

CYPRESS

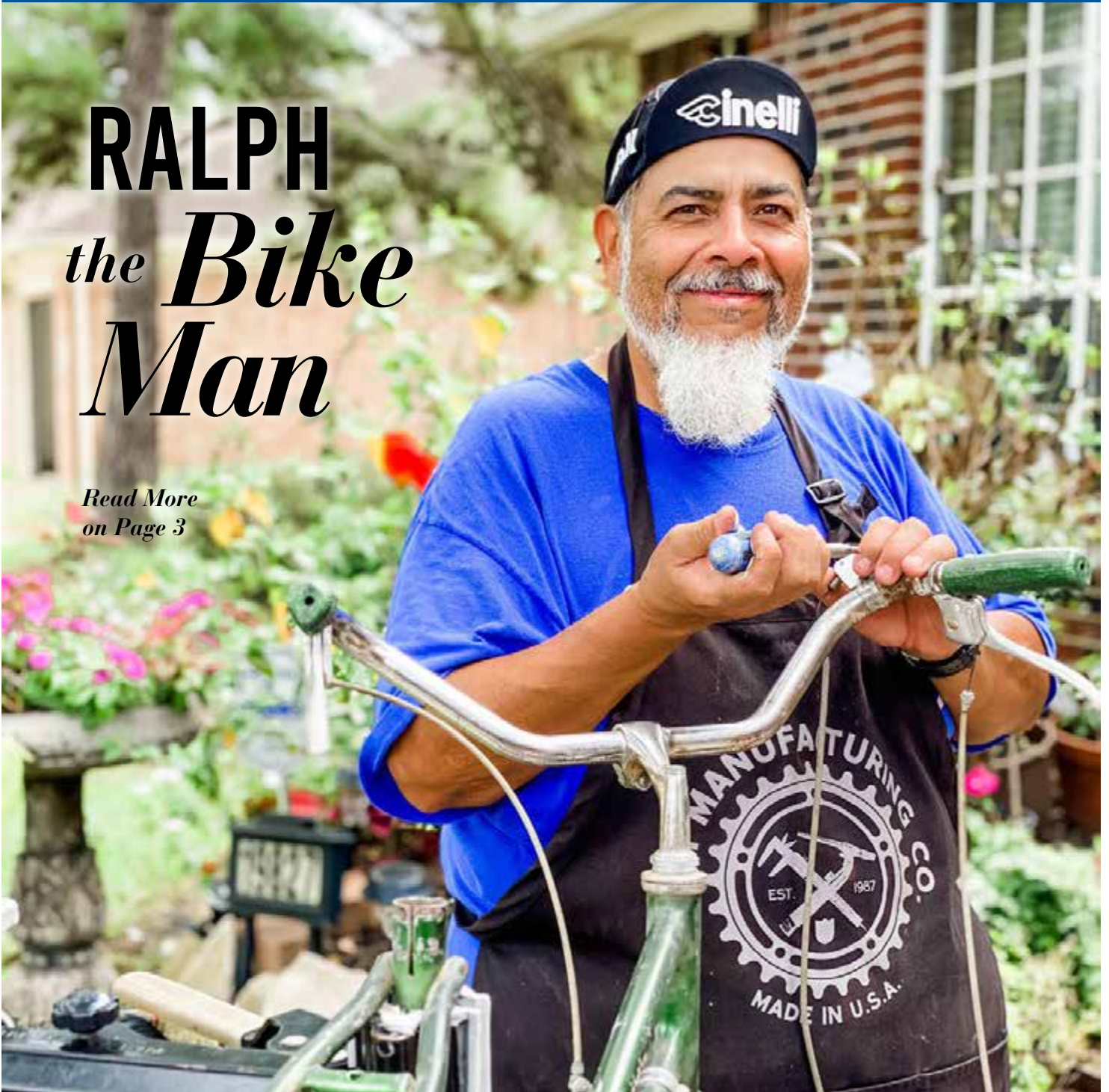
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AUGUST 2020 - VOLUME 6, ISSUE 8

NEWS FOR THE CYPRESS PARK COMMUNITY

RALPH *the Bike Man*

*Read More
on Page 3*



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

PUBLISHER

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Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com

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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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.



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

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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.

VENDOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Are you crafty? Are you a distributor for a specialty item? Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church has opened vendor registration for our 7th Annual Fall Festival and Holiday Market! The market and festival will be held Sunday, October 25, 2020 from 10-4. We will have both indoor and outdoor booths. Saint Aidan's is located in Cypress at 13131 Fry Road – just south of Hwy 290. Our festival features Market Booths, Children's Area, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Food Vendors, Silent Auction, Music, Cake Walk, and a Trunk N Treat. For more information and to register online, visit our website at <http://aidanschurch.org> and click on the Fall Festival icon or if you prefer to mail in your registration, you can obtain a Booth Reservation form by contacting us at 281.373.3203, or email fallfest@aidanschurch.org.

Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church
13131 Fry Road,
Cypress Texas 77433

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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