




The Village Gazette

Volume 8, Issue 4
Village Creek Community Association

April 2011

Annual Easter Parade and Egg Hunt



The annual Easter parade and egg hunt is on Saturday, April 16. The parade will assemble at the Peddlers Court cul-de-sac at 10:15. This will not be a competition, just a chance to add to the parade fun and to see all the Easter colors and flair. There will be separate egg hunts for ages 0-3, 4-6, and 7-12. After all the eggs are found, families can take pictures with the Easter Bunny and enjoy Easter themed activities. So, mark your calendar, you wouldn't want to miss out on all the fun!

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the Easter party contact social@myvillagecreek.net

Yard of the Month

In April we will begin our yard of the month awards.

CRITERIA FOR YARD OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS

Rules

- * Yard of the Month will be awarded during the months of April-September.
- * 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.

(Continued on Page 3)

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

CenterPoint-Gas Leak713-659-3552
Constables Office 281-376-3472, www.cd4.hctx.net
Klein Fire Dept.281-376-4449
Poison Control Center800-764-7661
Willowbrook Methodist281-477-1000

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
Transportation.....281-357-3193

HOA MGMT

Chaparral Management Company 281-537-0957
Kay Serventikserventi@chaparralmanagement.com
Fax281-537-0312
6630 Cypresswood Drive, Suite 100, Spring, Texas
Mailing: P.O. Box 681007: Houston, Texas 77268-1007

SERVICES

CPS.....713-626-5701
CenterPoint-Gas.....713-659-2111
Dead Animal Pick up713-699-1113
Domestic Violence281-401-6250
FBI.....713-693-5000
Harris County Animal Control281-999-3191
Houston Chronicle713-220-7211
Greater Houston Pool713-771-7665
Municipal District Services (24 hrs)281-290-6500
Reliant-Street lights713-923-3213
..... www.centerpointenergy.com/outage
Sex Offenders www.familywatchdog.us
Comcast - Cable/High Speed Internet.....713-341-1000
Waste Management.....713-686-6666
Trash pickup Tues/Fri
Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 plastics/aluminum cans)
Yard Storkkpuente@garygreene.com

NEWSLETTER

Editor..... newsletter@myvillagecreek.net
(Deadline is the 10th of each month)
Publisher - Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181
Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Don Rumseydon@myvillagecreek.net
Sharon Gabbert..... sharon@myvillagecreek.net
Jeff Levjeff@myvillagecreek.net
Tom Brogan tom@myvillagecreek.net
Richard Moore.....richard@myvillagecreek.net
Pool Card Info poolcards@myvillagecreek.net
Social Committee..... social@myvillagecreek.net

Village Creek On-Line

Village Creek has a great website to keep residents informed about neighborhood news. The website is full of helpful numbers and information for Village Creek residents. Information from the HOA meetings, safety reports, and community events are added regularly. Go to http://www.myvillagecreek.net/Home_Page.php to learn more about your community today!

Friendly Reminders

Please remember to submit any architectural changes to your home or property to the Board for approval before any changes are made. This can prevent costly expenses for homeowners in order to comply with deed restrictions.

Trash Day

Please do not put your trash on the curb before 6 pm the night before trash pick-up. Thank you for helping to keep our neighborhood beautiful and clean.

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Yard of the Month - (Continued from Cover)

- * 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.

Get Help With Your Tax Return

The AARP Tax-Aide program has trained and certified volunteers who will prepare and file your federal income tax return with the IRS, free of charge for all ages.

For more information and locations go to <http://www.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/taxAideLocations.action>

Got Weeds?

It's springtime and that means it's time for weeds! Our lawns are coming back to life so the weeds are invading our flower beds. That means we all need to do a little lawn care to keep Village Creek looking great.

Chaparral management comes out once a month to inspect the community for deed violations. Some of us may have received courtesy letters for violations such as weeds or leaving our trash can in sight. For the record, once Chaparral witnesses a violation they send a standard form courtesy letter. That letter allows 30 days to correct the violation. If the violation is not corrected within the 30 days a formal violation letter will be sent which gives the homeowner 30 more days to correct the violation. Upon the next month's inspection if the problem has not been addressed Chaparral will send a certified letter to notify the homeowner. The homeowner then has 52 days to either remedy the violation or schedule a hearing with the HOA Board to discuss the violation. After the 52 days if the violation has not been resolved the HOA Board can send the issue to the attorney to pursue legal action. Remember it is always better to quickly address the deed violation or schedule a hearing in order to avoid legal fees.

Also, in more serious deed violations a 10 day letter will notify a homeowner that they need to take immediate action to comply. Failure to comply within the 10 days can result in fees as well.

When it's TIME to BUY or SELL your HOME Depend on the DEE PARDUE TEAM!

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BUYERS We set up your PERSONAL GATEWAY SEARCH in the MLS to monitor the market. We RESPOND QUICKLY to showing requests and guide you through the process of getting PRE-QUALIFIED, Selecting a Home, Negotiating The Price, Terms and Repairs, and all of the steps involved in CLOSING on your NEW HOME!

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VILLAGE CREEK MARKET REPORT

Statistics are averages compiled from Houston Assoc. of Realtor MLS, 3/6/11

CATEGORY	NO.	PRICE	PRICE/SQ FT	DAYS ON MKT
Active Listings	17	\$223,629	\$77.61	200
Pending Listings	4	\$239,750	\$78.84	308
Sold Since 12/1/10	6	\$263,217	\$78.72	106

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Village Creek Community Activities 2011

Calendar of tentative events

Spring Garage Sale; March 25 and 26
Easter; April 16
4th of July; To be determined
Back to School/Luau; Aug 13
Fall Garage Sale; Sept 23 and 24
Fall Festival; Oct 15
Christmas; Dec 10

Teenage Job Seekers

Teens who would like to submit their information for the 2011 list of teen job seekers can submit their information through newsletter@myvillagecreek.net. You must be age 13 to 19 to be on the list. Please include any certifications, training, and what type of job you would like to do.

HOA Corner

Last month the world saw hundreds of thousands of Egyptians make a stand for change in their country by speaking out. As a community, the only way we can have effective change is by having our voices heard, and the best way to do this is to participate in our HOA monthly meetings. We need your input and you can get all of your questions answered.

Our community of over 750 homes usually has only a handful of attendees at each meeting. Our HOA board members would love to meet all of their neighbors and together we can make Village Creek an even more amazing place to live.

Our community meets at the clubhouse in the Lakes of Northpointe community. Find directions to it on the Village Creek Website in the Board Members and Meetings tab. The April meeting is April 18th at 6pm. Come on by and tell us what is on your mind and how we can all work together to build a better Village Creek.

Preschool Playgroup
Meets on Weds contact Tracy
at tmccoy@gmail.com



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Meet Treyvon

Every day across Texas, thousands of children like 11 year old Treyvon wonder where today will lead them. Having been removed from their families due to abuse and or neglect, these children are looking for stable, loving family relationships that will allow them to feel safe and secure. Often these children are moved from one foster home to another as they experience difficulty adjusting to new rules, roles and expectations they have never experienced before and are ill prepared to meet. They face a never ending stream of changes in care givers, schools, caseworkers and foster siblings that often results in a sense of hopelessness and a lack of investment in relationships because they have found that caring leads to loss.

Despite these challenges, these children can be resilient. They bring strengths to their situation that can help to overcome the obvious challenges they face. Take Treyvon, for example. He is anything but an average child! In fact, he is an extremely bright child, who excels in all subjects at school. His future is hopeful as he desires to become an architect, engineer or author. Treyvon is a well rounded child who enjoys outdoor activities like football, swimming and riding horses. Like most boys his age, he loves to eat, with his favorite foods being pepperoni pizza and spaghetti with meatballs.

Treyvon needs a structured family that will provide him the love, encouragement and discipline that he needs while understanding the challenges he faces in adapting to a world much different from his early life experiences. He has a great mind that needs stimulation and direction to help him accomplish his goals. Adopting a child like Treyvon from the foster care system is not difficult or expensive. Perhaps you and your family would be a good place for Treyvon to learn and grow.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Berka, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-450-8750 or email at stephanieberka@adopttexas.org

To learn more about the Adoption Coalition of Texas, please call Bruce Thompson at 512-301-2825 or visit our website at <http://www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org>



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~~SOMETHING OLD,~~
SOMETHING NEW...

Join us for Ladies' Night at Flaherty's as we prepare for the Royal Wedding and learn about the latest wedding and bridal trends.

April 6, 6:00 p.m.
Cypress Showroom
13422 Grant Rd.
Cypress, TX 77429

April 13, 6:00 p.m.
Woodlands Showroom
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The Woodlands, TX 77381

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Sandwich Generation Needs “Stress Busters”

You may be too busy to realize it, but April is Stress Awareness Month. Sponsored by the Health Resource Network, a non-profit health education group, Stress Awareness Month is designed to promote awareness about ways to reduce stress in our lives. And if you're a member of the so-called “Sandwich Generation,” you may well have plenty of stress to deal with — especially financial stress. And that's why you may want to look at this month as an opportunity to explore ways of “de-stressing” yourself.

To understand the scope of the problem facing people in your situation, consider this: One out of every eight Americans aged 40 to 60 is both raising a child and caring for an aging parent, according to the Pew Research Center. The definition of “caring” for an elderly parent can range from actually having the parent living in one's home to helping



pay for the parent's stay in an assisted living or nursing home facility. When you consider the costs involved in this type of care, added to the expenses of raising your children, and possibly even providing some financial support to them as young adults, it's easy to see that you could potentially face enormous strains, both emotionally and financially.

To help ease this burden, consider these suggestions:

- **Save.** As a Sandwich Generation member, you're probably within shouting distance of your own retirement — so you need to be saving for it. This may not be easy. You don't know how much financial support you may someday have to provide your elderly parents — and even after your children are grown, they may need some help from you. Unfortunately, in helping these “boomerang” children, many people have to disrupt their day-to-day cash flow and raid their savings. That's why it's important to try to “pay yourself first” by deferring part of each paycheck into your 401(k) and by automatically moving money, each

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A colorful advertisement for StarTex Power. The background is a stylized cityscape at night with palm trees and a purple sky. In the center is a large, glowing sign with a red border and white lights. The sign reads: "Experience the STAR treatment FOR YOURSELF with low rates, award-winning customer service, and no surprises." Below the sign is the StarTex POWER logo, which consists of a red star and the text "StarTex POWER". Below the logo is a quote: "Listen to Alan 'Petrodamus' Lammey, host of 'Energy Week', every Sunday on 1070 KNTH in Houston." In the foreground, there is a red carpet with stanchions and red ropes. Several photographers in black suits are standing on the carpet, holding cameras and taking pictures. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a red banner with white text that reads: "SIGN UP online TODAY at www.StarTexPower.com or call 866-917-8271. Use 'Neighborhood Newsletter' as your referral!" In the bottom left corner, there is a BBB logo. In the bottom right corner, there is a PUCT #10089.

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Financial Focus - (Continued from Page 6)

month, from your checking or savings account into your IRA.

- **Talk.** Many people in the "Greatest Generation" (over age 80) have not even prepared a will, so, if your parents are in that group, you may want to talk to them about taking action. Also, find out whom, if anyone, is handling their investments. And ask if your parents understand how Medicare works and if they need to add supplemental health insurance, such as Medigap. Plus, you need to find out if your parents have created a power of attorney or health care directive. It's best to have these conversations sooner, rather than later.
- **Delegate.** You eventually may have to take some responsibility for your parents' care — but you don't have to do it alone. You could, for example, work with a financial services provider that offers trust services, which can be invaluable if your parents are incapacitated, but which are useful even if they aren't. A professional trust officer can, among other duties, help manage your parents' investments, pay their bills, keep their records and supervise distribution of their assets to beneficiaries. In short, a qualified trust officer can make life a lot easier for you.

Stress Awareness Month only lasts 30 days, but by taking the right steps, you can de-stress yourself for many years to come. After all, just because you're in the Sandwich Generation, it doesn't mean you have to be "squished."

Prescription Drug Take-Back

On April 30, 2011 from 10am to 4pm DEA and its community partners will take part in a nationwide prescription drug take-back, operating collection sites around the nation where Americans can turn in their unused, unneeded, and/or expired prescription medications. Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse. This service is free and anonymous. Tablets, capsules, and all other solid dosage forms will be collected. Intravenous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not be accepted. To find a collection site near you, go to www.dea.gov and click on the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day icon.

Personal Classified

FREE PIANO to any neighbor that would like to pick up. 832-877-6538.

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Spring Landscaping & Gardening Tips

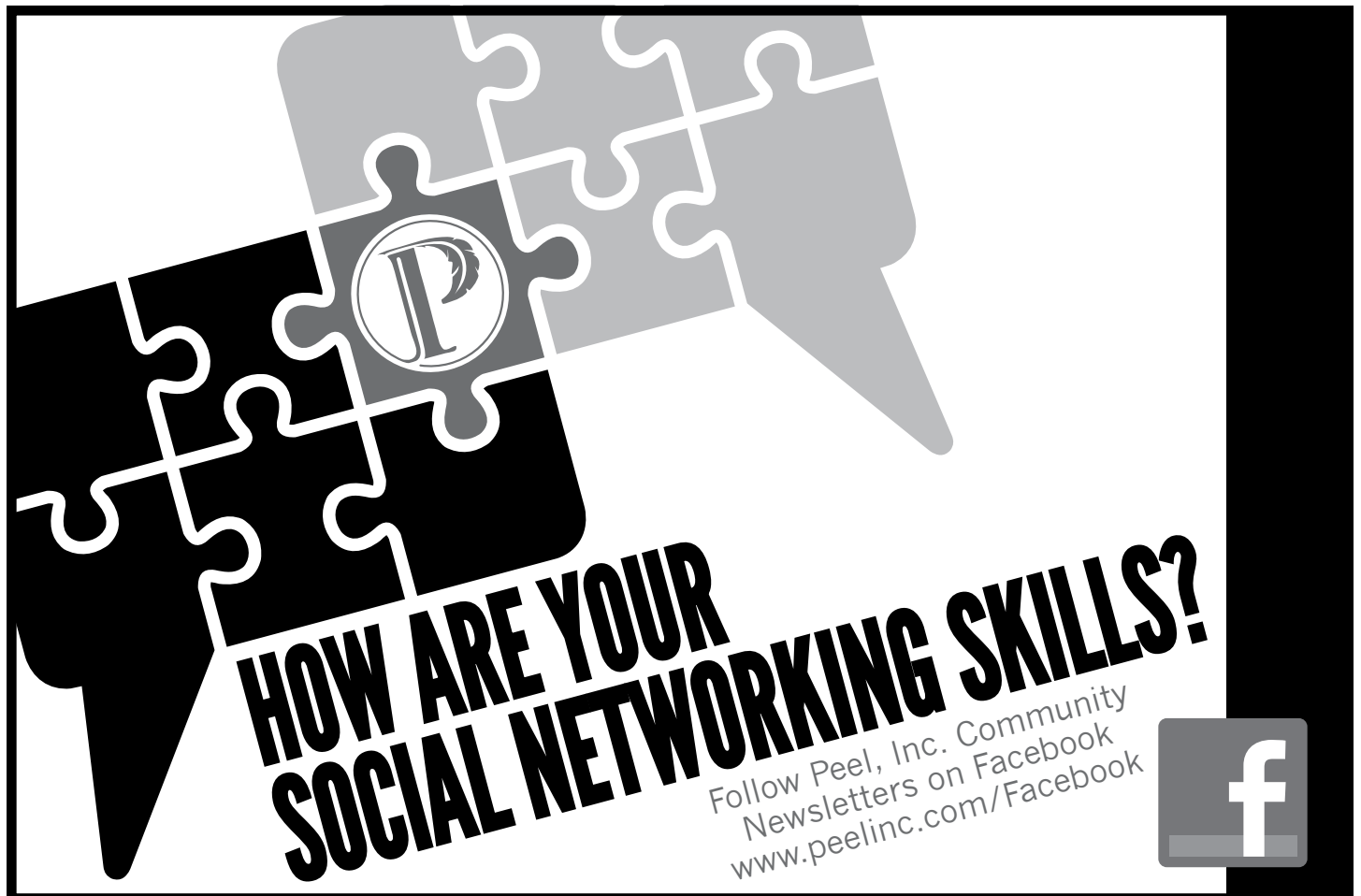
Here in Houston it's time to start planning for the soon to come spring garden activities. For those of you who need a little guidance on what your landscape needs will be and some helpful hints to properly prepare we have outlined some of the most commonly asked questions. The following suggestions can help yield the desired results for you and your neighbors.

Before the weather starts to warm up have a plan to keep your landscape properly watered, this is very important. Those of you that have an automatic irrigation system can take advantage of this time to check it and make sure all repairs have been made prior to the extreme conditions we will face in the summer. Remember to set your irrigation controller to water between the hours of 2:00am and 6:30am. For those of you that do not have the benefit of an automatic irrigation system you will need to come up with a way to water with hoses and portable sprinklers. We suggest trying to use more than one sprinkler at a time if possible, this will save you some time. Set a schedule that will allow you to water in the early evening, when the sun is starting to set. Even though the best time to water is early in the morning this watering time may fit better in your daily schedule while

still allowing you to help prevent the loss of water due to evaporation. Also make sure your hoses are in good condition and have no leaks. Don't over water and make sure your sprinklers are adjusted; this will help conserve water. The most important thing to consider is to evaluate the needs of your landscape and water accordingly.


Another item that many people have questions about is the type of fertilizer they should use and when to apply it. In our opinion, the most beneficial formulation for a spring lawn fertilizer with a post emergent, to take care of broadleaf weeds, would be the Scott's 29-3-4 blend with Atrazine. Another formulation we would recommend that is a well balanced lawn fertilizer without any post emergent would be a 15-5-10 blend. Both of these fertilizers will promote a healthy green lawn. There are also special formulated fertilizers for your hibiscus, azaleas, camellias, bougainvilleas and other plant material that have special needs. All or most of these fertilizers can be found at your local lawn and garden centers as well as the Home Depot. Fertilizer needs to be applied at the rate recommended on the label, using the recommended spreader. Please remember one thing,

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Spring Landscaping - (Continued from Page 8)

"more is not better", especially when comes to fertilizers blended to control weeds with herbicides. Fertilizers should be applied during the first two weeks in March. After the fertilizer is applied make sure to wash down or sweep off concrete walks and driveways, this will help prevent discoloration caused from iron.

If you have any perennial plant material, such as ornamental grasses, groundcover or other such plants, cut back these plants to a one inch stub after the last chance of freezing temperatures. Other plants that have been damaged from the cold weather may need to be trimmed instead of cut back. The trimming required for these plants may be minor; this will be up to you. Crepe myrtles will also need to be trimmed not cut back. When trimming your crepe myrtles remove any rubbing branches and deadwood then trim only the tips that are no larger than approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch.

We recommend mulching all beds and tree wells, doing this protects your plant's root system as well as adds a rich clean look to your landscaped beds. Apply the mulch after you have completed all of your trimming and cutting back any of your perennials. Try not to apply more than two inches of mulch at one time.

Spring is a great time to start enjoying your lawn and all of your hard work; however this is just the beginning of our growing season and all of the work it takes to have a beautifully landscaped yard.

Enjoy your spring garden work!

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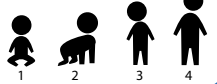


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FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DROWNING

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DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" – no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.



Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.

Tomball ISD 2010/2011 Calendar

July 2010 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							August 2010 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							September 2010 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30						
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 Days Shaded in Red Staff & Student Holidays July 5 Independence Day September 6 Labor Day November 24-26 Thanksgiving Dec 20-Jan 3 Christmas March 14-18 Spring Break April 22 Easter May 30 Memorial Day Make Up Days (if Needed) June 2 (Staff Development June 3) June 3 (Staff Development June 4)							 First Day of School August 23, 2010  Last Day of School June 1, 2011 High School Graduation June 4, 2011 <u>Six Weeks Reporting Period Ends:</u> October 1 February 11 November 5 April 8 December 17 June 1 <u>Nine Weeks Reporting Period Ends:</u> October 22 March 11 December 17 June 1  New Teacher Inservice August 9-13							 Days Shaded in Black Staff Days/ Student Holidays August 16-20 October 11 January 4 January 17 February 21 June 2 Early Dismissal Days October 8, December 17, March 11, June 1 December 16, May 31-THS Only						
January 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							February 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28							March 2011 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
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Approved by the Tomball ISD Board of Trustees on February 9, 2010



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