

Volume 19, Issue 11 • Wortham Village Voice • November 2019

A Night in Bethlehem

VISIT BETHLEHEM THIS SEASON ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH 5:00-8:00 PM. THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR THE COMMUNITY!

Messiah's A Night in Bethlehem is an outdoor, interactive event where individuals and families are invited to stroll through Bethlehem at their own pace. Imagine what life was like during this miraculous time in history as you visit the Spice Merchant, the Produce Market, sample the wonderful treats at the Bakery and taste the savory soup at the Soldier's Tavern. Listen to the storyteller, and visit the shepherds, & the Inn. Listen for the Kings arrival at the stable with gifts for Jesus, as Mary & Joseph look on. Don't miss this living, interactive recreation of the original Christmas story. Join us for free activities for the family including candle making, creating a clay pinch pot, sewing a coin bag or playing Bethlehem dress-up. Sample the soldiers stew, and enjoy cookies, hot cider and coffee.

Messiah A Lutheran Faith Community is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Messiah is located at 11522 Telge Road, ½ mile north of Highway 290. Regular Sunday worship times are: 8 am—Traditions; 9:30 am—The Gathering; and 10:45 am—The Crossing. The Discovery (education) Hour is 9:15-10:15 AM on Sundays. For more information, 281-890-3013 or www.messiahlc.org. All people are welcome at Messiah.





IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Life Threatening Emergency	
Fire	
Sheriff's Department	
Poison Control	
NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
Ambulance	
Sheriff's Department	
Harris County Health Dept713.439.6000	
Animal Control	
Gas - Centerpoint	
WATER & SEWER - MUD 222 (Municipal Operations)	
Service & Billing	
Street Lights	
Garbage & Recycling (Texas Pride) 281.342.8178	
email: service@texaspridedisposal.com	
U.S. POST OFFICE - FAIRBANKS STATION	
7050 Brook Hollow West 713.937.9108	
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER	

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BASHANS PAINTING & HOME REPAIR

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Wood Replacement
- HardiPlank Insulation
- Sheetrock Repair
- Cabinet Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Fence Replacement
- Custom Staining
- Custom Texturing

- Interior Carpentry
- Sheet Rock Insulation
- Interior & Exterior Door Replacements
- Stucco Repair
- Wallpaper Removal
- Crown Molding



USA FIT CYPRESS TURKEY TROT

Make plans to join us for this year's USA FIT Cypress Turkey Trot to burn those calories before your Thanksgiving Feast. We have a 5K and 1010K Option for runner and walkers.

Invite your family and friends! Children Welcome! The more the merrier and it's free. Non-members are welcome, they just need to sign our waiver.

Water, Gatorade and treats available at the finish line

Date: 11/28/19, Thanksgiving Morning Time: 6:30 am Place: Josey Lake Park, 1200 Bridgeland Creek Parkway, Cypress, TX.

We look forward to seeing you Thanksgiving Morning!

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE THROUGH ART

November is National Gratitude Month and local nonprofit Shield Bearer is encouraging children to practice gratitude through artwork. "Gratitude is good for you! It can help with stress, moods, and our overall health and wellbeing," shared Shield Bearer Executive Director Thad Cardine. "This art contest is a great reminder to practice gratitude each day from an early age."

Local kids ages 5 to 17 are encouraged to submit original art centered around the theme "I am grateful for ... " and winners will be selected in four age categories. A fun Art Contest Party to announce the winners is planned for November 21, 2019 at Plum Coffee Shop in Cypress. Elizabeth Hale, co-owner of Plum Coffee Shop shared, "We are excited to see the kids' artwork and to celebrate all there is to be grateful for this month!"

To enter the contest, visit shieldbearer.org/art or stop by Plum Coffee Shop at 11688 Barker Cypress Rd, Cypress, TX or Shield Bearer at 12340 Jones Rd Ste 290 in Houston, TX to pick up an entry form. Final artwork submissions are due November 19, 2019.

For more information about Shield Bearer counseling services, programs, or training, visit shieldbearer.org or call (281) 894-7222.



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Excluding Pests



When the weather turns towards autumn and leads into winter, many pests start looking for a cozy place which can often lead them inside your home. By performing a thorough inspection, you can locate areas where these pests may enter and stop them before they become a problem.

Inside the home, look around doors and windows and if you

see light around them it's a sign there isn't a good seal and weather stripping should be replaced. Inspect the attic for holes or entry points for small mammals such as rats, mice, and squirrels. Attic vents should be covered with stainless steel screening to block animals from entering. Outside, inspect the perimeter of the home for cracks and crevices in the foundation that should be sealed. Locate pipe and wire penetrations that enter the structure and seal areas that allow pests to enter.

Ideas on how to exclude pests from your home:

• Trim back or prune any trees and shrubs that touch or overhang the home

 \bullet Seal pipe & wire penetrations with copper mesh, sealant, or expanding foam

• Replace weather stripping around doors and windows if there is not a good seal

• Repair or replace window screens with holes

• For homes with brick or stone facades, stuff weep holes with copper mesh

• Clean debris from gutters to reduce harborage areas for pests

• Inspect all furniture, boxes, and bags for pests before carrying them into the home

• Inspect all plants for insect pests before bringing them into the home

• Do not store firewood inside the home, against outside walls, or near doors

• Use sheet metal, hardware cloth, or steel wool to seal any areas where animals have chewed to enter the home**

**make sure animal is not in the home or you'll seal it inside!

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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THREE BILLION LOST

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Recently, the journal Science published a study showing that we have lost more than 1 in 4 birds from the United States and Canada since 1970. That's 3 billion! The study was conducted by scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology along with six other institutions. "Birds are excellent indicators of environmental health. Severe declines in common birds, like those shown in this study, tell us something is wrong and underscores the need to become better stewards of the planet," said Dr. Nicole Michel, senior quantitative ecologist with Audubon.

The study doesn't address why we're losing birds in such great numbers but as with many wildlife species, habitat loss has to be at the top of the list. Other reasons are as follows:

• The use of pesticides – it is estimated that the United States uses 20% of all pesticides used globally every year. That's a staggering 1.2 billion pounds. Pesticides are used for agricultural purposes, forest and rangeland management and golf courses. They are also used in and around our homes.

• Climate change – Audubon conducted a study of 588 bird species and discovered that more than half are in trouble. Three hundred fourteen bird species will lose more than half of their climatic range by 2080. To read the full report, go to https://climate.audubon.org.

• Cats – According to a study by the Smithsonian Conservatory Biology Institute, over 2.4 billion birds are killed by cats, both pets and feral, in the U.S. every year.

• Collisions - windows, wind turbines, and other structures. According to the American Bird Conservancy, up to one billion birds die every year in the US when they hit windows and other structures. The Smithsonian estimates that wind turbines account for up to 328,000 bird deaths annually.

So what can we do to be better stewards of the environment? Use organic pesticides. Keep your pet cats indoors. In some cities and communities it is illegal to let your pet cat roam free outside. Use decals or tape on your windows to prevent bird collisions. These are just a few of the many things we can do to help our environment. Let's all learn to live in harmony with the animals we share our world with.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 40-year-old non-profit organization located in Houston. Over 5,000 ill, injured, or orphaned animals are brought to us every year in need of medical care. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and refer to our website for helpful wildlife information—www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.

Traveling with your pet over the holidays? Here are some tips that will help make your drive smooth sailing.

Submitted by Kristen West, Owner of Gusto Dogs LLC.

1. Take your pet on short trips prior to the big day to let him get used to traveling by car.

2. Keep your pet safe in a secured, well-ventilated crate or carrier. It should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around. Letting him have free range in the car not only puts him at risk, but it also poses a risk to your family if you were to stop suddenly.

3. Never let your dog travel in the bed of a truck. Even if he is secured on a short line to prevent him falling or jumping out, your pet can experience discomfort from the weather and wind or sustain injury from debris.



4. Feed your pet three or four hours prior to departure and avoid giving him any food or treats in the car.

5. Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle, which can quickly become a furnace and cause heatstroke, even with open windows. In cold weather, the car holds the temperature like a refrigerator.

6. Your pet's microchip should be up-to-date and he should be wearing a flat collar and ID at all times.

7. Bring a bowl and extra water in case you get stuck in the inevitable holiday traffic jam!

8. Take lots of breaks to let your pet stretch his legs and relieve himself. It's a great excuse to do some sight-seeing or pick up a fun treat for yourself!



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OUTSMARTING CANCER in Northwest Houston

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Willowbrook • Cypress • Spring • Tomball

Our nationally recognized specialists are finding new ways to outsmart cancer.

From screenings and diagnosis to the most advanced treatments, our leading cancer care is available at our Willowbrook location, which also serves the Cypress, Spring and Tomball communities. We offer personalized guidance and support, so you can focus on healing, surviving and thriving.





THE CYPRESS-TOMBALL DEMOCRATS

SPEAKER: BARBARA RADNOFSKY, AUTHOR A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO IMPEACHMENT



The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold its next monthly meeting Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at Rudyl's Grill and Cantina, 11760 Grant Road, Houston. There is a meet and greet at 6:30 p.m., and the general meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Barbara Ann Radnofsky is a grandmother, mother, wife and professional mediator.

She was named the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas in 1988. In 2006, Barbara left her partnership at Vinson & Elkins to become the first woman Texas Democratic U.S. Senate nominee and in 2010 the first woman Texas Democratic Attorney General nominee.

Practicing on both sides of the docket, she has been listed for over 25 years in "Best Lawyers in America\" in multiple areas, including dispute resolution.

Barbara co-founded the Houston chapter of the National Association of Urban Debate Leagues and has served on many other charitable boards and as a volunteer peer mediation teacher in public and private schools.

Barbara's latest book is "A Citizen's Guide to Impeachment," from Melville House (New York). Ed Supkis and Barbara, married since 1982, co-own, with many other community members, Brazos Bookstore, an independent bookseller.

All are welcome to attend and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

For more information, contact Undrai Fizer at cytomdemocrats@gmail.com, or visit the club's Facebook page.





Ways to Prevent Identity Theft

Don't carry social security cards, Pin #, blank checks, Medicare card or keys in your wallet. Make photocopies of EVERY card in your wallet (both front & back)

IF YOUR WALLET IS MISSING FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

Call credit card companies and request an account number change. Do not cancel your card. If your account is closed it will inconvenience you and hurt your credit score.

File a Report with the Police.

Get a copy of the report and send copies to your bank and credit card companies.

Alert Your Bank

Change Pin #'s, cancel ATM cards and get a new checking account number if your checkbook is missing.

Contact Your DMV

Replace your driver's license and ask that a stolen/lost warning be placed in your file.

Put a Fraud Alert or Security Freeze

On your file at the three major credit bureaus. experian .com; equifax.com; and transunion.com . Alerts are free, but freezes are more secure and free to people over 65.

Private Medical Insurers

Should be asked for new cards with new account numbers to prevent fraud. Call Medicare and your auto insurer in case someone tries to make an accident claim from your policy.

Check Credit Reports

After your wallet is lost 2 weeks, go to creditreport.com to get a free report. That is usually time enough for thieves to open credit in your name. Recheck credit report in 2-3 months.

Parker House Rolls

Level: Intermediate

Total: 2 hr 45 min Prep: 20 min Inactive: 2 hr Cook: 25 min Yield: about 24 rolls

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups milk

1 stick unsalted butter, cut into pieces, plus more for brushing 1/2 cup sugar 1 package active dry yeast

I package active dry yeast

1/2 cup warm water

3 large eggs, lightly beaten

1 1/2 teaspoons salt
6 cups all-purpose flour

Directions:

-Place milk in a small saucepan and bring to a simmer. Remove from the heat, stir in the butter and sugar and let cool.

-Dissolve yeast in warm water and let sit until foamy. Combine milk mixture, eggs, yeast, salt, and 1/2 of the flour in a mixer with the dough attachment and mix until smooth.

-Add the remaining flour, 1/2 cup at a time, and stir until a smooth ball forms. Remove from the bowl and knead by hand on a floured surface for about 5 minutes.

-Place in greased bowl, cover, and let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk, about 60 to 70 minutes.

-On a floured surface, punch down the dough and shape into desired shapes.

-Place on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Cover again and let rise until doubled, about 30 to 40 minutes.

-Preheat the oven 350 degrees F. Bake for about 20 minutes or until golden brown.

-Remove from the oven and brush with melted butter before serving.



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