

The Village Gazette



Volume 6, Issue 12
Village Creek Community Association

December 2009

DO NOT Put Out Food for Wildlife!

Submitted by LeAnn Karsten

Do not put out food for wild animals, except for birds and squirrels. Deliberate feeding of wildlife puts you, your pets, your neighbors, and even the wildlife at risk. Observing wildlife is a wonderful way to interact with nature; however, the experience can turn unpleasant or dangerous when well-meaning people feed wildlife. Intentional feeding can make wildlife unnaturally bold, and will lead to conflicts. It is necessary for wild animals to remain fearful of humans. Feeding of wildlife may seem like a positive way to interact, but what may start out as three cute, juvenile opossums can turn into twenty raccoons, ten opossums, and five feral cats. This creates an unnatural situation in which wildlife become less fearful of humans, become habituated to a free handout, can spread disease to each other as they eat in close contact, can attract other predatory wildlife to the feeding location, and can cause conflict with neighbors who do not appreciate the nightly wildlife buffet line going through their yards. Feeding wild animals does much more harm than good.

Feeding wildlife is not only highly discouraged, but is also illegal in some cities. Wildlife can become too comfortable and lose fear of humans if food is intentionally provided for them. Wildlife that lose their fear of humans can become dangerous to the feeder, as well as to the surrounding residents. This can result in conflict that ends with the wildlife being trapped and euthanized because of the perceived threat to the community once they lose their fear of humans or begin to feed in large numbers. In addition, feeding wildlife encourages them to reproduce in greater numbers than the habitat can support. For all these reasons, and for the public and wildlife's long-term safety, no one should intentionally feed wild animals. If you have been feeding and need to stop, it's best to gradually reduce the amount of feeding over a period of a month. In this way, wildlife that have become accustomed to an unlimited, easy food source can gradually disperse and locate naturally occurring food sources.

How can I discourage wild animals from coming into my yard?

Typically, it is easy to persuade them to leave. We recommend the use of deterrents and adjustments around the exterior of your home (all endorsed by the Humane Society of the United States) for making your yard and home less inviting to wildlife.

Try these tactics:

- Use noise and/or motion-activated deterrents to make a bobcat uncomfortable.
- Try an air horn or motion-activated sprinkler; bang pot lids together, or put a radio outside set to a news or talk channel.

(Continued on Page 3)

Cypress Cares

for Our Troops

As 2009 is now underway, Cypress Cares would like to announce the dates that we will be boxing up our care packages for the year. All boxing events will be held at the Cole's Crossing Community Center, located at 13050 Barker Cypress Road at Jarvis Road. Several of our packing days this year are specifically at times when Cy Fair ISD is not in session so that our students will have an opportunity to be involved as well. The dates are as follows:

December 28, 1:00

Christmas Break Service Project for Cy Fair Students

Cypress Cares has received more thank you notes from the troops who have received packages. Visit our website, www.cypress-cares.org to view the troop responses, as well as more current information about upcoming events, donation ideas and more.

Our troops need and deserve our support; get involved today!



The Village Gazette

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

CenterPoint-Gas Leak713-659-3552
 Constables Office 281-376-3472, www.cd4.hctx.net
 Klein Fire Dept.281-376-4449
 Poison Control Center800-764-7661
 Willowbrook Methodist281-477-1000

SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD 281-357-3100, www.tomballisd.net
 Willow Creek Elem (K-4).....281-357-3080
 Northpointe Int (5-6).....281-357-3020
 Willow Wood Jr (7-8)281-357-3030
 Tomball High (9-12).....281-357-3220
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 FBI.....713-693-5000
 Harris County Animal Control281-999-3191
 Houston Chronicle713-220-7211
 Greater Houston Pool713-771-7665
 Municipal District Services (24 hrs)281-290-6500
 Reliant-Street lights713-923-3213
 www.centerpointenergy.com/outage
 Sex Offenderswww.familywatchdog.us
 Time Warner Cable281-774-7222
 Waste Management713-686-6666
 Trash pickup Tues/Fri
 Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 plastics/aluminum cans)
 Yard Storkkpuente@garygreene.com

NEWSLETTER

Editor, Tisha Butlertisha@myvillagecreek.net
 (Deadline is the 10th of each month)
 Publisher - Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181
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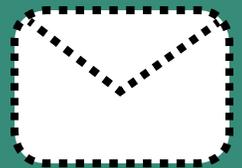
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 Jayland Keeneyjayland@myvillagecreek.net
 Pool Card Info poolcards@myvillagecreek.net
 Social Committee..... social@myvillagecreek.net

Community Happenings

Thank You

Village Creek would like to thank the social committee for all their hard work with the Fall Festival and upcoming Christmas Party. The community would also like to thank Plants For All Seasons for "lending" the neighborhood items for the Fall Festival pumpkin patch display and decorations. HOA board members added to the festivities by making and passing out popcorn. The festival was a big success and residents enjoyed themselves.

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IMPORTANT PREVIEW DATES FOR 2010-2011

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010 -

Kindergarten Open House (6-7 PM)
 K-12 Prospective Family Open House (7-8:30 PM)

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010 -

K-12 Parent Open House (9-11 AM)

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Wildlife - (Continued from Cover Page)

- Clear any excess vegetation to remove secluded hiding spots.
- Do not leave pet food or water outside when your pet is indoors.
- Pick fruit from trees as soon as it ripens and pick up all fallen fruit.
- If you feed the birds or squirrels, ensure there is no overflowing bird seed on the ground to attract rodents at night, or restrict feeding. Wild animals can be attracted to the squirrels and birds that come to our yards to feed.
- Use fencing to deter. Fencing must be at least six feet high with the bottom extending 6-12 inches below ground level. Add an angle at the top facing outward at 45 degrees, and 16 inches in width.
- Do not leave small pets outdoors unattended or in a poorly-enclosed yard.
- If you have chickens or fowl, ensure they are put up at night.

Here's how you can protect your pets from wild animals:

- Always walk your dog on a leash.
- Always keep pets vaccinated as some wildlife are susceptible to diseases transmissible to dogs and cats, i.e. feline panleukopenia (feline parvo), canine distemper, and rabies.
- Take steps to ensure you are not attracting predators to your

yard – clean up brushy areas or woodpiles, and remove any food sources.

- Do not allow cats to roam free outdoors. Some cities have laws against free-roaming cats. Cats prey on many wildlife species, i.e. songbirds, face many dangers outside, and can attract predatory wildlife to your yard, as well.
- Avoid bushy areas or paths near abandoned properties.
- If you notice a coyote or bobcat in your area, never let it go by without scaring it. Yell or clap loudly to scare wildlife away; carry something with you to make noise, i.e. an air horn, or something to throw, like a rock or baseball. In the long run it's much safer for us, our pets, and the wildlife as well – if they remain fearful of humans.
- Never encourage or allow your pet to interact or “play” with wildlife.
- Make sure your fence is in good repair.
- Do not leave pets unattended outdoors.
- Remove food sources, i.e. fallen fruit, food refuse, pet food.
- Small mammals such as opossums, raccoons, and skunks, are not a threat to domestic pets. In fact, it is usually the other way around, as such animals are often the victims of dog attacks.

(Continued on Page 4)



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Village Creek Market Report

ACTIVITY	Number	Median Price	Price/SF	Days on Mkt
Active Listings	24	\$257,425	\$80.90	74
Pending Listings	2	\$261,250	\$76.93	148
Sold since 6/01/09	18	\$230,000	\$73.79	24

*Source: Houston Association of Realtors Multiple List Service Oct. 10, 2009

SELLERS

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BUYERS

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Cypress Christian School

"The Power of a Simple Gift"



"Everyone loves to receive gifts. During the Christmas season, we celebrate the most special gift of all—God's Son, Jesus Christ." These are the words of Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. The students of Cypress Christian School chose to share the 'good news of great joy' (Luke 2:10) with children around the world through the Operation Christmas Child project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse.

This year, millions of children will experience Christmas joy when they receive gift-filled shoe boxes and hear the Gospel message through Christian literature and follow-up discipleship programs.

Over the course of several weeks, CCS students took time out of their busy classroom schedules to write letters, fill shoe boxes with gifts, and wrap them in preparation for shipping to needy children across the globe. "This has been a wonderful example to teach our children the gift of giving to those less fortunate," said Elementary Principal Donna Stumbaugh. "Several teachers commented on the great discussions about giving to others that their classes entertained as a result of participation in the project."

Wildlife - (Continued from Page 3)

In conclusion, urban sprawl in the area continues, and our presence provides wild animals with all they need in order to survive and thrive: an urban ecosystem with plenty of food, water, and shelter. We need to be responsible for our behavior. We're here to stay, and so is the wildlife! Conflicts will continue, but you can do a lot to reduce them.

Changing the behavior of wildlife requires changing our own behavior. Use deterrents, scare tactics, exclusion methods, and other negative conditioning to change the environment, and you'll force wild animals to change their behavior as well. By reducing factors that attract wild animals to your yard, you will soon train area wildlife to avoid humans - and that will be safer for all of us in the long run.



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The Village Gazette

Lone Star College - *CyFair Perspective*

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES ON STAGE

This holiday in the Main Stage Theatre are "A Taffeta Christmas" set Dec. 3 through Dec. 13 and the free String Orchestra concert "Collage" set Dec. 7. For tickets and information call 281-290-5201 or go to LoneStar.edu/boxoffice.

L.I.F.E. LESSONS IN DECEMBER

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs in December include: learning about the Texas Rangers Dec. 2, tips for permanent weight loss, Dec. 9 and creating a holiday wreath Dec. 16. Programs will resume Jan. 13, 2010. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to LoneStar.edu.

HOLIDAY HAPPENING WITH A.L.L.

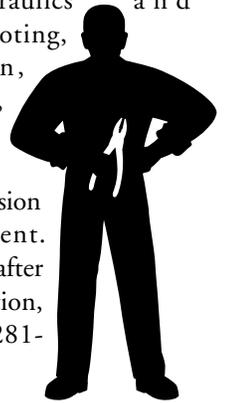
Celebrate the season with music, food and friends at the Dec. 10 Holiday Happening with LSC-CyFair's Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.) This event will be held at 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Heritage Lodge at Towne Lake. A.L.L. is designed for adults age 50 and better. For information, send an e-mail to LSCCFCE@lonestar.edu or call 281-290-3460.

REGISTER NOW FOR MINI-MESTER AND SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES

Catch up or get ahead this holiday season! Take a mini-mester course in December or register early for spring. Mini-mester classes begin Dec. 14. Spring semester classes begin Jan. 19, 2010. For information, call 281-290-3200 or 832-782-5000 or go online to LoneStar.edu.

BECOME AN INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Interested in fluid power, motor control, automation and more? Industrial technology is in demand across the Gulf Coast with a substantial growth projected. LSC-CyFair offers an associate's degree or certificate program with day and evening courses in hydraulics and pneumatics, troubleshooting, machine installation, mechanical seals, bearings, gear drives, industrial engines, couplings, pumps, compressors, precision tools and laser alignment. Earn up to \$25 an hour after graduation. For information, call 281-290-3281 or 281-290-5942.



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Recipe of the Month

Ham Roll-Ups

Ingredients

- Flour tortillas
- 8 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese (softened)
- 1 small can Hormel canned ham
- Picante sauce

Directions

Mix the cream cheese, ham, and picante sauce together. Spread on tortillas and roll up. Refrigerate several hours, then slice.



If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to articles@peelinc.com.

Doggy Doo Don't

Please remember to clean up after your pet while walking them. An easy way to do this is to bring along a plastic bag attached to your pet's leash. Thank you for helping us keep our neighborhood clean and the outdoor areas enjoyable for all residents.



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Real Estate Market Report

Village Creek Specialist

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FORBES MAGAZINE Oct 08

	ACTIVE	PENDING	SOLD Last 6 Mos
# of Listings	20	3	2
Price Range:	149,000 358,000	289,900 359,900	216,500 240,500
Average Price	\$253,082	\$324,933	\$228,500
Avg Price/sq.ft.	\$79.74	\$89.13	\$71.01
Avg DOM	98	63	25
High Price/sq.ft.			\$74.21
Low Price/sq.ft.			\$67.76



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*Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2008, 3/2009

The Village Gazette

Tips for Teaching Children about Table Manners

Submitted by Rebecca Beavers

Teaching your children table manners may sound old fashioned, but it never goes out of style. Having good manners shows your respect for other people, and it's more than saying "please" and "thank you." It's about helping your children develop habits and behaviors that will help them relate to adults and other children in a positive way. "To make your family mealtime time special and relaxing, slow down, sit and talk with your children and expect good behavior. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much easier and enjoyable it will become," said Dr. Mary Zurn, vice president of education for Primrose Schools. "This is important because children with good manners often find it easier to make friends and get along with others at school and at home."

Dr. Zurn offers five table manners tips to get parents started:

1. Start early: Don't wait until you think your child is "old enough" to learn polite behavior. Just as children learn to crawl before they learn to walk, they also learn manners in stages. Even infants watch parents for rules of expected behavior. Very young children can learn to sign key phrases such as "please" or "thank you" and then transition to the spoken words around age two. By age three, children should be able to stay seated at mealtime if you sit down with them.
2. Give specific feedback: Children learn best when they receive specific feedback about their behavior which is far more effective than generic praise. For example, instead of saying, "Good job," you can say, "I'm so glad you set the table."
3. Encourage polite conversation: Children as young as two can learn to engage in polite conversation at the dinner table with the right kind of guidance. As you are at the table eating together, show them how to take turns listening, talking, and asking questions.
4. Set a good example: Make sure your words and actions match. Children watch parents all the time for behavior clues. For example, if you want your child to eat broccoli because it's a healthy food choice, you will need to let them see you enjoy eating it as well.
5. Create a routine: Children learn best from consistency because it helps them know what to expect. Start with the repetition of a few simple steps such as putting a napkin in your lap when you sit down. Create a routine that is easy for them to repeat and remember. For more tips from Dr. Zurn and a list of book suggestions on teaching your children table manners, visit www.Dr.ZandMe.com.



Christmas Eve Service
Rejoice in the glow of His light this Christmas

Join us for a Christmas Eve service at
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Rosehill Christian School
19830 FM 2920, Tomball Texas
Thursday, December 24th, 5:00 p.m.

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www.TerraVerdeChurch.org

BRITT'S BOOK BUZZ

Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore

At the core of *Same Kind of Different as Me*, a true story written by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, are the relationships that Ron and Denver have with each other, their friends, Ron's spouse and children, nature, the environment in which they were raised (especially Denver) and most importantly, God.

Denver, an illiterate and homeless African American man from Louisiana has suffered at the hands of many throughout his life but through it all become a true messenger for God. The book begins with Denver recounting his heartbreaking life—from the back breaking work of picking cotton to seeing the people he loved most in the world disappear. The book so graphically reveals the gut wrenching life of a boy who wants for almost nothing, but is treated terribly.

Ron is a self-made millionaire whose heart was open to being guided by God, at the hands of his wife Deborah. Deborah—a person so filled with faith—heard God speak to her and conveyed these very specific and detailed visions to Ron (including seeing Denver's face even though they had not met him yet) and together, they became an integral part of a community of homeless people in Forth Worth, Texas. And this is where Ron's and Denver's lives intersected and forever changed.

The writing is relatable and each personality (the book alternates between Ron's and Denver's voices) is clearly unique and endearing. For example Ron, who worked on this grandpa's farm during summers writes of the land, "...the land is miserable, cursed with soil that may well be the original inspiration for cement."

The book addresses a question that all of us have asked, "Why did God let that happen?" It challenges faith in a very personal way. The book also encourages each of us to believe that God has a purpose for us, even if it isn't clear at this moment.

Same Kind of Different as Me demonstrates that the human spirit is fragile while at the same time immensely strong. It shows how trust, prayer and unconditional love can bring out amazing change and a life long friendship.

The book ended with a wonderful reminder, "...everybody's different... We're all just regular folks walkin down the road God done set in front of us... this earth ain't no final restin' place. So in a way, we is all homeless—just workin our way toward home."

Feel free to comment on this review, your thoughts on the book or suggest a book for me to review on my blog: <http://brittsbuzz.blogspot.com>.

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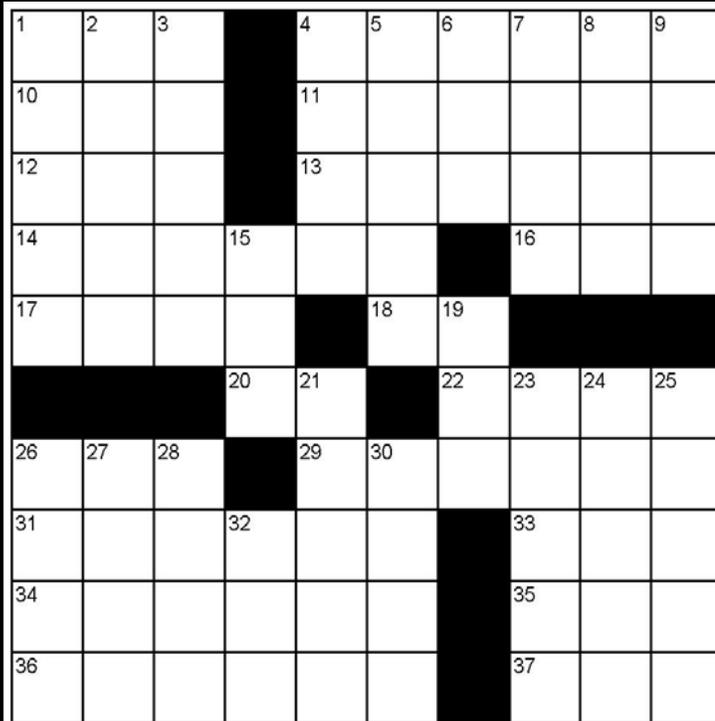
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The Village Gazette

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Small amount
4. Metal bracket that holds stones together
10. Terminal abbr.
11. Timid
12. Mama
13. City in W. Oregon
14. Straighten
16. Spots
17. Stable gear
18. Gold (abbr.)
20. Mr. ___ (tv horse)
22. Canned meat brand
26. Oolong
29. Come out
31. Italian sausage
33. Wing
34. Busyness
35. Still
36. Parallelograms
37. Pigpen

DOWN

1. Object
2. Repent
3. Deer
4. Prayer ending
5. Orange cheese
6. Floor covering
7. At sea
8. Defend
9. Potato sprouts
15. Compass point
19. Employ
21. Demobilize
23. Petitions to God
24. Metal tip on the end of a lance
25. Substantive
26. Despot
27. Every
28. Singing voice
30. Brief
32. Point

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TO ALL THOSE WHO CHOSE VILLAGE CREEK AS
THEIR HOME IN 2009.**

Village Creek Market Analysis

of Active Listings: 18

Price Range: \$185,000 - \$358,000
Avg. # Days on Market: 88
Avg. \$/sq. ft: \$81.55
Highest \$/sq. ft: \$108
Lowest \$/sq. ft: \$68

of Pending Sales: 6

Price Range: \$149,000 - \$359,900
Avg. # Days on Market: 114
Avg. \$/sq. ft: \$76.80
Highest \$/sq. ft: \$92
Lowest \$/sq. ft: \$50

YTD Sales: 33

Price Range: \$164,000 - \$369,000
Avg. # Days on Market: 66
Avg. \$/sq. ft: \$76.18
Highest \$/sq. ft: \$101.72
Lowest \$/sq. ft: \$62.45

Data from Houston MLS – 11/09/2009



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The Tri-County Quilt Guild

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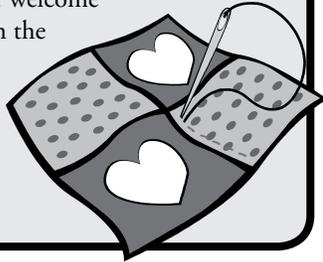
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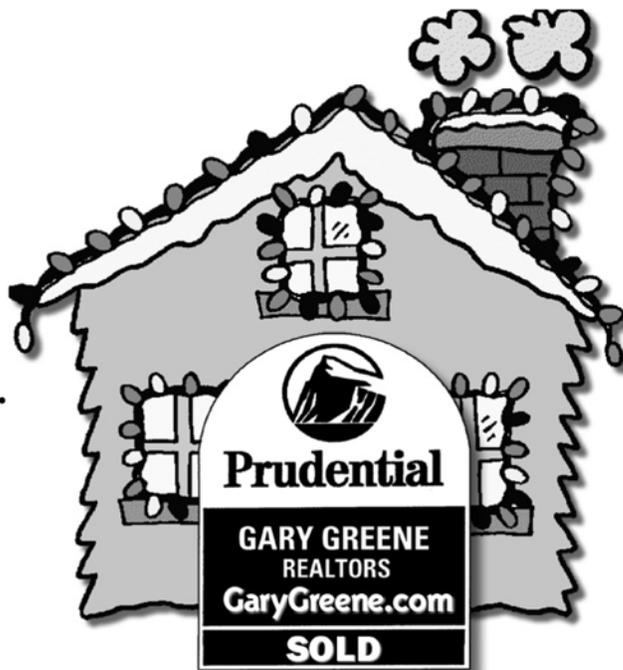
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