



The Community Connection

NEWS FOR SWEETWATER RESIDENTS

Is your child's workspace working for them?

What is the best way to set up a workspace for a child during remote learning due to COVID-19? Creating an effective working space will depend on your child's age, their learning preferences, and the specific demands of their curriculum.

It's important to include your student in making decisions on their learning environment. When students are able to make choices in their learning, they're more likely to take ownership of the process, and engagement will increase. For students grades K-2, try asking: what is your favorite thing about school? What is your favorite thing you do in school? Ask older students (grades 3-12) students to describe their favorite teacher or classroom. What is it about that space they like? When have they felt most successful in their learning? What is something that helps them be successful in the classroom? Through these discussions, students will often describe their ideal learning environment.

In thinking about personalized learning preferences, it's important to consider how to support your child's learning style by designing an environment that meets their needs.

Think about...

The auditory environment:

Have headphones available for them to listen to their teacher or participate in virtual classrooms. This may help them to focus. Some students may prefer a quiet workspace, while other students need some background noise. Consider the use of a white noise machine or soft music playing for students who prefer a bit of sound.

The visual environment:

Visual tools for organization are key. If they are in 4th grade and under: consider having folders for each subject in a different color might be helpful. If they are 5th grade and above: a written agenda will help students track what assignments are due, supply reminders, and provide a space for important information, - for example, digital learning app suggestions, teacher office hours, and log-in information.

The physical environment:

Supply Desk Set Up for all kids, adolescents, teens and even some adults! When setting up a workspace it is preferable to set it up in a place where it will be quiet and , but also where there is natural

light. Exposure to natural sunlight wakes up our brain and helps us to mentally focus. Have your student help keep the space clean and organized. Daily decluttering of the space will help with organization of materials. Consider that some students may prefer to sit in a chair at a desk, while others may be more productive on the floor or a bed.. Students will need frequent breaks in order to move throughout the day and should have a few different options of where they can do their work. Consider providing "fidget" items that students can use while engaged in online learning- small squishy balls, Play-Doh, and doodling. Wobble cushions for Pre-K to elementary or a Flex-Space ergonomic bounce chair (5 year – adult) may help students or adults to pay attention during long Zoom sessions.

Here are some items you may consider purchasing in order to organize your student's workspace:

Acrylic Desktop File, STORI Clear Plastic Hanging File Organizer with Handles, Amazon, \$20. You can see at a glance what you need without having to dig through it. Best of all, it is versatile, has handles and is portable from room to room. It can hold hanging files, sort working files vertically, hold a 3 ring binder and a legal pad for notes.

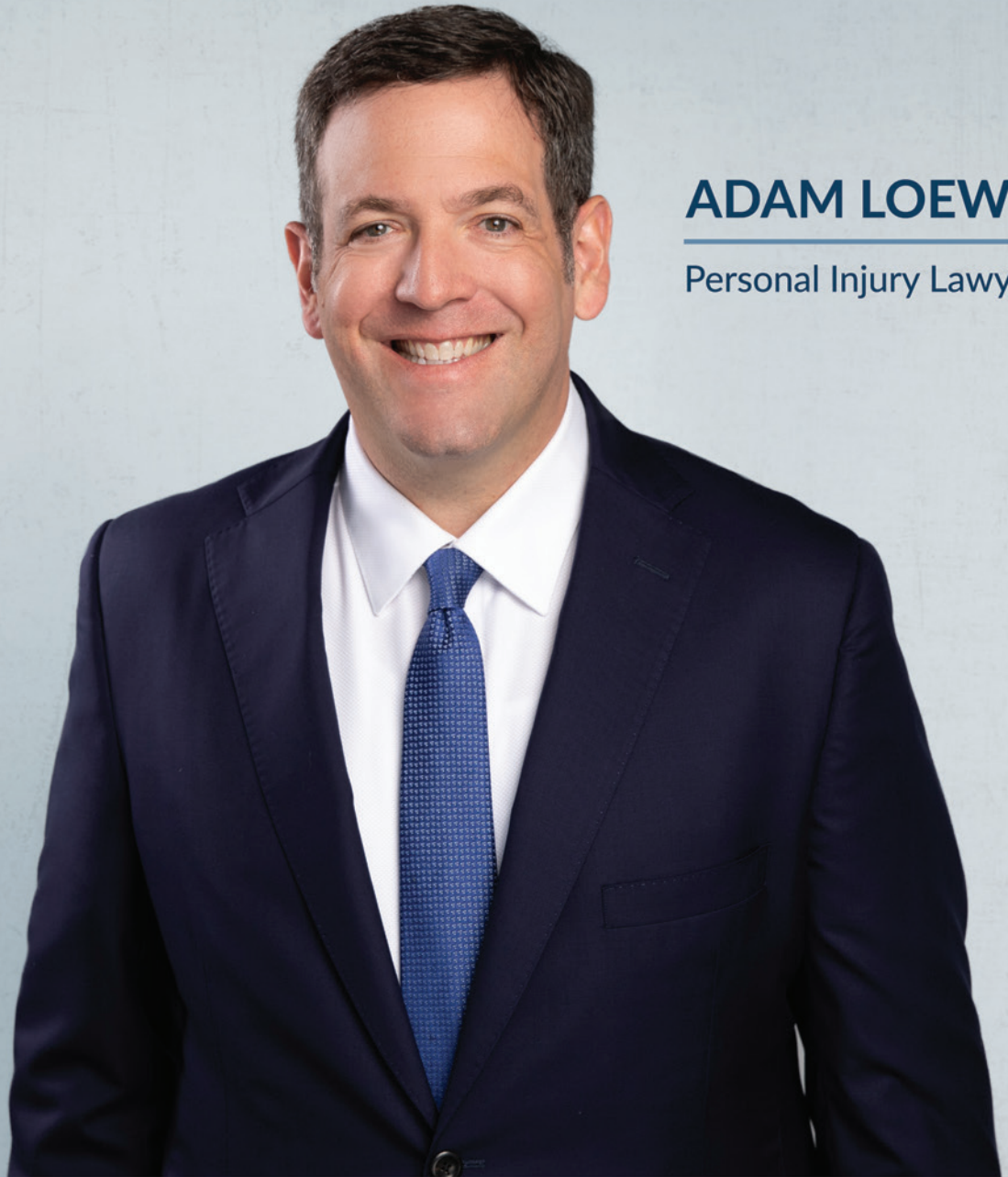
- A 1-1/2 inch notebook (with dividers) per child detailing: passwords to online platforms, app suggestions per class, emails from school that might need to be printed off, Agenda sheets, or college applications

- A laptop, Chromebook and Desktop if needed
- Dividers for a 3 ring binder
- Agenda Notebook or Agenda weekly Calendar to print
- Calendar for the wall (if needed)
- Dry Erase board to write out reminders/schedule or to work out problems

- Working and/or hanging file folders
- Pencil box and/or pen holder for taking notes
- Notebook Paper for kiddos needing to work out problems

Sally Grayum, is an Austin based professional organizer that lives in the Northwest Hills area and works with business professionals, working and stay at home parents. For more information please visit OrganizeMeSally.com.

Bicycle Accidents | Boating Accidents | Car Accidents | Dog Bites | Drunk Driving Accidents
Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



ADAM LOEWY

Personal Injury Lawyer



LOEWY LAW FIRM
HELPING INJURED TEXANS

LoewyFirm.com
(512) 280-0800

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| EMERGENCY | 911 |
| Fire..... | 911 |
| Ambulance..... | 911 |
| Sheriff – Non-Emergency..... | 512-974-0845 |
| Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue | |
| Administration Office..... | 512-266-2533 |
| Travis County Animal Control..... | 512-972-6060 |

SCHOOLS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Lake Travis ISD..... | 512-533-6000 |
| Lake Travis High School..... | 512-533-6100 |
| Lake Travis Middle School..... | 512-533-6200 |
| West Cypress Elementary | 512-533-7500 |

UTILITIES

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Pedernales Electric..... | 888-554-4732 |
| Crossroads Utilities (Water, Sewer, Trash)..... | 512-246-1400 |
| Texas Gas Service | |
| Customer Service..... | 1-800-700-2443 |
| Emergencies..... | 512-370-8609 |
| Call Before You Dig..... | 512-472-2822 |
| AT&T..... | 1-800-288-2020 |
| Time Warner Cable..... | 512-485-5555 |
| Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste | 512-974-4343 |

OTHER NUMBERS

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Bee Cave City Hall..... | 512-767-6600 |
| Bee Cave Library..... | 512-767-6620 |
| Bee Cave Municipal Court..... | 512-767-6630 |
| Lake Travis Post Office | 512-263-2458 |
| Baylor Scott & White Medical Center..... | 512-571-5000 |
| City of Bee Cave | www.beehavetexas.com |
| Travis County (General No.) | 512-854-9020 |
| | www.traviscountytexas.gov |

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Peel, Inc. | 512-263-9181 |
| News | sweetwater@peelinc.com |
| Advertising..... | advertising@peelinc.com |

ADVERTISING & ARTICLES

Please support the advertisers that make the *Community Connection* newsletter possible. The Sweetwater community receives this newsletter free of charge provided by the advertisers within. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

The *Community Connection* is mailed monthly to all Sweetwater residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for the *Community Connection* please email it to sweetwater@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.



YOUR AD HERE

Connecting Residents to
Communities for Over 30 Years!

512.263.9181

ADVERTISING@PEELINC.COM

WWW.PEELINC.COM

NATURE WATCH

PROPHETS & PHANTOMS

by Jim and Lynne Weber



While most think of fall as a time when nature is waning and lifecycles are nearing their end, some things are just beginning. This is the time of year when some of our most mysterious-looking insects, the praying mantids and the walking sticks, lay their eggs in anticipation of the next generation to hatch in the spring.

The scientific order for praying mantis (Mantodea) comes from the Greek meaning prophet, so named for its typical prayer-like stance. This term is often misspelled as 'preying mantis' since mantids are a predatory species. Several species exist in Texas, all of the genus *Stagmomantis*. Adult mantids are green to grayish brown, may reach 2 to 3 inches in length, and have well developed wings. They have two grasping, spiked forelegs in which prey are caught and held securely while eaten. Their hunting relies greatly on their vision, and they can rotate their head nearly 300 degrees. Consuming mostly insects, mantids are ambush predators that wait perfectly still until prey ambles near, and then strike with surprising quickness and agility.

Praying mantids are experts at concealment, using their protective coloration to blend in with or mimic foliage, better snare their victims, and avoid predation themselves. They do show a rocking behavior in which the insect makes a rhythmic, repetitive, side-to-side movement. It is thought that this behavior may help them resemble vegetation blowing in the wind, but also allows them to discriminate objects from their background by their relative movement. As generally sedentary insects, this behavior most likely replaces flying or running as a way to determine relative objects in their visual field. When threatened they will stand tall, spread their forelegs, and fan their wings out wide to appear larger, and if further provoked will strike with their forelegs and attempt to pinch or bite.

In the fall after mating, female mantids lay between 10 and 400 eggs, depending on the species. The eggs are typically laid in a frothy mass on the underside of a leaf or on a twig, which hardens to a tan or gray foam-like material called an 'ootheca.' If this egg case survives the winter, the nymphs emerge in the spring with voracious appetites, often devouring each other in their race to become mature adults.

Members of the Phasmatodea order of insects are commonly known as walking sticks, stick-bugs, ghost insects, leaf insects, and stick insects. This scientific name comes from the Greek 'phasma' which means apparition or phantom, and refers to many species closely resembling sticks and sometimes leaves. At 16 species, Texas walking stick diversity is second only to California. In fact, one species in Texas is the Giant Walkingstick (*Megaphasma dentricus*), which is the longest insect in the United States and grows to almost 7 inches!

Our most frequently seen phasmid is the Common or Northern Walking Stick (*Diapheromera femorata*). Adult males can be 3 inches long and are mostly brown, while females are larger at 4 inches and more of a greenish-brown. Their long, thread-like antennae are about to-thirds the size of their body. As part of their natural camouflage, their bodies are often further modified to include ridges resembling leaf veins and bark or bud-like tubercles, making them very difficult to spot. They are wingless, molt several times and may eat their shed skin as they grow to adult size.

Phasmids feed mostly on the leaves of trees and shrubs, and often exhibit the same rhythmic movement as mantids, presumably to blend in to their surroundings and as protection from predators. At this time of year, the females lay anywhere from 100 to 1200 eggs individually, sticking them to vegetation or simply depositing them on the ground. These eggs resemble tiny plant seeds and remain dormant until spring.

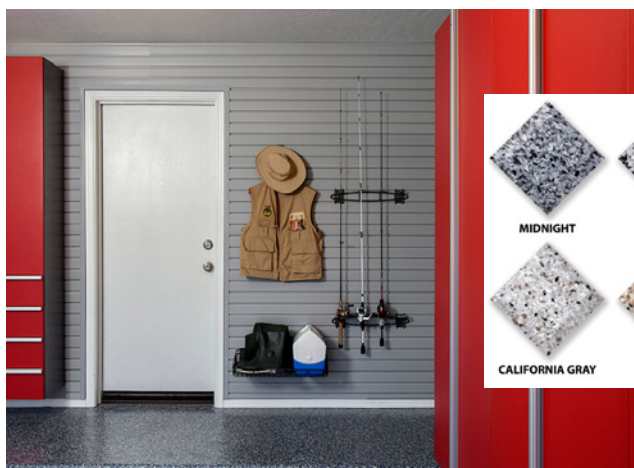
While no doubt strange-looking and mysterious, mantids and phasmids are harmless to humans and beneficial components to keeping balance in our natural landscape.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our books, *NatureWatch Austin*, *Nature Watch Big Bend*, and *Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies*, all published by Texas A&M University Press.





Epoxy Floors | Epoxy Flake Floors | Storage Solutions



- Strong and Durable
- Easy to Clean
- Many Color Options
- Low Maintenance Cost
- Environmentally Friendly
- Increase Home Value

**CALL OR EMAIL
FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!**

512.791.7453

Contact@FortitudeGarages.com

FortitudeGarages.com

The Community Connection 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 Community Connection 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 newsletter 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.

THE MOURNING DOVE

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

The mourning dove is native to Texas and gets its name from the soft, sad-sounding coo that usually only the male makes. What you may not know is that the mourning dove also has a non-verbal whistling sound it makes when it takes off and lands. This sound is an alarm signal and is also associated with courtship. They are one of the most abundant birds of all North American birds.

Doves are highly-developed and range in size from a sparrow to a chicken. Mourning doves are one of seven species of doves in our area. The others are the white-winged dove, the white-tipped dove, the erasian collared, the rock dove (pigeon), the band-tailed pigeon, the inca dove and the common ground dove. Some of them, like the mourning dove, are monogamous. That means they'll stay with their mate for life unless something happens to the mate. If that happens, the mourning dove will find a replacement.

Mourning doves are recognizable by black spots on brown wings, a black beak, black eyes and a long, pointed tail. They look somewhat plump with a small head that looks a little too small for the size of the body.

You might catch a glimpse of a mourning dove on the ground or on a limb, leaning over and stretching one wing. The bird is either sunbathing or rainbathing. It can hold this position for up to twenty minutes. They also like to dustbathe.

Their diet consists mostly of seeds. They have a preference for rapeseed, corn, millet, safflower, and sunflower seeds. They eat until their crops are full and then fly away to digest the food. They'll often swallow sand or fine gravel to aid in digestion.

Doves are the number one game bird in the country and Texas leads the nation in hunter and harvest humbers. Every year from June to August, Texas Parks and Wildlife place leg bands on thousands of mourning and white-winged doves. The primary reason for banding is to track the harvest. This is done in order to monitor the factors that influence the populations. Hunters report banded birds and the information gathered provides estimates of harvest and survival rates. The data is used in several programs to help manage populations and set hunting regulations. Hunters are urged to report any bands they find.

Here are a few very interesting facts about this very common bird.

- They have a very short life span. They usually only live about 1.5 years. The oldest recorded age of a mourning dove is 31.
- They are one of only a few birds that can actually sip water like humans. Most birds gulp water and then rotate their heads until the water goes down their throats.
- Many of them lay eggs several times a year.
- Mourning doves can fly up to 55mph. Compare that to a Northern Flicker that weighs about the same but can only fly 23 mph.
- Another name used for mourning doves is turtle doves.

TWRC admits hundreds of injured, orphaned and displaced doves every year. Some have dog and cat wounds, some have had collisions with windows, or have fallen out of a nest. Whatever the reason for their admission, we care for them until they are able to be returned to the wild. If you'd like more information about what we do, check out our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.



GO GREEN

View This
and Many More
Newsletters Online:

www.peelinc.com

Hover over "Newsletters" Tab
Click "Communities"

SPOOKY TREAT IDEAS



Witch Cakes



Caramel Apples



Monster Rice Crispees



Apple Juice & Ghost
Marshmallow Straws



Mini Chocolate
Pumpkin Cakes



Dirt Worm
Cupcakes



PEEL, INC.

1405 Brandi Ln
Round Rock, TX 78681

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

Local
Postal Customer

SWT

CENTURY 21 Realty
FINE HOMES & ESTATES Network

*We love & live
in Sweetwater!*

Thinking of selling your Sweetwater home? Let our experience work for you! We have lived in Sweetwater since 2014! We know how to make your home stand out against new construction competition.

**JUST SOLD - 5608 Cherokee Draw Rd.
Over asking price!**



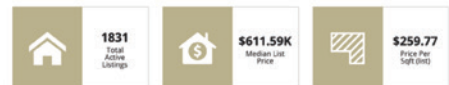
Low inventory and strong buyer demand
have caused home values to increase!
Find out your home's new value at
TheManginTeam.com/home-valuation



Stay in the Know!

Visit **TheManginTeam.com** to
see real-time data on the Austin
housing market and your local
area.

MARKET TRENDS IN AUSTIN



Median List Price
The median list price for homes in Austin was \$611.59K in June 2020. See the data above for the most up to date median price.



Tyler Mangin

REALTOR®, NHC
Buyer's Agent
512.663.2910

Shannon Mangin

ASSOCIATE BROKER, GRI, ABR
Seller's Agent
512.897.4349

