

# The Village Gazette



Volume 7, Issue 1  
Village Creek Community Association

January 2010



## Village Creek gets a Patriotic Visitor!

A symbol of American pride quite fittingly visited Village Creek this Thanksgiving. Residents were treated to the majesty of watching an American Bald Eagle, in their own backyards!

## Letter From *The Social Committee*

Hello!

Just wanted to send a belated shout out of "Thanks!" for your part in the Village Creek Christmas party! What started out as a cold, dreary day cleared up and we had a great turn out!

- Don and Diana- Thanks for all the help putting up the decorations, they look great!
- Ruth- Thanks for coming early to set up and bringing the cookies
- Amy- Thanks for organizing the "elves", they did a great job!
- Jennifer- Thanks for bringing the tunes, finding the books and your advice during the planning
- LeAnn- Thanks for making the NAM box and delivering the items, it was nice to see the box overflowing.
- Thank you to my dad for bringing and returning Santa to the North Pole and watching Catie during the party
- And last, but not least, Thanks to my sweet husband for filling in for Santa, you did an Awesome job!

Good work team!

Yesterday I delivered 40 cards that the neighborhood kids made to Daughters of the American Revolution local chapter. On the back of the card I included a label that read, "Made especially for you by a child from Village Creek neighborhood in Tomball, Texas". They were happy to receive them, and just in time to make it to the soldiers for Christmas. Not sure if they're going to include them in care packages or send them directly.

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas!

Caren Seal



# The Village Gazette

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Constables Office ..... 281-376-3472, [www.cd4.hctx.net](http://www.cd4.hctx.net)  
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Poison Control Center .....800-764-7661  
Willowbrook Methodist .....281-477-1000

### SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD .....281-357-3100, [www.tomballisd.net](http://www.tomballisd.net)  
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Northpointe Int (5-6).....281-357-3020  
Willow Wood Jr (7-8) .....281-357-3030  
Tomball High (9-12).....281-357-3220  
Transportation.....281-357-3193

### HOA MGMT

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Kay Serventi .....[kserventi@chaparralmanagement.com](mailto:kserventi@chaparralmanagement.com)  
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6630 Cypresswood Drive, Suite 100, Spring, Texas  
Mailing: P.O. Box 681007: Houston, Texas 77268-1007

### SERVICES

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CenterPoint-Gas.....713-659-2111  
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FBI.....713-693-5000  
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Houston Chronicle .....713-220-7211  
Greater Houston Pool .....713-771-7665  
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Yard Stork .....[kpuente@garygreene.com](mailto:kpuente@garygreene.com)

### NEWSLETTER

Editor, Tisha Butler .....[tisha@myvillagecreek.net](mailto:tisha@myvillagecreek.net)  
(Deadline is the 10th of each month)  
Publisher - Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181  
Advertising.....[advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com), 888-687-6444

### RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Diana Christopher ..... [diana@myvillagecreek.net](mailto:diana@myvillagecreek.net)  
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Jeff Lev .....[jeff@myvillagecreek.net](mailto:jeff@myvillagecreek.net)  
Pool Card Info ..... [poolcards@myvillagecreek.net](mailto:poolcards@myvillagecreek.net)  
Social Committee..... [social@myvillagecreek.net](mailto:social@myvillagecreek.net)



## Social Corner

A huge "THANK YOU" to the Social Committee for a great time had by all the children who were able to come and see Santa Claus and receive a copy of the Scholastic book "Mooseltoes".

The Social Committee works hard year round, planning events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th Parade, Kindergarten back to school party, Fall Festival and visit with Santa. They work tirelessly to make sure that FUN is had by all. Thank you again for volunteering for the residents of Village Creek.

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## Just the Facts

Village Creek is a Friendswood Development

Total Number of Residences: 747

Builders within the community: David Weekley, Emerald, Lennar, Wilshire, David Powers and D.R. Horton.

Village Creek has 33 acres total of common area.

It is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile around the lake (we've been told).

Myth or Fact?

**MYTH:** All residents pay their homeowner association dues.

**FACT:** Village Creek is very fortunate to have 747 residents. Only 16 residents did not pay their dues for 2009. That amounts to \$10,032 loss to our 2009 budget. Those residents, who have not paid, have been turned over to the association's attorney for collection.

**MYTH:** I don't need to pay my homeowner association dues, they won't miss my payment.

**FACT:** The HOA dues pay for all things related to any common area within Village Creek. Just to name a few: street lights, maintenance of landscaping, watering of landscaping, maintenance of pool & splash pad, lifeguards, management fee, electricity-any area with lighting, 911 telephone located at the pool, water/sewer, insurance, legal fees, taxes, yearly accounting audit, lake maintenance including fountain, fence repairs, mosquito controlled spraying, vandalism, playground maintenance, mulching for playground areas and landscaping, forced mows, social (egg hunt, 4th of July, back to school party, fall festival

(Continued on Page 4)

## New HOA Board Member

Village Creek would like to welcome our newest Board member Jeff Lev. Jeff will fill the position of Director at Large. Thank you, Jeff, for volunteering in our community.

.....

## REMOVAL OF SIGNS

Please remember to remove any signs placed on stop signs or light poles throughout the community after your pet is found. Also please remember to remove your garage sale signs at the end of your sale. Let's keep our community sign free. Thank you.

## BUYING OR SELLING A HOME IS A BIG DECISION. CALL ON SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST: DEE PARDUE

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### VILLAGE CREEK MARKET REPORT\*

(Median)	#	Price	Price/SF	Days on Mkt
Active Listings:	19	\$249,999	\$80.18	111
Pending Listings:	5	\$207,457	\$70.33	148
Sold since 11/1/09:	4	\$304,000	\$90.88	51.5



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# The Village Gazette

**Facts-** (Continued from Page 3)

and Santa visit) and sign maintenance. It is important that we all continue to be involved and maintain our community as a whole. Resident's who choose not to pay the annual dues and those who neglect the necessary maintenance on their home, reduce all our property values and robs the community from necessary maintenance and improvements.

**MYTH:** Why am I getting a letter for an Architectural Approval?

**FACT:** Before a resident can do any updating or changes to the "outside-front or back" of their home, including the fencing, adding a pool, sidewalk, patio cover, landscaping, painting, etc., approval must be obtained.

**MYTH:** A resident can park and/or store their boat, trailer, RV, etc. in their driveway.

**FACT:** As per the deed restrictions those vehicles are not permitted. The HOA understands you may need to bring your boat or RV home to load up for a trip, but none of the above are to remain for an unspecified period of time.

**MYTH:** A resident can work from home.

**FACT:** A resident can work from home, but can not operate a business from home with customers coming and going.

**MYTH:** Why attend a monthly HOA meeting when the board is just going to do what they want regardless of my opinion?

**FACT:** The HOA board is comprised of five resident members who serve our community by volunteering. The board listens to those who attend the meetings and consider their thoughts during the decision making process. The board makes decisions on behalf of the community and in the best interest of the community.

**MYTH:** I can't attend the meeting at its current time, why can't the meeting be at a different time?

**FACT:** In the past the monthly meetings have been at 10:00 a.m., noon, on the weekend and now currently on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. It doesn't matter when the meetings are, because on an average the same amount of residents attend the monthly meeting, 1-5.

**MYTH:** I want the common area sprinkler system to run at a time convenient to my schedule.

**FACT:** Village Creek has 13 controller stations and it takes 23 hours to water the entire community. Heavier watering is during the spring and summer months. Our landscape contractor does try to keep the pathways free of the sprinklers running during the high traffic hours.

**MYTH:** Residents can let their pets roam the community unleashed.

**FACT:** Harris County has a leash law in effect. All residents should have their pets on a leash when walking throughout the community.

*Welcome New Neighbors!*

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



Joel Donohue  
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Charles LeBlanc  
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## **IMPORTANT PREVIEW DATES FOR 2010-2011**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010 -**

Kindergarten Open House (6-7 PM)  
K-12 Prospective Family Open House (7-8:30 PM)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010 -**

K-12 Parent Open House (9-11 AM)

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	ACTIVE	PENDING	SOLD Last 6 Mos
<b># of Listings</b>	19	7	22
<b>Price Range:</b>	\$170,000 \$350,000	\$149,000 \$318,500	\$216,000 \$352,000
<b>Average Price</b>	\$247,376	\$240,300	\$240,840
<b>Avg Price/sq.ft.</b>	\$80.42	\$75.45	\$77.69
<b>Avg DOM</b>	80	103	54
<b>High Price/sq.ft.</b>			\$64.49
<b>Low Price/sq.ft.</b>			\$101.72



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\*Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2008, 3/2009

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## Recipe of the Month

### Cheese Ball

#### Ingredients

- 2 - 8 oz. pkgs. cream cheese
- 1 small can crushed pineapple, drained well
- ¼ C green onion, chopped
- ¼ C green pepper, chopped
- 1½ tsp. seasoned salt
- 1 C nuts, finely chopped

#### Directions

Mix well. Form a ball and roll in chopped nuts.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to [articles@peelinc.com](mailto:articles@peelinc.com).*



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# The Village Gazette



## Britt's Book Buzz:

***Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl***

*"Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover,  
No-Matter "Witch" One You Choose"*



I came across Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl on the Amazon Editor's Picks of the top 100 books of 2009... with what appeared to be an intriguing plot and a gorgeous book cover, I thought I couldn't go wrong.

I was wrong. This young adult book is about a small town and a teenage boy, Ethan, who is stuck in it. The town is pretty stereotypical—nothing changes, people are narrow minded and everyone knows everyone else's business.

It seems that ever since his mom's death, Ethan's dreams are filled with a strange girl whom he is trying to save but is unsuccessful. In comes Lena, the girl whom Ethan has been dreaming about and who is a supernatural being, along with her hermit uncle and bizarre family.

During the Civil War, a curse was cast, which will directly affect Lena on her sixteenth birthday. The countdown begins as Ethan and

Lena together try to save Lena's future. Does Ethan save Lena? I won't divulge the end, but I will say that all of the effort is fruitless (not necessarily the outcome, mind you, but the effort, like the continual skipping of school to research a book that they think will have the answers they need to reverse the curse. Not the best example for our young adult audience).

Even with curses, sci-fi details and an introduction to the vocabulary of the supernatural (Caster, Natural, Witches, Spells...), the book is full of fluff and is a complete disappointment. This book doesn't even compare to the Twilight series.

Lesson learned; don't judge a book by its cover.

Feel free to comment on this review, your thoughts on the book or suggest a book for me to review on my blog: <http://brittsbuzz.blogspot.com>.

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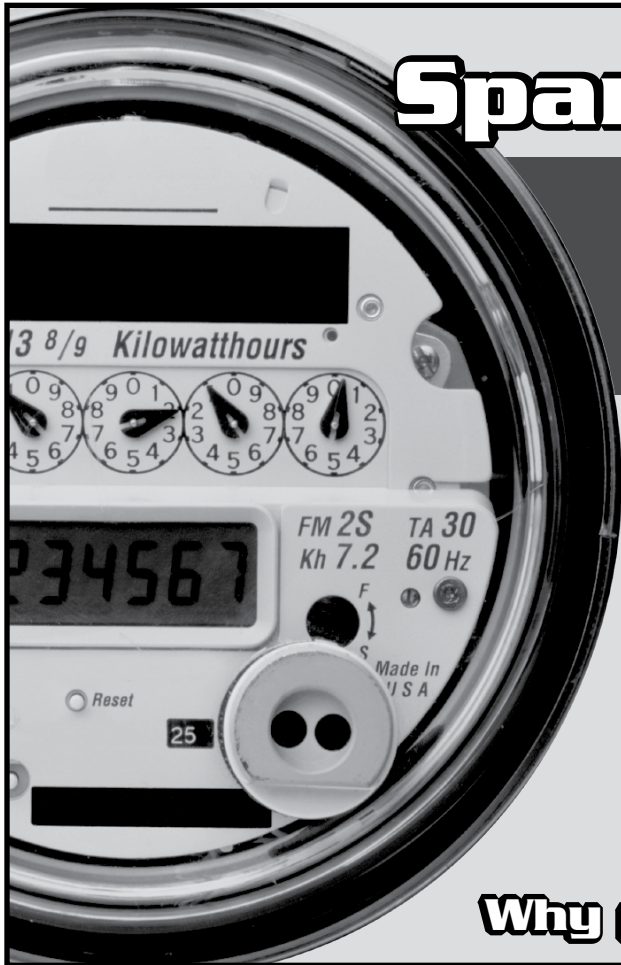
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# The Village Gazette

## Local Non-profit Seeks Qualified Candidate

The Houston Dog Park Association is seeking candidates for the Treasurer position on our 5 seat Board of Directors. We are a small 501c3 NFP consisting of volunteers who are passionate about dog parks and responsible dog ownership. HDPA has been incorporated for over 10 years and was the main catalyst that got dog parks started in Houston, beginning with Millie Bush Park in 2002. We have been inactive the last few years and are currently reviving the organization to advocate for dog parks more actively. We each spend a few hours a week working to educate about dog parks, responsible dog ownership, advocating for dog parks that need improvement, and promoting the need for more dog parks.

We have a book keeper volunteer that is a CPA. The ideal candidate would be able to attend one monthly meeting of the Board at 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. You will also attend the quarterly Membership meetings held at 3 pm on the third Sunday of the month that begins each quarter. The next one is in January. We also hold about one event per month on average to raise funds and awareness and we ask our Board to try to attend these events as their time permits.

Please submit your resume and experience for consideration. Please include a paragraph telling us why you would be a good candidate.

We are seeking an experienced NFP Treasurer to plan and manage the small yearly budget for HDPA and oversee the book keeper as well as maintaining and advising on HDPA's tax and non profit status and filings. Someone with training or knowledge of NFP budget and issues or direct NFP experience is preferred.

*The Village  
Gazette  
Stork Report*

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of your little one to  
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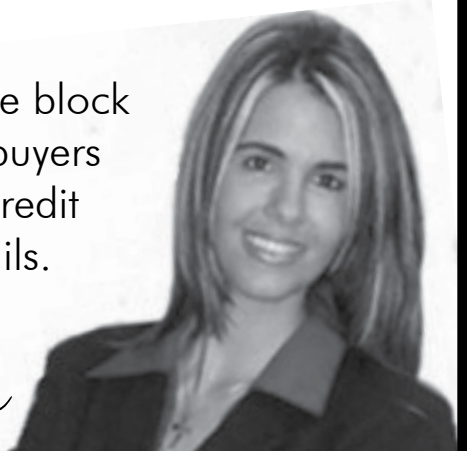
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# The Village Gazette

## "What Happens in Vegas ..."

The 2010 S.N.A.P. (Senior Night After Prom) Committee of Cypress Creek High School will host a Las Vegas-style Parent Night Out on Sunday, February 21st, 2010 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. This fun evening, featuring dinner, casino games, silent and live auctions will be held at Parkway Chevrolet, 25500 Hwy. 249. Tickets are \$25 per person, and include dinner, \$3,000 casino money and 2 drink tickets. The event is open to everyone – being a Cy Creek parent is not required. For casino night tickets and/or contributions, please contact Jeannette Harris at 713-560-6666 or jharrissix@comcast.net.

A 2010 Cougar Blue Camaro will also be raffled off during the casino night in support of S.N.A.P. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. You do not have to be present to win. Contact Mike Wilson at 832-496-2748 or mew0954@sbcglobal.net for raffle tickets. Details about the 2010 S.N.A.P. are at [www.cycreeksnap.org](http://www.cycreeksnap.org).



## 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](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing. The deadline for ads is the 8th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

## 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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# The Village Gazette

## US Olympian to Speak at Northwest Flyers Registration Breakfast on February 6th

The Northwest Flyers Track Club will host its annual free information / registration breakfast on Saturday, February 6, 2010, for all boys and girls, and their parents, interested in joining for the 2010 track season. The breakfast starts at 8:30 AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum located at 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

The breakfast is the annual opportunity for youth athletes to register for the 2010 summer track season, and to meet the Northwest Flyers coaches and staff, and other new and returning athletes. The event will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track & Field Olympic team.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (ages 6 -18) track organization, affiliated with USA Track & Field (USATF), that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and sanctioned "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, shot put and javelin. The Northwest Flyers has approximately 285 members, boys and girls. The club was founded 23 years ago by

Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the Northwest Houston area.

The Northwest Flyers is a member of the "Win with Integrity" program, a partnership between USATF and the American College of Sports Medicine. "Win with Integrity" brings elite track & field athletes and school-aged kids together to promote healthy lifestyles, keeping active, and living with integrity through the sport of track & field.

For additional information on the Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org> or contact Linette Roach at (281) 587-8442 or [linette.roach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linette.roach@sbcglobal.net).

### *Don't want to wait for the mail?*

View the current issue of the Village Creek Community Newsletter on the 1st day of each month online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

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## Meet Lisa

*Submitted by Tracy Eilers, Executive Director, Adoption Coalition of Texas*

Lisa is a 13-year-old girly girl. She loves to be pampered and is a people person. She is very outgoing, energetic, loving, and kind. She counts singing and dancing among her favorite things and loves to keep busy. Lisa looks to learn from all her experiences and move forward with her life. She is a joy to be around, is funny, sweet, and grateful for all that she's been given.

She's hoping there will be more things to be thankful for, like being adopted into a loving family. More than anything, she's ready to stop hoping for a family and to start loving one. For more information about adoption, please call Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-301-2825. For more information about Lisa, email [gracelindgren@adopttexas.org](mailto:gracelindgren@adopttexas.org)

*The Adoption Coalition of Texas is a nonprofit organization (operating under the Austin Community Foundation), created in 2003 to focus on finding forever families for children languishing in the foster care system. Adoption Coalition of Texas partner agencies include Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Child Protective Services, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Marywood Children and Family Services, and Pathways Youth and Family Services.*



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VC



# The Village Gazette

## Have You Googled Lately?

*Submitted by Laurie Scott*

Google is best known of course for its search engine (with 65% of the market no one is even close), and perhaps you're also a user of gmail, Google's free email service, but did you know that Google also offers everything from photo editing to telephone services for free? *The list is too long to cover everything here, but here are a few highlights you might be interested in:*

- **PICASA** - This is a very easy to use photo editing program that can do everything from correcting color, contrast and saturation with a single click to automatically finding the "red" in the red-eye in your photos.
- **GMAIL** - With gigabytes of free storage that grows everyday, gmail is a great email alternative. With an excellent junk mail filter and superfast searches of all your messages, it is worth taking a look at.
- **GOOGLE DOCS** - Looking for a free alternative to a locally installed office productivity suite, Google Docs offers what most



people need through your web browser, including a word processor, spreadsheet and presentation manager.

- **GOOG-411** - Hate paying a dollar or more just to dial 411 from your cell phone? Next time dial 1-800-GOOG-411 (800-466-4411) and forget those high cell-phone fees.
- **CALENDAR** - Google Calendar makes it easy to sync all your calendars together and share events with your friends. It

can work alone or with most mail clients on your computer and cell phones.

- **GOOGLE VOICE** - How about one phone number for the rest of your life? With Google Voice you can get a free phone number that when called, will ring one or several phones of your choice at the same time, take messages and then forward a transcript via SMS to your cell phone. You can listen to your messages on the web, and even place calls from your browser. You can also have customized voice mail greetings depending on who is calling you.

*(Continued on Page 13)*

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# The Village Gazette

## Have You Googled Lately? - (Continued from Page 12)

- Blogging - Have something to say and want your own place to say it, then you want Blogger. If it's interesting to you, then publish yourself for nothing more than the time it takes you to write.
- GOOGLE HEALTH - Store your family's medical records securely online, making it easy to share with your doctor or other physician when necessary
- GOOGLE EARTH - Take a look at the neighborhood where you grew up, or maybe the home where friends overseas live. With Google Earth you can tour the world from your computer.

Google encourages its employees to take a certain amount of time to work on projects they find interesting, which is where a lot of Google's products come from. You can bet there will be more to come in the next year.

*Do You Have Reason  
to Celebrate?*

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to let the community know!

## 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.

					1			3
	1				2			6
	7	6						
	9						8	
				4		5		
			3		5		1	
				9			3	1
			1			7		
		1	8	2	3		6	

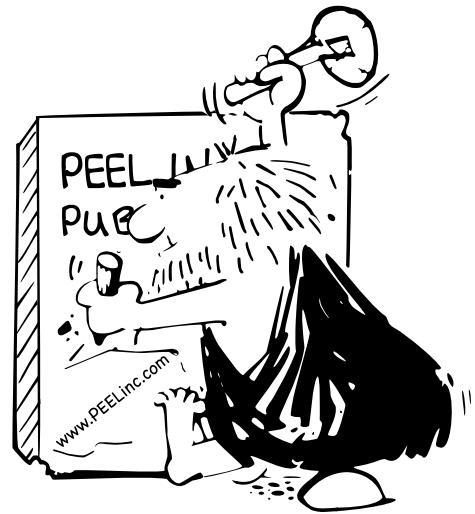
\*Solution at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

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VC

## HEALTH BRIEFS

### *Baylor College of Medicine*



#### DON'T LOSE SLEEP OVER NIGHTTIME BED WETTING

Giving children control over bed wetting helps them overcome not only the nighttime nuisance but also the stigma of it, say doctors at Baylor College of Medicine.

"Because studies have yet to identify the cause of nighttime bed wetting, no one treatment is guaranteed to work for everyone. Nevertheless, the course of action with which the child is most comfortable tends to produce the best outcome," said Dr. Edmond T. Gonzales, Jr., professor of urology at BCM. "With parents' support, giving children an active role in treatment builds confidence."

Some of the treatment options include prescription medications. One commonly used medicine makes the body react as if dehydrated so the kidneys retain liquids overnight. Another treatment involves an alarm system worn in pajamas that sounds when it becomes wet.

More commonly, doctors suggest parents limit the amount of liquids children drink in the evening and schedule a bathroom break before bed.

Gonzales said family doctors can help rule out any major health problems that could be contributing to bed wetting before discussing the many options.

#### CELL PHONE USAGE MAY SEND WRONG MESSAGE

If you roll your eyes when people are chatting away on their cell phones in a public place, you're not alone. According to an expert at Baylor College of Medicine, public cell phone use may show disrespect and impede social interaction.

"Depending on the situation, cell phone use can be problematic," said Dr. Catherine Barber, assistant professor in the Menninger department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at BCM.

Talking on your cell phone at social events conveys that other people's time is not as important as yours. Loud cell phone talk can intrude on others' privacy and need for quiet, and it can even make people feel uncomfortable.

Romero suggests talking quietly if you must use the phone, or excusing yourself to take a call and making it brief. She suggests not accepting non-urgent calls. It's important to be mindful and respectful of others around you, said Romero.

If someone around you is disturbing you with their cell phone conversation, Romero suggests gently approaching them and asking them to reduce their volume. It's important to convey that you are not angry. If they refuse, remove yourself from the situation.

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