



The Village Gazette

VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 6 | JUNE 2015

VILLAGE CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Village Creek Yard of the Month

May, 2015 | 12634 Willow Breeze

Thank you to Plants for all Seasons for donating the gift certificate for this month's winner.

Thanks to the Village Creek Community Landscape Committee, for the difficult job of judging the Yard of the Month.

Note that the Landscape Committee apologizes for the hand-made sign this month. Hopefully, it can be replaced by next month.



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

Spectrum Association Management	281-343-9178
Janna Patrick.....	jpatrick@spectrumam.com
Fax number.....	281-752-5482
After Hours Emergency Numbers	281-343-9178
.....	or 877-269-9092

Office Address – 16690 Park Row Houston TX 77084

Payment Address – PO Box 1118 Commerce GA 30529 (or drop off check/money order at office address)

Village Creek Community Association Website

www.spectrumam.com (register to access)

(must have account number and valid email address to register, call the above office number if you need assistance)

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CPS.....	713-626-5701
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FBI.....	713-693-5000
Harris County Animal Control	281-999-3191
Houston Chronicle	713-220-7211
Sweetwater Pools	281-988-8480
Lost Pets.....	spectrumam.com
Municipal District Services (24 hrs)	281-290-6500
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)	

NEWSLETTER

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

June Lawn Comments: A must-read publication is Texas A & M's "Maintaining St. Augustine Grass," by Taylor & Gray. (http://publications.tamu.edu/TURF_LANDSCAPE/PUB_turf_Maintaining%20St.%20Augustine%20Grass%20Lawns.pdf)

This is a summary. There is so much in the article that you must read it completely. Some highlights are the following:

- 3" mowing height for both sunny and shady areas.
- It is best not to bag clippings. Leave them on the lawn.
- Water to a depth of six inches. Note that watering several times (rather than one) during the watering day will help prevent run-off. Water running onto the street is a good indication that we are watering too fast for the water to soak in. Or a misguided sprinkler head.
- Water only when grass begins signs of distress (usually 5 to 10 days, depending on weather).
- During growing season, begin fertilizing 3 weeks after the grass turns green and when there is little chance of a late frost. Apply 1 pound of soluble nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn every 8 weeks,
- or 11 1/2 pounds of slow-release nitrogen every 10 weeks.
- Note that "Texas Gardener Magazine" says that NO fertilizer should be required in the summer if you leave clippings on the lawn.

June Vegetable Activity: Continue planting heat-loving vegetables such as corn, eggplant, southern peas, okra, cantaloupe, sweet potatoes, pepper-plants, squash, watermelon, and pumpkins. Soil, for most vegetable gardens, should be maintained damp (not wet) 3" below the surface. Most of the information about "when" to plant vegetables comes from Harris County's Garden Planting Dates Fact Sheet.

June Trees and Shrubs: "Texas Gardener Magazine" (TGM) advises that roots of trees and shrubs which were planted during the fall to spring season be kept slightly damp. You should water these new trees and shrubs once a week and deep enough to keep the root ball and surrounding area moist. To allow time for the water to get to the root ball, you may need to water to the point of run-off, and then repeat several times. Make sure that new trees and shrubs have 3" of mulch beneath them to keep in moisture.

Tree and Bush Reminder: From <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/drought/mulches.html>

When applying mulch around plants, cover the area of soil containing roots (which is commonly a few feet beyond the tree canopy). Keep mulch 6" away from trunk. Again: Please do not pile mulch against tree trunks. It isn't needed against trunks and may do harm. Place the mulch around the tree or bush as a "donut"... allowing the plant to be in the hole of the donut structure. For those of you who still like the looks of a tree-volcano, we will keep trying, but sometimes we feel like a Methodist Preacher in a Baptist town.

The Village Creek Landscape Committee

TRAVEL WITH CAHL

By Cahl Rasussen

Editors note: Cahl is a Village Creek resident and works at George H. Bush International Airport. He is not a travel agent, but he enjoys travel and the airport industry.

Hawaii, Continued from last month....

Lanai, Maui, and the Big Island of Hawaii.

Lanai is one of the newer islands being developed. I have not yet visited the island, which is just off the coast of Maui, but from everything I have heard and read it is becoming more and more developed. There are a few resort hotels there, but, I am sad to say, I have not visited the island so I really don't have a lot of information for you. You will have to research Lanai on your own.

Maui is an island that has a nice combination of not too much night life and just enough there to keep you busy, or you can just relax as well. If you go to Maui, you can ride up to Haleakala Mountain which is at 12,000 feet and either see the sun rise or sunset? Either way, dress accordingly since at the top of the mountain it is about 25-30 degrees, and the wind blows at about 30-40 mph. There is a tour you can take if you are adventurous and a bit of a daredevil. You ride up in a bus and then bike down the mountain taking off layers of clothing along the way as you descend from 12,000 to sea level. As you descend, the lower in elevation, the warmer you will become. Also, for you wine lovers, I recommend a trip to the Tedeshi Winery. It is about half way up to Haleakala, and they make some terrific wine out of pineapple. Also, if you go to Maui between December and early April, you can take a boat out to do some whale watching. Lahaina is a small town that was used in the past as a whaling village. There are stores for shopping and restaurants there. Go to Dukes for lunch or dinner in Lahaina. They have the best burgers, and the restaurant overlooks the Pacific Ocean. The restaurant is named after Duke Kahanamoku who was the inventor of the surfing longboard. For the golfer you can travel up to Kaanapali and play golf where the PGA plays the Hawaiian Open. Golf, in general, in Hawaii is a bit expensive, but many places offer reduced rates if you golf after 1 pm.

Now for the big island of Hawaii. This is my wife's and my favorite place to go. There is one semi-major town on the west coast, and that is Kona. Hilo is on the east side of the island and is a quiet town on the coast. You can drive the entire island in about 6-7 hours, and if you do, be sure to stop at Volcano National Park. With the Kilauea Volcano still active you will be able to drive right up close to the lava flow. Be ready for mountain-type driving if you plan on a trip. It is steep with elevation climbs of 2,000 feet or more in a few short miles. You can also take a helicopter ride around the island and to the volcanos. We used Blue Hawaiian Helicopters, and it was an amazing experience. It is a bit pricey, but well worth the money and time. If you are into fishing, you can charter a boat for a half or full day of deep sea fishing. That will run somewhere around \$400-\$500 for the day. So if you have friends to go with you, it will offset the

(Continued on Page 4)

Village Creek Volunteers RESIGN

- Laura Domangue, one of the four Village Creek Board Members, has resigned from the Board and Landscape Committee.
- Sherry Watson has resigned from the position of Village Creek Landscape Committee Chairwoman.
- Gordon Watson has resigned from the Landscape Committee.
- Sharon Gabbert has resigned from the Landscape Committee.

All of these people were involved in Village Creek as volunteers and are responsible, in great part, for the current excellent appearance of Village Creek, though they understand much more needs to be done. "Village Gazette" thanks them for making Village Creek look so good. At this writing, their replacements are unknown.

THE SPACES BETWEEN THE CIRCLES

By Gordon R. Watson

When I worked for a major computer manufacturer, the General Manager often brought new people into his office for an introduction. One of the things he did was to draw ten or fifteen circles on a whiteboard. Then he would say, "The entire board is the job we have to do, and the circles are defined jobs. You will notice that there are lots of spaces between the circles. In addition to your defined job circle it is also your job to help take care of those undefined jobs."

It is that way in Village Creek. There really is no one responsible for picking up litter on a daily basis, but you will notice that there is very little litter laying around. Why? Simple. There are a few Village Creek informal volunteers whose daily walks include picking up litter. They identify problems such as dying plants, and they let the Landscape Committee know about them. They might notice an unsafe swing and notify the management company. Leaning or tree-obstructed stop sign? They contact the county or the management company. Wasps in the children's play equipment: they get the ball rolling. One of these informal volunteers even washed his neighborhood mail box.

We thank those unrecognized Village Creek volunteers for taking care of the spaces between the circles.

THE HOUSE | The Mysterious Death of the DETECTIVE | Water Heater in the Attic

By Gordon R. Watson

I give a lot of credit to my son. He noticed that water was dribbling out of one of those mystery plastic pipes going through the outside wall into his side yard. I suspect some of us would not take any action, but he knew that wasn't a good thing. There actually should be a sign on these pipes saying, "IF WATER IS DRIPPING OR BLASTING OUT OF THESE PIPES, CALL A PLUMBER." Sort of like a check engine light in a car. In his case, there are four pipes: two drain the water heater pans (in case of a leak) and two more which, I think, are the water heater pressure/temperature relief valve discharge lines. He calls these pipes, "Tattle-Tale" pipes: a term I had never heard before. I guess the name comes from the fact that they are telling on the naughty water heaters in the attic that are up to no good. Anyway, these two or four pipes (depending on the number of water heaters you have) should never have any water dribbling or blasting from them. Dribbling is not a catastrophe. A blast or torrent could be a disaster.

I digress here, but wonder why on Earth anyone would want to install a water heater in an attic. Texas has so much room, why do they squeeze when it comes to water heaters? There really doesn't seem to be anything good about such locations. Well, maybe that isn't true. I have heard of water heaters which have been tampered with that blew up like a rocket...blasting through the ceiling and roof and landing a block away. In an attic, it wouldn't have to go through quite so much of the house. A bit of advice you wouldn't want to learn the hard way: Don't tamper with the pressure/temperature relief valve (don't add a cap if it leaks). These safety devices prevent water heaters from exploding if things go awry with the controls.

But back to the story. I told him I would check into the problem, and did on the next day. It turned out that one of the two water heaters in the attic had sprung a leak: a small dribble under the metal skin near the bottom. Fortunately, the drain pan was well made and didn't leak. Also, the original contractor had remembered to connect the whole thing such that the leaking water actually made it outside of the structure.

The leak was in the heater he had shut the heat off (one heater did the job for him). We discussed it, and he decided that he just wanted to bypass the leaking water heater and continue using the other one. I advised him that both heaters were about the same age, so the other one probably didn't have much life either. He said that we would just bypass the leaker for now. Anyway, I checked things over and went to the hardware store to buy the parts. His hot water piping was CPVC rather than copper. I had never worked with CPVC, so watched a couple of YouTube videos to get some advice.

The advice, it turned out, was fairly good. The one thing that the video didn't get quite right (maybe just out of date) is that the

plumbers on the video said that you had to let the CPVC cement dry for 24 hours. This would have been somewhat awkward for a family to not have any hot water over-night. It turned out that the CPVC glue can said that it needed an hour (with the temperature in the attic). This was ideal. Another thing is that I believe you can use a new fitting called a "Shark" fitting to avoid either soldering or gluing. I can't say enough good about these fittings except that they are pricey.



While waiting the hour for the glue to set up, I altered the air conditioning drain vent in the attic to allow Purex (bleach) to more easily be poured into his air conditioning condensate vent. Then I added a ¼ cup of bleach to kill the algae which forms in these lines. Note that

adding bleach is not a myth. I have seen myself what happens if we ignore "bleaching" a/c condensate drain lines. In my case, a drain fitting in a bathroom "blew" apart with the pressure created by a plugged vent. If it hadn't blown apart in a second story bathroom, it would have overflowed in the attic, which might have been worse.

My neighbor recently had his thirteen year-old (or so) water heater replaced BEFORE it failed. I think this was a good idea. He also had the plumber add a device that shuts the water to the water heater off if a leak is detected. You can find these on line if you are interested.

(Travel with Cabl, Cont. from Page 3)

cost somewhat. You will fish for Ono, Yellow Fin Tuna, Mahi Mahi and Sailfish.

My wife and I enjoy a town about 30 or so miles north of the Kona airport called Waikoloa. There are about 5 resorts there and some terrific golfing. There are some great restaurants and a small shopping village. There is not a lot of night life, but we like to go there and just relax for a week to ten days.

I hope these two articles have whet your appetite for Hawaii. My wife and I have traveled much of the world and have loved it all, but we always seem to go back to Hawaii. It's secluded, but still part of the U.S. For us, Hawaii has everything we look for in a vacation to just relax and unwind.

Happy and safe travel!

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A Few Traffic Reminders

Street parking affects other people because one car has to stop while the other passes. It is dangerous because parked cars hide children who might dart out into the street. We understand that street parking is occasionally needed for parties, maintenance, etc. Such parking is not the issue. Regular parking by the home occupant or daily workers in a home is a problem.

A reminder: Be kind. As a common practice, please don't park your car in front of another family's home.

Ask your teenagers, when driving by bicyclists, mothers with strollers, or walkers, to slow down and move over.

If you have a reoccurring safety event (such as a regular speeder), get details and contact the constable's office.

Remind your children to stay out of the way of cars.

Cormier Safety Tips of the Month

- When out walking/jogging, wear loud (bright) colors during the day and reflective clothing at night. Carry a lit flashlight at night. Drivers have lots of things to distract them these days. Make sure that you are obvious to them.
- Know your neighbors. Try to maintain a routine. People in the neighborhood know the pattern and can inquire if the pattern/routine is broken.
- Always have your cell phone with you at all times. It will help you in dialing 911 or taking pictures of suspicious activity.
- Before you go on Vacation, do a Vacation Watch with Pct. 4, so that we can check you residence while you are away. If gone for over a week, get post office to hold your mail for you until you return. Have a trusted neighbor keep fliers off of your door and porch and keep watch for unusual activity. Have lights come on and off with a timer.

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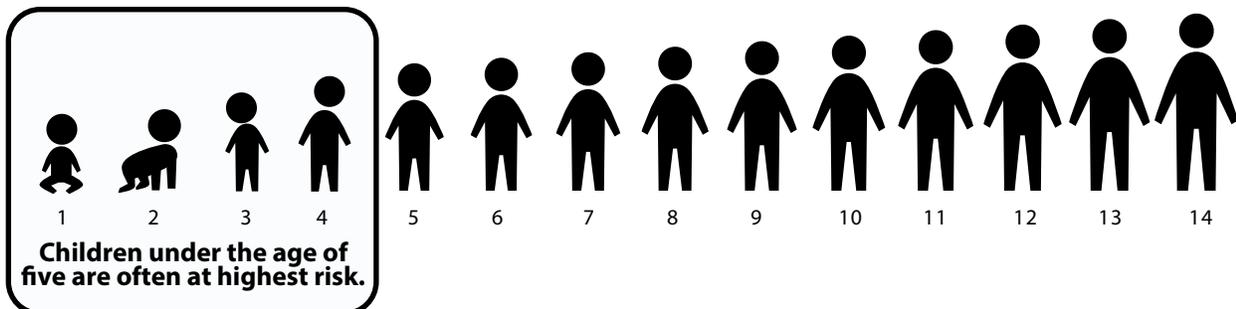
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13 Texas children have already lost their lives to drowning in 2015

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The Village Gazette

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The "Village Gazette" is always available on line at <http://www.peelinc.com/newsletter.php?newsletter=VC>

Some ads and features are not included in the on line version, but the entire issue is in color, which commonly makes the pictures much more meaningful. You can also go back several years to read past issues.



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Tomato Mozzarella Salad

- 3 large tomatoes, sliced
- 8 ounces mozzarella cheese, sliced
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup minced fresh basil

Original recipe makes 6 servings

From: <http://allrecipes.com/>

Village Creek Recipe of the Month is a regular feature. Readers are invited to send recipes to Watson.g@sbcglobal.net. Much of this month's recipe could be found in your garden. Basil grows well in Village Creek year 'round. Tomatoes are sometimes available, and there is nothing like home-grown tomatoes.

This month's cake is from Marie Holdiness, Murphy Creek Baptist Church Cook Book near Louisville, Mississippi (date unknown). This is an easy, fast, and delicious dessert when company drops in unexpectedly. I always keep these items in my pantry.

- 1 butter pecan cake mix
- 1 can coconut pecan frosting mix (Betty Crocker)
- 1 cup oil
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 4 eggs

Mix first 5 ingredients together. Add 1 egg at a time. Pour into well-greased and floured (Baker's Choice is good for this) Bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 55 minutes.



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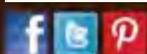
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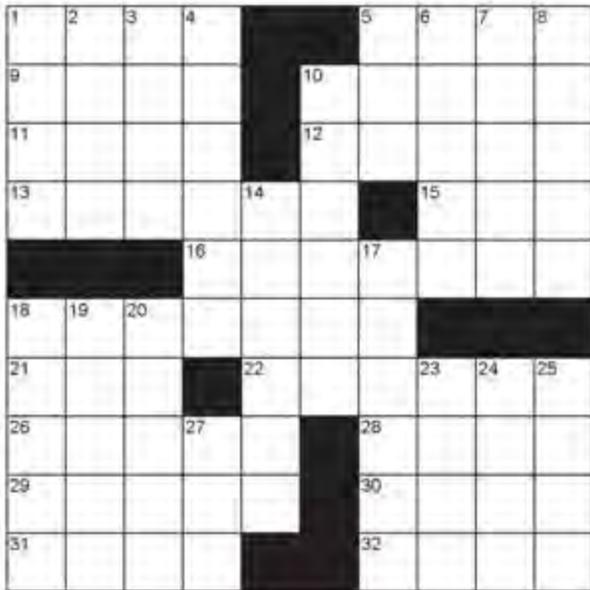
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11. Absent
12. Praise
13. Her former last name
15. Ball holder
16. Surpasses
18. Bar enforcer
21. Trail
22. Humorous
26. Bets
28. Information
29. Vista
30. Paradise
31. Animal group
32. Lady

DOWN

1. Hit
2. State
3. Tai
4. Saucy Girl
5. Tyrannosaurus
6. Speak
7. Eyed
8. Tiny insects
10. Wears mesh mask to fight
14. Tax
17. Worn
18. Cheeky
19. Small measurement 1/16 of a pound
20. Whoop
23. Cipher
24. Object
25. Walking stick
27. The __ (final word)

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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