

CYPRESS

pulse

JULY 2020 - VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

NEWS FOR THE CYPRESS PARK COMMUNITY

GRACKLES

They'll Eat Anything

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire/Ambulance.....	911
Officer.....	911
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Cy-Fair Medical Clinic (24 Hour)	281-890-4285
Sheriff Non-emergency.....	281-463-2648

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Roadside Assistance.....	800-525-5555
Fire/Ambulance.....	713-466-4073
Harris County Precinct 4	281-376-3472
Texas No Call List Registration	866-TXN-OCAL
Vacation Watch	281-401-6200

SCHOOLS

Bus Information	281-897-4380
Ault Elementary School.....	281-373-2800
Keith Elementary School.....	281-213-1744
Swenke Elementary School.....	281-213-1200
Rosehill Christian School	281-351-8114
Cy-Fair Administration	281-897-4000
Cy-Ranch High School	281-373-2300
Cy-Woods High School.....	281-213-1800
Salyards Middle School	281-373-2400
Spillane Middle School.....	281-213-1645

UTILITY NUMBERS

Eagle Water Management, Inc.....	281-373-8989
Centerpoint (Gas)	713-659-2111
Reliant Energy (Electricity).....	713-207-7777

OTHER NUMBERS

AT&T Repair Center	800-246-8464
Street Light Outages (Need to provide the 6 digit pole number).....	713-207-2222
Harris County Animal Control	832-999-3191
Best Trash (They provide free trashcan for recyclables)	281-313-2378
Harris County Public Library.....	281-290-3210
Post Office.....	281-858-9021

NEWSLETTER INFO

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email your articles to cypresspark@peelinc.com by the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.

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"Grackles"... Continued from Cover Page

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

We've all been in parking lots where we feel we're being stalked by big black birds just waiting for us to drop a morsel of food. What are they? Ravens, Crows, Grackles? If you said Grackles, you'd be correct.

So how do you tell the difference? Ravens are very large and have a long wedge-shaped tail. They have a thick bill. Their throat looks a little shaggy if you're ever able to get close to one. Their call is deep. Crows are about the size of a chicken. They have smaller beaks and shorter tails that are squared off at the ends. They have a higher-pitched call than Ravens. Grackles are about the size of Robins. They are easily identifiable by their iridescent f/Users/Administrator/Peel Inc Dropbox/Newsletters/Houston/Bridgeland/2020 BG/2007 BG/Multiple_SubmittedArticle.txt feathers mostly seen on their heads. They have golden eyes and their call has been compared to the sound of a rusty gate.

There are actually three types of Grackles—Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle and the Boat-tailed Grackle. The Common Grackle is found throughout North America, the Boat-tailed Grackle can be found in the southeastern states and the Great-tailed bird is found along the Texas border and into Mexico. What you are seeing in parking lots are mainly Common Grackles.

Grackles are not picky eaters. They'll eat bugs, berries, seeds and just about anything else they can find. They'll wade in water in search of small fish and will even eat leeches off of the legs of turtles. They steal worms from robins, raid the nests of other birds and will even kill and eat other birds. Of course, we all know that they love French fries, cookies and anything else that is dropped in a parking lot or in a trash bin.

Grackles practice a strange behavior known as anting. This involves rubbing ants on their bodies. No one knows exactly why they do this but some scientists believe the ants secrete an acid that kills feather mites. Others believe it has something to do with shedding feathers or molting.

Just like their eating habits, grackles are not very particular when it comes to where they build their nests. Some live and nest in colonies as large as 200 breeding pairs. A female can lay from 4 to 7 eggs in a single season.

Right now, we're in baby bird season. Some birds that are brought to us for care should have been left where they were. If you find a baby bird, please give us a call and let us help you determine if the bird needs help or not. Our website also has some great information on a number of topics. www.twrcwildlifecenter.org 713.468.8972

Harvest Donated to CAM

submitted by
Stephanie Baker

A grand total of over 400 pounds of organic fresh fruit and veggies including 142 pounds of red potatoes was donated to CAM on behalf of the following school gardens we manage:

Wells, Sampson, Walker, Warner, Danish, Swenke, A. Robison, M. Robinson, Rennell, and Andre.

We would love any willing adults or parents with children who are interested in volunteering over the summer to water, weed, and harvest. We are excited to see how much fresh good we can grow to donate from school gardens in CFISD!

Contact Stephanie through Facebook direct message or email please steph@readytogrowgardens.com

You can follow Ready To Grow Gardens on social media so that parents and students can follow what's growing in their school garden, harvests, volunteer opportunities, and fun summer ideas for at home! Facebook - @readytogrowgardens, Instagram - @readytogrowgardens, Twitter - @readytogrowgarden (no - s), YouTube - Ready to Grow Gardens - Garden Day look for our logo *attached (there is a company with the same name in Florida)





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Mealybugs

Mealybugs are pests of landscape plants and houseplants. Outdoors, they are often active during times of warm, dry weather, but can be a problem indoors at any time of year. Infestations usually start at the base of stems and then spread from there as populations increase.

Mealybugs are a type of unarmored scale insect. They are sexually dimorphic, with males and females looking different. Males have wings and can fly while females remain wingless throughout their life. Immature (nymphs) and female mealybugs are oval, soft-bodied and covered with a white waxy powder.

These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts which is used to penetrate plant tissue to suck out juices. Feeding by mealybugs can lead to yellowing or wilting of the plant and distortion of the leaves. With larger infestations, the insects may cause stunted growth, premature leaf drop or plant death. Mealybugs excrete honeydew, which is a sweet, sticky substance on which a fungus called sooty mold can grow. Sooty mold can indirectly harm plants by blocking sunlight from reaching plant surfaces and reducing photosynthesis.

Tips for mealybug management:

- Conserve beneficial insects; there are many insects that feed on or parasitize mealybugs
 - o To help conserve beneficial insects, use other methods to manage pests before choosing a pesticide.
- **Use high pressure water sprays to dislodge the insects from the plant
- **Insecticidal soap
- **Horticultural oils

- **Other insecticides labeled for mealybug control (look for active ingredients such as azadirachtin, pyrethrum, pyrethrins). Read and follow all label instructions.

- For severely infested plants, it may be best to throw the plant away and buy a new one

**If treating houseplants, move plants outside during treatment then move back inside once treatment has dried.

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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CYPRESS/TOMBALL DEMOCRATS



The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold its next virtual monthly meeting Tuesday, July 21, 2020. There is a meet and greet at 6:45 p.m. The general meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. For the access ZOOM access code, email cytomdemocrats@gmail.com.

The speaker will be Nick Lampson. Lampson earned his B.A. and M.A. from Lamar University in 1968 and 1974, respectively. His professional experience includes his work in real estate management, as a small business owner, and as a high school science teacher. Lampson has previously represented Texas in the US House.

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

For more information & access to the ZOOM Virtual meeting, contact Undrai Fizer at cytomdemocrats@gmail.com, or visit the club's Facebook page.

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