

Ranch Record

News for the Residents of Blackhorse Ranch

February 2021 • Volume 15, Issue 02

Constable Mark Herman introduces new custom crime app, C4 NOW!



Constable Mark Herman and his team are proud to announce the introduction of “C4 NOW”, a custom app for your smart phone designed to keep the residents of Precinct 4 and North Harris County informed of real time crime in the area, traffic hazards, accidents, road conditions, and threats to public safety.

This app is just part of Constable Herman’s commitment to transparency, safety and security. The app is designed to notify residents of important information about what is going on in and around your communities.

It is our belief that an informed community is a safe community.

Search for and download your FREE C4 NOW APP today on your device from the Apple or Google Store.

The alerts and push notifications are now ACTIVE! We hope you enjoy our APP!

Follow us at [Facebook.com/Precinct4](https://www.facebook.com/Precinct4) and Download our new mobile app “C4 NOW” to receive live feeds on crime, arrests, safety tips, traffic accidents and road conditions in your area.

RANCH RECORD

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire	911
Ambulance	911
Harris County Sheriff	713-221-6000
Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Dept. Bus. Office	281-550-6663

AREA HOSPITALS

Cy-Fair Medical Center	281-897-3300
North Cypress Medical Center	281-477-0830
Willowbrook Methodist	281-477-1000

SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD	281-897-4000
Warner Elementary School	281-213-1645
Spillane Middle School	281-213-1645
Cy Woods High School	281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School	281-897-4600
Cypress Ranch High School	281-373-2300

PUBLIC SERVICES

Cypress Post Office	281-373-9125
Drivers License Info.	281-955-1100
Harris County Tax	713-224-1919

UTILITIES

En-Touch (Customer Service)	281-225-1000
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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	888-687-6444
Article Submissions	blackhorse@peelinc.com
Advertising	advertising@peelinc.com

Don't want to wait for the mail?

View the current issue of the
Ranch Record on the 1st day
of each month at www.PEELinc.com

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Ranch Record. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Blackhorse Ranch residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Want to bring a little culture into your life and the lives of your children? Why not try hosting a high school foreign exchange student? It's a great way to learn about a new culture all from the comfort of your home.

STS Foundation is currently looking for host families for the 2021/2022 school year. Hosting is such a rewarding experience and it benefits all of those involved.

STS Foundation accepts all types of host families – from single parents, newly marrieds, empty nesters and same sex couples. In order to host, you would need to meet the following qualifications:

- Host must be 25 years or older
- Pass a background check
- Provide food for 3 meals daily
- Ensure reliable transportation to and from school (bus is ok)
- A bed for your student
- A safe and loving home

STS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that places foreign exchange students with American host families. For more information about hosting, please contact me at 832-455-7881 PM me or email at vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com.



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Cy-Fair Helping Hands Gets Boast from Metta's Local Eats Dine Out for Charity

by Jackie Devine



Demand for food assistance in Houston has more than doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to KHOU-11 investigative reporter Jeremy Rogalski.

The surge in Harris County—the 13th highest in the nation—has also affected West Houston Assistance Ministries, and Cy-Fair Helping Hands (CFHH).

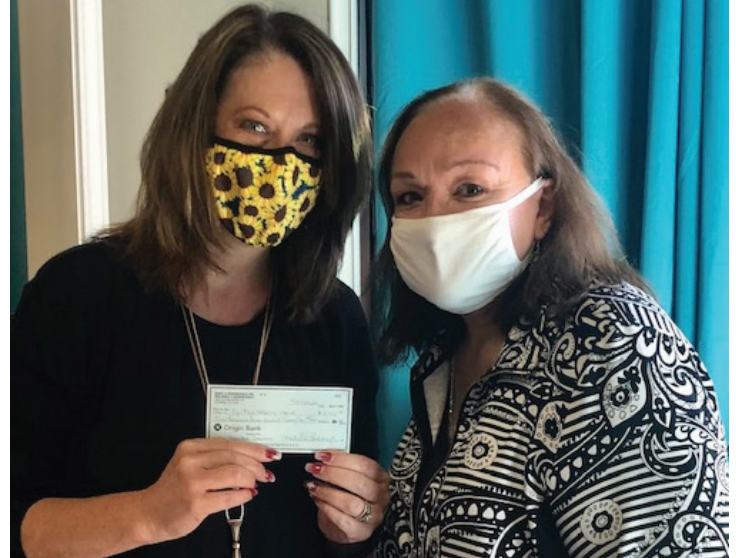
According to Food Across America, one in eight Americans are food insecure. In Texas, that number is one in seven. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, more than 35 million people struggled with hunger in the United States. That number includes more than 10 million children who are the most vulnerable amongst us and the most likely to face food insecurity than any other group in the United States.

Fortunately, for Cypress, we have Cy-Fair Helping Hands. Even luckier, CFHH has Metta's Local Eats Dine Out for Charity, spearheaded by Metta Archilla-Ishida, a talented chef, entrepreneur, food blogger and photographer.

Metta, along with her first-rate executive committee (Lisa Johnson, Nancy Eugenio, Keri Holloway, Vannessa Henley, Ashley Clarabut, and Nick Rama) conceived a plan involving a host of restaurants and businesses—42 to be exact—that would offer a kickback on a select product or service for the months of October through December. Each participating restaurant and food-related enterprise selected an item or two from their menu, and set a donation amount for each item sold during the three months.

The amazing results reflected the generosity we, here in Cypress, continue to brag about. On January 14th, a check for close to \$19,000 was received by CFHH from MLE Dine Out For Charity. Not only that, reports Metta, “We’ve already booked a Hill Country weekend retreat to plan our next quarter MLE Dine Out for Charity event that kicks off in April.”

Pictured is Melinda Jones Bodukoglu, presenting the Land of a Thousand Hills Coffee and Bakery donation to Cy-Fair Helping Hands. Patricia Hudson, Executive Director of Community Outreach, is accepting the check. For a list of Cypress area patrons, participating restaurants, and vendors of culinary treats, visit Metta's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MLEDineOutForCharity>. To learn more about CyFair Helping Hands visit <https://www.cyfairhelpinghands.org>.



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Traveling Seniors Take To The Road

by Jo Ann Lambert



Almost eighteen percent of the people that live in Cypress are 55 or over. That happens to be about 27,000 people. By our conservative estimates, that number represents hundreds of people who don't know that Cypress is a hotbed of fun and adventure for people over 55.

No doubt, there are scores of people throughout Cypress who do not know about the Traveling Seniors of Cypress or that they take day trips once a month and extended excursions several times throughout the year—all of which are safe and reasonably priced. If you are new to the area, recently retired, or feel that you are missing out on life, you may want to check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/TSCTravelTogether>.

Our upcoming trips include:

February 10: The Texas Wendish Museum in historic Serbin. Enjoy a guided tour of St. Paul Lutheran Church, listen to a 1904 pipe organ's beautiful music, enjoy a traditional Wendish meal, and tour the only Wendish Museum outside of Germany.

March 24: The Texas State Railroad: Step on-board a refurbished first-class train car and feel like you've been transported to a simpler time as you travel through the Piney Woods of East Texas and marvel at the blooming Dogwoods.

The extended excursions we have planned include:

New Orleans: April 26-30, 2021 Five days and four nights includes a guided tour of New Orleans, admission to the National World War II Museum, a tour of a Louisiana Plantation, admission to Mardi Gras World, a relaxing Riverboat Cruise on the Mississippi, and time in the historic New Orleans French Quarter.

The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum: September 18-25

Eight days and seven nights: Includes admission to the Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, KY Derby Museum, and Graceland.

Nashville Show Trip: December 5 through 11 Includes The Grand Ole Opry, Nashville nightlife Dinner Theater, Guided Tours of Nashville, Belle Meade Plantation, Admission to the Country Music Hall of Fame, admission to the Grand Ole Opry Behind the Scenes Tour, a ride on the Delta Flatboats inside the Opryland Hotel and much, much more.

For information about Traveling Seniors of Cypress, contact Jo Ann Lambert at pstlgrl@gmail.com or Jackie Devine at jackiedevine@comcast.net.

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

If you provide “rental property” for Purple Martins, then you know it’s time to clean out your houses to get ready for their arrival.

The first Martins to arrive are referred to as the “Scouts” and they are the oldest birds. Older females arrive next followed by the younger birds. Martins will return to the same colony site where they resided the previous year. Once they arrive, nest-building will begin in 4 to 6 weeks. They use twigs, pine needles and straw. Once the nest is complete, they add a layer of green leaves. Ornithologists can only guess why they do this but think the leaves may act as an insecticide, may help keep the nest clean or help regulate the temperature and moisture levels. The female lays one egg per day for a total of 2 to 8 eggs. In about 15 days, the eggs begin to hatch which can take 2 to 3 days. Babies are fed up to 60 times a day by both moms and dads.

It takes 2 years for Martins to acquire their full adult plumage. Purple Martins aren’t really purple. Mature Martins are a glossy deep blue—almost black-looking. They feed mostly on flying insects and can eat thousands of mosquitoes in a day. They catch most of the insects in mid-air and even drink water from ponds, lakes and streams while flying.

If you’ve never had a Purple Martin house and you’d like to get one, there are some things you need to know. You’ve heard realtors talk about “location, location, location?” As a Purple Martin landlord, this holds true as well. They prefer large, open areas where the nearest building is a minimum of 30 feet away and from 25 to 60 feet away from trees. Make sure your house is secure and doesn’t spin around when it’s windy out. The birds can become disoriented.

You may be lucky and get renters your first year. Sometimes it takes a couple of years for them to discover your house. There are a couple of things you can do to increase your success. One website I checked suggested playing Purple Martin vocalizations near your Martin house very early in the morning. There are several recordings on YouTube. You can also place life-sized black decoys on your house. If you have a large house with several compartments, you can construct a fake nest in one of them. Don’t forget to put green leaves on the top of the nest.

You should protect your Martin houses with predator guards. You can purchase owl and hawk guards. Predator baffles, or pole guards, will help keep snakes and raccoons from climbing the pole.

In late fall, you can take your Martin house down and put it back up when the Martins return in the spring. The other option is that you can leave it up but make sure you clean it well and block the entrances so other species of birds don’t move in. Remove the blockages in spring when the Martins return.

TWRC Wildlife Center is gearing up for another busy year. Because of Covid-19 we’ve had to cut back on volunteers to work at our Center but we are in need of volunteers who would like to learn to rehabilitate wildlife in their homes. We train you and help you every step of the way. Rehabbing wildlife is the most rewarding thing you will ever do. www.twrcwildlifecenter.org. 713.468.TWRC



RANCH RECORD

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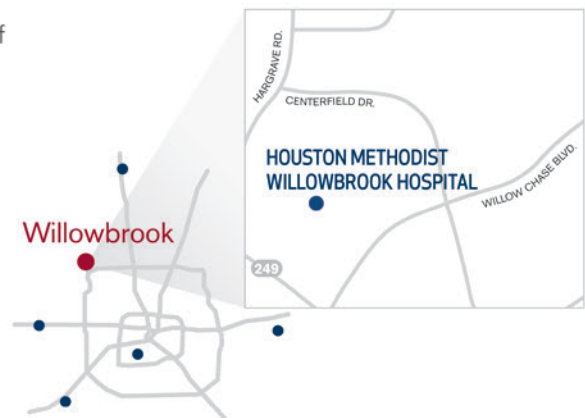
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