

Volume 5, Issue 9 Village Creek Community Association

September 2008

## Village Creek Fall Festival and 1st Annual Chili Cook-off Oct 25th

Dust of your secret family recipe and think of a great team name for the 1st Annual Village Creek Chili Cook-off.

- Prizes will be awarded in addition to owning Village Creek bragging rights!
- · Volunteers are needed
- · Rules and additional details to follow.

To register, volunteer or for more information call John Wheat 832.326.2668 or email at JSLAWheat@yahoo.com. Registration Deadline Oct 10.

## **POOL & SPLASH PAD UPDATE**

The last day of the swim season for the pool and splash pad will be Monday, September 1, 2008. The pool will be open from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

A new card reader has been installed at the pool and splash pad, but will not be operational until opening day next spring 2009. Please keep you old pool card, as you will need it to exchange for a new pool card that the HOA will be issuing next spring. If you have any questions, please email poolcards@myvillagecreek.net

## **Disturbing the Peace**

Did you know that you can call the Constables office 24 hours a day for Disturbing the Peace. It's just not for night time noise. If you have a neighbor whose dog constantly barks or neighbors who music is too loud, call the Constables. They will not reveal who placed the call. The Constables will need the address in question of the offense and they will pay that resident a visit. Lets all try to live peaceably together.

## Harris County Household Hazardous Waste One Day Event

Saturday, November 15, 2008 Sam Houston Race Track 7575 n. Sam Houston Parkway W. (enter via Fallbrook) Houston, TX 77064 8 AM to 2 PM only

Visit www.cleanwaterways.org/hhw/collection.html for more information.

Mark your calendars for the Harris County Household Hazardous Waste Event. Residents may bring household quantities of paint products, pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil, gasoline, pool chemicals, household cleaners, aerosols, batteries and automotive tires (5 per household).

Used electronics such as televisions, computers, word processors, printers, scanners, fax machines, cellular phones, VCRs, stereos and other small personal electronics are also accepted. Residents may bring up to five (5) of each of these items.

A mercury thermometer exchange is also held in conjunction with each event. Residents may bring a mercury fever thermometer for proper disposal and receive a FREE, non-toxic replacement.

NOT ACCEPTED AT THIS SITE: Business waste, medical waste, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, photocopy machines, microwaves, or smoke detectors are NOT accepted. You may call the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Small Business and Local Government Assistance Hotline (1-800-447-2827) for information on proper disposal methods for hazardous waste. The hotline offers free, confidential technical assistance.

For more information please visit www.cleanwaterways.org/hhw/collection.html

# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911						
CenterPoint-Gas Leak						
Constables Office 281-376-3472						
www.cd4.hctx.net						
Klein Fire Dept						
Poison Control Center 800-764-7661						
Willowbrook Methodist						
SCHOOLS						
Tomball ISD						
www.tomballisd.net						
Willow Creek Elem (K-4)						
Northpointe Int (5-6)						
Willow Wood Jr (7-8)						
Tomball High (9-12)						
Transportation						
•						
HOA MGMT						
Chaparral Management Company						
Ms. Tally Jenkins tallyj@chaparralmanagement.com						
Fax						
6630 Cypresswood Drive, Suite 100						
Spring, Texas						
Mailing: P.O. Box 681007: Houston, Texas 77268-1007						
SERVICES						
CPS713-626-5701						
CenterPoint-Gas 713-659-2111						
Dead Animal Pick up						
Domestic Violence 281-401-6250						
FBI713-693-5000						
Harris County Animal Control						
Houston Chronicle						
Greater Houston Pool713-771-7665						
Municipal District Services (24 hrs)						
Reliant–Street lights713-923-3213						
www.centerpointenergy.com/outage						
Sex Offenderswww.familywatchdog.us						
Time Warner Cable						
Waste Management						
Trash pickup Tues/Fri						
Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 plastics/aluminum cans)						
Yard Storkkpuente@garygreene.com						
, 00 10						
NEWSLETTER						
Editorskstengle@sbcglobal.ne						
(Deadline is the 10 <sup>th</sup> of each month)						
Publisher - Peel, Inc						
Advertisingadvertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444						
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## Neighborhood Watch - September 2008

The Village Creek Neighborhood Watch Program is off the ground and running. Thanks to the tremendous response of your fellow residents we now have half of the Block Captains needed for our neighborhood. You can see who your Block Captain is by accessing the list on myvillagecreek.net. If we do not have a Block Captain for your street and you are interested in joining the team, please send me an email and we will bring you aboard.

Our Block Captains will be seeking the enrollment of neighbors on their streets so we can obtain the 50% sign-up throughout the neighborhood to obtain free signage and become a recognized Neighborhood Watch organization.

## WHAT IS THE PROGRAM ABOUT?

Neighborhood Watch is intended to do the following:

- 1. Increase awareness of residents in the neighborhood.
- 2. Used the increased awareness so that residents become the eyes and ears of local law enforcement.
- 3. Communicate items and actions that will reduce the opportunity for and actual crime in the neighborhood.
- 4. Communicate both the successes that help prevent crime and the primary causes for a crime when one occurs.

If we do these things as a team we make our neighborhood a better place to live and reduce opportunities for criminals.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IMMEDIATELY TO REDUCE CRIMINAL OPPORTUNITY?

- 1. The following items were identified as action items to be shared with residents to reduce the opportunities for crime in Village Creek.
  - a) Close garage doors even if the resident is at home,
  - b) Keep all doors to the house including the door from an attached garage to the house locked at all times.
  - c) Lock cars at all times.
  - d) Remove all valuables from cars inclusive of items such as GPS portables, computers, iPods, etc..
  - e) Do not leave keys in cars.
  - f) Report any suspicious activity to Pct 4 Constable at 281-376-3472. If the resident is concerned about remaining anonymous than advise the resident to state up front that they are making an anonymous report. (This action is the cornerstone of a successful neighborhood Watch program.

We will start to publish the neighborhood successes and challenges in the Gazette monthly and list them on the website. Please feel free to communicate items to your Block Captain if you have one or to me directly at mike@myvillagecreek.net.





## POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## Neighborhood Night Out

October 7, 2008 is neighborhood night out. Get together with your street and plan a block party, or just a quick casual get together to meet your neighbors, exchange phone numbers and email addresses.

## **New You Can Use**

You can sell old cell phones for cash - visit www.cellforcash. com for complete information. They will send a postage paid envelope for you to send your phone back in and then in return they will pay you for your phone.

## **Cypress Christian School Students receive honors at TAPPS State Art Competition**

Cypress Christian School students recently received awards at the TAPPS State Art Contest at Concordia University. CCS students entered eight pieces of work in the competition and received six ribbons

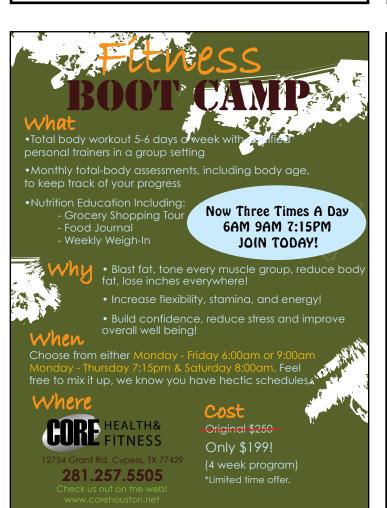
Recognition was given to the following students:

- Cat Crozier-Honorable Mention in on-site drawing
- Payton Lambert-4th place in on-site photography
- Sarah Longridge-Honorable mention in on-site drawing
- Courtney Middleton-Honorable mention in kitchen floor plan
- Michelle Van Rieg-6th place in bedroom floor plan and model
- Nick Yalamanchili-Honorable mention in on-site photography Other students who participated included Kate Bennett, Tony Lozoda, Charis Medendorp, Jenifer Nguyen, and Rachel Reed.

## **Neighborhood Garage Sale**

The Fall Garage Sale is set for September 26 & 27. The HOA provides a sign at the entrance of the neighborhood, but residents are responsible to put out their own directional signs. They may open and close their own garage sale at a time that is convenient for them. Remember to be safe.





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# Village Creek Market Report

Courtesy of "DAVID FLORY"

This market information report is provided to keep you informed of resale market activity in your subdivision.

	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul 08
\$350,000 +	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$300,000 - 349,999	0	0	0	0	1	0
\$250,000 - 299,999	1	2	1	0	1	1
\$200,000 - 249,999	0	0	0	0	1	3
\$160,000 - 199,999	0	1	0	1	0	2
\$160,000 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	3	1	1	3	6
Highest \$/Sq Ft	76.25	101.30	81.97	63.15	88.58	82.36

This chart represents the homes that have sold and closed in the past 6 months according the Houston Multiple Listing Service.

# #2 Realtor In Texas

Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2007

# David "Super Dave" Flory



- Top 1% of Realtors in the U.S.
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- Over 96% of David's Listings Result in a Sale

HIGHEST PRICE PER SQ.FT. resale homes sold in Village Creek: \$101.72

rofessional Group Direct line: 281-477-0345

832-478-1208

## **Safety Warning**

Memorial Day weekend a home on Wandering Streams was burglarized while the residents were out of town and no arrest was made. In July a homeowner had their pickup truck with boat attached stolen and taken for a joy ride. The next morning the boat was found on Lake Vista and the truck in the community pool parking lot. A home invasion took place on Lake Vista on August 8th with the residents being home at the time in the early morning hours. The armed robber was arrested and no one was hurt. This particular robber was parked on a side street and just waiting to spot a victim. This is getting a little too frequent in Village Creek.

Village Creek Residents need to take a stand and stop these crimes from happening. If you see any suspicious people or vehicles on your street or something that just doesn't look right, please call the Constable's office at 281-376-3472. Enter this number into your cell phone, this way you will always have it in case of an emergency. Northwest Mud #5 contracts with the Constables to patrol our neighborhood and they will gladly come and check out the situation. Let them make the decision if it's someone out of place or just a relative or friend visiting our neighborhood.

How to Stay Safe

- 1. Do not open your front door to strangers.
- 2. Keep your garage door closed.
- 3. Lock all doors, even when home, and if you have an attached garage lock the door that goes into your home.
- 4. Check that all windows are locked.
- 5. Test your alarm system.
- 6. Turn you alarm on at night, when you leave for work, or when going for a walk.
- 7. Park your vehicles in your garage or park them in the drive way. Lock all doors and do not leave your keys or valuables in your vehicle. Vehicles left on the street are more likely to be broken into.
- 8. Upon leaving your home, if you will not be returning until after dark, turn your porch light on or at least lights inside your home. A dark house screams that no one is home.
- 9. At bedtime keep your cell phone and car keys on the night stand. You will have your phone near in case of an emergency and your car keys to hit the alarm button on in case you hear something outside. The alarm should scare off would be buglers.
- 10. Remember school has started. Remind your children about not talking to strangers or getting into a strangers car when waiting at the bus stop.

It's unfortunate that we have to go to great lengths to keep safe, but it is the society that we now live in. These are just a few simple ways to stay safe.

## Doggie Poo

We don't want to sound like a broken record, but when out walking your dog, please pick up after your pet does their business. Walkers are disgusted and tired of seeing this on our sidewalks. It is not very sanitary to say the least. If you forgot to bring or don't have a plastic doggie bag when out on your stroll, quickly move your pet off the sidewalk and onto the grass where resident walkers are less likely to step. This is the #1 complaint that the HOA receives, so please pick up after your pets.



## **Advertising Information**

Please support the business that advertise in the Village Creek newsletter.. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter each month at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing The deadline for ads is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.



Serving the Community for 20 years

Golfers beware. The golf swing puts a lot of stress on the arch and ball of the foot. This can result in ligament strain and associated heel pain, or in a benign nerve cyst in the ball of the foot.

# REE\* Initial Consultation 'X-rays and treatment not included.

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Dr. Amy Walsh DPM Board Certified in Foot Surgery

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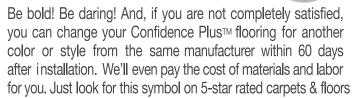
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## Yard of the Month

Congratulations to the residents of 17426 Sweet Song for being chosen as the Yard of the Month for August.

## Criteria for Yard of the Month Recipients

## Rules

- \*Yard of the Month will be awarded during the months of April-Sept.
- \*One (1) home will be selected during each month.
- \*Winner must be willing to have photos of the yard taken and published in the newsletter.
- \*Winners will be selected based on the attractiveness, maintenance, beautification, originality and creativity of their landscaping.
- \*A home cannot receive an award more than once a year.

## Awards

- \*Yard sign indicating the selection of the winning home will be placed in the front yard of the recipients of the month.
- \*A gift certificate from a local nursery will be presented to each winner from the Landscape Committee.

## Winners

\*All winners must be in good standing.

## **Judging Criteria**

- \*General upkeep of the yard (well manicured grass, edged, uniformly green and generally weed free).
- \*Bushes and shrubbery are neatly pruned and show good color.
- \*Unique landscaping or originality/creativity.
- \*Pleasant and overall appearance which makes the property an asset to the community.

## Reporting

\*The Landscape Committee will advise the Board of the Yard of the Month selection prior to notifying the homeowner/resident.



## **September Landscaping**

Submitted By Ron Kerwin

September is the startup time for planning some cool season activity. It is about time, right? We need to continue with all the things we have been doing to get through another summer; watering at 1 inch per week, good layers of mulch etc.

Now is a good time to raise tree canopies and thin them out. Dead limbs are obvious now, which will not be the case after leaf drop. Many property owners still have curb area trees with limbs prohibiting cars or trucks from parking in front of the home without paint damage to the roofs. These same trees often endanger passersby on the sidewalk from being poked in the eyes. They also usually have dead grass underneath caused by lack of sunlight to the turf area. Other trees on your properties can benefit from canopy raising and thinning. Wax myrtles and some other "shrubs" can be treed up so they have visible trunks and more resemble trees than shrubs, a totally different look.

Historically Septembers are still very hot. If you are wearing down, you can still hire a lawn service (like mine) to get you through the season. Lawn Companies should be happy to take you on as new clients even this late in the season. If you desire to have an attractive and green lawn all winter, you can put down ryegrass seed late in the month or in October. Your property will stand out in the neighborhood as people drive by and see your green lawn amongst all the dormant grass lawns.

Buy your spring bulbs through catalogs or local nurseries. DO NOT plant them yet. You can get a better selection now. Hybrid tulips and hyacinth bulbs should be placed in the vegetable crisper section in your refrigerator for a necessary pre-chill period prior to planting them. Wait until October/November to plant any bulbs. You can however prepare the beds for the bulbs, add organic matter & turn over the soil.

You can cut back your roses early in the month, but do it sparingly. You will get a rose display this fall if you have maintained your roses well over the summer heat. You can actually plant a fall vegetable garden now. For a list of veggies recommended and their varieties for this area call the Texas Extension office at 817-884-1945 and ask for the free list. The Extension Office has a surprising quantity of free information available, so ask

for answers to several questions. The volunteer M a s t e r Gardeners there will try hard to get you the right publications.



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# wait u to put the nig and p

## **Trash**

If at all possible, please wait until the morning of trash day to put out your trash. Putting it out the night before attracts animals and pests who are not welcome

guests! Also, take care to secure loose trash items, as they can easily blow away. Thanks for making every effort to ensure the cleanliness and beautiful appearance of Village Creek!

## **Vacation Watch Program**

Take advantage of the Constable's vacation watch when you are out of town. Before leaving call the Constable's office and let them know when you will be leaving and when you will be returning. Your home will be checked during the Constable's regular neighborhood drive-through. To contact the Constable's Office, call 281-376-3472

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## Village Creek Website

Check out our community website at www.myvillagecreek.net. It continues to grow with new ideas contributed from residents. Residents can find a lot of helpful information regarding our community, such as: Architectural home improvement request forms, block captains, board member info and previous meeting minutes, calendar of events, Chaparral Management information, the Constables Corner, deed restrictions, landscaping and lake updates, lost and found items, a neighborhood map, neighborhood watch, newsletters, pets, phone numbers and links, pool/splash pad updates, school info, trash/recycling, and yard of the month winners.

A new item on the menu is "Neighbor to Neighbor". This is a place to advertise your business for free to other Village Creek residents. If you own a business and would like your information posted on the website, please email Diana@myvillagecreek.net with the information required below.

Resident Name

**Business Name** 

**Business Address** 

**Business Phone** 

Type of Business

Email

Website



It's a nice way for Village Creek residents to support each other. But please remember as per the deed restrictions, A RESIDENT MAY NOT OPERATE A BUSINESS FROM THEIR HOME.

- E. Restrictions of Use:
- 2. Prohibition of Offensive of Commercial Uses: Article IX, Section 2

No activity which may become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood or which shall in any way unreasonably interfere with the quiet enjoyment of each Owner of such Owner's lot or which shall degrade property values or distract from the aesthetic beauty of the Property, shall be conducted thereon. No repair work, dismantling, or assembling of boats, motor vehicles or other machinery shall be done in any driveway or adjoining street. No part of the Property shall ever be used or allowed or authorized in any way, directly or indirectly, for any business, commercial, manufacturing, mercantile, storing, vending, or other such nonresidential purposes.



# SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

School is back in session. Please be aware of children walking and biking to and from school. Of course, we want all children to be safe and school buses are relatively safe. However, accidents and injuries involving school buses do happen. More often than not these injuries happen when children are entering or exiting the bus. Here are some safety tips for school bus riders.

- Have a safe place to wait for the bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- Hold onto the handrails when entering or exiting the bus.
- Once on the bus, take your seat and remain seated face forward.
- Talk quietly so that you don't distract the driver.
- Never throw things on the bus and keep your hands to yourself.
- When you exit the bus, take ten giant steps away from the bus. When you are closer than 10 feet from the bus, the driver might not see you. This is known as the DANGER ZONE.
- If you forget something on the bus, do not return to the bus to get it. The driver might not see you.
- Be aware of the street traffic around you.
- If you need to cross the street, cross in front of the bus never behind the bus.

Motorists should follow safety rules around school buses. Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop. Motorists should slow down and be prepared to stop. Red flashing lights indicate that the bus has stopped and that children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red flashing lights are turned off.

Here are a few more traffic safety tips for motorists.

- When backing out of the driveway or garage, watch out for children.
- · When driving through neighborhoods and especially in school
- zones, watch out for children. Children don't always pay attention to traffic and don't always know that motorists have trouble seeing them.
- Slow down. Watch out for children walking or playing in the street.
- Be alert and ready to stop. Children sometimes dart into the street.



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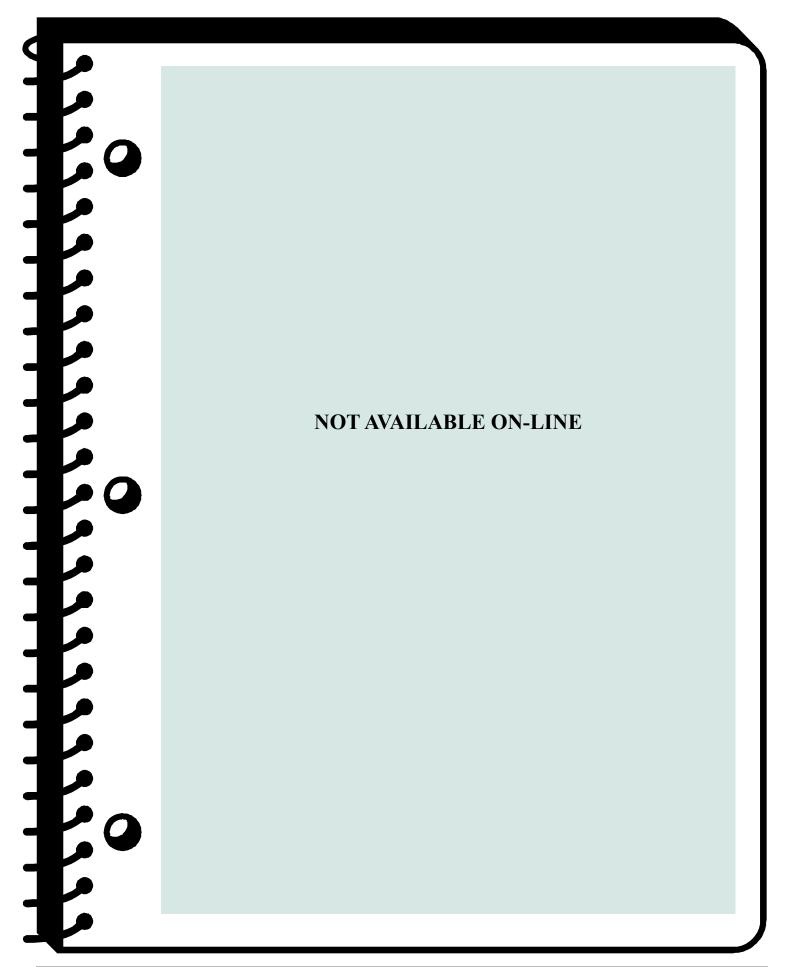
I will strive to make your move as "worry free" as possible, whether you are buying or selling!

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## Pet Waste: Dealing with a Real Problem in Suburbia

Pet waste is not the predominant or most toxic pollutant in urban streams, but it is one of many small sources of pollution that can cumulatively have a big impact if left unmanaged. In North Central Texas the estimated dog population is 1.2 million. The average

dog produces three to four pounds of waste daily, according to the Food and Drug Administration. That's about 900,000 pounds of dog poop produced every day in North Texas. Add to this figure cats and other smaller pets, and a significant volume of waste is being generated daily.

Pet waste contains bacteria and parasites, as well as organic matter and nutrients, notably nitrogen and phosphorous.

## Some of the diseases that can be spread from pet waste are:

- Campylobacteriosis- a bacterial infection that causes diarrhea in humans.
- Salmonellosis- the most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans from animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Toxocarisis- roundworms transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include vision loss, rash, fever, or cough.

In addition to these diseases, the organic matter and nutrients contained in pet waste can degrade water quality. When pet waste is washed into a surface water body, the waste decays. This process of breaking down the organic matter in the waste uses up dissolved oxygen and releases ammonia. Low oxygen levels, increased ammonia and warm summer water temperatures can kill fish.

Excess phosphorous and nitrogen added to surface waters can lead to cloudy, green water from accelerated algae and weed growth. Decay of this extra organic matter can depress oxygen levels, killing organisms. Objectionable odors can also occur.

Flies and other pest insects can also increase when pet waste is disposed of improperly, becoming a nuisance and adding another vector for disease transmission.

Managing pet waste properly is something that everyone can do to make a difference in their respective watersheds. Truly, proper individual actions result in significant water quality improvement when carried out by the majority. Unlike some forms of stormwater pollutants, pet waste can be easily and economically managed by the individual.

Sometimes, the 'out of sight, out of mind' attitude exists regarding pet waste. Employing this flawed thinking, waste is often disposed of in the street stormwater catch basin. Aside from dumping directly into a water body, this is the single worst place to dispose of waste. In the next rainstorm, the accumulated waste is transported quickly and efficiently to the nearby receiving water course, polluting it.. That said, then, specifically what can be done?

# Proper Onsite Disposal Flush it

Pet waste itself (not the litter or bedding material) can be flushed down the toilet. The water from the toilet goes either to a septic system onsite or a sewage treatment plant that removes most pollutants before the water reaches its outlet. The used litter should be disposed of in a securely closed bag in the trash.

## **Bury** it

You can bury the waste directly in the yard. Dig a hole or trench that is 6 inches deep, away from vegetable gardens, play areas, and away from any lake, stream, or well. Often, the woods is an ideal spot. Microorganisms in the top layer of soil will break down and digest the waste, releasing the nutrients for uptake by adjacent vegetation. Never add the waste as a fertilizer to the garden or to the compost pile. The disease organisms will continue to survive and create a significant health risk.

## Trash it

Check local ordinances first. Putting pet waste in the trash is against the law in some communities. Even if legal and easy, it's not the best solution. Waste can contribute to the landfill problems in the state.

## Leave it to someone else

Believe it or not, a number of professional pet waste disposal services exist. These businesses will completely remove the waste from your yard and dispose of it themselves, for a fee.

## Odinances, signage and education

Many communities have "pooper-scooper" laws that govern pet waste cleanup. Some of these laws specifically require anyone who walks an animal off of their property to carry a bag, shovel, or scooper. Any waste left by the animal must be cleaned up immediately. Call your local health officer to find out more about pet waste regulations.

In recreation areas, trails, and public parks, 'scooper signage' along with plastic bag dispensers and disposal cans should be provided. This idea is especially critical at streamside or lake shore walking trails.

Public education is critical when addressing the pet waste problem. Interestingly, much of the public thinks of problems associated with pet waste as being only nuisance related-odors or aesthetics. An actual example of this is the woman walking her dog in the park who had brought along a brown paper bag to collect the 150 pound mastiff's waste. This she indeed dutifully did, and then proceeded to dispose of the bag by...tossing it into the lake!

Brochures, newsletters, signage, local public service announcements, and evening seminars are all ways to get the word out to the public. One very effective way to reach people is to have a flyer enclosed in tax bills or other municipally-generated mailings that go to all property owners.

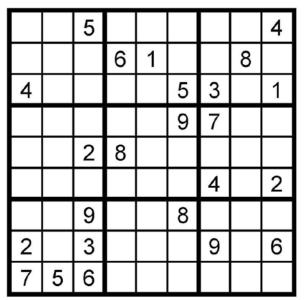
## Conclusion

The problem of pet waste disposal in suburbia is a real one. Research has indicated strongly that water quality is negatively impacted by this pollutant in Texas. However, unlike many other sources of water degradation in the state, improper pet waste management is a dilemma that can be easily corrected through education by organizations and common sense actions by individuals.

Let's all "doo" the right thing and pick up after our pets. Make a difference and go green.

## Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.



\*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

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# Recipe of the Month:

**Lemon Ice Box Cake** 

Submitted by Madra Ford

1 vellow cake mix

- 2 cans sweetened condensed milk (Eagle Brand)
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 8oz. container Cool Whip

Bake cake as directed for two layers. When cool, slice each layer in half, making four layers. In a bowl combine condensed milk with lemon juice.....reserve 1/2 cup & set aside for frosting.

Use remaining juice/milk mixture as a filling between the four layers. With reserved mixture, gently fold in the Cool Whip and frost entire cake. Holes can be poked in cake so frosting is absorbed. This is better if made a day or two in advance.

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



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