

The Village Gazette



Volume 11, Issue 11
Village Creek Community Association

November 2014



Ho, Ho, Ho! Cookies with Santa. Don't miss it.

**Village Creek Pool House
Sunday 12/7/14 from 3 to 5 pm**

Bring the kids, cameras and your list for Santa and come out to the pool area Sunday, December 7th from 3:00 - 5:00 PM for cookies with Santa!



The Door that Slowly Opened... a Mystery Story

Our back patio door was haunted. It had a very bad habit of not staying in one place. If left open at all, it would slowly swing fully open: ghostlike. That sort of thing bothers me. I become obsessed with it. I knew it wasn't spirits because it happened even when I didn't drink. The reason for this problem is that the door frame wasn't installed exactly vertically. Rather, it is slightly leaning inward. It would have been nice if the first

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

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Constables Office 281-376-3472, www.cd4.hctx.net
Klein Fire Dept. 281-376-4449
Poison Control Center 800-764-7661
Willowbrook Methodist 281-477-1000
EMERGENCY 24 HOUR LINE 281-537-0957
(select 'emergency' option)

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
Tomball Memorial High School 281-357-3230
Transportation..... 281-357-3193

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SERVICES

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CenterPoint-Gas..... 713-659-2111
Dead Animal Pick up 713-699-1113

Domestic Violence 281-401-6250
FBI..... 713-693-5000
Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
Houston Chronicle 713-220-7211
Sweetwater Pools 281-988-8480
Lost Pets... <http://www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp>
Municipal District Services (24 hrs) 281-290-6500
Reliant-Street lights 713-923-3213
..... www.centerpointenergy.com/outage
Sex Offenders..... www.familywatchdog.us
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Republic Waste..... 713-849-0400
Trash pickup Tues/Fri
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NEWSLETTER

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(Articles must be submitted by the 5th of each month)

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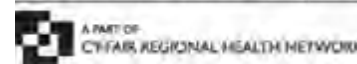
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Mystery Story (Continued from Cover)

owner had complained to the builder. Builders love problems such as this (yeah, right). Since the leaning door frame was never fixed, whenever the door was unlatched, gravity took over and the door slowly opened. The purist would probably remove and replace the entire door frame (not an easy task), but that didn't appeal to me.

I checked into hinged door closers (which are more or less standard on the door going from the home to the garage, to assure the door is closed during a fire), but to use these, you need to find the exact hinge dimensions, screw holes, and radius at the corners. Laziness being the uncle of invention, I found a product providing a simpler solution. It is called a hinge pin door closer. Basically, it uses an adjustable spring to counter the tendency of the door to swing open.

This device fits into an existing hinge, so all one needs to do is remove the existing hinge pin with the punch they provide (or a nail). You slide in the hinge pin door closer, tighten the spring with the cheap wrench they provide (or a good one from your tool box), and insert a small pin to keep the spring wound. It worked. A little hint that will make this job doable: The instructions were not

very good, or, more likely, I didn't read them correctly. If installing this takes more than two hands to install, you probably have it in backwards. At one point, I am pretty sure I had a wrench in my teeth and was holding the device with my two hands. Remembering my mom's most common remark, "Don't use your teeth," I got to thinking that teeth are probably not a good tool in this particular case, so I rechecked the instructions and tried a different way. I had it backwards. The installation doesn't require three hands. It works I couldn't be happier. The door now stays where you leave it. I can move onto my next obsession.

On a vaguely related subject, the hinge pin door closer I found at the hardware store was in one of those packages that had been taped shut, was dusty, etc. It was an orphan product hanging all by itself. I hate to buy packages that I know have been tampered with, but it turned out that this \$8 product was being sold for only \$2. That made my day. That story reminded me of the time I bought a water leak detector in a similar torn, taped and dusty package that was beeping its low battery alarm as I paid for it. It was a bit embarrassing, but I am pretty sure it was a good buy.



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TRAVEL TIPS

By Cabl Rasmussen

For this month's article, I want to tell you about the new service at George Bush Intercontinental (IAH). Recently, the airport opened up a new lost and found. All items found by airport personnel will be turned over to the airport and taken to the new Lost & Found. The Lost & Found is located in Terminal E, at the meet and greet level of all international arrivals. It is just left of the Starbucks on that level with a large sign indicating what it is. However, there are a few issues that the City is working out. First, the hours Lost & Found is open currently are 8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday. It is closed on weekends and holidays. Note that it is only open during business hours. Second, all items taken there are kept in a secure area with cameras monitoring the room at all times. Any "found"

passport or documents will be secured in the Lost & Found office after all attempts to contact the owner are made. The passport and/or documents will be placed in a secure lock box, but the lock box will not be opened until the next business day. If you happen to lose or misplace your bag, or personal item, please first check with your airline. Chances are they have recovered the item and are attempting to contact you, or they will take it to their own Lost & Found. If you happen to be off airport property the address of the Lost & Found is 3870 N. Terminal Road (Terminal E) Telephone # 281-230-3299. Of course, your best bet is to avoid losing anything at the airport (or anywhere). Few things are as frustrating as losing something: particularly during a trip.

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Recipe of the Month

This recipe was sent in by a neighbor, Madra Ford. We haven't tried it, but it looks delicious. We are planning to occasionally include additional simple recipes. If you have one, send it to watson.g@sbcglobal.net.

LEMON ICE CREAM CRUNCH

- 1 C. flour
- 1/4 C. brown sugar
- 1/2 C. pecans
- 1/2 C. butter

Mix all together and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, stirring frequently. Put 2/3's of the cooled crumbs in the bottom of a 9" x 13" dish.

Mix the following and put over crumbs.

- 1/2 gal. Vanilla ice cream, softened
- 1 1/2 cans frozen lemonade (6 oz. cans)
- Add a few drops yellow food coloring

Cover with remaining crumbs and freeze. Set out awhile before serving.

Landscape Corner

Freezing is possible here anytime for the next four months. If you are new to Texas weather, make sure you drain and cover your backflow preventer anytime that a hard freeze is expected. If you don't do this, it will probably freeze with a cost of \$40 for parts alone. That's if you can get parts. Insulate any exterior pipes which contain water. Drain pipes and hoses. Cover sensitive plants or use plants that don't freeze.

If you are a vegetable gardener, you may plant these vegetables in November: carrots, lettuce, onion multipliers, parsley, radishes, and spinach.

According to Texas Gardner, pull out those annuals that die, and cut back the perennials to a few inches. Add mulch around and over the perennials to protect them from freezing.

Watering: Watering can be greatly reduced during the winter. Water if the ground is dry or if a freeze is predicted. If there is no rain during the month, water everything at least one time. For those who use an irrigation timer, it is a good time to make the "seasonal change" as explained in your instruction manual.

November is a great time to plant trees and bushes.

According to Texas Gardener, don't fertilize in November. Wait for spring.

Avoid pruning woody ornamentals this late in the season.



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