

RIVER PARK

WEST

Keeping You Informed, Educated & Connected

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What Is A Leap Year?

Leap days are extra days added to the calendar to help synchronize it with Earth's orbit around the sun and the actual passing of the seasons. Why do we need them? Blame Earth's orbit around the sun, which takes approximately 365.25 days. It's that .25 that creates the need for a leap year every four years.

During non-leap years, aka common years – like 2019 – the calendar doesn't take into account the extra quarter of a day actually required by Earth to complete a single orbit around the sun. In essence, the calendar year, which is a human artifact, is faster than the actual solar year, or year as defined by our planet's motion through space.

Over time and without correction, the calendar year would drift away from the solar year and the drift would add up quickly. For example, without correction the calendar year would be off by about one day after four years. It'd be off by about 25 days after 100 years. You can see that, if even more time were to pass without the leap year as a calendar correction, eventually February would be a summer month in the Northern Hemisphere.

During leap years, a leap day is added to the calendar to slow down and synchronize the calendar year with the seasons. Leap days were first added to the Julian Calendar in 46 B.C. by Julius Caesar at the advice of Sosigenes, an Alexandrian astronomer.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII revised the Julian calendar by creating the Gregorian calendar with the assistance of Christopher Clavius, a German mathematician and astronomer (pictured). The Gregorian calendar further stated that leap days should not be added in years ending in "00" unless that year is also divisible by 400. This additional correction was added to stabilize the calendar over a period of thousands of years and was necessary because solar years are actually slightly less than 365.25 days. In fact, a solar year occurs over a period of 365.2422 days.

Note that 2000 was a leap year because it is divisible by 400, but that 1900 was not a leap year. Since 1582, the Gregorian calendar has been gradually adopted as a "civil" international standard for many countries around the world.



RESIDENT CORNER

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Graham Management..... 713-334-8000
..... graham@grahammanagementhouston.com

ONSITE & EVENTS COORDINATOR

Dee Norman

Email: rpwcoordinator@gmail.com

Tues – Thurs 10am to 5pm

346.380.9743

COMMUNITY WEBSITE

www.facebook.com/RiverParkWest

www.riverparkwestonline.org

NEWSLETTER

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BOARD INFORMATION

Tiffany Chen - President

Larry Wilson - Vice President

Jorge Diaz - 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.

Richmond Post Office - Have mail concerns or need to obtain a mail box key. Contact the post office directly Phone 281-633-0386 or visit in person 5560 FM 1640 RD 77469, Richmond Texas with a copy of proof of ownership documents or lease agreement Mon-Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm Sat 9:00am - 12:00pm Sun Closed

Informed Delivery - This feature sends a daily picture of all the mail for the owner's address to a registered email address before the carrier touches it. Click Track and Manage, Informed Delivery, Check for Eligibility. Visit USPS.com.

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

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

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

Make an impact.

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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.



Need to Reserve the Clubhouse?

•To make a reservation, please contact your Community Coordinator, Dee Norman at 346-380-9743 or via email- rpwcoordinator@gmail.com

•To reserve a time slot please submit your name, property address, date/time of rental (please include set up time and clean up time) Maximum reserve time is 10 hours, last 5 digits of your access card and event type.

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.

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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

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.

YARD OF THE MONTH

Help keep our community beautiful and participate in Yard of the Month! 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 or join the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2040440646278121/>.

BAKED SPAGHETTI

Ingredients

- 1 package (16 ounces) spaghetti
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 jar (24 ounces) meatless spaghetti sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 5 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 cups Daisy 4% cottage cheese
- 4 cups part-skim shredded mozzarella cheese
- Chopped fresh basil, optional

Directions

- Cook spaghetti according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Stir in spaghetti sauce and seasoned salt; set aside.
- In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, Parmesan cheese and butter. Drain spaghetti; add to egg mixture and toss to coat.
- Place half of the spaghetti mixture in a greased 13x9-in. or 3-qt. baking dish. Top with half of the cottage cheese, meat sauce and mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers.
- Cover and bake at 350° for 40 minutes. Uncover; bake until cheese is melted, 20-25 minutes longer. If desired, sprinkle with basil.



SMART FINANCIAL CENTRE UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 8- LADIES NIGHT OUT
FEBRUARY 16- VALENTINE'S WITH PATTI LABELLE AND BABYFACE
FEBRUARY 21- BANDA MS 2020
FEBRUARY 22- BANDA MS 2020
FEBRUARY 27- BACK THE BLUE
FEBRUARY 29- SECH

MARCH 1- LOS ANGELES AZULES
MARCH 2- SARAH JAKES ROBERTS
MARCH 6- MARC ANTHONY
MARCH 7- DANCING WITH THE STARS
MARCH 8- THE ILLUSIONISTS
MARCH 12- RODRIGO Y GABRIELA- THE METTAVOLUTION TOUR
MARCH 14- BACHENATO 2020
MARCH 29- STURGILL SIMPSON: A GOOD LOOK'N TOUR

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO VISIT WWW.SMARTFINANCIALCENTRE.NET

Riverpark West

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Adding Yoga to Workout Regime Can Improve Your Fitness Goals

Implementing yoga into a workout routine can provide unique health benefits, said a Baylor College of Medicine physician and yoga enthusiast.

Yoga is a broad philosophy containing many different paths to achieve the goal of physical, mental and spiritual well-being, said Dr. Bobby Kapur, assistant professor of medicine at BCM and associate chief for emergency medicine at the Harris County Hospital District's Ben Taub General Hospital. In physical fitness, yoga is the practice of physical postures and breathing exercises that allow a person to strengthen the body and at the same time enter a meditative and relaxed state of awareness.

Yoga entails various positions, stretching and deep breathing. Practicing yoga can help a person improve flexibility, balance, limberness, blood circulation, and it can also relax muscle tension and fight infection, Kapur said.

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Multiple ways to join:

- Text "**grahamgo**" to 59248 and receive a text back with a mobile app download link
- Search for the mobile app "Graham Go" in Google Play store
- Go to riverparkwest.nabrnetwork.com

If you haven't received a welcome email, use the new registration button and follow the instructions. If you are a new resident to the community, it may take a few days for the management company to confirm your residency. An email notification with login credentials will be sent to you once you are authorized. If you have any issues or need login support, please contact Nabr Network support (support@nabrnetwork.com).



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