

Volume 9, Issue 6 Village Creek Community Association

June 2012

for a great Easter party!

The 2012 annual Village Creek Easter Party was a big hit with kids of all ages! The Easter Bunny led the parade to the clubhouse where an egg hunt and pictures followed. A petting zoo, crafts, games and cookies were also enjoyed.

Thank you to Amy Hyden and the social committee for putting everything together including stuffing the eggs, arranging the activities and setting up for the event. Sharon Gabbert, Natalie Stepanski, Caren Seal, Susan Giddens, Lani McMurtrey, Alison Peters, Claire Craig, Emily Benton, Kelsey Lambert and a special thanks to Tracy McCoy for "assisting" the Easter Bunny this year.

The social committee meets the 4th Wed of the month at 6:00 pm. If you'd like to volunteer or learn more contact Caren Seal at social@myvillagecreek.net.

. . . . . . .

### Village Creek HOA Annual Meeting

Youth Assembly Room at Graceview Church 25510 Texas 249 Tomball, TX 77375 Monday, July 16th at 7 PM

Homeowners will receive a notice in the mail during the month of June. Once the proxy's are mailed, they will also be able to vote online if they are unable to attend.

# Landscape Corner

The street trees in Village Creek are mostly Live Oaks. These are known as pretty much trouble-free trees, but they do need a little bit of care to assure they will survive our warm summers and challenging soil. Here are a few thoughts to improve the health of Village Creek oaks.

#### PRUNING

We strongly recommend reading this good article on pruning at http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/landscape/ pruning/pruning.html. Here is our brief synopsis of that article, our own understanding, and ideas from other people: Heavy pruning should probably be done during the late winter before the tree begins its spring growth. In other words, we are a bit late for pruning. Pruning is important as it determines the final shape of a tree. As the tree ages, branches will tend to droop. Keep in mind that if you cannot drive or walk under it now (and want to), these branches will not become higher with age. As noted, they will tend to sag. Remove branches that cross each other as they might eventually rub together. Remove small leaves and twigs growing downward (within your reach). Remove small branches growing on the trunk. Branches with steep angles tend to break more easily than more horizontal branches. If you hire someone to

(Continued on Page 6)



### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911**

CenterPoint-Gas Leak	
Constables Office	281-376-3472, www.cd4.hctx.net
Klein Fire Dept	
Willowbrook Methodist	
EMERGENCY 24 HOUR I	LINE
(select 'emergency' option)	

### SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD	281-357-3100, www.tomballisd.net
Willow Creek Elem (K-4).	
Northpointe Int (5-6)	
Willow Wood Jr (7-8)	
Tomball Memorial High S	chool

### HOA MGMT

Preferred Management		
Patti Tine	patti@preferredmgt.com	
Fax		
Mailing: P.O. Box 690269 Houston, TX 77269		
Village Creek Community Association Website:		
www.preferredmg	gt.com/villagecreek/home.asp	

### SERVICES

CPS	
CenterPoint-Gas	
Dead Animal Pick up	
Domestic Violence	
FBI	
Harris County Animal Control	
Houston Chronicle	713-220-7211
Greater Houston Pool	
Lost Petshttp://www.preferredmgt.com/vi	llagecreek/home.asp
Municipal District Services (24 hrs)	
Reliant-Street lights	
www.centerpoir	ntenergy.com/outage
Sex Offenderswww	v.familywatchdog.us
Comcast - Cable/High Speed Internet	
Republic Waste	713-849-0400
Trash pickup Tues/Fri	
Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 pla	stics/aluminum cans)
Yard Storkkpuer	nte@garygreene.com

### NEWSLETTER

Editor	
Lana Brogan	.villagecreek@peelinc.com
(Deadline is the 5th of each month)	0
Publisher - Peel, Inc	
Advertisingadvertising @PE	ELinc.com, 888-687-6444

### **RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Sharon Gabbert	
Tom Brogan	
Richard Moore	
	www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek
	1 0 0



### **4<sup>th</sup> of July** Parade and Party!

Village Creek will be sponsoring a 4th of July Parade and cookout at the pool on Wednesday, July 4th.

Parade line up starts @ 10:00 @ Pedlars Court. There will be judging of bikes, trikes and wagons at the clubhouse following the parade.

After the parade, come to the pool for swimming, hot dogs and dessert. You don't get much more American than that!

Also, we are looking to hire a DJ for the event. If you know someone who might be interested, please send inquires to social@ myvillagecreek.net.

### Tim's Painting Making Homes Beautiful Since 1972 For Free Estimate

### Call: 281-620-9077 Tim Thackeray

Interior Painting Exterior Painting Pressure Washing Door Refinishing Siding Replacement Wood Fences Crown Molding Drywall Repair Texture Matching Carpentry Repairs





P



A: Starting to play tennis, is like learning to swim or riding a bike. You need to start slowly and gain confidence over time. I suggest acquiring some used tennis balls from a club (we have plenty at our club), and start hitting them back and forth from the service line to service line. New balls are much too lively and if you only use three balls, you will end up spending more time chasing them than hitting them.

#### Q: What about playing with my children?

A: If your child is between ages 4-11 and has taken some tennis lessons in an organized program, more than likely they were accustomed to playing with softer "QuickStart" balls and transitional rackets. Children need to learn to execute the stroke properly without thinking about the court and the net. I usually begin with of children of these ages, stroking a ball against a fence or windscreen. Later on once they learn to make contact with the ball, I bring them close to the net onto the actual tennis court, and I have them hit the balls being fed.

### Q: If I am the feeder of the balls, where should I stand?

A: Most tennis coaches now, spend a great deal of teaching standing next to the players feeding them balls from both behind and from the side, next to the player. This way, the player hitting the ball, learns to adjust to the ball without having to do a great deal of running. When I see a player becoming more confident with making contact with the ball and clearing the net, I will begin feeding the balls to them from the other side of the net. The player should start hitting the balls from the service line, and move further towards the baseline as he succeeds hitting the balls with more control.

### Q: When is time to rally back and forth?

A: Once the player is adept to hit both forehands and backhands with consistency, when the ball is being fed from the opposite side near the service line, I then will move back to the baseline and start to rally back and forth. I normally let the student start the rally, making sure that he is executing the stroke properly. Also, safety calls for the basket or extra balls to be clear his path on his side of the court.

#### Q: How should I practice the serve?

A: One of the most difficult shots of tennis to master is the serve. Also, it is the easiest one to practice, because a player can practice it alone. I suggest using many tennis balls and begin by first serving from the service line and proceed to move back toward the base line until success is achieved with getting the ball in the proper service box. If practicing with a partner, one can be serving, while the other practices returning serve.

### Q: How about playing points?

A: If players are familiar with the traditional scoring system, I suggest playing regular games. For practice purpose, I encourage my students to play using the table tennis scoring system. Serve five balls, and then allow the opponent to serve five. Change sides every 10 points. This way, a player learns to play the point, rather than the game. First to achieve 21 points wins.

Make sure you wear light clothes, drink lots of fluid and have a great time learning and practicing the "game of a lifetime!"





#### cypressfellowship.org

It's a

New Day!

### Real Church. No Country Club Agenda Here!

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY! SERVICES AT 9 AND 11 AM, BIBLE STUDY AT 10:10.

X-PLODE STUDENT MINISTRY (6TH-12TH GRADES) MEETS WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM!

Visit us online at cypressfellowship.org! We are located at the corner of Spring Cypress and Telge. See you Sunday!

At no time will any source be allowed to use The Village Gazette's contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in The Village Gazette is exclusively for the private use of the Village Creek HOA and Peel, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

\* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

\* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

\* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.



NOT

**AVAILABLE** 

ONLINE

### (Landscape Corner - Continued from Cover Page)

do the pruning, watch them and talk over which branches will be removed. After reading the Aggie article, you may know more than the average pruner.

### WATERING

Mature oak trees are very draught tolerant, but to grow well, they need deep watering. A normal rainfall in our area should be sufficient, but if we don't get rain for a week or two take a hose out and let water drip very slowly at the base of the tree for several hours. Keep in mind that in a typical year, our trees get about 50 inches of rain! Irrigation will need to make up any shortfall. Lawn watering is probably not sufficient as the lawn will use up most of the water before it gets to the tree roots. Also, remember that the tree roots are active all year long... not just the summer.

### TREES ARE COMMONLY ELEVATED

It is traditional in our area to plant trees slightly elevated. We understand that this is primarily to assist in drainage while the tree is developing. As time goes on, this can cause problems as the roots may become exposed. Soil at the base of the tree should just cover the top-most horizontal roots. If you see lots of horizontal roots, add a bit of soil. If you don't see any horizontal roots emanating from the tree trunk, gently scrape the soil or mulch away until the tops of the horizontal roots are barely covered with soil or mulch. It is very likely

#### that you will need to add soil over the years to keep the roots covered. FERTILIZER

We strongly recommend reading this Texas A&M article on the subject: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/landscape/ fertilizing/woody.html. We suspect that their information is about as good as it gets. Here are a few tidbits we THINK we understand from the article. Of course, oak trees in their natural setting need no fertilizer. The oak's primary need is nitrogen which, in forests, is provided by dropping leaves and decay. Lawn fertilizer will often suffice for trees planted in the lawn. If you want to add additional fertilizer, apply it in the middle of winter. A normal spreader will suffice even though some people recommend tree fertilizer stakes or holes poked around the tree and filled with fertilizer. As with any shopping, we have found that it pays to shop around for fertilizer and other garden products. Check out feed and supply places as well as hardware, nurseries or big box stores.

If you are a vegetable gardener, you probably still have time to plant okra. It is an attractive plant, provides a good side dish, and it attracts few pests (aphids can be a minor issue). Some okra plants can grow six feet tall, or so, and two feet wide. Pick okra when it is no longer than three inches. Our favorite way to cook okra is breaded and fried, and pickled okra is fairly easy to make.

Until next time, Happy Gardening! The Village Creek Landscape Committee

# Why choose Primrose<sup>®</sup> for Kindergarten? Just ask a mom.

\*\*From the curriculum, our kids have developed a confidence in themselves on a day-to-day basis. And it speaks to the character development that the curriculum encourages, which is respect and friendship, and caring and giving.<sup>\*\*</sup>

— Garrett and Nicholas's Mom, Primrose Parent

Primrose School of Spring Cypress 11616 Spring Cypress Rd., Tomball, TX 77377



Educational Child Care for Infants through Private

Kindergarten and After School

281.251.6300 www.primrosespringcypress.com

### Now Enrolling for Summer Camp!









David Flory Direct line:
281-477-0345
#2 Realtor in Houston & Texas\*\*
#7 Realtor in United States\*\*
Selling Over 500 Homes A Year
"Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2008, 3/2009

## The Village Gazette 2012 Open Regattas at Seabrook Sailing Club

The Seabrook Sailing Club is hosting two major regattas this summer on Galveston Bay, open to all interested sailors. Whether it's challenging one design racing or family fun, Seabrook Sailing Club's summer regatta schedule has it all. We are looking forward to having local and out-of-town sailors join us for competition and fun on the bay.

**Summer Solstice Regatta:** Seabrook Sailing Club's annual Summer Solstice Regatta will be held on June 23 and 24, 2012. This year we will be kicking off the regatta on Friday night with fireworks and a keg! We encourage everybody to leave work early and bring a picnic. This regatta is open to all small sailboats and beginner racers are welcome. Lasers, 470's, Sunfish, windsurfers, Vangaurd 15's, and catamarans are regular classes at this fun event. This regatta is on the Texas Laser District 15 Circuit schedule, drawing Lasers from around the state. There will be one design starts for all classes with at least three boats. A Portsmouth handicap fleet will be formed for boats that do not make up a one design fleet. Official Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions will be posted on the SSC website nearer the time of the event.

**Endless Summer Regatta:** Each year, youth sailors from all over Texas and surrounding states participate in the Endless Summer

Regatta at the Seabrook Sailing Club. The Endless Summer Regatta is the best attended event on the Texas Youth Circuit after Texas Race Week, with approximately 200 sailors, coaches, parents, and organizers coming to Seabrook and Galveston Bay. The youth sailors participate in 6 different fleets; the beginner sailors in the Optimist Green fleet, the experienced Optimist sailors in the Red/White/ Blue fleet, Laser 4.7, and Laser Radial. Parents enjoy the view of the sailing course and Kemah from the clubhouse deck, while their kids put their skills to the test. Sailing is a great sport for kids that fosters self-confidence, independence, and responsibility. As skippers, they are in control of their own destiny; they make their own decisions, which have a direct result on their finish position, well-being, and boat condition. But most importantly, it's fun! The 2012 regatta will take place September 22-23, 2012. Official Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions will be posted on the SSC website nearer the time of the event. The Seabrook Sailing Club has been providing safe, organized, and challenging sailing for local sailors and guests since 1934. If you've been thinking about learning to sail, getting back on the water, or competing in our organized club races, check out what the Seabrook Sailing Club has to offer. For more information about SSC, contact James McTurk at SSCmembership@yahoo.com, or visit www.seabrooksailingclub.org.



# DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

### COLIN'S HOPE WATER SAFETY TIPS AT WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG



### **DID YOU KNOW?** The **MOST** near-drowning and drowing incidents occur during June and July in Texas!

Please take these simple steps to keep your family safe in and around the water and have the **Best Summer Ever!** 

### LAYERS OF PROTECTION



CONSTANT VISUAL SUPERVISION



KEEP BACKYARDS & BATHROOMS SAFE LEARN TO SWIM

**LEARN CPR** 



MULTIPLE BARRIERS ON ALL POOLS & HOTTUBS





CHECK POOLS/HOTTUBS VISIT US 1ST FOR MISSING CHILDREN ONLINE

### ADOPTION COALITION OF TEXAS

Jonathan

SEPTEMBER 200

Jonathan is a sweet, polite young man. Jonathan enjoys playing football, soccer, and basketball and has expressed a desire for a family that engages is a variety of activities. Jonathan thrives in a role where he can receive attention from whoever may be around him at the time. Jonathan works really hard to please those around him, especially at school. Jonathan needs a family that will continue to help him build his self confidence and show him that they can provide a safe a stable home for him.

For more information, contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-301-2825





### A FOCUS ON Eye Health and Safety FORYOUR FAMILY

By: Concentra Urgent Care

### ADULT EYE HEALTH

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is an important part of preserving good eye health. Keys to healthy vision include:

- Avoiding smoking
- Eating a balanced diet, rich in dark green vegetables and foods that contain zinc, vitamins C and E, and beta-carotene
  - Staying active
  - Controlling your blood pressure

• Protecting your eyes from the sun by wearing eyewear that absorbs UV rays and brimmed hats or caps

• Staying current with periodic eye exams as recommended by your doctor if you have diabetes or other chronic conditions that can affect your vision

### SIGNS OF PROBLEMS

See your doctor if you experience any of the following:

- Unusual trouble adjusting to the dark
- Difficulty focusing on objects
- Squinting due light sensitivity
- Change in color of iris (colored part of your eye)
- Red, crusty, or swollen eyelids
- Recurring pain around eyes
- Double vision
- Dark spots or floaters in vision
- Distorted or wavy lines/edges
- Watery eyes
- Itchy or burning dry eyes
- Seeing spots or ghost-like images

### CHILD EYE HEALTH

Newborns should be checked for inherited eye problems at the time of delivery. Between six and twelve months, infants' eyes should be checked again by a health care professional. At three to four years old, children should start getting their eyes checked at regular intervals.

#### **EYE INJURIES**

The most common causes of eye injuries in children are: misuse of toys, everyday objects, and tools (forks and knives, pens and pencils, garden tools), falls, contact with harmful household products (detergents, cleaning supplies, paint, glue), and car accidents. The best ways to avoid these types of injuries are to properly baby proof your home, read all warnings and instructions on toys, and be sure your children are properly secured in infant carriers and car seats.

Seek immediate medical attention if your child:

- has obvious pain or trouble seeing
- has a cut or torn eyelid
- does not move one eye as well as the other
- has one eye that sticks out compared to the other
- has an unusual pupil size or shape
- has blood in the clear part of the eye
- has something in the eye that cannot be easily removed

For more information on taking care of your family's sight, visit Prevent Blindness America at www.preventblindness.org or The National Eye Institute at http://isee.nei.nih.gov.



