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## Around New Territory



Eagle Scout David Szpakowski and Troop 100 recently completed a Hornaday conservation project for the City of Sugar Land at Lost Creek Park. A nature trail was constructed at the park so that visitors could better enjoy the wildlife while getting exercise walking the trail. With more and more of our land being developed for homes and businesses, creating the trail helps to preserve this habitat for local plants and animals. This is the second Hornaday project completed by David as he works toward the Hornaday Silver Medal, the highest award in Scouting for conservation.



The largest cast in BalletForte's history -- about 140 dancers -- will hit the Stafford Centre stage in December to perform the enchanting ballet, *The Nutcracker*.

You do not want to miss this professionally choreographed and beautifully costumed production. Tickets go on sale to the public on Oct. 1.

The *Nutcracker* Cast includes young area dancers ages 8 and up who auditioned in August, as well as BalletForte Company dancers. BalletForte is Fort Bend County's only nonprofit dance company created to entertain and educate the local public in the art of classical ballet, while providing performance opportunities for dancers who wish to pursue a professional career in ballet.

BalletForte's *The Nutcracker* is a perfect introduction to classical ballet for the young and young at heart. A Fort Bend County tradition, performances will be held at the Stafford Centre.

This year's shows will be held Friday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. BalletForte will also perform exclusively for area Title 1 schools the morning of Dec. 7.

For more information, call BalletForte at 281-799-7554 or e-mail [balletforte@hotmail.com](mailto:balletforte@hotmail.com)

Tickets for the BalletForte Guild's 8th annual Clara's Nutcracker Tea go on sale today (Sept. 17) at 4:30 p.m. Clara will be greeting guests starting at 2 p.m. on Dec. 2, at Safari Texas in Richmond.

Savor a lovely tea of delectable treats from the Kingdom of Sweets with your family and friends. Then sit back and enjoy a reading of the beloved *Nutcracker* story, while the beautifully costumed dancers perform excerpts from the ballet. Don't forget to have your picture taken with Clara on her throne and then collect autographs, snap photos and make many happy holiday memories mingling with the dancers. Ballet and *Nutcracker*-themed raffle prizes will be distributed throughout the afternoon event.

Clara's Nutcracker Tea is a charming prelude to BalletForte's *The Nutcracker*. Tickets to the tea are \$25 each. Seating is limited. Last year's tea was a sold out event.

Proceeds from Clara's Nutcracker Tea support BalletForte, Fort Bend County's only nonprofit dance company created to entertain and educate the local public in the art of classical ballet, while providing performance opportunities for dancers who wish to pursue a professional career in ballet.

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