

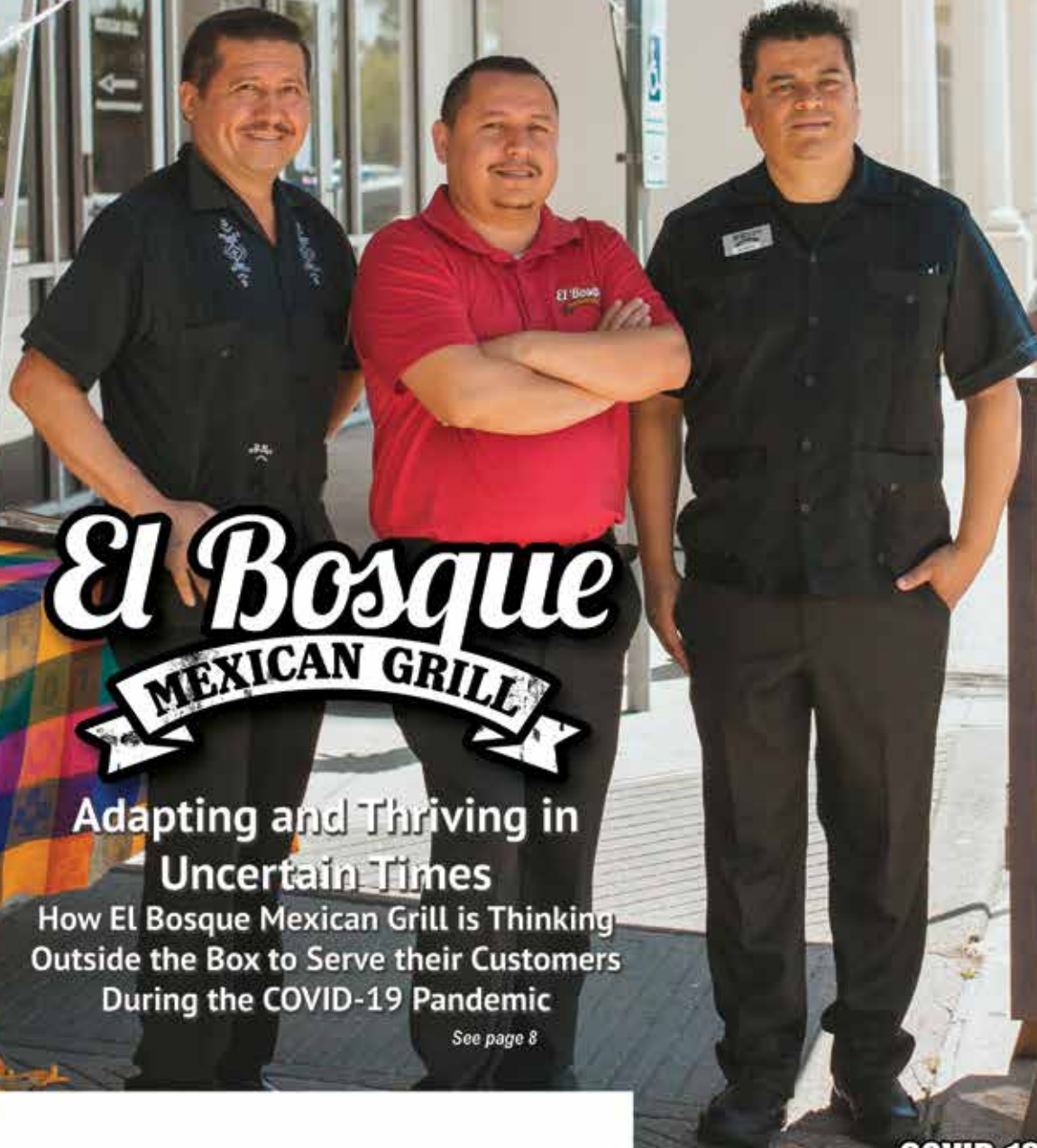
# DOCK LINE

Magnolia

MAGAZINE



May 2020



## El Bosque MEXICAN GRILL

**Adapting and Thriving in  
Uncertain Times**  
How El Bosque Mexican Grill is Thinking  
Outside the Box to Serve their Customers  
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

See page 8



**COVID-19 is Wreaking Havoc  
at Wastewater Treatment  
Facilities Due to an Increase  
of "Flushable" Products**  
See Page 16

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ditional 173 acres. More access points to the 173 acres are available.

**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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**DOCK LINE**  
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# DOCK LINE

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## MAGAZINE

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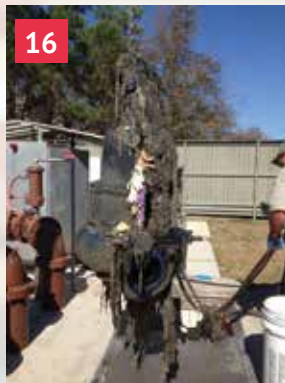
MAY 2020



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...

Bentley & Ellie 

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#### ON THE COVER



El Bosque Mexican Grill is adapting and thriving in uncertain times. To order online from for curbside pick up or delivery, just head over to their website at [elbosquemexicangrill.com](http://elbosquemexicangrill.com) or call to order in Montgomery at (936) 597-6997.

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Check our Dock Line Magazine page online for any upcoming events that might happen in May 2020

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Angela Glezman  
**PUBLISHER/EDITOR**

Bentley/Ellie  
**MANAGING EDITORS**

Kelly L. O'Quinn  
**ART DIRECTOR**

David Donahoo, Colton Rucker  
**SEO SPECIALISTS**

Stephanie Davis  
**SALES ASSOCIATES**

Brian Sherman  
Matthew Calhoun  
**WRITERS**

Jessie Smith  
**PHOTOGRAPHER**

### CONTRIBUTORS:

James M. Bright

Dr. Lindsey Thomas, DC

Chris Wootton, ChFC

Gary Squyres, DDS

Bronwyn Clear

Lisa Wolling

Tom Stark, MD

DOCK LINE MAGAZINE - MAGNOLIA

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P.O. Box 174

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Telephone: 936-828-4296

Fax: 936-307-1300

E-mail: [angela@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:angela@docklinemagazine.com)

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address to:

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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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# Adapting and Thriving in Uncertain Times



## *How El Bosque Mexican Grill is Thinking Outside the Box to Serve their Customers During the COVID-19 Pandemic*

BY: BRIAN SHERMAN

When sudden, massive change is thrust upon us as a society, we can take two different approaches. We can shrink back, stop everything, and wait to see what happens, or we can think outside the box, keep moving, and adapt to find the opportunity. Of all the industries that are having to make huge adjustments to the way business is done, restaurants exemplify those two actions the most. With food services being deemed essential, restaurants have a unique opportunity to thrive when other businesses might take a hit. Perhaps no restaurant is demonstrating this better in Montgomery

County than El Bosque Mexican Grill.

While they are pushing forward and finding new ways of serving their customers, El Bosque wasn't immune to the initial fears and looming unknowns that this pandemic brought on. "I think any restaurant was freaking out a little bit," says Melissa Rodriguez of El Bosque. "At first we thought, 'what can we do to still offer our products and services to the customers?' We had to restructure everything." And it wasn't just the business itself that faced uncertainty. The restaurant's staff had to deal with the changes as well. "We had employees that were





struggling with the idea of only working a few hours a week. And yet, we had others who said they were available for whatever we needed." Melissa adds, "We ended up working with a really small staff at each restaurant and got right to work with offering curbside pickup." Most importantly, Melissa and the leadership team at El Bosque were quick to take the advice and input of their staff into how they changed things. After all, they are the ones who are making everything work and fulfilling the service.

Melissa is leading the charge to get all of

*Continued on page 10*











the restaurant's four locations moved over to this new way of doing business. "We restructured our business to include many new features to serve our customers during this time." They have begun to utilize new ways of providing their popular Mexican cuisine to customers while strictly adhering to shelter-in-place orders. Even when everything goes back to "normal", El Bosque is preparing for ways to continue giving their customers the best possible experience. "People are going to fear eating out, especially in large groups of people. We're now offering online ordering at all our locations, which includes curbside pickup. We're also giving discounts for people who order through our online ordering portal."

Online ordering is not a new concept in the restaurant industry, but it's alarming how many restaurants don't have online capabilities in place. Being a local favorite, El Bosque was quick to adapt to allow their customers to order online. One of the most innovative ways they are doing this is through the development of their soon-to-be-released mobile app. "We're looking at developing an app so people can simply order through the app and get exclusive discounts and deals." Many large chain restaurants have mobile apps in place, but El Bosque is leading the way for local restaurants to reach their customers. This is also a way to future-proof their business in a way, as the shelter-in-place order will be lifted in measures. It will be a long time before things go back to normal.

Another way they are adapting is by expanding the menu options to cater to the needs of families. "We're also doing mini take-out menus that feed up to four people per item. These are perfect for families and events like Cinco de Mayo and birthdays. They can take these meals to go for large groups of people so they don't have to be at the restaurant to enjoy



them," says Melissa. These menus, which feature favorites like fajitas and tacos, are available on El Bosque's social media pages.

When dining in does become available again, El Bosque Mexican Grill is already preparing to take precautions to create a safe and welcoming environment for their guests. Melissa explains how they are thinking about the customer and their experience, "What can we do in house as far as dine-in customers? What can we do for those customers who don't want to dine in yet?" They are preparing to set up their restaurant to encourage social distancing and make everyone feel safe and comfortable.

One of the most inspiring ways that El Bosque Mexican Grill has adapted is by finding ways to serve the community. When this started happening, Melissa contacted Mayor Powell of Conroe to offer their services to help in any way. They began to serve meals for police departments and public works offices. Our first responders and government employees are working hard to get through this, and they face a lot of pressure and criticism to make the right choices. Providing food is just one way to show support, and it's what El Bosque Mexican Grill does best.

*Continued on page 12* ➞





The lesson in all of this is simple, and it doesn't just apply to restaurants: There is an opportunity hidden in every problem. Instead of closing up shop and waiting it out, hoping your business survives, find a way to adapt. Think outside of the box and move forward, trying out new things and new ways of doing business. If your business doesn't utilize its website or on-line presence, find a way to "open up shop" online. Your customers haven't left, they're just spending their time online right now. Follow El Bosque's lead and reach your customers where they are. We would like to give a special thank you to our vendor, US Foods, for being a great support during this difficult time to all our locations.

To order online from El Bosque Mexican Grill, just head over to their website at [elbosquemexicangrill.com](http://elbosquemexicangrill.com) or call to order in Montgomery at (936) 597-6997. ♦





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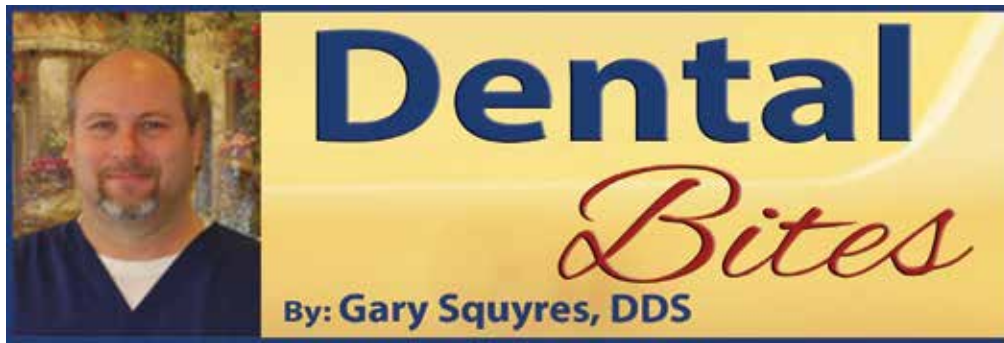
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## Keeping You Safe at the Dental Office

With Coronavirus being at the forefront of our thoughts and actions these days most people have become aware of all the measures that the CDC (Center for Disease Control) are recommending to be taken by individuals when in public. These actions, and many more, are routine hygiene safety practices at your local dental office. You have probably noticed on previous trips to the dental office all the plastic placed on chairs, light handles, trays, etc. What you don't see are the actions taken after you leave the office. There are guidelines called "universal precautions" that medical professionals follow for infection control in the office. In other words,



universal precautions are the techniques that dentists use to reduce the risk of transmitting infectious diseases. OSHA first mandated the use of universal precautions as a form of infection control in the early 1990's. Before universal precautions, a doctor wearing gloves and mask was a signal that their patient had something dangerous. Now these protective measures are just routine.

Yes, handwashing is one of those protective measures. Patients will see dentists wash their hands when they enter the room to see them. Some of the other protections are the gloves, mask and glasses that are to be worn while performing procedures on a patient. While these items are some of the more notable steps taken, there are many more that take place prior to a patient's arrival and after they depart.

Some of the other items of note are the plastic sheets and bags placed around the room. These plastic sheets are called barriers. You will see barriers placed over the chair, overhead light, instrument tray and various other items. The purpose of barriers is to keep certain surfaces from becoming contaminated. In my practice we still treat those items as though they are contaminated and they will be cleaned.

Once the chair is vacated the entire room is wiped down with antimicrobial wipes cleaning counter tops, chairs, computer keyboard and mouse,



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overhead light, x-ray unit and instrument cart. Yes, not just the things that may have been touched but also surfaces that aerosols may have settled on. It should never be assumed that anything is clean; we always assume it is contaminated and clean it.

The items such as the drill, hand instruments, bite block, etc. are not just wiped down but are sterilized in an autoclave which uses superheated steam to kill bacteria, viruses and spores. The hand instruments are cleaned and placed in packages prior to being placed in the autoclave. Each package has a "marker" on them that will indicate that the autoclave reached its proper temperature to kill all the microbes.

Another step taken at most dental offices to help keep you safe is that municipal water from the building's water source is not used to operate our instruments. Any water that is used to operate an instrument is from a separate reservoir that is filled with distilled water throughout the day. This keeps you from being exposed to microfilm and microorganisms that develop in water pipes of a building.

Remember, the above mentioned is just some of the tasks performed and by no means a comprehensive list. Most dentists try their very best to keep their patients, employees and themselves safe by following the mandated OSHA and CDC guidelines. If you are nervous or unsure about the cleanliness of anything, don't hesitate to ask your dentist. You deserve a clean office and sterile instruments. ♦



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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!”

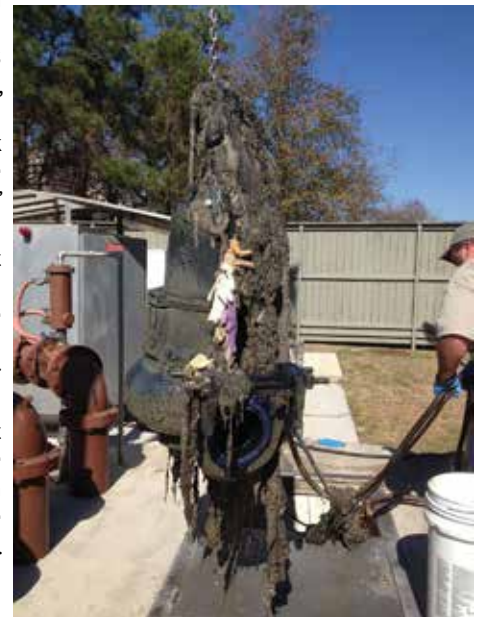
Patty speaks for the pipes. She is a 1950's housewife...somewhat prissy, often bossy, and completely in charge of her home and family. She is a likeable messenger who, armed with her pink plunger, is on a mission to put an end to stuff being flushed down toilets that ends up costing everyone money.

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 remind





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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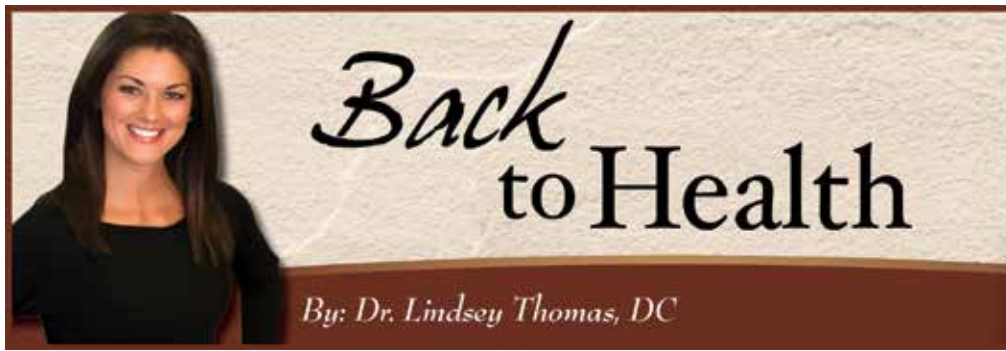
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## Is My Child Too Young to Visit the Chiropractor?

When I tell people that I specialize in pediatrics or they see me adjusting children and babies in my practice, their initial reaction is often one of surprise. I often get the question "Why do they need to be adjusted? They cannot possibly have anything wrong." Parents need to know that their child is never too young to be adjusted. The earliest challenge or stress a growing spine faces is the position it adopts in the womb.

Spinal nerve stress in newborns is more common than previously realized. This stress can be caused by physical, chemical and/or emotional stress. Many women will have heard of fetal positions that can cause problems with labor. What is less well known is that these fetal positions can also place physical stress on the baby's spine. If this position is less than optimal, it can result in a longer and more difficult trip through the birth canal, which can introduce great stress to the infant's skull, spinal column and pelvis. Interventions such as induction, forceps, suction, or caesarean section can actually

create additional traumas and compromises to the infant's future health and well-being.

It's important for all mothers to recognize that any stress, not just fetal positioning, encountered during her pregnancy will translate to her growing baby. While in the womb, baby's brains develop in direct response to the mom's experience of the world. If a mom is overwhelmed by anxiety or stress during her pregnancy, the "message" communicated to her baby through stress hormones is that they are in an unsafe environment, regardless of whether or not the information is true. The baby's brain will actually adapt to prepare for the arrival into this unsafe environment. Chronic stress in pregnancy tends to sculpt a brain that is quick to react, have reduced impulse control and a decreased capacity to remain calm and content. Chronic joy, on the other hand, allows for the optimal development of each organ, the brain in particular, predisposing the baby to greater health and serenity. Such traits constitute the

foundations of lifelong personality.

Chemical stress to the baby is brought on by poor nutrition from the mother. I once heard an expecting mom make the comment that her baby was craving chocolate so she needed to eat chocolate. I'm not saying that you can't indulge every once in awhile but just like we need to put good, nutrient rich foods into our bodies to be healthy, growing babies need the same. We now know there is a strong link between poor gestational nutrition and diabetes. Could it be possible that we create the sugar "addiction" that is seen in so many children even before they are born?

The cause of many newborn health complaints such as colic, reflux, breastfeeding difficulties, sleep disturbances, allergic reactions, and chronic infections can be traced to nervous system irritation caused by spinal and cranial misalignments.

Throughout childhood, experiences, like falling down and bumps to the head can also be a source of spinal and cranial trauma. Most of the time, the pain from the initial injury "goes away" however the damage suffered continues to affect the future function of the child's nervous system.

In addition, many developmental milestones such as learning to hold up the head, sitting upright, crawling, and walking are all activities that are affected by spinal alignment.

Unless a child has an obvious problem it can be difficult for a parent to recognize when a child's spine may be placing undue stress on the nervous system. There are some signs, which can be indicative of these problems. These include:

- disturbed sleeping patterns
- breastfeeding difficulties in the very young
- restricted head or neck movement to one side
- one shoulder higher than the other
- recurrent ear infections
- persistent sore throats and colds
- colic/reflux
- asthma
- scoliosis
- headaches
- bedwetting and/or constipation
- growing pains
- ADHD

Symptoms or not, parents should have their child's spine checked by a chiropractor.

The first thing a chiropractor will do is conduct a thorough history of your child's health and any complaints. This is followed by a complete physical examination of the child's spine.

Chiropractic care is 'tailored' to the individual and their particular spine, and children are no exception. At Sandstone Chiropractic, we offer specific, gentle adjustments appropriate to the infant's and child's spine.

Spinal adjustments for infants and young children involve very light fingertip pressure to correct spinal misalignments. This amount of force is often not more than a finger touch. This is usually sufficient to reduce stress and restore function to the areas of the spine causing interference to the nervous system. Other techniques involve the use of hand-held instruments, which offer specific and gentle correction.

As chiropractors, we don't ask ourselves how we are going to "fix" your kids because we don't think that they're broken. We ask ourselves what has gotten in the way of your child's natural ability to express his or her optimum health potential.

To make sure your child gets the best possible start in life, give them the gift of chiropractic!! ♦

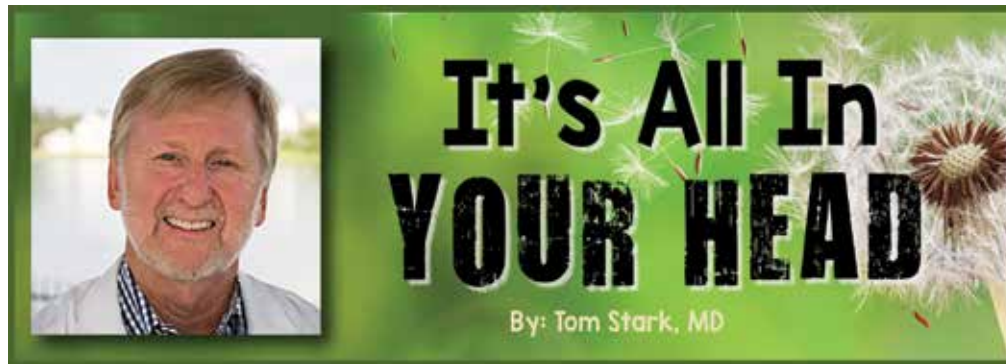
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## How Allergy Drops Work

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 22* ➞



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

*Continued on page 24* ➞



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 [greaterhoustonpediatricdentistry.com/](http://greaterhoustonpediatricdentistry.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. ♦

greater houston  
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY, PLLC



# 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. ♦

*Send Us Your Recipes!*

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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!

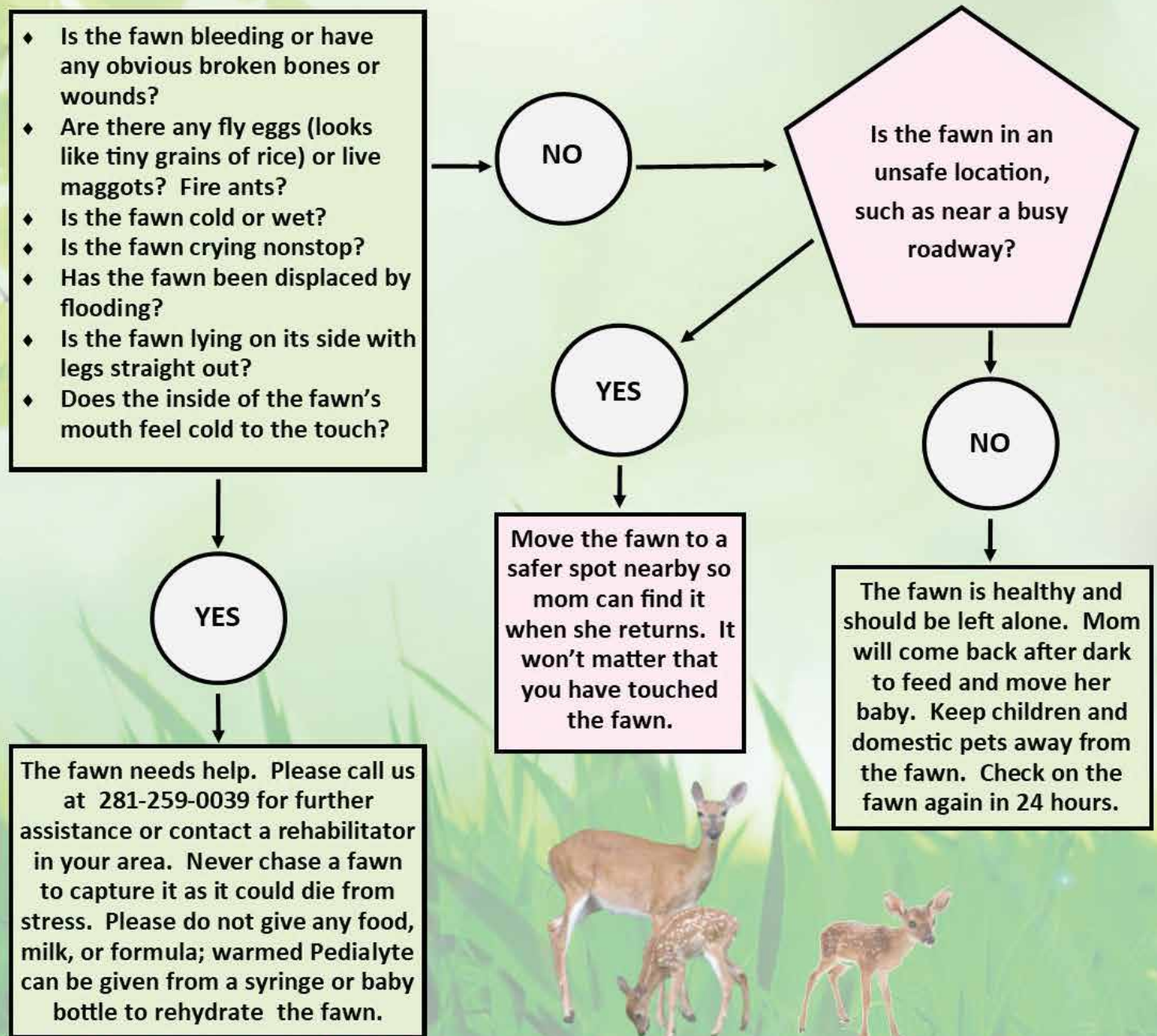
To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife). Details can be found at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org), and then click on “How to Help”. We also 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.



[www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org)—[www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife)



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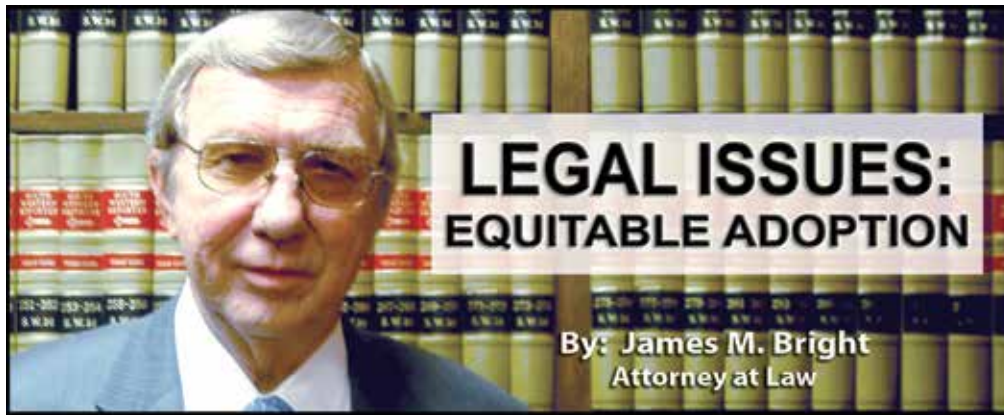
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*The following is provided for informational purposes only and is not, nor should it be construed as legal advice.*

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 decedent 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). ♦*

IF YOU WISH TO SUGGEST A TOPIC FOR THIS COLUMN, SEND TO:

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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.

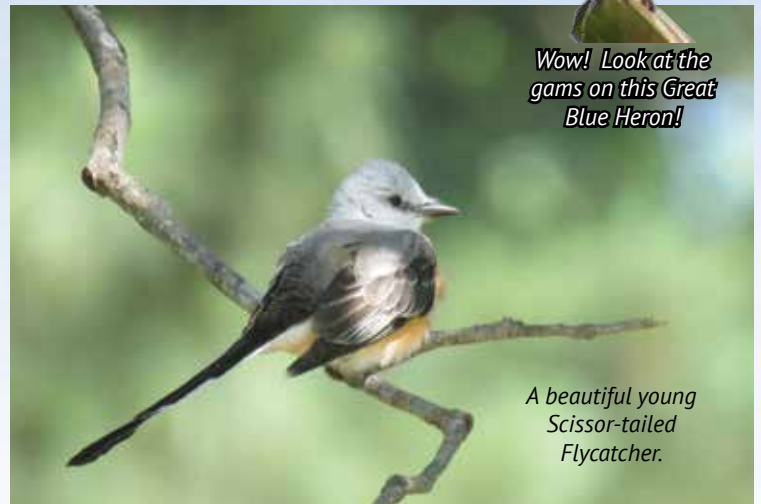
Learn more about the nature in your area by joining a chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist organization. To find a chapter close to you, or to read about the state program, go online to [www.txmn.org](http://www.txmn.org). Volunteer and get involved! ♦



*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-  
Hérons.*



*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.*





# 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 realm 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). ♦

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