

# The Village Gazette



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Village Creek Community Association

December 2014

## Two Brothers' Snowy Christmas Adventure

Cue the soft Christmas background music...and add a light snowfall outside the window.

The Christmas holiday decorations are quite dazzling in Village Creek. It is heartening to see how many dedicated families put up lights and other decorations. Our family is no exception. I was born into a holiday decorating family.

My brother and I were raised in Eastern Montana in the 1950's, and, at the time, outside Christmas decorating was not common. We were 11 and 13. We were not rich. By today's standards, we were probably somewhat poor, but it was a good kind of poor: we had just enough of things.

My sister (17 or so) made a life-sized Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer out of cardboard. It was colored with crayons and reinforced with boards. My dad added a red blinking nose. Rudolph was illuminated with a spot light (which was actually a two-pound Folger's coffee can with a 100 Watt bulb inside). My dad, who was quite clever, used some red, dynamite wire (a different story) to build a

*By Gordon R. Watson*



lights. Remember, at the time, Store-bought Christmas bulbs were big, bright, and hot. He soldered something like 20 small six volt bulbs in series. My brother and I painted them with red nail polish. Then we ran the finished lights across front eaves of the house. They were a glorious sight: 20 tiny red bulbs shining brightly and reflected by the bright white snow against the starry night sky. Were they safe? Relatively so. UL approved. No. Stunning? Yes.

Of course, there were glitches. Because the lights were in series, if one burned out, they all went out. I don't recall that my dad said a word when they failed. It was more like my brother and I knew it was our job to fix them. He had taught us how to solder wires to the bulbs' copper bases, so we were fully capable of fixing the problem. We left the warm house: all bundled up, mitts on, boots crunching in the unbelievably frosty night. Dad had also taught us to use an Ohm meter to figure out which one was burned out, but we were amateurs, so the work often lasted so long that our fingers felt numb. When we found the offending bulb, we unsoldered the old one and soldered in the new one. While we were out in the cold, dad was inside the warm house.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# The Village Gazette

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

CenterPoint-Gas Leak .....	713-659-3552
Constables Office .....	281-376-3472, <a href="http://www.cd4.hctx.net">www.cd4.hctx.net</a>
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, <a href="http://www.tomballisd.net">www.tomballisd.net</a>
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.....	<a href="mailto:patti@preferredmgt.com">patti@preferredmgt.com</a>
Fax .....	281-897-8838

Mailing: P.O. Box 690269 Houston, TX 77269  
**Village Creek Community Association Website:**  
[www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp](http://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... <a href="http://www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp">http://www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp</a>	
Municipal District Services (24 hrs) .....	281-290-6500
Reliant-Street lights .....	713-923-3213
.....	<a href="http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage">www.centerpointenergy.com/outage</a>
Sex Offenders.....	<a href="http://www.familywatchdog.us">www.familywatchdog.us</a>
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 .....	<a href="mailto:kpunte@garygreene.com">kpunte@garygreene.com</a>

### NEWSLETTER

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### *Snowy Christmas (Continued from Cover)*

I am not sure what he was doing: probably listening to the radio or figuring out other ways to keep us boys busy. There was no TV at that time. Our reward came when the entire string relit after we plugged it back in. Wondrous! Oh, I do recall that it was quite common for mom to have hot chocolate with a marshmallow to help us warm up. Of course, standing on the floor furnace helped as well.

Rudolph was changed once when he became plywood instead of cardboard. He was painted instead of crayoned. Year after year, he stood there, nose blinking, proudly showing off, every December, to interested adults and awestruck children.

This tradition continued (with some variations) for over 50 years until my mom's death in 2002. The lights were modernized a bit, but Rudolph was always Rudolph.

There is one little historical footnote to this. When Jimmy Carter was president (late 1970's), some of you may remember, we had a serious oil crisis, and he asked Americans to save energy by not putting up exterior Christmas lights. My wonderful 66 year old mom, who was a widow by then, didn't own a car, and had very few appliances. She was energy-frugal by any standards. Furthermore, I am not sure I have met a more ethical or kind person: hardly a rebel. After pondering the Presidential edict, she decided to go ahead with part of this long tradition and put up Rudolph with only his red nose on: no other lights and no flood light. Only a blinking five Watt symbol of our family and Christmas. I am sure that President Carter would have approved.

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## Village Creek Christmas Lighting Contest



Take out that VHS copy of "Christmas Vacation" to get some ideas about how to win the annual Village Creek Christmas Lighting Contest. The categories will be Best Block, Best Overall Home, Most Traditional Home, and Most Festive Home. The judging will be on Sunday evening, December 14, 2014 by the Landscape Committee. Their decision is always difficult. There are always quite a few excellent neighborhoods and individual decorations. In the end all of us are the winners because the neighborhood always looks particularly wonderful during the Holidays! Stay safe while you use those ladders. Have a wonderful holiday season!



## Ho, Ho, Ho!

**Cookies with Santa. Don't miss it.**

**Village Creek Pool House  
Sunday 12/7/14 from 3 to 5 pm**

Bring the kids, cameras and your list for Santa and come out to the pool area Sunday, December 7th from 3:00 - 5:00 PM for cookies with Santa!

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## Landscape Corner

*The Village Creek Landscape Committee*

The Landscape Committee wishes you all the best for the Holiday Season and for the New Year.

- Mid November to late February is the best time to plant trees in the Houston area. The mild weather will give an opportunity for the roots to be established before our interesting summer weather. Make sure you keep the roots slightly moist...not saturated during the first month or so.
- Before a hard freeze is predicted, drain your irrigation backflow preventer to avoid expensive damage to it.
- A Village Creek neighbor has highly recommended Nature's Way Resources as a good source for organic gardening. Their web site is <http://www.natureswayresources.com/>. This Conroe company specializes in



*Holly bush*

organic solutions to many of our gardening needs. They also have an excellent newsletter to which you may want to subscribe.

- Continue to maintain a layer of mulch to minimize weeds and hold in warmth to the soil. Keep mulch away from the trunk of trees and bushes.
  - If you have a cool season vegetable garden, feed your vegetables with fertilizer during December.
  - 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.
- Until next time, have Happy Holidays and Happy Gardening!

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# The Village Gazette

## Recipe of the Month

### 3 INGREDIENT TURTLE PRETZELS

#### Ingredients

- 1 10 oz. bag Mini Pretzels
- 1 8 oz. package Unwrapped Rolos
- 1 small package pecan halves

#### Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350.
- Put parchment paper on a baking sheet.
- Lay pretzels down on the parchment paper.
- Place a Rolo on each pretzel.
- Bake for 3-5 minutes watching for them to soften but not melt.
- Take out of the oven and add 1 pecan half per pretzel.
- Let cool completely.

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

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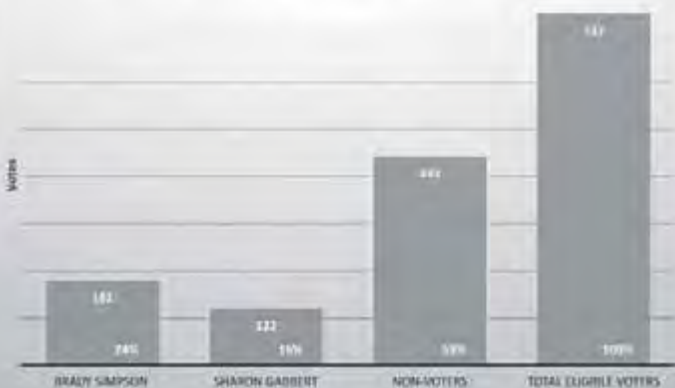
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# The Village Gazette

## Village Creek Board Minutes

Approved Minutes for all Board meetings are available at <http://www.preferredmgt.com>.

Village Creek Board Election Results



## CONSTABLE TIPS OF THE MONTH

Dep. Joseph (J.T.) Cormier, 281.370.9106  
(Lakewood Office)

1. Jog or walk in pairs. Safety in numbers. Do not keep both ears occupied by music because you may not know who/what is coming up from behind you. Always have something in one of your hands, and be ready to use it.

2. While Christmas shopping, leave your purse at home. You do not need anything but your I.D. and credit card. Try to carry as little cash as possible. Find someone to go shopping with. People are looking around to find easy targets, so do not lock purses in vehicles (or the trunk). They could be broken into.

*Editor's note:* Deputy Cormier will be providing law-enforcement safety tips monthly. He regularly advises those attending Village Creek Board Meetings that he is ticketing speeding and stop sign violations.

One of Village Creek's residents reminded us at the same Board meeting to please don't be in a rush. Driving the speed limit or a bit lower on our streets may save a life. Help Village Creek have a safe holiday season.

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it's important to remember the  
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simple pleasures this holiday season.



**Kara Puente**

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