



# The Village Gazette

Volume 10, Issue 11  
Village Creek Community Association

November 2013



## NOVEMBER EVENTS & FESTIVALS

With the crisp fall air finally arriving in Southeast Texas, this is a time to explore the outdoors in our area and leave the bug spray behind. Put on your sweater, break out the hot chocolate and load the family in the sedan for Festive Fall times! Here's a small sampling of activities and destinations that are close by:

1. **Spring Creek Growers**, Magnolia – opens the week of Thanksgiving and features a vast Christmas Tree Farm, Breakfast with Santa, Group Tours and a Gift Shop. [www.springcreekgrowers.com](http://www.springcreekgrowers.com)
2. **Dewberry Farms**, Brookshire – has 8 acres of corn mazes, pumpkin patches, an express railroad train and a Christmas Tree Forest. [www.dewberryfarm.com](http://www.dewberryfarm.com)
3. **Old Time Christmas Tree Farm**, Spring – located at Spring-Cypress Rd and Stuebner Airline you can choose from a vast selection of Christmas Trees on the sprawling farm that has been in the same family for over 100 years. Groups are welcome and they offer fresh handmade wreaths, garland and crafts. [www.](http://www.oldtimechristmastree.com)

[oldtimechristmastree.com](http://www.oldtimechristmastree.com)

4. **The Showboat Drive-In Theater**, Hockley – the perfect time of year to see an outdoor movie! The 25th kicks off the 5th Annual Canned Food Drive, bring a canned good and receive a free small popcorn. Features start at dusk and they are open Friday, Saturday and Sunday and soon will do a Throwback Thursday event! [www.theshowboatdrivein.com](http://www.theshowboatdrivein.com)

5. **Old Town Spring**, Spring – The 32nd Annual Home for the Holidays celebration begins November 9th and runs through December 21st. [www.oldtownspring.com](http://www.oldtownspring.com)

6. **Texas Renaissance Festival**, Todd Mission – The 39th Annual Texas Renaissance Festival is held each weekend from mid-October through December 1st. Attendees will immerse themselves in a kingdom filled with folklore, artisans, entertainment, feasting and jousting. This is the country's largest and most acclaimed Renaissance festival. [www.texrenfest.com](http://www.texrenfest.com)

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Klein Fire Dept. ....281-376-4449  
Poison Control Center .....800-764-7661  
Willowbrook Methodist .....281-477-1000  
EMERGENCY 24 HOUR LINE .....281-537-0957  
(select 'emergency' option)

### SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD .....281-357-3100, [www.tomballisd.net](http://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 Management .....281-897-8808  
Patti Tine..... [patti@preferredmgt.com](mailto:patti@preferredmgt.com)  
Fax .....281-897-8838  
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**Village Creek Community Association Website:**  
[www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp](http://www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp)

### SERVICES

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..... [www.centerpointenergy.com/outage](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage)  
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### NEWSLETTER

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## LANDSCAPE CORNER

*The Village Creek Landscape Committee*

### Freezing is possible this month



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Hints to prevent plant freezing.

1. When you select plants, choose those that can tolerate freezing temperatures.
2. Water the soil well before the freeze. Water is one of nature's best heat storage mediums.
3. If possible, don't water the plant's foliage before a frost.
4. Cover your plants, but make sure you use cloth, though plastic, in conjunction with cloth, works well.
5. Keep in mind that when you put a blanket on a plant, the source of heat is from the Earth, so make sure the blanket extends to the ground in a manner to allow the heat to rise.
6. Mulch helps keep heat and moisture in.
7. Containerized plants are especially susceptible to freezing because they have more area exposed to cold air. Bunch them together and cover with a blanket.
8. Christmas strings of bulbs (those that still give out heat) can be used as a source of heat for very valuable plants. Never leave cloth or plastic touching a hot bulb.
9. Do not prune plant freeze damage until February or March (Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac).

If you are a vegetable gardener, you can still plant kale, mustard, spinach, onions, and garlic. You will need to cover all of these during a frost.

According to Texas Gardner, pull out those annuals that die, and cut back the perennials to a few inches. Add mulch around and over the perennials to protect them from freezing.

**Watering:** Watering can be greatly reduced during the Winter. Water if the ground is dry or if a freeze is predicted. If there is no rain during the month, water everything at least one time. For those who use an irrigation timer, it is a good time to make the "seasonal change" as explained in your instruction manual.

November is a great time to plant trees and bushes.

According to Texas Gardener Magazine, don't fertilize in November. Wait for spring.

Avoid pruning woody ornamentals this late in the season.

**Here is the historical November weather data for Tomball from intellicast.com:**

Average Low	Average High	Record Low	Record High	Average Precip.	Average Snow
49	71	21	89	4.79	0

Until next time, Happy Gardening!



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## Deep Home Repair Thoughts

It is more fun to learn by other's mistakes rather than my own. A relative of mine accidentally left a piece of clothing hanging through the door of a front-loading clothes washing machine. When the machine started, the rotating drum pulled the clothing through the gasket...causing the gasket to be destroyed. These gaskets cost about \$50 to \$60 dollars...excluding labor.

On an unrelated subject...since most of us rarely use our front door, we tend to neglect it. We do need to remember that the front door is the first thing visitors see. How should we keep it looking good? If it hasn't deteriorated too much, there are some products which possibly do some good without a major stripping and refinishing. I don't sell products, and don't like to recommend them too often, but some products are good enough to be worth mentioning. Among these are Howard Products (available on line or almost any hardware store). I sent a note to them asking what they recommend to keep an exterior oak door looking good if the finish is OK. Here is a summary of their response:

1. Oak really responds well to Feed-N-Wax. Feed-N-Wax will bring out the depth of grain and bring out a nice oak color and keep it from looking dry or faded. Use Feed-N-Wax on almost all my oak surfaces...from antiques to coffee tables to doors.

2. If you need to get aggressive on a water mark or superficial stain....you can apply Feed-N-Wax with (0000) super fine steel wool.

3. Always test Feed-N-Wax on a small inconspicuous spot to see how it looks and how it reacts to your existing finish. Sometimes you want to wipe it on and buff off right away...other times you want to let it soak in.

4. Follow directions on the back of the label and re-apply every few months to start...Soon it will look better and better as it develops a beautiful wax patina/finish.

5. Howard also makes a product called Restor-A-Shine Polishing Compound...It works great on fine scratches or dull spots ( maybe caused by rubbing too hard with steel wool.)

You can rub a finish out to a nice gloss with the Compound. Usually Feed-N-Wax is all you need.

6. If the door is in direct sunlight Howard makes a Feed-N-Wax type product that is basically Feed-N-Wax with a UV inhibitor in it called Sun Shield....

7. Orange Oil is ok to use to clean an Oak door that is fairly new condition and all you need to do is clean and add a little depth of grain.

8. Howard's Web site: [www.howardproducts.com](http://www.howardproducts.com)

The Houston area is interesting in a lot of ways. I don't know of many places where you would find a business entirely

devoted to one task such as cleaning dryer vents, picking up doggy doo doo, and refinishing a door. I am sure there are many more of these highly specialized businesses here. Such businesses remind me of Spatula City in the movie, UHF. I have always thought it would be funny to have a store called Just Outlets (selling only electrical outlets) located, of course, in an outlet mall.

We all need to remember to check our furnace/air conditioner filters before the heating season starts. If you cannot see a bright light through them, they are probably too dirty. If in doubt, just replace them.

With regard to storing lawn mowers, generators, etc., follow your engines'

storage instructions or, at minimum, run your gasoline motors out of fuel to keep their fuel system free of gunk in the spring. If possible, drain the fuel tank. Don't store gasoline in the garage or house.

Remember to drain your irrigation backflow preventer when a hard freeze is expected. To do this, at least for most of them, shut off the inlet and open the two small valves on the side.

Often, the home handyman thinks he needs to do every job around the house. Sometimes, though, it is best to hire it done. Doing a job without the right tool can often end up costing more in injuries and frustration than it is worth.





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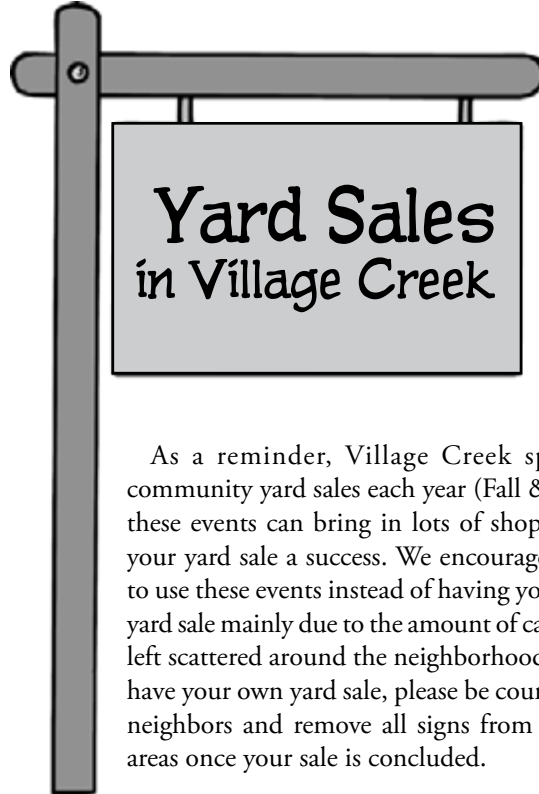


## Cookies with Santa!

Santa will make his annual visit to Village Creek once again to meet with kids of all ages. Cookies, hot chocolate and story books will be provided at the pool entrance for all to enjoy.

Santa will arrive Sunday, December 8th at 3pm and will depart for the North Pole promptly at 5pm. Be sure to bring your cameras for this special and memorable occasion!

Santa will also need some elves to help with the festivities, if you can help please send an e-mail to [jgabbert@gmail.com](mailto:jgabbert@gmail.com).



As a reminder, Village Creek sponsors two community yard sales each year (Fall & Spring) and these events can bring in lots of shoppers to make your yard sale a success. We encourage all residents to use these events instead of having your own single yard sale mainly due to the amount of cardboard signs left scattered around the neighborhood. If you must have your own yard sale, please be courteous to your neighbors and remove all signs from the common areas once your sale is concluded.

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