

The Village Gazette



Volume 11, Issue 5
Village Creek Community Association

May 2014

Village Creek Yard of the Month

APRIL 2014
17214 Eagle Ledge

Thank you to Plants for all Seasons for donating the gift certificates for each month's winner.



The Village Gazette

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

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Constables Office 281-376-3472, www.cd4.hctx.net
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
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
Fax 281-897-8838

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 up..... 713-699-1113

Domestic Violence 281-401-6250
FBI..... 713-693-5000
Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
Houston Chronicle 713-220-7211
Sweetwater Pools 281-988-8480
Lost Pets... <http://www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp>
Municipal District Services (24 hrs) 281-290-6500
Reliant-Street lights 713-923-3213
..... 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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Village Creek Pool Open Dates and Operating Hours

POOL INFO:

Pool opens Sat. May 24th - Monday May 26th, Memorial Day. 10AM - 8PM the open weekends until Fri. June 6th where the pool will be open daily excepts Mondays.

For information about replacing pool cards please see website:

<http://www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp>

ATTN: Village Creek Residents

Well Spring is officially here and your Village Creek board of directors has been hard at work to improve our community. Many thanks to our Landscape and Pool Committees for all their volunteered efforts to keep Village Creek beautiful! There has been so much done around the neighborhood that we decided to share with all of you a list of the updates and changes we have made.

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE:

- Clearing of the overgrown forested areas on both sides of the entrance
- Currently working with a landscape architect to improve the front entrance and make it "pop"
- Currently working with an arborist to map out the trees in Village Creek and design a re-forestation plan to replace the large number of dead and diseased trees in the neighborhood
- Worked out a deal with MUD 5 to level the banks of the lake – no money spent by VC!
- Built up many beds and added plants, all of which come with a warranty from Earthcare

POOL COMMITTEE:

- Pool house painting and repair
 - o Remove broken ceiling fans
 - o Add non-skid surface to restroom floors
 - o Polish water fountain
 - o Painted iron gates
 - o Cleaned the red roof top
- Remove pergola (safety hazard) with plans to add several shade structures around the pool
- Painted Splash Pad surface and water features
- Replaced all the pool furniture and added three new red tables
- Added timers to lights at pool

GENERAL:

- Striped pool parking lot and basketball court
- Replaced rusted electrical junction boxes around the lake
- Cleaned mailboxes and painted the pedestals
- Replacing the play equipment with new and improved equipment at the pool playground
- Painted and updated the Willow Breeze park
- New swings for Sky Haven and Sweet Rain parks

These are just some of the highlights as the improvements are many. We appreciate all your support and we want to thank all of you for helping us keep Village Creek amazing!

Your Village Creek HOA Board

HOW TO FIND PAST NEWSLETTERS

Hey Village Creek...want to take a look at past Village Creek Gazette Newsletters?

Go to <http://www.peelinc.com/newsletter.php?newsletter=VC> and you can download any issue going back to 2004.

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Landscape Corner

By Gordon R. Watson

The Landscape Committee and Village Creek Board are working toward updating the Spring Cypress/Village Creek Trail area. In other areas, some dying trees will soon be removed and replaced. Note that we will be trying to have a more diversified forest. Our arborist has advised us that if Village Creek ever falls victim to oak disease, diversity could prevent a complete loss of our forest.

This month, remove the dead Crape myrtle flowers to force more flower growth.

FRUIT TREES NEED LOTS OF WATER NOW.

Vegetables: Heat tolerant vegetables can be planted now. Among these are sweet potatoes, pumpkins, squashes, and southern peas. Plant sunflowers. They grow so fast you may want to stand back after you plant the seeds!

Perennials & Annuals: Fertilize this month and keep 4" of mulch around the drip line (but keep mulch away from the trunk). Upper horizontal root-tops should almost show.

We have noticed that many of you have removed your tree volcanoes (the mulch piled high on many of our trees). We are

working toward that end in our yard as well, and the gardener for the public area will be doing the same. Remember that you should be able to see the "flare" of the trunk as it enters the ground. Avoiding volcanoes will be a hard sell, as they are so common as to be considered OK, though all experts advise against them.

If you haven't applied your spring lawn fertilizer, apply one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet soon. What does Texas A&M say about buying fertilizers?

From: <http://aggieturf.tamu.edu/answers4you/fertilization.html>

"Most fertilizers are similar and what you really need is nitrogen. You can shop around by finding the cheapest price per pound of nitrogen. When you look at a bag of fertilizer, there are three numbers separated by dashes, which is called the "analysis" of the fertilizer. It is actually a percentage of Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium, which are the three nutrients in highest demand by the grass plants. Nitrogen is the first number, then Phosphorous, then

(Continued on Page 6)



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Landscape Corner (Continued from Page 2)

Potassium (N - P - K). You can compare the price per pound of nitrogen taking the first number (for example we'll use 15) and divide by 100 for the decimal equivalent of the percentage (0.15). Now multiply this by the total weight of the bag (40 pounds) for the number of pounds of nitrogen in the bag of fertilizer (0.15 X 40 = 6 pounds of nitrogen). Now take the total price for the bag of fertilizer and divide by the number of pounds of nitrogen to get price per pound of nitrogen (\$15 price / 6 pounds N = \$2.50 per pound of nitrogen). Compare with other bags of fertilizer.

Phosphorous and Potassium are also important and it would be very helpful to buy a fertilizer with some of these nutrients included, but you can use a product like ammonium sulfate (21 - 0 - 0) or urea (46 - 0 - 0) for most of your fertilizer needs unless a soil test report shows that the other two nutrients are low in your soil. In many Texas soils, phosphorous is already at high levels and adding more from your fertilizer could actually cause problems."

WORTH REPEATING FROM "TEXAS GARDENER MAGAZINE:"

"Older trees and shrubs need not be fertilized at all. The goal of fertilizing is to speed a young plant along toward an acceptable size, so additional feeding is not needed, and, in fact, can result in more pruning work."

We can expect the average temperature in May to be about 85, so we are definitely into the watering season. I hope it rains, but, if it doesn't, you need to add some water this month. The best way to determine if your lawn needs water is to step on a sharp shovel to see how far it is easy to insert. If you cannot shove it 4" to 6" easily, the lawn probably needs to water. Remember that our lawns, during summer, require between 0.75 and 1 inch per week. This must come from either rain or irrigation.

Marty Baker, a retired Texas Agrilife extension service horticulturist, recommends applying water to trees in a donut fashion starting at about 5 feet out from the trunk and extending 5 feet beyond the most remote limbs (drip line). T&M's rule of thumb during a drought is to give small, one-year-old trees: 28 gallons of water a week, two-year-olds: 56 gallons a week, and three-year-olds: 112 gallons. The best way to do this watering is with a soaker hose, though any method is better than none.

From <http://www.intellicast.com/>

Date	Average Low	Average High	Record Low	Record High	Average Rain	Average Snow
May	65°	85°	41° (1970)	100° (1998)	5.5"	0"

Until next time,
Happy Gardening!

Handyman Helpful Hints

I recently helped my son replace a ceiling fan. The installation was really quite easy, though it would have helped if I had read the instructions carefully. The small parts packages were nicely coded with symbols to keep things straight, but I didn't notice that until it was a bit too late. Still, it went fairly well, and the fan is nicely balanced without using the balancing kit. By and large, these new fans are fairly easy to install, though putting the blades on is still a challenge. While one person can install a fan, a helper is always nice to have.

Ceiling fans are heavy, and the last thing you want them to do is fall. For this reason, make sure that you CAREFULLY follow instructions. Major hardware stores have some excellent on-line videos showing how to do it. Also, inspect existing fans every few years or so. Make sure the blade screws are tight and the mounting seems secure.

Most of us commonly use only a small portion of the paint in spray cans, so it is important to clean the nozzle before the can is put away. I generally turn the can over and spray for a few seconds, but doubt if that does much. A never-fail hint to keep the nozzle clean is...take the nozzle off, and temporarily put it on a can of WD-40. Spray a squirt of WD-40 through it. Then replace it on the paint can for storage. Since I heard this hint years ago, I have never had a nozzle clog. Do remember, though, the next time you use the paint, to sacrifice the first blast onto some waste paper (though I have never noticed that it made a difference when I forgot to take this step).

While on the subject of spray paint cans, I have noticed that the paint can instructions print seems to be getting smaller and smaller. Out of curiosity, I just measured it, and found spray paint instructions have a print that is about 0.005" high. Normal newsprint is more like 0.010". The reason? The instructions are in two languages...and include a bunch of safety and environmental explanations. I wonder how many people ever read this stuff...particularly with such small print. Mainly lawyers, I suspect.

Dad had died way before his time, so I used to do handyman work around my mom's home. One of the reasons I enjoyed working at her home was because she would clean up the mess as I worked. By the time I was finished with the job, the dirt, dust, and debris were all gone. She would even ask me if I was through with this tool or that. By the time I was finished, I could put away the last few tools. While I enjoy working, by the time the job is over, I am about ready to relax. Not having to clean up was a big relief.



The Village Gazette

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