

# The Spectator

November 2020

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CYPRESS CREEK LAKES

Volume 9, Issue 11

Unlike last year, Cy-Fair Helping Hands will not be sponsoring a canned goods drive, hold a silent auction, or have an end of the event celebration. Instead, every weekend, NOW through December 31st, it will be partnering with community eateries to raise awareness and funds in a unique way. Spearheaded by Metta's Local Eats Dine Out for Charity, CFHH is asking that when you plan to eat out, you consider dining at participating LOCAL Cypress and surrounding Restaurants who are partnering with Metta's Local Eats Dine Out for Charity to put food in the stomachs and on the tables of the hungry and homeless.

## Here is how it works:

Make sure to join Metta's Local Eats Facebook page so you'll always have the current list of the newest partners! As you are out and about, please patronize the participating restaurants and order the Metta's Local Eats Dine Out for Charity appetizer, entre, or drink special. Remember to let them know that you are there to support CFHH! And SHARE! SHARE! SHARE with everyone on your email list!

**KEEP YOUR RECEIPT!** MLE will offer exciting random giveaways just by supporting local and eating out! One qualifying item from the list below of Participating Restaurants **MUST** be ordered. Numbers in (\$) reflect the amount donated to Cy-Fair Helping Hands.

Andy's Kitchen – Turkey burger basket \$12.00 (\$5)

Nyam Nyam Café – ask for the Helping Hands Crepe Combo of ANY Sweet Crepe and MettaMosa (\$2)

2 Guys 1 Pit BBQ Restaurant – Sweet and savory Burnt Ends (\$1)

## Helping the HUNGRY AND HOMELESS



Adriatic Cafe Italian Grill – Margarita Chicken (\$3.20)

Alchemy Bake Lab – Texas Caramel Pecan Tart (\$1)

Ambriza Cypress (Boardwalk) & Ambriza Vintage Park– Calamari (\$1) & the Chile's in Nogada (\$2)

The Backyard Grill – Bar B Gooney (\$2) Queso loaded with pulled pork

Captain Brad's Coastal Kitchen – Boudin Egg Rolls w/Crawfish Queso (\$1)

Charlie D's Pizza – Family Value Deal (\$5)

Creekwood Grill – Pretzels and Beer Cheese dipping sauce (\$1)

Duck n Bao Cypress – Pork or Chicken Soup Dumplings

(\$1)

Giannina's Pizza & Catering – Signature oven-fired Giannina's Pizza (prosciutto, fresh tomato & arugula) (\$2)

Land of a Thousand Hills Coffee & Bakery - Cypress, TX – ANY Croissant (1) qualifies

Pho Houston Copperfield – ANY Sandwich (\$1)

Rockwell Grill – Soft Pretzels (\$4) w/choice of dipping sauce

Sizzle & Brew – Boudin Ball Side (\$1) and/or the Hawaiian Mimosa (\$1)

VIVA Restaurant – Any Sandwich (\$1)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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- 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
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### 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

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## ADULT ENGLISH CLASSES AT ENGLISH GATEWAY

English Gateway is a program designed to teach conversational English. The vision and desire of English Gateway is to assist international families in learning and improving English skills to help them live and be successful here in the United States. We offer 6 different levels and have open registration throughout the CFISD school year.

- Where does English Gateway meet? We meet at Bayou City Fellowship, 12715 Telge Rd., Cypress, TX 77429.

- When does English Gateway meet? We offer two options: Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30 am; Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm.

- What is the school calendar?

English Gateway classes coincide with CFISD school calendar

- When can I register and start class?

First day of class: September 17, 2020

There is open registration so you can come any Thursday, take a placement test, and go immediately to class.

How much does it cost? There is a one-time fee of \$20 for the books; classes are free.

For more information, please contact the English Gateway Program Coordinator: [esl@bayoucityfellowship.com](mailto:esl@bayoucityfellowship.com)



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# Cy-Fair Helping Hands Keeps Vision to Serve

By Patricia Hudson



The vision continues to provide a day center for the homeless. Homeless teens are provided quick meals in all CFISD high schools; Upward Progress pays class fees, dual credit, graduation and extracurricular expenses. Scholarships are awarded to CFISD homeless graduates; two are studying at Lone Star College, one to become a firefighter, and the other, a nurse. A third is at Texas A&M studying chemical or biomedical engineering.

**Cards of Hope**, \$50 WalMart gift cards, are currently being collected for the holidays for homeless teens and their siblings. With the help of our community partners, 550 cards were gifted last year.

**Compassion Bags** for homeless clients are needed. ([www.cyfairhelpinghands.org](http://www.cyfairhelpinghands.org))

## Community Outreach

The **Community Pantry** provides non-perishables and fresh food. A drive-thru food distribution ensures that volunteers and clients follow CDC guidelines. Volunteers register clients electronically, clients remain in their cars, and trunks are loaded with boxes of food and toiletries. Since March 17, 2020, we have fed nearly 20,000 individuals, and have distributed more than 75,000 pounds of food donated through the Houston Food Bank, and thousands more through community supporters. Our **Community Garden** supplements the pantry by providing fresh produce from 34 raised beds. This year, volunteers have harvested a ton of produce.

With the help of the community, Backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to CFISD students, and to first year college students. Working with Owens and Hairgrove Elementary, and CFISD Children's Youth Services workers,

(CYS), we were able to put backpacks into the hands of over 2,300 students in need across the district. To put this into perspective, 1,000 backpacks were distributed in 2019, and 450 in 2018.

**Thanksgiving Blessings Boxes** - complete holiday meals, together with \$20 - \$25 WalMart gift cards to purchase turkeys or hams. We anticipate providing approximately 620 boxes this year. Families, communities, businesses, organizations, schools and churches are encouraged to join us in sharing Thanksgiving blessings through food drives. (CFHH Facebook page)

**Volunteers Needed** CFHH is in need of individuals that have a heart for serving those struggling to make ends meet, as well as for the homeless in our community, and are willing to commit to volunteering on a weekly basis. Volunteers are needed for pantry and drive-thru food distribution, English/Vietnamese and English/Spanish volunteers to assist in registering clients on Mondays, Thursdays, 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. commitment. Weekly pick-ups from community groceries, assistance with communications, clerical, case management fund-raising, and funding for purchasing land and facilities are needed.

Cy-Fair Helping Hands is located at 7520 Cherry Park Drive, Suite B, Houston, TX 77095. To donate: [www.cyfairhelpinghands.org](http://www.cyfairhelpinghands.org) or mail to: 7710 Cherry Park Drive, #T-385, Houston, Tx. 77095

For Homeless Initiatives: [jean@cyfairhelpinghands.org](mailto:jean@cyfairhelpinghands.org) and for Community Outreach: [phudson@cyfairhelpinghands.org](mailto:phudson@cyfairhelpinghands.org).



## This Holiday, Keep Family Stories Alive

by Jackie Devine



When you and your relatives gather to celebrate family, Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays are the perfect times to capture memories and start creating a legacy that can be handed down for generations to come. But time is of the essence. Our mothers and fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins leave us too soon.

Pull out your phone,

place it on video, and start asking questions. If you need a list of questions, email me at [jackiedevine@peelinc.com](mailto:jackiedevine@peelinc.com). I will send you a list of questions to ask your family and friends. I'll wager you will be surprised by the answers.

Please don't wait until it is too late like I did. Capture your family folklore before your living vault of information has disappeared.

To recreate my Grandmother's story, I had to interview scores of cousins I had not seen in decades. That was helpful, but I knew theirs wasn't the whole story. After researching the national archives, I stumbled upon long lost kin I had never met, and precious photos I had not seen. As a result, I created a priceless mini-biography of my Grandmother, which included family photos, memories, conversations she had with me over the years, and various precious documents. It remains available on the web for family members all over the world to retrieve.

For the last few years, several organizations have encouraged families to listen to one another and record family history. Two excellent organizations include:

**StoryCorps**, for example, launched The National Day of Listening. StoryCorps encourages everyone to ask elder family members to tell stories at the Thanksgiving dinner table—memories that provoke more memories and stories. It's a beautiful way to connect older generations with newer ones and create a shared family tradition.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, StoryCorps Connect offers a first-of-its-kind platform that enables you to record a StoryCorps interview with a loved one remotely using video conference technology. The audio and a still photo from each interview goes into their archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

**StoryWorth**, located at <https://welcome.storyworth.com>, is another option that allows you to preserve your memories, connect your family, and learn about relatives in a new and exciting way. Once a week, they email your mother, dad, or grandparents a question, possibly about subjects you have never thought to ask. All they do is reply with a story that is shared with you each week. At the end of the year, the stories are compiled and bound into a beautiful keepsake book.

Please don't let another holiday pass without preserving your family's stories and life-lessons for future generations. When they are gone, their stories have vanished.

If you are not comfortable working with national firms and prefer something up close and personal, I will help you gather and compile your family's history. Contact me at [jackiedevine@peelinc.com](mailto:jackiedevine@peelinc.com), and let me know that you are interested in taking a memoir writing class. If we have enough interest, I will make myself available free of charge for a 6-week memoir writing class in our community.

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# NEW TOMBALL RESIDENTS

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



A pair of beautiful bald eagles are now calling Tomball, Texas, home and they've become quite the attraction. People are coming from miles around just to get a glimpse of them and to snap a photo. Should you decide to come and take a look, remember to keep your distance and do not disturb the birds in any way.

Bald eagles are protected by multiple federal laws that include the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Lacey Act as well as other state and municipal protections that may be in place. The Eagle Act was originally passed in 1940 and was amended in 1972, increasing civil penalties. The Act provides criminal penalties for persons who "take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle ... [or any golden eagle], alive or dead, or any part\*, nest, or egg thereof." The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb."

"Disturb" means: "to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior."

Here are some interesting facts about Bald Eagles:

- They have been our national symbol since 1782.
- They are almost always found near water.
- They live to be between 20 and 30 years old. The oldest recorded bald eagle was 38.
- Their wingspan is between 6 feet and 7.5 feet.
- Females are larger than males.
- They can see 4 to 7 times better than humans.
- They can see fish up to a mile away.
- They mate for life but should one of the pair die, the other will find another mate.
- They return to the same nest every year. They will make repairs and add additional twigs, grass, etc. each year. The nests average 2-4 feet deep

and 4-5 feet wide. The largest nest on record weighed 2 tons!

- The female lays 1 to 3 eggs and both the male and female take turns sitting on the eggs. The first egg will hatch after 35 days of incubation. The next egg will hatch several days later.

- Sometimes the first eaglet to hatch will kill the younger one(s).
- By 3 weeks of age, the feet and beaks are nearly as large as an adult.
- Eaglets fledge between 8 and 14 weeks of age.
- It's not until 3 years of age that the head and tail begin to turn white. In the 4th year, the eagle gets its white head, tail and upper and undertail coverts.

- Eagles can swim—sort of. If they swoop down for a fish and it's too heavy, they will paddle to shore.

TWRC Wildlife Center asks that you respect all wildlife. With regard to the Tomball eagles, keep your distance, view with binoculars, keep the noise level down and report anyone harassing them or getting too close. They could be breaking a federal law.

[www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org)

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# SPECTATOR

## National Night Out

National Night Out's celebration was a little different this year, but just as effective in reaching out to people maintaining safe and strong neighborhoods.

Constable Mark Herman's Office participated in the 2020 National Night Out in the communities we serve. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live.

National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement, while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances and allows each to learn more about each other.

The men and women of your Precinct 4 Constable's Office love the communities we serve! Attached are pictures from this year's National Night Out events across Precinct 4. Thank you to all our citizens and deputies for making National Night Out a successful event!

Follow us at [Facebook.com/precinct4](https://www.facebook.com/precinct4) to receive live feeds on crime and arrests in your area.

National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. The state of Texas and select areas celebrate the first Tuesday in October. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are strongly recommending that all National Night Out 2020 areas celebrate on October 6th, the first Tuesday in October.



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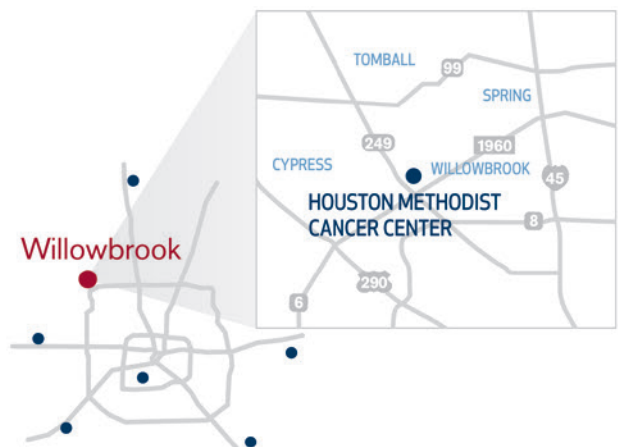
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