

The Village Gazette



Volume 10, Issue 8
Village Creek Community Association

August 2013

Village Creek Yard of the Month JULY 2013 12635 Midland Creek

Thank you to Plants for all Seasons for donating the gift certificates for each month's winner.



The Village Gazette

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Constables Office 281-376-3472, www.cd4.hctx.net
Klein Fire Dept.281-376-4449
Poison Control Center800-764-7661
Willowbrook Methodist281-477-1000
EMERGENCY 24 HOUR LINE281-537-0957
(select 'emergency' option)

SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD281-357-3100, 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
Tomball Memorial High School.....281-357-3230
Transportation.....281-357-3193

HOA MGMT

Preferred Management281-897-8808
Patti Tine..... patti@preferredmgt.com
Fax281-897-8838
Mailing: P.O. Box 690269 Houston, TX 77269
Village Creek Community Association Website:
www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp

SERVICES

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NEWSLETTER

Editor
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(Deadline is the 5th of each month)
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Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Sharon Gabbert.....
Jeff Lev.....
Tom Brogan
Richard Moore.....
Ken McCoy.....
Website www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek

Welcome New HOA Board Members

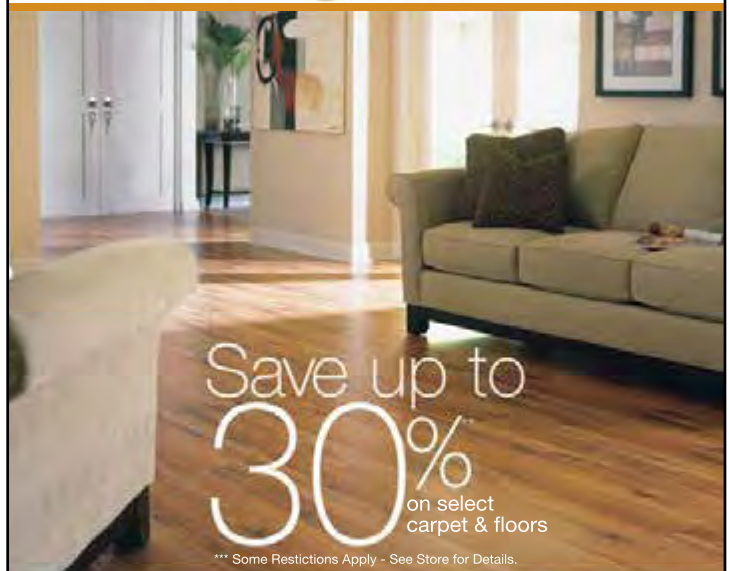
On July 15th at the Village Creek Annual Meeting, two new board members were elected by the residents to serve a two year term. Josh Love and Russell McMurtrey were elected by a majority vote and will begin their terms immediately following the close of the meeting.

We want to express our thanks and gratitude to outgoing board members Ken McCoy and Jeff Lev who both served Village Creek on the HOA board for several years. Both men worked tirelessly during their tenure to improve our lives and make Village Creek a great place to live. Thank you Ken and Jeff!

Our new HOA board for 2013-2014 is represented by Tom Brogan, Richard Moore, Sharon Gabbert, Josh Love and Russell McMurtrey.

Be sure to attend board meetings to voice your opinions. The board meets each month...so watch the marque and e-mail newsletters for all future dates.

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4TH OF JULY EVENT

Village Creek residents were treated to a holiday parade led by the local fire department and a real military transport vehicle!

The fire department cooled things off a bit by spraying the crowd of residents with water and the life guards kept the fun going with many pool games and popsicle treats.

Many thanks to Village Creek resident, Ray Duerer, for stepping up at the last minute and making the 4th of July celebration happen.

We are still looking for a Social Committee Chairman to take the reigns...if you are interested, please contact Preferred Management.



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ACC Guidelines

Did you know....

Village Creek Homeowners, did you know that the Association is required to comply with State laws in addition to the deed restrictions for Village Creek?

Each legislative session brings new laws that supersede the deed restrictions for Texas Homeowners Association. During the 82nd Legislative Session in 2011 five new laws went into effect. They included – Solar Panels, Roof Shingles, Flags and Flag Poles, Religious Displays and Rain Barrels. The law required that each Texas Homeowners Association adopt a policy for all five items. We wanted to share a few of those laws with you, Religious Items and Flag and Flag Poles. The laws as they are written and adopted into the Architectural Control Committee policy as required by law state:

Religious Items related to any faith that is motivated by an Owner's sincere religious belief or tradition, may be displayed, as permitted by 202.018 of the Texas Property Code (on the entry door to the home), subject to the following regulations:

- The religious item cannot threaten public health or safety.
- The religious item cannot violate any law.
- The religious item cannot contain language, graphics or other display that is patently offensive to a passerby.
- The religious item must be located on the entry door or entry door frame and cannot extend past the outer edge of the door frame of the dwelling.
- The maximum space allotted to a religious item or combination of religious items shall be no more than 25 square inches.
- The Association may remove any item that does not conform to these regulations.

To the extent required by 202.012 of the Texas Property Code, Owners are entitled to display a United States Flag, a Texas State Flag, or a replica flag of any branch of the United States Armed Forces ("Permitted Flags"), and to install a flag pole on their property for the purpose of displaying the Permitted Flags; subject to the following regulations:

- The Owner shall first apply to and receive written approval from the ACC prior to installation of any flag pole.
- United States Flags must be displayed in accordance with 4 U.S.C. Sections 5-10.
- The Texas Flag must be displayed in accordance with Chapter 3100 of the Texas Government Code.
- Only Permitted Flags may be displayed within the Association.
- Permitted Flags shall be displayed from a pole attached to a structure OR from a free-standing pole. Except for flags that are mounted in accordance with 4 U.S.C. Sections 5-10, Permitted Flags may not be draped over or directly attached to structures. For example, a Permitted Flag may not be laid across a fence or stapled to a garage or entry door.

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ACC Guidelines- (Continued from Page 6)

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Thoughts about Tools and other Things

Gordon R. Watson

There are a very few comments made by other people that stick with you. One of those, for me, was something said by Ed Swingle, a really smart, nice, retired man who lived upstairs from us at our apartment in San Luis Obispo, California. His advice was "don't buy tools until you need them." The rationale for buying tools as one needs them, I guess, is that you won't buy a tool that you never use. I have more or less followed this advice, and, in general, I can't think of any tools I haven't used (OK, there are a couple that I haven't used yet), and I can think of tools that I have used only once or twice...a large socket comes to mind that I bought to remove a huge temperature sensor from my 1961 Corvair. You never know when I might buy another 1961 Corvair.

If you need to cut wood, there are lots of saw options, but, if I could have only one saw, it would be an electric jig saw. These are available at less than \$30 (though you can pay much more). I still have the Black and Decker jigsaw I bought back in about 1970, and it still works fine. You can cut in circles or straight. It will handle woods as thick as an inch and a half. I am sure it would not be an exaggeration to say that I have used this saw several hundred times. Interestingly, only recently, I noticed that there is a tiny hole on the outside labeled, "oil."

I had never oiled this tool in 40 years. That is a durable machine... even when neglected. Yes, I finally gave it some oil!

One of the absolute best inventions ever is the 6 in 1 screw drivers. These generally cost less than \$5. They have been around for quite a few years. They essentially allow you to remove either Phillips or slotted screws with a bonus that they can remove 1/4" and 3/16" nuts or bolts. While there are occasions when you need larger or smaller screw drivers, these handle most jobs, and it is so convenient to carry just one screw driver.

What is the best first drill to buy? There is a temptation to buy a cordless, battery operated one; however, I suggest that the average home owner should start with a 110 volt, cord-type 3/8" 110 volt variable speed reversible. The reason for this is that the 110 volt model can sit around for years without worrying about the battery at all. It will always be ready for use, it will handle bigger jobs, and the battery will never fail. Of course, your second drill should be a cordless.

Safety Reminder of the Month (Advise that less than 1% of us take) Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI or GFI's) are the electrical receptacles with the test and reset buttons ...seen in garages, kitchens,

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Home Hints- (Continued from Page 9)

serving outside receptacles, and bathrooms. They will probably save your life if you come in contact with power and water. They are, however, electrical/mechanical devices which can (and do) fail. According to UL, ground fault interrupters should be tested once a month, or after a lightning storm. Push the "Reset" button located on the GFCI receptacle, first to assure normal GFCI operation.

Here is how UL wants you to test them:

- Plug a nightlight (with an "ON/OFF" switch) or other product (such as a lamp) into the GFCI receptacle and turn the product "ON."
- Push the "Test" button located on the GFCI receptacle. The nightlight or other product should go "OFF."
- Push the "Reset" button, again. The light or other product should go "ON" again.
- If the light or other product remains "ON" when the "Test" button is pushed, the GFCI is not working properly or has been incorrectly installed (miswired). If your GFCI is not working properly, call a qualified, certified electrician who can assess the situation, rewire the GFCI if necessary or replace the device.

Here is UL's web site for their complete article on the subject:

<http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/offerings/perspectives/consumer/productsafety/groundfault/>

Landscape Corner

Gordon R. Watson

The title of this month's column is "Lawn Order." You may need to read that subtle joke out loud.

Rain, or lack Thereof

Normal rainfall for August is 3.73 inches. Your lawn, trees, shrubs, and vegetables will require that either you or nature provide some moisture during this hot weather. If we don't get an inch a week, then you should supplement with your watering systems.

Dead Lawn Patches throughout Village Creek

I think that I may understand why there are patches of dead grass in our otherwise green lawn....despite regular watering. The theory for the grass dying is that those dead patches were never able to grow St. Augustine because of insufficient water. Another grass (not absolutely sure what it is called) did grow there successfully, but, in our recent extreme heat, even it died. The solution: Add sprinklers to those areas. At least that is what I am trying. I will keep you informed about successes. I am not so good about publicizing failures.

The only good thing (I can think of) about the drought is that it shows deficiencies in irrigation systems. Frankly, none of us will ever duplicate Mother Nature.

Avoid Swamps

Do avoid soggy conditions. Most plants like to have just a bit of moisture in the soil, but not be wet. Watch those plants in raised beds and containers. These will need a bit more moisture than plants in the ground. Consider putting containerized plants in the shade during these hot months.

Trees

Mature trees and bushes will need an inch of water every two weeks to just stay alive. If your trees are in lawns, you will need to add a bit more water...as they are competing with the lawn for moisture. Younger trees will need even more water to keep their roots in moist soil. Do a slow soaking a few feet from the trunk to a foot or two beyond the canopy (remote-most leaves). A soaker hose works well for watering trees.

Lawns

Our lawns will need about an inch of water every week either from rainfall or sprinkler systems. If your system is automated, water several times a day to allow water to soak in rather than all at one time. If possible, water during mornings or evenings rather than in the heat of the day (to minimize loss of water through evaporation). Consider leaving clippings on the lawn, and let your grass grow tall.

Kale

While August is not the month to plant kale, the most recent issue of "Texas Gardener Magazine" has a good article on it, and I must say that we have genuinely enjoyed growing and eating this fine leaf vegetable. It has been essentially pest-free, and actually grew well into the summer heat. It is good on salads, baked with salt, pepper, and olive oil, and I actually tried cooking kale flakes with popcorn. I admit that the popcorn experiment didn't work out as I thought it might.

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While the kale tasted fine, it tended to attach itself to the popcorn popper rather than to the popcorn as I had hoped. Maybe I will just shake it on (like salt and pepper) next time.

Crape Myrtles

Cut off old blooms on Crape Myrtles to encourage new blossoms.

Roses

According to Doug Welsh in Texas Garden Almanac, expect roses to look pretty "lousy by late summer. In August, cut back about 25% of the bush. Fertilize with straight nitrogen such as ammonium sulfate. Use one half pound of ammonium sulfate per plant in mid-August. Distribute the fertilizer around the drip line. If no blooms appear in the first week of September, add a second application. Water thoroughly after pruning and fertilizing. Maintain two to four inches of mulch. A third application might enhance blooming.

Dogi-Pot Stations

Those of you who walk around the lake have probably noticed that the Dogi-pot stations have had some issues. Hopefully, by the time you read this, they will have been solved.

Weather

The average high for August is 94 degrees. The average low is 72 degrees. As noted above, on average, we should get 3.73 inches of rain.

SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to jgabbert@gmail.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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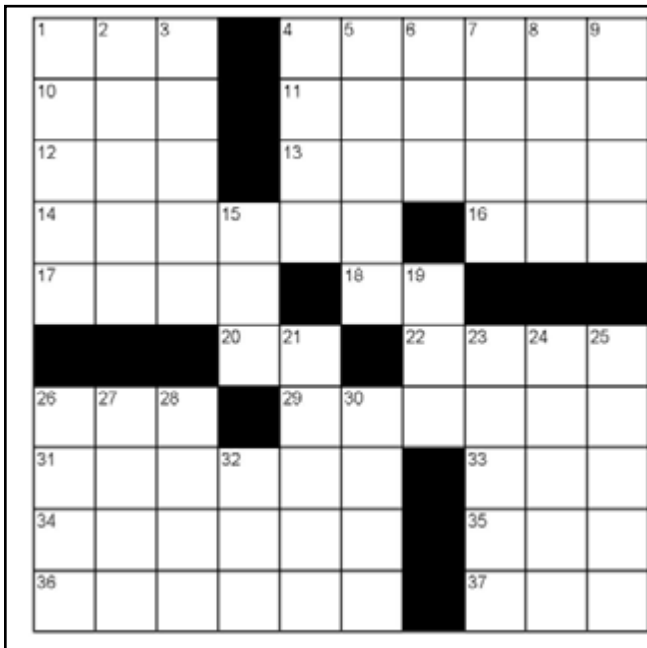
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ACROSS

1. Belong
4. Elevator alternative
10. Fire remains
11. Short guy, hairy feet
12. Manipulate
13. Indoor
14. Coaxing
16. Condensation
17. Adolescent
18. South Carolina (abbr.)
20. New Jersey (abbr.)
22. Hornet
26. Rock
29. Loves
31. Demonstrate
33. Government agency
34. Subordinate
35. Cause of sickness
36. Elapse (2 wds.)
37. Surface to air missile

DOWN

1. Finds _
2. Make available
3. Not here
4. Tibia
5. Fire iron
6. Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
7. As previously cited
8. Cycle
9. Soup
15. Hotel
19. Cash with order (abr.)
21. Rachel's husband
23. Regions
24. Reddish brown
25. Sacred song
26. Pearls
27. Vile
28. Brief
30. Refuse to believe
32. Pinch

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