

Grand Lake GAZETTE

Volume 4, Issue 1

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRAND LAKE ESTATES POA

January 2018

News and Notes from the Board

DECEMBER 2017 BOARD MEETING

Road repairs have been completed.

The majority of the Connie Lane Drainage Project is completed with an are that will need additional repair still outstanding. Bids are being sought for this additional repair.

A study was done to evaluate whether a restroom can be added at the park site. The study determined that adding a restroom is feasible in this location.

Additional gabians were installed for the Guinevere Spillway maintenance.

The Board was authorized up to \$15,000 to purchase reserve property. The owner accepted \$12,000 and the Board is working on the deed transfer.

Diane Melroe has resigned from the Board since she has moved from the neighborhood. The Board is seeking interest for someone to serve on the Board until September 2018 in her place. Anyone interested in this position can contact Tammy Perry for more information.

ROK Construction has been awarded the bid for the Connie Lane drainage easement grading.

The Board will be replacing the LED signs at both the front and back gates.

Once the gate relay box is repaired, the gates will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and again between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Board approved a bid for PKPC to cement the signs into the ground.

PKPC was also awarded a bid to install the Christmas lights at the main entrance.

The Board approved the position of a voluntary event coordinator to coordinate between the GLE events and the social committee events. This event coordinator will send out notifications to the community. Anyone interested in this position can contact Tammy Perry.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Missing out on the GLE newsletter? Go to Peel, Inc. Newsletter Subscription and sign up to have the newsletters sent directly to your mailbox. Prior versions of the newsletter may be found at the Peel website, as well as, on the GLE POA website.

GLE's Property Management Company is IMC Property Management and our property manager is Tammy Perry. Tammy can be reached at tammyperry@imcmanagement.net or 936-756-0032.

GLE POA's new website is up and running. Just go to glepoa.com to check it out. If you have any questions concerning the new website, please contact Tammy Perry at IMC Property Management.

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THE GLE INAUGURAL TURKEY TROT AND FUN RUN



The event was held Thanksgiving morning with our 3.14 mile 'Pi Run' held on the cart path of the golf course, and our fun run held on Tiffany's Court.

Runners were treated to music, hot chocolate and participation ribbons. Our top finishers in the Run were awarded pies and baked goods, and our Fun Run winner got a goody bag. The weather was perfect, we had a great turnout, and it was a really fun event! We can't wait to do it again next year!

Thank you to everyone that came out, the golf course for allowing us to run their cart path, the Getting Social Group for making it possible and the volunteers who helped pull this off! – Nikki Martin

Our Fun Run winner was Kayden Solomon and Our Pi Run winners - 1st Place: Nathan McCarty (left), 2nd Place: Josh Alaniz (right), 3rd Place: Matt McShan (center).

Cosmopolitan Cocktail



- 1/2 oz. Triple Sec
- 1 oz. Vodka
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- 3/4 oz. Cranberry Juice

Pour all ingredients in shaker half filled with ice, shake and strain into Martini glass. (I always put a little ice in the glass with a tiny twist of lime)

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Meet Iris

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Let me introduce you to Iris, our 9-year-old Eastern Screech Owl. She makes her home at TWRC Wildlife Center and is a “gal about town”. As one of our Animal Ambassadors, she can often be seen at schools, churches and community events throughout the Houston area.

Iris was just a few days old when a rescuer found her on the ground. Our vet staff could see that one of her eyes wasn't developing properly. After being examined by a specialist, it was discovered that she was blind in that eye. Knowing that owls can still survive in the wild with only one eye, a dedicated rehabilitator worked with her to prepare her for release. With her eye problem and some other issues that developed, it was decided that it was in the best interest of Iris not to release her and instead “promote” her to an Animal Ambassador.

Iris lives a pretty good life. She is served with frozen mice that have been warmed. She goes to the “beauty shop” every couple of months

to get her nails done (actually they're called talons) and get her beak trimmed and shaped. She is also given a thorough examination to make sure she is healthy. We are grateful to Dr. White at Briarcrest Veterinary Clinic who donates his time to the Center to care for Iris and our other Animal Ambassadors. In the wild, Screech Owls live an average of 12 years but because Iris doesn't have to face the challenges of life in the wild, she is expected to live well beyond 12 years of age.

Screech owls have a unique call. One source described it as a horse on helium. They let out a descending whinny capped off with a trill. If you come to our Center to visit, she may even “talk” to you. One of her favorite things is to do is to respond to sirens she hears. As soon as she hears a siren, she starts in. Wish we could read her mind to find out why she does that.

Iris and her handlers are available to come and talk to your group, your school, your church or other gatherings. If you would like pricing information, send an email to education@twrcwildlifecenter.org.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. www.twrcwildlifecenter.org

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It's Another New Year...



"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

ANCIENT NEW YEARS: The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about

4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring). The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary. The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison. The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

THE CHURCH'S VIEW OF NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS: Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations. During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS: Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment. The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

AULD LANG SYNE: The song, "Auld Lang Syne" is sung at the

stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

CABBAGE AND GROUND BEEF CASSEROLE

1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
1/2 cup chopped bell pepper

3 stalks celery, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped

1 (1 lb.) can whole tomatoes
salt and pepper to taste

1 medium cabbage, chopped
2 cups cooked rice

1 cup grated cheddar cheese

Brown the ground beef. Add celery, bell pepper, onion, tomatoes, salt and pepper. Cook until vegetables are nearly done.

Mix meat mixture, cabbage and rice together. Put in large casserole dish and top with grated cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.



**NOT AVAILABLE
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SEND US YOUR EVENT PICTURES

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to grandlakeestates@peelinc.com Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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Recluse Spiders

Recluse spiders are shy and, as their name suggests, do not like being out in the open. They are about the size of a quarter, with a body that is 1/2 inch long. They can be light brown, dark brown or greyish in color. They have no spines on their legs and usually have a uniform body color. Recluse spiders are known for their characteristic violin or fiddle-shaped marking on the “back” (a.k.a. cephalothorax... the front part of the spider). The real distinguishing feature is an eye pattern of three pairs of eyes arranged in a semicircle on the front of the cephalothorax.



Outside homes, recluse spiders can be found in garages or sheds, firewood piles, or piles of stored materials such as lumber, bricks, or rocks. Inside the home, these spiders are found in bedrooms, closets, bathrooms, under furniture, behind

baseboards, in attics, or in cracks and crevices. They are most active at night when hunting for food.

People are typically bitten by accidentally rolling over onto a spider while sleeping or trapping a spider next to skin when putting on clothing where the spider is hiding. Recluse spiders have a cytotoxin that breaks down tissue in the bite area. Several hours after being bitten a blister forms at the bite site that may grow in size as tissue breaks down from injected venom. Infected tissue eventually sloughs off, leaving an open wound that takes a while to heal. More serious symptoms may also occur such as chills, fever, fatigue, joint pain, or nausea. If you experience problems after being bitten by a spider, then seek medical attention immediately.

To avoid spider bites, try some (or all) of the following:

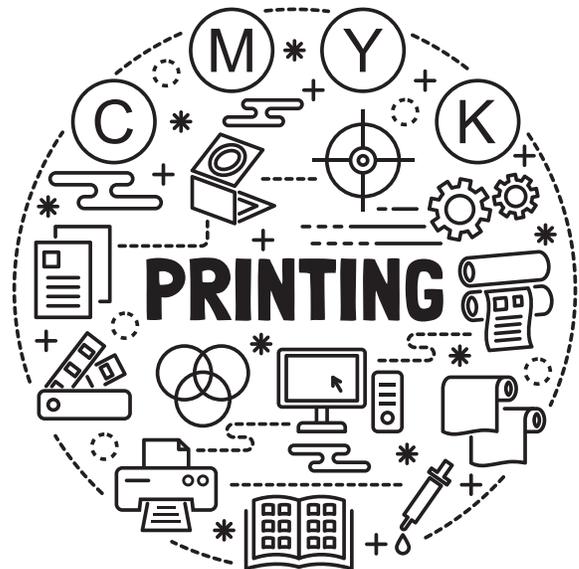
- Use sticky taps to capture spiders
- Remove bed skirts from beds (these make it easy for spiders to crawl into the bed)
- Don't leave clothes or blankets on the floor; shake out blankets and clothing before using
- When storing items, either use sealed plastic containers/ bags or tape boxes on all seams to keep spiders out
- Wear leather gloves when cleaning in undisturbed closets, attics, garages, or the yard
- Keep stacked, stored items away from the home. Do not store

firewood against the house and only bring in firewood to immediately place on a fire.

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

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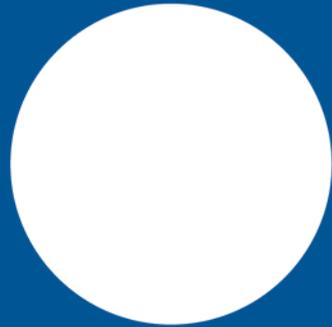
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