



# *The* HOME FRONT

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**READ MORE  
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BABY SQUIRREL  
SEASON  
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# PARK LAKES

## HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

### *Park Lakes Property Owners Association*

Sterling Association Services Inc. ....(832) 678-4500  
 SplashPad Texas Onsite Office.....(281) 441-3557  
 Recreation Center Onsite Office.....(281) 441-9955  
 Gate Attendant.....(281) 441-1089

### *Utilities*

Comcast (Customer Service) .....(713) 341-1000  
 Electricity (TXU) .....(800) 368-1398  
 Gas (Centerpoint) .....(713) 659-2111  
 Trash (Republic Waste).....(281) 446-2030  
 Water & Sewer (EDP Water District).....(832) 467-1599  
 Electricity (Centerpoint-Report street light outage) .....(713) 207-2222  
 Texas One Call System (Call Before you Dig)..... 811

### *Property Tax Authorities*

Harris County Tax.....(713) 368-2000  
 Harris MUD #400.....(281) 353-9809

### *Public Services*

US Post Office.....(281) 540-1775  
 Toll Road EZ Tag.....(281) 875-3279  
 Voters/Auto Registration .....(713) 368-2000  
 Drivers License Information.....(281) 446-3391  
 Humble Area Chamber .....(281) 446-2128

### *Police & Fire*

Emergency ..... 911  
 Constable/Precinct 4 (24-hr dispatch) .....(281) 376-3472  
 Harris Co. Sheriff's Dept./Prec 4, Dist 2 (24-hr) ..... (713) 221-6000  
 Eastex Fire Department.....(281) 441-2244  
 Emergency Medical Service ..... (281) 446-7889  
 Poison Control.....(800) 222-1222  
 Humble Animal Control.....(281) 446-2327  
 Texas DPS.....(281) 446-3391

### *Area Hospitals*

Renaissance Northeast Surgery .....(281) 446-4053  
 Kingwood Medical Center .....(281) 348-8000  
 Northeast Medical Center Hospital.....(281) 540-7700  
 Memorial Hermann Hospital (The Woodlands) .....(281) 364-2300

### *Public Schools*

Humble ISD .....(281) 641-1000  
 Park Lakes Elementary (K-6).....(281) 641-3200  
 Humble Middle School (7-8) .....(281) 641-4000  
 Summer Creek High School (9-12) .....(281) 641-5400

### *Private Schools*

Holy Trinity .....(281) 459-4323  
 St. Mary Magdalene Catholic.....(281) 446-8535  
 The Christian School of Kingwood .....(281) 359-4929  
 Humble Christian School.....(281) 441-1313

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# BABY SQUIRREL SEASON

## What you need to know

*By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center*

And so it begins. Baby season 2020 and it all begins with baby squirrels. There are a number of reasons why baby squirrels get separated from mom. Homeowners cut down trees that have nests, high winds can blow nests down or can knock babies out of the nest or sometimes they just fall out. Whatever the reason, you can help.

The first thing you want to do is make sure the baby is safe and warm. Put it in a box or other small container with a soft towel or t-shirt. You can microwave a sock filled with rice for one minute and place it in the box with the baby or set 1/2 of the box on top of a heating pad set to low. **DO NOT TRY TO FEED IT.** If you do not see any blood on the baby and there are no ants crawling on it, you can try to reunite it with mom. A squirrel's real mom is the best mom.

1. Place the box with the baby squirrel in it near where you found the baby. You can also attach string or twine to the box and securely hang it from a low branch. Just remember to keep an eye on it from a distance so it's safe from dogs, cats and other predators.

2. Getting the baby to call for its mom can help. Sometimes gently picking up the baby will cause it to call her. You can also try holding one foot and applying gentle pressure. **DO NOT SQUEEZE HARD.** This is a tiny, fragile baby.

3. If it's raining lightly, cover half the box and put the baby on the dry half. If it's pouring, keep the baby inside until the rain lets up. Remember to **KEEP IT WARM.**

4. Be patient. It can take up to four hours for mom to come and get her little one. If she doesn't, you'll need the help of a rehabilitator. Bring the baby to us. If it's after hours, keep the baby in a quiet, dark room and keep it warm until we open. Do not attempt to feed it.

If you notice injuries, keep the baby safe and warm in a dark room until you can get it to us. Do not handle it.

If you'd like to help care for the baby squirrels that are brought to us, we have opportunities available to care for them at our Center or in your home. We will train you. For more information, email [berry.moffett@twrcwildlifecenter.org](mailto:berry.moffett@twrcwildlifecenter.org) or call 713.468.8972.

# HOST FAMILIES NEEDED



Want to bring a little culture into your life and the lives of your children? Why not try hosting a high school foreign exchange student? It's a great way to learn about a new culture all from the comfort of your home.

STS Foundation is currently looking for host families for the 2020/2021 school year. Hosting is such a rewarding experience and it benefits all of those involved.

STS Foundation accepts all types 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 me at 832-455-7881 PM me or email at [vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com).



## INDIANMEAL MOTHS



Probably the most encountered pantry pest by homeowners is the Indianmeal moth. These moths can be found in pet food, birdseed, cereals, dried fruit, nuts, powdered milk, candy, and more. Food can become

infested while in fields, warehouses, or stores and then brought into the home with infested products.

Indianmeal moth adults are small with grayish wings tipped in copper. Larvae are creamy-yellow to yellowish-green to pinkish in color with a dark brown head. Larvae tend to feed on the top of infested items and may produce silk that binds the food together. When larvae are preparing to pupate, they leave the item where they were feeding and crawl to corners or edges of walls, shelves, containers, or other items to spin a silken cocoon.

To eliminate a pantry pest problem, the first step is to locate and remove all infested items. Begin with oldest food items, usually in the back of the pantry, and inspect everything, including unopened food items since these may also be a source. When you find an infested item, do not stop your inspection, multiple items can be infested. Not all pantry pest infestations come from the pantry. Check rooms for items such as dried, decorative peppers, dried flowers, potpourri, natural supplements, make-up, or rice heating packs.

Infested items can be thrown away or treated with heat or cold. If you don't want to throw away food, either place infested food in a zip-top plastic bag and place it in the freezer for about 5-7 days or spread infested food in a thin layer on a baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees for 4-6 hours to kill any insects. Once all insects are dead, you can sift the food or pick out the insects. Another option would be to leave the insects in the food and get a little more protein with your meal!

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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## TIPS FOR SAFE NIGHTTIME DRIVING

Driving at night can be tricky—especially through neighborhoods or dimly lit landscapes—so it's important to keep in mind a few basic guidelines to make sure you and your vehicle both are well-prepared for the trip. Consider the following suggestions to help get you to your destination safely.

Ensure headlights are aimed properly. If you think your headlights are casting light too far above or below your line of vision on the road, you may need to adjust their aim. You can do this either by following instructions in your vehicle owner's manual or seeking help from a vehicle maintenance professional.

Dim dashboard lights. Most vehicle makes and models come with a dimmer for the instrument panel. Make sure it's set to the lowest brightness to limit distraction. Also remember to turn off overhead or visor lights while driving, which also can limit visibility at night.

Don't wear tinted glasses. Yellow lenses sold to enhance nighttime driving could actually decrease visibility instead of amplify colors and objects. If you wear prescription lenses, opt for an anti-reflective coating, and clean them thoroughly and frequently to optimize effectiveness at night.

Learn how to spot animals and objects. While driving at night, be on the lookout for wildlife creatures' eyes, which can easily be spotted as pairs of glowing retinas. Any animals' eyes—like raccoons or deer—typically will reflect the light from your headlights long before their true shapes come into view.

Don't focus on headlights in oncoming traffic. Keep your eyes on the road in front of you and avoid looking into the headlights of oncoming traffic—especially if you notice a car using the high-beam headlight setting. If the headlights on the car behind you cause a glare in your rearview mirror, adjust the mirror.

Clean your windshield. Use a clean microfiber cloth or newspaper to clean the windshield—inside and out. Make sure the windshield is streak- and smudge-free before driving at night, and try to avoid wiping window condensation with your hands. Fingerprints and oils from your skin can cause streaks that limit visibility in the dark.

Know when to use your fog lights. Many vehicles come equipped with fog lights, which typically are located underneath the front headlights and are aimed low, where fog usually appears on the road. Fog lights also can be useful on a particularly dark road to further illuminate your path.

Adjust your exterior mirrors. Pointing your side-view mirrors down slightly can help reduce glare from other drivers' headlights and still allow you to see by tipping your head forward a few inches.

Have your eyes checked. Your eyes' ability to keep moving and scan the landscape rather than solely focus on one spot is imperative for successful nighttime driving. Visit your eye doctor for regular checkups to determine whether prescription lenses could help you see better at night.



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