

# Dock Line Magazine

Lake Conroe

January 2020



**A New Experience in  
Healthcare**

*See page 8*



**Who Oversees Flood Control for  
Montgomery County?**

*See Page 34*

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# KNOWLEDGEABLE. DEPENDABLE. STRATEGIC.



Lake Conroe Waterfront on .78 acres w/open views for MILES! Located on the South shore of Lake Conroe in a gated subdivision & conveniently situated near restaurants, Golf + only a short drive to both downtown Conroe/downtown Montgomery! You are greeted by an estate-style driveway that leads to a 3 car garage. The interior provides a blank canvas to reimagine the beauty of this home. The living room has amazing views, SOARING ceilings + a floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace! Kitchen offers solid wood cabinets (making a restain or paint easier!), breakfast bar, breakfast room + formal dining! The first floor offers a spacious master bedroom w/double sinks, walk-in shower, soak tub + HUGE closet, second bedroom w/private bath & door leading to sunroom plus private study w/solid wood wainscoting. Upstairs provides 3 large secondary bedrooms, enormous gameroom + an additional sunroom w/walk out balcony overlooking the pool & Lake. The backyard boasts a pool w/hot tub w/ tons of decking. **2521 Sand Shore Drive, Waterford Estates in Conroe. ML# 49913534. \$725,000**



A private & elegant country estate that is conveniently located on a quiet street off 1488 w/in minutes of shopping, restaurants, schools, Lake Conroe, The Woodlands + more! Situated on a 2.44 acre lot this custom home boasts an open floor plan, expansive living spaces + numerous options for outdoor entertainment! Exterior features include eye-catching facades, warm stone/stucco accents, arched walkways/doorways, wrought-iron balconies, courtyard, TWO full size garages (4 car spaces) + a private water well! The interior will immediately WOW once you walk through the iron front doors to the two story foyer! The interior was designed w/the following: high ceilings, heavy use of hardwood and travertine tile floors, architectural details including arches and use of large picture windows, stylish granite throughout, high-end cabinetry + very spacious bedrooms. 5 bedrooms, game room, office/sitting room, bonus room, covered/uncovered porches/patios/balconies, breakfast + formal dining room. **315 Mapleleaf Street, Country Forest in Magnolia. ML# 41144855. \$710,000**



Classic, Cozy and an Effortless Elegance makes this home stand apart from the rest. Perfectly situated on a .8 acre lot in a gated, waterfront community in Montgomery close to the Lake, Golf, Restaurants & more! So many extras from the striking statement of the Old World wood floors to the large picture windows overlooking the pool area. The heart of the home offers style & charm in the island kitchen w/bar seating, apron front sink, classic white subway tiles, Carrara marble counters, custom cabinets, Chef inspired appliances & open to the living that is filled w/natural light, stacked stone FP + custom trim/millwork. Just beyond the kitchen/living is a grand dining area enhanced by exposed beams. Attractive/relaxing master boasts an eye-catching shower, vanity area +tub under a barrel ceiling design. Rich/warm wood study w/ doors leading to covered porch. Gameroom up w/3 bed, 2 baths. Exterior: pool/spa/beach entry/ waterfall, shower, decking+covered patio. Lot goes past the back fence. **233 E Blue Heron Drive, Blue Heron Bay in Montgomery. ML# 78445337. \$614,000**



This is truly a RARE FIND! 5.6 +/- Acres of Unrestricted Property in Conroe! Located just off of I-45/Crighton Rd and FM 1314; no flooding! So many possibilities on this Estate - make this your private home, build your business or do both! The property offers a pristine fishing pond stocked w/ bass, perch, catfish. Picturesque scenery w/bridge, pre 1941 windmill, curio building dated back to 1934 w/local history that was relocated to this spot, 24x27 metal workshop, private well + right-of-way into River Plantation! The home has been loved by ONE family EVER! The circle drive leads to a well-kept home boasting a spacious living room w/FP + game room equipped w/a ceiling fan from the Texas/Pacific railroad station in Dallas! The kitchen is light/bright w/solid wood cabinets, solid surface countertop + large dining room w/bay window. Master bedroom + 2 additional bedrooms downstairs. 4th bedroom w/private bath is the only room up. Attached oversized garage + attached covered parking. **10085 Stidham Road in Conroe. ML# 70493892. \$499,000**



New Construction at an amazing price! Located in a quiet subdivision in Montgomery surrounded by National Forest and offers a fishing lake and community pool! The interior offers an open concept living with stylish polished concrete floors, great natural lighting and three spacious bedrooms. Builder has additional homes in the neighborhood; contact for more information. Ready for move in! **15897 Pecan Drive, Hidden Forest Estates in Montgomery. ML# 49933806. \$144,900**



Buyers Don't pass this up!! Seller is very motivated & ready to sell!! The estate-style drive welcomes you home to a 1.19 acre lot surrounded by shade trees & located on a quiet street. The outdoor living not only offers spacious covered/uncovered patio/porch space + privacy, but a pool w/waterfall! The home greets w/a cozy porch that overlooks the front yard w/eye-catching wood accent ceilings. Interior - large living room w/high ceilings, wall of windows, wood floors and fireplace. The kitchen overlooks the living area & is equipped w/solid surface countertops, gas cooking, solid cabinets, breakfast area + formal dining w/French doors. All bedrooms downstairs (only room upstairs is the gameroom). Master bedroom offers 2 walls of windows, double sinks, soak tub + walk-in shower. 2 secondary bedrooms w/shared full bath. Large game room/media room upstairs! The backyard offers a sunroom/enclosed back patio, fencing, pool + decking! The neighborhood offers a fishing lake, trails + more! **8946 Catamaran Way, Ridgeline Shores in Montgomery. ML# 41531627. \$364,900**



Clean, Cozy, Conveniently located & situated on almost an acre w/a detached apartment! This, Like-New, ranch-style home is centered around a well-established neighborhood offering THE WOODLANDS SCHOOLS, tennis, pool, playgrounds + minutes from Jones State Park, I-45, The Woodlands amenities. The exterior boasts shade trees, tons of yard space, estate-style driveway, EXTENSIVE decking in the backyard offers tons of outdoor living space, greenhouse/shed + detached garage w/covered walk-way. The main house immediately WOWs w/stylish wood-grain tile floors, high ceilings in the living w/wood beams & floor-to-ceiling FP w/heattilator. The kitchen is chic & fresh w/eye-catching granite, sleek/crisp cabinets, SS appliances, walk-in pantry, breakfast bar + dining room. Master wing offers great closet space, double sinks, tub/shower + private door leading to laundry area. 2 very spacious secondary bedrooms w/shared full bathroom. Guest apartment is steps away w/kitchenette + full bathroom; NICE! **2406 Carriage Ridge Lane, Carriage Hills in Conroe. ML# 6918365. \$322,900**



Welcome HOME to peace and relaxation! This well-kept ranch-style home is perfectly situated on 1.79 UNRESTRICTED Acres that is high/dry no flooding, located near FM 1314 and between Grand Parkway & 242! The exterior offers an oversized three car covered parking + uncovered parking, an extensive back deck/back patio that overlooks the shaded backyard that is partially fenced + equipped with dual storage sheds on a slab and a generous front covered porch that welcome you home! The interior greets w/eye-catching floors, spacious living room, kitchen w/warm wood cabinets, granite counters, double oven w/stylish vent hood all overlooking living room, breakfast bar w/sitting + dining room! Master bedroom w/double sinks, vanity area, walk-in closet + extra storage. Plus, THREE additional bedrooms w/great closet space! **19100 Moorhead Road in Conroe. ML# 3238961. \$309,900**



Fresh and Clean! This 3 bedroom, 2 full bathroom home is ready for move-in with fresh paint and flooring throughout! Located on a private corner lot with a double-wide driveway with covered parking (20x21), fresh/eye-catching landscaping, 12x8 storage shed, over 375 square feet of covered/uncovered back porch w/fan + a covered front porch! Great entertainment space! Spacious living room with vinyl plank flooring with great natural lighting. Kitchen is open to living area and boasts custom cabinets w/pull out storage drawers, breakfast bar, SS appliances + stylish backsplash. Large master bedroom with walk-in closet, double sinks, Shower/garden tub combo. Split plan for two secondary rooms on the opposite wing w/full bathroom offering walk-in shower. Tons of EXTRAS on this house! Roof is 5 years young! Community offers a great location to Highway/shopping/schools and a park! **9541 Cedar Ridge Court, Pin Oak in Willis. ML# 41418320. \$139,900**

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## Happy New Year

It's hard to believe another year has passed and a new decade begins with 2020. Here at Dock Line Magazine we are extremely excited to start the New Year with some amazing new ventures. We are skipping the New Year's resolutions putting the past behind us while getting straight to work. We promise to do our best to bring you current and insightful information every month along with a few exciting announcements soon to come, so hold on it's going to be a preeminent year. We hope your 2020 starts off just as amazing. Wishing you all a prosperous New Year. Let's make 2020 the best year yet.

GT2 

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### ON THE COVER



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# Dock Line Magazine

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*Susan Shaw*



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# A New Experience in Healthcare



Walking in the doors of Sandstone Health at one of their four chiropractic locations, their family medicine office or their neurofeedback location feels like you are walking into the warm, welcoming home of a family member - If that family member offered state-of-the-art health care. Which is exactly what Chiropractor, Dr. Tony DeRamus had in mind when he first established Sandstone Chiropractic in Montgomery, Texas in 2009.

"When I began in Montgomery, I knew I needed to have a clear mission as to why I was doing what I was doing. That mission was and still is to educate and take care of the doctors in our profession while providing the best care

possible for our communities," he says. "At the end of the day, it's all about the people."

## **The Sandstone Philosophy**

What started as a chiropractic practice, treating people with pain, stiffness and limited range of motion has become one of the fastest growing healthcare practices in the area. The reason for their success? Chiropractor, Dr. Tony's philosophy that the patient must be an active and willing participant in their health and recovery. Rather than bullying patients into treatment plans that may not work for them, Sandstone strives to provide the best possible care recommendations, and then allows the pa-

tient to choose the type of care they wish to receive. With an eye toward creating lasting relationships with patients who are committed to regaining their health, Sandstone believes the only way a patient is successful is if they are a partner in the process. This philosophy has paid off as patients who listen and take action on the recommendations made by one of Sandstone's providers experience the best results.

As patients flocked to Sandstone for chiropractic care, Chiropractor, Dr. Tony began to understand that Sandstone was doing more than treating people, they were revolutionizing the way their community participated in their health care. Yet, there was still a void in the way





most people experienced medicine with their family practitioners.

### Enter Sandstone Family Medicine

"Opening a family medicine practice was something that was important that I knew I needed to do for our community," Chiropractor, Dr. Tony shared. "I felt that the need was growing for more family practices that provided the same quality of care that we provide in our chiropractic practices. I knew we would also be able to provide the community with a high-quality solution to their family's health-care. That's when I began to put together a qualified and skilled team of professionals to make this a reality."

The introduction of Sandstone Family Medicine in October 2019, brought with it a flood of patients who were eager and ready to experience health care not as just a patient, but as a partner. Emphasizing preventative and functional medicine, Sandstone Family Medicine's team of specialists work to reveal the underlying causes of a patient's concerns to help them regain their health without dangerous opioid medications or unnecessary antibiotics.

### At the Forefront of Technology

Sandstone continues to introduce various cutting-edge therapies in their offices to help support the body's natural healing process by

introducing specific targeted protocols, with therapies such as Pulsed Electromagnetic Field Therapy (PEMF), Cryofos (spot cryotherapy), Spinal Decompression and more! Sandstone practitioners believe that every therapy must be rooted in human connection to be its most effective.

### Something Different for Pain

With the opioid crisis looming large over the country, people who experience pain are looking for alternatives to prescription pain relievers. Many have found not only relief but also a return to function within the walls of Sandstone Health. Most recently, Sandstone has introduced a proprietary Joint Rejuvenation Program, helping patients with osteoarthritis, ligament and tendon injuries, plantar fasciitis, and overuse injuries make incredible recoveries. This series of procedures work to repair areas that just a short time ago would have taken surgical repair or prolonged recovery times to heal. Minimally invasive and requiring no anesthesia, no narcotic pain medications, and no prolonged recovery times, the Joint Rejuvenation Program represents Sandstone's continued commitment to staying on the cutting edge.

### Something Different for the Brain

The opioid crisis has also driven the country to seek other natural options to achieve opti-

mal brain health. Understanding the magnitude of this need lead us to launching Sandstone Center for Neurofeedback in The Woodlands, July 2018. Neurofeedback is a brain-based therapy used to correct the frequency abnormalities in the brain associated with various neurological conditions without the need for medication. Neurofeedback has proven success in helping patients overcome the symptoms of various conditions such as ADD/ADHD, Anxiety, Depression, Memory Loss, TBI, PTSD, Concussions, Postpartum depression and more. At Sandstone Center for Neurofeedback, we base your treatment plan on the results gathered from your 19-channel brain map, where we will pair neurofeedback therapy with supportive therapies such as Oxygen therapy, Whole Body Vibration, Electromagnetic Field (PEMF), HRV (Heart Rate Variability) and Photobiomodulation (PBM) to help you achieve optimal brain function.

### What's next?

Chiropractor and CEO of Sandstone Health, Dr. Tony DeRamus is determined to bring the Sandstone Health experience to as many people as possible. In 2020, he plans to expand the chiropractic arm of the company and open two additional chiropractic locations in the greater Houston area. ♦

*Continued on page 10 ➞*



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## Locations and Contact Information

**SANDSTONE CHIROPRACTIC MONTGOMERY**  
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**SANDSTONE CHIROPRACTIC MAGNOLIA**  
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Magnolia, TX 77354  
281-789-7586

**SANDSTONE CHIROPRACTIC CONROE**  
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936-230-5515

**SANDSTONE CHIROPRACTIC SPRING/HARMONY**  
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Spring, TX 77386  
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**SANDSTONE CENTER FOR NEUROFEEDBACK**  
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**SANDSTONE FAMILY MEDICINE**  
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# SandStone

## HEALTH

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Our team has grown to ***support you*** in more ways than ever before. We now offer a complete solution for your total health and well-being.

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## Comprehensive care for every step in life

When Sandstone Chiropractic was established in Montgomery, Texas in 2009 - We made it our mission to provide the families of our community with a new perspective on their health by delivering the highest quality of care in a comfortable and holistic setting. Since then, the demand for the same experience in family medicine, neurofeedback and regenerative medicine presented itself. This provided us with the opportunity to continue our pattern of growth by creating a unique blend of comprehensive healthcare to better serve our community and their loved ones. **Sandstone Family Medicine and Sandstone Regenerative Medicine are NOW OPEN** in the Woodforest community.

**The Right Choice  
Can Change Everything®**





Our mission at Sandstone Family Medicine is to provide patients the most innovative and highest quality care. We strive to form lasting relationships with the entire family by including patients in the decision-making process and acknowledging them as active participants in their health.

### **NOW OPEN!**

795 Fish Creek Thoroughfare  
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Montgomery, TX 77316



Our philosophy is to provide the best possible care recommendations, and then allow the patient to choose the type of care they wish to receive. We hope to create lasting relationships with patients who are committed to regaining their health, and who allow us to participate in their full recovery. The committed patients who listen and take action on our recommendations get the best results.

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### **Sandstone Center for Neurofeedback**

By using neurofeedback we are able to retrain the brain by correcting frequency abnormalities associated with various neurological conditions such as ADD, ADHD, autism, anxiety, depression, PTSD, memory loss, and auditory processing issues just to name a few. At the Sandstone Center for Neurofeedback, we combine neurofeedback therapy with various brain-base therapies in order to stimulate optimal results.

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# Back to Health

By: Dr. Todd R. Custer D.C., Athletic Trainer



## Happy 2020 New Year

I wish you the time to **SMELL THE ROSES**. Take the time to savor those successes—even if it's surviving to fight another day! Enjoy those small successes and make them the motivation to press on.

I wish you the strength to **LOOK IN THE MIRROR**. Where are you now? Is this the life you planned? Focus on your problems and from that list, work on the ones that can be changed. You can move, you can join a church, you can make that career change.

I wish you a minimum of 3 exercise workouts per week. That means walking, jogging, biking, swimming for 30 minutes. This is not only healthy for your heart (natural bypass formation) but provides your daily dose of Vitamin D (if outside) and gives you time to think and resolve stress.

I wish you a healthy body weight. Exercise your heart, weight train to increase muscle mass, eat a high whole food diet and expect obtainable weight loss (2 pounds per week).

I wish you a yearly physical visit with your Primary Care Physician. Preventive medicine is

practicing a healthy lifestyle and catching illnesses early (in the treatable stage). Healthy looking people get diagnosed with diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure (the silent killer) every day. Find a physician you can communicate with and trust. It's that important!

Be your own advocate—be prepared when going to the doctor. We can't read minds, we need your input to complete a thorough examination and provide a concise diagnosis with appropriate diagnostics. Be a good historian of your past medical health-surgical procedures, physicians, medications, allergies, etc.

I wish you a diet rich in nutrients but low in junk (soda, candy, chips, etc.). The Montgomery County Food Bank is located at 111 South 2nd Street in Conroe, their phone number is 936-539-6686. The food bank needs food, and you probably don't need as much as you eat—donate to those who need it!

I wish you safe travel on our busy roadways. Wear your seatbelt, helmet, and slow down for crying out loud—we all need to get somewhere!

I wish you personal growth through exploration and new social ventures. Life isn't gonna come to you—go get it. Stop worrying about your online image, get out in the world and have some real fun. Get active in your community through your church or just volunteer your time to a cause of your choice. You may find you receive more than you have given!

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I wish you a financially prosperous year, but if not, I hope you may be content. Appreciate what you have and the hard work it took to acquire it.

Remember - You can't take a U-Haul to heaven.

**God Bless Your 2020 New Year!**

*Todd R. Custer, D.C., Athletic Trainer. – Doctor Custer is a doctor of chiropractic and retired athletic trainer, and has been providing rehabilitation services to injured athletes at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels (Philadelphia Eagles Football Club) since 1994.*

*Dr. Custer graduated from Texas Chiropractic College summa cum laude, and is currently treating patients at Better Care Chiropractic & Physical Therapy in Willis and Montgomery.*

*If you have comments/questions or would like to suggest a future topic please feel free to contact us at: [whybettercare@gmail.com](mailto:whybettercare@gmail.com). ♦*



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### Free "Law Line" Service

When: January 6, 2020

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Have a legal question? A free call-in public Law Line for residents of Montgomery County who have general legal questions is offered on the first Monday of every month at 281-645-6344 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. by volunteer attorneys from The Woodlands Bar Association. (If the first Monday is a Federal holiday, then the Law Line will be offered on the second Monday of that month.) Topics include bankruptcy, family law, criminal law, consumer protection, and more. The volunteer attorneys do not provide specific counseling yet offer general information and inform people about their rights and options and what legal resources may be available for callers to follow through with their concern. Callers' identities, as well as the identities of the volunteer lawyers, will remain anonymous. This free public service is a project of The Woodlands Bar Association in conjunction with the United Way of Greater Houston, Montgomery County Center. The Woodlands Bar Association is comprised of private practice attorneys from both large and small law firms, judges and corporate attorneys and seeks to promote high legal standards, education and community service in the area. The Law Line offers a local community service opportunity for members to share their unique legal skills to provide service to others. [www.WoodlandsBarAssociation.com](http://www.WoodlandsBarAssociation.com)

### HC Gun & Knife Shows, Inc.

When: January 11 - 12, 2020

Time: Sat: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Sun: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Lone Star Convention Center, 9055 Airport Rd., Conroe, TX 77303

Admission: Adults: \$9.00, Free Parking. Children 12 & under: Free. Law enforcement officers in uniform will gain Free admission.

Bring your gun and trade for the gun you've always wanted, and see the hundreds of displays of New and Old Guns, Ammo, Gun Parts, Books, Knives, Knife Sharpening, Coins, Camouflage and Related Items at Discount Prices. For more information call 281-412-4824 or email [info@texasgunshows.com](mailto:info@texasgunshows.com) or visit the website at [www.texasgunshows.com](http://www.texasgunshows.com)

### North Shore Republican Women's Meeting

When: Thursday, January 16, 2020

Time: Sign-in begins 10:45 a.m., Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m., Program Noon until 1:00 p.m.  
Where: Bentwater Country Club, 800 Bentwater Dr., Montgomery, TX 77356

The General Membership Meeting of North Shore Republican Women will feature a Program by Lt. Col. Allen B. West "Call to Arms Republican Rally". Also, there will be a Book Promotion and Sign-



ing After Lunch. Plated lunch at noon - lunch is optional, but reservations for a seat must be made by Noon, Saturday, December 11th by clicking on the register link at [www.NSRepublicanWomen.org](http://www.NSRepublicanWomen.org). You do not have to be a member to attend.

### Montgomery County Welcoming Neighbor Club May Luncheon

When: January 16, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: Herrera's Mexican Restaurant

Montgomery County Welcoming Neighbor Club (social club 501c7) monthly luncheon will be held at Herrera's Mexican Restaurant on January 16, 2020. Social hour begins at 11:00 followed by a short business meeting and lunch. Afterwards, the program will be a charity presentation to the members of Welcoming Neighbors. Call Rebecca at 936-671-9629 if you need additional information concerning this meeting and to make reservations. ♦

### Rinker's Boat World Named to 2019 Boating Industry Top 100 list

Recognized as one of the top boat dealers in North America



Minneapolis, Minn. – Rinker's Boat World has been named one of the Top 100 dealers in North America by Boating Industry, the leading trade publication for the marine industry.

"Out of the thousands of boat dealers in North America, only the very best make the Top 100 list," said Jonathan Sweet, director of the Boating Industry Top 100 Program. "These companies are the elite of the marine industry, excelling at all aspects of their business, from customer service to industry advocacy to overall business acumen."

Rinker's Boat World is family owned and just celebrated its 40th Anniversary. "Rinker's is so honored to be chosen a part of this elite group in the boating industry. We are so happy that we were recognized for all of our hard work and our dedication which goes beyond selling boats and making customers happy ... we deliver the promise of the boating lifestyle," states Chris Rinker. "We have an unfair advantage, we care more! You mean the World to us."

The 2019 Boating Industry Top 100 was announced November 24 at a black-tie gala in Orlando, FL, during the Boating Industry Elevate Summit. The Top 100 will also be featured in the December issue of Boating Industry and at BoatingIndustry.com.

The Top 100 is the only independent ranking of boat dealers in North America. The list recognizes dealerships that are unsurpassed in business operations, professionalism, marketing tactics, customer service and more. The Boating Industry Top 100 has recognized the top dealers in North America every year since 2005. ♦

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*By: Margie Taylor*





Showrooms are meant to be a place to touch and see products before you buy. Coburn's Kitchen and Bath Showroom has all the latest innovations and designs in one place for your entire home or business remodel project. Julie Pitts is the showroom coordinator at the Coburn's Kitchen and Bath Showroom located at 930 S. Frazier in Conroe.

Julie has run the showroom for the last 2 years. "I enjoy remodeling and have remodeled 5 of my own homes and built a home from the ground up with my husband. My hands-on experience coupled with my strong relationships with manufacturers provides the education I share with all my customers and contractors that visit the store. We have hundreds of vendors for kitchen and bath fixtures, sinks, lighting, tubs, cabinetry, appliances, hardware, and plumbing."

"It is exciting to share my knowledge with customers explaining the difference between picking up an American Standard faucet from Home Dept or Lowe's that is plastic inside and purchasing an American Standard faucet from Coburn's that is brass. Brass is the better quality for durability and longevity."

Coburn's has products you will not see in larger stores like Home Depot or Lowe's. Coburn's Supply Company has 53 branches serving customers in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee for over 85 years as a family owned distributor of commercial and residential plumbing, electrical, waterworks, and HVAC products. The Showroom in Conroe has been serving the area for 7 years.

"Bring any ideas from Pinterest or pictures you see into the showroom and 98% of the time I will find it for you right away", said Julie. "We have books of

*Continued on page 20 ➞*



## COME SEE WHAT'S SIZZLING!

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every kind of product you would need for your home or business and often I can call the manufacturer while the customer is in the store."

Every customer is given customized care and personal service the moment they walk in the showroom. Since Julie is the only person in the shop customers are encouraged to call ahead and make an appointment to guarantee additional time to share their specific project needs. The showroom is open Monday through Friday 7:30am until 4:30pm and appointments can be made at (936) 760-3900.

A frequent contractor to Coburn's



## CREATE THE KITCHEN OF YOUR DREAMS



Kitchen and Bath was eager to share his thoughts on why he frequents the showroom.

"It is important for me to be able to get the best quality products for remodeling projects. My customers want custom showers, baths, and remodels for kitchens. Julie is knowledgeable and her relationships with manufacturers is a real asset to expedite the process. I trust her too with my business!"

Knowledge and educating the customer is key to repeat business at Coburn's

in Conroe. Even toilets are all different. An average toilet has 2-inch flapper and a trap. A Champion Pro toilet has a 4-inch flapper, with a larger trap way, fully glazed and an antibacterial finish to prevent molding ring.

Occasionally Julie gets the customer that wants a unique product.

"I had a customer who came in wanting a toilet he saw at an elite hotel. It opened automatically with a heated seat, night light, a front and back wash bidet, a deodorizer, and is self-cleaning. I got it

for him, but it was at a premium price. He loved it".

Another customer raved on Coburn's: "Very friendly and helpful staff with everything I need. I won't go anywhere else now. When I asked if they had the product, she knew right off the top of her head about her inventory.

Visit Coburn's Kitchen and Bath Showroom Monday through Friday 7:30am-4:30pm at 930 S. Frazier in Conroe. Call for an appointment at (936) 760-3900. Learn more at [www.Coburns.com](http://www.Coburns.com). ♦

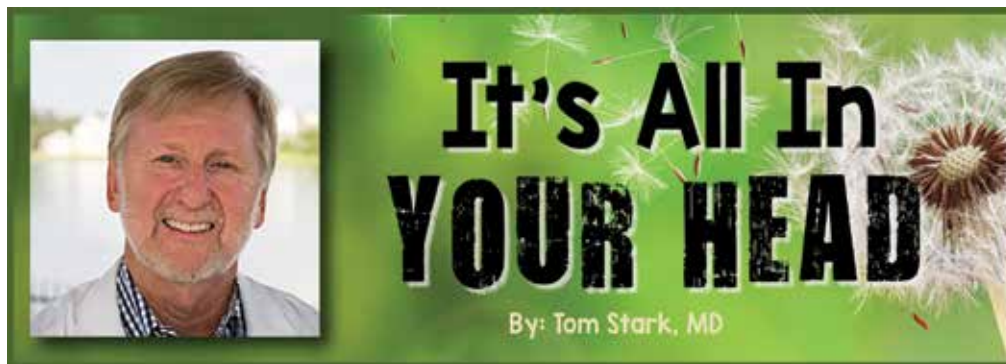


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## Food Allergy

I have written several articles here about allergy problems. Mainly I have written about how allergies affect the nose, sinuses and even the throat and lungs. In my practice I frequently get asked questions about food allergy. Many of these questions come from parents of small children who have food allergies that cause skin rashes, known as eczema. They also can cause nasal congestion and repeated ear infections.

As part of my evaluation of any allergy patient some food allergy testing is usually included. This information helps us to guide changes to the diet. Conventionally we have been taught that treatment of food allergy is mainly avoiding eating the offending food.

Recently some excellent information has been published based on groundbreaking research

in avoiding development of food allergy in young children. From about 1980 until 2010 the recommendations were to avoid foods that might trigger allergy in young children. This was mainly cow's milk, peanuts and occasionally aches. Many of us



have heard about children having peanut allergy so severe that even minor exposure can trigger serious reaction including swelling of the throat and airway. If a baby was born into a family where an older sibling had peanut allergy the standard thinking was in that infant avoid any exposure to peanut.

The new and somewhat exciting information shows that this type of thinking is wrong. In around the year 2010 researchers noted that in Israel there is almost no peanut allergy and children. One reason is that infants there starting teething are given peanut puffs as a snack. They look somewhat like cheese puffs but are made of peanuts. And in Israel this early exposure at a young age was the key to minimal peanut allergy and the children there.

Researchers in the United States have duplicated this in the last 8 years or so. The key that I want to convey to you is that to avoid development of food allergy the recommendations are breast-feeding if at all possible until age 6 months. At approximately age 4 months to 6 months standard adult foods should be introduced. They should have a wide variety of foods at this age including peanuts, cow's milk and eggs. Obviously if there is a definite moderate to severe allergy that is noted by either eczema or nasal congestion then food reduction or elimination can be done. But it appears that the key for children not to develop food allergy is a wide variety of food introduced at a young age such as 6 months. ♦

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## MEET OUR DOCTOR

Dr. Luu's passion for working with children developed early in life and led her to incorporate that into her dental career. She completed her pediatric dentistry residency at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. During her residency, Dr. Luu had extensive training in hospital and clinical pediatric dentistry.

She has treated and managed patients with complicated medical conditions ranging from hemophilia, congenital heart conditions, and childhood cancer, to unique syndromes and special needs. She is an expert in dental prevention, craniofacial growth and development, oral trauma, and has extensive training in treating cleft lip and palate in babies and young children.



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# STAGE RIGHT

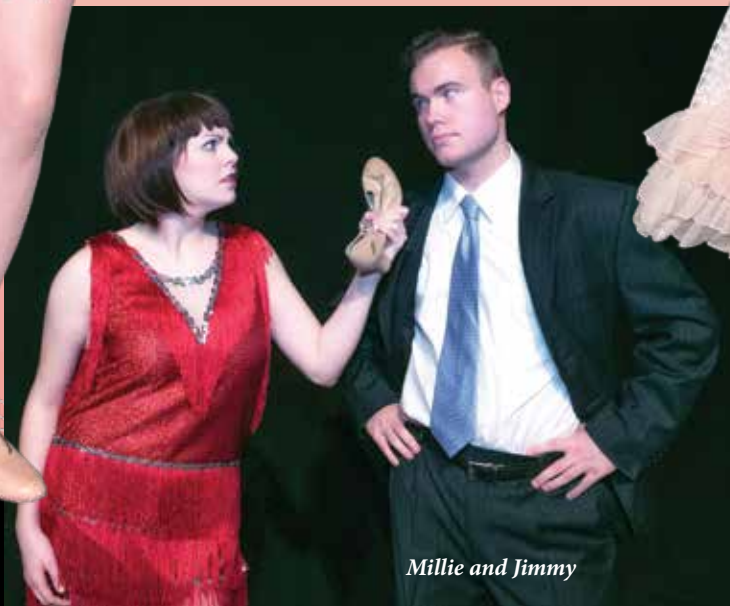
## STAGE RIGHT Presents Tony Award Winning Musical **Thoroughly Modern Millie**

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong Photos by: Michael Pittman Images

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre, will present *Thoroughly Modern Millie* February 14 – March 1, 2020. The show is directed by Manny Cafeo with New Lyrics by Dick Scanlan, New Music by Jeanine Tesori, Book by Richard Henry Morris and Dick Scanlan, with the original story and screenplay by Richard Morris for the Universal Pictures Film.

The winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* was the 2002 season's most awarded new show on Broadway! Based on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* takes you back to the height of the Jazz Age in New York City, when "moderns," were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines, entering the workforce and rewriting the rules of love. This high-spir-

ited musical romp is a delightful valentine to the long-standing spirit of New York City and the people who seek to discover themselves there. Set in 1922, young Millie Dillmount from Kansas comes to New York City in search of a new life for herself. Her grand plan is to find a job as a secretary for a wealthy man and then marry him. However, her plan goes completely awry. The owner of her dingy hotel kidnaps young girls to sell to the Far East, her wealthy boss is slow in proposing marriage and the man she actually falls in love with doesn't have a dime to his name... or so he tells her. A happy ending will prevail, of course. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is a bright, funny, and charming musical comedy full of thundering tap dance numbers and beautiful love songs -- a heartfelt valentine to New York City and the people who love her.



*Millie and Jimmy*



## TICKETS/INFORMATION

Show dates are February 14 – March 1 - Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 2 pm and an added matinee on February 29 at 2 pm. Performances will be held at the historic Crighton Theatre at 234 N. Main in downtown Conroe. Ticket prices are \$26 for adults, \$22 for seniors 65 yr and older, \$19 for Groups of 12 or more, and \$17 for youth 16 yr and under. Tickets for the show can be obtained by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-SHOW (7469) or online at [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org). ♦



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## Performances at the historic Crighton Theatre in Conroe, TX

# THOROUGHLY MODERN millie



New Lyrics by Dick Scanlan  
New Music by Jeanine Tesori  
Book by Richard Henry Morris & Dick Scanlan  
Original Story & Screenplay by Richard Morris  
For the Universal Pictures Film

**Feb. 14 - Mar. 1, 2020**

Fridays & Saturdays 8pm, Sundays 2 pm  
Saturday matinee 2/29 at 2 pm

Tickets \$17-26 Group discounts available

**Tickets: 936-441-SHOW (7469)**  
**Online: [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org)**

Funded in part by The City of Conroe CVB [visitconroe.com](http://visitconroe.com)  
By arrangement with Music Theatre International [MTISHOWS.com](http://MTISHOWS.com)





Convention & Expo Center

# Upcoming Public Events

You can also access the Public Events  
at [www.thelonestar.org](http://www.thelonestar.org)

(These events are subject to change)

DATE	EVENT/OCCUPANT	CONTACT INFO	FACILITY	GENERAL INFORMATION
<b>JANUARY 2020</b>				
1/4/2020	FFA/4-H Prospect Show Willis 4-H	936/442-0717	Expo	9 am - 3 pm
1/5/2020	FFA/4-H Prospect Show Caney Creek FFA Booster Club	832/338-3133	Expo	6 am - 5 pm
1/11/2020	FFA/4-H Prospect Show Porter FFA	936/828-6436	Expo	9 am - 4 pm
1/11-12/2020	High Caliber Gun & Knife Show	texasgunshows.com	Convention Center	Sat: 9 am - 5 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm
1/12/2020	FFA/4-H Prospect Show New Caney FFA	281/522-7547	Expo	9 am - 4 pm
1/13/2020	Airport Board Meeting Conroe North Houston Regional Airport	936/788-8311	Convention Center	4:30 pm - 6 pm
1/14/2020	Schooling Clinic - Extension Service	936/539-7822	Expo	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
1/17-18/2020	The Houston Money Show Greater Houston Coin Club	houstoncoinshow.org	Convention Center	Fri: 9 am - 6 pm Sat: 9 am - 5 pm
1/18/2020	FFA/4-H Prospect Show TWCP FFA	936/709-3147	Expo	9 am - 4 pm
1/19/2020	FFA/4-H Prospect Show Oak Ridge High School FFA	936/709-7216	Expo	9:30 am - 4:30 pm
1/21/2020	Schooling Clinic - Extension Service	936/539-7822	Expo	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
1/23/2020	Chairmans Awards Gala - CLCC	conroe.org	Convention Center	5 pm - 10 pm
1/25/2020	Elvis & The Legends MCFA	mcfa.org	Fairgrounds	6 pm - 12 am
1/25/2020	FFA/4-H Prospect Show Montgomery-Dobbin 4-H	936/537-3477	Expo	9 am - 4 pm
1/25-26/2020	Houston Reptile & Pet Show Shawn Gray	facebook.com/ HERPShow	Convention Center	Sat: 10 am - 5 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm
1/25-26/2020	Walk About Tour Walkabout Events, LLC	downunder horsemanship.com	Expo	Sat: 9 am - 6 pm Sun: 9 am - 6 pm
1/28/2020	CEDC Job Fair	936/522-3527	Convention Center	1 pm - 5 pm
1/28/2020	Schooling Clinic Extension Service	936/539-7822	Expo	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
1/31 - 2/1/2020	SCI/Tech Expo EFTA	efta-us.org	Convention Center	Fri: 9 am - 6:30 pm Sat: 8 am - 4 pm
<b>FEBRUARY 2020</b>				
2/4/2020	Schooling Clinic Extension Service	936/539-7822	Expo	6 pm - 9 pm
2/7-9/2020	Spa & Swim Spa Expo Sale Master Spas	masterspas.com	Convention Center	Fri: 2 pm - 7 pm Sat: 10 am - 7 pm Sun: 10 am - 5 pm
2/14/16/2020	Swap Meet Hot Rods of Texas	hotrodsoftexas.com	Fairgrounds	Fri & Sat: 7 am - 6 pm Sun: 7 am - 4 pm
2/15-16/2020	High Caliber Gun & Knife Show	texasgunshows.com	Convention Center	Sat: 9 am - 5 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm
2/21-23/2020	Lone Star Throwdown Lone Star Throwdown, LLC	lonestarthrowdown.com	Fairgrounds	Fri, Sat, Sun. 8 am - 5 pm
2/28/2020	Ducks Unlimited Banquet Ducks Unlimited SJRC	281/949-2330	Fairgrounds	6 pm - 10 pm
2/29-3/1/2020	Home & Garden Show Texwood Shows	montgomerycounty homeandgarden.com	Convention Center	Sat: 9 am - 6 pm Sun: 10 am - 5:30 pm



# Getting the Most Out of Custom Home Building:

## *Fixed Price vs. Cost Plus*



By: George Harrison

Cost Plus Contracts may be good for an owner that wants to be more involved in the building process. The owner pays ALL Costs (and overages) plus the Builder's fee (a percentage or a set price). The builder should provide expense reports if he or she is managing the money. Keep in mind the builder is not incentivized to save you money. Vendors may not give you the best deal or may offer rebates of some type to the builder. The builder doesn't have the worry about cost, however it allows the owner the flexibility he/she would otherwise may not be entitled. Be prepared to have the

time to take on a project management role which includes making decisions, choices and most importantly reviewing the expense reports. A Cost Plus Contract may be the right choice if you demand the finer things in life.

Fixed Price Contract is best used when there is a completely defined and detailed scope of work to be performed. The builder is responsible to provide an end result for a Fixed Price which allows the owner the freedom from any management. Oversight by the owner is recommended but not required. Any cost overages should be the respon-

sibility of the builder. Review plans, specifications, and selections carefully. Make sure everything you want and need is included. A Fixed Price Contract is the only choice to stay on budget.

If you have the time to be hands-on and you are willing to accept the challenges that come with construction, then you may want to consider a Cost Plus Contract. If your goal is to get to an end result and staying on budget, invest time during the negotiation phase of a Fixed Price Contract making sure everything is included in the scope of work. ♦



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**4 Bedroom-Opt Study, 2 1/2 Bath, 2 Car, Sq Ft 2813**

**Price \$389,900**

Beautiful Open Spacious Floor Plan, 12' ceiling in foyer & living, Formal Dining & Breakfast, Huge Kitchen with hand crafted onsite custom cabinetry, granite throughout, covered back patio. With many upgrades, MUST SEE.

Available Jan 2020

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**4 Bedroom-Opt Study, 2 Bath, 2 Car, Sq Ft 1921**

**Price \$235,900**

Located on quiet street in Corinthian Point. Beautiful new home awaits you, customize now with your Color Selections/Granite/Paint & Cabinet Color. Open Floor Plan, optional 4th bedroom or Study.





## New Year, Healthier Eyes

It's that time of the year when we all make plans to be a better version of ourselves. Often this involves changing eating habits or planning those long over due visits for our annual health exams. Let us start this year off by examining how eating healthy benefits your eyes and how getting yearly eye exams benefits your health.

Your eye is very complex. Unlike muscles which function best on protein and carbohydrates your eye requires antioxidant vitamins and fatty acids to function properly. Most of these nutrients can be found in deeply pigmented fruits and vegetables, nuts and grains. Carrots are likely the first food you think of when it relates to healthy eyes. These are a good source of beta-carotene. Other sources include: broccoli, tomatoes, cantaloupe, peaches and apricots. Vitamin E can be found in most nuts, whole grains, and kiwi. Lutein can be

found in kale, spinach, red pepper and okra. Essential fatty acids, like omega 3 can be found in kiwi, chia seeds, flax, most nuts, and fish.

Good nutrition ensures your retina properly processes visual information. Dysfunction in this process is a disease called Macular Degeneration. Macular Degeneration causes distortion and or loss of vision. This condition often has a hereditary component. So those of you who have a family member with the disease are more likely to acquire the disease as well. Yearly eye exams are the best way to screen for Macular Degeneration. Often there are structural chang-

es in the retina that can be seen on dilated exams or with high resolution imaging of the eye before vision is compromised. Like all diseases early detection is best.

Yearly eye exams can also detect other illnesses. Diabetes, Heart Disease, and High Cholesterol are a few illnesses that are often noted on exams. Sometimes the first indication of these illnesses are seen through the eyes and always progression of these illness can be monitored through the eyes.

Healthy eyes equals a healthy you. Do right by yourself and try to be the best you that you can. New Year's resolutions can be tough to stick to. Here is an easy one, schedule you and your families' eye exams today. Here's to a great 2020.

Dr. Cameron's family eye care clinic is located in Montgomery, TX in the Waterpoint Shopping Center. See our ad for details. ♦





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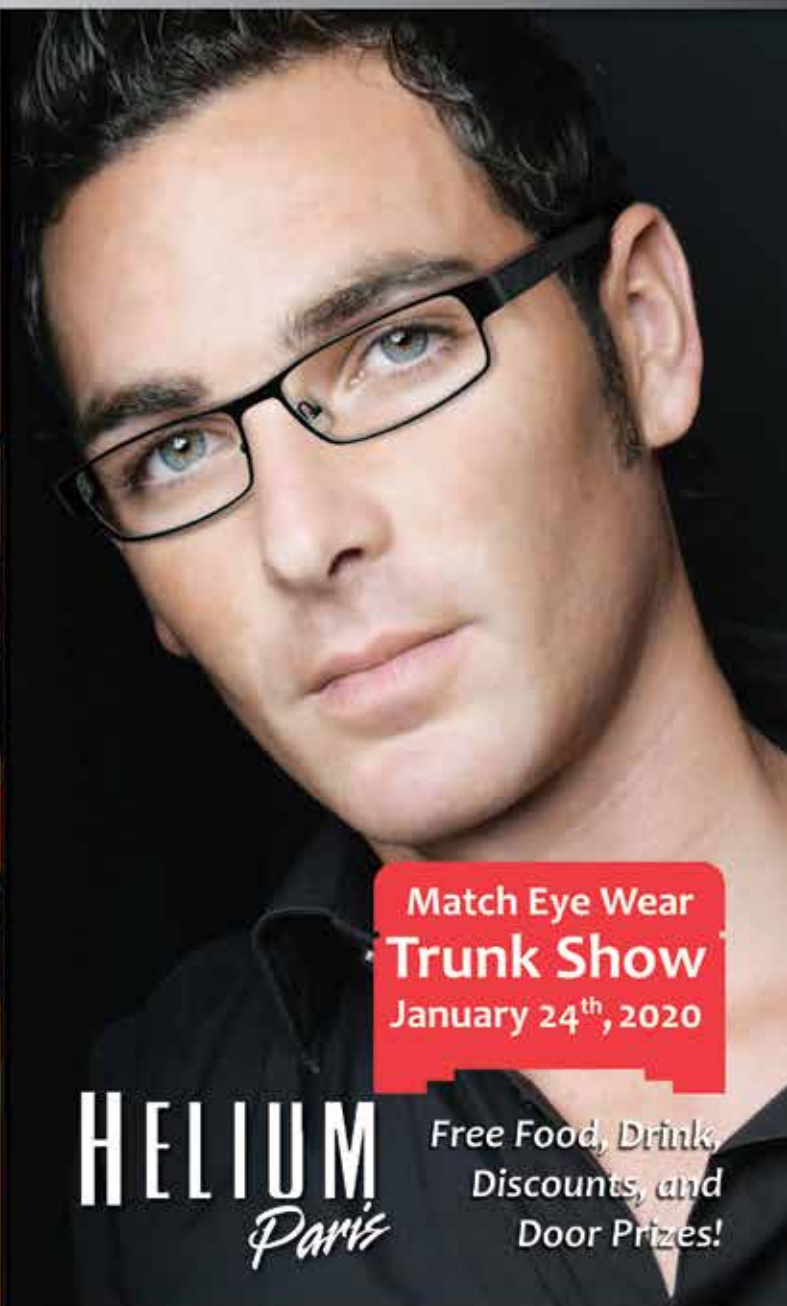
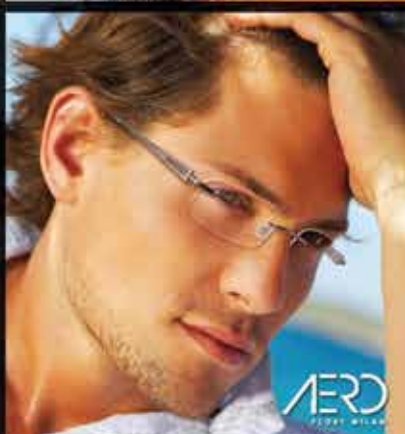




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The Players Theatre Company's Production of  
***Arsenic and Old Lace***

Article by: Philip Harris   Photos by: Kelley Harris, Dazzling Diva Photography



It's hard to believe, but playwright Joseph Kesselring originally conceived of *Arsenic and Old Lace* as a drama. Kesselring, a music professor at Bethel College in North Newton Kansas, may have drawn inspiration for the play from his time living on Bethel's campus. Local tradition at Bethel suggests that Kesselring used the Goerz House—now on the National Register of Historic Places—as a setting for his play, where sweet spinster sisters Martha and Abby Brewster poison lonely men and bury them in the cellar.

Or perhaps Kesselring sought to adapt the life of nurse Amy Duggan Archer-Gilligan for the stage. Archer-Gilligan, a nursing home proprietor, poisoned at least five people, including her second husband and residents of the nursing home. Archer-Gilligan's case was highly publicized, and the similarities between her story and the Brewster sisters' well-intentioned poisonings are plain to see.

But whatever the inspiration—Queen Anne style boarding house or murderous nurse—Kesselring's play became the farcical black comedy opening January 24th at the Owen Theatre in Con-







roe, Texas. In this adaptation, the larger-than-life characters are portrayed by veteran actors and new additions to the stage alike.

Marilyn Moore and Terry Lynn Hale, playing Abby and Martha Brewster, will leave audiences in stitches. Both performers are veterans of the stage, and their chemistry together is a highlight of the show. No less capable is Katt Gilcrease, who plays the villainous Jonathan Brewster, one of Abby and Martha's nephews. Jonathan makes a sudden reappearance and threatens to upend Abby and Martha's peaceful life. Dale Trimble portrays larger-than-life nephew Teddy Brewster, who lives with Abby and Martha and believes that he is the 26th President of the United States, Teddy Roosevelt. And rounding out the Brewster family is Jonathan Stone, playing dramatic critic Mortimer Brewster.

Alongside the main cast are both familiar faces and newcomers to the Owen Stage. Dixie Cooper plays the stern, no-nonsense Superintendent Witherspoon, Jonathan Thompson portrays both lonely old Mr. Gibbs and fussbudget Lieutenant Rooney. Michael Hayes is Dr. Harper, father to Elaine Harper, played by Amanda Abright. Elaine and Mortimer are soon to be married, unless Abby, Martha, and Jonathan's antics stop their impending marriage. Jonathan's long-suffering and mysterious sidekick—Dr. Hermann Einstein—is played by the highly capable John Kaiser, recently seen on the Owen Stage in *Lend Me a Tenor*. Finally, Steve Murphree, Dalton Cook, and Travis Cook round out the cast as a group of less-than-capable, but well-meaning, Brooklyn Police Officers who get pulled into the



Brewsters' antics.

With sweet spinster sisters with a penchant for poison and a villainous nephew with a kooky sidekick, *Arsenic and Old Lace* is sure to be a hilariously macabre good time. Tickets can be purchased at the Owen Theatre Box Office in person, Tue.-Fri. from 3-6pm, by calling 936-539-4090, or by visiting [owentheatre.com](http://owentheatre.com). *Arsenic and Old Lace* runs January 24-Feb. 8 at the Owen Theatre. ♦



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# Who Oversees Flood Control for Montgomery County?

*By: Matt Barrett, Flood Management Division Engineer*

Concerns about lack of flood mitigation in Montgomery County are in the news again (Montgomery County commissioners respond to accusation of lack of flood mitigation efforts, *The Courier*, October 25, 2019; Montgomery County commissioners respond to concerns over lack of flood mitigation, *Community Impact News*, October 23, 2019). With all the attention in the media, Montgomery County residents may ask, “Who oversees flood control for Montgomery County?”

Unfortunately the answer is that there’s not a single entity that is in charge of flood planning and flood management for all of Montgomery County. Just as significant—there’s no dedicated funding to pay for regional projects that benefit the county as a whole.

Throughout its existence, in addition to providing water supply and other similar services, the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) has engaged in planning efforts related to flooding in its home base of Montgomery County, however county-wide flood mitigation plans have not been realized for a number of reasons including a lack of a dedicated funding source and a broad consensus to implement county-wide flood mitigation plans.

## **Creation of the San Jacinto River Authority**

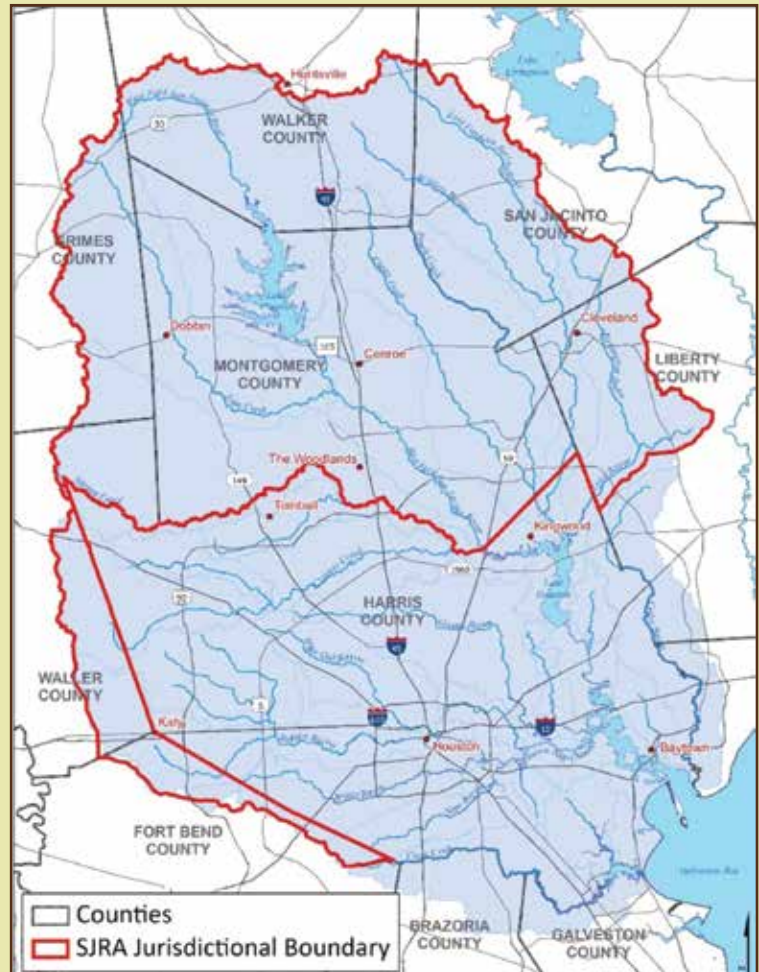
The SJRA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1937 to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin—all without funding from the State of Texas. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization’s jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. SJRA is one of 10 major river authorities in the State of Texas, and like other river authorities, its primary purpose is to implement long-term, regional projects related to water supply and wastewater treatment across various counties in Texas. As defined by its enabling legislation, SJRA also has the authority to provide flood control and numerous other activities within its jurisdictional boundaries. SJRA actively seeks grant funding for projects, participates in regional watershed planning across its seven county area, and recently implemented a Flood Management Division to coordinate with various political subdivisions and partners on studies and funded projects.

## **Creation of the Harris County Flood Control District**

The same year SJRA was created (1937), the Texas Legislature also established a flood control district in Harris County. The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) was created with the Harris County Commissioners Court as the District’s governing body. Funded by a dedicated ad valorem property tax collected by Harris County, the HCFCD is the single entity dedicated to providing flood damage reduction plans and maintaining flood reduction infrastructure in Harris County.

## **The Current State of Affairs**

Montgomery County does not have a single entity like HCFCD to implement flood damage reduction plans, construct and maintain flood reduction infrastructure, and fund these efforts with a dedicated source. Instead, Montgomery County Commissioners Court, Montgom-



**Figure 1 – San Jacinto River Watershed with SJRA Boundary**

ery County Engineering Department, Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Montgomery County Flood Plain Management, SJRA, various working groups, and local water districts all contribute their specific solutions to combat flooding which results in the current shotgun approach to flood mitigation.

## **A Preview of the Past**

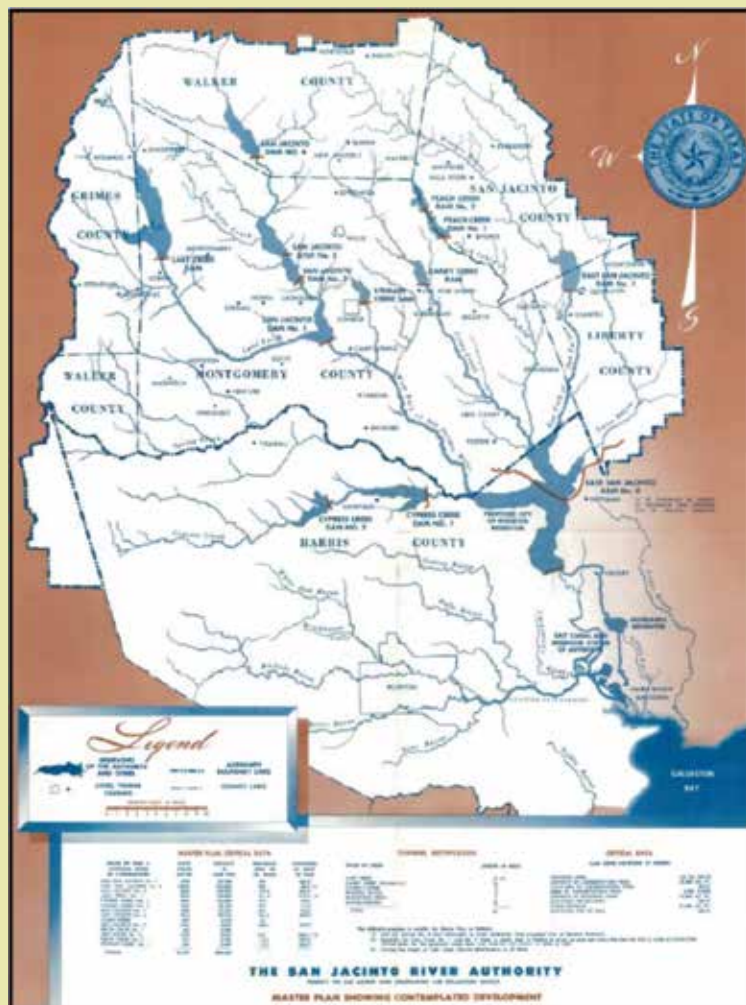
Dedicated funding and a dedicated governing body, such as a flood control district, could make mitigation projects easier to devise, implement, and monitor. It could also improve oversight and provide a coordinated effort to improve the entire county, not just those areas that may have more active and politically engaged residents.

## **Historical Planning Efforts: Assessing Risk Since the 1940s**

Beginning at its creation in 1937 and continuing through more than eight decades of dedicated and professional leadership, SJRA has quietly, but diligently, pursued its goals of long-term water planning and providing water-related services.

Beginning in 1943, in response to flood damage to property and agricultural lands in the San Jacinto River watershed, several historical drainage studies were performed. These studies analyzed existing conditions, identified flood risks, and evaluated mitigation alternatives in order to reduce flood risk, manage water supply in the region, and determine sedimentation impacts.





**Figure 1 – Proposed Alternatives Graphic from 1957 San Jacinto River Master Plan Report**

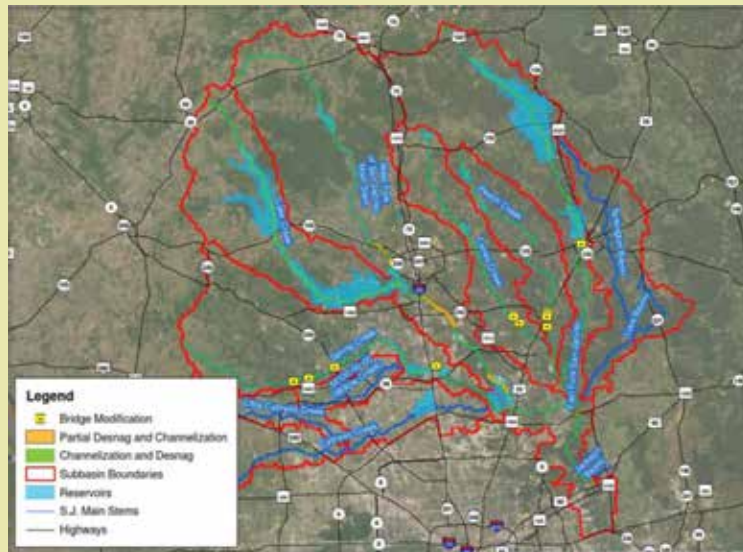
The initial 1943 San Jacinto River master plan report called attention to the need for comprehensive flood risk assessment within the service area. The ultimate goal of the master plan was the conservation, reclamation, and utilization of the natural resources of the entire watershed while accounting for sustainable growth and development within the area. A prime objective of the plan was to address flooding issues, resulting in several projects being considered to reduce the area's flood risk: the creation of dams and reservoirs, channel improvements, and levee construction. A total of 14 dams with approximately 886,000 acre-feet of storage for water supply and flood mitigation were considered in the Plan. The estimated cost of these projects at the time was approximately \$22.2 million for dam/reservoir construction and \$1 million for channel improvements.

In the 1957 San Jacinto River master plan report update, the Authority again discussed the importance of flood risk reduction measures as well as the implementation of drainage improvements to reduce inundation and destructive run-off, and minimize future loss of land productivity. Similar alternatives to those outlined in the 1943 master plan were discussed, and a detailed list of alternatives and estimated costs was again provided.

A San Jacinto Upper Watershed Drainage Improvement and Flood Control Planning Study developed in 1985 was the first study that focused on detailed evaluation of proposed alternatives and incorporated hydraulic modeling to evaluate their feasibility and flood risk reduction effectiveness. Several alternatives, both structural and non-structural, were considered and evaluated, including:

- Total channelization
- Selective channelization
- Vegetation clearing
- Bridge modifications
- Property buyouts
- Lake/reservoir creation

The report concluded that total channelization, bridge modification, and most vegetation clearing appeared to be less feasible based on benefit/cost ra-



**Figure 2-Alternatives from 1985 Planning Study**

tios, and that property buyouts and reservoir construction appeared to be most cost effective.

Basin	Total Channelization	Desag	Reservoirs Alt. 1	Reservoirs Alt. 2	100-yr Buyout	25-yr Buyout
West Fork	0.40	0.75	2.2 <sup>1</sup>	2.8 <sup>2</sup>	0.57	0.76
Lake Creek	<0.001	0.0	0.0 <sup>1</sup>	<0.001 <sup>2</sup>	0.09	0.09
Spring Creek	0.03	0.14	0.0	0.09	0.36	0.84
Peach Creek	0.33	0.04	0.80	0.40	1.3	1.9
Caney Creek	0.09	0.08	0.51	—	1.2	2.7
East Fork	0.07	0.002	0.07	—	0.77	0.81

<sup>1</sup> = Lake Creek Reservoir operated for controlling West Fork floods.  
<sup>2</sup> = Lake Creek Reservoir and new Lake Conroe operation assumption.  
<sup>3</sup> = Lake Creek Reservoir operated for controlling Lake Creek floods.

**Figure 3-Benefit Cost Ratios for Alternatives 1985 Study**

In 1989, a Comprehensive Flood Protection Plan for Southern Montgomery County, Texas was created. This plan determined existing flood problems, proposed flood reduction alternatives, and recommended improvements for a small portion of south Montgomery County. The analyzed and recommended alternatives addressed localized flooding as opposed to regional issues.

SJRA, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation, studied the possibility of building a reservoir on the lower portion of Lake Creek and developed a report in 1997. The proposed reservoir would have been roughly 80% of the size of Lake Conroe. The reservoir was proposed to increase surface water supply (approximate yield of 60% of Lake Conroe water supply), with no floodplain mitigation. Plans for the reservoir were not further pursued due to a lack of federal and state funding and minimal interest in water sales from the proposed reservoir.

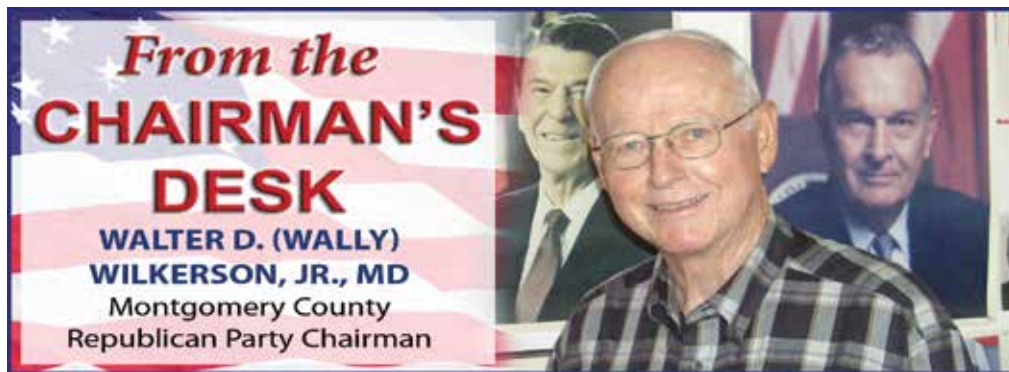
**Find out more on the SJRA BLOG at SJRA.com**

Dedicated funding and a dedicated governing body, such as a flood control district, could have made mitigation projects easier to devise, implement, and monitor over the years. It could have also improved oversight and provided a coordinated effort to improve the entire county. A number of studies and plans were prepared over the years, but they were not implemented due to lack of funding.

On the SJRA Blog we will further explore the history of flood planning and flood management. We look at the attempts by a local legislator and the SJRA to establish a Montgomery County Flood Control District and how these efforts ultimately failed when the Montgomery County voters defeated the establishment of the district and its recommended funding mechanism. Find out more about the history of flood control in Montgomery County as well as additional water topics on <https://www.sjra.net/blog/>.

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. For additional information on SJRA visit our website at [www.sjra.net](http://www.sjra.net), like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, follow us on Twitter @SJRA\_1937, or Instagram @SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA. ♦





The October 6, 2019 edition of the Wall Street Journal contained Dennis Johnson's review of five books about presidential campaigns and the candidates which he believed were the best of "what everyone needs to know". I wholeheartedly agree with his assessment and this is a summary of his excellent article.

Book one was "Campaign of the Century" by Greg Mitchell in 1992. It did not involve a presidential campaign, but rather a campaign for governor of California in 1934. Upton Sinclair, an avowed socialist, was the Democratic candidate for governor. He was the leader of the "wildly popular End Poverty in California". Conservatives were alarmed at the mere thought of "a socialist governing the nation's most volatile state". The campaign featured the first "planned and coordinated mass-media attack", long before today's

social-media and TV. Pioneer political consultants Clem Whitaker and Leone Baxter designed an attack utilizing "dirty tricks and hilarious stunts". The Sinclair campaign featured an actor with a Russian accent claiming that Sinclair's welfare schemes "worked well in Russia." Republican Frank Merriam won out.

Book two was "Four Hats in the Ring" by Lewis L Gould in 2008. Four hats referred to the 1912 election in which four well known candidates participated: a "sitting" president Republican William Howard Taft; a former president and the Bull Moose candidate, Theodore Roosevelt; a Democrat governor Woodrow Wilson and a reformer candidate Socialist Eugene Debs. Debs won more votes than the Socialists ever had. Wilson was the winner and brought with him the progressive movement and the Republican Party

became more conservative. Gould noted: "four distinguished citizens actually sought the presidency in a campaign of serious ideas and elevated discourse." The outcome attests to why 1912 will remain an election of "historical meaning".

Book number three was David Pietrusza's 2011 "1948" which reported on the "exciting and raucous" election between the "loser" Democrats Truman and

Barkley, what many considered the Republican "dream team" of Thomas Dewey and Earl Warren, Dixiecrat Strom Thurmond and Progressive Henry Wallace. Thurmond split away from the Democrat Party over integration issues and Wallace had done the same, but because the Democrat Party was not "liberal enough". "1948" described Truman as the "underdog who refused to surrender, Dewey as "a presumed victor" who refused to fight and left and right Democrats who deserted their Party. In a monumental upset, Truman was elected President.

Book four covered the historic 1960 presidential campaign featuring Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard Nixon. Theodore H. White's award-winning book "The Making of a President" focused on a "contest of immense intrinsic drama". During a time when presidential primaries and televised debates were still "novelties", White described the Wisconsin and West Virginia primaries along with a "still-fascinating inside view of the first-ever televised debates, with a bumbling Nixon and telegenic Kennedy". He described more than just the candidates. He wrote about the advisers, the "hangers-on, Nixon's fateful 50-state campaign strategy and particularly the nail-biting last days of the race, culminating in Kennedy's razor-thin 49.7% to 49.6% win".

Book five featured the 1988 presidential campaign. "What It Takes: The Way to the White House" by Richard Ben Cramer was written in 1992 His book concentrates "on the personal in its colorful examination of the motives and characters of one set of aspirants to the presidency"- George H. W. Bush, Michael Dukakis, Dick Gephardt, Bob Dole, Gary Hart and the rest through the 1988 primaries. It was a spirited campaign won by Bush who was known as the "energizer bunny" who organized all ninety-nine voting precincts in the state of Iowa. He worked every Kiwanis, Moose Lodge, Legion Hall and VFW. He worked chicken barbecues, ladies auctions, cattle barns and farmyards....He held warm little critters" like piglets. Even candidates' wives were not immune from scrutiny. Kitty Dukakis said she was certain her husband was her "anchor, her rock.....But her? She felt like a fraud."

What will historians and authors write about the 2020 presidential election? ♦

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## Why You Need a Retirement Income Analysis Part 1



When your parents retired, they probably counted on substantial outside income to fund their golden years, including Social Security benefits and a corporate pension plan that also may have provided health benefits to retirees. While Social Security remains a crucial part of a retirement plan, pensions are dwindling and becoming a part of the American landscape of the past.

Instead, the responsibility for funding retirement is moving to the individual. Although there are a wide range of excellent ways to save — including 401(k)s, IRAs, annuities and more — many individuals find themselves questioning if they will ever be able to retire.

The key to a confident retirement today is twofold: KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION. Knowledge begins with a clear understanding of your financial picture, knowing where you're starting from and identifying your unique retirement goals. It's also important to grasp the challenges you might face during retirement. You take action when you begin making steps toward your goals and as well as being prepared to overcome the challenges that threaten to derail them.

It's time to face the truth: the days of relying solely on Social Security and pensions to fund your retirement are over. As financial professionals, it's our job to provide a strategy that helps ensure your hard-earned money is there to meet your plans. Over the next several months, I'll offer important strategies in this article series, covering both what you need to know and the action you should consider taking to be ready for retirement.

### The Impact of Living Longer

Americans are living longer. On average, men who have reached age 65 can expect to live until age 84.3, while females will live an average of 86.7 years. About 25 percent of today's 65-year-olds will live past age 90 and 10 percent will pass age 95! [1]

Advancements in medical technology, better fitness and nutrition, and access to vaccines

and medicines have all played a role in adding years to our lives. Older Americans are also putting more life in those years; more retirees enjoy active lifestyles than ever before, counting travel, exercise, gardening and other physical activities among their hobbies. [2]

Living longer is a good thing. Of course, it also means you need income that will cover all you hope and dream of doing during those additional years. While many retirees eliminate some of the costs from their working years, living an active lifestyle often creates new family budget expenses.

### Challenges Unique to Women

Women, in particular, face challenges in creating income that spans retirement. Women are more likely to live alone in their later years. [3] Despite an increased presence in the workforce, the average woman working full-time still earns 80.5 percent of the income earned by her male counterpart. [4]

Studies show women are also more likely to take time off to provide caregiving roles to children, aging parents or disabled family members. Since Social Security benefits are calculated based on working years and salary, many women have reduced benefits.

### DOCTOR, DOCTOR, GIMME THE NEWS

Living longer doesn't necessarily mean we're living better. Chronic disease affects approximately 80 percent of older adults, [5] and for many people, health care is one of the largest expenses they'll face in retirement years. [6]

In 1960, the average person spent just \$146 on health care annually. In 2018, that number had ballooned to \$11,172! [7] Adjusted for inflation, healthcare costs are now about ten times higher than they were in 1960.

Consider this: An average 65-year-old retired couple in 2019 may need over \$280,000 to cover health care expenses in retirement. [8] That number includes things like insurance premiums, out-of-pocket expenses and prescriptions, but excludes long-term care.

Those who wait until age 65 to retire may have access to extended health care benefits through their employer, while people who retire at age 62 will need to cover insurance premiums out of pocket until they are eligible for Medicare at age 65. These are important factors to consider as you approach retirement.

In our next article, we'll look at the implications of long-term care on retirement plans.

If you need help planning your retirement, contact us today to schedule a free income analysis. We'll help you determine if you have

enough to retire comfortably, when you can retire and help you put all the pieces of your retirement plan in place.

This content is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as the basis for financial decisions. The information and opinions contained herein provided by third parties have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed.

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# VA launches Solid Start to ensure Veterans are contacted during initial transition

*Program provides Veterans supportive contact and information to enable success*

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in collaboration with the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, Dec. 2, to introduce VA Solid Start which will proactively contact all newly separated service members at least three times during their first year of transition from the military.

The program will engage contact with approximately 200,000 Veterans each year and is part of Executive Order 13822 which was issued to improve mental health care and access to suicide prevention resources available to transitioning uniformed service members in the year following discharge, separation or retirement.

The stress of transitioning from service to civilian life can lead to challenges or unmet health care needs for Veterans. Through VA Solid Start, the department will ensure consistent, caring contact and help new Veterans get a solid start on their civilian lives. It is important for VA to initiate contact with these transitioning veterans to form a strong relationship from the beginning.

The goal is to establish a strong relationship between VA and transitioning service members, promoting awareness of VA benefits, services and partner resources available to them.

Veterans within their first year of separation from uniformed service experience suicide rates nearly two times higher than the overall Veteran suicide rate. Contacts through VA Solid Start — via phone calls or emails — will ensure transitioning service members are aware of the free VA mental health resources the department offers Veterans for up to a year, regardless of discharge status or service history.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255 or chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

If veterans want additional information on VA & State benefits, please contact Montgomery County Veterans Service at 936-539-7842 or via email at [vetsvc@mctx.org](mailto:vetsvc@mctx.org). ♦



By: Kay L. Lee, Veterans Service Officer

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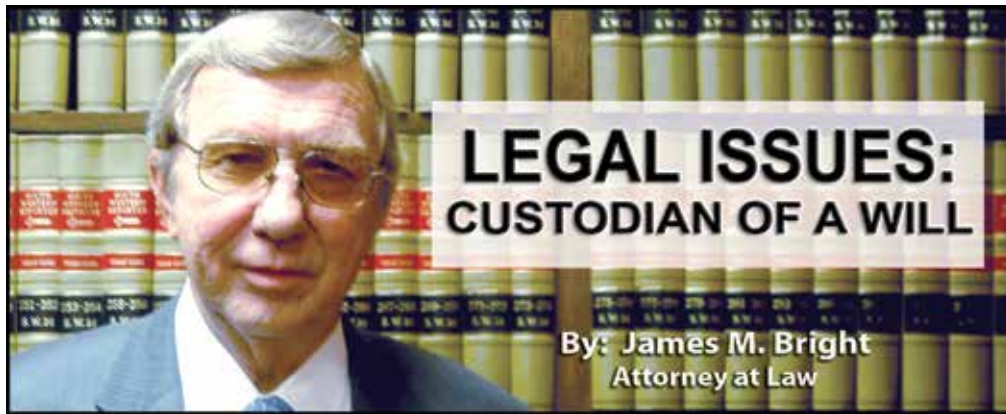
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Questions often arise regarding the duties and possible liabilities of the custodian of the will of a deceased person. "Custodian" for purposes of this article shall mean the person who has possession and/or control of a decedent's will. Is he/she required to file it for probate after the decedent's death? Should he/she just hold on to it until such time that one of the decedent's survivors asks for it? Should he/she try to find one or more of the beneficiaries and give the will to them?

The answer to this question is, actually, none of the above. Article 252.201 of the Texas Estates Code instructs the person who has custody of a decedent's will to deliver it to the clerk of the court

which has jurisdiction of the estate. (This is normally the county where the decedent was domiciled and maintained a fixed place of residence.) It should be noted that delivery to the county clerk is not the same thing as offering the will for probate. A probate proceeding would strive to have the will recognized as authentic and ask that it be recognized as the decedent's enforceable last will and testament. Filing with the county clerk without an application for probate does not seek Court authentication, but only makes it a part of the Court's complete record if and when a probate proceeding is ever filed for that particular estate.

It is possible and does "in fact" occur that a decedent might have more than one original document which professes to be his/her Last Will & Testament. This does not imply that more than

one document will be admitted to probate, but it does point out the need to provide the Court with an opportunity to examine each will and determine which, if either, should be recognized and honored. It is only the original of the will that is subject of this discussion and does not under normal conditions include photocopies of wills.

Occasionally this firm encounters a situation where the person who has possession of a decedent's will does not wish to file it with the court clerk and may even wish to keep its existence a secret. The reasons for not wishing to produce a will can vary widely between persons and may run the gambit from very innocent to the very sinister. One person may erroneously believe that he will take on unwanted financial responsibility and therefore believe that he should not get involved. ("In fact," there is not normally a court fee for filing the will pursuant to Article 252.201 of the Estates Code.) Another person might not file because they are under the belief that they lack authority to do so, while yet another person might not wish to file through a belief that filing might result in differences in distribution of the estate which are not in that particular person's best pecuniary interest. A conflict might occur if the person who is in possession of a will is not a beneficiary under the will, or the will does not give them the amount that they feel that they are somehow entitled. A common example occurs when the person who fails to file the will is a child of the decedent who would otherwise have received little or nothing from the estate, but by withholding the will and relying upon laws of intestate succession, may receive a generous portion of a deceased parent's estate.

If this occurs, the person who is in possession of a decedent's will may be compelled to produce the will upon performance of the following steps by persons who wish to have the will recognized:

- A sworn written complaint may be filed with the Court stating that a particular person has possession of the last will and testament of the decedent or other papers belonging to the estate of the testator. Upon receipt of the complaint, the County Judge shall cause that person to be cited by personal service to appear in court and show cause why he/she should not deliver such will or other documents to the court for probate or why he/she should not deliver such papers to the executor/administrator. (Texas Est. §252.202)

- If the person who was cited to appear fails to deliver the will or such documents that the Court is convinced were in his/her possession at the time of citation, then the Judge may cause the non-producing party to be arrested and imprisoned until such time that the will or other papers are produced. (Texas Est. §252.203)

- In addition to the above, a person who refuses to deliver such will or papers shall also be liable to any person who is aggrieved for all damages sustained as a result of such refusal. Those damages may be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction. (Texas Est. §252.204)

It is important to remember that any original



document that purports to be the last will and testament of the decedent is of interest to the court. It is good practice, and a way to avoid confusion to the future custodians of your will, for you to physically destroy the original of any will that you do not wish for the court to consider as your last will and testament.

If you are the custodian of the last will and testament for someone other than yourself, your duty in filing can always be clarified through discussions with an attorney of your choice who is familiar with probate law in Texas.

*James Bright has been admitted to practice before the Federal Courts for the Southern District of Texas and Eastern District of Texas as well as all of the Justice Courts, Probate Courts, County Courts at Law, District Courts, Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court for the State of Texas. He maintains an office in Houston and by appointment another at 208 McCown Street in the heart of historic Montgomery. Contact may be made by telephone (936) 449-4455 or (281) 586-8277. For more information about wills or probate in Texas, please see- [www.houstontxprobate.com](http://www.houstontxprobate.com). ♦*

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# Online with Dock Line

## Online Resolutions for 2020

By: Dock Line Social Media Team

Remember those futuristic films that we used to watch where people walked into their homes, and their homes spoke to them, turned on the lights and started the kettle? It seemed so far off, so advanced. Yet now we have the Internet of Things, voice-controlled assistants and even control our homes from our smartphones.

But all this connectivity seems to come at a price – there are now more ways than ever for our information to be stolen, viruses to gain access or people to impersonate us. We need tech in our wallets to stop people stealing from contactless cards and biometric data to secure our phones.

Staying safe online remains a big issue, whether on a smartphone, a desktop or even with voice-controlled assistants like Alexa or Siri. To help you, here are the top New Year online resolutions you should consider setting to help reduce the chance you fall foul of the many dangers in our wonderful new connected world.

### New Year Online Resolutions for 2020

Here are some of the online resolutions we will use in 2020, and that would be worth adding to your list of ambitions for the New Year.

#### **I will do a social media clean-up on all my accounts**

Set yourself some time when there is nothing else on the calendar and start going through your social media accounts. The idea is to look at what you see if as if you were someone else, a stranger or a friend.

For starters, what setting do you have on your account? Can anyone view your profile or do you have restrictions in place? While this is a personal preference, a public profile can be seen by anyone, and you might not want that if you have family photos, pictures of your house or other similar personal information on show.

Take a look at your accounts and the settings. You may spot things you might not want to be there anymore. Adjust the settings, remove photos and even unfriend people if you don't want them to see your information.

#### **I will change my passwords (and make them tough)**

Saving or remembering passwords is a pain, and that is why we often use the same one on multiple sites, but this makes us very vulnerable to hackers and cybercriminals. So, another excellent online resolution for the New Year is to go through and change passwords and make sure they are tough.

A strong password should:

- Have 12 characters or more
- Use numbers, capital and lowercase letters and symbols such as ! or ?
- Be a word not found in the dictionary or a combination of words
- Not an obvious substitution such as using 0 in place of 'o'

This kind of password can be challenging to remember and even to type, but you can get some great free online password apps that hold all of

your data under a single master password that you need to remember. Phones and browsers can also save information if they are secure.

#### **I will check that everyone in the house has tough passwords too**

Once you have changed your passwords and made sure they are strong and tough to guess, do the same for everyone else in the household. Start with ensuring people protect devices with a personal identification number (PIN) – this is a back-up even if the device has biometric features in case you need to access it.

Make sure it is challenging to get into a device with those stored passwords, photos and personal information, especially for the younger members of the family who are less security conscious.

#### **I will chat with the family about online safety**

Kids, in particular, are vulnerable to the dangers of the online world, and that is why it is essential to consider having a conversation with them about online safety as part of your New Year resolutions.

Set out some online rules or best practices if this works better. Talk about never giving out passwords, clicking the links in emails or messages and being careful about who you give friend status to on social media – as they can see all of your profile. While the aim is not to scare them into not using the Internet, it is best to be armed with information so they can protect themselves.

It can also be an excellent time to talk about



online use in general. If you have household rules such as no phones at the dinner table or no online activity an hour before bed, go over these. Also, talk about why these things are important to show they aren't just random rules!

### **I will support local businesses and be a good online citizen**

We often focus on the negative about the online world, but there are lots of positives. One example is the ability to support local businesses by leaving reviews and positive feedback. These things make a big difference to businesses as more people than ever check sites like Trip Advisor or look at the reviews on Facebook.

Rather than only leaving negative mentions, set a resolution to take a moment to review the positive experiences. Tell a local restaurant the food was delicious or the local pub that the entertainment was top class. Be honest but don't forget, positive experiences help people as much as negative ones.

### **Be safe online**

2019 was an eventful year, to say the least with the constant changes and challenges. From Facebook's Cambridge Analytica scandal to Instagram hiding likes and the growth of new platforms like TikTok, there are lots to consider and new issues to face. But there are also a lot of positives from the online world with the continued development of IoT one example of how it can make life easier.

By setting these or similar online resolutions for 2020, you can enjoy the best of the online world while also protecting yourself and your family. And don't forget, you can send in your questions about any of these areas as we are always happy to chat online about security and help you stay safe while on the Internet!

If you have any questions about this article or would like additional tips and tricks or information. Don't hesitate to contact us at [social@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:social@docklinemagazine.com)! ♦

Do you have a suggestion topic for our next article? Contact us at [docklinemagazine.com/contact/](http://docklinemagazine.com/contact/) or directly at [social@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:social@docklinemagazine.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

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# CATCH *Em* CLEAN *Em* & EAT *Em*

## Cornbread with Ground Beef + Jalapeno Recipe

1 lb. ground meat  
1 onion, chopped fine  
1/2 lb. cheddar cheese, grated  
3 jalapenos, chopped  
1 cup cornmeal  
2 eggs beaten  
1 cup milk  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
3/4 tsp. salt  
1 (15 oz.) can whole kernel corn drained  
1/4 cup oil for cornbread

In a medium pan add a small amount of oil cook the meat about 10 to 15 minutes until brown. Drain and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the cornmeal, baking soda, and salt. Add eggs and milk and stir until blended. Add the oil and stir well. Then add the drained corn and peppers. Grease a 9x9 casserole dish. Layer 1/2 of the cornmeal mixture on the bottom of the dish, then the browned ground meat, the uncooked onion, followed by the cheese and top with the remaining cornmeal mixture.

Bake at 425 degrees 20 minutes until brown or until toothpick comes out clean.

Method 2 - Grease a 9x9 casserole dish. Layer 1/2 of the cornmeal mixture on the bottom of the dish, then the browned ground meat, the uncooked onion and top with the remaining cornmeal mixture. Bake at 425 degrees 20 minutes until brown or until toothpick comes out clean. Remove from oven and immediately top with the cheddar cheese, place back in oven to finish melting the cheese.

## White Bean Chili

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
3/4 cup diced onion  
1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breasts, finely chopped  
1-tablespoon ground cumin  
1 tablespoon dried oregano  
1/2 teaspoon ground white pepper  
Pinch of red pepper flakes

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper  
1 pound collard greens, stemmed and roughly chopped (about 5 cups)  
1 1/2 cups chopped green chiles (fresh or canned)  
1-quart low-sodium chicken broth  
2 15-ounce cans navy beans, drained and rinsed  
1/2 bunch fresh cilantro, chopped  
Light sour cream, chopped tomatoes and/or lime wedges, for garnish

In a saucepan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and onion; cook for 2 to 3 minutes, until slightly softened. Add the chicken, cumin, oregano, white pepper and red pepper flakes. Season with salt and 1 to 2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper. Cook, stirring, until the chicken is slightly browned, 3 to 4 minutes.

Add the collard greens and cook, stirring occasionally, until they are slightly wilted, about 5 minutes. Add the chiles and chicken broth and bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce the heat to medium-low; cook, stirring occasionally, for approximately 20 minutes, until slightly thickened. Stir in the beans and cook for another 10 minutes. Stir in the cilantro.

Transfer the chili to bowls and garnish with light sour cream, chopped tomatoes and/or lime wedges. ♦

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# Garden Thyme

By: Growers Outlet

## Growing Your Own Food

There is nothing tastier than homegrown fruits and veggies. Most people think that they are unable to grow their own food but it is easier than you think. As a matter of fact, home food production is now the fastest growing segment of the gardening industry with young people leading this trend.

Over the next 3 months we will focus on home food production. This month we will touch on fruit trees and the next 2 months on veggies.

### Fruit Tree Varieties

In Montgomery County we have a climate that is suitable to grow more fruit than you think. The most common is probably peaches, followed by plums, figs, pears, apples, persimmons, and pomegranates. Many varieties of citrus can also be grown here as well such as lemons, limes, oranges, grapefruits and kumquats. Even avocados can be grown here if the right variety is selected. When buying fruit trees make sure that they will produce fruit in our area. Chill hours are very important for selection and many places like the big box stores do not carry varieties that will produce in our area.

### Citrus and Avocado

In recent years, homegrown citrus has become very popular. Many of our customers have had bumper crops of lemons the last few years because the winters have been on the mild side. Several varieties are available that handle our cold weather without much problem and will produce some of the best tasting citrus you have ever eaten. The varieties we sell are evergreen most winters here and are very easy to grow organically. Check with us in late February or early March for availability.

Avocados have gained popularity recently with many new introductions that will take our cold weather, most years. Use only the Mexican varieties. They will work the best here. Before you go searching for avocado trees keep in mind that growing avocados is not for the faint of heart. Gardeners have found them difficult in our area because they do not grow well in heavy clay soils and some of our winters can be too cold for them especially when too young before growing a heavy bark.

We currently are not carrying avocado trees.

### Berries and Grapes

In our area we can also grow blackberries, blueberries, strawberries and grapes without much trouble. The blackberries are the easiest as they will tolerate most of our soils. Blueberries must have a very acidic well-draining soil and insects seem to love eating fresh strawberries lying on the ground.

### What the Heck are Chill Hours

If you have ever looked into home fruit production you have probably seen the term "chill

hours". Generally speaking, chill hours are the number of hours fruit trees have been exposed to temperatures between 32 and 45 degrees. In Montgomery County the long-term average chill hours is in the neighborhood of about 450-500 hours. However, over the last ten years the average has been 650 hours. The low has been as few as 546 in the winter 2011-2012 to 1056 in the winter of 2009-2010. In the north side of Houston over the same 10 year period the average was 533 hours so you can see how different varieties will work in areas not that many miles apart.

### Site Selection

Where you plant your new fruit trees is important. **The location needs a soil with good drainage and must receive at least 8-10 hours of full sun.** The last two years' weather has not been favorable for the success of locally grown fruit trees. **They do not like sitting in wet soils.**

### Bare Root or Containerized



Fruit trees are sold as bare root and containerized. Either will work well however bare root trees should be planted before the end of February, where containerized trees can be planted about any time with the dead of winter being the best.

### Pollination

Pollination is one of the most important elements of fruit production. When selecting fruit trees make sure you ask whether they are self-fruitful or not. Some varieties require two different kinds to produce fruit, like the Dorsett and the Anna apple. The biggest part of pollination is the presence of bees. As bees go from flower to flower they carry with them the essence of life. Pollination is also accomplished by wind but the efficiency is far less superior than with bees. It is possible to pollinate mechanically but it is a painstaking process using an artist brush going from flower to flower.

### Buy and Plant in January

The Growers Outlet will have a great selection of bare root fruit trees along with information handouts on planting and care for fruit trees suited for



this area. We can also give recommendations as well.

Citrus is sold only in containers and will not be available until mid to late February.

#### Things to do in January

\*Get fruit trees, especially bare root planted.

\*January is the time to plant bulbs especially those that needed refrigeration like tulips.

\*Prune established trees. It is much less stressful on your trees to do major pruning during the highest state of dormancy, which is January and February.

\*Now is the time to start fertilizing established trees and shrubs with a good fertilizer like the Nitro-Phos Tree and Shrub fertilizer or Micro-life 6-2-4 organic fertilizer.

\*Prepare the soil in vegetable beds for the upcoming season. It is very helpful to let the soil mellow especially if organic fertilizers and beneficial organisms have been added. Now would be a great time to add several inches of compost like the Natures Way 2 year old leaf mold compost.

\*Check plants like hollies, hawthorns, camelias, magnolias, and other waxy leaf plants for scale.

\*Feed cool season annuals.

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# 11-16-19 Outlaw Outdoors Bassmaster College State Qualifier Tournament Sam Rayburn

This morning Trey and I woke up and went outside and my boat was frozen. Everything was covered in ice crystals. We wiped it all down and defrosted it.

It is a very chilling 34 degrees with a thick fog. I dropped the boat in the water and headed down the ramp to the pier and almost slipped. It was also covered in a thin layer of ice.

As I got in the boat it was very foggy on the water. Guess what that means? FOG DELAY. We



were supposed to be on the water and start the tournament by 6:15 a.m. The tournament director said a prayer and they played the national anthem. We took off our caps and held our hands over our heart while the drone flew the United States flag over the water. That is the first time we had ever seen a drone carrying a flag. It was great. Since we were all just hanging out on our boats and waiting



for the fog to lift the tournament director decided to have a 15 minute tournament in the cove. Whoever caught the first fish won 2 hoodies. It was so cold that the fish didn't even want to bite. In 15 minutes not one of the anglers caught a fish so they extended it a few more minutes. Finally, we had a winner. Christian from SFA caught a bass, hoping it was a sign of good luck for the day.

In order for everyone to be safe on the lake, the tournament will not start till the fog lifts and you can see where you are driving. They usually send out a boat to look but this time they went by boat and also sent out a drone to hover over the lake to see where the fog ended. It was getting a little better but still not safe for us to fish. This thick fog is extremely dangerous.

Since we were all waiting for the fog to lift, I was able to visit my friend Parker, he is now attending Baylor and he just started up the fishing team there. He had his coffee in one hand and red bull in the other. It was funny. Great to always see him. Trey and I also talked with Joe and some of the other guys from A&M.

Finally, after trolling around the cove the sun started to rise and the fog lifted. It is now 8:00 am and we are going to start the tournament. Today there are 66 teams competing for the number spot that gets you an entry into the Bassmaster National Championship College series.

In practice Trey and I caught 18 pounds one day and 14 on another. We started our day out fishing grass. That is how we caught them in practice, but this time we didn't catch any. So, we went to a deep spot and caught a limit of 5 by 10 am. We decided we were not going to fish shallow. What we had in our live well was not going to win the tournament. The first place team was the only team that would qualify for the National Championship and we were going to give it all we had to try to get it.

We idled and looked at spots where fish would group up this time of year. This is when I have to think like a fish. I also look up what they do in certain times of the year. I idled the whole rest of the tournament. I followed the river channel and found shad and used my side scan to locate the fish on both sides of the boat. The fish were chasing the bait and that is right where we needed to be. I located a school and ended up fishing about 20 feet deep. At this point we upgraded our fish to approximately 14 pounds. We found 3 more schools and caught fish off every single one.



It was so much fun.

Trey caught the first 3 fish and then I caught a small and then I hooked up a 6 ½ pounder on a deep diving crank bait. It had a 10 inch shad in its mouth. That was a hungry fish. We put the other fish in the live well and they were spitting up the shad. We caught 30-40 fish. In the last hour and a half we culled all of our fish for what we had in our live well. They were all caught on a Strike King 6XD Deep Diving Crank Bait and a ¾ oz Football Jig.

## 11-23-19 Fishing for Rainbow Trout

Trey and I made a road trip up to San Marcos to visit our friends at Texas State University. The first day Trey and I went fly fishing with Cade Nicholson for rainbow trout in San Marcos on the Guadalupe River. We fished from 10 a.m. till dark and we only caught bluegill. The next day we heard the TPWA was releasing rainbow trout. I decided to set my line up like I did when I went fly fishing in Alaska. I used the same techniques working the line and I caught some rainbow trout. Cade caught an albino rainbow trout. It was yellow. I caught about 20 rainbow trout. Trey and Cade caught about 4 each. It was a great day fishing with my friends on the Guadalupe river. Living the dream, FISHING!

## 11-27-19 Fishing Lights with my Baseball Friends

All my baseball friends that liked to fish were home for Thanksgiving. Wednesday night Alex Nunn, Jacob Prigmore, Cade Walker and I decided to go out and fish lights on Lake Conroe. Great times with good friends. **Throw It Out, Pop It In, Fish On!** ♦







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## Behind the scenes...

By: Ruby Cross, Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas, 501c3 (ASVT)

As we ring in 2020 we reflect back on what we accomplished in 2019 and what we can do even better in the New Year. Resolutions of course, and trying to live up to them as the year goes by.

We started out as a small group of volunteers at a local shelter in 2010. We could see the desperate need for the care of the animals and that is when it all began! We sat around a table and discussed what we felt we needed to do and what we would call ourselves. Many names were discussed and we decided on Animal Shelter Volunteers because that's what our focus was. We added the word "Texas" because our goal was to help Montgomery County and beyond – which is now what we are doing.

Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas is proud of all that was accomplished by our rescue since the inception of our group. We have been telling you through the years what we do, but now we are going to tell you how we do it "behind the scenes".

ASVT has a Board of Directors and programs that were put in place over the years have grown to save even more animals.

- Foster Program
- Volunteer Program
- Adoption Events
- Fundraising
- Transports
- Spay/Neuter Program

Meet ASVT Board of Directors. As a nonprofit organization all decisions regarding intake of animals, expenditures and new programs are approved by majority vote. This ensures our rescue is the best of the best.

- Kathy Joslyn – President
- Hillary Dumas – Vice President
- Elizabeth Jones – Treasurer
- Chris DelGreco - Secretary
- Arlyce "Fred" Kratochvil – Foster Coordinator
- Hilarie Rogers – Rescue
- Ruby Cross - Marketing

The first program that had to be in place to take animals into our rescue is the Foster Program. We couldn't do anything we do without our wonderful team of fosters.

### FOSTERING

Fostering is an emotional rollercoaster helping these helpless animals but we are committed to them. ASVT animals are housed in foster homes where they can be socialized and learn to trust humans. Fostering gives an animal a second chance and can be a wonderful life experience for the entire family. Fosters are the unsung



### Heroes of rescue!

Some have asked when I started rescuing animals. Unofficially, I guess it was around 1949 when I crawled under our neighbor's house to get a dog that was crying. I got stuck with her and wouldn't let go, so my dad had to come get me. Of course she was pregnant and I kept her and her 2 puppies. They rode around in my doll carriage.

Officially, I started volunteering and fostering with Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas November 11, 2014 and have fostered more than 250 dogs.

### VOLUNTEERING



*Fostering saves lives!*



*Foster bottle babies!*

As a non-profit organization, ASVT relies on the assistance of caring and hard-working volunteers. Volunteers are the lifeline for each and every animal that comes through our program. Volunteers who work directly with rescue animals can increase an animal's chance of adoption by providing additional human contact.

Just look into the eyes of any of our rescue animals and you will see gratitude for the second chance at a better life given to them by our volunteers.

While fostering is our greatest need, it isn't for everyone. If you can't foster, there are still so many ways you can help as a volunteer.



*Glamour shots all around Say woof woof....*

Do you ever wonder how we get the great pictures of our foster animals? It is done by our ASVT Photographer Bobbie Bennett. She spends her time going from location to location to get the glamour shots of our animals to help make them more adoptable.

### ADOPTION EVENTS

We are thankful for the number of businesses that host our weekly Adoption Events. Ransom's Steakhouse, McCoy's Building Supply, Pet Supplies Plus, Montgomery Fire Station 51 and B-52 Brewery. If you would like to host one of our events just send us an email at [ASVTexas@gmail.com](mailto:ASVTexas@gmail.com).

### FUNDRAISING

"Help Us Help Them" is our motto. We depend totally on donations from our supporters to continue our work of saving homeless animals. To help with this we do fundraising. Two of our biggest fundraising events are Ales for Tails in May and Rescue Riders in October. We are forever grateful for everyone's participation.

### TRANSPORTS

Once a month ASVT sends a number of dogs to Iowa where adoption needs are high. We try to send from 10 to 20 dogs on each of these transports. They are usually adopted within two weeks. This is a life-saving journey for these dogs.

Our Transport Coordinators make these transports a success. Elizabeth Jones, Chris DelGreco and Theresa Vogel-sang make these transports happen every month. The journey begins. Happy trails!

The cost to send each dog is \$200. This is an expense that ASVT incurs for those that we cannot get sponsors. If you would like to sponsor one of our dogs just visit our website and make a donation with the note that it is for a transport dog. At the time dogs are selected to go, you will be notified of the dogs going and can select the one you would like to sponsor.

### SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

The stray animal population in our community and in all of Texas continues to multiply. The only solution is to spay/neuter as many as possible. We understand that not all pet owners can afford the expense of this surgery. ASVT is helping with this problem. Our Spay/Neuter Program is in place to help financially with





getting these pets altered.  
Our Future...

As always, we continue to find loving homes for the less fortunate animals found on our streets. ASVT takes in animals from abusive, neglected homes or stray situations. We take in animals regardless of their health issues and take on the medical expenses for that particular animal. What we do is provide the animal a temporary home through a network of animal foster parents who agree to take care of the animal until it is adopted.

As we look forward to 2020 we look back to 2019 when we took in more than 700 animals to give them a second chance for a good life.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP US HELP THEM?**  
ADOPT, SPONSOR, VOLUNTEER,  
FOSTER, DONATE!

You can visit our website to sign up to volunteer and/or foster and donate using our DONATE button. Donations help us pay for medical expenses, food, supplies and transporting animals to areas with high adoption needs.

The accomplishments of ASVT would not be possible without partners like Wiesner Automotive, Empire Electric, Ransom's Steakhouse, Animal Hospital of Montgomery, Dock Line Magazine and so many more. Visit [www.ASVTexas.org](http://www.ASVTexas.org). ♦

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Article and photos  
by Bronwyn Clear,  
Certified Texas  
Master Naturalist



EarthQuest Falconer, Don McCulloch, and a Tawny Eagle. The Tawny Eagle is from Africa, and is somewhat smaller than our own American Bald Eagle

## Birds of Prey Show – Lake Livingston State Park

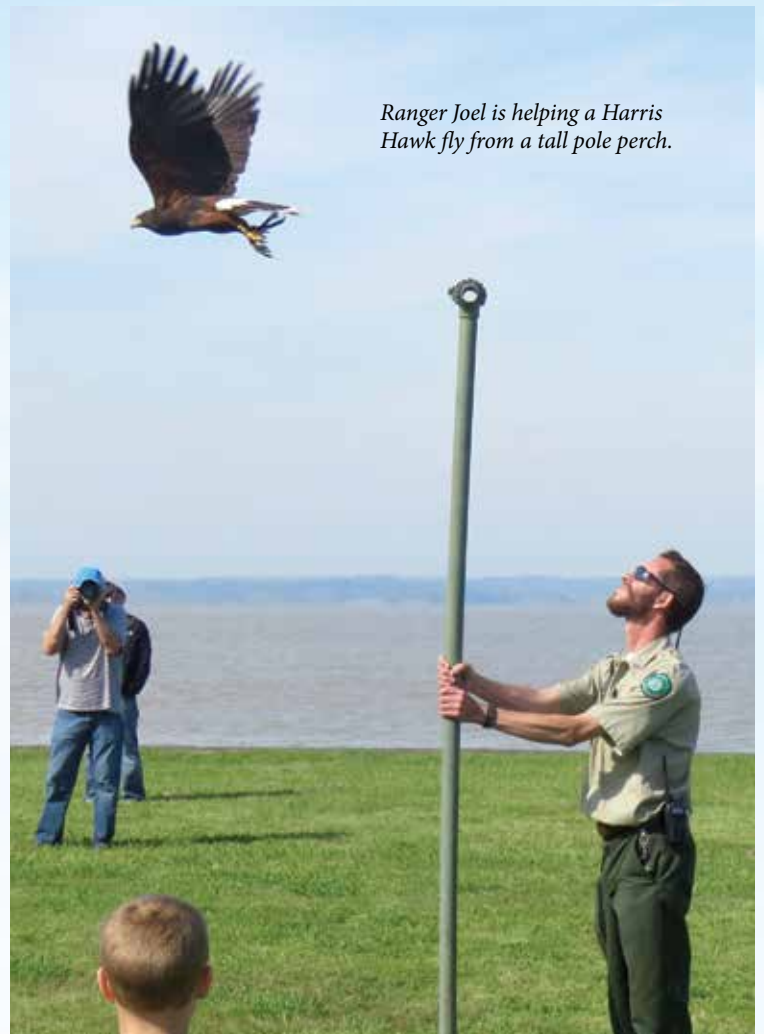
Every March for the past four years, EarthQuest has brought their Birds of Prey show to Lake Livingston State Park, and this is one show that you don't want to miss! Watch a falcon rip through the air over your head, see a vulture up close and personal, and marvel at the size and beauty of several different magnificent raptors. For various reasons these birds can never be returned to the wild, many due to the fact they were raised from chicks by humans. They have imprinted on people instead of their own kind, and now they think they're people. These birds don't know how to hunt, how to accept a mate, or how to survive in the wild. But they still serve a great purpose.

EarthQuest is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing an environmental education program on birds of prey to the public. In 2019 EarthQuest brought their birds to 13 Texas school districts and 46 schools. Earthquest estimates the program in Texas was seen by almost 25,000 students and teachers last year! In addition they put on shows for parks, nature centers, and other civic groups. Over the past 16 years they've educated around 300,000 folks! EarthQuest volunteers really enjoy seeing all the children's delighted faces, their mouths wide open in wonder! And it's not just the kids, but the adults too!

Lake Livingston State Park Ranger, Joel Jannsen, first brought in the Birds of Prey program during 2016. His mission is to create and develop young stewards for the natural and cultural worlds, and this program is a perfect fit. Joel enthusiastically says, "People need to see nature up close to feel its Shock



The large Harris Hawk is the only hawk to hunt in groups.



Ranger Joel is helping a Harris Hawk fly from a tall pole perch.





*The Eurasian Eagle-Owl is one of the largest owl species. She's a big, bulky beauty, and twice as heavy as a Great Horned Owl.*



*A Turkey Vulture and EarthQuest Program Manager, Phil Huxford. Turkey Vultures hunt by smelling the gases produced from carrion, and they have been known to cluster around buried gas pipeline leaks as well!*

and Awe, and live programs are the best way to get kids involved. Families have come all the way from Austin and San Antonio to see the Birds of Prey show!" In some years up to 800 people have attended the event at the State Park, with close to half of those being children.

Look for the exact date in March on [birdsofpreytx.org](http://birdsofpreytx.org), or facebook.com/LakeLivingstonSP. There are usually two identical shows, one at 11am and

the second at 2pm. Bring the family to see these magnificent raptors at Lake Livingston State Park, and get ready for a little "Shock and Awe"!

Learn more about the incredible nature in our area by joining a chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist organization. To find a chapter close to you, or to read about the state program, go online to [www.txmn.org](http://www.txmn.org). Volunteer and get involved! ♦

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# Learning about Wildlife – Our Educational Outreach

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

At Friends of Texas Wildlife, we feel one of the most important aspects of serving the community is what we offer through our educational outreach programs. Education is a vitally important part of our mission, and we offer many and varied programs and events.

Our educational outreach programs, under the exceptional direction of Cathie Coudert (our Education Coordinator), have expanded each year. In 2019, these programs reached over 5,000 members of the community through 92 different and unique events. Additionally, three Boy Scout Eagle projects and six Girl Scout Bronze or Silver Award projects were completed. We offer presentations to schools, camps, scouts, churches, and community groups of all ages. Here are just a few of the events our educational team offers:

- **Second Saturday.** Our education center is open the second Saturday of every month. Drop by any time between 10 am and 2 pm to visit. There are educational displays and touch tables to investigate, so kids can have some hands-on fun exploring animal pelts, bones, antlers, feathers, etc. It's also a great opportunity to meet one or more of our live, educational animal ambassadors (owls, hawk, opossum, turtles, and/or snake). Visitors can also browse our small gift shop (special wildlife-themed items!) and make a craft to take home. \$5 per person, children 2 and under are free.

- **Spring Break Discover Days.** These are stand-alone "mini-camp" days, with each day offering a different topic. For 2020, the dates will be March 10, 11, 12, 10:00-2:00. Attendees will come and go any time during these hours (drop in, no advance registration required), and can attend one, two, or all three days as desired. Tuesday, 3/10 will be Marvelous Mammals; Wednesday, 3/11 will be Winged Wonders; and Thursday, 3/12 will be Radical Reptiles. Each day will feature different educational animals, crafts, and games. Parents stay with

children, \$5 per person.

- **Summer Camps.** Lots of wildlife fun and games! For 2020, we will be offering three identical sessions of camp: Session 1 June 9 - 11; Session 2 June 16 - 18; Session 3 June 23 - 25. All camps will run 10 am to 2 pm, campers bring sack lunch.

to: schools, libraries, scout groups, homeschool groups, garden clubs, civic and community organizations, senior-citizen groups, or really any group that would like to learn more about wildlife

We are passionate about helping wildlife and sharing our knowledge of the animals around us.



Each year, our educational committee volunteers go to many community events to help different groups learn about the wildlife around us. We feel this is a vital part of our mission.

Registration will open April 1 on Eventbrite, \$125 per camper, geared for ages 7-11.

- **Wild Summer Fun Days.** This will be similar to the Spring Break days, but with longer sessions each day. Dates are Tuesday, 7/14 (Marvelous Mammals); Wednesday, 7/15 (Winged Wonders), and Thursday, 7/16 (Radical Reptiles). Parents drop campers off; each session will be 10 am to 2 pm (bring a sack lunch to picnic with). Come one, two, or all three days. For kids 7-11, \$30 per day. Registration will open on Eventbrite on May 1.

- **Birthday parties.** Come have a wildlife-themed party at our education center! Different themes and activities depending on age of child. Geared for children ages 4 through 10+.

- **Educational presentations,** either at our facility or yours. Including, but not limited

We always welcome the opportunity to help others learn a little more too. Our educational visitor's center is located at 29816 Dobbin Hufsmith Road, Magnolia, so come on out and check us out!

To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Saving-TexasWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/Saving-TexasWildlife). The next Second Saturday at our education center Saturday, January 11. For more information about any of our events or educational presentations, please visit our website at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org), or email [ftwl.education@gmail.com](mailto:ftwl.education@gmail.com). On our website you can also find many helpful links and ways you can help support our efforts, too (such as Kroger Community Rewards, Amazon Smile, etc.). ♦



Our educational center is a fun and exciting place to visit. We offer lots of camps, mini-camps, drop-in days, and our very popular Second Saturdays.



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## Lake Conroe FISHING REPORT



BY: BUTCH TERPE  
AT STOW-A-WAY MARINA & R/V  
PARK

**Black Bass:** Now that winter has arrived, most of these fish will be holding to some type of structure. Boat docks are a prime target to fish plastic worms, jigs, crank baits and also spinner baits. Another bass holding structure would be any bridge or break-water, especially if they are rock or concrete. They hold heat and attract baitfish.

**Crappie:** Coldwater temperatures will move large schools of crappie in deep structures such as brush, stumps and bridge pilings. Minnows and small crappie jigs are good baits to catch these paper mouths. Try moving from one spot to another to locate these fish. Often they will be in 20' - 30' depths.

**White Bass & Hybrid Striped Bass:** Many of these fish will be holding in 20' - 30' depths as well and can be caught on slab spoons bounced along the bottom over main lake humps and points. Also, I like to troll small pet spoons behind deep diving crank baits to locate and catch these fish.

**Catfish:** Catfishing during this time of year is good by baiting up areas along the river and creek channels and under the 1097 Bridge, and using dip baits on sponge hooks and fishing along the bottom. Depths can range from 15' - 25' or so. The best thing about this time of year is that you don't catch very many undersized cats as in the summer months. ♦

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