

# The Tribune



A NEWSLETTER FOR TOWNE LAKE RESIDENTS

FEBRUARY 2020

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

## *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](mailto:vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com).

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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Constable .....	281-376-3472
Sheriff - Non-emergency .....	713-221-6000
- Burglary & Theft .....	713-967-5770
- Auto Theft .....	281-550-0458
- Homicide/Assault .....	713-967-5810
- Child Abuse .....	713-529-4216
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence.....	713-967-5743
- Runaway Unit .....	713-755-7427
Poison Control.....	800-222-1221
Traffic Light Issues .....	713-881-3210

### SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD Administration .....	281-897-4000
Cypress Fairbanks ISD Transportation .....	281-897-4380
Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
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Cy-Ranch High School .....	281-373-2300

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### OTHER NUMBERS

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Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Harris County Health Department .....	713-439-6260
Post Office.....	281-859-9021
Harris County Public Library.....	281-290-3210
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-890-4285
North Cypress Medical Center.....	832-912-3500

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### ARTICLE INFO

The *Tribune* is mailed monthly to all Towne Lake residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for consideration please email it to [townelake@peelinc.com](mailto:townelake@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

## 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](http://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](http://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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# 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](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org) for more helpful information.

## CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL





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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](http://www.northwestflyers.org). For additional information about the team, email [linette.roach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linette.roach@sbcglobal.net) and "Like" the club on Facebook.



## *"Women Will Change the World"*

### Luncheon Details

Thursday, February 27th 2020

Networking 11:00 am; Luncheon begins at 11:30 am

**\*NEW LOCATION:** Longwood Golf Club,  
13300 Longwood Trace, Cypress, TX 77429

Costs \$30 with advanced reservations;  
\$35 at the door

Houston, Texas (January 9, 2020) William Holt has worked with coaching clients and international executives from Chevron, Toyota, Bank of America, Bechtel, Unilever, BP and many others for over 25 years. He has personally trained over 240 executives to become coaches in and outside of their companies. He has won many awards, including the Unilever Silver Award and the Best Practices Aware for an outstanding Coaching Training Program at BP.

It is his love and respect for his mother and his own forced exit from Corporate America that led to a career that speaks to his heart. His mother was a good 50's wife, marginalized, objectified, and passed up. Watching his mom work for a big truck dealership, where even though she admired their success and bowed to male authority, was passed over for promotions and raises. On her last job, she worked tirelessly for 'the man' for 22 years, then was fired without a pension plan and was replaced by a younger person whom she had trained.

Similar experiences in his own career led him to pursue a dream in his heart. He refers to himself as a feminist in a male body. He will share more about his mother, his twin girls and his strong life partner, Adriana, so you can see that he is on a mission that serves women. He believes that women are the hope for the future.

### **About Cy-Fair Express Network (CYFEN)**

Now over 60 members strong, Cy-Fair Express Network's vision is to be a community and national leader for the support of professional women by providing a nurturing environment for business development, networking, education and mentoring. Our members have opportunities to pursue excellence and achieve both local and national recognition. CYFEN is part of the national organization of American Business Women's Association (ABWA), for more information go to [www.CYFEN.org](http://www.CYFEN.org).

### **About American Business Women's Association (ABWA)**

Founded in 1949, ABWA provides business training and networking opportunities for women of diverse occupations and backgrounds. ABWA has dedicated 60 years to women's education, workplace skills and career development training. For more information, visit, [www.abwa.org](http://www.abwa.org).



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## 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](mailto:cytomdemocrats@gmail.com), or visit the club's Facebook page.

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# Sweet, Luscious Snacks for Loved Ones

## Valentine's Day Eats and Treats

(Family Features) Valentine's Day naturally brings thoughts of hearts, flowers, sweetness and love. Because it also occurs during American Heart Month, it's a perfect opportunity to start taking care of your own heart and the hearts of loved ones.

Part of the charm of the day's celebrations is in giving family and friends flavorful foods to enjoy from chocolates and candies to other sugary treats. However, the festivities don't have to be completely focused on unhealthy bites in order to make someone feel special.

This year, it can be easy to share in the fun of Valentine's Day by serving those you love with sweet, seasonal treats. For example, these Frosted Watermelon Cutouts make for ideal snacks for children and adults alike whether it's an after-school treat or a sweet dessert with just three ingredients, heart-shaped cookie cutters and minimal time spent in the kitchen.

If you're really looking to impress that special someone, this Watermelon and Chocolate Dessert Board calls for creativity and plenty of tasty morsels like berries, cashews, almonds and dark chocolate. Without any baking or cooking required, simply spread out the ingredients for a platter that's just as visually appealing as it is appetizing.

Both recipes include the benefits of watermelon, which boasts plenty of vitamin C to boost the immune system's defenses as a cholesterol-free, fat-free and sodium-free food. Plus, watermelon draws its red color from the powerful antioxidant lycopene (12.7 mg per serving), which may help protect cells from damage, and the healthy treat is American Heart Association Heart-Check Certified with just 80 calories per serving, making it the perfect centerpiece for Valentine's Day recipes.

Find more Valentine's Day inspiration and recipes at [watermelon.org](http://watermelon.org).

### FROSTED WATERMELON CUTOUTS

- 1 seedless watermelon, cut into 1/2-3/4-inch thick slices
- 4 brownie bites
- 1 cup frosting (any flavor)

Using heart-shaped cookie cutters, cut shapes out of watermelon slices or simply use cut watermelon wedges, if desired. Top heart shapes with brownie bites and add frosting as desired.



### WATERMELON AND CHOCOLATE DESSERT BOARD

*Servings: 6-8*

- |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1/2 | medium seedless watermelon, cut into wedges and cubes | 1   | cup strawberries, trimmed and halved    |
| 1   | cup fresh raspberries                                 | 1/4 | cup dried cranberries                   |
| 1   | cup fresh red cherries                                | 1/3 | cup roasted, salted cashews             |
| 1   | cup coconut chips                                     | 1   | cup chocolate covered almonds           |
|     | mint leaves, for garnish                              | 1   | bar dark chocolate, broken into squares |

On serving board, arrange watermelon in center and surround with raspberries, cherries, strawberries, cranberries, cashews, almonds, chocolate and coconut chips. Scatter mint leaves around board for garnish.





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