

SPECTATOR

August 2020

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CYPRESS CREEK LAKES

Volume 9, Issue 8

RALPH *the Bike Man*

*Read More
on Page 3*



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Constable	281.463.6666
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
Warner Elementary	281.213.1650
Smith Middle School	281.213.1010
Cy-Ranch High School	281.373.2300

UTILITIES

CenterPoint Energy.....	713.659.2111
En-Touch (Customer Service)	281.225.1000
Reliant Energy.....	713.207.2222
Water - Severn Trent.....	281.646.2383
Waste Management - Trash	713.686.6666

OTHER NUMBERS

Animal Control.....	281.999.3191
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

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	1-888.687.6444
Article Submissions	cypresscreeklakes@PEELinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com, 1-888.687.6444

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make the *Spectator* possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 1-888.687.6444 or advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.



HORIZON
Lawn & Landscape, Inc.
full service landscape company
281-373-0378

Landscape Maintenance Commercial & Residential	Patios & Walkways Pavestone * Flagstone * Concrete
Landscape Services Design & Installation * Lighting * Seasonal Flowers * Drainage * Sod Installation * Rock Borders	Sprinkler Systems Design * Installation * Repairs * Property Coverage * Warranty * Licensed Irrigation #8587

— Proudly serving northwest Houston since 1997 —

Insured for your protection.

horizon-landscape.com

RALPH THE BIKE MAN

by Jen Ramirez

As Covid-19 took hold of 2020 so did rampant shortages of toilet paper, paper towels and disinfecting wipes in our local area. But another shortage that was felt was the inventory of workout equipment, specifically bicycles.

As afternoons and evenings fill the sidewalks with walkers and joggers, the streets also hear the hum of kids' freedom throughout the neighborhood as they roam by bike. There's also the usual family out for an after dinner ride. And because of the shortage of bikes available, we were lucky to find a 22 year Fairfield resident, Ralph Villalpando.

I came across Ralph on my journey to restore a 1972 Schwinn Breeze. After reaching out to the community, Ralph was the first to respond, and instantly upon meeting, his genu-ine love for the bicycle was more than apparent. "Working on a bicycle is therapy for me; it keeps my hands moving and thinking," he explained as he looked over what would become his newest project.

Ralph's ability to see life in a rusty bicycle that once was, has brought back so many smiles to people with emotional con-nections to those antiquated bikes. From the man who kept the first bike he ever bought with his first paycheck, to the family who watched as Ralph repaired their children's bikes in their driveway, while they packed for a camping trip, he has become a lifesaver for many in the neighborhood.

"I can typically beat the price and turn around time of most bike shops" he said. This allows the smiles to return to chil-dren's faces and places them back on the pavement sooner rather than later. "It gives me satisfaction to finish something," he smiled.

His love for bikes started when he was a young boy in San Antonio. He was joined by his wife, Carol, and she elaborated on his love for treasure hunting bikes in old country barns and local garage sales. Ralph's push for bike riding continues into the many health benefits that naturally derive from riding.

Besides being the "Mr. Bike" of Fairfield, he is also a strong advocate for biker safety. He emphasizes how important the road rights of cyclists are, and he wishes all drivers would con-sider every rider they come across as their own family member and proceed with the same caution. Ralph is truly a treasure and always eager to help his local community because for Ralph, eve-ry bike and part has a story.





SKUNKS ARE THEY GOOD FOR ANYTHING?

Actually, yes, they are. For most people, the only thing they know about skunks is that they stink but they are very beneficial to farmers and homeowners. They eat garden and agricultural pests in large numbers. They feed on larvae, worms, fruit, eggs, reptiles, small mammals, bees, wasps and fish.

Texas is home to five species of skunks—the eastern spotted, striped, two types of hog-nosed and the hooded skunk. The hooded skunk is considered a Mexican species and can only be found in a few Texas counties near Mexico. The striped skunk is the most common skunk in North America. It has a white stripe on either side of its back that extends over the head and down the sides of the tail. The spotted skunk can only be found in eastern Texas, the Panhandle and the eastern United States. It gets its name from having a small white spot on its forehead and a spot in front of each ear. The American hog-nosed skunk is the largest skunk in the world. They have one broad white stripe from the top of the head to the base of the tail and a long, bushy white tail. They can be found in southern and central Texas.

The eastern spotted skunk is small and unlike the other species of skunks, its movements are similar to that of the squirrel. They are very active and can even climb trees. Due to threats such as habitat loss, pesticide use and vehicle strikes across the spotted skunk's entire range, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is evaluating the species' status and will determine if it should be listed as threatened or endangered. It plans to make a listing recommendation in 2023.

Skunks are very docile animals and they will warn predators before releasing the oily substance from their anal glands that contains the active ingredient, n-butyl mercaptan. They'll do a little dance, stomp the ground, slap their tail on the ground and may even stand on their back legs. They're giving you fair

warning. Once they spray, they are unable to do it again for ten days. If you encounter a skunk, stop immediately and slowly back away.

1. If your pet gets sprayed, here's what the American Kennel Club recommends. It may not completely remove the smell but it'll get rid of most of it.

2. Check the eyes. If affected, flush with cool water or purchase an eye wash from your vet and keep on hand if you live in an area with a high population of skunks.

3. Mix 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide solution (found at any pharmacy or supermarket), 1/4 cup of baking soda and 1 teaspoon of liquid dishwashing soap.

4. Wear rubber gloves and thoroughly wash your pet. Don't leave the solution on too long. You may have to repeat the process.

5. Use a regular pet shampoo and wash your pet again to remove any residual solution.

6. Towel dry your pet.

If you need to wash your clothes, use 1/2 cup of baking soda with your regular detergent.

DO NOT STORE solution for later use. If kept in a covered container, it can explode. Do not get the solution in your pet's eyes. Don't use a peroxide solution stronger than 3%.

TWRC Wildlife Center is available to answer your questions and guide you through the rescue process should you find an animal needing help. Sometimes animals don't need help and are better left alone. We will help you make that determination. Call us at 713-468-8972 or check our website for helpful information: www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.



örthotex[®]
smile specialists

Dr. Zane K. Haidar DMD MS
Board-Certified Orthodontist / Owner

**We're getting better at
grinning with our eyes,
But straightening smiles is
what we do best!**

Braces or Invisalign

\$2999

Free Consultation
All Insurances Welcome

\$124 DOWN
\$125 MONTH FOR BRACES

Valid through September 30, 2020





**TWO LOCATIONS:
SPRING & CYPRESS**

INFO@ORTHOTEXSMILES.COM
(281) 937-2540
WWW.ORTHOTEXSMILES.COM

**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US
AS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
BOARD-CERTIFIED ORTHODONTISTS!**

Cicada Killer Wasps



Cicada killer wasps are very large wasps reaching up to 1 ½ inches long and can be somewhat frightening if you see them flying about your lawn. These wasps have a reddish-brown head and thorax, a black and yellow abdomen, and wings with a rusty tinge. Females are capable of stinging, the stinger is a modified egg laying structure, but are rarely aggressive. Males look similar

to females and are territorial; they will buzz near you if you enter their territory. Once you leave the male's territory, the wasp will ignore you.

Cicada killers can be considered beneficial insects since they help to control cicada populations. Cicadas, common in Texas trees in the summer, are stung and paralyzed by female cicada killer wasps then carried back to a burrow dug in the ground by the female wasps. The female wasp pulls the cicada into the burrow where it is tucked into a side tunnel and has an egg deposited upon it. When the egg hatches, the cicada killer larva eats the cicada(s) provided.

Cicada killers usually do not warrant any control methods. If people are uncomfortable with large wasps flying over their lawn or do not like the holes caused by the wasps, then insecticidal dust can be sprinkled around the opening of the burrow. Tamp the dust around the opening

with your shoe and as the wasps work on cleaning out the entrance to the burrow, they will pick up the dust on their body and eventually die.

Please note that cicada killer wasps are often mistaken for Asian giant hornets (AGH), also referred to as "murder hornets". AGH have not been found in Texas and have only been located in Washington state within the U.S.

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

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal access in its programs, activities, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

SPECTATOR

The Spectator is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use the Spectator contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the Spectator is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

Gingerbread Village Holiday Market



The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Ladies Auxiliary is holding their annual Gingerbread Village Holiday Market again this year. It will be held on October 24th, 2020 from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. at 6646 Addicks Satsuma Road, Houston. If you would like an opportunity to be a vendor, please email gingerbreadvillage@gmail.com for the application and any information you may need. We hope to see you all there.

BASHANS PAINTING & HOME REPAIR

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- HardiPlank Insulation
- Sheetrock Repair
- Cabinet Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Fence Replacement
- Custom Staining
- Custom Texturing
- Wood Replacement
- Interior Carpentry
- Sheet Rock Insulation
- Interior & Exterior Door Replacements
- Stucco Repair
- Wallpaper Removal
- Crown Molding

NO MONEY UP FRONT

30 Years Experience • References Available

Commercial/Residential

~ FREE ESTIMATES ~

BashansPainting@yahoo.com

♦ FULLY INSURED

281-347-6702

281-731-3383

bashanspainting.com

HARDY'S



WIRED GENERATORS ELECTRICAL SERVICES by WIRED

Residential & Commercial

Family Owned & Operated

713-467-1125

wiredes.com

24/7 Service

Family Owned & Operated

- Panel Upgrade / Replacement
- Additional Plugs and Outlets
- Troubleshooting
- TV Mounting
- Smoke Detectors
- Generators

\$20
OFF

Your Next
Service Call!

Not to be combined with any other discount or offer. Expires 11/1/20

10-YEAR WARRANTY

On Air-Cooled Generac Generators

Offered exclusively by Wired!

Must sign contract by August 31

to receive this warranty, so act fast!



Leading Medicine

IN TOWNE LAKE

NOW
OPEN

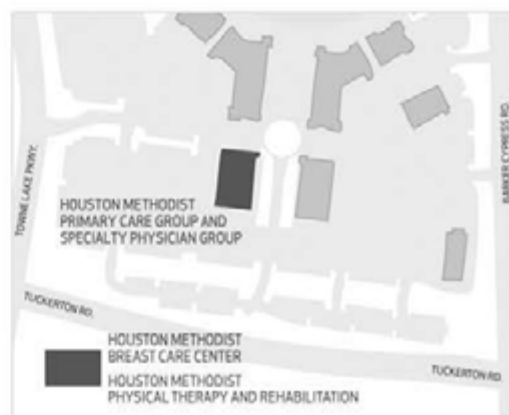


Comprehensive care — now in Cypress.

Now open, Houston Methodist in Towne Lake offers primary care and specialty care, as well as mammograms and physical therapy — all close to home. And, you can be confident that we are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe during your visit.

We offer the following services:

- Cardiology
- Neurology
- Orthopedics and sports medicine
- Physical therapy and rehabilitation
- Plastic and reconstructive surgery
- Primary care
- Women's services, including mammography



HOUSTON
Methodist
LEADING MEDICINE

Visit houstonmethodist.org/towne-lake for information on locations and a full list of services.



PEEL, INC.

1405 Brandi Ln
Round Rock, TX 78681

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

CCL



***ADVERTISE
YOUR
NEXT IDEA
WITH US!***

Build a Stronger Network with Your Community!

Email info@peelinc.com | www.peelinc.com