

The Village Gazette



Volume 12, Issue 1
Village Creek Community Association

January 2015



Cookies with Santa

Sharon & Jerry Gabbert headed-up the "Cookies with Santa" event for fellow neighbors to enjoy! At least 175 kiddies attended (and many more adults). A wonderful time was had by all.



Thank you to each of the volunteers:

Ashley Wheeler
Dalora Miller
Lisa Rawles
Katherine Elkins
Amy Martin

and all the little elf helpers:

Sophia Cranston
Conner Elkins
Paris Gabbert
Rome Gabbert



The Village Gazette

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

CenterPoint-Gas Leak 713-659-3552
 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

HOA MGMT

Preferred Management 281-897-8808
 Patti Tine..... patti@preferredmgt.com
 Fax 281-897-8838

Mailing: P.O. Box 690269 Houston, TX 77269
Village Creek Community Association Website:
www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp

SERVICES

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 FBI..... 713-693-5000
 Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
 Houston Chronicle 713-220-7211
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 Lost Pets... <http://www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp>
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 Reliant-Street lights 713-923-3213
 www.centerpointenergy.com/outage
 Sex Offenders..... www.familywatchdog.us
 Comcast - Cable/High Speed Internet..... 713-341-1000
 Republic Waste..... 713-849-0400
 Trash pickup Tues/Fri
 Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 plastics/aluminum cans)
 Yard Stork kpuente@garygreene.com

NEWSLETTER

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Last year, Village Creek donated over 1200 pounds of food for our local needy and homeless. THANK YOU! This year, Cub Scout Pack 1928 will once again be collecting donated canned goods in our neighborhood. Donation bags will be left on the doorknob of your home on January 24th, 2015. Please consider helping this worthwhile cause! On the morning of Saturday, January 31st, Scouts will be collecting filled bags from doorsteps. Donations will be delivered to the Food Pantry at Prince of Peace Catholic Community where they help over 1500 hungry people monthly. Questions? Contact Mike Hebert at 281-257-9579.

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Landscape Corner

The Village Creek Landscape Committee

Happy New Year! Let's hope that 2015 brings health and happiness to all.

Continue with your freeze protection effort through the remainder of the winter. When the weatherman predicts a "hard freeze" (or similar), shut off and drain your backflow preventer. Water landscape plants, trees, and vegetables before the freeze. Try not to water foliage. As was previously noted, water retains heat in the soil to help prevent freezing. Cover those plants that are prone to freezing. Maintain a layer of mulch on bare areas to retain heat and moisture and to keep weeds down.

Lawns: St. Augustine grass is brown and dormant this month. No water should be necessary as long as it rains a bit. Water at least once if there is no rain. Our clay soil becomes rock hard with no moisture, so a little water should be applied to keep meandering tree roots satisfied.

Sprinkler System: This may be a good time to consider adding

sprinkler heads to the system if you have areas which have become weedy because of insufficient water.

Bare-root plant care: Keep in mind that the roots of bare-root plants **MUST** be kept moist at all times before and after planting.

Plant roses anytime. If planting in January, choose bare root.

Plant annual flowers such as calendula, cyclamen, dianthus, ornamental kale, and cabbage, pansies, and petunias. Plant bluebonnet transplants into garden beds.

Frozen plants: Avoid pruning frost-damaged trees and bushes until February or March.

Plant cool-season seedlings such as asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, turnip greens, Irish potato, kohlrabi, leaf lettuces, onions, and Swiss chard (TGA).

(Continued on Page 4)



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The Village Gazette

The Riddle of the Old Dresser Fragrance

By Gordon R. Watson

We once passed by a used furniture store that advertised, "We buy Junk and sell Antiques." I guess that is a pretty fair description of what went on inside. Most of us, one time or another, have purchased, or been given, old furniture. As wood ages, it generally starts to have an odd fragrance which can probably best be described as, "an odd, old furniture fragrance." In a similar vein, our daughter has lived in several rentals in San Francisco, and each of them comes with a similar "old home fragrance." I am not sure how old wood needs to get before it starts smelling odd. I am guessing that it is about 50 to 75 years or so.

On a vaguely related subject, I once asked a dentist why teeth smelled like they were burning when he used a high speed drill on them. His answer was something like, "Teeth are like wood. When woods are cut, they have a certain smell. You aren't smelling burning, you are smelling the unique fragrance of teeth when they are cut." It still smells like burning teeth to me.

So, the bottom line is that old wood sort of has an odd odor. What can one do about it? My wife and I refinished some of her family's old furniture and also purchased some "sort-of-antiques" as well. None of these are very valuable to others. I don't think we will be one of those pleasantly surprised people on "Antiques Road Show," who can retire young because of the value of our old furniture, but we do want to keep the pieces in the family. Unfortunately, the fragrance of old wood was annoying and distracting. Note here that the exterior of our (refinished) furniture didn't have an odor as it was sealed with varnish or other finish. What was odorous was the interior, unfinished wood.

To solve the problem, we cleaned and sanded the unfinished wood where it mattered (such as the inside of drawers) to assure the inside of the drawers looked good. Sanding doesn't really do anything except make the wood look better, so if the wood is hidden, skip the sanding step. Then we applied a coat or two of shellac wherever wood was unfinished. Shellac, by itself, has a rather pleasant fragrance, but, even as it dried, the "old wood" fragrance was well sealed in such that, even after several years, the furniture no longer smells like a junk (pardon) I mean, antique store. I wouldn't necessarily recommend this for furniture which is an heirloom or expensive antique, but it certainly solved our problem for more ordinary "antique" furniture.

Landscape Corner (Continued from Page 3)

Sow seeds this month for beets, carrots, English peas, greens, leaf lettuces, radishes, sugar snap, snow peas, and turnips.

January is the best month for planting bare-root fruit and nut trees as well as vines. Check with your gardening store for the best varieties for this area. Keep in mind that fruits, nuts, and vines need lots of sunshine to be successful. They also like to grow in well-drained soil. If drainage is a problem, plant in a raised bed 6 inches or so.

You may have noticed that the Landscape Committee with Board approval has planted ten large Chinese Pistache trees along the walkway and pool near the Pool House. In addition, six very large Crape Myrtles have been planted along Lake Vista near Mossy Ledge. Additional planting has been proposed to the Board. The Board and Landscape Committee have solved well over 100 planter issues during the last two years in Village Creek.

If you notice any plants which are dying or in need of some sort of care, please contact Sherry Watson, Chairperson of the Landscape Committee via the management company.

Until next time,
Happy Gardening

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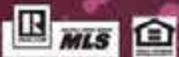
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The Village Gazette

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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 watson.g@sbcglobal.net. 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.



Cy-Fair Hospital now has **SEVEN** locations to serve your Emergency and Urgent Care needs.

Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital now offers an online check-in service at CyFairERandUrgentCare.com for all seven locations where you can reserve your time online and comfortably wait at home. It's quick, easy and you'll be seen by a healthcare professional within 15 minutes of your scheduled time.



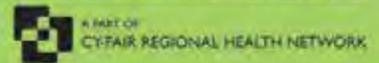
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ER 281.897.3150
- 2** 27126 Highway 290 at Mueschke Road
281.949.3800
- 3** 7015 Barker Cypress at F.M. 529
281.949.3600
- 4** 8470 Hwy. 6 North at West Road
281.949.3799

URGENT CARE

- 5** 9110 Barker Cypress at West Road
281.517.9900
- 6** 14044 Spring Cypress at Grant Road
281.949.3703
- 7** 9138 West Road at Beltway 8
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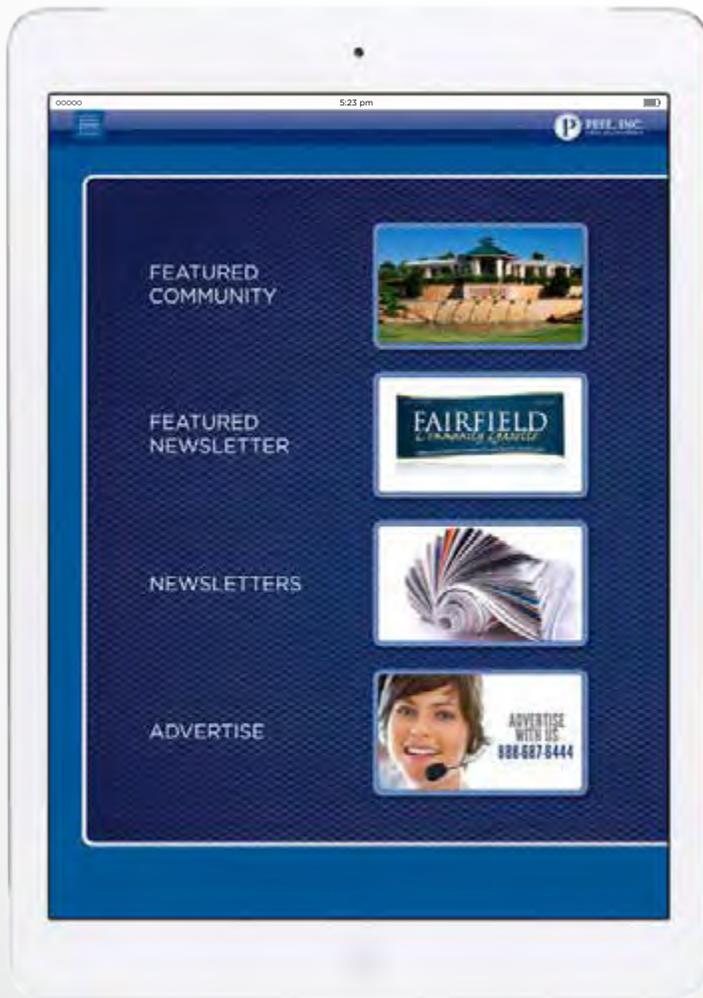


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Recipe of the Month

CHICKEN AND FLOUR TORTILLA DUMPLINGS



Ingredients

- 3 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 14 ounces of aztec burrito-size flour tortillas
- 2 (10 1/2 ounce) cans cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup butter (not margarine)
- 1 cup milk
- Salt
- Pepper

Instructions

- Fill 4-quart pot half full with water.
- Boil chicken until tender.
- While chicken is cooking, slice tortillas with a sharp knife 5 slices across and one slice through the middle.
 - Remove cooked chicken and shred with a fork or cut into cubes.
 - Place chicken, cream of chicken soup, butter, salt and pepper into boiling chicken broth.
 - Bring to a rolling boil.
 - Drop individual tortillas into pot one piece at a time.
 - Do not stir, you can pat the top of the dumplings and move them around slightly with a wooden spoon.
 - Boil medium/high heat for 12 minutes.
 - Remove from heat.
 - Add 1 cup of milk and move the dumplings around gently to mix the milk.

From: <http://www.food.com/recipe/chicken-and-flour-tortilla-dumplings-146579>

CONSTABLE TIPS OF THE MONTH

Dep. Joseph (J.T.) Cormier, 281.370.9106
(Lakewood Office)

During these times, remember to lock car doors while at the gas pumps. Go inside and pay with cash. Try to refrain from using the Pay at Pump. You can easily be distracted by things happening around you.



The Woodlands 281-363-1962

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10700 Kuykendahl Rd. | The Woodlands, TX 77381

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Kids' Club

Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

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308 Meadowlark St
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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: January 31st

Be sure to include the following so we
can let you know!

Name:

(first name, last initial)

Age: _____



WINTER WONDERLAND

VC

TENNIS TIPS



By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco



The Modern Game: “The Forehand Return Serve Drop Shot”

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are happy with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may already be playing for leagues or in tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute “The Return Serve Drop Shot.” This shot is used when an opponent is expecting a deep service return and the player “surprises” the opponent with a short angle drop shot. It can be used in both singles and doubles play.

In the illustrations, Fernando Velasco, Director of Tennis and teacher at of the Grey Rock Tennis Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Velasco is presently ranked #1 in Singles and Doubles in the USTA Men’s 70 Division in Texas, and #13 in Singles

and #8 and #10 in Doubles in the US.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Fernando sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, and his eyes are focused on the incoming ball.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: The success of the drop shot is to “cup” under the ball with the strings. The grip is relaxed and ready to push the ball forward and under the ball as he makes contact with it. His left shoulder is almost opening and his weight is moving through the shot.

Step 3: The Follow Through: In order to get maximum underspin, Fernando is keeping the right hand extended as long as possible. His weight is going forward. The left hand is left leaning forward for better balance.

As the shot goes over the net, and it was successful, Fernando will run towards the net, expecting his opponent to either lift the ball short, or try to drop shot his drop shot.

Look in the next Newsletter for: “The Backhand Return Drop Shot”

The Village Gazette

Teenage Job Seekers

	Age	Baby Sitting	House Sitting	Pet Sitting	Yard Work	Phone
Allen, Whitney	18	•	•	•	•	281-704-9935
Benton, Emily ^{R~}	15	•	•	•	•	281-320-1826
Chandler, Michelle ^{MMH}	14	•	•	•	•	281-379-2840
Cregg, Claire ^R	17	•	•	•	•	281-290-9015
Cregg, Kerry ^R	16	•	•	•	•	281-290-9015
Gray, Alexandra ^{*+R~}	16	•	•	•	•	832-349-5170
Lambert, Kelsey ^{*+R~}	17	•	•	•	•	281-370-3878
Lambert, Mallory ^{+R~}	15	•	•	•	•	281-370-3878
Manweiler, Allison ^R	16	•	•	•	•	281-520-0649
Manweiler, Caroline ^R	15	•	•	•	•	281-520-0649
Pier, Samantha	15	•	•	•	•	832-557-1970
Plaxco, Sarah	14	•	•	•	•	832-477-1950

* CPR Training + First Aid Training ~ Baby-sitting Course
^R Has References MH Mother's Helper

The Village Gazette "Job Seekers" column is almost certainly out of date (particularly with ages). Please review it this month and send any changes to Gordon Watson at Watson.g@sbcglobal.net. I will update it for next month's edition. Thanks!

Attention Teenagers

The Teenage Job Seekers listing service is offered free of charge to all Village Creek teenagers seeking work. Teens who live in Village Creek should submit their information to Watson.g@sbcglobal.net by the 5th of each month for publication in the following month's issue. You must be age 13 to 19 to be on the list. Please include any certifications, training, and what type of job you would like to do. Note that there is a yard work category now.

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Happy New Year

There is no better time to say
“Thank You”
for your continued support and to wish you
and your family a New Year filled with
health, happiness and prosperity.



Now is a good time to discuss your real estate needs...

2014 was the best year for real estate since 2007. Rising employment caused buyer demand to soar. Excess inventory was absorbed in the market and we experienced double-digit declines in inventory. Most areas in Houston are now considered to be a Sellers' Market. If you have considered moving, please contact me for an update on current market values. *2015 may be your year to make a move.*