energy. It is essentially the same radiant warmth you feel from the sun... but don't expect patio heaters to give off any useable light. They are surprisingly efficient and quite inexpensive to operate.

The most common heaters are basically a roll-about "post" with a propane gas grill tank hidden in the base. At the top of the post is a burner grid plus a reflector about eight feet up. They look a bit like a big floor lamp. One click of one button and they are generating heat. Generally, one unit can handle a deck of up to about 1,000 square feet. They come in a bunch of (continued on page 2)



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Letter from the Editor:

*In next month's newsletter, I'd like to include a fun **Halloween** section. Please submit the following ideas to me at 465-4464 or shawn@rizzos.net by 9/15/04.*

- *Local **Halloween** events*
- *Your **Halloween** family traditions*
- *Your child's **Halloween** story or a photo in their costume*

I look forward to your submissions!

-Shawn Rizzo

BOARD MEETING
September 4th, 9:00 AM

Carl's Jr.
Conference Room

Neighborhood Happenings



Friendly Neighborhood Reminders

- Leaving cat or dog food out in the open attracts rodents – especially RATS! Let's feed our pets inside.
- Neighbors and children who are out walking and/or bike riding would appreciate shrubs and trees cut back in order to avoid someone getting hurt. Older neighbors with vision and mobility difficulties are also at risk. Please take a look at your front yard – if you were walking or riding, would it be a problem to stay on the sidewalk safely?

Cabana Club – Woodlands Swim Team

The Woodlands Swim Team finished the season very nicely. Results: 2nd Place at the Invitational, 1st Place in the conference, both "A" and "B" divisions, and 5th Place at the county meet. The swim team would like to thank the Woodlands neighborhood for being so supportive of the 41st Woodlands Invitational. We appreciate your tolerance and patience throughout the years.

The Cabana Club will close for the season on September 26th. The sound wall construction is scheduled to begin in early September. Watch for our new look in the spring!



Warming The Patio (continued from page 1)

colors so they can blend in well. One propane tank will last ten to twenty hours depending on the heat setting. For most types of weather that we experience here around the Woodlands your tank should last closer to twenty hours.

If you have a roof or trellis over your deck, you can attach or hang the burner and reflector to the trellis or roof beams and position the tank out of site. This is the way most of the natural gas heaters are installed as well. Of course you limit the flexibility of moving the warmth where you want it when you install a heater this way.

There is also a small lightweight heater that you can mount directly on top of your propane tank. This type is called a directional heater. The reflector and burner assembly can be aimed directly at a small area where people are sitting. These models tend to be the least expensive of the gas heaters and are certainly the most portable.

The least expensive way to warm the deck is with natural wood burners. The terra cotta pottery styles are often quite esthetically pleasing. They crackle and pop just like your fireplace and they radiate heat in all directions. There is also a wood burning steel fire pit that can be wheeled about that also radiates heat in all directions. These tend to take up a lot of space on the patio but do work really well.

Think a lot about safety when using these devices. The big builder outlets and hardware stores that carry these items usually have someone to speak with about safety and installation tips.

September has arrived. Here is to year round comfort on your deck.

Community Happenings



September 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	<p>6 LABOR DAY!</p> <p>Labor Day Concert – Walnut Creek Concert Band, 6pm, Civic Park FREE</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>Back to School!</p> 	9	<p>10</p> <p>September 10-12: Pacific Fine Arts Sidewalk Arts Festival on Locust, Main and Cypress Streets</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Movies Under The Stars: “The Wizard of Oz” 8pm, Heather Farm Park, FREE</p> <p>44th Shadelands Antique & Collectible Show, 8am-4pm, Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, FREE</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Walnut Festival 5K/10K Run/Walk, 8:30am</p> 	13	14	15	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>Walnut Festival Parade, 6:15pm, Main Street</p> <p>Movies Under The Stars: “Peter Pan” 8pm, Heather Farm Park</p>
19	20	21	22	<p>23</p> <p>Walnut Festival</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Walnut Festival Big Fun 7pm Eddie Money 9pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Walnut Festival Jorge Santana 9pm</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Walnut Festival</p>	27	28	29	30	<p>For more Walnut Festival Info visit: www.walnutfestival.org</p>	

******Please submit any events you would like to see on October's calendar
to shawn@rizzos.net by September 15th******

Classified Ads

Painting Contractor: *Area Specialist* LCG
 Painting/Removal of acoustical ceilings and retexturing. (Cal Lic #765438) For all your painting needs. Specializing in interiors, exteriors and decks. Quality Workmanship. Affordable rates. Satisfaction guaranteed. Many area referrals. Bonded and insured. Call Larry 676-1693



We are not responsible for checking licenses and references.
 Please do so for your own safety.

Handyman: Quality work. Versatile-almost any standard job or unusual problem. Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, Linoleum, Tile, Windows and Doors. Honest and have references. Paul 676-6607

Color Coatings Painting: Lic 740315 Repaint Specialist. Interiors & Exteriors. Acoustic Ceiling removal & Texturing. FAST, CLEAN & NEAT. References, Satisfaction Guaranteed. Free estimates. 935-7593

For Sale: Traditional Kindel 6 ft. couch. Light colored, green, gold floral. Excellent condition. \$100. Call Kay Ready 937-6824

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE !!!
 (925-465-4464)

WALNUT FESTIVAL 2004
 For more information on the 5K/10K run, entertainment & other events visit:
www.WalnutFestival.org

Yard Maintenance Information:
 Woodlands homeowner would like to speak by telephone to any residents who have their yards maintained by Augustin Lozano or his friend Ramon (who speaks very good English). Strictly confidential.
 Please call Bill at 429-3314

Classified Ad Rates

Business & Miscellaneous Classified Ads:
 \$5.00 - Woodlands Residents
 \$10.00 - Non-Woodlands Residents

Full Page Flyer Rates

Full Page, 1-sided flyers, white paper.....\$ 80.00
 Full Page, 2-sided flyers, white paper.....125.00
 Full Page, 1-sided flyers, colored paper.....85.00
 Full Page, 2-sided flyers, colored paper.....130.00

Classified Ads & Flyers must be submitted by the 15th of each month

Call Shawn at 465-4464
 shawn@rizzos.net

House-Sitting/Room to Rent: I am looking for a room or an apartment to rent for my parents who will visit us for 3 weeks in December (12/10 - 12/30). I live on Tupelo and it would be nice if they could stay somewhere in the Woodlands. They could also do some house-sitting and take care of your house, garden and pets while you are gone. (My parents are in their fifties and own a house with a big garden themselves in Germany. They are used to handling cats and dogs.) For more information call Sabine 296-0948 or 286-7827 cell or email me at skroeber@astound.net

