



The Village Gazette

Volume 11, Issue 7
Village Creek Community Association

July 2014

Village Creek Yard of the Month

JULY, 2014

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The Village Gazette

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 (select 'emergency' option)

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 Tomball Memorial High School 281-357-3230
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 Republic Waste 713-849-0400
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 Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 plastics/aluminum cans)
 Yard Stork kpuente@garygreene.com

NEWSLETTER

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LANDSCAPE CORNER

By Gordon R. Watson

GREAT RESOURCE

You can find pretty much anything you want to know about gardening at Texas A&M's web site. Their information commonly focuses on Texas, and almost certainly is backed up with science and experience. <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>

VEGETABLES

In this part of Texas, we can have fresh vegetables, of one sort or another, for the entire year. On the other hand, many vegetables which can be grown in the summer in other parts of the country cannot be grown here (because of the bit of extra heat we get). Summer is not good for most kinds of tomatoes, cucumbers, and green beans. Vegetables which do well here in the summer are okra, southern peas, winter squash, sweet potatoes, peppers, eggplant, and melons. Our Kale has survived both winter and summer and is still going. It is very attractive and pretty much bug-free.

TREES AND BUSHES

Trees and bushes, particularly young ones, will need some water if it doesn't rain. Don't over-water, but allow the roots to be moist (neither wet nor dry). If it doesn't rain during the week, give them a deep watering. Dig down a few inches in the root area to check the moisture. It is desirable to have the soil damp (not wet) 12" below the surface. Fertilize new plants with 1 to 2 cups lawn fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter (according to the "Texas Gardener Magazine"). Water it in well! A berm around young trees will help you keep sufficient water to their young roots.

Mature trees and bushes which have reached their ideal size need not be fertilized, but they should be watered during any week or two when there is no rain.

LAWNS

We had some great rains recently, as write this and I hope that trend continues. If not, we will need to make up the deficiency using our irrigation system. At our home, we are working toward one watering weekly.... deep watering. Deep watering encourages deep roots. "Texas Gardener Magazine" says that most people water too little...too often. Note that irrigation timers can generally be set to water several times during one day...to allow time for the water to be absorbed in the soil. We have a few grass areas where the

sprinklers are not getting sufficient water to the lawn, so I will need to add heads or adjust existing heads to assure these areas are covered.

REMINDER

Consider keeping lawn clippings on the lawn. Also, keep mulch away from the tree bark. You should see the tree's "flare" (the tree's trunk widens before it enters the soil).

PERSONAL HEALTH

Garden in early morning if possible. Drink lots of water. Wear a hat and sun screen. Consider kneeling on foam pads or use knee pads. It's far better to wear out gloves than to damage hands. Watch out for fire ants.



JULY'S WEATHER FROM INTELLICAST.COM

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Until next time, Happy Gardening!

TRAVEL TIPS

By Cahl Rasmussen

Now that we are in the middle of summer travel season, I thought I would share some travel tips to make your travel experience a little more enjoyable and hassle-free.

First of all, there are two new airlines that have or will start service out of George Bush Intercontinental. Korean Air has already begun flying non-stop from Houston to Seoul S. Korean. The aircraft is a B-777, and arrives around 8:00 AM and departs Houston for Seoul around 9:45 AM. The second carrier is SAS or Scandinavian Air Service. They will operate a B-737 non-stop from Houston to Stavanger, Norway. That service begins in mid- August. The aircraft is an all-business class configuration, and the round-trip airfare is in the neighborhood of about \$6,000 round trip.

Also, Spirit Air has begun service to five new cities out of Houston. They are Orlando, Ft. Lauderdale, New Orleans, Kansas City, and San Diego. United Airlines has also begun service to Munich, Germany. So if any of these cities or carriers interests you, they now fly out of George Bush (or IAH as I call it).

International travel is very popular out of IAH. Not only do you have United, but all of the foreign flagged carriers that operate. Now some tips to save you time and money. First of all, if you travel at least once a year internationally, I would suggest getting the Global Entry Card through the TSA.gov web site. It does cost \$100 to apply, but once you qualify, you are able to bypass the long lines to clear Customs & Immigration. There is a designated line for Global Entry line, and you will clear Customs & Immigration in about 10 minutes. I at IAH and I see, every day, people waiting for over an hour to clear Immigration and then another hour to clear Customs. I highly recommend Global Entry. It is valid for 5 years. Also it gives you TSA pre-check. This means no taking off your shoes, belt or computer out of its bag when you go through security when departing. Again you will find a designated line and quick clearance through the checkpoint.

Next, is how you pack your checked luggage? I have worked for several airlines over the years and let me tell you now, more than ever, airlines are going to weigh your bag. If it is over 50 pounds they will charge you for the overweight bag. It is cheaper for you to check another bag than it is to pay for an overweight one. Besides, you don't want to try and repack your bag while you stand in the ticket counter line figuring out what and how you're going to fit those cloths into your purse or brief case.

Happy Travels

Home Repair and Maintenance

By Gordon R. Watson

WOOD ROT

A very common place for wood rot to occur is at the very bottom of a vertical exterior door frame and trim (if the door is exposed to rain). The cause is most likely that the bottom of the wood is touching (or nearly touching) the concrete below. Because the end of the wood is not exposed, it is impossible to paint it (once installed). The wood wicks up the water, and the wood rots. If caulking was used successfully, the wood might not get wet. However, if the caulking has cracked or is missing, it is likely that the wood has rotted. As time goes by, six inches or more of wood might rot away, with just a thin layer of paint remaining. It is best to prevent this problem in the first place by keeping a good line of caulking to keep water from entering the area. You can check your frame by pushing against the paint with your finger. If it is mushy, you should take some action. Commonly, the rotted wood can be replaced with exterior wood filler (get product advice from the hardware store). If the damage is severe, the wood may need to be replaced—not an easy task.

Electrical Problem: Recently, my son and daughter-in-law's home had an electrical problem. The electrical receptacle which serves their washing machine began making some zapping electrical noises. Of course, they stopped using the washer immediately. It turned out that the likely cause was that one of the screws holding the wire on the receptacle was loose. This caused the wire and screw to get so hot that it melted the plastic. If you ever hear or smell anything unusual in a switch or electrical box, turn off the breaker to that area, and call an electrician. Very few of us have the knowledge required to safely work on electricity, and mistakes can cause fires or serious injury.

SAFETY TIP

Those of you who have pools, hot tubs, or decorative pools might want to make sure that all of the mechanical and electrical pieces are properly installed. Ideally, the person who inspects your pool equipment should be an electrician who is familiar with pools. Mixing water with electricity is very dangerous, and improper wiring or equipment failure can be a serious safety risk.

(Continued on Page 6)

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Home Repair (Continued from Page 4)



Since electricians generally have a minimum cost (just to visit), it might be a good idea to have a list of things for the electrician to do while he is there. One of those things is to tighten up all of the screws on the circuit breakers. Tightening these screws takes only ten or fifteen minute and can prevent costly repair or fire.



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MICE AND RATS AND THEIR CONTROL

By Gordon R. Watson

While Village Creek is probably one of the earth's cleanest places to live, mice and rats live pretty much everywhere. Mice can enter a home through a hole the size of a nickel, and rats can enter through a hole the size of a half dollar.

To avoid them wanting to live in and around your home, the United States Government's Center for Disease Control has these suggestions:

Look for gaps or holes outside your home:

- In the roof among the rafters, gables, and eaves.
- Around windows.
- Around doors.
- Around the foundation
- Attic vents and crawl space vents.
- Under doors.
- Around holes for electrical, plumbing, cable, and gas lines.
- Gordon's note: I am pretty sure that the last mouse invasion to our attic was through the exterior wall opening required

by the air conditioning piping. This hole is commonly quite large, somewhat hidden, and a direct route to the attic. I filled the exterior opening with expanding foam available from your hardware store.




Eliminate possible rodent food sources:

- Keep food in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids.
- Clean up spilled food right away and wash dishes and cooking utensils soon after use.
- Keep outside cooking areas and grills clean and closed.
- Always put pet food away after use and do not leave pet-food or water bowls out overnight.
- Keep bird feeders away from the house and utilize squirrel guards to limit access to the feeder by mice and rats.
- Use a thick plastic or metal garbage can with a tight lid.
- Keep compost bins as far away from the house as possible (100 feet or more is best).

(Continued on Page 8)

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Last Day of School at Bus Stop.



Photo by Tara Tooley

Mice and Rats (Continued from Page 7)

- Keep grains and animal feed in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids. In the evening, uneaten animal feed should be returned to containers with lids.
- If storing trash and food waste inside the home, do so in rodent-proof containers, and frequently clean the containers with soap and water. Gordon's note: Bleach is a great way to disinfect garbage cans. Make sure you don't spill bleach on clothing or surfaces you don't want to ruin!
- Dispose of trash and garbage on a frequent and regular basis, and pick up or eliminate clutter.
- Eliminate possible nesting sites outside the home. Elevate hay, woodpiles, and garbage cans at least 1 foot off the ground. Move woodpiles far away from the house (100 feet or more is best). Get rid of old trucks, cars, and old tires that mice and rats could use as homes. Keep grass cut short and shrubbery within 100 feet of the home well-trimmed.

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The Village Gazette



Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum President, Kathy Creel and Community Outreach VP, Charlotte Burns, recently presented grant checks to six agencies in our service area. Those agencies receiving grants were as follows: Interfaith of the Woodlands, Montgomery County Women's Center, Northwest Assistance Ministries, Operation Interdependence, Reach Unlimited, and TOMAGWA. In addition, CWJF awarded 49 scholarships to area high school seniors in the six school districts CWJF serves.

Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum is a growing organization of women dedicated to providing volunteer services, leadership and philanthropy to enrich the communities in north Harris and south Montgomery counties. CWJF partners with agencies, schools and corporations to fulfill identified needs in education, crisis intervention, interaction with an aging population and support for people with disabilities

Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum is a 501(c) (3) non-profit assistance organization and a recognized chapter of Junior Forum, Inc. For information on joining or donating to CWJF, call 281-379-1391 or visit www.cwjuniorforum.org.

1. (l to r) Debi Edge, Montgomery County Women's Center Client Services Director, Vivian Cline, MCWC Grants Manager, Sarah Raleigh, MCWC President and CEO, Kathy Creel, Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum President, and Charlotte Burns, CWJF VP of Community Outreach

2. (l to r) Kathy Creel, Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum President, Judy Deyo, TOMAGWA Executive Director, and Charlotte Burns, CWJF VP of Community Outreach

3. (l to r) Kathy Creel, Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum President, Carole Little, Northwest Assistance Ministries President and CEO, and Charlotte Burns, CWJF VP of Community Outreach

4. (l to r) Missy Herndon, Interfaith of The Woodlands Programs and Services Director, Kathy Creel, Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum President, Dr. Ann Snyder, Interfaith of The Woodlands President and CEO, and Charlotte Burns, CWJF Vice President of Community Outreach.

4. (l to r) Charlotte Burns, Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum Vice President of Community Outreach, Kathy Creel, CWJF President, Mary Pike, Operation Interdependence Area Manager

5. (l to r) Charlotte Burns, Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum Vice President of Community Outreach, Kathy Creel, CWJF President, and Lauren Black, Reach Unlimited Associate Executive Director

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