

The Village Gazette



Volume 6, Issue 7
Village Creek Community Association

July 2009

When Vandals Strike Everyone Loses

For the past year residents have been speculating about what will be done with the old splash pad. They have looked forward to a skate park, another playground, or outdoor workout area among other ideas posed. Unfortunately, \$1,200 or more will have to be diverted from the budget to clean up the mess left by vandals this month and dreams of another amenity in Village Creek will have to be put off while money once again is funneled into fixing what some thought it was fun to destroy.

The perpetrators ripped the concrete slab tops off the stone wall and shattered those all over the place. They carried the destruction to the Scarlet Forest Drive Cul-de-sac by also breaking up the concrete slabs there as well. Board members are faced with having to decide how best to fix the vandalism.

“We are now forced to consider removal of the entire rock wall to avoid more costly clean up and damage,” Resident Board Member Don Rumsey said. “We are investigating the possibility of posting signs in the area that may aid local law enforcement in arresting individuals who ‘hang out in this area’....again the money to pay for these, seemingly unnecessary, signs will come from the community budget. Anyone who has information about individuals who caused this damage should feel free to contact any HOA Board Member so that we can prosecute these individuals to the full extent of the law.”

One of the main things that make residents choose Village Creek as a home is the warm, inviting, clean, family-friendly streets. It offers many playgrounds, walkways, wooded areas, splash-pad, pool, basketball goals, and a lake-all beautifully kept up. However, delinquents frequently destroy public and private property in the neighborhood. Included among the past acts of vandalism are damage to the restroom at the pool, jumping the fence to the swimming while it is closed, stolen signs, signs ripped out of the ground or bent, graffiti on play grounds and pool house, and a broken marquee. All of this detracts from the neighborhood and costs residents money.

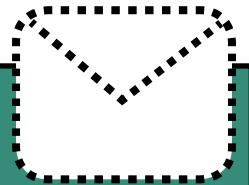
(Continued on Page 3)

June Yard of the Month Congratulations 17707 Edengrove Dr



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Klein Fire Dept.281-376-4449
Poison Control Center800-764-7661
Willowbrook Methodist281-477-1000

SCHOOLS

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Willow Creek Elem (K-4).....281-357-3080
Northpointe Int (5-6).....281-357-3020
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Transportation.....281-357-3193

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NEWSLETTER

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(Deadline is the 10th of each month)

Publisher - Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181
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Featured Deed Restriction *Storage of Automobiles, Boats, Trailers, Other Vehicles and Equipment*

Deed Restriction, Article IX, Section 18

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Declaration, no Owner, lessee, tenant, or occupant of a Lot, including all persons who reside with such Owner, lessee, or occupant on the Lot, shall park, keep, or store any vehicle on any Lot which is visible from any street in the Subdivision or any neighboring Lot other than a passenger vehicle or pick-up truck and then only if parked on a drive-way for a period of time not exceeding forty-eight (48) consecutive hours. For purposes of these Restrictions, the term "passenger vehicle" is limited to any vehicle which displays a passenger vehicle license plate issued by the State of Texas or which, if displaying a license plate issued by another state, would be eligible to obtain a passenger vehicle license from the State of Texas, and the term "pick-up truck" is limited to a three-quarter (3/4) ton capacity pick-up truck which has not been adapted or modified for commercial use. No passenger vehicle or pick-up truck owned by residents of a Lot shall be permitted to be parked overnight on any street in the Subdivision. No guest of an Owner, lessee, or other occupant of a Lot shall be entitled to park on any street in the Subdivision overnight or on the driveway of a Lot for a period longer than forty-eight (48) consecutive hours.

NOT AVAILABLE ON-LINE

The Village Gazette

When Vandals Strike - (Continued from Cover Page)

“Sometimes folks forget that wasted water or money that is spent to counter vandals or re-mediate repairs comes out of all our pockets,” Rumsey said. “Early estimates to clean up the mess and repair the damage are \$1200+, and that is money everyone pays, thru the budget, to repair this damage. Money spent to repair or counter vandalism is money that has not been budgeted and as a result is money that must come from somewhere else in the budget or potentially delay future improvements. It’s a shame that so many pay the price for the actions of a few, and we risk terminating amenities because of abuse or vandalism certainly isn’t fair to the majority. Of course, having to pay for repairs isn’t fair to the majority either.”

As summer stretches on so does the risk of more vandalism, but perpetrators should beware as residents become tired of the mess and the cost they will be on alert and so will local law enforcement and the next late night frolic may result in heavy penalties to those who participate.



Recently, vandals tore up the old splash pad and surrounding area delaying further developments.

Doggy Doo Don't

Please remember to clean up after your pet while walking them. An easy way to do this is to bring along a plastic bag attached to your pet's leash. Thank you for helping us keep our neighborhood clean and the outdoor areas enjoyable for all residents.



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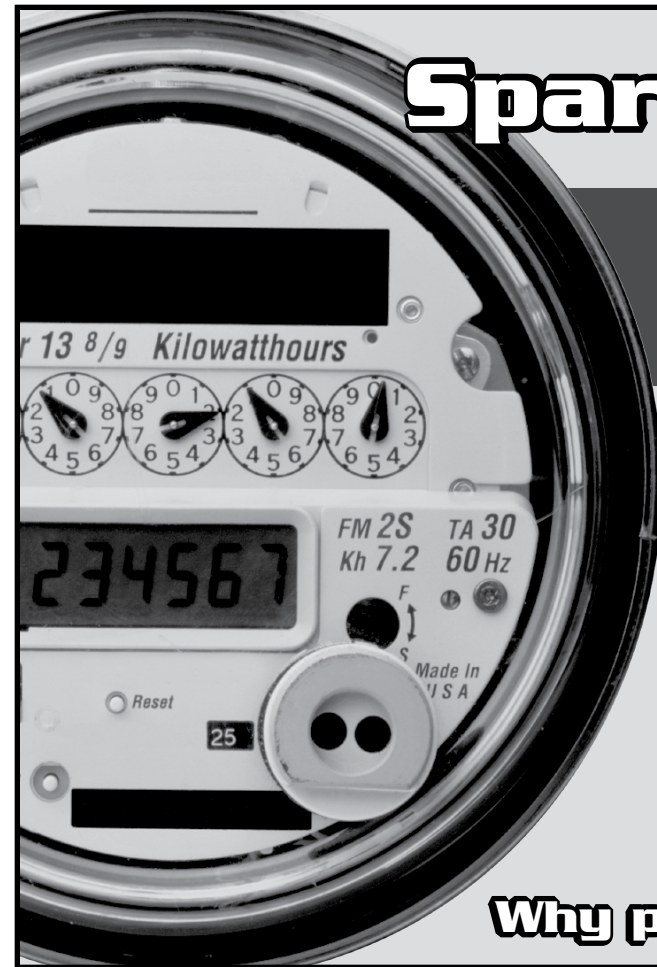
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Village Creek Neighborhood Watch BLOCK CAPTAIN DRIVE



It has been about a year since Neighborhood Watch came to Village Creek. What seemed to have a slow start has become an important first defense against crime in our neighborhood. We are determined to make a difference here and we hope to encourage more of you to join us. Out of 55 streets, 42 have either a Block Captain or a temporary Block Captain. Our goal is to find a permanent Captain for each street by August 1st. We want to provide every resident with ALERTS and important information concerning our neighborhood. Would you be willing to help?

We have 5 streets with no one sending out the ALERTS or information. **If you live on one of the following streets please consider becoming a Block Captain.** It's also a great way to meet your neighbors.

Carriage Glen
Lyric Way
Mossy Woods
Towne Bridge
Wandering Streams – West

The following 8 streets have temporary Captains but could use a permanent Block Captain from that particular street.

Cloverview
Days Dawn
Gables Bend
Magic Falls
Old Court
Pedder Way
Scarlet Forest
Village Crest Court

Please Consult:
Myvillagecreek.net and click on Block

Captains for
more information
or email LeAnn@karsteninterior.com

A Signature is Worth the Signs...

Did you know that in order to get free Neighborhood Watch signage Village Creek needs to show that 50% of the neighborhood wants a Neighborhood Watch program in their community? All you have to do is sign or initial by your name and address when the Block Captain collects your contact information.

ARE YOU READY TO SELL?

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Constables Corner

By Sgt. James Rouse

We have recently experience an increase in home burglaries in the area. The suspect(s) break the master bathroom window and make entry into the residence. The suspect(s) only burglarize the master bedroom, closet and bathroom area. Jewelry is the main item taken. Guns, passports and electronics are also taken. The burglaries have occurred at all hours of the day to homes with and without alarm systems. The suspect(s) are in and out in a matter of minutes. Some of the victims are only away from the residence for a short period of time.

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS

- Always set your alarm
- Install a "window break" sensor on all windows
- Store your valuables somewhere other than the master bedroom
- Call the police when suspicious activity is observed

This is also the time of year for the garage bandits to steal your yard equipment. Keep your garage doors closed and obtain the serial numbers to your equipment. Don't forget to keep your vehicle doors locked!

James Rouse- Sergeant 8443, Harris County Constable Pct 4
Patrol Division- West District, 281-370-9106



Welcome New Neighbors!

Village Creek would like to welcome new residents to our community!

Lamar Duhon
12702 Eagle Ledge Lane
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Jeanne Hyde
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LONE STAR TEXAS LICENSE PLATE SET TO HIT TEXAS ROADWAYS



Eight-year-old John Thomsett of Gilmer, Tx. joined Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) officials on Tuesday to announce that the colorful new general-issue license plate, Lone Star Texas, is about to hit Texas' roadways.

"My fellow Texans, I am pleased to announce that the new license plates have left the factory," John said during a TxDOT press conference at the Travis County tax office in Austin. "You will be seeing it on a car or truck near you real soon."

TxDOT began shipping the new general-issue plates to the 254 county tax offices statewide on Monday. County tax offices should have the Lone Star Texas plate in stock by no later than June 12.

"Because our state is real big, it will take about two weeks for the plates to arrive in all the county tax offices," John explained. County tax offices will need to exhaust their current plate inventory before issuing the Lone Star Texas plates.

In February 2008, John and his classmates at Gilmer Elementary School helped to choose the Lone Star Texas design as part of TxDOT's first online vote for a new general-issue license plate. John's teacher, Kerry Hradecky, cast the vote for the class.

"I was very excited that my students could be involved and have a voice in voting for such a prevalent symbol - our state license plate," said Hradecky, who teaches first grade at the Gilmer Elementary School. "We discussed that different states have different license plates based upon state characteristics and our privilege as Americans to vote."

Cindy Jones, who can trace her Texas roots back to an ancestor in the Republic of Texas Navy, said she cast her vote for the Lone Star Texas plate because it shows off the state's majesty and pride.

"The license plate was an inspiration - and I never thought I'd say that!" said Jones, who lives in Mason. "Allowing everyone to vote was a great idea."

Ed Serna, TxDOT

assistant executive director for operations, said at the press conference the new general-issue plate goes by a special name at the agency. "At TxDOT we affectionately

call it 'The People's Plate,'" Serna said.

Texans chose the Lone Star Texas plate from five different designs. The plate design received 455,878 of the more than 1.1 million Texans votes. The Texas Transportation Commission, which by law must approve the state's general-issue plate, unanimously agreed with online voters and approved the plate on Feb. 28, 2008.

The opportunity for a new general-issue license presented itself when the agency realized it was going to run out of the six-character plate patterns. The new general-issue plate features seven-character license plate numbers.

It also is the state's first digitally-produced and full color general-issue license plate. The Lone Star Texas design features clouds in a blue Texas sky and brushes of red and blue with the familiar Lone Star in white. The plate also features the Davis mountain range.

The digital process creates a more environmentally-friendly plate, eliminating the need for 484 gallons of paint thinners and 396 gallons of ink annually, and the energy needed to power huge ovens that dried the plate ink. The factory at the state prison in Huntsville, where the license plates are manufactured, was retooled and outfitted with new equipment for digital production.

"We are asking Texans to join us in our concern for the environment by not rushing down to their local county tax office to purchase this plate," said Rebecca Davio, director of TxDOT's Vehicle Titles and Registration Division, which oversees the manufacturing of the state's plates. "Our plates are made of recyclable aluminum but if everyone decides to run out for the new plate then good plates will be wasted."

Texans eligible for the new license plate will be those that purchase a new vehicle, and those whose license plates are seven years old, the mandatory time when plates are replaced because they lose their safety reflectivity.

Nelda Wells Spears, the Travis County tax assessor-collector, reminded Texans that the reflective sheeting on license plates helps rescuers and citizens spot vehicles at night that have run off the road

(Continued on Page 8)



Texas Department of Transportation

Cypress Christian School Students Collect

Pennies for Patients

Elementary students at Cypress Christian School recently collected money for children who have cancer in the Houston area by donating "pennies for patients." Grades kindergarten through fifth grade raised a total of \$415.33, which was donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The organization raises money for children who have been diagnosed with several different kinds of cancer.



The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Lone Star Texas License Plate - (Continued from Page 7)

or are pulled off on the shoulder. License plates also help to save lives and catch criminals, Spears said.

"One of the primary tools for police when they are looking for a suspect, whether it be someone who abducted a child or robbed a bank, is to ask citizens to be on the look out for a certain vehicle model with a specific license plate number," Spears said. "While there may be thousands of the same type of vehicles on our roadways there will be only one with that unique license plate number."

There are more than 21 million registered vehicles in Texas and the majority of them have general-issue license plates. License plates are a part of "Put Texas in your corner," the vehicle registration process that includes annual renewal of the registration sticker.

Since 1917, the Texas Department of Transportation has been responsible for the state's license plates. This new general-issue license plate may be the agency's last. In the Texas legislative session that ended on Monday, June 1, lawmakers passed a bill to create the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, which would take over responsibility for the state's license plates. The bill is awaiting Gov. Rick Perry's signature.

For more information contact:

Kim Sue Lia Perkes, Public Information Officer

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Healthier Homes

Easy Ways to Improve Household Air Quality

By: Michelle & Charlie Bubnis

Home cleaning products contain an array of harmful chemicals that are not required by law to be listed on the products' label. These chemicals have a toxic effect on indoor air quality. The best way to avoid this unknown risk to your family is to create your own cleaning products which is much easier than one may think. **Here are some suggestions:**

- Almond Oil: Furniture polish
- Baking Soda: Cleans, deodorizes, removes stains and softens fabrics
- BonAmi: Functions as an abrasive cleanser
- Borax: Natural mineral that can be used to bleach, deodorize, remove stains, and boost soap. It also kills bacteria and mold. It can also be used in your dishwasher as 1 part borax and 1 part washing soda. Add ¼ cup to dishwasher load
- Castile Soaps: All purpose cleaner
- Citrus peels: Deodorize garbage disposal
- Cornstarch: Absorb oil and grease, starches clothes
- Club Soda: Pre-wash and stain remover
- Hydrogen Peroxide: Germicidal. Hydrogen Peroxide and cream of tartar paste make a good cleaner for sinks and bathtubs
- Lemon Juice: Bleach alternative, grease cutter, stain and perspiration remover for clothing. Lemon juice and salad oil as a furniture polish. Lemon juice on a cloth cleans aluminum
- Table Salt: Abrasive cleaner
- Vinegar : Water softener, cuts grease, removes stains; strips lime deposits from showers, removes white haze on glassware
- Washing Soda :Cleans clothes, boosts soap's cleaning power, softens water, cuts grease and disinfects

Consider always avoiding fragranced cleaning or fragranced laundry products as 95% of chemicals used in fragrances are synthetic and derived from petroleum. These chemicals are combined in untested combinations. They are capable of causing cancer, birth defects, central nervous system disorders and allergic reactions.

So pick up a few of the suggested items listed above at the grocery store and the air quality in the home will improve along with the health of your family.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

1. Less Toxic Alternatives by Carolyn Gorman, 2004
2. The Most Common Chemicals Found in Thirty-One Fragrance Products by a 1991 EPA Study by Julia Kendall www.immuneweb.org/articles/perfume.html

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The Village Gazette

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