



Silverlake

news

Silverlake Homeowner's Association, Inc. Newsletter

June 2018 • Volume 10, Issue 6

Silvercrest PTA News

The Silvercrest PTA would like to thank all of its supporters and volunteers for a successful 2017-18 school year! Thanks to you, we have had a year full of fun, enriching programs for our students!

This month, the PTA would especially like to celebrate our 13th annual Stallion Stampede Fun Run, Breakfast and Silent Auction, held on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Over 400 runners enjoyed a beautiful spring morning while supporting our PTA. With three different distances (1K, 5K and 10K), there was an option for everyone in the family to participate. The top three 5K finishers (male and female) were recognized from the following age groups: 8 and under; 9 to 11; 12 to 17; 18 to 29; 30 to 39; 40 to 49; and 50 and over. The top three 10K finishers (male and female) were recognized from the following age groups: 11 and under; 12 to 18; 19 to 49; and 50 and over.

In addition to the fun run, there was a silent auction with great prizes ranging from once in a lifetime experiences like tickets to Disneyworld and our World Series champion Houston Astros to board game baskets and gift cards to Pearland area merchants. The Silvercrest PTA would like to thank all of the businesses and families that donated items for silent auction.

DJ Tommy Blaze provided music to warm up the runners before the race and contests afterwards for everyone's entertainment. Chick-fil-A was onsite selling breakfast to the crowd.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our sponsors who helped make the event possible. In addition, many of them were on site to show our participants what they had to offer.

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Special Thanks to Sign Gypsies – League City.

The event would not have been possible without the tireless time and support of volunteers from the Brazoria County Sheriff's Department, Pearland Area Runners Club, Dawson High School National Honor Society, Dawson High School French Honor Society, Rogers Middle School French Club, Cub Scout Pack 446, the Silvercrest Faculty and Staff and the Silvercrest PTA.

Proceeds from this event benefit the PTA's year end gift to Silvercrest Elementary. This year, funds will be applied towards campus improvements at the school. The PTA is excited to be able to support our school in this way, for the benefit of all the students, faculty, staff and volunteers who spend countless hours on campus every year. We are happy to be a dynamic part of this amazing school community!

With all that being said, we wish everyone a safe and fun summer, and look forward to seeing everyone back for the 2018-19 school year!

REMINDER

The North tennis courts at the Silverlake HOA clubhouse are under repair. It has been noted that people have ignored the "CAUTION – CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE" signs and climbed under the fence to use the courts. Anyone ignoring warning signs in any way will need to answer to Brazoria County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for trespassing. Patience in allowing the repairs to the courts and fences is mandatory. Maintenance and repairs are underway to return the courts and fences to a safe condition. Thank you for your cooperation with this important issue.

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SILVERLAKE HOA INFO

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Clubhouse Rentals contact

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ARTICLE INFO

The Silverlake News is mailed monthly to all Silverlake HOA residents. Residents, community groups, schools, etc., are welcome to submit information. Personal news is also welcome. All submissions will be reviewed for content and approved by the Board of Directors and Newsletter Committee Chair. The deadline for submission is the 8th of the month before publication.

Unauthorized Solicitors

Be aware that unauthorized solicitors have been going door to door in Silverlake neighborhoods claiming to have been approved by the Silverlake HOA to inspect roofs for repair or replacement and for assisting homeowners with their insurance claims. The Silverlake HOA Board has NOT approved any such action. The Brazoria County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has contacted the solicitors and instructed them to cease this action. Please report any such contact from unauthorized solicitors to the HOA office or the BCSO.

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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

MUD DAUBERS



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 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 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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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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HISTORY OF THE 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.

- 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.



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