

Ivy Point, Pinehurst, Club Point, Golf Villas, The Shores, The Pines and Estates of Pinehurst

June 2018

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 8, Issue 6

# WILDLAND FIRE PRECAUTIONS

With warmer temperatures and drying vegetation, residents need to be reminded of the need for wildfire/brush fire safety awareness and preparedness.

Do not park vehicles on the dry grass. The heat from the vehicle's exhaust system can cause the grass to catch fire.

Remove combustible materials from around your home. Keep grass mowed short.

Pack critical medicines, important documents, and family heirlooms to be ready to leave at a moment's notice.

Agree on an evacuation plan that includes what to do if you get separated and where you'll go in case of evacuation.

#### TEN SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDLAND FIRE

Wildfire can strike home if you have not taken some steps to protect your house and property. The actions and precautions listed below are designed to help you prepare your home and lessen the threat of wildland fire damage to you and your property.

1. LPG/propane tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep area around the tank clear of flammable vegetation.

2. Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings.

3. All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic tables, boats and stacked lumber should be kept away from structures.

4. Clear roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid build-up of flammable materials such as leaves and other debris.

5. Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet or more.

6. In rural areas, clear a fuel break of at least three times the fuel length around all structures.

7. Have fire tools handy such as: ladder long enough to reach your roof, shovel, rake and a bucket or two for water.

8. Place connected garden hoses at all sides of your home for emergency use.

9. Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your home.

10. Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your neighborhood.

Each family should be proactive to prepare for emergencies: Prepare a Basic Emergency Supply Kit; Make a Plan for Safety and Communicating with Family; Be Informed; and Get Involved in Preparing the Community.

A wealth of information to help you is available at:

http://www.ready.gov/wildfires

http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=8512

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#### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emergency	9-1-1
P-4 Constable Dispatch	
Humble ISD Police (Schools)	281-641-7900
Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept (AVFD)	
Non-Emergency Number	281-852-2181
Harris County Animal Control	281-999-3191
Texas Poison Control Center	

#### UTILITIES

Electric, (multiple providers)	www.powertochoose.org
Power Outages	713-207-7777
Street Light Outages	
Gas, Centerpoint Energy	
Gas Leaks	
Water, Inframark	
24 Hour Emergency Number	
Telephone, Centurylink	
Trash, Waste Management	
Humble Post Office	
Harris County MUD #132	www.hcmud132.com
Harris County MUD #151	www.hcmud151.org

#### SCHOOLS

Humble ISD	
Website	www.humble.k12.tx.us
Pine Forest Elementary	
Maplebrook Elementary	
Atascocita Middle School	
Atascocita High School	

#### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

Editor	OPEN
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# APRICOT STREUSEL BARS



#### **INGREDIENTS:**

1 cup dried apricots, coarsely chopped

- 1 cup sugar
- 11/2 cups water
- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups old-fashioned or quick-cooking oats
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Confectioners' sugar, for garnish

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

In medium saucepan, bring apricots, white sugar and water to boil over medium-high heat, stirring often. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer, uncovered, stirring often, until fruit has softened and thickened into a puree, 20 to 30 minutes. Remove from heat and cool completely.

Position rack in center of oven and preheat to 350 degrees. Lightly butter 13-by-9 inch baking pan. Line bottom and short sides of pan with 14-inch-long sheet of aluminum foil, folding the excess foil back to make handles. Butter and flour foil and long sides of pan, tapping out excess flour.

In large bowl, thoroughly mix flour, oats, brown sugar and baking soda. Add melted butter and vanilla and stir well. Mixture will be crumbly. Press half of the oat mixture evenly into prepared pan and spread with cooled apricot mixture. Crumble remaining oat mixture on top and gently pat into filling.

Bake until streusel topping is golden brown and looks set in.

Cool on a wire rack and cut into bars. Makes 36 bars.

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### ACIA HAPPENINGS HISTORY OF AMERICAN FLAG.

For more than 200 years, the American flag has been the symbol of our nation's strength and unity. It's been a source of pride and inspiration for millions of citizens. And the American Flag has been a prominent icon in our national history. Here are the highlights of its unique past.

On January 1, 1776, the Continental Army was reorganized in accordance with a Congressional resolution which placed American forces under George Washington's control. On that New Year's Day the Continental Army was laying siege to Boston which had been taken over by the British Army. Washington ordered the Grand Union flag hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill. It had 13 alternate red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner (the canton).

In May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she sewed the first American flag.

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

Between 1777 and 1960, Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

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• Act of January 13, 1794 – provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795.

• Act of April 4, 1818 – provided for 13 stripes and one star for each state, to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state, signed by President Monroe.

• Executive Order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912 – established proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.

• Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated January 3, 1959 – provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.

• Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated August 21, 1959 – provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.

Today the flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with 6 white. The stripes represent the original 13 colonies, the stars represent the 50 states of the Union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well: Red symbolizes Hardiness and Valor, White symbolizes Purity and Innocence and Blue represents Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice.



### WHAT'S LIVING IN MY CHIMNEY?

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



If you're hearing twittering followed by rapid, high-pitched chirps in your fireplace, you've got Chimney Swifts but before you call an exterminator to have them removed, it's important to know that the birds have the law on their side. They are protected by federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty

Act. It is illegal to remove or disturb their nests, eggs or young during the breeding season. Any knowledgeable, respected exterminating company won't touch them. Once the babies are old enough to chirp, they'll only be around for a couple of weeks before they leave the nest so hang in there and leave them alone. They cause little to no damage.

Sadly, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, Chimney Swift populations have decreased by 72% since 1966. Their favorite nesting places are old hollow trees and masonry chimneys. With urban sprawl many of the trees are being removed and newer homes and buildings are being constructed without fireplaces. If fireplaces are being built, newer materials such as metal liners are being used making it impossible for the Swifts to cling to the sides.

Once a nesting site has been found, Mom and Dad Swift construct

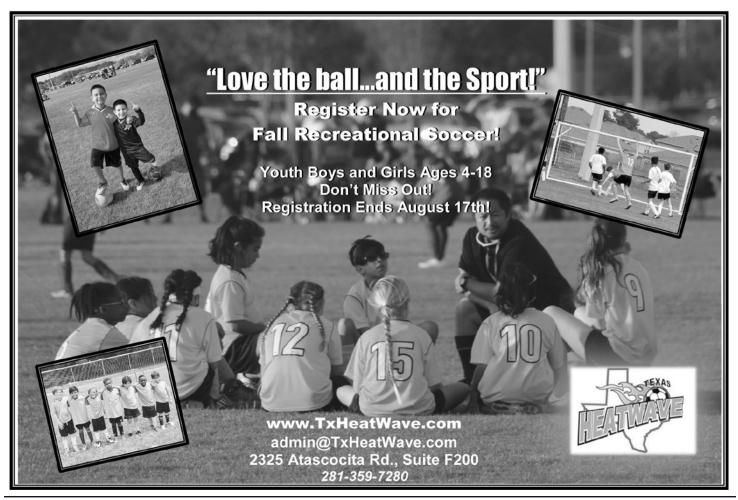
a half saucer-shaped nest made of twigs. The twigs are held together by glue-like saliva from a gland under the bird's tongue. The nest is "glued" to the side of the chimney.

Chimney Swifts fly almost constantly except when roosting overnight and nesting. They even bathe while flying. They fly down to the water, hit the surface with their body, bounce up and shake off the water. When it is time to rest, they don't sit on perches. They have long claws that cling to textured walls and other textured vertical surfaces such as the walls of your chimney.

Swifts are very beneficial. They gobble up thousands of mosquitoes, flies and other insects while in flight. Two parents along with their nestlings will consume up to 12,000 flying insects every day.

Come fall the birds migrate back to the Amazon River Basin.

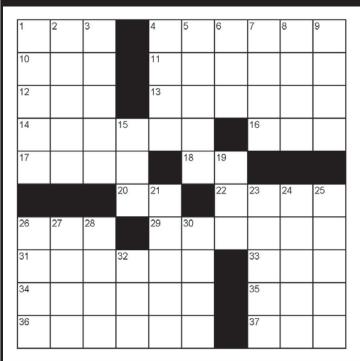
Chimney Swifts are admitted to TWRC Wildlife Center every year. As part of our mission, we want to educate the public to the laws regarding this species as well as many other migratory species. If you have Chimney Swifts in your chimney, please leave them alone and don't risk the fines and possible jail time associated with disturbing them. If you have questions, please give us a call at 713-468-8972 or check our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.



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#### **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



#### ACROSS

1. Abdominal muscles (abbr.)

DOWN

2. Lotto

1. Regarding

3. Character part

5. Cowboy show

6. Bullfight cheer

7. Dining hall

15. Status

21. Trouble

24. Measure

25. Strangely

27. Adolescent

30. Net

32. Choose

28. Austin novel

8. Domestic cat

9. Lovers quarrel

23. Small island

19. Respiratory disease

26. Branch of learning

4. Thousand (abbr.)

- 4. Walks
- 10. Bumbling insect 11. Hide (2 wds.)
- 12. Rowing tool
- 13. City in the former USSR
- 14. Incomparable
- 16. Supersonic transport
- 17. Meat alternative
- 18. " Mice and Men"
- 20. Cincinnati locale
- 22. Stretched car
- 26. Dined
- 29. Entertained
- 31. Delete
- 33. Type of partnership
- 34. Musical speeds
- 35. Elver
- 36. Seize
- 37. Sample

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Mud daubers are a great wasp to have around. They are solitary, generally docile, and can help to reduce various bugs in the landscape. Mud dauber wasps are <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>- 1" in size and come in a variety of colors. They have a very thin, thread-like waist.

Mud daubers create a mud

structure that they provision with insects and/or spiders; they lay an egg on each prey item within a cell in the nest, and then seal the nest off. When larvae hatch from eggs, they eat the items provisioned for them, pupate, and then emerge as adults to begin the process over.

Management is not usually needed for mud daubers as they do not guard their nest like other wasps. While they are capable of stinging, they are not considered to be aggressive. If you do not like the look of the mud nests, you can remove them with a putty knife.

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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#### Attention Parents of Graduating Seniors!

We would like to recognize our graduating seniors by including a small picture and a few lines about where your child will be attending college. Please send your information to articles@peelinc.com (include the newsletter you would like to recognize them in, photo, name, etc).



### **Heart Gallery Texas**



Meet Exzavyor (12)! He is a fun kiddo, who works hard in school and always strives to do his best. If you enjoy a quick pickup game or throwing the football around or kicking a soccer ball, Exzavyor

just might be the perfect fit for your family. He would is waiting for a family to call his own!

Interested in adoption or foster care? There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system regardless of which agency you work with. The first step is to choose a child placing agency to begin your journey. Learn more about starting the adoption process and the children waiting for forever families at www. heartgallerytexas.com.

# Delton Hayes Jewelers



### **HEALTHY SNACKS**

#### QUOTED DIRECTLY FROM VETERANS ADMINISTRATION WEB SITE:

- Apples (dried or cut into wedges), 1 medium or 1/4 cup (35 grams)
- Bananas, 1 medium
- Raisins, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup (35 grams)
- Fruit leather (dried fruit puree) without added sugar
- Carrots (regular carrots cut into strips, or baby carrots ), 1 cup (130 grams)
- Snap peas (the pods are edible), 1.5 cups (350 grams)
- Nuts (but not too many,) 1 oz. (28 grams) (about 23 almonds)
- Whole-grain dry cereal (if sugar is not listed as one of the first 2 ingredients), <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup (70 grams)
- Pretzels, 1 oz. (28 grams)
- String cheese, 1.5 oz.(42 grams)
- Low-fat or nonfat yogurt, 8 oz.(224 grams)
- Toasted whole-what English muffin with jelly
- Air popped popcorn, 3 cups (33 grams)



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- Cherry or grape tomatoes, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup (120 grams)
- Hummus, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups (120 grams)
- Pumpkin seeds in shell, ½ cup (18 grams)





**DID YOU SAY** 



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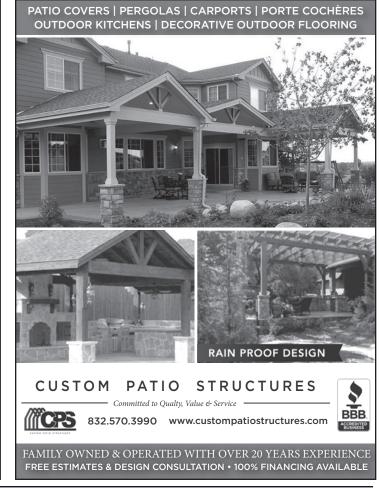
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Kids Club
ATTENTION KIDS: SEND US YOUR MASTERPIECE!   Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:   Peel, Inc Kids Club   308 Meadowlark St. Lakeway, TX 78734-4717   We will select the top few and post their artwork on our website at www.peelinc.com/index.php/kids-club   DUE: June 30th, 2018   Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!   Name (first name, last initial):
ACIA



### It's the prime time to sell your home!

School is finally out! With the warmer weather, more daylight, and the impetus to get a new house in order before the next school calendar begins, buyers are more likely to shop during this time of year, with home buying peaking in June.

Here are a few reasons summer is the best time to sell!

1. **Bigger Sale Price :** There are more buyers in the summer time which means tighter inventory which gets you top dollar for your home.

2. **Homes look better & days are longer:** Flowers are blooming, the grass is green and everything is bright! Daylight savings time gives the buyers more time to look at your home, which gives more buyers the opportunity to see it.

3. **Bidding Wars:** Bidding wars mean more money in your pocket. They also usually mean buyers are less likely to make repair requests or other demands. Additionally, cash buyers are some of the more aggressive bidders, so you might find a buyer with a fistful of dollars with a fast lane to closing day.

4. **Buyers are more motivated:** During the summer most buyers are trying to get in and settled before school starts back so they are going to be motivated to find a house quickly and get to the closing table.

Call us today for your free home market analysis or to discuss how we can help in getting your home on the market!



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