



# The Village Gazette

Volume 11, Issue 6  
Village Creek Community Association

June 2014

## Village Creek Yard of the Month

**MAY, 2014**  
**12634 Willow Breeze**

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# The Village Gazette

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 Northpointe Int (5-6)..... 281-357-3020  
 Willow Wood Jr (7-8) ..... 281-357-3030  
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 Houston Chronicle ..... 713-220-7211  
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# The Village Gazette



## EASTER BUNNY CELEBRATION IN APRIL

In April, the Easter Bunny came to Village Creek atop a fire truck for a festive celebration. With lots to do including an egg hunt, train ride, fire truck demonstration, and pony rides, a good time was had by all ages.



## Handyman Helpful Hints

We have a burglar alarm...mainly because it was here when we moved in. Last week it had a low battery alarm. It happened that the 12 volt batteries in our garage door opener are the same voltage, amp hours, and physical size, so I had the luxury of trying one of them. It took over a day for the low battery indication to go away, but it finally did. Now I need to remember to order a replacement battery.

One of our lawn irrigation zones didn't make it through the winter. Unfortunately, one of the zones that didn't come on was controlled by one of the two "missing" underground valves. I made the mistake of not finding and sketching on a drawing where ALL of the underground sprinkler valves are before we had poured a concrete sidewalk and a pad for our garden shed. These missing valves have bothered me for several years. I figured they were under concrete. Now I was forced to find them. I started by marking where all of the non-working sprinklers were with little flags. Then I asked myself where I would have run the pipes if I had done the original installation. Finally I started digging (potholing, they sometimes call it) to find the pipes serving the sprinkler heads. It turned out that they were NOT UNDER concrete, and were deeply buried in a location which made complete sense. I fixed the valve and updated the sketch

showing all valve locations. I should note that some professional irrigation people use electronic locators to find these valves. If you are missing several, it might be worth it to hire it done.

On a vaguely related subject, my wife, who is remarkably good at organizing things, started a binder (actually three) where we put all of the operating manuals and sketches for the house. It is so nice to be able to quickly find something. I do need to help keep it orderly, as I tend to be somewhat random in my filing.

Remember to pour a half cup (or so) of chlorine bleach into your air conditioner condensate drain yearly or so. Use a funnel, and do not spill the bleach on your clothing, eyes, or furnace. It is highly corrosive. I know of a situation where this drain was ignored. The drain line in the bathroom came apart because of pressure caused by the clog. If they had been on vacation it would have been a mini-disaster. Have the condenser coil (outside) cleaned yearly or so depending on how dirty it is around your unit. Change your furnace/Air Conditioner filters at least yearly (or more...depending on your lifestyle). If you can see a bright light through a filter, it is not very dirty. Air conditioning uses 220 volts and equipment which can come on without warning. If you are not comfortable with such maintenance, hire a professional.

## Village Creek Common Area Trees

Most of us love trees, and hate to cut any tree down; however, within the next months, many diseased and dying trees will be removed from the Village Creek common areas. Most of these trees are oaks which, after nearly fifteen years, are stunted, and have not established themselves. Our arborist recommended against trying to fix stunted trees with trimming, water and fertilizer. It is better, he says, to start fresh with new, healthy trees. Dead or dying pines will be removed if they are a potential hazard. A few Chinese tallow trees near the Village Creek sign (at Spring Cypress) will be removed because they are inappropriately placed, and are a significantly invasive tree. (<http://www.texasinvasives.org>).

It is the Landscape Committee and Village Creek Board's



intent to replace trees; however, many will be in different locations. In some cases, the original oaks were planted along the street in a narrow boulevard where they would eventually cause serious sidewalk, curb, and road issues. In addition, some oaks were planted too close together to assure long term success. In the future, trees will be planted in areas where there is room to grow without causing problems.

In most cases, new trees will not be oaks. For the common areas, a list of recommended trees is being created. These trees will be chosen for beauty, longevity, and suitability for the location. When the list is finalized, it will be published. The Landscape Committee and Board are committed to add diversity with many other suitable trees.

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## LANDSCAPE CORNER

By Gordon R. Watson

### JUNE LAWN COMMENTS

A must-read publication is Texas A & M's "Maintaining St. Augustine Grass," by Taylor & Gray. ([http://publications.tamu.edu/TURF\\_LANDSCAPE/PUB\\_turf\\_Maintaining%20St.%20Augustine%20Grass%20Lawns.pdf](http://publications.tamu.edu/TURF_LANDSCAPE/PUB_turf_Maintaining%20St.%20Augustine%20Grass%20Lawns.pdf)).

This is a summary. There is so much in the article that you must read it completely. Some highlights are the following:

- 3" mowing height for both sunny and shady areas.
- It is best not to bag clippings. Leave them on the lawn.
- Water to a depth of six inches. Note that watering several times (rather than one) during the watering day will help prevent run-off. Water running onto the street is a good indication that we are watering too fast for the water to soak in.
- Water only when grass begins signs of distress (usually 5 to 10 days, depending on weather).
- During growing season, begin fertilizing 3 weeks after the grass turns green and when there is little chance of a late frost. Apply 1 pound of soluble nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn every 8 weeks, or 1 1/2 pounds of slow-release nitrogen every 10 weeks.

### JUNE VEGETABLE ACTIVITY

Continue planting heat-loving vegetables such as southern peas, okra, cantaloupe, sweet potatoes, and pumpkins. Soil, for most vegetable gardens, should be maintained damp (not wet) 3" below the surface.

### JUNE TREES AND SHRUBS

"Texas Gardener Magazine" (TGM) advises that roots of trees

and shrubs which were planted during the fall to spring season be kept slightly damp. You should water these new trees and shrubs once a week and deep enough to keep the root ball and surrounding area moist. To allow time for the water to get to the root ball, you may need to water to the point of run-off, and then repeat several times. Make sure that new trees and shrubs have 3" of mulch beneath them to keep in moisture.

### TREE AND BUSH REMINDER

From <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/drought/mulches.html>

When applying mulch around plants, cover the area of soil containing roots (which is commonly a few feet beyond the tree canopy). Keep mulch 6" away from trunk. Again: Please do not pile mulch against tree trunks. It isn't needed against trunks and may do harm. Place the mulch around the tree or bush as a "donut"...allowing the plant to be in the hole of the donut structure.

### JUNE'S WEATHER FROM INTELICAST.COM

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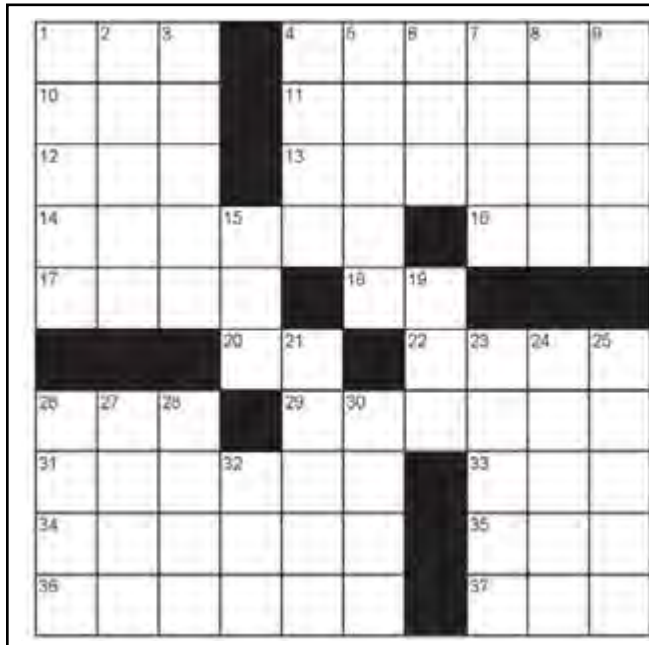
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### ACROSS

1. Dawdle
4. Permanant
10. Brew
11. Brand of adhesive strip
12. Charged particle
13. A Nissan car
14. Parallelograms
16. Male cat
17. France & Germany river
18. Father
20. Strontium (abbr.)
22. Animal oil
26. Part of a min.
29. Saudi \_\_\_\_
31. Singer Bing
33. No. eggs in a package
34. One-celled water animal
35. Southwestern Indian
36. Raving
37. Hallucinogen

### DOWN

1. Dens
2. Hawaiian 'hello'
3. City
4. Replace a striker
5. Spring flower
6. Music
7. Lure
8. Type of car
9. Cheese
15. Married woman
19. Wing
21. Jewish religious leader
23. BB player Kareem \_\_\_\_ Jabar
24. Public disorder
25. Groggy
26. Blemish
27. Writer Bombeck
28. Racoon's nickname
30. Baseball's Nolan
32. Scene

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						1		
1					9			3
			7			8	2	
	3	6				5		
					2		1	6
	6							1
	2		5				8	
7		5				4		

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