

# RIVER PARK WEST

*Keeping You Informed, Educated & Connected*

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## Mega Bloom

Texas could experience its biggest 'megabloom' in a decade this spring

Though it may feel like this winter is going to go on forever, fear not, as spring flowers are well on their way. Especially in the state of Texas.

According to Wide Open Country, Texas Hill Country—a region located at the nexus of west, central, and south Texas—could see its greatest flower bloom in a decade.

As the site explained, the region experienced an above average rainfall this winter, which could lead to a megabloom. Wildflowers, including the region's famed bluebonnets, are even expected to blanket the region earlier than usual.

"Based on rainfall analysis, temperature analysis and scouting reports, the 2019 season is likely to see roadsides in bloom much earlier than normal and much earlier than fields. Based on some reports of early blooms, the 'bloom-line' could reach San Antonio by mid-March or earlier," the Texas Wildflower Report noted. "The 2019 Spring Wildflower season in some ways may resemble the 2010 once-in-a-lifetime season." However, the report also noted,

"there are some negative factors at play, so don't count on a season exactly like 2010."

Those negative factors included some above average winter temperatures in the region, which could pull the wildflower blooms off schedule. But the bloom is expected to be spectacular, nonetheless.

Where can you go to see the flowers for yourself? According to Wide Open Country, the best places to spot the blooms will be in Big Bend, including Big Bend National Park. There, visitors will likely find an early bloom. (See the park's flower report [here](#) this link opens in a new tab.)

The Brenham Area could also see an above average season, along with north central Ennis. The Texas Hill Country will likely see an above average to a well above average season, according to Wide Open Country, and South Texas could see an average season and early bloom too. Just make sure to only enjoy the bloom and not pick any of the gorgeous flowers. That way, everyone can enjoy the experience too.



## RESIDENT CORNER

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.....customer@inframark.com

### ONSITE & EVENTS COORDINATOR

Dee Norman

Email: [rpwcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:rpwcoordinator@gmail.com)

Tues – Thurs 10am to 5pm  
After hours 281-870-0585

### COMMUNITY WEBSITE

[riverparkwest.nabrnetwork.com](http://riverparkwest.nabrnetwork.com)  
[www.facebook.com/RiverParkWest](http://www.facebook.com/RiverParkWest)

### NEWSLETTER

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## BOARD INFORMATION

Tiffany Chen - President  
Larry Wilson - Vice President  
Lola Wilkerson - Secretary/Treasurer



*Board Meetings are held the 4th Monday of every other month with open to the public for all homeowners at 7pm. Confirmed meeting dates are notified 72 hours in advance on the official community website and sent via email to registered emails. Please be sure to register your email to stay informed.*

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**Trash Collection & Heavy Pick-Up** days are Tues & Fridays (Recycling on Fridays) - Residents can contact WCA directly for payment and trash container request by phone 281-368-8397 or by email [contact@wcamerica.com](mailto:contact@wcamerica.com)

**Street parking complaints** can be reported directly to Fort-bend County Sheriff Dept. 281-341-4665 press #4 for Dispatch or from the web site. Click on 'Report a Traffic Complaint' and fill in the blanks then submit at [www.fortbendcountytexas.gov](http://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov)

**CenterPoint Energy** maintains street lights throughout the community. Please use the form online to report a street light outage. If you need to report a power outage please call 713-207-2222

**To report street repairs** in the community, please submit a maintenance request form online or contact the Fort bend County Road & Bridge division at 281-342-4513

**To report street & drainage concerns**, questions about your water bill & usage, contact City of Richmond 281-342-5456

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## Community Events & Activities

*\*Details for upcoming events will be posted on Townsquare, Nextdoor and our \*NEW\* community Facebook page ([www.Facebook.com/RiverParkWest](http://www.Facebook.com/RiverParkWest))*



### Community Garage Sale- 4/6

Spring cleaning time is here! Our bi-annual garage sale is a great way to recoup some cash while cleaning out those closets and garages. Maps will be provided to buyers at the clubhouse office, so if you're interested in participating please send your address in as soon as possible to [rpwcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:rpwcoordinator@gmail.com)

### Spring Fest- 4/13

Bring the whole family out for a fun filled day in the community! Live entertainment, many activities, two delicious food trucks featuring half off menu items, an artisan milkshake dessert truck (full price) and so much more. Bring your blankets, coolers and/or canvas chairs and enjoy some fun in the sun with your neighbors!

### Saturday Movie Day

Bring the kids to the Clubhouse for a Saturday afternoon movie and snacks! Please RSVP to reserve seating via Townsquare or email, [rpwcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:rpwcoordinator@gmail.com).

### Senior Socials

Are you a senior looking to connect and make new friends within the community? Please join us for Senior Socials on the third Wednesday of the month, 9:15a-11:30a in the Clubhouse. Games, puzzles and activities will be provided. If you are a scrapbook enthusiast, please bring your supplies!

### Play Dates

Children 0-5 are invited (along with their parent/caregiver) for a mid-day meetup in the RiverPark West Clubhouse.

Join us for games, puzzles, coloring and more! Check Townsquare/Nextdoor Event calendars for upcoming dates.

### Book Club

Calling all literary enthusiasts! RPW Book Club is always looking for new members to join in the literary fun, meetings are held on the 4th Thursday each month. Please email [rpwcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:rpwcoordinator@gmail.com) or stop by the Clubhouse office during business hours to sign up.



## Need to Reserve the Clubhouse?

*To make a reservation, please login at [RiverParkWest.NabrNetwork.com](http://RiverParkWest.NabrNetwork.com)*



- Click on Log In.
- New to the website? Click on “Need to Register?”
- Once signed in, go to the “For Residents” Tab – Reservations – Make a Reservation.
- Review the calendar to find a date that works for you.
- To reserve a time slot, click on the time you want for your event (include set up time) and drag down the cursor to when your event will end (include clean up time). Maximum reserve time is 8 hours.

Complete the on-line reason for reservation box to hold your event date and time. You are required to read the Clubhouse Rules & Rental Contract. The rental rules and contract must

be completed and submitted to the clubhouse office to receive approval along with payment of \$50.00 for the rental fee and a payment of \$275.00 security deposit which is refundable.

Make sure you have your pool access card. This card will be your key for the clubhouse.

Your HOA account must be paid current for your reservation to be approved.

RiverPark West Community events that require the usage of the clubhouse will take precedence over any individual reservations. These events are on the Reservation Calendar and the Community Events Calendar.

**RIVERPARK WEST COMMUNITY WIDE**

**SPRING  
GARAGE SALE**

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RIVERPARK WEST PRESENTS

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Spring Fest**

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and so much more!

**APRIL 13 • 12 PM - 4 PM**  
**RIVERPARK WEST  
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Join us for a nice Spring day out in the  
neighborhood. There will be plenty of  
entertainment for the entire family! Pack your  
coolers, folding chairs, blankets and appetite.  
Delicious food trucks offering 1/2 off the  
menu. Don't be tardy for the party!



## Yard of the Month Winners!

Congratulations to the RiverPark West Yard of The Month winners for March!

**2003 Lone Pine Ct. and 2130 Trinity Manor Ln.**

The winners each received a \$25 gift card in appreciation of their hard work and dedication in keeping RPW beautiful.



## Smart Financial Centre Upcoming Events

APRIL 11- DOUBLE DARE LIVE!

APRIL 12- ARIJIT SINGH

APRIL 13- GLADYS KNIGHT

APRIL 17 & 20- THE MILLENNIUM TOUR

APRIL 26- CELTIC WOMAN

APRIL 27- NICKY JAM

APRIL 30- AL GREEN

MAY 1- SAMMY HAGAR

MAY 3- MY FAVORITE MURDER LIVE

MAY 4- THE 1975

MAY 9- MS. LAURYN HILL

MAY 11- MOTHER'S DAY SOUL MUSIC FESTIVAL

MAY 17- INDIA.ARIE

MAY 31- WISIN Y YANDEL

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO VISIT  
[WWW.SMARTFINANCIALCENTRE.NET](http://WWW.SMARTFINANCIALCENTRE.NET)

## Become a RiverPark West Volunteer

Do you want to see & participate in more community activities?

Community Associations thrive on volunteers and there are many volunteer opportunities available. The dedication and skills of volunteers are an invaluable commodity. Find out how you can help and make yourself at home! If you would like to participate, please email [rpwcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:rpwcoordinator@gmail.com).

### YARD OF THE MONTH

Help keep our community beautiful and participate in Yard of the Month which will resume in February. This is your chance to hold the title of one of the best yards in RiverPark West. Each yard will be judged in the following categories: Shrubs, Trees, Flowerbeds, Lawn Accents and Overall Appearance. Monthly winners will receive a gift card to a home improvement store as well as the honor of displaying the YOTM sign.

### SOCCER CLUB

This club is an organization whose purpose is to develop individual and team soccer excellence in order to compete at the highest level each individual and team is capable of for those children under the age of 8. If interested email Coach Wendell, [geeman32@gmail.com](mailto:geeman32@gmail.com) or join the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2040440646278121/>.

# Riverpark West

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## JAMBALAYA

- 2 C cooked rice (we like saffron rice)
- ¼ - ½ lb. Andouille sausage (or substitute your favorite)
- 1 lb. raw shrimp (de-head & rinse)
- 3 chopped green onions
- ½ cup chopped green or red sweet peppers
- 1 clove minced garlic
- 2 small cans tomato sauce
- Salt, pepper & oregano to taste



Cook rice and set aside. Sauté chopped vegetables in 1-2 T cooking oil. Add sausage and cook until almost done. Add shrimp and cook until pink. Stir in cooked rice and tomato sauce. Season to taste. Cook slow (20 minutes to ½ hour) until mixture is firm and moist, but not juicy.

• Jambalaya is one of those favorite dishes that vary from day to day. "Everything but the kitchen sink" is welcomed into the pot. It is a wonderful way to turn leftovers into a treat. Experiment!

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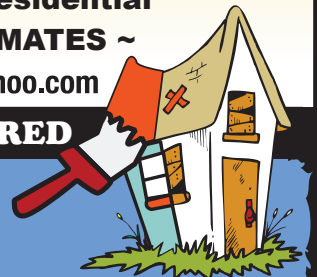
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## Raptors

*By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center*

Have you ever heard of a hawk vest, raptor shield or coyote vest? I had no idea they even existed until I started researching this article. Although they may go by different names, they are all very similar and serve the same purpose. They claim to protect small animals from birds of prey, coyotes and even aggressive dogs. Now you may think this is silly and even a little ridiculous but if you're someone who has suffered the loss of a pet snatched by a raptor or coyote, it makes perfect sense. As recently as January 18th in Pennsylvania, an 8-pound bichon frise was playing in the backyard when an eagle swooped down, grabbed it with its talons and flew off with it. Not to worry. For some unknown reason, the eagle dropped it 4 miles away and the dog recovered.

A bird of prey is a meat-eater but not all birds of prey are raptors. Eagles, owls, ospreys, kites, hawks, buzzards, harriers, vultures, and falcons are all raptors. Three traits help distinguish a raptor from other birds of prey and these three traits make raptors excellent hunters. A raptor has a curved beak with sharp edges, sharp claws or talons and excellent eyesight.

Of all the animals in the animal kingdom, raptors have the best eyesight. Their eyesight is 6 to 8 times better than ours. As far as which raptor has the best eyesight it is most definitely the eagle. It is believed that an eagle can spot an ant crawling on the ground from atop a 10-story building, or a rabbit up to a mile away. Breaking that down even a little further, this means an eagle flying at an altitude of 1000 feet over open country could spot prey over an area of almost 3 square miles from a fixed position.

The talons, or claws, of raptors are curved downward and are razor sharp. If you were to see a raptor's foot up close you would also notice rough bumps on the pads of the feet which aid in hanging onto their prey like slippery fish. The raptor swoops down and with a vise-like grip either kills the prey or inflicts serious wounds.

The beaks of raptors are all the same. They are curved with very sharp edges. They use their beaks to tear off fur, pull out feathers and tear meat into bite-sized pieces that they swallow whole. Raptors also have what we would call a "tooth" on the inside of the upper part of their beak. It's shaped like a triangle and is called a tomia. This is used to cut the spinal cord of its prey.

If you come across an injured raptor, there are very important steps to take to insure your safety and the safety of the bird. First, call TWRC Wildlife Center. If the bird doesn't fly away when approached, this doesn't always mean it's injured. It could be protecting food or babies. If it is determined that the bird actually needs rescuing, we will direct you on how to safely capture and restrain the hawk. If you do not feel comfortable handling the hawk, we can recommend other options for transport. If it is injured, you'll need heavy gloves, safety glasses and a thick towel or blanket. Throw the towel or blanket over

the bird and take hold of the bird by keeping its wings close to its body and your hands out of reach of the talons. Darkness helps calm birds and the towel provides that. Place the bird in a sturdy box or pet carrier that is only slightly larger than the bird. If it's too large, the bird will be able to flop around and could inflict even more injuries. Be sure to remove the towel or blanket from the container. Now place that towel or blanket over the carrier. Bring the bird to us as quickly as possible for care. Please do not attempt to feed the bird or provide water. As with most wild animals, it is illegal to have raptors in your possession. They are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

If you have any wildlife questions, give us a call at 713-468-8972 or check our website at [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org).

Spring is our busiest season and babies have started coming in. We need compassionate people to help feed and care for baby squirrels, baby opossums and baby birds. The age requirement is 14 and up. This is an experience you'll never forget! The link is <https://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org/volunteer/>





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