



The Village Gazette

Volume 9, Issue 10
Village Creek Community Association

October 2012

HOA Board of Directors Election results

Tom Brogan

President term expires July 2015

Jeff Lev

Vice president term expires July 2013

Sharon Gabbert

Secretary term expires July 2014

Ken McCoy

Treasurer term expires July 2013

Richard Moore

Director term expires July 2014

*Thank you to all who participated in the Annual
meeting and election.*

Fall Exterior Maintenance Reminders

With the fall season approaching, we should remember to check exterior maintenance items around our property. Look for dirty garage doors that need to be cleaned and/or painted, house paint that is faded or has mildew, dented garage doors or fence pickets that are broken or missing. Most people forget to check the black paint in their address plate on the house. We should all remember to keep that visible and freshly painted. In the event you had to contact 911 for an emergency you want them to find your house quickly and that will help. Remember that all exterior modifications require approval by the Association. The necessary application may be found on the Association's website at www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek under the documents section. You may also contact Preferred Management Services at 281.897.8808 with any questions.

Number of Trees and Tree Trimming

Most people don't know that the deed restrictions require 3 trees in each yard. Over time, some have died for one reason or another and may not have been replaced. Please take a look around the front yard and be sure that yours has three trees. If you have to replace a tree, the fall and winter months are the best months to do it. Tree specialists will tell you that planting during the fall and winter months, allows the root system to grow downward towards warmer soil and create a hearty base. When the trees go dormant during the months that we have our coldest weather, it has already established a good root system and has a better chance of survival. The good news is that most nursery's will have their trees on sale during this optimal planting time. Also, trees should be kept trimmed away from any street or stop sign, have a 7ft. umbrella if they line a public street and be kept in a way that the tree will be its healthiest for many years to come.

The Village Gazette

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
EMERGENCY 24 HOUR LINE281-537-0957
(select 'emergency' option)

SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD281-357-3100, 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
Tomball Memorial High School.....281-357-3230
Transportation.....281-357-3193

HOA MGMT

Preferred Management281-897-8808
Patti Tine..... patti@preferredmgt.com
Fax281-897-8838
Mailing: P.O. Box 690269 Houston, TX 77269
Village Creek Community Association Website:
www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp

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
Lost Pets... <http://www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp>
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
Republic Waste.....713-849-0400
Trash pickup Tues/Fri
Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 plastics/aluminum cans)
Yard Stork kpuente@garygreene.com

NEWSLETTER

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Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Sharon Gabbert.....
Jeff Lev.....
Tom Brogan
Richard Moore.....
Ken McCoy.....
Website www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Crime Reports

The Board of Directors would like to remind everyone that if you see any suspicious activity around the community or have been a victim, please call the police. If you do not call the police they will not have a record of the crime and are unable to document which areas need more visibility. Police officers tell us all the time that they want homeowners to call in and report things. The more you report, the more you will see them in the area. There is also a website that you can register with that will send you alerts of crime in your zip code area. The link is <https://www.crimereports.com/>. The number to Harris County Constable is 281.376.3472.

2013 Assessment

The Board of Directors has a fiduciary responsibility to prepare a budget each year for the Association. Once the budget is complete and approved by the Board they then approve the rate of assessment for 2013. Preferred Management Services then prepares the annual assessment statements to be mailed to each homeowner. You should receive your billing statement prior to December 1st and the assessment is due by January 1, 2013. If you do not receive your statement by December 1st, please contact Preferred Management Services at 281.897.8808. You may also view your assessment account online at www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek. Owners must be registered users to view account information.

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VILLAGE CREEK MARKET REPORT

CATEGORY	NO.	PRICE	PRICE/SQ FT	DAYS ON MKT
Active Listings	14	\$242,418	\$83.65	109
Pending Listings	5	\$230,100	\$79.39	115
Sold Since 6/1/12	13	\$230,505	\$72.83	38

Statistics are averages compiled from Houston Association of Realtors MLS, 9/6/12

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The Village Gazette

The Landscape Corner

Summer is ending, so this may be a good time to pause and reflect on some of the summer vegetable garden successes. We had great sweet potatoes, eggplant, banana peppers, bell peppers, okra, tomatoes, and cucumbers. By and large insects and diseases were a non-issue for these. Some of our okra plants ended up over eight feet tall! Herbs such as basil grew well in our garden. We use it on pizza every Friday, but there are other uses as well, including pesto, tea, wine, bathing, and even mosquito repellent. Search for Houston Chronicle Basil for a good article on the subject. Our success growing eggplant was somewhat tempered by our inability to find a recipe we enjoyed. We are still looking.

Often shrubs grow up over our windows so slowly that we don't notice. Before long, the windows are covered, and we lose the view of our neighborhood and the architectural beauty of our homes.

October is time for fertilizing our Saint Augustine lawns. As a general rule, when you no longer need to mow your lawn every week, it is time to fertilize. This will commonly happen on October 15th +/- one week, according to Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac. Apply a fertilizer with these numbers: 2-1-2 or 1-0-1. Check the bag for area covered. Weeds are best controlled with a healthy turf rather than herbicides; however, if absolutely needed, apply weed

killers as directed on the container.

Cool season vegetables can be planted in October including, beets, carrots, collard greens, kale, onions, radish, spinach, turnip, carrots, and several others. Check at your seed store for availability.

October is a great time to mulch again. This mulch spruces up appearances, reduces weeds, reduces heat loss, and provides some moisture retention. Related fact: Did you know that colored mulch is actually just mulch to which dye has been added?

The Texas Garden Almanac says we can shut off our lawn irrigation system in October with the note that, if there is no rain, you should turn it back on to water every 3 or 4 weeks. You will need to water your vegetables during their growing season.

According to The Texas Gardener, October is a good month to plant spring-blooming perennials such as bluebonnet, sweet peas, larkspur, and poppies. This is also a good month to plant cyclamen and primula. Divide perennials that bloom in the spring. If you are planting a woody ornamental or tree, this is a good month to do it.

Have you noticed how good the neighborhood oak trees trimmed by Village Creek's Earthcare Management look? Try to trim yours in a similar fashion. We have been impressed that when we trimmed

(Continued on Page 5)

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(Continued from Page 4)

our oaks, new twigs and leaves quickly (almost magically) appear. Remove those new twigs (or even any old ones) that are growing downward. Trimming should generally encourage upward growth. Remove those branches that cross or rub on others. Oh, yes, trim all trees and bushes to keep them off of your roof's shingles. We can tell you from actual experience that trees rubbing on a roof will ruin the shingles...an expensive repair. Keep mulch away from the tree trunk. Give your trees an occasional drink even if rainfall is insufficient.

What is the best time to trim oaks? According to The University of Texas at Austin (<http://www.wildflower.org/expert/show.php?id=2428>), do NOT trim between February and June. The best time is during a cold period from November through January. Reasonable safe times are the hottest months from July through September. These trimming months are based on risks associated with a beetle that carries oak wilt fungus.

According to <http://www.intellicast.com/Local/History.aspx?location=USTX1367>,

The average low for October in Tomball is 58 deg F, and the average high is 81 deg F. The average rainfall is 3.73."

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

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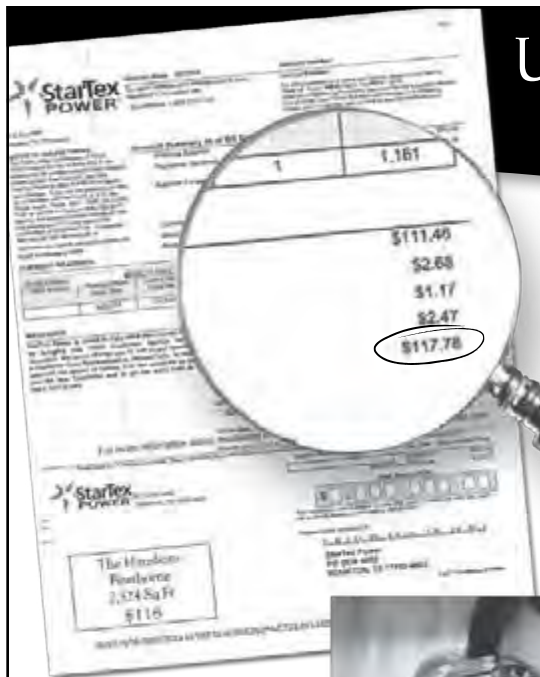
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Parents this is your chance to brag on your kiddos. We want pictures of your kids doing everyday things, school events, plays, sports, etc. Send in your pictures to be featured in the Village Gazette. E-mail your pictures to villagecreek@peelinc.com by the 8th of the month.



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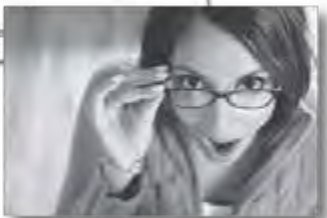
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Bullying: What To Watch *Helping Parents Understand the Signs*

Has your child suddenly had declining grades or unexplained injuries? Have they purposely been trying to avoid school? They could be the victims of bullying.

"Bullying is a widespread problem among children, especially teenagers," says Beth Nauert, M.D., a Texas pediatrician. "Bullying should always be taken very seriously by parents, educators, and the authorities."

BULLYING SIGNS

Children who are bullied are repeatedly exposed to aggressive, negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and have difficulty defending themselves, says Dr. Nauert.

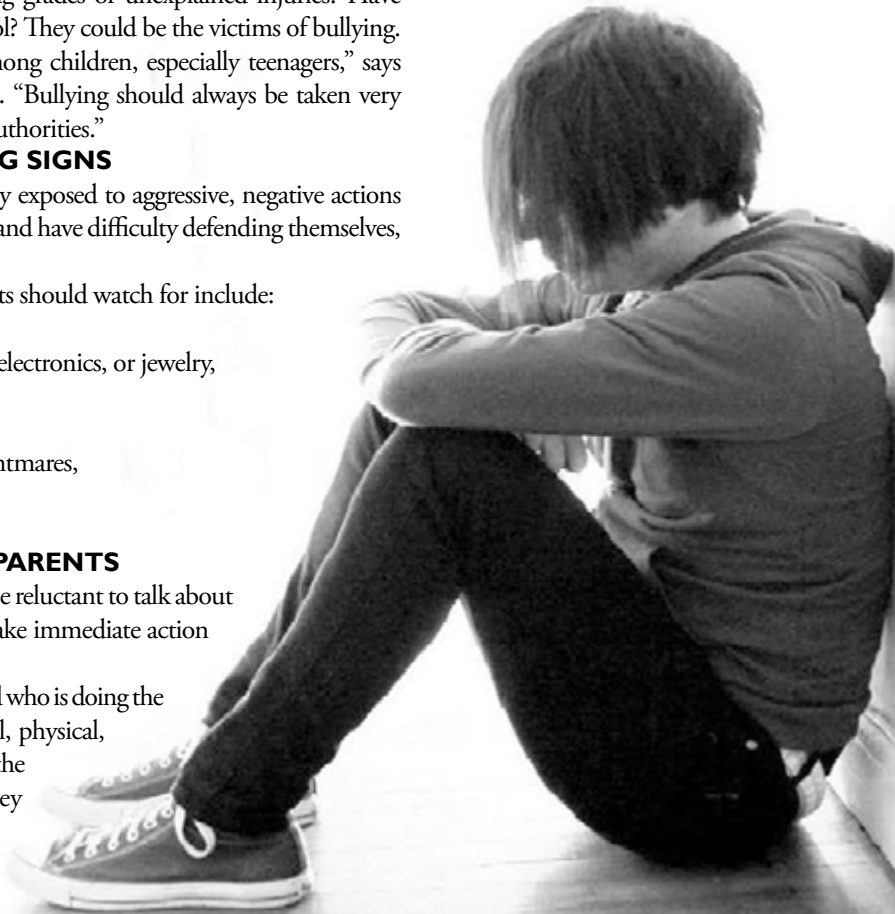
Some clear signs of bullying that parents should watch for include:

- unexplainable injuries,
- lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry,
- feeling sick or faking illness,
- changes in eating habit,
- difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares,
- not wanting to go to school,
- running away from home.

ACTION PLAN FOR PARENTS

Because children who are bullied may be reluctant to talk about it, parents who suspect bullying should take immediate action to help their children, says Dr. Nauert.

"Parents need to find out from their child who is doing the bullying, whether the bullying was verbal, physical, or cyberbullying, and where and when the bullying is happening," she says. "They should then speak with their teacher, principal, school administrators, or local law enforcement."



October is National Bullying Prevention Month



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The Village Gazette

Village Creek's Native Forest

While most of us know about the walk around our lake, did you know that Village Creek also has a sidewalk that meanders through a wonderfully shady native forest? One end of the path starts near the intersection of Midland Creek Drive/Willow Breeze Drive and the other end terminates near Lake Vista Drive/Opal Valley Drive. This pathway is in semi-shade for much of the day, and the cooling effect of the forest is quite obvious. The walk takes about five minutes one way, and is an excellent exercise walk.



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Pick up after your pet!

When you take your pet for walks in the neighborhood, please remember to carry waste bags with you so that you can pick up after your pet. No one likes to pick up after someone else's dog, so please be considerate of your neighbors and help to keep the neighborhood clean.



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