**Bronte City Trapper Newsletter**

I would like to discuss the increased number of (non-domestic) animal calls for service. Due to the sever conditions we are experiencing; we have seen a large increase in calls from citizens reporting wild animals in the city. **The cause is the critters are seeking water and food sources**. Due to stock tanks, creeks and other natural water sources drying up, animals must seek out water to survive. This causes them to migrate to the city where the water they desperately need can be found. This cycle includes rodents (field mice and rats). As they seek water in the city, the animals that pry on them also follow. This includes snakes, skunks, raccoons, and birds.

We are privileged that we live in an area animals forage and live. The problem is this causes negative interactions at times with some of these critters. Folks don’t like the smell of a skunk in their neighborhoods or snakes on their porches and that is understandable.

Here are some tips:

* Remove waters sources from outside if possible.
* Don’t feed or leave food sources for these animals.
* Block open areas around fencing if possible.
* When walking around during the late afternoon and evenings, watch where you step, always wear shoes.

**The Good News**:

The wild animals that are being reported are mostly just trying to make a living and don’t want human contact. They will move along and continue their journey in most cases. If a skunk, raccoon etc., are seen during the daylight hours report that immediately and avoid contact.

If you need assistance with an animal issue, contact City Hall @325-473-3501 or after hours 325-812-1253.

Hopefully, we will receive some precipitation soon and that will help the critters stay outside the city limits.