

# DOCK LINE

The Woodlands

## MAGAZINE



March 2020



**Discount  
Concrete Leveling**

### Concrete Evidence You're Paying Too Much for Slab Repair

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**SJRA Highlands Division:  
Serving Raw Water Needs  
Since the 1940s**  
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**Songbird and Raptor  
Nesting: Does That Baby  
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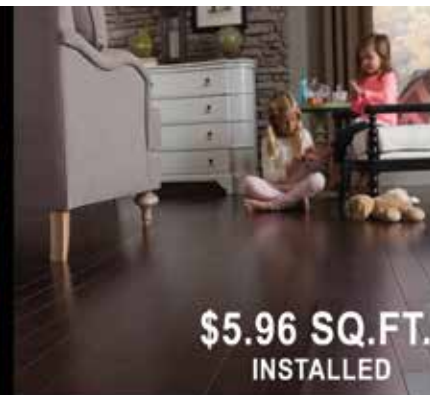
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March has officially begun and with it brings a variety of community events, rodeo traditions, green holiday happenings and warmer weather. We are also up and running following the kick off of all our new products and services here at Dock Line Magazine. If you can imagine it, we can promote it. We would like to say a big thank you to all our friends, family, and business and community support we continue to receive as this new chapter unfolds. We hope you have an amazing March.

Until next month,

*GT2* 🐾🐾

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# DOCK LINE

The Woodlands

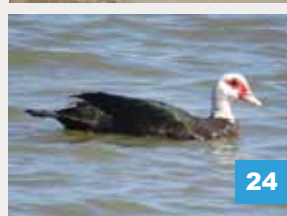
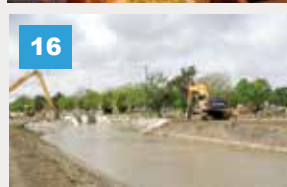
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### ON THE COVER



*Brett Weary is the owner of Discount Concrete Leveling.*



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### Free "Law Line" Service

When: March 2, 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).

### 4th Annual Mother-Daughter Tea

When: March 7, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: The Recreation Center at Rob Fleming Park, 6464 Creekside Forest Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77389

Admission: \$45/pair; \$50/pair Non-resident; \$15 each additional sibling (recommended for ages 4 and up)

Come enjoy a delightful afternoon with your mother or daughter for some afternoon tea. Relish in finger sandwiches, tea, crafts, and more! Pre-registration required. For more information email [recreation@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov](mailto:recreation@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov) or call 281-210-3950.

### Grogan's Mill Farmer's Market

When: Saturdays\* March 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2020

Time: 8:00 a.m. – Noon

Where: 2230 Buckthorne Place, The Woodlands, TX 77380 (Buckthorne Place & Grogan's Mill Road at Grogan's Mill Village Center)

Presented by Grogan's Mill Village Association. For more information call 713-992-5893. \*(Except for some holidays)

### 13th Annual Creekwood Fishing Derby

When: March 14, 2020

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Where: Creekwood Park, 3383 S. Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77381

Cost: Free for all ages

Bring your fishing poles and we'll provide the bait! T-shirts are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Prizes will be awarded for longest, heaviest and smallest fish caught. The 13th Annual Creekwood Fishing Derby is sponsored by The Woodlands Professional Firefighters Association. No registration is required.

### Father/Son Challenge

When: March 21, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: The Recreation Center at Rob Fleming Park, 6464 Creekside Forest Dr., The Woodlands  
Work together to complete all the challenges around the campus! Prizes awarded for various team accomplishments! Challenges can include kayaking, puzzles, races and much more! Refreshments provided. For more information call 281-516-7348.

### Soggy Doggy Swim Day

When: March 21, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Where: Creekwood Park, 3383 S. Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77381

Cost: \$10 Per Dog; \$5 each additional dog

Calling all dog lovers! Bring your dog for a splash in the pond, doggie activities, a trick competition and fetching game! All pets must be on a leash while not swimming, and must be up to date on shots. Pre-registration required. For more information call 281-210-3950. ♦



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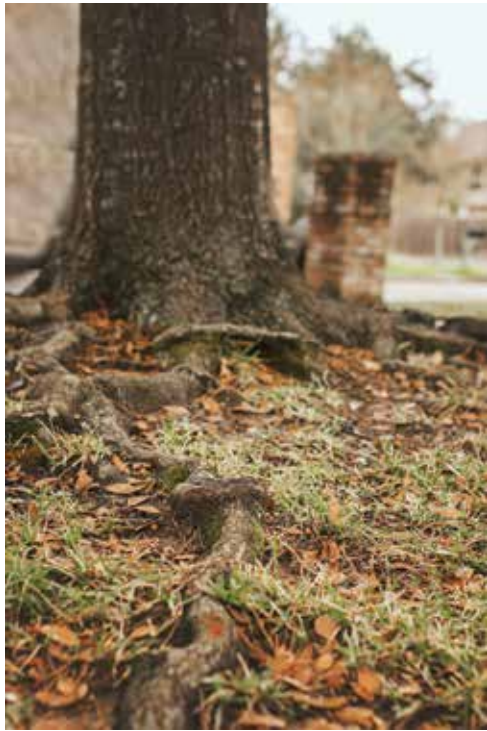


# Concrete Evidence You're Paying Too Much for Slab Repair

*By: Brian Sherman*







In 2009, Brett Weary started Discount Concrete Leveling Service to provide immediate solutions to people's concrete problems. His desire was to save customers time and money.

"Removing sunken slabs and pouring fresh concrete is expensive," says Weary, "versus raising and leveling existing slabs."

With his knowledge and expertise, he had a desire to provide home owners with cost effective ways to extend the life of their concrete, and that is what he endeavored to do.

Discount Concrete Leveling Service specializes in repairing and restoring broken, uneven driveways, sidewalks, patios and other freestanding concrete areas. The process is efficient and effective, often completed in a single day and at a fraction of what it would cost to replace the problem areas.

A proud Aggie, Brett Weary operates his family-owned small business with customer satisfaction at the forefront. He has worked in customer service for over 20 years and prides himself in not only a job well done but the customer's gratification in knowing



*Continued on page 10* ➞









they received the attention and workmanship they deserve. How does he do that? Every client of Discount Concrete Leveling Service can feel reassured that their job is being done right because the owner comes and works at every job.

Discount Concrete Leveling Service is located in Houston and provides concrete

services to all of Harris County and Montgomery County. Whenever you call Discount Concrete Leveling Service, you reach a representative ready to respond to your request. Their estimates are completely free. They are committed to serving their new and repeat customers with excellent integrity.

"Being a smaller company allows for

greater time for attention to detail and the client's concerns," says Weary, "that is what makes us different from our competitors."

When asked about his favorite thing about his community, Weary described people that have time and again come together to help one another, like in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. He felt appreciated for the hands-on hard work he did for the many homes who had incurred heavy rains and flooding, which caused the earth below their slabs to wash out; resulting in sunken slabs. Despite their hardships, Weary saw neighbors helping one another cleaning up and referring each other to small businesses like his that could help and be cost effective.

*Continued on page 12 ➞*

# LEVEL IT! DON'T REPLACE IT!



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Not only has Discount Concrete Leveling Service saved their customers thousands of dollars in needless replacements, but this practice has kept old concrete out of the landfills. According to the EPA, roughly 50 percent of materials put into the landfills are concrete and demolition debris materials. These materials are heavy and non-compactable and reduce the air space. The community deserves hard-working, honest business owners to aid in the betterment of their cities.

The consensus for most people is thinking of concrete repairs as costly, and they become fearful. "Don't replace it; level it" is the advice this expert would give to residential homeowners looking for a cost effective way to extend the life of their non-load bearing flatwork.

"Water intrusion through the joints degrades the subgrade below the slabs, causing an unstable bedding for the slab," he says, "and sealing joints between the slabs contributes to extending the life of the slab, [called] expansion joint replacement and sealant with self leveling polyurethane."

Many happy customers over the years have been pleasantly surprised at how affordable concrete raising and leveling is, especially compared with the cost of tear-out and replacement. The cost of leveling usually represents a savings of 50%-70% over replacement. The leveling process can be completed and ready for use in a matter of hours. In addition to free evaluations and estimates, Discount Concrete Leveling Service offers a two-year warranty on all work. And unlike other repair options, leveling and restoring concrete requires no building permits or municipal inspections.



"Our work is covered under repairs and maintenance," explained Weary. "That's one reason we can usually get the work done in a single day. If you have a problem with broken, uneven or misaligned concrete at your home or office, give us a call," said Weary. "We can stop the problem, put the concrete back in place and make sure it doesn't happen again."

Discount Concrete Leveling Service provides cost effective repair services for driveways, sidewalks, patios and other residential and commercial properties throughout Montgomery County and the greater Houston area. For information, visit [www.DiscountConcreteLeveling.com](http://www.DiscountConcreteLeveling.com) or call 713-568-9456. ♦





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# STAGE RIGHT OF TEXAS

## Abundant Entertainment on the Horizon!

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre has 2 more shows left in their current season and has recently announced their upcoming 2020-2021 season. Left in the 2019-2019 Season of Possibilities are *M\*A\*S\*H* in April and *Peter Pan* in July.



**M\*A\*S\*H**  
Adapted by Tim Kelly  
From the book by  
Richard Hooker  
Directed by Meredith  
Anne Gaines  
Performance Dates:  
April 10 – 26, 2020

*M\*A\*S\*H* stands for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, and joining it are two unpredictable madcaps, Hawkeye and Duke. They can't be dealt with casually, however, because they are also two of the best chest surgeons in South Korea. They decide to wage a campaign to get a young Korean to the United States and entered in a good school. Along the way, Hawkeye has an encounter with a woman psychiatrist who believes he's been trying to lobster-trap mermaids in a rice paddy! There's a jolly visit with the daffy Bonwit sisters, the worst tap-dancing act the U.S.O. ever sent overseas. A sergeant is selling dumb GIs fishing rights in the Bay of Phum. Radar O'Reilly, a soldier with incredible hearing, anticipates things before they happen. The proprietor of a painless dental clinic is cured of dark moods by the recreation of an old monster movie—and a monster! It's all here, including a little romance mixed in with dramatic moments and a genuine love of life. Oh, yes—the Korean boy does get his education in the United States.



**Peter Pan**  
Lyrics by Carolyn  
Leigh  
Music by Morris

"Moose" Charlap  
Additional Lyrics by Betty Comden Adolph Green  
Additional Music by Jule Styne  
Based on the play by Sir J. M. Barrie  
Directed by Sara Preisler  
Performances: July 10-26, 2020

Auditions: Apr 19-20, 2020 (tentative)

Based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale and featuring an unforgettable score by Morris "Moose" Charlap and Jule Styne with lyrics by Carolyn Leigh and Betty Comden and Adolph Green, *Peter Pan* is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favorites of all time. This high-flying Tony Award-winning musical has been performed around the world and delighted audiences for 60 years.

Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick, Tinkerbell, visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget. In the adventure of a lifetime, the travelers come face to face with a ticking crocodile, a fierce Indian tribe, a band of bungling pirates and, of course, the villainous Captain Hook. Featuring the iconic songs, "I'm Flying," "I've Gotta Crow," "I Won't Grow Up" and "Never Never Land," and a rousing book full of magic, warmth and adventure, *Peter Pan* is the perfect show for the child in all of us... who dreamed of soaring high and never growing up.

And announcing our 2020-2021 Season of Screen to Stage....



Sept 11 – 27,  
2020  
**The Odd Couple**  
by Neil Simon

The story of two divorced men – neurotic neat-freak Felix Ungar and fun-loving slob Oscar Madison – who decide to live together. Can two divorced men live together without driving each other crazy?



Oct 23- Nov 8,  
2020  
**Nunsense** by  
Dan Goggin  
The Little  
Sisters of Hoboken discover that  
their cook, Sister

Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters, and they are in dire need of funds for the burials. The 5 remaining sisters decide that the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show with riotous re-



sults.  
Dec 4 – 20, 2020  
**Elf-The Musical**  
Based on the  
motion picture of  
the same name,  
with a score by  
Matthew Sklar  
and Chad Begue-

lin. The book is adapted by Bob Martin and Thomas Meehan from the 2003 film. Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.



Feb 12-28,  
2021  
**Funny Girl**  
Book by  
Isobel Lennart,  
music by Jule  
Styne, and lyrics

by Bob Merrill.

A musical theatre classic which celebrates the exuberant and elegant flavor of Broadway in the 1910s and 20s and the comic genius of Fanny Brice. Featuring such beloved songs as "People", "Don't Rain on My Parade", and "Sadie, Sadie."



Apr 9-25, 2021  
**Leaving Iowa**  
A Comedy  
about Family Vacations by Tim Clue  
and Spike Manton  
Hilarious and  
poignant. A show  
suitable for ages 10

to 110, "Leaving Iowa" is a postcard to anyone who has ever found themselves driving alone on a road, revisiting fond memories of their youth. A celebration of the dreaded and beloved 'family vacation.'





Jul 9-25, 2021  
The Wizard of Oz

(RSC version 1987) by L. Frank Baum adapted by John Kane from the motion picture screenplay for the Royal Shake-

speare Company. With music and lyrics from the MGM motion picture score by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, Background music by Herbert Stothart

Dorothy lives on a farm in Kansas until a cyclone arrives, and picks her, her house, and her dog Toto up and deposits them in the land of Oz. There with the aid of the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion she travels to Oz so the Wizard may send her home again, because there's no place like home.



Single tickets to our remaining shows this season can be purchased online at [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org) or by calling the Crichton box office. Season Tickets for our upcoming season can be purchased by calling the Crichton Theatre box office at 936-441-7469. All 6 shows are only \$125. Season tickets are your best investment if you intend to attend multiple shows in our fantastic line-up. In addition to your tickets for each show, we also provide one Friends Ticket for each season package purchased. That way you can invite a friend to join you to see one show during the season for free. Your seats will be reserved for the next season, your name will be in every playbill and you can always change the date of attendance for free! We hope you'll consider joining us for our lucky 13th Season at the historic Crichton Theatre! ♦

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July 10-26, 2020

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Tickets at 936-441-7469 or online at  
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# SJRA Highlands Division: Serving Raw Water Needs Since the 1940s



*Siphon No. 28 (two 72-inch pipe) off of Jones Road in Baytown was demolished and replaced in 2018 as part of the South Canal Improvements project, which included levee improvements as well.*

The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) is best known for managing Lake Conroe and providing water supply and wastewater treatment services to all 11 Municipal Utility Districts in The Woodlands. But, on the eastside of Harris County the lesser-known SJRA Highlands Division delivers millions of gallons of raw water to petrochemical partners daily contributing to the economic strength of the region.

The SJRA Highlands Division delivers water from Lake Houston and the Trinity River through an extensive 27-mile system of canals and a 1,400-acre staging reservoir to customers such as ExxonMobil, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, and a number of other industrial, municipal, and agricultural customers pursuant to long-term water supply contracts.

**SJRA's Highlands Division delivers 60-80 million gallons of water per day (MGD)---that's more water each day than all other SJRA operating divisions combined.**

The Division's infrastructure was originally built in the early 1940's by the Federal Works Agency to supply water to the war industry in the Ship Channel area of Houston. Consisting of a pumping station on the lower reach of the river and canals on both sides of the river, SJRA delivered water to

Humble Oil and Refining's Baytown refinery (ExxonMobil Corporation today) as well as to other important industries to support the efforts of World War II.

After the war, SJRA purchased the portion of the canal on the east side of the San Jacinto River and the City of Houston purchased the canal on the west side. SJRA began its first steps in the water business with the canal system and a reservoir in Highlands, Texas. Shortly after acquiring the canal system, contracts were signed with Humble Oil to provide 20 MGD to their Baytown refinery, and soon SJRA began to also provide irrigation water for up to 5,000 acres of rice, soybeans, and grass farms in the northeastern part of Harris County.

Today, the SJRA Highlands Division maintains and operates a pump station on Lake Houston, a canal system running from Lake Houston to a 1400-acre reservoir in the Highlands area, and additional canals running from the reservoir east and south to two large industrial customers. A number of municipal customers also purchase raw water from the canal including Crosby, Newport, and Barrett Station. With over 27 miles of canal to maintain, 40-plus road crossings, several large pump stations, and industrial customers that require uninterrupted water supply, the Highlands facility operates 24/7, 365 days a year.

The modern-day SJRA Highlands Division



*Division staff, Bryan Kilgore and Jay Jones assist in the effort to improve access and security through the placement of pipe gates and fencing at the Wallisville Road Siphon structure.*

sion strives to address aging infrastructure and other operational needs through extensive planning efforts, constantly evaluating operations and infrastructure to plan for and meet the level of reliable service and hydraulic capacity needed by today's customers and stakeholders.

To assist with this effort, the Division's 10-Year Project Plan is evaluated and updated annually. This effort begins with a comprehensive technical and geographic field investigation of the entire Highlands system including approximately 27-miles of





*Wallisville Road Siphon structure (two 48-inch pipe) is the most recent siphon project completed on the East Canal. The new structure provides for redundancy and improved reliability. Coordination and cost sharing occurred between SJRA and Harris County on this structure.*

canals, 54-miles of levees, the Lake Houston Pump Station, East Canal Pump Station, and approximately 55 other crossings, culverts, bridges, and siphon structures. A Structural Risk Analysis is then completed to assist the Division staff with (re)prioritizing projects. The findings from the Comprehensive Field Investigation and the Structural Risk Analysis are utilized by the Division in determining in-house projects versus contracted projects, along with the budgeting and funding required. Planning for projects in advance allows staff to take all the immediate and long-term needs into consideration and to begin making the necessary decisions to provide for the Division's operational needs in the future.

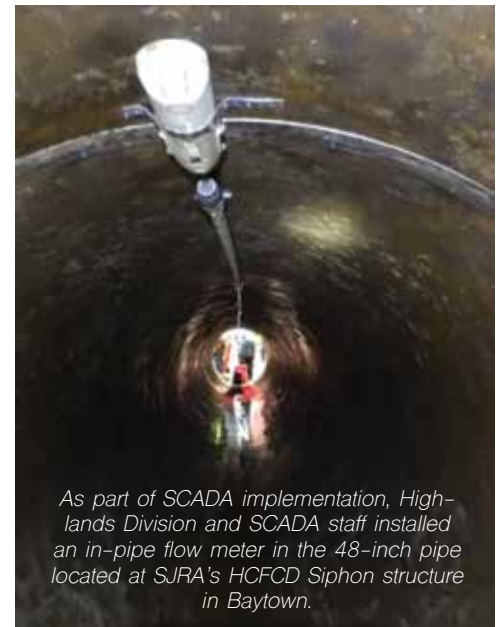
In 2010, a rigorous planning effort began to address aging infrastructure. The most critical projects included levee rehabilitation, siphon replacement/removal, transfer pump station construction as well as intake and pumping bay desilting, pump and discharge pipe repair. Recent projects include demolitions and replacements of siphons near Baker Road in Baytown, Jones Road, and Wallisville Road.

Always in mind when improving access and ensuring reliable infrastructure and hydraulic capacity, is raw water reservation for future use. Staff has to plan well in advance to reserve future contracted water rights to provide for increases in customers' demand. This planning provides for adequate water supplies and conveyance capacity in the System. Ongoing collaboration and planning with all current and potential System

customers is required. Additionally, system improvements require coordination and collaboration on projects and possible cost sharing with partners such as the Texas Department of Transportation, Harris County, and Harris County Flood Control District. System improvements are planned over the next decade to continue to address the remaining 1940's infrastructure as well as future hydraulic capacity demands.

In 2017, to further improve the efficiency of the Division's operations, the SJRA Highlands Division implemented a new control system comprised of computers, networked data communications, and graphical interfaces. The new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system not only improves system operations, but allows for collaboration and data sharing with various customers. Through SCADA automation, SJRA operational staff can now electronically monitor and proactively respond to the fluctuating water demands of the Division's customers. The implementation of SCADA instrumentation has resulted in timely and more efficient operations within the Division by reducing the need for staff to be in the field manually making adjustments and/or responding to water level changes.

Through significant planning efforts and improvements, SJRA's Highlands Division has continued a history of reliable service that is integral to our region's success. Providing for increased customer demands, coordinating with stakeholders, and improving aging infrastructure through technological advances provides for efficient operations and regional



*As part of SCADA implementation, Highlands Division and SCADA staff installed an in-pipe flow meter in the 48-inch pipe located at SJRA's HCFCD Siphon structure in Baytown.*

economic growth. The Division will continue to address aging infrastructure, access and security improvements, and improve hydraulic capacity throughout the System.

To learn more about the detailed 10-Year Project Plan for the Highlands Division and ongoing improvements to the System visit [www.sjra.net/highlands/](http://www.sjra.net/highlands/).

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 find us on Instagram @SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA. ♦



*Actuators installed on gate control structures located adjacent to industrial customers provide for improved and remote operations.*





# The Players set to open rock-n-roll musical Little Shop of Horrors on March 6th

By: Adam Isbell

The Players Theatre Company is pleased to bring the dark-comedy, sci-fi musical, *Little Shop of Horrors* to the Owen Theatre stage this month. Opening March 6th and running through the 22nd, this production is sure to thrill audiences. The music, composed by Alan Menken, is in the style of 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop and early Motown, and includes several well-known tunes such as the title song, "Skid Row (Downtown)", "Somewhere That's Green", and "Suddenly, Seymour". With a book by Howard Ashman, the musical is based on the low-budget 1960 black comedy film *The Little Shop of Horrors* by Roger Corman. This film has a cult following of its own as well as the 1986 movie musical starring Rick Moranis, Steve Martin and Ellen Green, the latter taking the success of the off-Broadway musical and turning it into a feature film, directed by Frank Oz. The Players' production is directed by Adam Isbell. Adam is determined to wow a variety of audiences with his directorial debut. His attention to every single

detail makes this a dazzling spectacle for theatre-goers and an experience they won't soon forget.

The story follows a hapless flower shop worker, Seymour Krelborn, who comes across a strange and unidentifiable plant. Over time, this foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore, which Seymour names Audrey 2 (after his co-worker and the object of his affections), promises unending fame and fortune to the down-and-out Krelborn, as long as he keeps feeding it BLOOD. The manipulative plant preys on Seymour's love for Audrey one and his desperate need for approval from his uptight, self-serving boss, Mr. Mushnik, to get Seymour to do whatever he wants. With Audrey's abusive and sadistic dentist boyfriend, Orin Scrivello, D.D.S., audiences will have a hard time deciding who the real villain is. Rounding out the principles is a trio of street urchins - Crystal, Ronnette and Chiffon, who also act as the Greek chorus. They help carry the story along and appear with catchy songs and glitzy costumes

throughout the shows' entirety.

Leading the cast as Seymour is Jacob Massoletti. This is Jacob's first show since playing demented dentist, Orin, in his high school production ten years ago. With a fresh perspective as the starring role this time around, Jacob really brings Seymour to life with his nervous foibles and unending dorkiness. He came in and set the bar high for his castmates and that's where the bar stayed. His love interest, Audrey is played by Courtney Berry. Audiences may recognize Courtney from shows at both the Owen and Crighton Theatres. Previously playing Elizabeth in Stage Right's highly successful *Young Frankenstein* and Doralee in The Players' production of *9 to 5*, Courtney is excited to showcase even more of her talent as the lovable and vulnerable heroine of this story. She will earn numerous merits for her unique interpretation of this iconic character. It will be a refreshing take for cult followers and a standout performance for first time Little Shoppers. Voicing the show's antagonist





is Trevor Hall. Trevor will be voicing Audrey 2's lines off stage while a puppeteer is doing all the mouth-moving on stage. Trevor was last seen as Gaston in The Players' *Beauty & the Beast*. Even though you may not see him, you will be highly entertained by his boisterous voice and collection of foul-humored jokes. He's also extended his talents beyond the stage and took all headshots and publicity photos for this production. Gavin McKinnon is playing gruff-exteriored Mr. Mushnik. Gavin made his stage debut in Stage Right's *Into the Woods* as the Baker a little over a year ago. He brings a sense of likability to Mushnik while still maintaining that old curmudgeon demeanor. Allan McFarlane has taken The Players' stage by storm these past couple of years. With roles in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Seussical the Musical*, and *Happy Days*, he's showing a whole new side of himself as abusive narcissist, Orin Scrivello. The street urchins (often referred to as The Dreamgirls by the director) are made up of Angelie de los Santos, Shananda Poulos, and Meredith Fisk. Angelie was last seen at the Owen in *Godspell*. Aside from that, she has a slew of credits at both theatres for years past and is an entertaining attraction at the Texas Renaissance Festival. Angelie really steps it up

in this role and wows as Crystal. Shananda recently got her feet wet in Stage Right's version of *Cinderella* this past October after a seven-year hiatus from the stage. She was a show-stopper in that and is sure to bring that same energy and entertainment value into the role of Ronnette. After years of various credits at both theatres, Meredith Fisk is getting her chance to shine as Chiffon. With a voice so astonishing and an attitude to match, she is somebody to definitely watch out for! Making up the ensemble (each with a worthy featured part) are Kathleen Baker, Briana Steptoe, Lindsay Elgin, Kyle Clevenger and Dallas Hiett. Kathleen was last seen

as the title role at the Crighton in *Cinderella*. Briana did her first show with the Owen over a year ago with the eye-catching, fun-filled *Seussical the Musical*. Lindsay and Kyle have both been in shows at the Owen before while this is Dallas's first time to be in a theatre show; however, he has done shows or sung in choirs at his church. Each ensemble member brings a unique flair to Little Shop and along with fun characterizations, their enchanting voices captivate in the big musical numbers.

The puppeteers, Michael and Jamie Glass, are deserving of a paragraph of their

*Continued on page 20* ➞

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own. Not only are they puppeteering, they are responsible for the puppets' existence. They've been working the whole of last year on perfecting all four stages of the Audrey 2 puppets. These puppets alone will be worth the ticket. As if that's not enough, they are also in charge of the elaborate and exciting set. Their credits go beyond both theatres whether it be behind the scenes or on the stage. Keep an eye out for them because they may pop up here and there throughout the production as well.

It is necessary to give special mention to the artistic team, each bringing so much to this show and each with numerous accolades in this theatre community. Award winning actress, Layne Roberts took on the role of Music Director and ensures a clear, rich and beautiful sound. Sarah Wilkins acts as Stage Manager. You will be shocked to know this is her first time in this role because of how effortlessly everything is run. Jodie Schrier will have audiences wanting to join in on these fun and familiar dances that elevate this already stellar show. Rebecca McDowell acts as the Assistant Director and voice of reason, with Amber Babcock posing as Vocal Coach and mentor.

*Little Shop of Horrors* runs March 6-22, 2020, Fridays and Saturdays at 8PM, Sundays at 2PM. There is also an additional show on Thursday, March 19th at 8PM. ♦

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# The SECURE Act

## What You Need to Know



If you are not part of our e-newsletter or a client of our firm then you haven't had the opportunity to read my thoughts about this important piece of legislation till now. We always like to make a new friend so I would encourage to go to our website at [www.woottonfinancial.com](http://www.woottonfinancial.com), take a look at the articles and educational resources and sign up for our e-newsletter so you don't miss these important topics in the future.

In the past 2 years, two primary pieces of Congressional legislation have been passed. The first was the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act", the largest tax overhaul of the tax code in 30 years. The second, more recently passed (and effective January 1st, 2020) was the "Setting Every Community Up For Retirement Enhancement" Act or as is now known, the "SECURE" Act. This Act again is one the largest changes to affect retirement planning and retirement plans (IRA, 401k, etc.) in decades and there are some important things you need to know. This article focuses primarily on the individual investor or plan participant but there are important considerations for corporate plan sponsors as well which are not covered here. However, call us and we can go over those with you as we can help corporate or individual plan sponsors with their fiduciary obligations as well.

Although we don't have space here to cover everything in the Act, I've tried to narrow it down to some of the items that will have the most effect on individual retirement account investors. It is important that you visit with a fiduciary advisor and review your financial plan to see how this may affect you, your spouse and most importantly the beneficiaries of your retirement accounts as they are the most affected. If you've not done financial planning with a professional in the past, now's a good time to start.

### New Rules

- 1. Elimination of the "stretch" IRA/Retirement account provision** – For people passing away in and after 2020, their non-spousal beneficiaries have now lost the ability to "stretch" forced taxable required minimum distributions over their lifetime. They will now be forced to liquidate the beneficiary IRA or other inherited retirement accounts within 10 years. This does not affect the spouse as a beneficiary and there are some other narrow exclusions to the new rule such as certain minors (till the age of majority) and the disabled (as IRS defined) but check with your advisor for more specifics as to whether any of those exclusions apply to your situation. For most, even if the spouse is the beneficiary of your retirement account, when your spouse is gone, they're non-spousal beneficiaries will be subject to the new rule. Sooner or later it will affect every retirement account, so plan now to the extent you can. Also if you have a trust involved with your IRA at death, you'll want to review this arrangement as well since certain "see-through" trust arrangements could be affected.
- 2. Contributions to traditional IRA's post 70.5** – The new law now allows contributions after 70.5 to your IRA as long as you have earned income.
- 3. Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) age increase** – If you turned 70.5 and were due to take an RMD in 2019, sorry, you will have to continue taking those taxable distributions as originally scheduled. However, if you weren't 70.5 in 2019 then you now get to defer RMD's till age 72. Congratulations! The round age will also help clear up the confusion many have as to exactly when the first RMD must be withdrawn and which life expectancy factor age to use.

- 4. Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) unaffected** – This is important to the charitably minded folks out there who are already 70.5 or will be in 2020 and beyond. If you're already 70.5 the QCD rules don't change. The law kept the QCD rules intact allowing them to start at 70.5 and satisfy RMD requirements but not count towards income. For those who can defer RMD's to 72, this is giving you a 1-2 year tax planning or giving opportunity window where IRA distributions may be counted as a charitable contribution but not as an RMD.
- 5. 10% early withdrawal change** – For those seeking a distribution before 59.5 from a retirement account for a Qualified Birth or Adoption distribution, the typical 10% penalty you would incur doesn't apply up to \$5000 as long as you follow the timing rules for the withdrawal. Get with an advisor for more details on this change.

### Non-Retirement Account SECURE Act Tax Benefits

- 1. Mortgage Insurance premium deduction** – Retroactive to 2018 and through 2020.
- 2. Medical expense deduction** – The AGI threshold has been kept at 7.5% of AGI for 2019 and 2020.
- 3. Qualified Disaster Distributions from retirement accounts** – If meeting the qualifications in the Act, distributions up to \$100,000 would be exempt from the 10% early withdrawal penalty, be treated as distributed evenly over 3 years if desired, be exempt from mandatory withholding requirements and may be repaid within 3 years of the distribution.

To be sure, this Act will require some adjustment and repositioning of many financial plans. Give us a call or come see us for an initial, no obligation review so we can help give you... Clear Direction for Retirement.



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## 6 Things Your Website Should Include

*If you want your website to convert more visitors to customers, it must have these features..*

If you own a business, your website should be working for you to consistently bring in new leads everyday. Most websites come with a hefty price tag and may look pretty, but they don't do much to grow a business. Very few people see the website, much less know what to do when they do see it. Worst of all, the message is unclear.

Can you relate? Are you consistently getting new customers through your website?

At Dock Line, we've built hundreds of websites for small businesses to help them grow their business online. No matter what industry you're in, there are six things that we've suggested most often when designing a highly profitable business website.

Incorporate these six components in your website and you'll get more visitors, more sales, and more fans of your business. You'll stop losing to your competition.

### 1. Your business website should include a 3-second headline.

When someone visits your website they should understand what you do in 3 seconds or less. People make instant subconscious decisions about you and your brand when they visit your website. If you confuse, you lose. Your website headline needs to clearly tell the reader what you do and how it helps them.

To help you clarify your main headline (the company's tagline), use this formula to get started.

\_\_\_\_\_ to help you \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.

= (Main service you provide) to help you (Result of your service) your (Thing your service benefits).

Example: Landscaping services to help you manage your lawn.

Here are a couple of guidelines to follow when developing your main tagline.

Don't:

- Don't use insider lingo.
- Don't be too vague.
- Don't be long winded.

Do:

- Use language anybody will understand.
- Be specific.
- Be concise.

### 2. Your business website should include a clear call-to-action.

If possible, give visitors only one call to action on each page of your website. If your main objective is to get them on the phone, make that the only option. You may also offer a lead generator as a call-to-action. Make sure it points people to your main call-to-action. Make your call-to-action specific and straight to the point.

What is it you want the website visitor to do? Do you want them to book a call with you? Do you want them to buy your product? Be up front and direct. Also, make the call-to-action obvious – put it just under the header of your website, and in the top right of the main menu.

- Bad CTA's: "Learn More" "Get Started"
- Good CTA's: "Call Now" "Buy Now"

### 3. Your business website should include a "Success Header Image".

The header background at the top of your home page is prime real estate. It is where your 3-second headline goes and it is the first thing people see when they visit your website. Your header image gives people their first impression of your business, so it needs to imply success.

Use an image that shows the success of your product. It doesn't have to be an actual photo of your product or even a real customer of yours. You can use a stock image if you want, as long as it conveys a message of success, as if someone used your product or service and achieved their desired goal because of it. Images with people work best, especially if they are happy and smiling.

### 4. Your business website should include search engine optimization.

What's the use of having an amazing website if no one sees it? Search Engine Optimization (SEO) works to get your website higher in the rankings on search engines like Google.

Nearly everyone begins a search for a product or service online. With SEO you can use Google to your advantage and get more visitors to your website by showing up on the first page of search results. How to start implementing SEO:

- Use strategic keywords in your writing based on what people type into Google to find the services you offer.
- Optimize your website so that it loads quickly and looks good on any device (See "Mobile Optimization" below).



- Put engaging content like video on your website.
  - Invest in good technical SEO (Back-end website optimization).
- SEO stats you need to know:
- 93% of online experiences begin with a search engine.
  - 81% of people perform some type of online research before making a large purchase.
  - Google currently holds over 80% of total search engine market share.
  - 75% of people never scroll past the first page of search engines.
  - Leads from search engines have a 14.6% close rate, while out-bound leads (ex. cold-calling, direct mail, etc.) have a 1.7% close rate.

#### 5. Your business website should include responsive design.

52.2 percent of all website traffic worldwide is generated through mobile phones.

Simply put, more people are searching online using their mobile devices compared to desktop computers and the gap is widening each year. This means your website needs to be optimized to look good on any device, especially mobile phones.

If you have a website, pull it up on your phone now and see how it looks. You can also open your website on a desktop and click and drag the web browser to make it thinner. You can see how the appearance changes to match the screen size...or not.

If your website doesn't adjust to various screen sizes it becomes difficult to navigate and read. You can make it more mobile responsive by doing the following:

- Rebuild using a responsive website design template.
- Eliminate the use of popups.
- Make buttons and links large.
- Optimize for fast page load.

It's worth investing in an experienced web designer who can optimize your site to be mobile responsive.

#### 6. Your business website should include sales oriented copywriting.

Not only should your website look good, it also needs to compel people to buy your product or service. As Donald Miller, CEO of Storybrand, says,

"Pretty websites don't sell things. Words sell things."

When we talk about sales-oriented copywriting, we simply mean this: Don't talk about yourself. Talk about your customer.

As hard as it might be to hear, people don't care about how long you've been in business, what your mission statement is, or the whole backstory about how you started your business. What they do care about is how you can help them and if you understand their pain.

It's also important to remember that you only have a few seconds to grab someone's attention and persuade them to keep reading or not. Good sales copy will keep the reader's attention and carry them through your desired process toward a sale.

Answer these questions in your copywriting:

- Who is your ideal buyer?
- What problem do they face?
- What kind of life are they aspiring to that the problem is hindering?
- How can you solve their problem?
- What bad thing will happen if they don't solve their problem?
- What will their life be like when you solve their problem?
- What simple plan can people follow to solve their problem?
- How can they get started right now solving their problem?

So, how does your website fare in relation to these essential components? Can you see areas where you can improve right away by implementing some of these? Maybe, you have a website that is outdated, or just doesn't do anything to grow your business. Or worse, maybe you don't have a website at all. If you'd like some help getting a website that you are proud of and one that works every day to grow your business, we can help.

Dock Line now offers professional web design, along with digital marketing services like SEO and social media marketing. If you need a new website for your business, let us help you out. Give us a call today, or just send an email to [info@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:info@docklinemagazine.com). ♦



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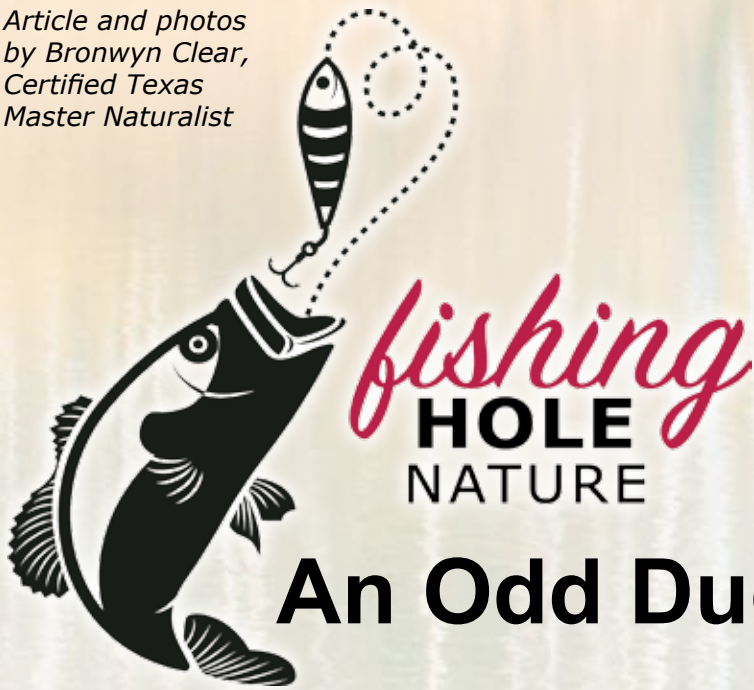
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*When alarmed, muscovies hiss and raise their head crests.*

## An Odd Duck – The Muscovy

What's not to love about ducks! They quack, they waddle, and oh those feet! From the domesticated "Donald" varieties to the wild varieties, they make people smile.

Have you heard someone shout "DUCK!" when a ball sails past your head? Have you ever



*A watchful family. The green tinted feathers are remnant colors from a native population.*

wondered about that command? It comes from way back in the past because of the duck-raptor predator-prey relationship. When a swimming duck realizes an eagle is about to drop out of the sky to make him a meal, a smart duck's maneuver is to plunge entirely under the water. The eagle keeps dive-bombing, and the duck keeps "duck-ing". Sooner or later the duck wins, or the eagle does, but don't count the duck out!

There are so many duck phrases - "Sitting duck", "Water off a duck's back", "Like a duck to water", "Lame duck", "Duck soup", "Ducks in a row", "Dead duck", "Ugly Duckling", "Duck, Duck, Goose!". And don't forget about Daffy and Donald. Yes, ducks are endearing, and ingrained in our American culture, history, food supply, and language.

Floating near the banks is the ever-present iridescent green headed Mallard, or the ornately detailed Wood Duck. But these days some odd ducks have also been paddling along our lakes and ponds, and they are Muscovy Ducks. A male drake can be as big as a goose at 15 pounds, and they have red facial ornamentations called caruncles, somewhat like those on a turkey! Muscovies also have a feather crest on their heads that they raise and lower at will. They are considered to be one



*These large ducks have bright red ornamental facial wattles, also called caruncles.*

of the more intelligent ducks, and they don't scare easily. If you get near one, he might just stand his ground and hiss at you!

Muscovies originated in regions south of the border, and have been expanding to areas inside the States. They are dabbling ducks and eat plants, small fish, bugs, and frogs. Unlike other ducks they don't quack so much as trill or giggle, but like many ducks they hiss when something threatens their territory. Although they spend their days on the water, the Muscovy roosts on land in the safety of tree cavities or shrubs, or they use their webbed



*A pied black & white Muscovy.*

claws to dig out shallow nest holes in the ground. Domesticated Muscovies are raised by farmers and duck lovers for meat and eggs, poultry show contests, and for pets. Some are bred for their spectacular colors - pied white and black, pastel, blue, lavender, red and speckled! This makes for a very striking bird indeed. People who raise them really love their personalities and antics. They might jump into the air to eat bugs, or chase and catch mice on the farm! To other communities they are major pests and allowed to be destroyed. Florida's



*With a weight up to 15 pounds the Muscovy drake is as big as a goose.*





*Muscovies come in many colors – including dappled grays and pastels*

feral populations have grown to enormous numbers, passing disease to other ducks, breeding with native ducks, taking over neighborhood ponds and leaving huge fecal messes for landowners.

The regulations regarding these migrating ducks are somewhat confusing, possibly because they are both loved and hated. A few years ago they were added to the US protected species list when indigenous populations were found in a few Texas counties along the Rio Grande. However, due to the explosion of feral populations in unexpected areas, the US Fish and Wildlife Service calls them a problematic invasive species. What is clear is that these ducks are flourishing, and we are seeing more and more of them on our waterways.

Learn more about the nature in your 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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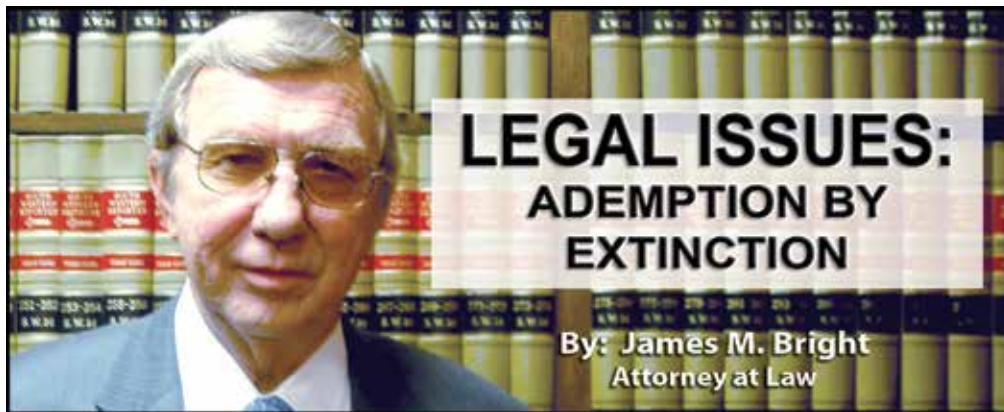
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The following is provided for informational purposes only and is not, nor should it be construed as legal advice.

The question is sometimes asked, "What happens when my will specifies a particular asset to go to a particular beneficiary, and that asset was sold or destroyed prior to my death?" The answer is typically "ademption by extinction."

*"Ademption describes the extinction of a specific bequest or devise because of the disappearance of or disposition of the subject matter given from the estate of the testator in his lifetime. Unless the testatrix specifically provides otherwise in the will, the sale or removal of a specific bequest from the estate adeems the devise or bequest. A will speaks at the time of the testatrix's death, and only the estate the testatrix then possessed passes under the terms of the will. When a specific devise of realty is adeemed because the testatrix sold it before her death, absent*

*a contrary intent expressed in the will, the beneficiaries of the realty under the will are not entitled to the sale proceeds; instead, the proceeds pass under the residuary clause."* San Antonio Area Found. V. Lang, 35 S.W.3d 636, 641-42 (Tex.2000).

An example of this type of specific bequest might be, "I bequeath my fully restored 1958 Corvette to Joe Doe."

If you continue to own the 1958 Corvette (don't we all wish) at the time of your death, then Joe Doe inherits it outright and your executor can pass title.

On the other hand, if you decided after the will was signed to sell your Corvette, the asset would no longer exist at the time of your death, and the gift would fail because of ademption by extinction. Joe would not receive the Corvette or the proceeds from the sale.

The same principle of ademption applies to

real property. If your will declares that you devise your interest in "Blackacre" to Sally Sue, and if you sell "Blackacre" prior to your death, then your gift to Sally Sue is ignored, and she will receive nothing unless she is included in another part of your Will or the residuary clause.

*"The doctrine of ademption applies only to specific bequests and devises."* In re Estate of Brown, 922 S.W.2d 605-607 (Tex. App. - Texarkana 1996, no writ).

#### EQUITABLE CONVERSION:

A twist to the above examples might yield a different result when a contract for sale of "Blackacre" is pending at the time of the testator's death. *"When a specific devise is subject to a contract for sale executed by the testator before his death, the doctrine of equitable conversion applies."* Mattlage v. Mattlage, 243 S.W.3d 763,768 - Tex. App. - Waco, pet. denied).

Assume the same facts recited in our above example of Sally Sue and "Blackacre" but with the sale not fully consummated at the time of testator's death. In this case, there exists the possibility of an equitable conversion. The devise of real property to Sally Sue may be considered a conversion to personal property rather than real property. If this occurs, Sally Sue would receive the proceeds of the sale instead of nothing as in ademption by extinction.

Courts have held that the question of whether or not to consider the gift as an equitable conversion will likely turn on whether or not the potential buyer could successfully sue to specifically enforce the agreement between the buyer and the testator.

#### SOLUTIONS:

It is very common for clients of this firm to request a provision in their will leaving a particular automobile to a grandchild and propose something like, "I bequeath my 2008 Toyota to my grandchild, Tad."

This type of bequest will likely fail through ademption by extraction, because when you die it is probable that you have traded that 2008 Toyota for a newer model something.

A better approach to this bequest suggested by your attorney might be, "I bequeath the automobile that I may own at the time of my death to my grandchild, Tad." If you own an automobile at the time of your death, it will be inherited by Tad without ademption.

The type of unintended results that are demonstrated by this article can easily be avoided by careful estate planning done by the attorney of your choice. Remember that your attorney is a "paid pessimist" being constantly on the lookout for what might or could go wrong.

*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).* ♦

# WILLS - PROBATE

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# Songbird and Raptor Nesting; Does That Baby Bird Need Help?

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

Spring is once again in the air, and baby animals and baby birds will soon be all around us. Understanding natural behavior is important as it can save wildlife lives. Sometimes well-meaning individuals think they are helping or saving baby animals from harm when, in fact, they are taking healthy babies away from their wild parents. Understanding the natural behavior about how baby birds grow and leave the nest can help to prevent them from being needlessly kidnapped.

Some of the large birds of prey in our area, such as eagles and great horned owls, begin nesting as early as December/January, so chicks may hatch out by January/February. The largest raptors nest earlier and then the smaller raptors nest later into the spring and early summer. Songbirds begin choosing nesting sites as early as February and may begin laying eggs in March. This means there are several times throughout the year when baby birds will be hatched and raised, with baby birds leaving their nests sporadically throughout the warmer months.

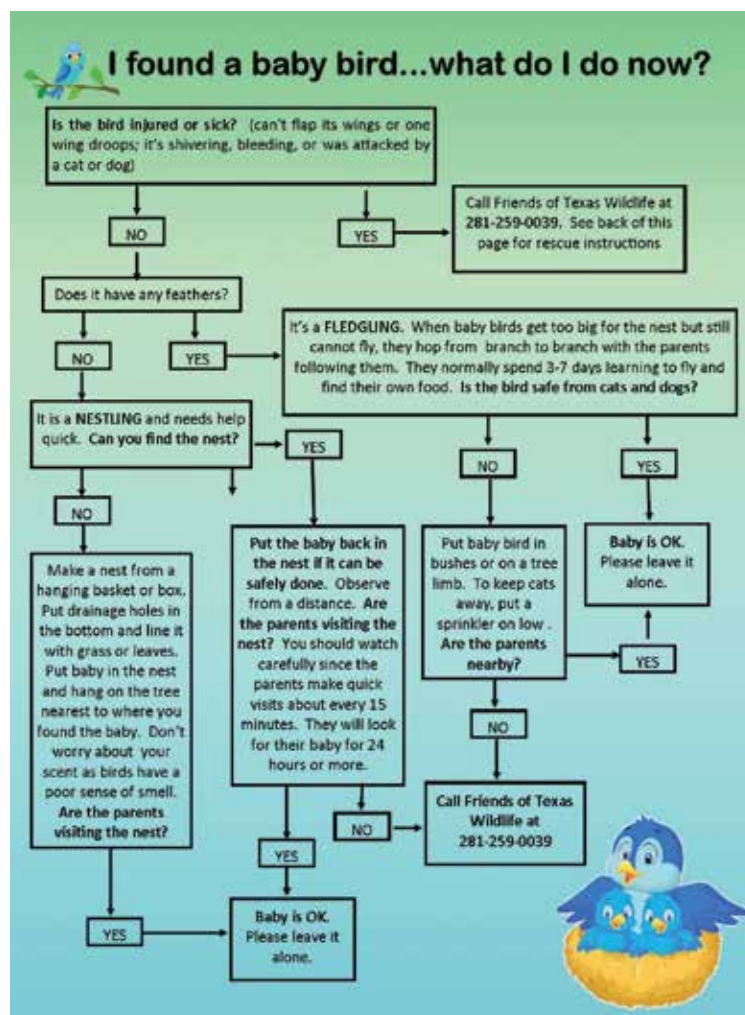
Raptors (hawks and owls) are typically born anywhere from January through May. Generally, the larger the bird the earlier in the year they are born. By May, many of the early arrivals are beginning to leave their nests. Similar to songbirds, when raptors first leave the nest, they cannot fly well yet. They are called "branchers" at this age and sometimes they wind up on the ground inadvertently. If they have feathers as opposed to down and they are in a safe location, they should be left alone. Their parents will still attend to them while they learn to fly. If you are not certain whether a baby owl or hawk may need help, please call us for assistance. Sometimes even younger birds that have fallen from nests can be "re-nested" in a large basket so their parents can continue to care for them.

Songbirds are busy nesting in spring and summer, and some birds will even raise two or three broods each season. Hatchling birds have no feathers. Nestling birds have fuzzy down feathers and/or are just beginning to have pin feathers emerge (it looks like they have toothpicks sticking out of them). If either a hatchling or nestling has fallen from a nest, it does need help. If you can place it back in the nest, that is the best thing to do (it is an old wives' tale that touching the baby will cause the parents to reject it). If the nest has been destroyed or cannot be located, take a small basket or bowl (like a margarine container), punch some holes in the bottom, and line it with pine needles, leaves, or straw. Tack the nest on the tree closest to where you found the baby and watch for at least a couple of hours to see if the parents come back to feed. Fledgling baby birds are fully feathered and have about one inch of tail feathers. They leave the nest TO learn how to fly, not WHEN they can fly. It is normal for them to hop from branch to branch or even wind up on the ground. The parents will still tend to them while they learn to fly. If they are in danger from domestic pets or not in a safe spot, it is ok to pick them up and place them in a nearby bush or low tree. This is the most dangerous time for baby birds, but they just need a day or two before they can fly quite well. If possible, keep cats indoors if you notice fledgling birds in your area.

Friends of Texas Wildlife will be having an Open House on Saturday, March 21 from 11 am to 3 pm. At this open house, we will have many interesting educational displays. All our educational animals will be there for you to visit with (opossum; box turtles; snake; owls; and hawks). Educational displays will also be presented by: The Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center; Texas Master Naturalists; Texas Wildlife Association; Caleb Paul (snake wrangler/reptile rescue and removal); Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; Lake Houston Nature Center; Texas A & M Forest Service. For the first time ever, we will

be offering "behind the scenes" tours of our flight enclosures and intake center. This is the only time this year our entire facility will be open to the public. \$5 per person, kids 3 and under free. More details available at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org).

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/SavingTexas-Wildlife](https://www.facebook.com/SavingTexas-Wildlife). Our educational visitor's center is open the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located at 29816 Dobbin Hufsmith Road, Magnolia, Texas, so the next open house date will be Saturday, March 14. Come on out and visit us, learn a little more about local wildlife, do some fun activities and a craft, and meet some of our non-releasable wildlife educational animals. We also host birthday parties, camps, and educational presentations. For more information about events, birthday parties, spring break camps, summer camps, or educational presentations for scouts, schools, or other groups, please visit our website or email [ftwl.education@gmail.com](mailto:ftwl.education@gmail.com). There are many other ways you can help support our efforts, too (such as Kroger Community Rewards, Amazon Smile, etc.). Details can be found at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org), and then click on "How to Help". ♦







# Beautiful Lawns Year Round

The Woodlands, TX By: Walt Crowder, Pres.  
Lawn Ranger Company, Inc.



## GARDENING IN MARCH

To our loyal customers and friends, please accept our sincere appreciation for your votes in this year's "BEST OF THE WOODLANDS" selections. Being named "BEST OF THE WOODLANDS" is OUR assurance we are doing the job we set out to do, and YOUR assurance you won't get a better service elsewhere. Thank you for your business; thank you for your votes of support.

March is a transitional month. While a late winter freeze is possible in our area (zone 8), from a historical perspective frosts become less likely after the end of February. All of us are now thinking SPRING TIME. And in most cases, so are the trees, shrubs, and flowering plants.

Now is a good time to trim back those plants that suffered frost bite this winter. You might have some tropical that were damaged, but don't yank them out just yet. Give them some time; they MIGHT come back in another month or so. If, after a month, you see no new growth, you should probably replace them.

**LAWNS:** Regular, weekly mowing is just around the corner. Get those mowers tuned up, blades sharpened, and everything in good repair for the upcoming summer. Watch the lawn, and if sufficient growth occurs this month, you should mow. It is unhealthy to the grass if it gets too tall before mowing.

It is OK to fertilize with a professional product that is designed for our Southern lawns.

Cool weather weeds are probably growing in the lawn now. You are advised to use broad-leaf weed-killing herbicides **with caution** at this time. However, warm-season weeds have not yet become apparent. It isn't too late to apply a pre-emergent weed treatment before weeds become a problem. Pre-emergent can prevent the seeds from germinating.

**TREES:** It is getting near the end of the tree and shrub-planting window. The chance of survival is rather low on bare-root trees and shrubs this late in the season. (Beware of "close-out" sales on these.) It is better to purchase container-grown

or "ball and burlap" plants at this time of year.

**FLOWERING SHRUBS:** As azalea and camellia plants finish blooming, fertilize them with 3 lbs. of azalea-camellia fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. of bed area. Mulch them well and water as needed.

Azaleas should be shaped and trimmed immediately post-bloom. That is because next year's



blooms will come from "old wood". By waiting until later in the year to trim, you might be compromising next year's blooms.

**TRIMMING AND CUTTING BACK:** If you haven't trimmed or pruned your roses, do so now. Fertilize every 4 to 6 weeks from now through summer. Regular spraying for blackspot should begin as soon as new leaves begin to open. Regular spraying should continue through the growing season.

Verbena can be cut back now, along with Lariope, Louisiana Iris, and Agapanthas. It will be necessary to cut back Philodendron and Ginger if yours suffered freeze damage, as did mine.

If plants are getting too tall for their environment, cut the longest stems off.

**Note:** Live Oak trees tend to drop their leaves in March. Leaves left on the turf now can cause problems. Rake them for the compost pile or mulch them up so they don't hinder the new growth of the turf.

**SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Thank you for your questions and comments. We can be contacted at our offices at 281-681-1025, or through our web site: [www.LawnRangerCompany.com](http://www.LawnRangerCompany.com).

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