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# CRANE FLIES

Crane flies are surrounded by misinformation and misnomers. Some think that adult crane flies eat mosquitoes, but this is untrue. Adult crane flies feed on nectar or are non-feeding. Also, crane flies are sometimes referred to as “mosquito hawks” which is a misnomer. The name mosquito hawk is most often used to refer to dragonflies, but sometimes is also used to refer to a large species of mosquito with a larval stage which feeds on other mosquito species.



Crane flies can be small to large insects- topping out at about 1 inch, with long, slender legs, and a V-shaped suture on the thorax (body section behind the head). Legs tend to break off very easily, so you may often encounter these insects with less than their allotted amount of 6 legs (see image). Adults can be mistaken for giant mosquitoes and may frighten people.

Crane fly larvae are found in moist soil feeding on decaying organic

matter. The larvae are wormlike, legless, and without well-developed heads. Some species feed on roots of turfgrass or other plants, but usually do not cause enough damage to be considered a pest.

In Texas, crane flies become abundant in the spring. While adults may be a nuisance when entering homes or disturbing outdoor activities, they do not cause damage and do not bite. Keep doors and windows closed and make sure screens are in good repair. Either turn off outside lights at night or use “bug bulbs” to reduce the number of crane flies drawn near the home because of light sources.

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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## CLUB TRACK TEAM REGISTRATION FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Now in its 31st year, the Northwest Flyers Track Club is accepting registrations for all middle and high school athletes for the spring and summer 2018 season. The team is sanctioned by USA Track & Field, and offers a full program of “track” events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and “field” events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, discus, shot put and javelin and pole vault. It is an excellent “off-season” program for young athletes who currently compete on their middle school or high school track teams.

The team was founded 31 years ago by local Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the northwest Houston area. In July, 2017 the



Northwest Flyer had one of its most successful competitions ever at the Junior Olympics in Lawrence, KS.

In order to register, athletes must first attend one of the orientation sessions in late March/early April, 2018, which are listed on the team website at [www.northwestflyers.org](http://www.northwestflyers.org). For additional information about the team, email [linette.roach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linette.roach@sbcglobal.net) and "Like" the club on Facebook.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

CGNOA Recreation Center .....	281-290-6723
Guard House.....	281-357-4183

### SCHOOLS

Tomball Independent School Dist. ....	281-357-3100
Willow Creek Elementary .....	281-357-3080
Canyon Pointe Elementary.....	281-357-3122
Northpointe Intermediate .....	281-357-3020
Willow Wood Junior High .....	281-357-3030
Tomball High School .....	281-357-3220
Tomball Memorial High School.....	281-357-3170

### PROPERTY TAX

Harris County Tax.....	713-224-1919
Mud #280 and Mud #15.....	281-376-8802
NW Harris WCID .....	281-376-8802

### POLICE & FIRE

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Harris County Sheriff ( Non Emergency) .....	713-221-6000
Klein Vol. Fire Dept. ....	281-376-4449

### MEDICAL

Tomball Regional Medical Center .....	281-401-7500
Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.....	281-477-1000
Houston Northwest Medical Center .....	281-440-1000
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-586-4700
Texas Sports Medicine Center .....	281-351-6300
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Cypress Creek EMS (www.ccems.com) .....	281-378-0800

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## Meet Our Students

Hosting an international exchange student is a great way of opening the world to your children and teaching them about new cultures.

STS Foundation is currently looking for families for the 2018/2019 school year. What does it take to be a host family? STS accepts all types of families, be it single parents, young marrieds, empty nesters or same sex couples – we are looking for families that are willing to Share their America with a high school student for the year. All you need to provide is three meals a day and a room for them to sleep in. The student can share a room with a same sex sibling that is within five years of their age. Each student comes with their own spending money and health insurance. Most of all, they come with an excitement to learn all they can about our American way of life.

Here are just some of the many students that are available for placement:

Abby from Denmark – loves being active in sports, nature and at the beach. She is a competitive swimmer and enjoys horseback riding.

Dominik from Switzerland – an open minded, uncomplicated boy, with a real interest in American sports

Maria from Norway – she describes herself as an outgoing, adventurous, mature, compassionate person.

Saana from Finland – she is both sympathetic and empathetic. She enjoys music and sports, and according to her bio – she has a great laugh!

If you are ready for this amazing experience, please give me a call, I'd love to talk with you more about it. I am one of the Houston area STS Local Coordinators, I've worked with foreign exchange students for seven years and have also hosted 13 students on my own. I can tell you anything you need to know about hosting. Please contact Vicki Odom at 832-455-7881 or via email at [vicki.stsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.stsfoundation@gmail.com).

STS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization who mission is to facilitate educational opportunities where all participants can break down cultural barriers, and gain respect and understanding of each other's way of life.

## Cypress Springs Vendors



Calling all vendors! The 2nd Annual Mother's Day Market & Car Show presented by Cypress Springs FFA Booster Club will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 between 9AM-5PM & Sunday, April 22, 2018 between 10AM-4PM.

Indoor booths are \$110.00 and outdoor booths are \$100.00. All proceeds will benefit the Cypress Springs FFA students in attending state convention, competitions and creating scholarships for graduating seniors. The event is held at the CFISD Exhibit Center at 11206 Telge Road, Cypress, TX 77429, ¼ mile north of Hwy 290.

For additional information, please visit [www.cyspringsffa.com](http://www.cyspringsffa.com) or contact Elizabeth Ordonez via email at [cy\\_springsffa@yahoo.com](mailto:cy_springsffa@yahoo.com).





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## MARKETING vs. LISTING

Don't be fooled, a 'For Sale' sign in your front yard is not a marketing plan and neither is making sure your home is listed on HAR. The difference between listing a home and marketing a home is critical to the overall success of selling it.

As a successful real estate agent, I specialize in real estate marketing and will create a comprehensive customized plan with you to showcase your home.

Please feel free to call or email me anytime with questions.



**GARY  
GREENE**

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# CANYON GATE

## IS IT A TURTLE OR A TORTOISE?

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



*The photo is of a soft shell turtle admitted to TWRC for care.*

Some lump anything with an outside shell into the turtle category when in fact there are distinct differences between turtles and tortoises. Both are reptiles but turtles live in the water and the tortoise is a land-dweller.

Turtles are identifiable by their webbed feet and long claws. The webbing helps them swim. The tortoise has a heavier shell than the turtle and has short sturdy legs. Turtles are omnivores meaning they eat vegetation and meat. Tortoises tend to be herbivores but have been known to occasionally eat meat.

Both turtles and tortoises date back 220 million years! They both have a very long lifespan with sea turtles living up to 70 years and the more common turtles living up to 40 years. Tortoises can live up to 150 years!

Red-eared slider turtles became popular as pets when they were made available in dime stores. I know I had one in the 1950's so they've been around a very long time! Their popularity soared when the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle movie came out.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

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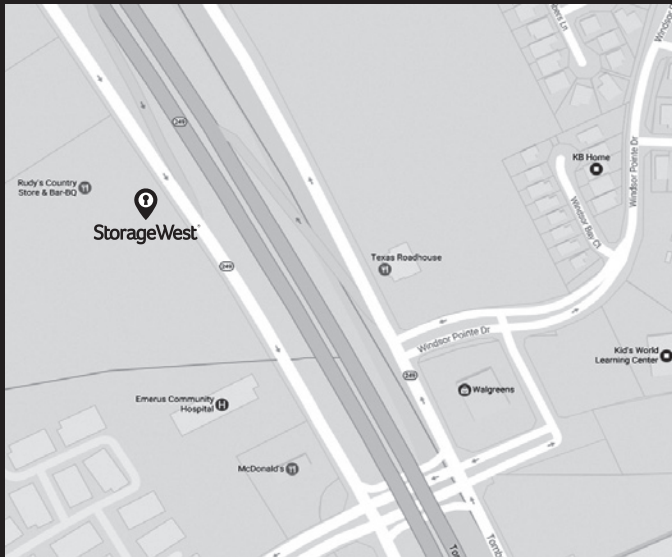


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# CANYON GATE

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(Continued from Page 4)

Because the turtles were released into the wild when pet owners got tired of them, they are now considered invasive in some states. A couple of states have outlawed the sale of them. These turtles tend to be a bit aggressive and make it difficult for other native species to compete for food and habitats. They can also introduce unknown diseases to the wild population when pet turtles are released into the wild.

Probably the most unique turtle in our area is the softshell turtle. They live in the water and are carnivores. It has a flat shell and will often bury itself at the bottom of a lake, stream, or bayou leaving only its neck and head exposed. It can breathe underwater much like a fish.

TWRC Wildlife Center cares for hundreds of turtles every year. Most are admitted because of injuries sustained from cars. In 2014, concerned citizens asked Missouri City to help protect turtles crossing the road. The City took a positive step by erecting road signs showing a mama turtle with three babies.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 38-year-old non-profit organization that is your resource for wildlife questions and concerns. Check out our website at [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org) or give us a call at 713-468-TWRC.



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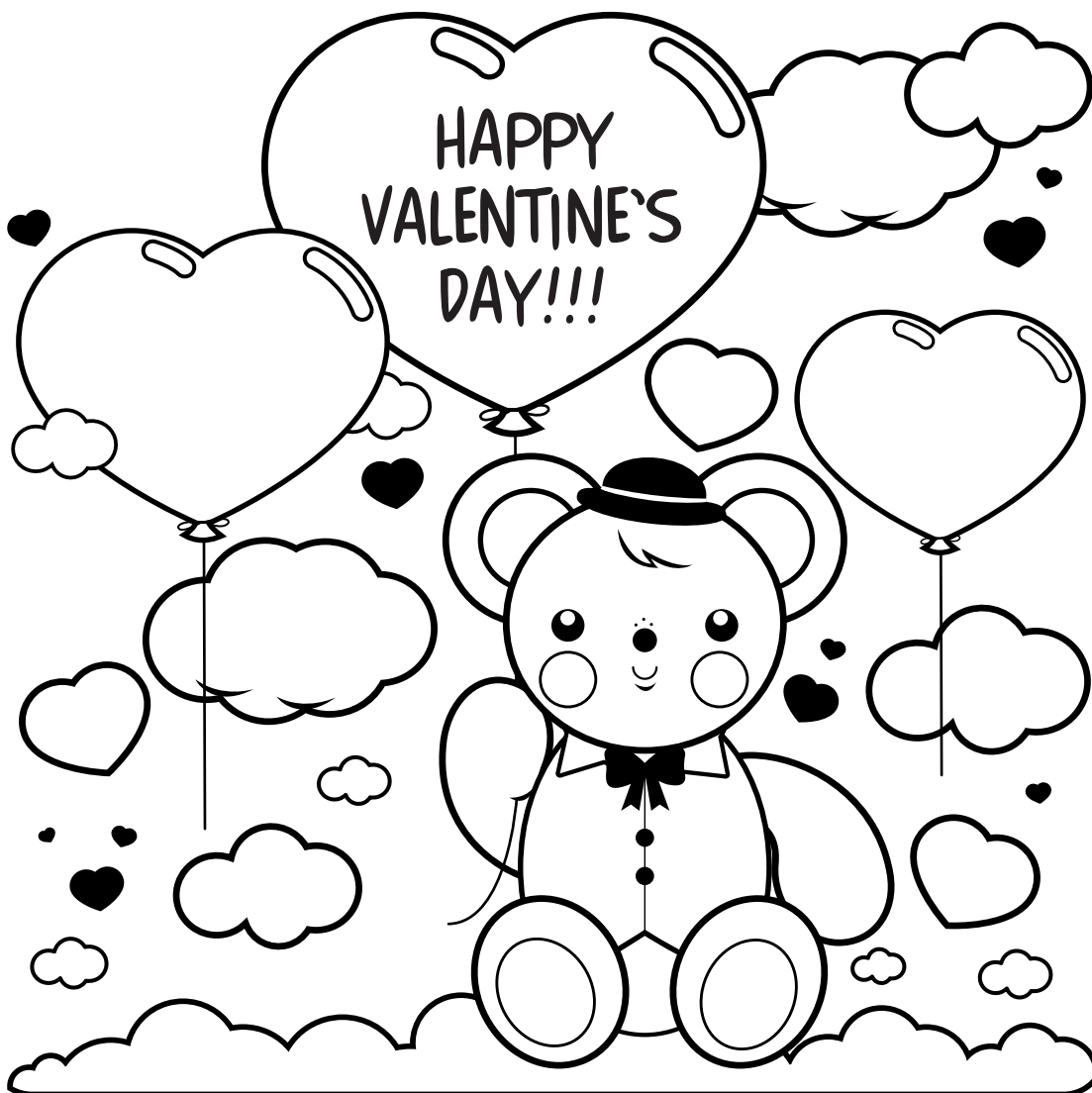
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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: January 31st

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\*SOURCE: www.har.com

## CANYON GATE AT NORTHPOINTE MARKET REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2017\*

Homes SOLD in 2017 4  
Avg Days on Market 44  
Avg Sales Price \$231,000  
Average List Price vs  
Sales Price Ratio 99%  
\*Data is from HAR for 12-1-17 through 12-31-17

### As of January 1, 2018:

Homes Currently for Sale 7  
Price Range \$199,000 - \$245,000

### Homes Under Contract 4

Option Pending 1  
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Pending Sales 0  
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Price Range \$174,900 - \$199,995

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**HAR Survey Score 5/5**

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