

The **RANCH REVIEW**

February 2018 Volume 12, Issue 2

News for the Residents of Legends Ranch



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Property Tax

Montgomery County Tax 936-539-7897
Conroe ISD 936-709-7751
Montgomery MUD #89 713-932-9011

Police & Fire

Emergency 911
Montgomery Sheriff 936-760-5800
Pct. 3 Constable Office 281-364-4211
S. Montgomery Co. Fire Dept. Non-Emergency 281-363-3473
Montgomery County EMS Non-Emergency 936-441-6243
Crime Stoppers 713-222-TIPS
Poison Control 800-222-1222
Texas DPS 713-681-1761

Utilities

Electricity (TXU) 800-368-1398
Electricity (TXU New Service) 281-441-3928
Electricity (Centerpoint) 713-207-2222
Gas (Centerpoint) 713-659-2111
Water/Municipal Oper. & Consulting 281-367-5511
Best Trash 281-313-2378
Street Light Outages 713-207-2222
Cable/Internet/Phone...COMCAST 713-341-1000

Public Services

Local US Post Office 281-419-7948
Toll Road EZ Tag 281-875-3279
Voters Registration 936-539-7843
Vehicle Registration 281-292-3325
Drivers License Information 936-442-2810
Montgomery County Animal Control 936-442-7738
Montgomery Chamber 281-367-5777

Conroe ISD 936-709-7751
Birnam Woods Elementary 281-863-4200
Cox Intermediate 281-465-3200
York Junior High 832-592-8600
Oak Ridge High 832-592-5300

NEWSLETTER INFO

Editor

Submit Articles legendsranch@peelinc.com

Publisher

Peel, Inc. www.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Advertising advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

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NATURE WATCH

RASCALLY RACCOONS

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Although easily recognized by its bandit mask and ringed tail, the Northern Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) is a widespread mammal but not often seen due to its nocturnal habits. It consumes a highly varied diet, is very intelligent and curious, and possesses a far greater manual dexterity and mental ability than cats and dogs, enough to defeat any but the most determined defense of garbage cans or home gardens. Much has been made of the intelligence of raccoons, with recent studies showing they are capable of remembering tasks for up to three years, possessing a mental acuity more closely approximating that of monkeys.

Denning above ground in tree cavities, chimneys and attics, underground in old burrows, storm sewers and crawl spaces, raccoons mate from February to August with 2 to 5 young (or kits) in each litter. Previously thought to be solitary, related females can share a common breeding territory, while unrelated males live together in small groups to guard their mating opportunities against potential rivals. Raccoons have a large array of over 50 vocalizations, including hissing, growling, purring, squealing, and chirping. They can run up to 15 mph, are efficient tree climbers, and can survive unharmed if dropped from heights of up to 40 feet. Raccoons are found throughout all regions in

Texas, but they are seldom found far from water, which has an important influence on their distribution and breeding success.

Contrary to popular belief, raccoons do not wash everything they eat, but they do manipulate their food (appearing to wash it when water is available) in order to tactually experience the object rather than actually clean it. In fact, the word 'raccoon'

was adopted into English from a now extinct language called Powhatan, which was spoken by the native peoples of Tidewater Virginia, and translated to mean 'one who rubs, scrubs, and scratches with its hands.'

Raccoons exhibit rascally behavior by stealing food out of pet dishes, eating fish out of backyard ponds, and knocking over trash cans and scattering the contents. Additionally, they can carry and spread disease like rabies and parvovirus. However, since they are scavengers, they play an important role in keeping our ecosystems healthy by cleaning up carrion (keeping our surroundings sanitary),

eating other species we humans consider pests (when numbers get out of control), and spreading the seeds of native plants (by consuming berries and nuts).

You can do your part to keep their destructive behavior at bay by resolving conflicts compassionately. Contain available food sources by putting your trash out in the morning instead of the evening, feeding your pets indoors, and placing netting over ponds containing fish. Close all entry points to your home and other outdoor structures, so they are not used as dens to raise young. If a family of nesting raccoons is found in or around your home, they should not be removed until the end of



Northern Raccoon

nesting season in the fall. Separating the young from their mother will mean they will starve to death, and trapping and moving the family will likely result in death from resident raccoons, and is a Class C misdemeanor in Texas (this applies to transporting or selling live raccoons, coyotes, and foxes from, to, or within the state).



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Leek and Potato Soup

There is nothing like a great soup on a cold, wintry day.

From https://www.ehow.com/video_13811_make-leek-potato.html



INGREDIENTS:

- 3 c. milk
- 2 medium peeled and diced potatoes
- 3 tbsp. butter
- 3 stalks celery sliced thin
- 4 well-washed and thinly sliced leeks (white and light green parts only)
- 3 c. cold water (substitute chicken broth if desired)
- Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD:

Melt butter in a large pot. Add leeks and celery and sauté 10 minutes over medium heat, stirring often. Add 1 c. water, cover and cook 10 more minutes. Add potatoes and another 2 c. water. Cover and cook 10 minutes. Add milk, cover and cook 10 more minutes, or until potatoes are just tender. Season with salt and pepper to taste and serve.

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