



CYPRESS MILL *Chronicle*

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CYPRESS MILL

August 2020

Volume 20, Issue 8

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CYPRESS MILL

Important Numbers

Robison Elementary	281-213-1700
Spillane Middle School.....	281-213-1645
Cy-Fair High School	281-897-4600
Cy-Woods High School.....	281-213-1919
Constable Ron Hickman, (24 Hour Emergency)	281-376-3472
Centerpoint Energy Gas.....	713-659-2111
Centerpoint Emergency Gas Leaks.....	713-659-3552
CenterPoint Energy.....	713-207-2222
Poison Control Center	800-764-7661
Cypress Mill M.U.D. #1	281-374-8989
AT&T Repair Center	800-246-8464
Street Light Outages.....	713-207-2222
Comcast Cable.....	713-341-1000
Waste Corporation of America Recycling	281-368-8397
Principal Management	713-329-7100
Pipeline Company	281-925-3816
<i>Mowing of Pipeline easement; Standing water; Smells or leaks</i>	

Street Lights – Center Point Energy.....713-207-2222

Damaged or Burned Out Street Lights

They will need 6-digit pole number when calling

Harris County Road and Bridge.....281-463-6300

To request street signs and to report street damage, curb damage, street flooding, or missing/damaged street signs.

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Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the newsletters is the 9th of each month.
Please email articles to: cypressmill@peelinc.com

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Messenger. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Cypress Mill residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 888-687-6444, advertising@PEELinc.com

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.

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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.

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Questions? Contact:

Heather Hughes at hughesguyz@aol.com

What is the COVID-19 antibody test?

The COVID-19 antibody test will show if your immune system has responded to the virus by producing antibodies. Most people who have antibodies will have had some symptoms of the disease, such as fever, cough, or trouble breathing, but some persons may have antibodies even though they never had symptoms. COVID-19 antibody testing will be performed in addition to the standard infectious disease testing all blood donations receive.

What test is Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center using to look for the COVID-19 antibody?

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is using the Roche Diagnostics Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Test. This test is authorized by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization, which means it can be used only during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic crisis. This test is authorized by the FDA only for detecting the presence of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 and is not intended for diagnosis of COVID-19.

Does the antibody test cost me anything?

No. The test is free to blood donors. This test is available to donors that complete a whole blood, platelet or double red blood cell or plasma donation.

Do I have to be a blood donor to get the COVID-19 antibody test?

Yes, in order to get the COVID-19 antibody test, a complete donation must be given. This test is available to donors that complete a whole blood, platelet or double red blood cell or plasma donation. You do not need to have donated before with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to receive the COVID-19 antibody test.

Do I need to have a successful donation to receive my results?

Yes. You must have a successful donation in order to receive COVID-19 antibody results. Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center's standard operating procedure is that only successful donations move on to testing at our laboratory. Therefore, if you are unable to complete your donation, the COVID-19 antibody test, as well as all standard infectious disease testing will not be performed or provided.

Messiah Lutheran Church is a grace place, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Messiah is located at 11522 Telge Road, ½ mile north of Highway 290. Regular Sunday worship times are: 8 am—Traditions; 9:30 am—The Gathering; and 10:45 am—The Crossing. The Discovery (education) Hour is 9:15-10:15 AM on Sundays. For more information, 281-890-3013 or www.messiahlc.org. All people are welcome at Messiah.

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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.

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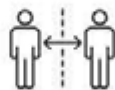
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