

# DOCK LINE

Lake Conroe

## MAGAZINE



MAY 2020



AS PEOPLE GO BACK TO THE BASICS. *(WE NEVER STOPPED!)*



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**BOAT WORLD**  
AT LAKESHORE

LOCATED RIGHT ON LAKE CONROE

See page 8

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Traditionally, when we think of May it has been a month of celebrations, accomplishments and the beginning of a new season. Unfortunately, this year with the recent turn of events we have entered a new normal. Our vocabulary has changed with phrases such as zoom meetings, social distancing and wearing masks, followed by the elimination of words like hugs, gatherings and togetherness. Throughout all this change, devastation and uncertainty some things remain the same, we are a community of resilience, compassion and love. It has become apparent now more than ever what a great community we live in. We encourage everyone to take a look around, celebrate the little things and support your local businesses. They need your support now more than ever through this difficult time. If we all stick together we will be stronger than ever. Until next month...



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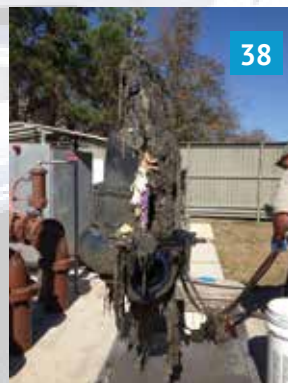
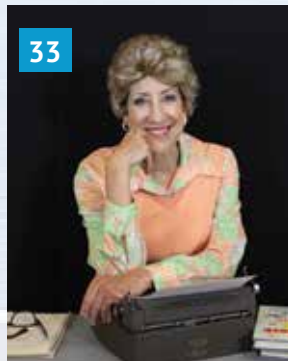
Lake Conroe

## MAGAZINE



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# How Families Can Stay Connected & Become Closer with Rinker's Boat World at Lakeshore



Families stay connected, enjoy the water and practice social distancing together by boating, now more than ever.

## Reset Back-to-the-Basics ... Rinker's Never Stopped.

BY: MATTHEW CALHOUN

As we drift further into uncharted waters with the Covid-19, it can be challenging to find activities that are both therapeutic and fun for everyone, as well as, respecting the current social distancing mandates. Many people and families by default are finding themselves getting "back-to-the-basics". What does that mean? "Back-to-the-basics" was borne out of the great need to strengthen and support the family unit.

For generations families have stayed connected by boating, it's that one place they all come together and make memories that last a lifetime. Boating is a great get-away for some water therapy that can be relaxing and calming and/or an excuse to embark on a new adventure. Whether you are cruising, fishing, water skiing or catching a wave; you are enjoying quality family time together.

As many people are getting "back-to-the-basics" with boating, Rinker's Boat World at Lakeshore never stopped! Let Rinker's show you the ropes and help get and keep you connected.

### Boating Strengthens The Family Unit

As Chris Rinker, owner of Rinker's Boat World puts it, "Boating allows all families to come together in one place, have a captive audience, as you are spending time together on the water and in turn making memories that last forever. Boating is one of the BEST 'family tools' that there is!" Once you start your family out in boating, it goes on forever, it becomes an inherited behavior that gets passed down for generations. People want to share that experience and lifestyle with their families and loved ones. There are not many activities out there that can continuously draw back in your kids and family together. Boating is never getting old either. Even as kids mature and grow, they still want to be out on the water.

Many families today also purchase a boat (take up boating) to be able to not only make memories on the water with their children but also be able to provide an activity where the parents have some control of their children's

safety, whereabouts and friend selection. "We enjoy having a boat for the quality family time it provides us," states Rinker's customer Kacie. "Boating also allows us to know that our son is surrounded by good people. After all, you learn a lot about someone when they are out on your boat all day!" Allow Rinker's to help you pass the boating lifestyle down to your families and generations to come!

### Why the Rinker's Family Legacy is Important to You and Your Family

Rinker's Boat World is a family-owned and operated, '5-Star' rated boat dealership that opened their doors in Houston in 1978. Boating and the Rinker Family date back several decades, from grandfather to current grandson owner Chris Rinker. Chris Rinker comes from a family that lives and breathes boating. Boating is in the Rinker's family blood—Chris's Grandfather, Lossie "LE" Rinker, built fishing and racing boats in the 1930's and his Uncle John, found-





Chris Rinker & The Rinker Family enjoy a sunset cruise on Lake Conroe together.



Check out the NEW Sylvan Pontoon boats/brand at Rinker's.

ed the very respectable/successful Rinker Boat Co. in 1945. The Rinker family prides itself on treating customers like family. Rinker's company culture has developed over many years and is strong. Rinker's has built their reputation for quality service and going above and beyond what is expected from a boat dealership. Word of mouth is Rinker's best advertising agent and they have many families that have bought 5 or more boats from them and now their children are coming to Rinker's with their boating needs, and in turn have become Rinker's extended family on the water. *"A true first-class experience. Thank you for making us feel like part of the family and for providing an exceptional product."*

~Mark W., a Rinker's Boat World Customer.

Rinker's Boat World strategy is engraved from the top as they will do everything in their power to ensure every customer is completely and extremely satisfied with their experience

*Continued on page 10* ➡



Providing a FUN activity & making memories on the water with your kids.



at Rinker's Boat World. Rinker's has their model displayed on their walls in the showroom as a constant reminder, "We Have an Unfair Advantage, We Care More."

### Buying a Boat Should Be Fun, Exciting & Rewarding

There comes a time in many lives when a family decides that it is 'now or never' in buying a boat. One of the biggest reasons people never become boat owners is due to the fear of the unknown. The fear that they will make a mistake, buy the wrong boat, pay too much, be 'taken' by a boat salesman, etc. Purchasing and owning a boat should never be intimidating or scary—it should be fun, exciting and rewarding. Rinker's Boat World's #1 mission is to get a family into a proper boat that meets all of their needs and lifestyle! Their goal at Rinker's Boat World is to make the entire process of buying a boat fun and easy for our customers. Their job is to sell and deliver as many fantastic ownership experiences to the customer as possible.

When you come to buy a boat, they aren't going to rush you through the process. Rinker's wants to find the right boat for your family.

With a staff, with years of experience, whether a part of the team behind the counter or the General Managers who are there day in and day out, Chris Rinker believes, "If you take the time to find the perfect boat for a family, you have a customer for life. Building the right relationship with a family is everything in the boating business", states Chris Rinker.

Being voted and receiving the prestigious award as one of the 'Top 100' Boat Dealerships in all of North America by Boating Industry is proof to all of Rinker's hard work and excellent customer service. Rinker's are not only a '5-star rated Boat Dealership' serving Lake Conroe, the Greater Houston Metroplex, Lake Livingston and the Gulf Coast area, but also have the most positive online reviews. For more than 3 decades Rinker's has earned the reputation of being one of the sought-out boat dealers in Houston and on Lake Conroe due to the attention they provide their customers. *"The Rinker Team listened to exactly what we wanted and helped us figure out what we needed. They were not pushy and only helpful for our family. They even stayed late to help us find the perfect boat fit. Rinker's took us out for the day on the lake to help us learn*

*how to best operate the boat, especially since we are first time boat buyers. Rinker's was able to share exactly the best ways to operate the boat and made sure we all took turns to drive it. Great experience all around."*

~ Landon P, Rinker's Boat World Customer.

### Why Rinker's Boat World ... The Right Boat & Dealership Makes All the Difference

Rinker's Boat World at Lakeshore is dedicated to helping customers have the best experience they can have. From experts to novices, they want to give you the tools to succeed on the water. They accomplish this in a number of ways. Firstly, the goal of each interaction with a client is to empower them with information on the best boat for their situation. A very knowledgeable salesman from their team is going to be comprehensive in the details of the types of boats Rinker's offers and how their needs can be met. The goal is to make boating easy and accessible for anyone to enjoy. Rinker's doesn't want you leaving the dealership wondering whether you can handle a boat or not.

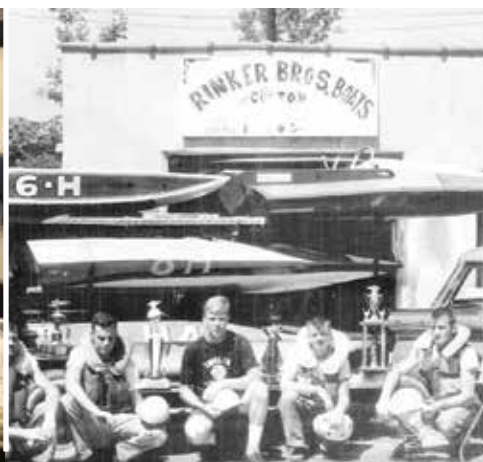
Secondly, Rinker's starts by offering a great product, the brand of boats they carry are some of the best in their class. They are 1 of only 3 in the state of Texas to sell Cobalt boats, but that's not all. Rinker's Boat World also sells leading brands like Supra, Sylvan Pontoons, Sea Hunt, Moomba and South Bay Pontoons, both new and pre-owned (or pre-enjoyed as they say) inventory. If you are looking for the Mercedes-Benz of boats, they have it. If you are looking for the Ford-Mustang of boats they have it. However, new buyers shouldn't be intimidated. The Rinker's Boat World Team is going to walk you through each boat and how to operate it. They are not going to push something you are not ready for, and they will give you guidance on how best to join the boating community.

Thirdly, many customers of Rinker's Boat World are repeat customers. The trust, relationship and customer service are so strong their customers wouldn't look anywhere else. Some families are on their 5th boat from Rinker's Boat World. Some have been handed down through each generation, and they keep coming back for service, parts and often just to visit. As new generations come of age and/or are learning how to deal with the current circumstances in the world, more and more are finding that Rinker's is the most reliable boating dealership around. As Chris Rinker points out, "We shoot straight with our customers, we are honest ... always! Rinker's Boat World builds relationships with our customers and even vendors, that last a lifetime, for generations." When you visit Rinker's Boat World at Lakeshore you are working with a retailer who has proven themselves for over three decades. *"Rinker's Boat World has my highest recommendation for customer satisfaction. The people are fantastic from top to bottom and go beyond to ensure a great boating experience. We just purchased our second boat from them in the last 3 years and could not be happier. So excited for all the memories our family is making on the water together."*

~Jason H., Rinker's Boat World Customer



The entire Rinker's Boat World Team.



**Rinker's Boat World is a family-owned & operated boat dealership that dates back several generations. Jerry & Chris Rinker (left), Rinker Family (right).**





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With many families being forced to re-configure their daily lives to accommodate the constant changes, let boating keep you connected and be your escape. If you would like to jump in on all this fun, you can contact Rinker's Boat World at Lakeshore today! Get ready for a whole new experience and to become one of the family!

**Rinker's Boat World---a Full-Service Boat Dealership has two Locations to Choose From:**

**Rinker's Boat World at Lakeshore** is on the shores of Lake Conroe and located at 15225 Walden Rd., Montgomery, TX 77356. Call us at (936) 448-2628 or visit us online at [www.RinkersLakeshore.com](http://www.RinkersLakeshore.com).

One of our best assets is our location right on the water ... having waterfront at our dealership enables 'Demo Days/Test Drives' right on the water and/or our customers to be able come by boat if they need something.

**Rinker's Boat World** is located at 2500 W. MT Houston Rd., Houston, TX 77038 Call (281) 847-0064 or visit [www.RinkersBoatWorld.com](http://www.RinkersBoatWorld.com). ♦



Enjoying some fishing and family time together on a NEW Sylvan Fish Series Pontoon.



Rinker's Boat World at Lakeshore, right on the shores of Lake Conroe, come by land or boat.



Rinker's Boat World at Lakeshore.





# Back to Health

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



## Akkermansia Muciniphila & Matcha Tea

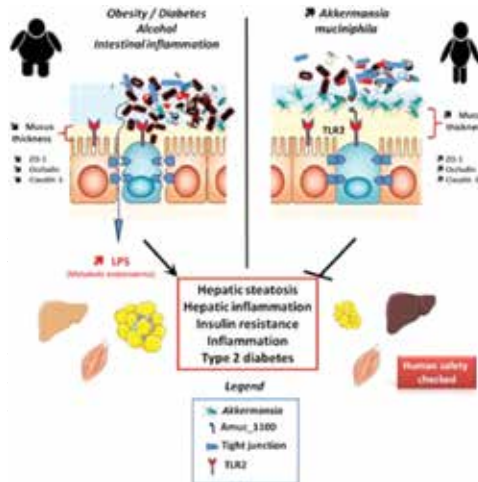
"All Disease Begins In The Gut."

- Hippocrates



### What is Akkermansia muciniphila?

Akkermansia muciniphila (AM) is one of the microbacteria within our stomach lining, making up about 3-5% of our microflora. It has shown an inverse relationship (when AM is high, the following diseases are less prevalent) to obesity, diabetes, general inflammatory diseases (like psoriasis), high blood pressure, and liver disease. AM is a probiotic, however it is not currently viable to be delivered in a pill form. It must be "gut grown" by providing the intestines and microflora its vital fuel source, mucin. Mucin is a protective lining of the gut and is vital



dants that when digested, promotes growth of our intestinal mucin layers. A rich mucin layer in the gut will protect the gut lining from "leaky gut" and greatly reduce inflammation. In addition, the mucin layer will fuel the production of AM. The AM produces biproducts of short chain fatty acids that supports a number of mucin producing microflora that helps create a mucin rich and healthy intestinal environment.

### What is the recommended dosage of Matcha Tea?

There are many different makers and grades of Matcha Tea. I cannot recommend a particular manufacturer, however, you want to make sure you are purchasing Ceremonial grade Matcha Tea. The recommended dosage is 1 teaspoon in 6 ounces of water. Also, the tea may lose its effectiveness if heated, so just use room temperature water and mix thoroughly. The benefits to your health will greatly outweigh the taste of the tea. Bottoms up, to your health!



Dr. Custer is the owner/operator of Better Care Chiropractic and Physical Therapy. He combines chiropractic manipulation with active rehabilitative techniques to restore pain-free living. If you have questions/comments/suggestions, please feel free to contact Dr. Custer at [whybettercare@gmail.com](mailto:whybettercare@gmail.com). ♦

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# Before You Hire a Contractor to Work On Your Home...



*What Montgomery County Home and  
Commercial Services Can Teach You  
About Hiring the Right Company*

BY: BRIAN SHERMAN



As a homeowner, you undoubtedly have a list of projects to work on around your house. As the years go by, those projects seem to get bigger and more daunting. You can probably relate to most homeowners when it comes to those big projects: you realize quickly that you're not an expert. This becomes especially apparent when you need to remodel your kitchen or bathroom. Those types of jobs require skill and expertise that you probably don't have, much less the time to put into them. So, the best thing to do is hire someone to do it for you.

Like most people, you'll likely begin your search for a contractor by asking around. Perhaps a friend or family member knows someone, or you just go searching online. What you'll find is that contractors are a dime a dozen. Especially in areas that are growing fast, like the Lake Conroe area, contractors are everywhere. They seem to come out of the woodwork and they're all competing for jobs. Your job as a homeowner is to hire the right contractor for the right price.

However, if you're feeling nervous about hiring the right person to work on your home, welcome to the club. Many homeowners struggle with knowing who to trust. This is because just as quickly as contractors appear with too-good-to-be-true pricing and bold claims on how fast they can complete the job, they can disappear. We've all heard horror stories of homeowners being left with unfinished remodels and empty wallets. If only there was a guaranteed way to ensure you'll get what you paid for (or more) and have peace of mind about the whole project.

Enter Montgomery County Home and Commercial Services. This local business has been serving the Lake Conroe community for more than 20 years. Owner Glen Martin is an expert in nearly every area of home repair and commercial renovation. Combined with his more than two decades of experience, he has carefully assembled a team of more than 20 skilled craftsmen with expertise in home remodels, carpentry, painting, roofing, electrical work, concrete, plumbing, landscaping and more.

What's most impressive about MCHS, however, is not the ability to accomplish any job around the home. It's their reputation. Reputation, after all, is the one factor every homeowner should consider above all others. As is the case with any business, you shouldn't just take their word for it. Here is what their customers have to say.

"Friends and Neighbors - I cannot let another day go by without sending the highest of recommendations for Montgomery County Home and Commercial Services! On Monday, the day following Hurricane Harvey hitting our area, we were at an absolute loss of what to do... Literally within about 18 hours of my first



contact, Glen had his crew in our home tearing out sheetrock and doing all that work that needed to get started so quickly. Since that first meeting, Glen and his crew have worked with us through this whole mess, step by step! On their website, you will see that "they build relationships!" Man, is that ever true! In addition to being highly professional, I feel like we have made new friends with some really great people! Not only do they follow through on everything that's been said, but Glen checks on the work being done by his crew several times during the day." Debra - Walden

*"Montgomery County Home and Commercial Services is a great company that I would highly recommend. Glen Martin, the owner, is local, he is insured, and has great references. He responded very quickly to our call. His company does the tear out, flood remediation, reconstruction, and they took all the stress off us by choosing paint, flooring, etc. They listened to what we wanted, our budget, and presented 3 options of each, so we didn't have to run around shopping and choosing everything. Can't say enough good things about this company."* - Lisa - April Sound

Continued on page 16 ➞





So, what exactly makes MCHS different from all the other contractors out there? Well, there are three things that you'll discover when you work with them.

### **They Keep Costs Low without Sacrificing Quality**

One of the benefits of being a locally owned business is the ability to keep construction costs low. This is because MCHS is not a subsidiary or franchise. Without extra overhead costs involved, Glen and his team are able to give more fair and accurate quotes that aren't bloated with corporate add-ons. And since Glen only uses highly-skilled, trusted contractors, the work gets done right the first time and within budget. There are no surprises or miscalculations.

### **The Entire Job is Managed by One Company**

One of the problems that larger home construction and renovation businesses around Houston often have is that they try to manage too many jobs all around the greater Houston area. So, they end up sub-contracting out jobs to other smaller companies

or contractors. This creates a problem with quality control and consistency. MCHS only serves the Lake Conroe area, and Glen Martin personally oversees each project.

### **They Stick Around**

Perhaps the biggest issue homeowners have with contractors is whether or not they are available after the job is completed, or even during the job for that matter. A home remodel or project can often hold surprises and unforeseen costs. An experienced contractor can spot these surprises early on and adjust the budget accordingly. When a contractor

bids too low on a project and unexpected costs arise, the project can quickly get out of hand, and sometimes, sadly, the contractor disappears. MCHS has built a reputation for building relationships with their customers. They treat their homes like they are their own and they walk them through the entire process. Most importantly, they make themselves available every step of the way, and that doesn't change when the job is complete.

If you need someone to tackle that big project at your home, but you're nervous about hiring the right company, then take the guesswork out of it and contact Montgomery







County Home and Commercial Services. You can reach them 24 hours a day by phone at (936) 444-6952, or email owner Glen Martin directly at gmartin5959@yahoo.com. You can also learn more online at [www.montgomery-countyhds.com](http://www.montgomery-countyhds.com). ♦



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*How Park And Sell takes the hassle out of selling*

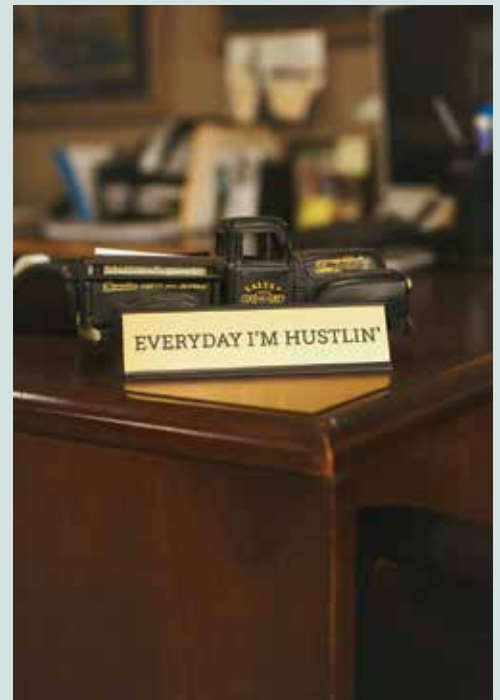
**BY: BRIAN SHERMAN**

With over 20 years of experience in Montgomery County, owner Jerry Arthur and his crew can help you sell those unwanted items. Whether it's a car, boat, trailer, or heavy equipment, Park And Sell is committed to selling items at great prices, for both customers and sellers. If you are looking for a trusted consignment business to work with, Park And Sell has the skills to get you the best deal you can find.

#### **One-Stop-Shop**

Selling with Park And Sell is easy. After taking over the former consignment business, owner Jerry set to making the process as easy as possible. "We began to offer our clients a one-stop place to buy or sell all their transportation and recreational needs, with us taking care of all the paperwork. Now, we can also assist with bank or credit union financing to





help them with their purchase." This makes it easier for both parties as most of the heavy lifting is done by Park And Sell. Don't get ripped off thinking you are getting a good deal from a dealer. As Jerry says, "Before you trade a motor vehicle or boat in, come see us and let us tell you what we think we can sell your item for. You might be amazed at the difference. If the dealer is giving you a good deal, we will tell you the truth about how much more you could make! We truly care about our customers, who are not only our business partners, but our friends." Instead of dealing with negotiations and haggling, Park And Sell will do that for you to make sure you can make the best deal possible. For sellers who are looking to sell old recreational items but don't feel they can get much for it, Park And Sell knows what customers are look-

ing for and can give you an honest estimate of what you should get for it.

However, this doesn't come at the expense of the customer. Jerry is committed to selling quality products at affordable prices, "Our customers know that we do our best to either sell them a clean consignment or get them the best price if they are selling on consignment. Our business is built on repeat customers who trust us when buying or selling items." Jerry and his team have been selling for over twenty years and building relationships in the community that people can trust. For Park And Sell, they start with the needs of the customer first and work backward to an item that will help best

fit their needs. When you come to Park And Sell you will be treated like family. Scott Moore on Google Reviews backs this up:

*"Purchased a car for my teenage son. Frank was very helpful and very honest about the car. After test driving the car, I left to think about the purchase. I called and told Frank I would be purchasing the car. I came back to find the car with a fresh inspection, cleaned, and the paperwork ready to sign. Easiest car purchase I've ever made."*

Continued on page 21 ➞







### Trust and Integrity

You don't build a business selling other people's items without having a good reputation. Using a consignment business means you have to trust the people you are selling with or buying from. As Jerry puts it, "We would like people to know that we don't take items that have problems. Before people buy a vehicle from us it goes through a state inspection. If we see vehicles with excessive leaks we will not sell the vehicle. If there are any check engine lights or problems we can spot, we either have the seller fix it or won't take it in. Our boats are required to go through a rigorous inspection with a compression check to expose possible motor issues. The customer doesn't want problems, and we don't either. Again, our reputation in the community is paramount." This is important because customers and sellers who may be not as knowledgeable about how to sell can use them for guidance. Park And Sell empowers buyers and sellers to know exactly what they are getting and for how much.

Not only that, but Park And Sell has the largest selection of American based vehicles. They love to sell items that are American made and will help bolster the local community. No matter your budget, you can rest easy knowing you are getting a great deal while giving back to the community.

### A Word of Advice

Although consignment lots are common, what many people may not know is dealerships often have personal stakes in selling specific items. As Jerry points out, "We are a true consignment lot in that we do not buy or sell dealer-owned vehicles. Most other lots offer to consign, but simply put the consignments with the vehicles they own, and it is obvious that they want to sell their own vehicles to make more money." Don't fall for that trap, choose a partner who is going to sell your items and not their own. Park And Sell has a personal incentive to sell your items and want to see customer's needs met. The team at Park And Sell is dedicated to providing customers with a service done honestly and simply. Each customer that comes to the lot will be met with a warm smile and friendly face. Susan Clour on Google Reviews best sums this up:

*"I loved working with these guys! They work hard to sell your items not only quickly, but at your asking price. I will definitely be back to see them! Do yourself a favor and reach out to them to sell your stuff!"*

If you are looking for a consignment lot to sell or purchase items at reasonable prices, Park And Sell should be your first stop. If you are looking for trailers, they also own Montgomery Trailer Sales, which is on the same property. They are located at 13245 Highway 105 West Conroe, TX 77304, and you can contact them at (936) 588-6151. You can also find them online at <https://www.parkandsell105.com/> or <https://www.montgomerytrailersales.com>. ♦

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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>MAY 2020</b>				
5/15-17/2020	<b>8 National Talent Competition</b>	<a href="http://www.8nationaltalent.com">www.8nationaltalent.com</a>	Convention Center	Fri: 3:30 - 7:30 pm Sat: 7:15 am - 11 pm Sun: 8:15 am - 8 pm
5/31/2020	<b>Pentecost Church of God, A Worldwide Association</b>	713/899-8158	Convention Center	10:30 am - 4:30 pm
<b>JUNE 2020</b>				
6/6/2020	<b>ABR Houston Allstars 2020 Space City Frenchies</b>	Facebook: spacecityfrenchies	Fairgrounds	12 pm - 6:30 pm
6/13-14/2020	<b>Lauren Sparks Memorial Barrel Race</b>	936/788-8401	Expo	9 am - 10 pm
6/13-14/2020	<b>Houston Reptile &amp; Pet Show Shawn Gray</b>	<a href="http://herpshow.net">herpshow.net</a>	Convention Center	Sat: 10 am - 5 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm
6/20/2020	<b>Bird Expo Bird Events in Texas</b>	<a href="http://www.birdeventsintexas.com">www.birdeventsintexas.com</a>	Convention Center	9 am - 4 pm
6/20-21/2020	<b>International All Breed Dog Show IABCA</b>	<a href="http://www.iabca.com">www.iabca.com</a>	Fairgrounds	Sat: 9 am - 6 pm Sun: 8:30 am - 5 pm
6/22/2020	<b>CLCC State of the State Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce</b>	<a href="http://www.conroe.org">www.conroe.org</a>	Convention Center	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
6/27-28/2020	<b>High Caliber Gun Show</b>	<a href="http://www.texasgunshows.com">www.texasgunshows.com</a>	Convention Center	Sat: 9 am - 5 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm




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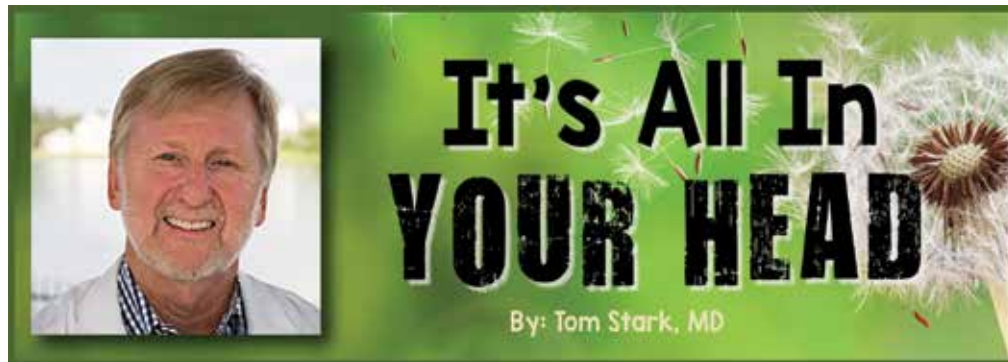
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## How Allergy Drops Work

Many times I am asked by a patient who has known allergies which form of allergy treatment is best, conventional immunotherapy shots or newer allergy drops given at home under the tongue. My office does both forms. I want to give more details on the drop method.

Sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT), also called allergy drops, works similar to allergy shots by gradually helping your body build tolerance to the substance(s) causing your allergies. The difference is that the antigen is placed under your tongue in a liquid drop form instead of an injection. The area under the tongue has the highest concentration of antigen/allergen presenting cells found anywhere in the body. This cell, called the dendritic cell, is the messenger that delivers antigens to the cells that enable allergic tolerance. By consistently delivering allergy drops to this cell daily, the body learns to tolerate things that cause allergic reaction.

We recommend patients take an allergy drop dose three times each day for 3-5 years. Treatment length may vary based on allergy severity and type, and how well people follow treatment guidelines. Many people feel better within a few months, but continuing treatment through all phases is necessary to help you stay symptom-free after your allergy drop treatment is complete.

### Allergy drops work in three phases:

#### **Phase 1:** Initial Oral Tolerance (0-3 months)

During this phase, your body adjusts to treatment and symptoms can improve. Those with minor oral itching will see it decrease as tolerance begins.

#### **Phase 2:** Symptom Relief (3 months-2 years)

As symptoms decrease, your body is taking steps toward changing your allergen tolerance. You might feel tempted to stop your treatment because you feel better, but don't. By continuing treatment, your body can learn long-term tolerance.

#### **Phase 3:** Long-term Tolerance (2-5 years\*)

As symptoms continue to improve, your body increases its allergy tolerance. This long-term learning is needed for you to stay symptom-free long after treatment is done.

\*Depending upon the severity of your allergies, your provider will monitor, adjust, and retest to determine the final length of treatment which varies between patients.

Allergy drops have been used around the world for more than 100 years with many stud-

ies showing that they are safe and effective. Allergy drops were used by physicians before they used allergy shots. There has never been a life-threatening reaction reported from the slow build-up protocol that I use in my office.

Internationally, sublingual immunotherapy



is widely used, with full regulatory and government backing.

The World Health Organization (WHO) indicated its use in its 1998 position paper. In 2007, for the second time (originally in 2001), an international workgroup that included U.S. allergists published the ARIA (Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma) guidelines indicating sublingual immunotherapy as a viable treatment approach. The ARIA paper also indicates that not only is there more modern research on sublingual immunotherapy compared to subcutaneous immunotherapy, but it is also of higher quality in terms of WHO guidelines for research studies.

A Cochrane Review, the most trusted, independent, evidence-based, meta-analysis organization in the world, released their analysis in 2003 and determined sublingual immunotherapy both safe and effective, and reinforced this in its 2010 update.

While these worldwide organizations approve the use of SLIT, unfortunately the US FDA has not officially approved them. This means Medicare and health insurance companies do not cover the cost. However the cost is reasonable. And most patients find their need for other symptom-relieving prescriptions decrease once they start allergy drops, or may no longer be needed. And there are generally fewer follow up visit costs, and less time lost from work/school. All of this means less true out of pocket costs. Additionally, allergy drops typically qualify for Health Savings Account or Flex Spending reimbursement. ♦

## Experiencing Allergies? We can help!



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# COVID19

## What Businesses are Saying

COVID-19 is having a profound impact on all of our lives. Medical professionals and hospitals are being stretched to the limits and everyone is making huge adjustments to their lives to save others. Who knew we would live in a time when the wisest advice for everyone to follow is simply to do nothing? Stay home, stay away from others, and wait it all out.

While we're all doing our part to keep everyone safe and healthy, small businesses are seeing a profound shift in how they do business, if they even can. "Business as usual" is out. Innovation and outside of the box thinking is in. At Dock Line, we work with small businesses every day to help them be seen in their communities and to grow. We've been hearing from them about their struggles and their successes during this strange, uncertain time.

In this article, we wanted to invite you in on the conversation and let you hear straight from the business owners and managers how they're handling all of this. As you'll see, some are finding a way to thrive by making adjustments, while others are having a more difficult time. Both messages are important, and we want you to know what's going on out there and how we can help our local businesses make it through together.



### How a Family-Owned Franchise has Adapted to Customers

Although Coronavirus has hampered the economy, that hasn't stopped this family-owned franchise. Bloomin' Blinds in Montgomery County is run by Dallas Schultz with his father Dave and they have found creative ways to still reach customers while practicing social distancing, "We use conferencing software to do virtual consulting on custom blinds, shades, and plantation shutters sales. Customers call us and we ask them a few questions about their windows, their lighting requirements, their privacy goals, and their budget," says Dave. From there, they set up a virtual consultation appointment in which they send an email that will help customers with correct measurements of their windows, and preparation for the virtual conference. During the consultation, they will use photos and videos to make their recommendation on what's best for your home, and the materials needed. Within 24 hours you will have a written quote for your new blinds.

Before ordering materials though they still need to have an in-home visit, however, much of the work is done beforehand. Most in-house appointments are fairly quick and extreme precaution is used, "We take the health of our customers and family seriously. Expect to see us wearing masks, gloves, using hand sanitizer, and wiping down what is being handled." The reason for an in-home visit is so the blinds can be tailor-made for your home. Even in this time of uncertainty, you don't have to settle for less with Bloomin' Blinds. In addition, if you choose Bloomin' Blinds for your business you're also helping out Texas manufacturers "We primarily use many of the Texas manufacturers of window coverings. They employ

Texans and buy much of what they need from other Texas businesses. All this money mostly stays in Texas, helping hundreds of Texas families all across the state."

As I talked with Bloomin' Blind's Dave Schultz he did have a word of caution for those buying custom products. When asking for a deposit most companies should charge you 50% of the total cost. This is a sign of a healthy business as most manufacturers require you to have a deposit put down by the dealer before they will accept the order. That 50% helps cover the costs of producing the materials and fill the order faster. As Dave puts it, "All parties have equal skin in the game, and that's why 50% is the norm. Experience shows me that businesses who are experiencing serious financial problems will start to require deposits of 60% and as even high as 75%. That is too much. There is little motivation for them to expedite the install." Before going with a custom blinds installer, make sure to do your due diligence and research your options. The owners of Bloomin' Blinds have learned that adapting to customer's needs, taking safety precautions, and being upfront about pricing has helped them move forward. Even though times are tough, they have found local their business and local community ready to take on this threat.

To get a quote for your windows, contact them at (936) 236-6800, or reach out to them at their website at <https://www.bloominblinds.com>.



### Being Proactive

The Lawn Ranger Company has been deemed an essential business, but that hasn't made things easy during this crisis. Activities have slowed down for all businesses, but the local Lawn Ranger Company is making some headway during this crisis "We are being proactive with custom-



ers, making phone calls and reaching out to clients,” says, president Walt Crowder. “Right now we are focused on providing extra services at good prices,” with offices still open for business Walt isn’t limiting any options on jobs, tackling both commercial and residential jobs. An important lesson in this crisis is the ability to change and help customers where they are. You need to engage the customer on how you can complete the task without risking any more lives. That means you have to change how customers interact with you.

Walt and his crew are still working on landscaping services such as preparing for summertime, treating shrubs and gardens for insects and pests, or putting in irrigation systems. “Our crews are out working trying to provide a service at a rapid pace so workers and customers stay out of harm’s way.” Although business is not the same as a normal year, Walt has calming advice that he gives to everyone, including his workers, “This is a rough time, what we are going through is unprecedented, and what other small businesses are going through is unprecedented, however, we must pull together and weather the storm.” Only by helping each other out, using social distancing at work, and buying local can Texans get through this.

Walt and his team are dedicated to reaching customers where they are. Whether that means you consult with The Lawn Ranger Company online, on a call, or on a video chat, Walt and his team want to help you achieve the lawn you have always wanted. They can do this while staying safe by following the CDC’s guidelines which will protect your family as well. Don’t hesitate to send pictures and use your phone to communicate without exposing yourself to the virus.

If you would like to reach out to The Lawn Ranger Company contact them by phone at 281-681-1025. You can also contact them at <https://lawnrangercompany.com/>.

## STAGE RIGHT

### The show must go on!

Live theatre is always better to see in person, and every night is different.

Due to the Coronavirus though, Stage Right of Texas, a resident theatre company at the Crighton Theater, has had to make some changes. Since gatherings of more than ten people have been banned they have had to postpone their production of *Mash* until June 2021. “People have understood and accepted our decision to postpone,” says Carolyn Corsano Wong.

However, that hasn’t stopped preparing them for the future. Stage Right still has a show coming this July, *Peter Pan*, which has required some thoughtful solutions on how to prepare for this upcoming production. With auditions coming in April, Stage Right has switched to having both auditions online and rehearsals online. Possible participants in the show will submit video auditions on their website “We have had to adapt and be flexible due to the uncertainty.” Carolyn still had a lot of positivity about adapting to this new normal though, “What’s the point of getting stressed out when you have no control over it?” It’s about adapting to the circumstances the best someone can. Years of experience in the acting arena have taught Carolyn and her team how to deal with the difficulties this virus brings, “It’s a lot like theater and Improv, whatever happens just go with it.” Even though there is a lot of uncertainty in the future this company is adapting to any problem just like they would with any other show. For the future, Carolyn said her team is exploring working online and giving classes online to customers.

When asked how best to support Stage Right, she didn’t keep the discussion only focused on the theatre company but also the Crighton Theatre. Carolyn noted “For our organization, we are in good shape in the fact that when we are not at the Crighton Theatre so we don’t have to pay rent, so who this is actually hurting the most in our line of work is the theatre itself. They still have expenses to pay.” Carolyn also noted that if people wanted to support local theatre they should donate to the Crighton

Theatre. She also touched on some of the things this whole process has shown her “It can also be hard to see the beautiful things, but people are helping others, we are dependent on each other, and it is important that we take care of each other.”

Most importantly, Carolyn is looking forward to when we can all sit down to a great night of theatre. If you would like to learn more about Stage Right contact them at their website at <https://stage-right.org/> or on their Facebook page @stagerightoftexas. Don’t forget to check out Peter Pan this July!

## Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas A community that cares

The Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas are busier than ever, “Unfortunately, many people are dumping dogs because of the pandemic” says Ruby Cross, marketing coordinator. The amount of animals that are now in their foster care system has nearly doubled to the impact of Coronavirus. “Our biggest goal during this time is to take in as many as we can to make sure these animals are safe,” and the team at ASVT has found unique ways to accomplish this. Taking more of their services online and processing more applications than ever before. ASVT is a network of volunteers that are committed to seeing animals taken care of even during a crisis. Although it takes a bit more time and effort, ASVT is still scheduling meetings and fostering using social distancing guidelines.

What is important right now, is that the community comes together, like they have been, with fostering and monetary donations. “As animals come in and need surgery, we make sure they get that operation,” says Ruby. “We are non-profit and monetary donations are going to save the lives of countless animals during this crisis.” You can also help in other ways, by emailing ASVT at their website and seeing how best to help with supplies and other items. “It’s business as usual for us during this time because we have to stay on top of this,” says Ruby. In addition, ASVT is still helping with the Montgomery Animal Shelter and placing animals from that facility into foster homes. Unlike during normal operations, they can’t ship dogs to facilities in Iowa to be adopted which is putting a strain on the shelter. Fostering and donations are a key step you can take to help mitigate some of the repercussions of this virus.

One of the good things about this situation is that Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas is seeing a record number of adoption and fostering applications during this time. “We would like to thank the community for their patience during this time, as people have submitted applications we have been working on processing them nine hours a day.” Part of the reason is because of the background information required to adopt and to make sure the pet is going to a responsible owner. More importantly, fostering is the best way to help ASVT and animals. “Fostering saves lives,” says Ruby. It’s a better process for making sure these dogs are safe during this time because it is temporary.

ASVT does not have its own shelter and is not affiliated with any facility, although they will help shelters find foster homes when they can. If you would like to get in touch with ASVT contact them at <http://www.asvtexas.org/> or on Facebook @ASVTx. You can be part of this on-going rescue effort today!



### Keep Moving Forward

Keep moving forward is the vision for Forest Crossing Animal Hospital. Deemed an essential business, this highly rated animal hospital in

*Continued on page 26*



Montgomery County is still facing the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Bzozowski, the owner of Forest Crossing Animal Hospital is very aware of the effects on his industry, "In my profession, the challenge is simply staying open. A lot of veterinarians, even though we are considered essential, aren't able to stay open just because the business isn't there." He added, "Some of them just don't want to take the risk." Risk is something every business is dealing with head-on. Even essential businesses have to adjust how they do things in order to be available to their customers. Dr. Brzozowski understands this better than most. "I'm a high-risk person myself, being a diabetic, but I have a duty to be here for my patients as well."

As to how they are adapting, their approach is a familiar one. "We've gone to curbside, essentially. People aren't allowed in the building. We do everything as remotely as we can over the phone, collecting the patients from the vehicles, bringing them in, doing the exams and the treatments we need to do, then bringing them back out to them." said Dr. Brzozowski. And they are also taking innovative measures to reach their customers such as telemedicine and video conference via an app.

Dr. Brzozowski has some timely wisdom for pet owners during this uncertain time. "Don't put things off. Don't wait until your pets are really sick, then it adds to the cost.", he also added, "Don't get behind on your rabies vaccines and parasite testing and prevention."

When asked what advice he would give to other business owners right now, his message is that of a seasoned medical professional - prevention and preparation are the keys. "For businesses, save as much as you can and be as cost-effective as possible. Also, stay up to date on and in the loop on programs available to small businesses." And perhaps most importantly, "Stay up to date on the most accurate news." Lastly, he wants to leave business owners with this: "Listen to your clients and keep them informed. At the end of the day, they are the ones who are actually paying that electric bill and insurance bill. If they aren't happy, then that doesn't happen."

If you would like to get in touch with the staff at Forest Crossing Animal Hospital you can reach them at 936-271-9300, or online at <https://forestcrossinganimalhospital.com/>.



### Still here for patients

Thomas Stark, MD is an established and respected ENT doctor in our area. As a medical professional, he is taking the COVID-19 situation very seriously.

He and his team are also taking the necessary precautions to keep people safe, but most importantly, they are doing everything they can to be available to patients. "The main thing we have done is we kept our doors open." Said Dr. Stark, "And we are emphasizing hygiene in all our waiting areas and all our exam rooms."

Most importantly, they are limited contact with people and are utilizing advancements in medical care by expanding the proactive outside of the walls of the Doctor's office. "Of course, we are screening patients over the phone. We are offering a lot of advice and seeing patients over the telephone. Telemedicine is becoming more and more popular because you may be able to treat someone without them having to go to the hospital." With telemedicine, people can stay in touch with their doctor more often, which will help with preventative measures and keeping patients healthy. Insurance companies love this because it keeps people from having to visit a hospital in some cases, and keeps people from taking a hospital bed during this critical time.

As a medical professional, Dr. Stark is quick to put the focus on the people doing the heavy lifting right now in the medical professions. "My hats are off to the ICU, respiratory therapists, and frontline doctors."

If you want to know how you can support businesses like Dr. Starks, the advice is simple: "Continue to think of us, and realize that we are open and seeing patients." So many people are forced to shut their doors, but

it's important to know who is still open and available to help. With all the media surrounding the COVID-19 situation, Dr. Stark added a strong word of caution. "Don't take this lightly". He adds, "It doesn't make everyone have the same outcome, but it needs to be taken seriously."

Many people have now seen Dr. Fauci, the medical professional accompanying President Trump. Dr. Stark has first-hand experience with him. "I've worked personally with Dr. Fauci. He is a smart guy who is calm under fire. He's seen worse." Basically, he wants us to know that Dr. Fauci knows what he's talking about and should be trusted.

Finally, Dr. Stark has some helpful advice for businesses during this time. He says, "It looks to me that being able to get money from the SBA is helpful." And also, "Try to be there as much as possible over the phone. Keep your presence known to people."

If you would like to get into contact with Dr. Stark call (936) 582-7000 or find them online at <https://tomstarkmd.com/>.



### Flexible Healthcare

Connect Hearing is staying open for essential workers and emergency services. "What we have been doing," says Lauren Chapman, marketing associate, "is making sure our appointments are by emergency only." That means they care for essential workers and emergency employees such as healthcare workers. "We also have a focused goal on increasing sanitation in our facilities for our customers." When you step into a Connect Hearing facility you will be treated to a clean and sterile environment. Customers can feel safe knowing that people are following CDC safety guidelines as appropriate and surfaces and counters are being cleaned.

For those essential employees who do not want to come into the facility, but still need to see a medical professional Connect Hearing is offering Telehealth services. "Options and appointments are available online to patients and they can take advantage of our online resources." Customers don't have to wait to get in contact with someone about their medical issues. "We want customers to feel and stay safe during this time, we are here for them during this time," says Lauren Chapman. Connect Hearing encourages customers to not hesitate to call their local Connect Hearing facility and to work through problems. The team at Connect Hearing is focused on providing services how you need it and meeting the needs of their patients.

As a last note, when asked about how they plan to change for the future and how other companies can as well they found it best to "Be flexible in the services you provide, always have an alternative to turn to if you can." As this pandemic has spread, Connect Hearing is finding new ways to correspond with patients to protect their health. You will still be able to find the same care you always have at Connect Hearing, the process may just be a little different to protect yourself.

If you would like to find out more about Connect Hearing or schedule an appointment you can find them online at <https://www.connecthearing.com/>. You can also contact them at 1-888-426-6632. Feel free to take advantage of their blog and advice resources to help you with your ear care needs.



### Adjustment is key

"Doing business is not the same as it was two months ago," says Doini at Everest Siding and Windows. "Our main concern is making sure our employees are safe and can support their

families during this crisis." Everest Siding and Windows is still offering in-home consultations. However, that means they are taking every pre-



caution to protect both the customer and employee. "We can have that meeting at the customer's home, but we will be practicing social safety guidelines and conducting consultations over the phone as well." You can also email them pictures of your home, and they will send you an estimate by email. When you meet with their consultants, they are going to use social distancing guidelines and sanitization methods to keep you and your family safe. "We are still going to be able to give the customer the information they need to make the best decision for their home. We are going to do that from a safe distance though, whether over the phone, over email, or in-person." In addition, most employees that usually work in the office are working from home to protect themselves and others. You can still contact them at any time, and any of your questions can be answered by an employee over the phone. "Everyone has responsibilities," says Doini, "and all of our employees understand that."

For those interested in carrying out a remodel or special project during this time, Everest Siding and Windows are offering 3-month and 6-month no interest, no payment, finance options. When you consult with one of Everest's experts, you can plan accordingly to your budget and payment options. Everest is committed to working with customers through this crisis, bringing exceptional materials and experience when they come to work on your home.

"I can't think of one person in this country that hasn't been affected by this virus, but we will persevere" added Doini. "Be safe and stay strong!" If you are interested in a special project for your home, you can contact Everest Siding and Windows at 832-773-8221. You can also reach them at [info@everestsidingandwindows.com](mailto:info@everestsidingandwindows.com) or their website at [www.everestsidingandwindows.com](http://www.everestsidingandwindows.com).



### **Preparation for risk is more important now than ever.**

We live in an uncertain time, full of many unknowns and even more risks. When it comes to

handling risk, Wootton Financial Group, Inc. is no stranger. In fact, the financial management group thrives on managing risk for its clients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are already experiencing the effects of the financial crisis it has caused. While most people panic when it comes to their investments like retirement, Wootton Financial is a voice of wisdom and hope.

When asked how they are handling these sudden uncertain times, Chris Wootton, owner, and Principal and Investment Adviser at Wootton Financial Group, gives a simple, yet powerful response:

"Executing the plan that we already had in place. We were already prepared for this." After all, the trusted financial group is a strong advocate for education and preparation. So, during this time, rather than shrinking back waiting out the storm, they are pushing forward. "We increased communication both to clients and the community. We increased our marketing rather than scaling back. We want to thrive, not just survive and we want that for others" Chris added.

When it comes to running their own business during the quarantine, Chris Wootton again speaks of preparation. "We already were prepared by having the technological ability to operate remotely. Every employee was set up so that we maintain our security protocols, but can work from anywhere. We had been doing video conferencing already for years." Chris admits that technology always presents several challenges, but they have been at the forefront of finding innovative ways to give their clients and employees the best possible experience.

Especially during economic uncertainty, it's important to understand that not all financial offices are the same. "We have a much more dynamic approach to managing risk for our clients compared to the static approach most companies are used to. We are not afraid to exit markets in a disci-

plined approach when necessary, instead of holding everything and riding it to the bottom. Seeking to avoid bear market losses in your investment can add long term value to what you're doing." By employing this strategy, Wootton invests actively and seeks to provide a better benefit for its clients in the long run.

"It is important for people to understand that the markets won't go up forever and it's easy to get complacent," Chris says. "A bull market cannot run forever. We have always had a mindset focused on preparation for times like these. It's only a matter of time for markets to level out and correct." More importantly, he adds, "The time to get prepared is not during a crisis. It's beforehand. But you're here now. So focus on what you can do now to make positive changes for next time. And there will be a next time."

So, what should you do right now to help mitigate your financial risk? Get a plan. Chris points out, "It doesn't cost you anything to have a conversation with us. You don't even have to go anywhere. We can meet over the phone or through online capability. We offer a complimentary consultation that includes a high-level review and an initial plan to show you what's possible and try to offer value on the front end of a relationship."

Lastly, Chris imparts some simple, yet timely wisdom, "Have faith. Be hopeful. Stay safe. Be smart. There is always opportunity in adversity."

To offer you encouragement during these uncertain times, Chris Wootton is inviting you to attend a Free Webinar featuring Olympian Ruben Gonzalez titled "From Surviving to Thriving: Addressing Mental Toughness and Risk in Tough Times." Watch it for free on the Wootton Financial Facebook Page or on [woottonfinancial.com](http://woottonfinancial.com). You can also get a hold of Wootton Financial Group, Inc. at 866-416-1703 or 936-449-5952.



### **Evolve Your Business**

Located in the fairly new Marcel Town Center in Conroe, Office Evolution is finding creative ways to deal with the changes

brought on by COVID-19. A popular co-working and private office rental company in Conroe, Office Evolution is stepping up to help other businesses during these tough times.

"We're reaching out to the community as much as we can," says Phil Anderson, one of the franchise owners at The Woodlands location. "We're supporting our restaurants right here in the Marcel Town Center by ordering from them and keeping them supported. We also formed a small support group with the tenants to work together in terms of marketing and things like that."

Office Evolution already has a focus on supporting small businesses with their approach to office space. Now, they're reaching beyond the walls of the office to help the local community where they can. And that starts with encouraging everyone to support their local businesses however possible.

"Order from your favorite local restaurant," says Phil. "If you're locked down, follow your businesses online." He adds. With many companies with retail locations unable to serve their customers in their buildings, they are innovating and finding new ways to reach their customers.

Delta Life Fitness, one of the fellow tenants of the Marcel Town Center, for instance, are offering workouts online. Phil is encouraging its customers to join in.

As far as Office Evolution, they're doing what they can to support their members, and even new tenant prospects. "We're still open from 10-2. We are also meeting with people by appointment only (one-at-a-time) so as to limit social interaction." They are also helping to accommodate their members while abiding by the social distancing protocols in place. They are even helping out their "virtual" members, who would normally



only have access to a common work area. "Even if you're a virtual member, we can accommodate you. We have enough rooms to allow you to use a private office right now. You can come in for a day only if needed. We're offering private offices for daily, weekly, or monthly right now," says Phil.

As far as advice to their customers, and everyone else dealing with the uncertainty we're in, Phil offers this advice: "We know that this it's a trying time. Lots of things are changing right now. Our members are part of our family. We are working with them 24/7 and reaching out to them to help how we can. Most importantly, make sure you know your fellow tenants. Get to know your neighbors. They can be a wealth of support during this time."

Learn more about Office Evolution at [www.officeevolution.com/locations/woodlands](http://www.officeevolution.com/locations/woodlands).

## Hello Beautiful Boutique

### Being there for our neighbors

Although the doors of Hello Beautiful Boutique are closed that doesn't mean business has stopped. "Customers still have access to our online shopping and can have any of our store's items shipped right to their home" states Judy Burks, the owner. Judy and her crew are also not opposed to curbside pickup as she recounted in one story "as one of our crew members was a closing shop a lady pulled up asking for some laundry detergent, using social distancing and sanitization, our crew member was able to help her get the laundry detergent she searched all over to find." That type of customer service is expected and encouraged at the Hello Beautiful Boutique (HBB). In fact, during this time HBB is offering free shipping on all purchases made online.

When asked about her customers Judy said: "let them know that we are praying for all of them, and we do appreciate the loyalty from customers who are shopping online, and God will get us through this." Judy and her team are looking forward to when they can open their doors and want to make sure customers know they will be there for any needs they have. After 46 years in the business, Judy also has some advice for any that are experiencing a rough time "a business is only as successful as the people your surround yourself with, and because of their hard work we have been able to continue to keep paying our employees." This is the time to invest in families, to help each other out. Surround yourself and your business with people that want to have success by pulling others up rather than tearing them down. Judy wanted to stress to businesses to keep their employees because we will get through this only by treating each other with kindness.

If you would like to purchase an item you can order online at <https://www.hellobeautifulboutique.com/>. If you have an item that you need today or want help navigating the online store you can contact Michelle (a store worker) at 936-442-0025, Robin (store manager) at 936-718-8093, or Judy herself at 936-443-9614. Hello Beautiful Boutique wants you to know that they are still working to make sure you have the best customer service!



### Do Your Part to Stay Safe

Like most small businesses right now, Greater Houston Pediatric Dentistry is facing its own set of challenges. Although they are considered an essential business, the local dental practice is making huge adjustments to the way they do business. Safety is their biggest concern. "We are struggling with simply being closed for business and not knowing when we can safely open." Says Dentist Linh Luu. She adds, "As dentists, we work in the airway on a daily basis. Currently, we can only see life-threatening emergency cases, which is very minimal considering that our profession is at the highest

risk."

It's not just the safety involved with dental procedures that makes it difficult for Greater Houston Pediatric Dentistry to practice. As we're seeing in many other places in our nation, safety supplies are not readily available. Dr. Luu explains, "In addition, with the incredible shortages in supplies, we do not have and cannot obtain the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to allow us to safely see patients."

When asked how people could support their local business, Dr. Luu's focus is not on their specific business, but on the entire community. "Please stay home and do your part to flatten the curve," she says. "Please take this seriously and listen to medical advice and leadership. Your actions affect others. If we all do our part now, we can all get back to normalcy sooner and all businesses can open again."

"We are doing our part by seeing only emergencies to keep our team safe and to keep children out of the ER for dental issues." Says Dr. Luu. Others should take the same approach. Even if you are considered essential, safety is still more important than ever. The best thing you can do to prevent from getting sick is perhaps the most common, and often neglected advice out there: "Eat balanced meals, exercise, and remember to brush and floss!"

Lastly, Dr. Luu imparts some simple, profound wisdom to all of us. "Stay safe and be kind to each other. We will all get through this."

Learn more about Greater Houston Pediatric Dentistry at [greater-houstonpediatricdentistry.com/](http://greater-houstonpediatricdentistry.com/) or by phone at 936-703-2131.



### Learning to come back stronger than ever

Unfortunately, Stone Creek Wellness & Medical Aesthetics has been mandated to close till April 30th due to Coronavirus. Even though Linda Teague and her crew want to help customers they have taken this step to protect themselves in their employees. That hasn't stopped them from planning and preparing "We are watching Webinars on new and current services and products. When we are able to open again we would love to have new or better techniques or products to offer our clients!" says Linda Teague. Health and wellness don't need to wait during this time, in fact, it should be one of your top priorities. During the stress of Coronavirus make sure you are taking moments to adjust to this new normal and take care of yourself.

During this time of uncertainty Stone Creek Wellness & Medical Aesthetics wants customers to know they value the relationships of their customers. Linda and her team want everyone to stay well and stay healthy. When asked about her customers Linda noted "Our clients are already being very supportive! Many have pre-purchased services, which we have offered at special pricing." If you are interested in any products, Stone Creek is offering 20% off on all online purchases and is including free shipping.

The most important detail Linda wanted to highlight is her thanks to the community "We miss all of you terribly and want to thank you for your continued support during these uncertain times! We know this time will pass and look forward to squeezing you all in soon!" Whether you are a first time customer or a long-standing user of their products Stone Creek does not disregard you or your family. It has, and will continue to be, an honor to serve you with quality care and service.

If you would like to check out any products Stone Creek Wellness & Medical Aesthetics can be found at <https://stonecreekwellness.com/>. You can also get in contact with Linda at [linda@stonecreekwellness.com](mailto:linda@stonecreekwellness.com), or by text at 936-203-0429. ♦





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# STAGE *RIGHT* of Texas

## Brings you certainty in uncertain times

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong





STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre, is here to bring you some certainty in a rather uncertain world. Here is what we are certain of:

**1) We will get thru this.** If we all pull together and follow recommendations regarding hygiene and social distancing we can get past this. We need to help each other. Our lives and the lives of our loved ones depend on us working together. We, as a theatre company, will also get thru this: STAGE RIGHT of Texas was founded during the economic slump of 2008. We started in tough times. We started with nothing. Our goal was to provide the Crighton Theatre with the steady dependable income of a resident theatre company. Here we are 12 years later. We provide over 100K/year income to the Crighton, we own our own prop-

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# STAGE RIGHT

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234 N Main St. Downtown Conroe, TX

## 2020-2021 Season

## A Season of Screen to Stage



**Sept. 11-27, 2020**



**Oct. 23 – Nov. 8, 2020**



**Dec. 4-20, 2020**



**Feb. 12-28, 2021**



**Apr. 9-25, 2021**



**July 9-25, 2021**

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erty in downtown Conroe free and clear where we are planning to build our own rehearsal facility, we have a huge inventory of props, costumes, tools, set pieces, theatrical drops, etc. Most importantly, we have volunteers that have donated 1000's of hours of their time and talent to help us create magic on the Crighton stage. If you took away every physical asset we own and left us our volunteers; we'd still survive. So, fear not, STAGE RIGHT of Texas will survive. There are other theatre companies that are not doing well right now; they have paid salaried staff (we have none), they have monthly bills for rent of their space (we pay rental for storage space but the Crighton is not charging us rent when we don't use the facility). So, we ask you to please help our home: the Crighton Theatre. We have not been able to provide expected income due to the postponement of our production of *M\*A\*S\*H*; and many other Spring events at the Crighton have been postponed yet the Crighton still has bills to pay. Please consider making a donation to the Crighton Theatre at this time. Visit their website to find out how: [www.crightontheatre.org](http://www.crightontheatre.org).

## 2) The Crighton Theatre, Crown Jewel of Montgomery County, will shine even brighter than when you last saw her!

While we have all been staying safe and practicing social distancing, the renovation project at the Crighton has continued. During our production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, our patrons saw the first step in the renovation process: installation of a sprinkler system, removal of the slick ramp of tile and installation of steps, renovation of the bathroom downstairs to a new ADA compatible one, removal of the old kitchen/concession area, and new box office construction. The work next door on the space that will become the expanded lobby, concessions area and downstairs bathrooms is proceeding. New soil has been brought in, trenching for water and electric has begun, and pouring the foundation is to take place soon. Also completed is a new gentle ramp entrance from the street up to the sidewalk in front of the theatre. The silver metal ramp is gone and replaced by a large ramp area right in front of the theatre doors – no more huge step up to the sidewalk from street level!

**3) First chance we get; we will entertain you!** When we are given the all clear, we will be ready to take the stage. Our production of *M\*A\*S\*H* was postponed till June 4-20 of 2021. We transferred all of the tickets bought for the weekends in April 2020 to June of 2021. As of the deadline for this article at the beginning of April, our production of *Peter Pan* is still scheduled to take place in July. We are planning to conduct auditions for the show online. We have also figured out a way to rehearse the show online for as long as we need to. If

we are unable to present *Peter Pan* in July due to restrictions on gathering, we will most likely bump it later in the summer if we can find dates or into our next season in September and it will take the place of *The Odd Couple*. At the time I write this, we just don't know, but we do know, as soon as we are able, we will present a show. Here is what is on the horizon, with the dates planned as of early April:

### **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 Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 2 pm and an added matinee July 25 at 2 pm.**

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.

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 results.

Dec 4 – 20, 2020 – ***Elf-The Musical*** Based on the motion picture of the same name, with a score by Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin. 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 Isabel 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 Shakespeare 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 *Peter Pan* can be purchased online at [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org) or by calling the Crighton box office. Season Tickets for our upcoming season can be purchased by calling the Crighton 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 lineup. 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 Crighton Theatre!

Please keep up with the most current information regarding dates for shows on our website: [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org) or the Crighton Theatre website [www.crightontheatre.org](http://www.crightontheatre.org). Please keep safe, stay well and we look forward to seeing you all at the Crighton soon! ♦



# **ERMA BOMBECK: *At Wit's End*** to be presented at the Historic Crighton Theatre June 12-21, 2020 to Raise funds for Polycystic Kidney Disease Research

The Crighton Theatre, named one of the Top 10 Theatres in the state to see live theatre performance by BestThingsTX.com, will present *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* by Allison Engel and Margaret Engel. The show will be produced by TSF, Inc. and presented by arrangement with Samuel French Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

The play is a loving comic tribute to one of our country's most beloved voices, who captured the frustrations of her generation by asking, "If life is a bowl of cherries, what am I doing in the pits?" From her troubled childhood, where she found comfort in the words of Dorothy Parker and Robert Benchley, through her rise to fame as a journalist and public figure, discover the story behind America's beloved humorist who championed women's lives with wit

that sprang from the most unexpected place of all – the truth. Born in 1927 to a 16 year old mother and working class father, Erma struggled against what was expected of her: to work in menial jobs until she found a husband. Instead, she determinedly pursued her dream of being a writer and had her first writing job at 15 yr- writing obituaries for the local paper. As a stay-at-home wife and mother Erma continued her career and at the height of her fame her column "At Wit's End" was syndicated in 900 newspapers across the country. Erma's humorous and brutally honest observations on life in suburbia also spawned best-selling books including: *I Lost Everything in the Post-Natal Depression* (1973); *The Grass Is Always Greener over the Septic Tank* (1976), which was adapted (1978) into a television film; and *If Life Is*

*a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits?* (1978). Erma continued her career as a writer, public speaker and champion of women's rights till shortly before her death in 1996 due to complications from a kidney transplant.

**"When you look like your passport photo, it's time to go home."**

This one-woman show stars award winning actress and Crighton favorite Carolyn Corsano Wong. Carolyn, Founder, Artistic Director and Executive Producer for STAGE RIGHT of Texas (resident theatre company at the Crighton), has appeared in many productions at the Crighton Theatre including *Hello Dolly* (Dolly Levi), *The Wild Women of Winedale* (Willa Wild), *Young Frankenstein* (Frau Blucher), *The Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch) and *Always, Patsy Cline* (Louise Seger). In addition to starring in the show, Carolyn is also producing and co-directing with her husband Steve Wong. As an added treat, the Wongs have obtained permission from the Bombeck Family to incorporate pictures of Erma Bombeck into the production. So while Erma's story is unfolding on the stage, the audience will be able to see Erma's life in pictures projected on a large screen that will be incorporated into the set design.

As with all STAGE RIGHT shows, a need in the community is highlighted and then a spotlight is thrown on an organization that is trying to help fill that need. For this show, the need is quite personal: Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). Like Erma Bombeck, Carolyn was diag-

**"All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with a white carpet is one of them."**

nosed with this incurable disease in her 20s. And, like the Bombeck family, Carolyn's family has struggled with kidney failure, dialysis, and the agonizing wait for a transplant. PKD is a chronic, genetic disease causing uncontrolled growth of fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys, often leading to kidney failure. It affects all racial and ethnic groups equally. PKD affects an estimated 600,000 people in America and 2.4 million worldwide. More than 50% of people with Autosomal Dominant PKD will develop kidney

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong



Continued on page 34 ☞





**"I have seen my kid struggle into the kitchen in the morning with outfits that need only one accessory: an empty gin bottle."**

end at the Crighton in June of 2021 (just think, they'll be more bathrooms downstairs by then!). Please check with the Crighton website to see any updates to show dates. I hope to see you soon. Until then remember the words of Erma Bombeck: "If you can't make it better you had better laugh at it, and if you can laugh at it, you can live with it." ♦

**"My second favorite household chore is ironing. My first being hitting my head on the top bunk bed until I faint."**



failure by age 50. Once a person has kidney failure, dialysis or kidney transplant are the only treatment options. Parents have a 50% chance of passing the disease to their children, so it often affects many people in one family. A talk-back session will be held after each performance where information about PKD will be presented and how patrons can help by funding research efforts and learn about kidney donation. Profits from ticket sales and concession sales will be donated to the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation ([www.pkdcure.org](http://www.pkdcure.org)) which is dedicated to finding a cure. We hope you can visit Carolyn's fundraising page: Carolyn "At Wit's End" in Conroe and make a donation.

Show dates are June 12 – 21, 2020 with Friday & Saturday performances at 8 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. There will also be a Saturday matinee on June 20 at 2 pm. Performances will be held at the historic Crighton Theatre at 234 N. Main in downtown Conroe. Tickets for *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* are \$26 for adults, \$24 for seniors 62 yr and older and \$17 for youth 16 yr and under. Tickets for STAGE RIGHT season subscribers are only \$20. Group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more by calling the box office. Tickets can be obtained by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-SHOW (7469) or online at [www.crightontheatre.org](http://www.crightontheatre.org).

This show is sure to appeal to anyone that has had a mother or a kidney.

P.S.: As I send this information in early April to the Dock Line for publication in their May editions, I honestly don't know if we will be able to present the show due to the Covid-19 restrictions on gathering. If unable to present the show this June, I have booked one week-







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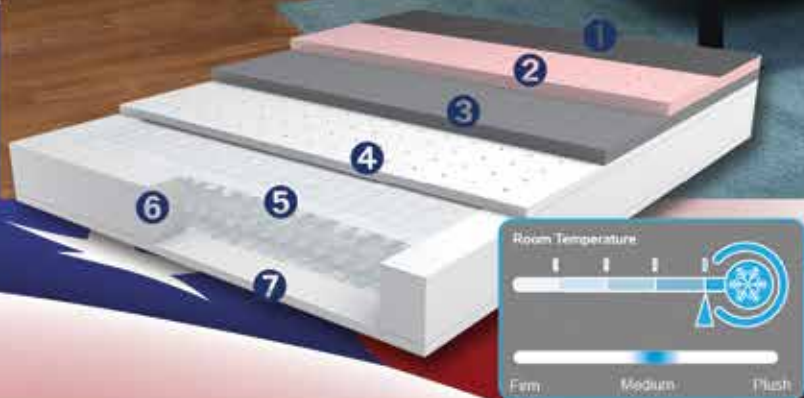
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# COVID-19 is Wreaking Havoc at Wastewater Treatment Facilities Due to an Increase of “Flushable” Products



## *Wastewater Operators along with Patty Potty Urge Everyone to Only Flush the 3 P's*

Wastewater treatment operators across the world have had the disgusting job of dealing with products that people toss down the drain and flush down the toilet for years. Obviously some of the items are to be expected, but often times it is full of objects that really shouldn't be there. The “flushable” marketing strategy adopted by numerous manufacturers magnified that issue significantly, and it continues to get worse and worse.

Since 2014, the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) with the help of the vivacious Patty Potty, has sounded the alarm with a #NoWipes in the Pipes message asking everyone to Trash Em...don't Flush Em.

“People are flushing all kinds of things down the toilet!” Patty points out. “It's not a trash can, you know! Some paper products and wipes are advertised as ‘flushable’ but they aren't. Sure, they will flush down, but they won't flush OUT. Wipes don't decompose they get caught up in wastewater treatment plant screens and filters -- and that costs money to clear and repair!”

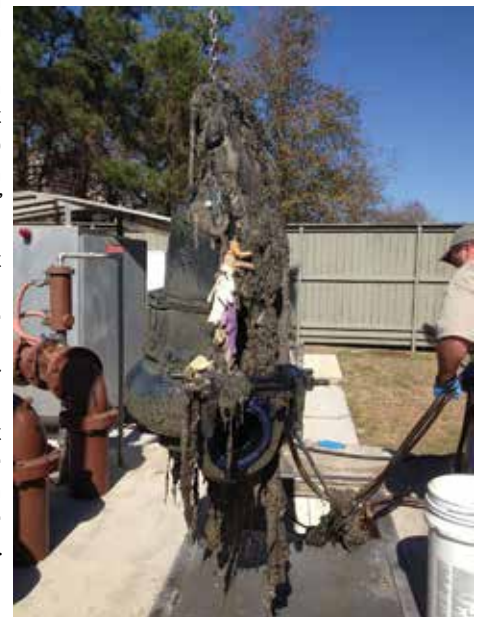
Patty speaks for the pipes. She is a 1950's housewife...somewhat prissy, often bossy, and completely in charge of her home and family. She is a likeable messenger who, armed with her pink plunger, is on a mission to put an end to stuff being flushed down toilets that ends up costing everyone money.

Patty's message -- NO WIPES IN THE PIPES -- might be staged in the 50's, but it continues to be vitally important in today's water-conscious

world. Especially given the recent issues with COVID-19 and the shortages of paper products. In fact, wastewater treatment operators are having to work overtime to deal with the increase in “flushable” products that are making their way to the treatment facilities.

“With empty store shelves in the toilet paper aisle, Woodlands Water Agency (WWA) is worried that residents will resort to using alternatives like wipes or napkins and then flush those items down the toilet,” WWA's GM James M. Stinson, PE stated.

“SJRA wants to re-





mind everyone to only flush toilet paper and toss wipes into the trash can," Chris Meeks SJRA Utility Enterprise O&M Manager said. "Anxiety over the COVID-19 pandemic could end up causing major problems in our system and messy overflows to deal with."

SJRA, WWA, and Patty urge residents to take the "Potty Potty Pledge" to help protect water quality and the environment -- by taking actions that will help prevent costly plumber bills and water treatment plant repairs, as well!

For more information on Patty visit her website at [www.pattypotty.com](http://www.pattypotty.com), like her on Facebook @nowipes, follow her on Twitter @nowipes, and find her on Instagram @nowipesinthepipes.

For information on WWA visit their website at <https://woodlandswater.org>, like them @WoodlandsWater and follow them on Twitter @WJPA\_Water.

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. ♦



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## Understanding Macular Degeneration

As many as 11 million people have some form of Macular Degeneration. This number is projected to double in 2050 according to Bright Focus Foundation. Macular Degeneration or AMD typically affects those 75 and older with a ¼ chance of this population acquiring the condition. Those who acquire AMD under the age of 75 are at greater risk of blindness.

There are two types of Macular Degeneration; Wet and Dry. In the dry form, the light sensitive cells of the macula slowly break down, distorting and finally prohibiting the recognition of light rays. Vision can range from 20/25 to 20/200. This is the most common type, accounting for 90 percent of diagnosed cases.

Wet macular degeneration accounts for

approximately 10 percent of cases, but results in 90 percent of legal blindness. It is considered advanced macular degeneration. Wet AMD is always preceded by the dry form of the disease. Not all Dry forms convert to the Wet form. Early detection is key to inhibiting the conversion from Wet AMD to Dry AMD.

Age-related macular degeneration is an irreversible destruction of the macula, which leads to loss of the sharp, fine-detail, vision required for activities like reading, driving, recognizing faces, and seeing the world in color. Visual acuities with the disease can range from 20/30 to legal blindness. Legal blindness is defined as vision that can not be corrected better than 20/200.

Although there is no cure for Macular Degeneration, if caught early, there are things you can do to slow down its progression. Regular exercise and healthy weight maintenance. Eating a diet that is high in fruits, vegetables, and fish. Keeping your blood sugar and cholesterol in normal ranges. Quit smoking and use of other tobacco products. Protect your eyes from the harmful UV rays and blue light.

There are a few warning signs that you can look out for such as:

- Reduced central vision
- Visual distortions, such as straight lines seeming bent
- Decreased intensity or brightness of colors
- Difficulty recognizing faces
- And trouble seeing at night

There are screening tools your eye doctor can use for early detection. Dilated eye exams, Optical Coherence Tomography, and AdaptDx are all tools which can pick up early signs of AMD. Ask your eye doctor which of these options are available.

Here at Cameron Optical your eye health is our number one priority. As with any disease early detection is the best. Keep your 20/20 vision remember to get your yearly eye exam this 2020. ♦



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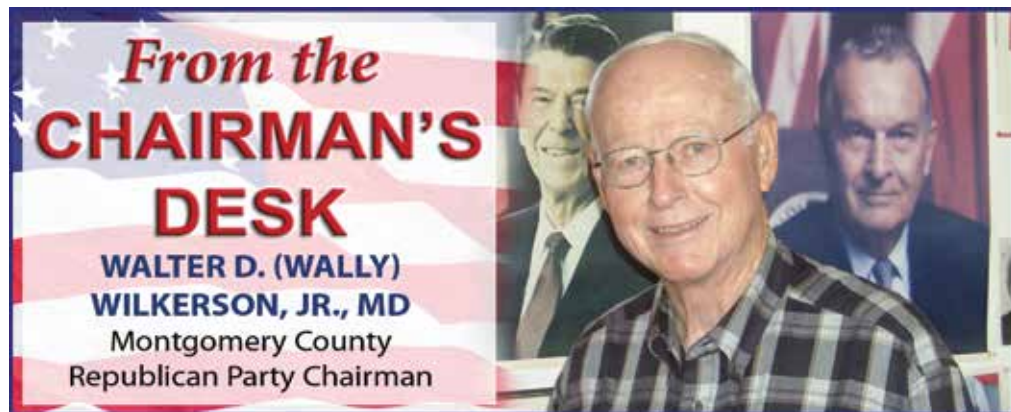
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## Pioneer Hand-Washer

Lindsey Fitzharris, a medical historian, penned a article in the March 2020 Wall Street Journal entitled "The Unsung Pioneer of Hand-Washing" that described a 19th Century physician's effort to convince the medical society of his day that germs were the cause of the death from what was called childbed or puerperal fever. "It's difficult to feel any sense of optimism during the Covid-19 pandemic", Fitzharris wrote, "but one source of encouragement is that simple soap and water can be a powerful defense." Ignaz Semmelweis, a Hungarian physician, who was working in the maternity department of the Vienna General Hospital in the 1840s discovered what he thought

was the cause for the high death rate among postpartum patients.

"The idea that the squalid conditions in the hospitals played a role in spreading infection didn't cross many doctors' minds", Lindsey noted. The Vienna Hospital in 1846 had two obstetrical clinics - one overseen by medical students and the other under the care of midwives. Semmelweis, then in his late 20s, noted that the clinic overseen by medical students had a mortality rate of 10% compared to a rate of 4% for the clinic overseen by midwives. He did not accept the explanation that the marked difference in mortality rates was attributed to the fact that the medical students "handled

patients more roughly". He was also disturbed that the so-called "street births" had a comparative zero percent mortality rate.

In 1847, Semmelweis had a breakthrough. One of his colleagues became ill after cutting his hand during an autopsy examination. The symptoms were similar to those in puerperal infection. At the time, doctors did not wear gloves when delivering babies or performing cadaver examination. Semmelweis required that doctors wash their hands in a solution of chlorinated lime (calcium hypochlorite) prior to treating patients. "In April 1847, the mortality rate for new mothers on the students' clinic was 18.3%. After hand-washing was instituted in

May, it fell to just over 2%." The results were compelling, but Semmelweis was unable to convince his colleagues. In 1861, he "lashed out" at his critics who he called "murderers". He was thought to have become mentally ill and was confined in a mental hospital where he sustained an injury that became infected. Ironically, he died from the infection in 1865. It was not until the 1880s "that pioneers of germ theory such as Louis Pasteur, Joseph Lister and Robert Koch proved to the world that disease really could be transmitted by microscopic particles, leading to a revolution in sanitary practices.....If any positive change comes from the pandemic, it may be that hand-washing will at last become as universal as Semmelweis hoped", Fitzharris noted. ♦



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**110 Cadence Court, Woodforest in Montgomery + 173 ACRES**  
**ML# 40999210. \$3,150,000**



Vacant and ready for new owners! Check out the video tour! This home has warmth and charm inside and out! As you enter the front door the wood ceiling of the living and foyer coupled with its stone fireplace will immediately WOW and set this house apart from the others. The high ceiling of the living room adds volume and space to the area while the windows allow for tons of natural

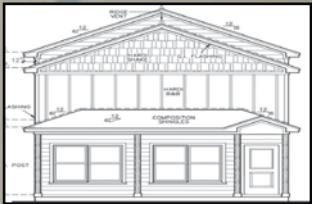
light. Open to the living room, the kitchen is spacious and comes equipped w/solid wood cabinets, SS appliances, granite counters and VERY clean! The Master bedroom boasts a recessed ceiling, double sinks, granite counters, walk-in shower, soak tub plus large walk-in closet. The three secondary bedrooms are located on the opposite wing of the house. All rooms are large and offer great closet space. NO CARPET! The exterior offers a large deck adding the pleasure of an outdoor living space. Fenced backyard. Water softener. New A/C. **12010 Mustang Avenue, Texas National in Willis**  
**ML# 72546068. \$249,000**



Check this one out! Situated on a spacious 0.37 acre cul-de-sac lot on a quiet street that backs up to the nature/walking trail that leads to the new Melville Park and Walden Marina! The fitness center/tennis courts/racquet ball club is located across Walden Rd from Wood Rock! Everything is at your fingertips with the location of this home!

The interior of this home offers 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms. A very generously sized living room with high ceilings, fireplace & wall of windows. Island kitchen with granite counters, gas cooktop, double ovens, breakfast area + formal dining room. Master bedroom boasts high ceilings, double sinks + vanity area, oversized walk-in shower, soak tub + great walk-in closet with built-ins! Two secondary are equipped w/sizable closets & share a full bathroom that offers a privacy door for the shower/tub. The backyard will delight with a screened in back patio w/ceiling fan and an additional stone patio area. Vacant & clean! Lot next door is for sale.

**3411 Wood Rock Lane, Walden in Montgomery**  
**ML# 26533372. \$219,000**



Located in a quiet subdivision in Montgomery that is minutes from Lake Conroe, restaurants, shopping, schools and golf courses! This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home offers an eye-catching exterior with a generous front porch that will welcome relaxation! The floor plan offers a spacious living room that flows into the dining room and overlooks the kitchen that will boast rich wood cabinets, granite countertops, breakfast bar that will

be great for entertaining and a stunning backsplash. Master bedroom is located on the first floor for extra privacy and offers an outstanding bathroom w/a great walk in closet The two secondary bedrooms are located on the second floor with spacious closets and a shared bathroom with shower/tub combo. Low taxes and great schools!

**16900 Kempwood, Lake Conroe Village in Montgomery**  
**ML# 60562637. \$149,900**



Located in a quiet subdivision in Montgomery that is minutes from Lake Conroe, restaurants, shopping, schools and golf courses! This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom bungalow offers an eye-catching exterior with a generous front porch that will welcome relaxation! The floor plan offers a spacious living room that flows into the dining room and overlooks the kitchen that will boast rich wood cabinets, granite countertops, breakfast bar that will be great for entertaining and a stunning backsplash. Nice Master bedroom with an awesome shower and great storage. The two secondary rooms will be spacious w/great storage. Pictures are of the same floor plan but different houses located in the same neighborhood. Construction will begin soon!

**16923 Balmoral, Lake Conroe Village in Montgomery**  
**ML# 66921437. \$125,900**



Check this one out! Spacious 0.308 acre cul-de-sac lot on a quiet street that backs up to the nature/walking trail that leads to the new Melville Park and Walden Marina! The fitness center/tennis courts/racquet ball club is located across Walden Rd from Wood Rock! Everything is at your fingertips with the location of this lot!

**3410 Wood Rock Lane, Walden in Montgomery**  
**ML# 42999637. \$45,000**



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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/heatilator. 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 the 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# 43605598. \$2,900 LEASE**

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

## Baked Rigatoni

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
  - 4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
  - 1 28-ounce can diced tomatoes, undrained
  - 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
  - 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
  - 1 teaspoon kosher salt
  - 1 teaspoon sugar
  - 16 ounces rigatoni
  - 1 cup heavy cream
  - 3/4 cup (3 ounces) grated Parmesan
- Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium

heat. Add the garlic and cook until golden but not browned, about 1 minute. Add the tomatoes and their juices, red pepper, oregano, salt, and sugar. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until the sauce thickens slightly, about 20 minutes. Stir in the cream and 1/2 cup of the Parmesan.

Meanwhile, cook the rigatoni according to the package directions.

Add the drained rigatoni to the sauce and toss to coat. Transfer to a 2-quart casserole and top with the remaining grated Parmesan. Bake for 20 minutes. Let rest for 10 minutes before serving.

## Seared Scallops With Radicchio, Roasted Potatoes and Snap Peas

- 6 small Yukon gold potatoes (about 1 pound) cut into wedges
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- kosher salt and black pepper
- 1/2 small head radicchio, torn
- 1/4 cup chopped pitted cured olives

- 4 ounces snap peas, halved
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 16 scallops (about 1½ pounds), patted dry

Heat oven to 450° F.

Toss together the potatoes, 1 tablespoon of the oil, and ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper on a rimmed baking sheet. Roast, tossing once, until tender and golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine the radicchio, olives, snap peas, chives, vinegar, 2 tablespoons of the oil, and ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper in a large bowl.

Heat the remaining tablespoon of oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Season the scallops with ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper. Cook until golden brown on one side, 3 to 4 minutes. Turn and cook until opaque throughout, 1 to 2 minutes more.

Toss the potatoes with the radicchio and serve alongside the scallops. ♦

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At the time of my drafting this article, we are still in quarantine due to Covid-19 as I am sure many of you are. It has certainly been a mix of emotions for all of us from both a business and personal stand-point and we have a long road ahead from many perspectives.

Whether you know it or not, economies run on hope. The hope that tomorrow will be better than today encourages us to invest in our future. So, let me just encourage you to keep a positive perspective when the world seems to do nothing but drowned us in negative data.

I am reminded of a verse in a Book I hold dear that says "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). My hope does not come from the daily swings of the stock market or newest virus news. Where does your hope come from?

In short, we should count our blessings, daily. I am thankful for our employee's safety thus far and I am grateful for the safety and additional time spent with my wife and children and for the technology that allows us to stay "connected" with friends and family despite the social distancing. Be thankful in all things and we continue to pray for those going through and affected by our current plight. Now, on with the article.

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. This \$2 trillion relief package is intended to assist individuals and businesses during the ongoing crisis. Some of the major relief provisions are summarized here.

## Unemployment Provisions

- An additional \$600 weekly benefit to those collecting unemployment benefits, through July 31, 2020
- An additional 13 weeks of federally funded unemployment benefits, through the end of 2020, for individuals who exhaust their state unemployment benefits
- Unemployment benefits through 2020 for many who would not otherwise qualify, including independent contractors and part-time workers

## Recovery Rebates

Most individuals will receive a direct payment from the federal government. Technically a 2020 refundable income tax credit, the rebate amount will be calculated based on 2019 tax returns filed (2018 returns in cases where a 2019 return hasn't been filed) and sent automatically via check or direct deposit to qualifying individuals. To qualify for a payment, individuals generally must have a Social Security number and must not qualify as the dependent of another individual.

The amount of the recovery rebate is \$1,200 (\$2,400 if married filing a joint return) plus \$500 for each qualifying child under age 17. Recovery rebates are phased out for those with adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeding \$75,000 (\$150,000 if married filing a joint return, \$112,500 for those filing as head of household). For those with AGI exceeding the threshold amount, the allowable rebate is reduced by \$5 for every \$100 in income over the threshold.

While details are still being worked out, the IRS will be coordinating with other federal agencies to facilitate payment determination and distribution.

## Retirement Plan Provisions

- Required minimum distributions (RMDs) from employer-sponsored retirement plans and IRAs will not apply for the 2020 calendar year; this includes any 2019 RMDs that would otherwise have to be taken in 2020
- The 10% early-distribution penalty tax that would normally apply to distributions made prior to age 59½ (unless an exception applies) is waived for retirement plan distributions of up to \$100,000 relating to the coronavirus; special re-contribution rules and income inclusion rules for tax purposes apply as well
- Limits on loans from employer-sponsored retirement plans are expanded, with repayment delays provided

## Student Loans

- The legislation provides a six-month automatic payment suspension for any student loan held by the federal government; this six-month period ends on September 30, 2020

## Business Relief

- An employee retention tax credit is now available to employers significantly impacted by the crisis and is applied to offset Social Security payroll taxes; the credit is equal to 50% of qualified wages up to a certain maximum
- Employers may defer paying the employer portion of Social Security payroll taxes through the end of 2020 and may pay the deferred taxes over a two-year period of time; self-employed individuals are able to do the same
- Net operating loss rules expanded
- Deductibility of business interest expanded
- Provisions relating to specified Small Business Administration (SBA) loans increase the federal government guarantee to 100% and allow small businesses to borrow up to \$10 million and defer payments for six months to one year; self-employed individuals, independent contractors, and sole proprietors may qualify for loans

## Prior Legislative Relief Provisions

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) also included relief provisions worth noting:

- Requirement that health plans cover COVID-19 testing at no cost to the patient
- Requirement that employers with fewer than 500 employees generally must provide paid sick leave to employees affected by COVID-19 who meet certain criteria, and paid emergency family and medical leave in other circumstances
- Payroll tax credits allowed for required sick leave as well as family and medical leave paid

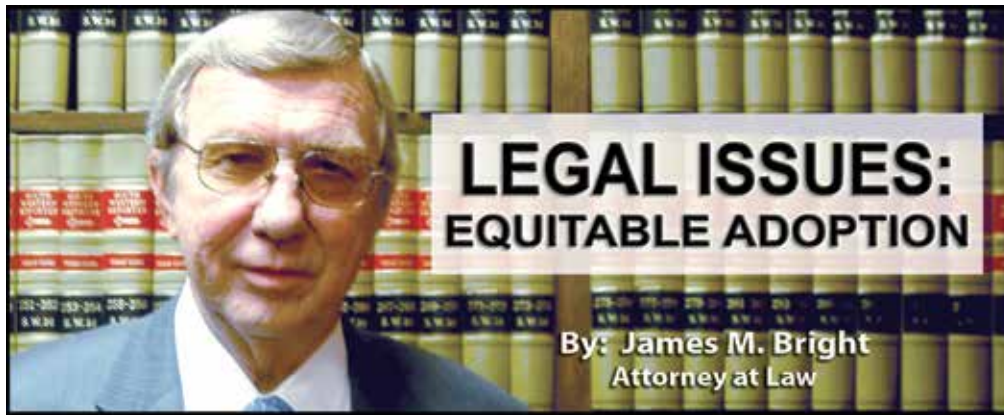
There is likely to be a steady stream of guidance forthcoming with details relating to many of these provisions. We're here to help provide you Clear Direction For Your Retirement and to answer any questions you may have. Be smart, stay safe, stay well and God bless.



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*The following is provided for informational purposes only and is not, nor should it be construed as legal advice.*

Most Texas residents are aware that their conduct can lead to the possible imposition of status as a "common-law" or "informal" marriage. Not as well-known, and not receiving the same amount of attention, is the concept of equitable adoption, also sometimes called adoption by estoppel. A finding of equitable adoption by the court places a child in the same position to inherit property as if he/she had been formally adopted or had been a natural child.

This status sometimes occurs when someone has taken a child into his home, either as a stepchild or otherwise, nurtured the child and treated him as if the child were his own. Historically, there have been three elements which needed to be proven before a child could en-

joy the position of being adopted by estoppel. Those elements are:

- The existence of an agreement by the adoptive parent(s) that they agreed to adopt. This agreement need not be in writing, but may be implied by the actions of the parties. This agreement may be proven by either direct evidence or circumstantial. Arguably, it is because there is no exact legal test for the existence of an agreement that the courts of appeal are not always consistent in their decisions. For example, a minority of the courts have required that both natural parents consent to the adoption, while a majority of the courts have held that an equitable adoption may occur even if the natural parent does not consent. Willingness &/or intent of the adoptive parent to enter into an agreement is typically the element of proof that is the most difficult for a person seeking

equitable adoption to establish.

- Performance by the child which provides consideration for the agreement by the adoptive parent. Reportedly, this is usually the easiest element to establish in support of equitable adoption. This can be shown by examples of love shown to the parent.

- Reliance - Although no longer considered a necessary element of proof, historically the child had to know of the agreement to adopt and then to act in reliance upon it.

The Texas Court of Appeals case of Spiers v. Maples, 970 S.W.2d 166 (Tex. App.--Fort Worth 1998) helps to clarify the required elements, and it, along with a line of other cases established that the third element of proof (reliance by the child), is no longer needed to establish adoption.

A "bare-bones" and brief synopsis of the facts in the Spiers case is as follows:

- Cross (the child) was given to Moody (the adoptive parent) at a very young age by Cross's natural mother.

- Moody reared Cross as her own child.

- Cross attended school and was enrolled as if Moody was her natural mother.

- Cross did not find out that Moody was not her mother until she was 21 years of age and ordered her birth certificate in anticipation of getting a marriage license.

- Moody and Cross celebrated all holidays and birthdays as a family.

- Cross had no memories of being anywhere other than with Moody as her mother until she married at age 21.

- Cross treated Moody as if she were her mother, taking care of her when she was ill and providing her with love and affection.

- Moody listed Cross on her tax returns as a dependent child.

- Moody died without a will.

- When Moody died, a claim was asserted by Moody's sister and brother that they were the only heirs of Ms. Moody's estate because Cross had never been formally adopted.

- The trial court held, and it was affirmed by the Court of Appeals, that not only had Cross been equitably adopted, but also that she was the sole heir of Moody.

Although the Spiers court held that equitable adoption existed, the holdings between courts have not been consistent. In some of these cases, being with alleged adoptive parents from an early age, referring to them as "mommy" and "daddy," attending school under the alleged adoptive parent's name was not conclusive. In many of these cases, the claim for equitable adoption failed. These cases are typically decided upon the smallest of differences in distinguishable fact.

A later Texas Court of Appeals case Dampier v. Williams, 493 S.W.3d 118, 121-122 (Tex. App.-Houston [1st Dist.] 2016, no pet.) swings the pendulum back from Spiers and insists that the age of the child might also be of some consequence. The Dampier case can be distinguished because the attempted equitable adoption was by an adult who did not meet the

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decendent until the claimant was 19 years old and the decendent was about 49 years old.

Based upon case law, it is clear that children reared by parents who are not their natural parents may have intended or unintended consequences on how that parent or alleged parent's estate passes upon the parent's death. The importance of this issue is enhanced greatly when the courts are dealing with blended families. The bottom line, as always, is if you wish to include or exclude a child from inheriting the property that you own at the time of your death, you need to hire an attorney to draft the will that clarifies your intent.

*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

## Why Now is the Perfect Time to Start an Online Business

*And how anyone can start right away.*

It's no secret to anyone now. We are headed into a recession. The effects of the coronavirus outbreak and the stay-at-home orders put in place have caused the economy to come to a grinding halt. Jobless claims are going through the roof and it seems that the idea of making extra money or growing wealth is out of the question.

But is it it, really? Did you know that during the Great Depression starting in the late 1920's there were more millionaires created than in any other time in American history? Yes, a recession means a dramatic shift in how business is done and a lack of financial security in many traditional markets. However, there is a financial truth you must understand, especially during a recession. It's simply this: money does not disappear. The flow of money just changes directions.

All you have to do is find where the flow of money is going and get in the current. Perhaps the best place to go is online. Right now, while people are stuck at home, online browsing, shopping, and video streaming are booming. People are spending more time on social media and consuming more online content than ever. If you have something to get their attention and you can provide value to them, they will gladly pay you for it. This is the basis for any online business.

Have you ever heard of Pat Flynn? He runs the website SmartPassiveIncome.com. He easily makes over \$2 million dollars a year from his online business. No, it's not any kind of scam or get-rich-quick gimmick. It's a real business offering real value. He started his online business in 2008 after being let go from his entry-level architecture job - the career he went to school for and worked hard to get into.. When the recession hit in 2008, he was one of the millions of casualties of the financial crash. But he pivoted and started to build something of value online. Today, he is one of the most respected online business experts in the world.

I'm not telling you that you will start making millions of dollars this

year if you start an online business. But I am telling you that if you're willing to do the work, continually learn and apply what you learn, and take the risk of actually starting an online business, you could easily replace your current income...eventually. The truth is that most people who start an online business give up very early in the process. If you have a solid idea and you put hard work into building it consistently for a year or more, then it will pay off. Most people quit after even just a month.

So, what could you start today? You may be thinking that you aren't savvy enough to start an online business, but that's simply not true. The barriers to entry are so few now, that all it takes is some persistence and trial and error. Here are some easy online business ideas you could start pursuing today that could pay off huge if you stick with them.

### Online Businesses You Could Start Today

#### 1. Your own Blog

If you missed the "Online with Dock Line" article in the March 2020 issue of Dock Line Magazine, it's worth finding and reading. In the article, we discussed how to start your own blog. It's one of the easiest ways to start an online business and all you have to do once it's set up is to start sharing your knowledge about a specific subject. Over time, you'll get more and more visitors to your blog and you'll be able to package your knowledge into a product like a book or online course. You can also place ads on your website for additional passive income. If you stick with and publish consistently for 2 years, it will make money if done right. If you want a step-by-step guide on starting your own blog, just go to our "How to Start a Blog" article at [docklinemagazine.com/how-to-start-a-blog](http://docklinemagazine.com/how-to-start-a-blog). You can have your own blog website up and running for less than \$100 easily and you could start publishing content today.





## 2. Affiliate Marketing

If you don't have your products to sell, you can easily sell other people's products and earn a commission on each sale. For instance, Amazon has an affiliate program that is free to join. All you have to do is share a link to a product on Amazon and if someone clicks the link and buys the product, you'll get a commission off the sale. There are many people making a lot of money every month just from Amazon affiliate links. There are many other companies that offer affiliate programs for their products. All you need is a simple website, like a blog, and a place to publish the affiliate links, like in helpful articles or resource pages.

## 3. Social Media Marketer

Do you spend a lot of time on social media? Do you know how to easily create attractive posts that other people love to engage with? Are you good at creating conversations online around social media posts? Do you know how to run simple ads on Facebook and other platforms? If you can do any of those, businesses will gladly pay you to do it for them. Most business owners don't have the time to spend creating social media posts or running ads on social media platforms. Many businesses will gladly pay \$500 - \$1,000 a month or more to have someone do it for them. You don't even need a website to market your services. Just create a Facebook page for your business and start running your own ads promoting your services. Create a few different options based on the amount of posts and ads you'll create and start reaching out to businesses offering to help them grow online.

If you'd like more info on how to start an online business, or if your business needs an online presence to keep growing even during a recession, just let me know! Send me an email at [brian@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:brian@docklinemagazine.com). com. ♦

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# Garden Thyme

By: Growers Outlet

Considering the recent events in our country, we hope this finds all our readers happy and healthy. We are glad that many of you have found some solace in working outside around your homes over the past couple of months.

We are excited to tell all our readers about our new ONLINE STORE. This is a project we have wanted to do for the last 2 years but we have always been so busy doing things the same old way that we never really found time to work on it.

Due to the COVID-19 virus and the rapid change in consumer shopping habits, we have put the project into hyperdrive. At the time of this writing, I have been working about 70 hours over the last 5 days frantically assembling pictures and content for our new ONLINE STORE.

When complete, our new online store will have pictures, details, and quantities on hand for most, if not all, of our inventory. Our customers will be able to look at our inventory at their leisure and place either an in-store pickup or curbside pickup order. You will have the ability to pay in advance, so for a curbside pickup, all we will need is notification of your arrival and your order will be loaded and you can be on your way, without having to make close contact with any of our employees or other customers.

Hopefully by the time you see this article we will be settling into some type of "normal" and we will have most of the bugs worked out.

To check out our new store, go to our website [www.GrowersOutletinWillis.com](http://www.GrowersOutletinWillis.com) and click on the online store button.

This month our column will address the most noticeable thing outside the home, your lawn. In Texas, like in most places, we have a love affair with nice lawns. Regular watering and fertilization must be maintained for your grass to look and be healthy. Periodic applications of fungicides and insecticides might also be required in extreme cases. A beautiful lawn does not come without an investment of your time and money.

## WATER

It has been determined by the experts that as much as 40%-60% of all the water used in Texas during the summertime is for outdoor water use. Of that percentage, the majority is for irrigation. During low rainfall rates, the replenishment rate of our aquifers is much lower which taxes this limited resource. Most people think that if they have an irrigation system then they must use it. They also think that the irrigation system has a brain and that it knows the proper amount of water to put on your lawn. The irrigation system does exactly what it was programmed to do.

For the past several years we have had extremely wet spring weather and normal summer weather conditions. It is anybody's guess as to what this summer will bring us after another wet winter and spring.

After dry hot summers our lawn and plants depend on dormant season moisture to help rebuild damaged roots. This last winter and this spring, have once again given us more normal to above normal amounts of rainfall. This is a two-edged sword. Some plants will use the winter to rebuild damaged roots while others may have suffered root damage from too much water and lack of oxygen.

Soon it will be time to start supplemental watering of your lawn and plants. I hope you have not started watering yet! Keep an eye out for signs of stress. Too much water, too soon, will cause shallow unhealthy roots and weaken your grass and landscape plants.

If you want to do it right, here is a link to the Texas A&M website explaining in detail the proper procedure for lawn watering in Texas: <http://texaswater.tamu.edu/conference/feb05/havlak.pdf>

## FERTILIZATION AND PESTICIDE USE

Fertilization of our lawns is a springtime ritual that most men look forward to, just like the start of baseball season. The pride of having the

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greenest weed free lawn on the block ranks right up there with catching a record fish or putting a trophy mount on the wall. The consensus in the past was to dump plenty of chemicals on our lawn to make it green and kill whatever attacks it. This exercise causes undo stress on our lawns, trees and shrubs.

Pesticides are substances or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pests, including weeds and diseases. In our area, we see all of these. Too often, we nuke them with the strongest pesticides possible. Many of us have used fertilizers with weed killers included in them, also called weed n' feed fertilizers. These products work great for killing most weeds in the lawns but at a cost to the health of our trees and shrubs and our water supplies. There are other alternatives that are much safer.

The biggest problem we see starting in the late spring or summer is diseases in our grass. Most common diseases are caused by improper watering, drainage and or too much fertilization and can be corrected without dumping more chemicals.

Bugs are a big problem and the rule of thumb for control has been to attack with the most lethal chemicals possible. Most chemicals used for insect control are relatively safe when used properly, however misuse can cause resistance by the bugs and pollution to the environment. MORE IS NOT BETTER!! Pesticides have been tested for their optimal effectiveness, so PLEASE FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.

A Garden To Do List for the month of May in our area will include the following:

\*Put down a pre-emergent weed killer to prevent weeds like crabgrass from sprouting in the summer.

\*Now is the time to think about setting out hot season annual bedding plants like vinca, caladiums, moss rose, coleus, pentas, and purslane.

\*If you haven't put any mulch down, now would be a great time. It will help you reduce watering and control weeds.

\*Continue to feed your roses.

\*Be on the lookout for powdery mildew on your crape myrtles and roses. This is easy to remedy.

\*If you haven't put down your lawn fertilizer in April, now would be a great time to get it done. Use a fertilizer like Nitro Phos Super Turf slow release fertilizer. If you want to use an organic then consider using the Microlife 6-2-4 or the Nitro Phos Sweet green.

\*During periods of cloudy damp weather be sure and spray your shrubs, especially roses, to prevent fungal diseases like black spot.

\*This is a great month to spray for Virginia Buttonweed.

\*Use a systemic insecticide on your crape myrtles to prevent aphids and help get rid of Asian Bark Scale.

For great gardening products and information, come by the Growers Outlet and visit with any member of our team to get the help you need or go to our website at [WWW.growersoutletinwil-lis.com](http://WWW.growersoutletinwil-lis.com). We have the products and knowledge to help you have the prettiest yard on the block. ♦



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Article and photos  
by Bronwyn Clear,  
Certified Texas  
Master Naturalist



*Two mating Gulf  
Fritillary Butterflies.  
Cover your eyes!*

## A Springtime Walk

Can you walk outside and see all the life thriving and prospering? Flowers blooming, birds singing, bees humming! Life and nature are oblivious to our scary world right now. If you can't go outside, please take a stroll through some pages of beautiful reaffirming springtime photos.

Everyone, please be safe and stay well.

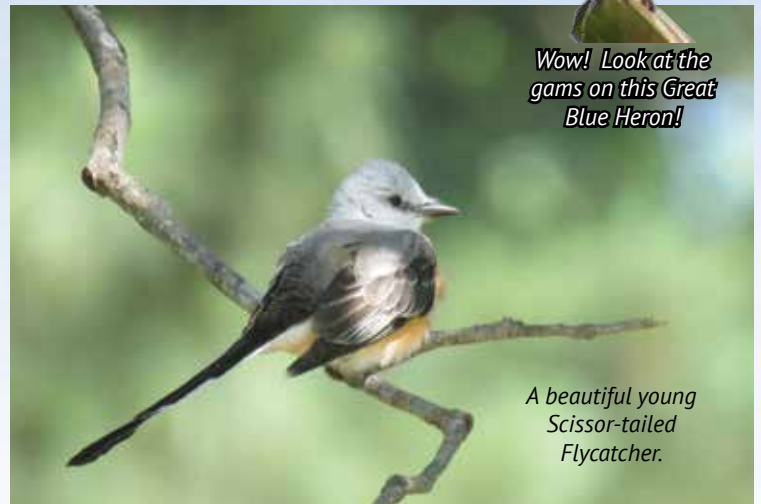
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*Wow! Look at the  
gams on this Great  
Blue Heron!*



*Can you spot the female Ruby-throated Hummingbird?*



*A beautiful young  
Scissor-tailed  
Flycatcher.*



*Worms make a favorite  
spaghetti pasta for juvenile  
Yellow-crowned Night-  
Herons.*



*Momma Bluebird has a  
batch to hatch!*





*An itchy cormorant just has to scratch!*



*This male Anole lizard's red throat fan means he is looking for love!*



*Momma Red-shouldered Hawk says, "Did you get enough to eat, baby?"*



*In springtime the honeybees are swarming, and soon will be making honey.*



*Bright green insects are an easy catch for a Mockingbird.*



*Momma on the left, Papa on the right, and their new brood of baby Barn Swallows deep down in the middle.*



# Hurricane Season Approaches...

## *Are your pets ready?*

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

The month of May brings many things to Southeast Texas! One that is foremost on our minds is the approaching hurricane season. Are you prepared? Are your pets prepared?

May 9, 2020 is National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day. Disasters happen everywhere and some are with no warning. Now is the time to put your plan together.

What is National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day?

After Hurricane Katrina when thousands of pets were abandoned and displaced, FEMA established National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day.

In the Houston area we were impacted deeply by Hurricane Harvey. Many of the lost and abandoned pets were brought to our area for care in pop up shelters. Many rescue organizations were involved in this operation. ASVT volunteers spent many hours each day helping with the animals.

### **Speaking of Surviving Hurricanes!!!!...**

Here is a Mother & Daughter who survived Hurricane Harvey in 2017 living in the woods



on their own.

*My name is Maddy and I was approximately 2 years old in 2017, homeless since birth and I had given birth to another litter of puppies, one of which is named Kiki. Kiki ended up being homeless with me for the past 3 years. We survived by living in the woods and eating scraps of food and fending for ourselves. Each of us delivering loads of puppies every year in the wild or under sheds. Sometimes ASVT had to crawl thru and under piles of junk to rescue our puppies. ASVT saved*



*our litters of puppies but we out smarted them and would not allow ourselves to be caught for we did not trust humans. ASVT was persistent and this past year they trapped me with some yummy*



*food and a soft bed. I was scared but I felt safe with them.*

*Once in an ASVT foster home I immediately delivered 10 healthy pups! I worried about Kiki. My sweet Kiki was more afraid of humans than I was and I was always there to protect her. Unbeknownst to me ASVT trapped Kiki who was also*

*ready to pop with pups. She was placed in a separate foster home and gave birth to 10 puppies. Sadly 8 of her puppies did not survive and 2 survivors were bottle fed by ASVT fosters.*

*One beautiful day I heard some commotion and my foster mom and dad, the Hogan's, brought my sweet Kiki to me! She helped me take care of my babies and although we were still scared and felt out of place inside a home we were happy because we were together.*

*It didn't take long for our beautiful pups to all find homes. Then came our next big move, we were crated and took a car ride to Bed Bath & Biscuit, a training and boarding facility! ....fancy pancy! We were very nervous but our kennels were side by side and a nice Dog Trainer named Joe Duprey sat with us every day and continues to teach us to be social! He makes us feel safe.*



*Joe is a Canine good Citizen certified trainer as well as a certified evaluator with the AKC. Thank you Joe and Bed Bath & Biscuit & ASVT for sending us to them. Joe makes us feel safe.*

*I was the first to*





accomplish being on a lead and LOVED when I was petted. I loved it so much that when the petting stopped I lifted my paw and asked for more. Then I was petted some more. Guess I was training them the same time I was being trained. Sweet Kiki is improving and today she took a walk with Joe all on her own! I am so proud of her.

What we need now is a loving home or foster family who will take us in together and take baby steps at making us totally social. I know we can do it! Joe and ASVT will help get us settled in and teach you all what we have been thru and how to help us even more.

Social distancing is right up our alley at this stage of life but we hope to be huggers very soon.

We are proud to be ASVT rescues. Please help us. I know this is a rough time for everyone but if you can help ASVT with donations of any amount or if you would like to foster a pet, it would help them help more of us in need.

Please contact ASVT if you would like us as part of your family at [www.ASVTexas.org](http://www.ASVTexas.org).



#### Are You Prepared?

Regardless if your pet is a puppy/kitten, adult or senior they depend on you to keep them safe.

Before a disaster strikes, it is necessary to be as prepared as possible.

Natural disasters are increasing in frequency and magnitude. Tornadoes are striking in new areas, hurricanes are making landfall at Category 3 or 4.

Please take time to think about how you would evacuate your home with your pets, both small and large. Do you have a plan in place?



It is an unknown factor to know when or where the next disaster will hit, so being prepared is the best way to ensure your family and pets will be safe.

Emergencies come in many forms, and they may require anything from a brief ab-

Continued on page 60 ➡

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sence from your home to permanent evacuation. Different disasters require different needs to keep your pets safe, so the best thing you can do is to be prepared.

#### How To Keep Your Pets Safe!

It is recommended to microchip your pet as a permanent form of identification.

What is a microchip? A microchip is a radio-frequency identification transponder that carries a unique identification number, and is roughly the size of a grain of rice. When the microchip is scanned by a vet or shelter, it transmits the ID number. A microchip is implanted



under the skin in the animal's shoulder area, and can be read by a scanner at most veterinary clinics and animal shelters. It's not anymore invasive than a vaccination.

The microchip won't do any good unless you register it with a national pet recovery database. When you register your pet's microchip, enter all contact information. Include both landline and cell phone numbers for you and anyone else in your household who is responsible for your pets. In the event your contact information changes make sure to update with the registry also.

#### A few tips to get your pets prepared...

- Carry a photo of your pet or pets in

the event you get separated.

- Ensure your pet's ID tag or microchip has your current contact information.
- Display a pet rescue decal or sign on a window to alert first responders there are pets in the home.
- Be aware of your pets hiding places so you can find them faster during a disaster.

ASVT will be working through the season to continue rescuing and saving abandoned and homeless animals. We are putting our plan to keep all our foster animals safe and hope you are doing the same.

#### What Else Does The Month Of May Bring?

In the rescue world the month of May also brings puppy and kitten season. So our fosters



as well have to be prepared. Spring is raining puppies and ASVT is taking them, getting them vetted and adopted. I see the future with more puppies on transport as they get older. This gives them a second chance for a wonderful life.

These are just a few of the puppies and kittens that have announced the arrival of



Spring and some of our adult rescue dogs and cats available for adoption.

#### 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.

ASVT also sponsors a Spay/Neuter Program for community animals whose owners cannot afford to have their pets altered. This helps decrease the rise of community puppies and kittens that will end up in the shelters.

The accomplishments of ASVT would not be possible without partners like Wiesner Automotive, Empire Electric, Ransoms Steakhouse, Animal Hospital of Montgomery, Dock Line Magazine and so many more. ♦

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## National Forests and Grasslands in Texas temporarily shuts down overnight camping in Wildlife Management Areas

In alignment with current federal, state and local guidance for social distancing and to ensure health safety of its employees, visitors and volunteers, National Forests and Grasslands in Texas will temporarily shut down overnight camping in Wildlife Management Areas effective April 11.

Wildlife Management Areas impacted by this announcement include:

- Caddo National Grasslands WMA (Caddo National Grasslands)
- Alabama Creek WMA (Davy Crockett National Forest)
- Bannister WMA (Angelina National Forest)
- Moore Plantation WMA (Sabine National Forest)
- Sam Houston National Forest WMA (Sam Houston National Forest)

Other recreation opportunities, such as hunting/fishing/hiking on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas remain available to the public.

To protect public health and safety all visitors to the forest are encouraged to:

- Avoid visiting the forest if you are sick and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene and social distancing before and during your visit to the forest.
- Take your trash with you when you leave. Trash overflowing the receptacles becomes litter and can be harmful to wildlife and attract predators.
- Please make arrangements to use the restroom before or after your visit to the forest. Unmanaged waste creates a health hazard for our employees and for other visitors.
- If an area is crowded, please search for a less occupied location. Also consider avoiding the forest during high-use periods.

The USDA Forest Service continues to assess and temporarily suspend access to recreation areas that attract large crowds and cannot meet social distancing guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Visitors to national forests are urged to take the precautions recommended by the CDC. For tips from the CDC on preventing illnesses like the coronavirus, go to: [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)

Information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is available at: [www.usda.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usda.gov/coronavirus).

For up-to-date information on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas visit [www.fs.usda.gov/texas](http://www.fs.usda.gov/texas). ♦

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# FAWNS: SOCIAL DISTANCING IS THEIR THING!

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

In light of the current Covid-19 precautions, many people are spending more time in and around their yards and gardens, as well as talking walks outside for some fresh air. Our wildlife center has been busier than ever since so many people are now happening upon wildlife. Some are truly injured or orphaned and do need help, but many of the animals being found are simply babies that are “doing their thing”. Just because a baby or young animal is observed “on its own” does not necessarily mean that it is abandoned or needs assistance. Sometimes they are simply learning and exploring a little on their own. Sometimes their wild mother is close by. Understanding what is normal and natural is vitally important to assure that wildlife babies are not needlessly “rescued” and taken away from their parent(s).

Every year, from late April through July, we get many calls regarding fawns that people discover, seemingly with no mother nearby, and callers are concerned that the fawns may have been abandoned. Unfortunately, many of these fawns wind up being “kidnapped” when rescuers unknowingly pick them up and take them home, meaning well but actually interfering with what is natural behavior for white-tailed deer. Very young fawns have no scent, and when they are under two weeks old they are too small and weak to run from predators, so the mother deer (doe) will leave her fawn in a safe, quiet spot to keep them safe from predators. In the case of twin or triplet fawns, the doe often beds them all down in separate locations and will move from one to the other checking on them. The doe comes back every few hours to check on her fawn and nurse it. Natural behavior for the fawn is to lie curled up on the ground, most often with their head down, and to be very still. A person can walk right up to a fawn and it will not run. This is normal behavior. Fawns and does have been practicing social distancing before it became “cool” for the humans to do so! As the fawn gets a little older, the doe may stay away for hours at a time, sometimes for up to eight hours, returning to her fawn(s) only after dark. Once a doe finds a spot she feels is safe, she may leave her fawn there for days at a time. The fawn may be found in the same general location, but it still appears healthy and exhibits no signs that it needs to be helped (such as pacing, crying, or appearing to be dehydrated). Fawns that are found resting and appear healthy should be left alone. Mom is nearby and will return every few hours to check on her baby and nurse them. Please do not intervene.

Fawns are sometimes found in locations that are not the safest; unfortunately the doe beds her baby or babies down very early in the morning, just before dawn, so a spot that was quiet and safe at that time of day may become less safe as the world wakes up. Fawns may even be found either on a roadway or on the side of a roadway. If a fawn in this situation appears otherwise healthy, and is lying curled up, the fawn should be gently picked up and moved to a safe distance off the road and then left for the mother. Sometimes people call us about fawns inside of their fenced yards. The doe has most likely placed her baby there intentionally (she may even have given birth there). The doe can easily jump the fence to get in and out, but she knows her fawn will be contained there. If your yard is safe from dogs, etc., just be patient and enjoy watching mom and her baby. If you have dogs and cannot keep them away from the fawn

for a few days, the fawn can be moved to the other side of the fence for mom to reunite with. It is a myth that the mother will abandon her baby if a human has touched it, so it is ok to move a fawn if it is in a dangerous location. Fawns are hard wired to follow anything bigger than they are when they are very young; for this reason, if you do have to move a fawn, it may attempt to follow you. Be persistent; put the fawn back and get away as quickly as you can, even if you need to make several attempts. If needed, lay the fawn down facing away from you, pat it several times between the shoulder blades (mom’s way of saying “stay put”), and then walk

quickly away from the hind end of the fawn.



A fawn DOES need help if: it is found standing by a dead mother; it is obviously ill or injured; is lying on its side with legs straight out and/or thrashing; it is crying; it is wet and/or cold (especially if the inside of the mouth is cold); it is covered with ants; it has a lot of flies around it or has fly eggs or maggots visible; it is in imminent danger of attack by dogs or other predator animals (not just “there are dogs in the area”; mom will protect her baby from dogs if they get too close); it is well after dark and the mother has still not returned and fawn has not moved from where you found it. If any of these are observed, wrap the

fawn in a blanket and place it in a box or large carrier. The most important thing is to get the fawn warm and dry (if it is wet). Towels warmed in the dryer work well, as do hot water bottles, Ziploc bags filled with warm water, and/or a heating pad set on low. Please do not feed the fawn any type of milk or formula. Fawns that are cold and/or dehydrated cannot digest anything, so feeding can cause it to go into shock or actually kill it. Please call a wildlife rehabilitator or wildlife center ASAP. Until a rehabilitator can be reached, the fawn can be given warmed children’s Pedialyte or another type of rehydrating drink in a regular baby bottle. Keep the fawn warm, quiet, and away from domestic pets. Most often simply understanding what normal behavior is for wildlife babies is the best way to keep them safe and with their natural parent or parents.

Until restrictions are lifted on the current stay-at-home and social distancing guidelines, our center remains open for only limited hours each day. An appointment is necessary prior to bringing any animals to our facility, and paperwork will be filled out over the phone to facilitate a quick intake process. We do monitor emails after hours, so if you find an animal or need assistance, you can email [ftwl.help@gmail.com](mailto:ftwl.help@gmail.com). Our education center will remain closed until things can return to normal, or at least a “new normal”. We remain committed to helping wildlife, but these restrictions have of course affected our finances and ability to fundraise. We realize many people are having a difficult time right now, but if you are able, please consider supporting us and our efforts through Kroger Community Rewards or AmazonSmile. We receive quarterly donations from both of those organizations. You shop, we benefit!

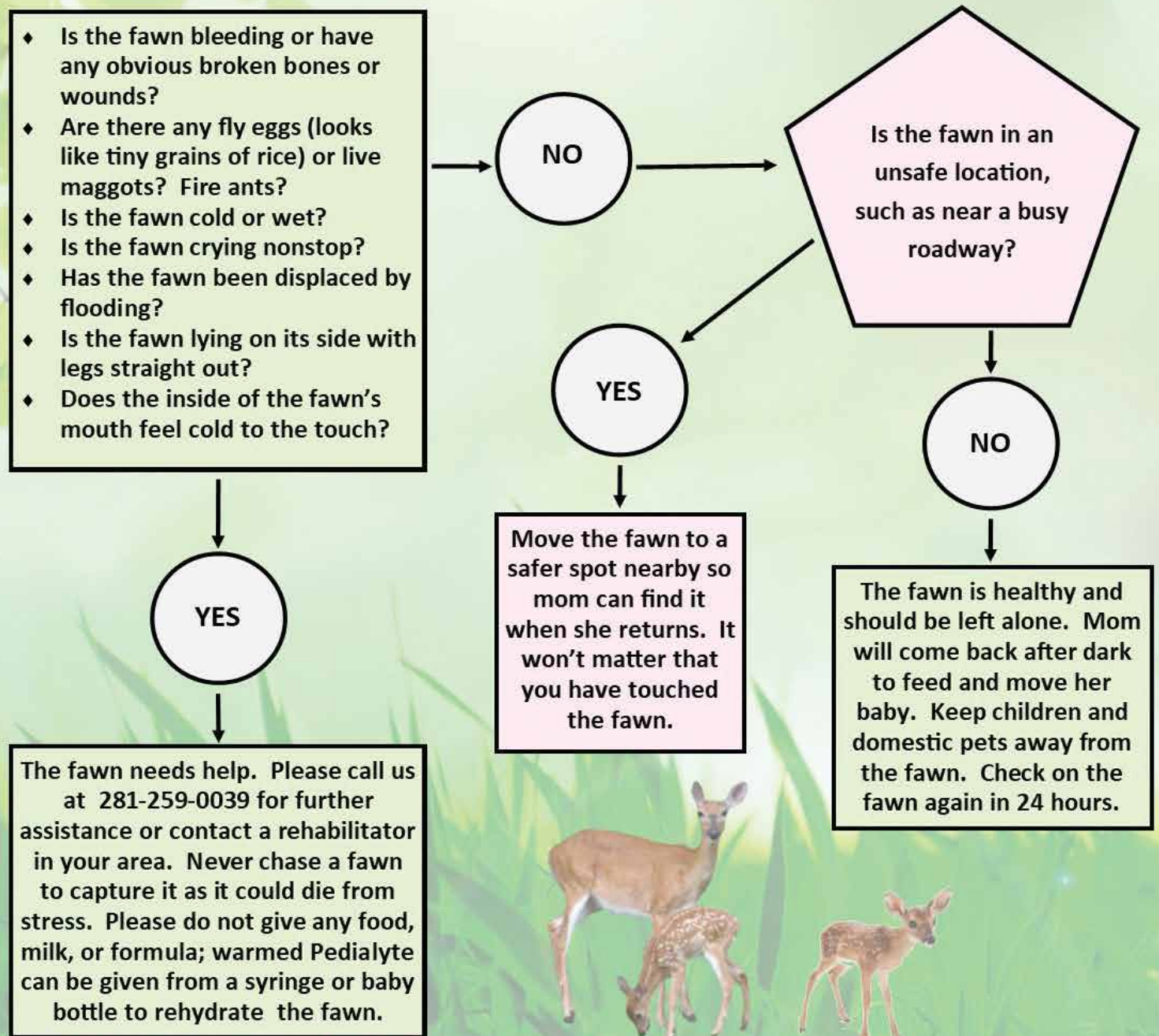
To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife). Details can be found at [www.ftlw.org](http://www.ftlw.org), and then click on “How to Help”. We also have a great deal of helpful information on our website about other species of animals and how to assess if they need help or not. Stay healthy everyone! ♦





# I Found a Baby Deer

In our part of Texas, baby deer (fawns) are typically born May-July. First-time moms (does) typically have one fawn, and thereafter twins or triplets are common. Until they are about two weeks old and strong enough to keep up, fawns are left alone while their mothers go off to feed. The doe will usually bed each fawn down in a separate location and return to nurse and move them at dusk and dawn. Does generally bed their fawns down in tall grass or bushes, but she will leave them any place she deems safe (including people's yards). Every year, many fawns are needlessly kidnapped by well-meaning people who find them and assume they are abandoned. Please never move or pick up a fawn unless it is in IMMEDIATE danger. If you do find a fawn, refer to this chart for guidance. Baby's best chance is with its natural mother.







## Spring Break – Fishing for Crappie

When we got out of school for Spring Break we were hearing a lot more about the Corona Virus. It really didn't seem real. My parents thought it was not a good idea to go anywhere at this time with big crowds for Spring Break. That was ok with me because I am happy with just a few of my close friends going either fishing or surfing.

I went to the beach and went surfing one day and caught a few waves at surfside and went fishing with my brother, Grant one day on Lake Conroe. Trey and I also went fishing for crappie.

I even went down to the neighborhood pond by myself like I used to when I was a younger. That was one of my favorite places. In fact, it was one of the best times of my life. Things have changed and the people that owned Shiner moved away. Shiner was the dog that would always greet me. He walked with a limp but always by my side. While I fished, I would pet Shiner in between the casts. He would inspect my catches and acknowledge I



was doing a great job just by looking up at me. We were pals. He loved seeing me and I loved him being by my side. I caught fish there every week. They were nice size. One of my favorite memories is when I caught a beast. It was in January of 2017 and I landed a 9.6 pound bass. I released it back and my friends have gone there trying to catch that giant bass. It was a smart fish because I have never heard of anyone catching a bass that big in that pond since that day.

They extended our Spring Break for 2 days to figure out the plan with the Corona virus.

Taylor and I also went crappie fishing but we only caught a few so we threw them back. Trey, his dad and I also went crappie fishing. We had so much fun. We caught over 60 fish, but we threw them all back. That was way too many to clean.

I also got to fish with my friend Cade. He is attending Texas State and when he comes home we usually go fishing together. Lifelong friends are the best. He used to go with me to catch the giant catfish that were too big to fit in my small john boat. It was amazing. This time we went crappie fishing. We used the famous crappie jigs that Mr. Goforth hand tied. You are always guaranteed to catch crappie on those awesome jigs. They work great. We brought





home five crappie. We cleaned and fileted them. Thank you, Mr. Goforth for those special crappie jigs.

Everything changed very fast. Social distancing was put into effect. All sporting events were cancelled, which included our college fishing tournaments for the year. We were really looking forward to that. We now do all our college classes online. We have all had to adjust to doing that. We really miss our friends in class and our teachers. I am working ahead to stay on top of all my work. My brother, Grant is working super hard studying a lot. He is graduating from Texas A&M in May. I hope he gets to have a graduation ceremony, we are waiting to see.

Near the end of March, I moved everything out of my dorm. The college had officially closed for the year so we will not be going back. Stay Safe, Wash Your Hands and Social Distance! ♦



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## Lake Conroe FISHING REPORT



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

**Black Bass:** Now that the spawn is over bass can be caught in the shallows feeding on shad for the first couple of hours or so. Once the shallow bite slows down the best pattern is to fish submerged roadbeds, pond dams and points in 8'-12' depths. Plastic worm rigs, Texas and Carolina rigs are both good choices to use. The edges of boat docks are another good bass fishing area.

**Crappie:** Crappie action has been good at this time and should continue until the first part of summer. Minnows and small crappie jigs fished around bridge pilings and brush piles in 12'-20' depths is your best pattern at this time.

**White Bass & Hybrid Striped Bass:** This is a great time of year to troll small pet spoons behind deep diving Crankbaits to catch and locate these fish. They can be found and caught on the main lake humps and points in 15'-25' depths. If these fish are located along the bottom, I will bounce slab spoons to trigger a strike.

**Catfish:** Early morning hours until noon is when the action is best. Baiting up areas near creek and river channels or under the 1097 Bridge should bring in some good action. Dip baits and chicken livers are both good bait choices.

~~~~~

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR DOCTOR

Amidst this global pandemic, our practice would like to send a message of gratitude, hope, and resilience. We are beyond grateful for the nurses, physicians, and administrative personnel who are working tirelessly on the front line, as well as those in medical research. We want to thank the policemen, firefighters, grocery workers, restaurant employees, postal and delivery workers, teachers, and the many more who make it possible for all of us to get through this time. I completed my pediatric dentistry training at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. They are in the epicenter of the US outbreak and are one of the hardest hit hospitals in New York. My colleagues and friends are committed and have worked very hard to treat every patient as the need grows exponentially. Our hearts go out to them and they need our support right now.

We are thankful for those in leadership who have stepped up and made hard decisions to guide us in the best way possible. Be a part of the good in your neighborhood and community, even if that's just staying home. Kindness and compassion can travel any distance. Life is short. The silver lining in all this is the time we have been given right now. Use this time to reach out to loved ones near and far, to keep connecting or to reconnect. Spend time with your kids, teach them, create experiences. For our family, we do not get to spend much time with our kids during the school year. Now with more time at home, our family got a new quarantine buddy, a puppy Weimaraner. Our hearts are full. We will all come back stronger with our hearts open and ready to serve. We miss our little patients dearly and cannot wait to see you all again! We wish everyone safety and hope everyone finds joy during this time.



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