

The Village Gazette



Volume 10, Issue 12
Village Creek Community Association

December 2013

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.

The Village Gazette

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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CenterPoint-Gas Leak713-659-3552
Constables Office281-376-3472, 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:
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Yard Stork kpuente@garygreene.com

NEWSLETTER

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WANTED

Village Creek is in need of a resident to chair the Social Committee for our neighborhood events. We have operated without a chairperson during all of 2013 and even though residents came together at the last minute to save the events, (thanks to all who helped!) but a neighborhood of our size needs a leader.

The ideal person needs to have a passion for putting on events for kids and have creative ideas for each event which includes the Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Luau, Kindergarten Meet N Greet and Cookies with Santa. Budgets are generous and you would need to work closely with the HOA board for budgeting and special events.

If you want to be considered for this rewarding position, please send an e-mail to jgabbert@gmail.com

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Have you noticed all the US flags flying around the neighborhood last year?

Don't they look great?

Would you like a flag in your yard on 6 national holidays this year?

The Tomball Memorial High School Choir, as a service fund-raiser, placed these flags throughout your neighborhood. We are starting our third year, beginning with Presidents' Day 2014, with this great project and would like to have you join us. This project raises monies for scholarships, trips and other department needs for the Tomball Memorial High School Choir. For \$36 (payable to **Tomball Memorial Choir Booster Club**), choir students will place the US flag in front of your yard on six selected National Holidays throughout the year. Funds raised will help support the Tomball Memorial High School Choir for many of their endeavors this year.

Please join us!!!

THE FLAGS WILL FLY ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS*:

Presidents' Day - February 17, 2014

Memorial Day - May 26, 2014

Independence Day - July 4, 2014

Labor Day - September 1, 2014

Patriot Day - September 11, 2014

Veteran's Day - November 11, 2014

***Note: If hazardous conditions exist, the flags will not be displayed.**

To subscribe, please fill out the information below and send it, along with your check, to the address below. In order to receive your flag starting Presidents' Day, we must receive your subscription no later than January 17, 2014. Last year, over 1200 flags were placed throughout the community. Please help us reach our 2014 goal of **1500 flags!!**

☐ Mr. & Mrs. ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Other _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Neighborhood _____

Amount Enclosed **\$36.00**
(payable to Tomball Memorial Choir Booster Club)

Email _____

**Tomball Memorial High School
Choir Booster Club
19100 Northpointe Ridge Ln.
Tomball, TX 77377**

**Please call or email with any
questions.**

**Email:
paulandsherene@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (832) 444-5069**

Home Repair Thoughts for December, 2013

I enjoy watching Hotel Impossible on the Travel Channel. For those who don't know, the Star is Anthony Melchiorri is an enjoyable, thoughtful, and smart individual who goes around to hotels that are in trouble, and have asked for his help. Recently, he came upon a hotel in Arizona which didn't have a working fire alarm system, and all of the fire extinguishers were out of date. There are several fire safety related items in our lives which we all need to consider:

A. Check smoke detectors and replace batteries yearly. Replace the entire smoke detector every ten years or at intervals recommended by the manufacturer.

B. There are probably few people who, after fighting a fire, said that their fire extinguisher was too big.

C. When you buy an extinguisher, the warranty is a good indication of how long it will last (commonly ten years). I would have a hard time throwing a ten year old extinguisher away, but would use it as a backup.

D. Check the pressure gauge on the extinguisher. It will indicate that it is full or Empty.

E. If you partially use an extinguisher, replace it. Most home units are not refillable.

F. Go over the fire extinguisher's instructions with all family members who are old enough to use an extinguisher. Typically, you pull a pin, and squeeze a trigger.



Treat Yourself!

A photograph of a cat and a dog wearing red Santa hats with white pom-poms. The cat is drinking from a glass of milk, and the dog is eating a treat from a plate of various snacks. The background is decorated with red and white Christmas ornaments and holly leaves.A square QR code with a black and white pixelated pattern.

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The Village Gazette

LANDSCAPE CORNER

The Village Creek Landscape Committee

Mid November to late February is the best time to plant trees in the Houston area. Planting in late fall or winter will allow roots to become established before moisture-demanding summer sets in." (<http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/forestry/treeplanting.html>)

Continue to maintain a layer of mulch to minimize weeds and hold in warmth to the soil.

Lawns: St. Augustine grass is brown and dormant this month. If you are troubled by weeds, then apply a pre-emergent weed killer (though a healthy turf is your best defense against weeds). This is also the month to fertilize. Follow directions on the bag, which may include watering after application. Other than after fertilizing (assuming we get at least some rainfall), we shouldn't need to water our lawns during December.

The eroding turf areas around the lake were replaced by MUD who chose to use Saint Augustine grass to match our existing grass. To stay safe, please do not walk on this new turf. Until the roots take hold, the turf could slip out from under you!

If you have a cool season vegetable garden, feed your vegetables with fertilizer during December. You can plant asparagus crowns during December or through the winter.

We continue being amazed at how well Kale has survived an entire year in our vegetable garden. It is about three feet high...and insect and disease-free!

Perennials and annuals: Fertilize to keep healthy. Remove small weeds.

Many plants have colorful berries which enhance winter. This is the time to plant or transplant woody ornamentals such as holly.

This month's "Texas Gardener" magazine reminds us that trees anchored with guy wires shouldn't need support after a year. In fact, trees are commonly "strangled with straps and wires left on too long."

DECEMBER'S WEATHER FROM INTELLICAST.COM

	Average	Average	Record	Record	Average	Average
Month	Low	High	Low	High	Precipitation	Snow
December	42	63	3	89	4.37"	0

**UNTIL NEXT TIME, HAVE HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND HAPPY GARDENING!**

The Village Creek Landscape Committee

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Tiffany, Primrose Mom

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The Village Gazette

Traveling with your pet over the holidays? Here are some tips that will help make your drive smooth sailing.

Submitted by Kristen West, Owner of Gusto Dogs LLC.

1. Take your pet on short trips prior to the big day to let him get used to traveling by car.

2. Keep your pet safe in a secured, well-ventilated crate or carrier. It should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around. Letting him have free range in the car not only puts him at risk, but it also poses a risk to your family if you were to stop suddenly.

3. Never let your dog travel in the bed of a truck. Even if he is secured on a short line to prevent him falling or jumping out, your pet can experience discomfort from the weather and wind or sustain injury from debris.

4. Feed your pet three or four hours prior to departure and avoid giving him any food or treats in the car.

5. Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle, which can quickly become a furnace and cause heatstroke, even with open windows. In cold weather, the car holds the temperature like a refrigerator.

6. Your pet's microchip should be up-to-date and he should be wearing a flat collar and ID at all times.

7. Bring a bowl and extra water in case you get stuck in the inevitable holiday traffic jam!

8. Take lots of breaks to let your pet stretch his legs and relieve himself. It's a great excuse to do some sight-seeing or pick up a fun treat for yourself!



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A FEW HOLIDAY THOUGHTS...

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better
than at Christmas, when its mighty founder was a
child Himself.
Charles Dickens

There are two ways to live your life. One is as
though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though
everything is a miracle.
Albert Einstein

The way you spend Christmas is far more important
than how much.
Henry David Thoreau

Village Creek Resident

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Wash Your Hands

Reducing Spread of Disease While at Home and Work

By: Concentra Urgent Care

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say that nearly 90,000 patients die in U.S. hospitals each year due to a preventable disease – many could be avoided if everyone properly washed their hands.

From germs on office equipment to sick colleagues who decided to come into work anyway, people face the same dangers in the workplace. The same simple fact holds true: Washing your hands regularly is an effective way to prevent yourself from catching or spreading a preventable disease or illness.

WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS

The CDC recommends washing your hands every time you:

- Prepare or eat food
- Use the restroom
- Tend to someone who is sick; both before and after
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze
- Handle garbage
- Treat a cut or wound
- Change a diaper or clean up after children
- Handle an animal or animal waste

HAND WASHING BASICS

The CDC has issued specific guidelines about effective hand washing:

- Wet hands with water
- Use plain bar or liquid soap
- Create a lather by vigorously rubbing hands together for 15-20 seconds—about the amount of time it takes to sing “Happy Birthday” twice
- Be sure to wash palms, back of hands, fingers, and nails (clean nails by gently scratching nails down your opposing soapy palm)
- Rinse off soap under a stream of water

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

- Focus on hand washing in the lunch and/or break room
- Be careful when using sponges and dish towels. These are ideal sites for bacterial growth. Always wash your hands after using these items.
- Maintain a clean work area; regularly clean any office equipment, especially shared items such as phones and keyboards.
- Remind your colleagues of the importance of hand washing, particularly when you witness someone neglecting to wash his or her hands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about how washing hands regularly can help prevent disease, ask your health care provider, or visit the CDC's creative Web site dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of hand washing at www.henrythehand.com.



The Village Gazette

SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to jgabbert@gmail.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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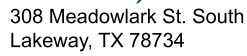
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