

October 2020
Volume 13, Issue 10



The Beacon

News For The Residents at Lakes of Fairhaven

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Publisher

Peel, Inc. www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181
Article Submission..... thebeacon@PEELinc.com
Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY INFO

PCMI / 281-870-0585
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Katy, Texas 77449

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CYPRESS WELCOMES A NEW AGGIE VET

by Jackie Devine

Over 63 million households in the United States own at least one dog according to a 2019/20 pet owners survey, making them the most widely owned type of pet across the U.S. Cats ranked second, topping a whopping 42.7 million.

Are you one of the multitudes of Americans who consider your pet a member of the family? If so, you probably also celebrate their birthdays, leave gifts under the Christmas tree, sign their names to your Christmas cards, and finally mourn their passing.

Did you know that the pet industry has become so high-profile that we now have 16 Pet Holidays set aside in October to celebrate our furry friends?

Pet Holidays for October 2020

- National Animal Safety and Protection Month
- Adopt a Dog Month (A.H.) / Adopt a Shelter Dog Month (ASPCA)
- National Pet Wellness Month
- National Pit Bull Awareness Month
- October 1: National Fire Pup Day
- October 1: National Black Dog Day
- October 1-6: National Walk Your Dog Week
- October 1-6: Animal Welfare Week
- October 4: World Animal Day
- October 4: World Pets Day
- October 9: Pet Obesity Awareness Day
- October 16: National Feral Cat Day
- October 19-23: Veterinary Technician Week
- October 26: National Pit Bull Awareness Day
- October 27: National Black Cat Day (U.K.)
- October 29: National Cat Day

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This interesting information is brought to you by our newest area vet, Randall Hees, DVM, owner of The Oaks Veterinary Clinic across from Lindsey Lakes on Muschke Road.

I asked the doctor why he chose to become a Veterinarian. He replied, "I grew up on a farm in Pflugerville, Texas. I've always enjoyed being around animals and learning how to take care of them. You might say, I developed a bond with them and knew that Veterinary Medicine was my calling. All through school, I participated in 4-H and entered every stock show that came along. That is what helped put me through A&M."

"After graduation from Texas A&M in 2004," Randall explained, "I completed a year of equine near Weatherford where my services included lameness, equine reproduction, and preventative medicine. After working with a local veterinarian for several years, I realized I wanted to open my own clinic and become an integral part of the community like he was. I wanted to develop strong heart-felt lasting relationships with my clients, their pets, and other community members as he did. These were my ultimate goals."

Randall's dream to open a veterinary clinic was years in the making. Then, he met Brett Thomas, owner of Dog Ranch Park. Randall excitedly said, "We connected while I was looking for the perfect location. Next to Dog Ranch Park, there was a vacant space dedicated to a Vet Clinic. It was a match made in heaven. The Oaks was a compliment match to Dog Ranch Park."

"First on my agenda," he explained, "was to identify current community needs. Since Brett Thomas sponsors many adoption events with Lucky Mutts, that was a perfect fit. So too, is my new association with Angelica at In the Name of Zoey Rescue."

Dr. Hees has seven dogs, but Jeffery is his newest. He was on his way to visit his sister in Uvalde, just outside of Corpus, and stopped at a gas station out in the middle of nowhere. There he was just sitting at the door.

"I asked the gas station attendant if that dog belonged to anyone," Randall said.

She replied, "No, a lady dropped him off this morning, and he won't go away."

"I went over and petted him, and he followed me to the truck and wouldn't leave. He jumped in the truck and has been part of the family ever since. His hobbies are making goofy faces and counter surfing. He is only about a year old. I bring him to work because he might get in trouble if I leave him alone. I believe that rescued, and adopted dogs make some of the best pets."

Dr. Hees is excited to be part of the Cypress community and invites you to take a tour of his clinic. Visit The Oaks Veterinarian Clinic on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/oaksveterinaryclinic>.

Randall is married to Dr. Christi Hees, also an Aggie vet, class of 2004.

For a complete list of Pet, Holidays see: <https://www.dogtipper.com/fun/pet-holidays>.



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DR. RANDALL HEES, DVM

We Are In This Thing Called *Life* Together

by Steven Bartholomew



and donate and were willing to drop the supplies off at the Cypress Crossfit Club.

I reached out to some other businesses, and Matt Hennessy, with Cypress Fairhaven Animal Rescue, reached out to the community and told people they could collect dog/ cat food at their clinic. Cypress Lucky Mutts Rescue posted

to promote our donation collection as well.

I also reached out to one of the local heavy hitters, Corey Yates, with Jersey Bagels. I asked him if he would like to help because he is always eager to help with anything when possible. He also posted asking for donations and said he would donate a dollar for each post's share. We got almost 400 shares!

I initially thought I would take everything in my SUV but quickly discovered I needed a truck. My friend and fellow Coach, Parker Jackson, at Cypress Crossfit Club, who was going to come with me on the trip to help out, reached out to Unleashed Machines. They donated a truck for us to use along with a 20 foot covered trailer!

I started out thinking that I would barely be able to fill my car with supplies. However, two days later, we filled up a 20 ft trailer and still needed more room. God is Good!

I have experienced an overwhelming amount of gratitude and joy for all the support we have received. I know everyone involved feels the same way.

It is interesting that when healing the body, we focus on turning inwards and pay attention to ourselves. But turning inward doesn't work when we want to heal the soul. The antidote, when trying to heal the soul, is to turn outwards and help others. That is what this week has reinforced in me. Service is about helping others, but we end up helping ourselves in the process.

Postscript

The trip was an adventure. We were met with several obstacles. An hour after leaving, we lost fuel pressure and were stuck for an hour, and then an hour later down the road, a tire on the trailer blew because we loaded the trailer too heavy with donations. We lost control of the truck but were able to skid off the road safely. A crew from Louisiana came out and helped us get back on the road.

We were able to deliver all of the donations, despite the obstacles. A crew member who we had never met had an aunt. She prepared beds and supper for us as soon as she found out we needed a place to stay. She even made us breakfast before she left for church in the morning and left a nice note thanking us.

Our kindness was met with even more kindness and compassion.

One of Louisiana's hardest-hit areas assaulted by Hurricane Laura's 150 mph winds was Lake Charles, a city near the coastline where nearly all 80,000 residents were without power and running water for days.

Many in our community rallied together and came to the assistance of our sister state. Stephen Bartholomew was one of those people. I asked Stephen what prompted him to do so. His response is below:

Recently, I found myself in kind of in a funk—like something was missing, and I wanted to do something about it. Feeling so blessed, I began searching for a way to give back because I have found that helping others always brings me joy and fulfillment.

Then, I came across the news that Taylor Fonten, a friend of mine, in Louisiana with 50 Star SAR (search and rescue), was lending a hand to Hurricane Laura's victims. Immediately, I asked if I could join him. His quick response was: Of course! So, I decided to drive to Louisiana and lend a hand.

I wrote a post letting people know I was going, and a member from Strong Body Crossfit said they were collecting donations at their gym and asked if I could take some. I agreed to take whatever I could. Then, Josh and Jolie Vance at Strong Body Crossfit said we could stockpile any donations at their gym.

So, I posted again letting people know I could take donations, and started to get an outpouring of support from people who wanted to help



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