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Little Ladies

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

As a child, I enjoyed having Ladybugs crawl on my hand. I'd try to count the black spots. Women in the Victorian era believed that if a ladybug landed on them, they would get something new. If it landed on their head, they thought they would receive a new hat. On the hand, it would be new gloves. Today some believe that if a Ladybug lands on you, your wishes will come true.

In North America we call them Ladybugs. In Britain and other English-speaking countries, they are called Ladybirds. Ladybugs aren't really even bugs. Bugs belong to the order Hemiptera. Ladybugs are part of Coleoptera, the Beetle order. These little beetles have an insatiable appetite. That's a good thing for those of you who garden because they eat the insects that invade your plants like aphids, whiteflies and other destructive bugs.

Most of us are probably used to seeing the orange Ladybug with black spots but they come in a wide range of other colors as well—gray, tan, metallic blue. The number of spots can vary, too, and some have no spots at all.

Even though they are small, they still have a defense mechanism to protect themselves from predators. When the insects are disturbed, they emit an odorous, noxious yellow fluid that seeps out of their joints.

Did you know, though, that there are "bad" Ladybugs? Asian Lady Beetles were first discovered in the United States in 1988 and are known as the Ladybugs' evil twin. They, too, devour aphids so in that regard, they are beneficial. Their hefty appetites can extend to non-pest insects as well like monarch butterfly eggs and larvae and that's not good.

Asian Lady Beetles can bite. The bites are not poisonous or extremely painful but in some cases can cause "pink-eye." In the fall or winter, if you notice large numbers of what you believe are ladybugs congregating around your home, they're probably Asian



Lady Beetles. When it begins to get cold, they will attempt to enter your home and can stain walls, furniture and fabrics with the stinky yellow fluid they secrete.

Asian Lady Beetles can be harmful to dogs. When a dog in Kansas started sleeping all the time, refused to eat and was foaming at the mouth, the veterinarian discovered over 30 Asian Lady Beetles had attached themselves to the roof of the mouth.

So how do you tell the difference between the good Ladybug and the evil twin, the Asian Lady Beetle? Look at the markings on their head. From above, Asian lady beetles have a white "M"-shaped spot where their head meets the body.

As part of our mission, we strive to educate you about environmental issues that may affect your lives.

The Ladybug acts as a natural pesticide in nature and they can be easily purchased online. Utilizing this unique feature of the Ladybug can discourage the use of dangerous pesticides that are harmful to all living things. Check out our website at www. twrcwildlifecenter.org for more helpful information.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Harris Co. Sheriff - (non-emergency)	713-221-6000
Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency)	281-466-6161
(non-emergency)	281-550-6663
Poison Control	1-800-764-7661
Texas DPS	713-681-1761
Texas Pride Disposal	281-342-8178

(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays, recycle pick up Mondays)

TNG MUD 370.....281-350-0895

Harris County Tax Office/13-224-1919		
Centerpoint Energy		
(give pole # of street which is out)		
Centerpoint Energy713-659-2111		
Comcast Cable713-341-1000		
Houston Chronicle		
Metro Transit Info713-635-4000		
Kirk Elementary		
Truitt Middle School		
Cy-Ridge High School281-807-8000		
Newcletter Publisher		

Deadline for submitting articles for the Lakes On Eldridge North Newsletter is the 10th of each month. Submissions are subject to space limitations and editorial approval. Email Articles to *loen@PEELinc.com*.

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ADVERTISING: Deadline for submitting ads is the 8th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com *for information on advertising.*

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Article Submissions

Please e-mail articles and/or photos to local:loc

Cypress Christian Upcoming Admission Events

A K-12 Preview will be held on February 6 at 7 p.m. More details can be found on the school's calendar at CypressChristian. org. We'd love to see you on campus!

Thursday, February 27 Cypress Christian School will host a student visitor day. Visit www.cypresschristian.org/admissions for more details and information on how to register your student.

Free Community Event! Northwest Preschool Preview

Come learn more about NW area preschools. Representatives from multiple area preschools will be in attendance. This is a free interactive event, open to everyone!

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2020 Location: Cypress Christian School

11123 Cypress N Houston Rd Houston, TX 77065

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



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Ladies Club News

The LOEN Ladies Club held their annual Membership Renewal and Open House meeting on January 28 in the LOEN Clubhouse. The meeting opened with our traditional potluck dinner highlighting amazing food from around the country and world provided by our eclectic members. In addition to food and socializing, the club renewed the membership of existing members, enrolled new members, and welcomed visitors. A brief general meeting brought the evening to a close. Don't worry if you missed the meeting - our annual membership drive continues through the end of February.

The Club is a women-only social club serving the Lakes on Eldridge North community and their friends for fifteen years. Whether you are new to the community or an established resident looking for an active social circle, then the LOEN Ladies Club may be just the club for you! Many of our members joined without knowing anyone in the neighborhood and now they know many of their neighbors and have new

Wondering how the club works? The club has groups within our organization that hold organized events every month giving

opportunities to meet other ladies and develop and nurture lasting friendships. Our current groups include two Book clubs, Bridge, Bunco, Brunch, Dinner, Girls Night Out, and Explorers clubs.

Periodically, there are also hold game nights and tea/coffee socials open to the entire community so we can introduce ourselves to all the ladies of LOEN in friendly and informal gatherings. These events are posted on the community Nabr Network.

There is also an Angels Club, a LOEN outreach group, exclusively serving community residents in need of food assistance due to illness, death, or family additions. To serve our neighbors outside of LOEN, we also sponsor food, toy, book, supply, and clothing drives for designated local charitable organizations.

Ladies, we always welcome new members so that you can meet your neighbors and make new friends throughout the year. If we sound like an organization that you'd like to learn more about or be a part of, just drop an email to Jeanne MacKenzie at loenladiesclubpresident@gmail.com.





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School Athletes Register for Club Track!

Now in its 33rd year, the Northwest Flyers Track Club is accepting registrations for all middle and high school athletes for the spring and summer 2020 season. The team is sanctioned by USA Track & Field, and offers a full program of "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, discus, shot put and javelin and pole vault. It is an excellent "off-season" program for young athletes who currently compete on their middle school or high school track teams.

The team was founded 33 years ago by local Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the northwest Houston area. In July, 2019 the Northwest Flyers

had one of its most successful competitions ever at the Junior Olympics in Sacramento, California.

In order to register, athletes must first attend one of the spring orientation sessions, which are listed on the team website at www. northwestflyers.org. For additional information about the team, email linette.roach@sbcglobal.net and \"Like\" the club on Facebook.







Why Not Host?

The decorations are packed away, gifts have been exchanged and life is back to normal once again. Why not bring a little excitement into your life by hosting a foreign exchange student!

Each of our students is fluent in English, comes with their own spending money and health insurance. Most importantly, they come with a dream to spend a year in the US so they can experience life as an American teenager!

Hosting is a very great way of bringing new cultures into your family, home, school and community. Speaking as the host mom to 14 different exchange students, I can say that this is one of the best decisions I've made in my life.

STS Foundation accepts all of host families – from single parents, newly marrieds, empty nesters and same sex couples. In order to host, you would need to meet the following qualifications:

- Host must be 25 years or older
- Pass a background check
- Provide food for 3 meals daily
- Ensure reliable transportation to and from school (bus is ok)
- A bed for your student
- A safe and loving home

STS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that places foreign exchange students with American host families. For more information about hosting, please contact Vicki Odom at 832-455-7881 or email at vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com.





Cypress - Tomball Democrats

Susan Tsujimoto, Texas Women for Justice



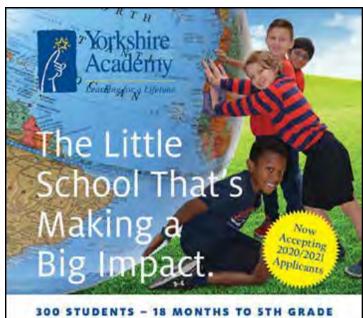
The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold its next monthly meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at Rudy\'s Grill and Cantina, 11760 Grant Road, Houston. There is a meet and greet at 6:30 p.m., and the general meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Susan Tsujimoto, member of Texas Women for Justice will be the speaker. She will discuss information on redistricting including the upcoming census, federal &

state redistricting requirements, gerrymandering and the extreme gerrymandering following the 2010 census. She will also offer suggestions to make democracy participatory again.

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.



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