



The Village Gazette

Volume 12, Issue 2
Village Creek Community Association

February 2015

Getting to know Village Creek Volunteers

This is a periodic column dedicated to getting to know those volunteers who help make Village Creek a great place to live. This month's volunteer is Jerry Gabbert.

My name is Jerry Gabbert, and along with my wife, Sharon, and children, Paris and Rome, we love living in Village Creek.

We moved here in 2006 following our move from New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. After losing nearly all items in our flooded home, we were able to start over again in Tomball. We moved here mainly because of Tomball ISD's reputation for being an outstanding school district in the Houston area. Our insurance policies covered our losses in New Orleans, and we quickly made new friends in Village Creek!

Sharon and I have volunteered for many functions in Village Creek. Shortly after arriving here, there was a need for people to work at various events, and we just jumped right in. We've helped put on events such as "The Easter Egg Hunt and Parade", "Fourth of July Party", "Summer Luau", "Kindergarten Meet -n- Greet" and "Cookies with Santa".

We love putting on "Cookies with Santa" as Christmas is such a great time of year, and the residents really come out and support the event. The event has grown each year as this is THE place to get to speak with Santa Claus and get a nice family photo with the Claus Family. In 2013, we added a green backdrop, fully decorated Christmas tree and spot lights to enhance the visual appeal of Santa. We're proud that many families now use this event to start off their holiday season.

I was editor of the "Village Gazette." I'm also a member of the pool committee: helping to steer decisions and recommend improvements to our main amenity in the neighborhood. I have

(Continued on Page 2)

AVOID PARKING AND PLAYING IN STREETS

Written for and approved by all Village Creek Board Members

Maneuvering around parked cars in Village Creek is a fairly common problem for drivers. This is not just an issue of breaking the deed restrictions. It is an issue of safety. Village Creek's streets are quite narrow. When a car is parked on the street, two cars cannot pass without one stopping for the other. It is very inconvenient and unsafe for those drivers who must deal with this issue. Perhaps, above all, it is almost impossible to see a child wander out onto the street when obscured by a parked car. No one wants a child to be hurt.

Residents have commented to the Board that drivers often need to stop to wait for toys, chairs, etc. to be removed before they can pass. While we all want children to play and have fun, streets are not a good place to play. Our roadways are primarily for vehicle and foot traffic. Please do not allow children to play there.

The Board understands that cars will occasionally be parked in the streets, and this is not an issue. It becomes an issue when a car or pickup is commonly and illegally parked in front of a home and obstructs traffic.

Excerpt from: Village Creek deed restrictions state (Residential Architectural Guidelines, Page 6, Paragraph 18).

"No passenger car or pick-up owned or used by the residents of a lot shall be permitted to be parked overnight on any street in the Subdivision. No guest of an Owner, lessee or other occupant of a Lot shall be entitled to park on any street in the Subdivision overnight or on the driveway of a Lot for a period longer than forty-eight (48) consecutive hours."

The Village Gazette

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Klein Fire Dept.281-376-4449
Poison Control Center800-764-7661
Willowbrook Methodist281-477-1000
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(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 School281-357-3230
Transportation.....281-357-3193

HOA MGMT

Spectrum Association Management.....281-343-9178
Janna Patrick.....jpatrick@spectrumam.com
Fax number.....281-752-5482
After Hours Emergency Numbers281-343-9178
.....or 877-269-9092

Office Address – 16690 Park Row Houston TX 77084

Payment Address – PO Box 1118 Commerce GA 30529 (or
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Village Creek Community Association Website
www.spectrumam.com (register to access)

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Houston Chronicle713-220-7211
Sweetwater Pools281-988-8480
Lost Pets...<http://www.preferredmgt.com/villagecreek/home.asp>
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Trash pickup Tues/Fri
Recycling Fri (only newspapers/#1 & 2 plastics/aluminum cans)
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NEWSLETTER

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Getting to Know.. (Continued from Cover)

long been a proponent of building a clubhouse and hope to one day see it become a reality.


I also volunteer at the D. Bradley McWilliams YMCA in Cypress where I serve on a coach's advisory board as a coaching mentor. I am very proud to serve the youth in our community as a positive role model to help kids learn how to play sports in a Christian environment.

I'm an avid cooking aficionado growing up in South Louisiana, where men do most of the cooking. I'm known to throw a spontaneous crawfish boil and cook up a blazing pot of gumbo at a moment's notice! I've been blessed with a good career and love sharing what we have with others as I was raised to always give of yourself, and it will come back to you ten-fold.

Jerry Gabbert
615-428-5579

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The Village Gazette

The Sopping Wet Lawn Enigma

Gordon R. Watson

With regard to things going awry around our home, my wife has a good eye seeing things that don't seem quite right. I, on the other hand, am very good at coming up with excuses as to why those things don't seem quite right. An example is that we had a small rivulet of water continuously going down our street (from our yard). I explained that we had a rainfall six weeks ago. She countered that the lawn around one of our sprinkler heads was sopping wet: nearly growing swamp moss and other creatures. I explained that the water district had come out five weeks ago and flushed the lines. You see the pattern. If she is persistent enough, and comes up with enough symptoms, there becomes a point where I start to understand that there actually is a problem. I call this the Oh, I see. I think we actually have a problem moment.

Such is the case with our lawn sprinkler system. What I have discovered (and I am sure many of you are way ahead of me here) is that, after ten or twelve years of work, lawn sprinkler valves sort of retire. Their interior parts just give up and break. The valve diaphragm inside is made of rubber. This rubber doesn't fail first. What fails is the plastic around the diaphragm. It just sort of breaks into pieces which allow a trickle of water through all of the time.

The manufacturers know that the diaphragm is a failure point and have a kit to replace it. The job isn't really that difficult. The job will differ by manufacturer. With our manufacturer, I had to remove four screws from the top, remove the old parts, and replace them with new. Go on YouTube to find out how to do yours. YouTube is a GREAT source of assistance with products.

The biggest problem is finding the offending valve. Most are buried. If you are organized, you have a drawing showing where each one is. At this point, if you are lucky, you don't need to dig up the lawn to get to the top of the valve. If you are unlucky, there will be two valves and you won't know which is which. I have found that a mechanic's stethoscope is VERY useful in such cases. You can actually hear which valve is slightly hissing. You can find these at Harbor Freight where they are priced at about \$5.00. For women to relate: Harbor Freight for men is similar to Macy's except that, instead of a fragrance of perfume and new clothing, everything at Harbor Freight has a fragrance of some sort of very odd, probably slightly toxic, oil. Once you have found the right valve, a wet/dry vacuum is very useful to remove the dirt and dust or mud and water at the top of the valve.

A smart person will replace ALL of these valves' internal parts before they fail. I, on the other hand, am going to replace them one at a time.



Jersey Village American Legion 2015 5K Fun Run

Jersey Village American Legion 2015 5K Fun Run - Saturday, March 28th, Clark Henry Park, 7600 Equador, Jersey Village, TX

American Legion Jeremy E. Ray Post 324 is calling on all area runners to help support some of the area's finest future leaders, scholars and emergency first responders by participating in the 4th Annual Jersey Village American Legion 5K Fun Run. Registration is \$25.00 through March 17th and \$30.00 until registration closes March 26th.

Proceeds from the event will benefit American Legion community programs that provide scholarships and recognition for area students, such as Texas Boys State, National High School Oratorical Contest, American Legion baseball and CyFair ISD JROTC medals. In addition, the event supports annual first responder honors like the Jersey Village Police Department Officer of the Quarter/Year awards sponsored by the Legion.

For more details or to register, go to: <http://www.active.com/jersey-village-tx/running/distance-running-races/jersey-village-american-legion-5k-fun-run-2015?int> or contact Larry Dick at 832-349-6510 or lddick@live.com

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TRAVEL TIPS BY CAHL RASMUSSEN



Since my last article, there have been some substantial developments at Houston's International Airport (IAH) that I thought you should know about.

New service: United Airlines has announced new service to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic with daily non-stops. Also they have begun the new service to Santiago, Chile. Spirit Airlines has also announced new service out of IAH to the following cities: Cancun, Los Cabos, and Toluca, Mexico; San Jose, Costa Rica; San Pedro Sula, Honduras; and, finally, San Salvador, El Salvador.

There are two new airlines that will begin service into IAH starting this spring: ANA or All Nippon Airways will begin daily service to Tokyo using a B-777. On June 19th, Eva Airlines will start service three times a week to Taipei, Taiwan. In July, they will be flying four times a week also using a B-777. Finally, Emirates, which currently flies nonstop to Dubai, has changed equipment and now flies the Airbus A-380 daily. This aircraft is a double decker aircraft that

has a capacity of approximately 400-500 passengers, depending on configuration. Lufthansa also flies the A-380 daily to Frankfurt, Germany

There are some new features at IAH that I wanted to make you aware of. There is now free Wi-Fi throughout the entire airport. This project was completed about 6 weeks ago, and now you won't need to hang out in front of the United Club to get access to Wi-Fi. Also, for those of you traveling with small children, inside Terminal C, by Gate C-14a (inside the toy store), is a small play room where kids can play while you wait for your flight.

The airport is currently working on plans to expand the two cell phone lots at IAH and will model it after the cell lot in Denver. It will have flight display monitors, and a food service of some kind, so you can go inside have a bite or a cup of coffee while you wait to pick up your passengers. I will keep you all updated as this progresses.

Happy Travels!

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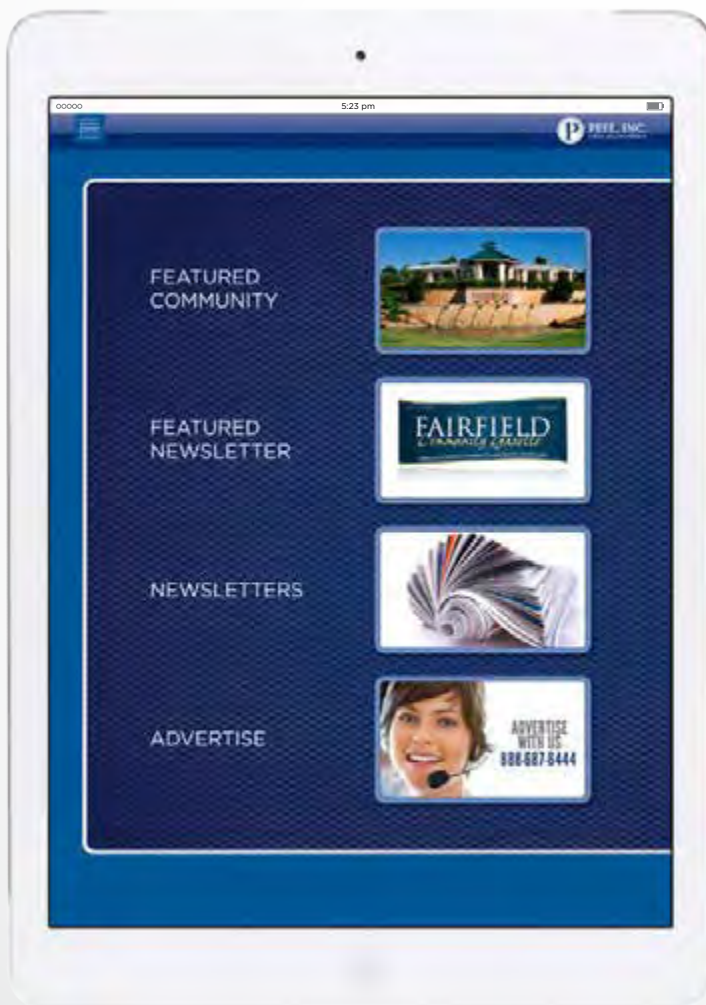
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Recipe of the Month

WHITE CHICKEN ENCHILADAS



Ingredients

- 8 flour tortillas, soft taco size
- 2 cups cooked, shredded chicken (I used half of a rotisserie chicken.)
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 (4 oz.) can diced green chilies

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Spray a 9x13 pan with cooking spray. Mix chicken and 1 cup cheese. Roll up in tortillas and place in pan seam side down.
- In a small sauce pan over medium heat, melt butter. Whisk in flour and cook 1 minute. Add broth and whisk until smooth. Allow sauce to thicken. Remove from heat and stir in sour cream and chilies.
- Pour sauce over enchiladas and top with remaining cheese. Bake 20-25 minutes and then broil for a few minutes to brown the cheese.

From: <http://www.plainchicken.com/2012/03/white-chicken-enchiladas.html?m=1>

Deputy Cormier's Law Enforcement Tip

Write down all make, model and serial numbers to all electronics and weapons that you may have inside your residence. It helps aid in clearing BURGLARY OF HABITATIONS and possibly make arrests if items were PAWNED OR SOLD at Pawn Shops. (Keep the list in safe place where it cannot be stolen as well).

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Email the picture to watson.g@sbcglobal.net. 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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Landscape Corner

Cathy Huber of "The Houston Chronicle" wrote an article (12/20/2014) on wintertime watering in Houston. Summarized, she advises that if it rains 3" a month, watering will probably not be necessary. If it doesn't rain, then add supplemental watering for ALL plants because, even though the plant tops are dormant, the roots need a bit of moisture to survive. The key test for sufficient moisture is to stick a shovel or trowel down into the soil. If you can't fairly easily penetrate 6", you probably need to provide some water. She also mentioned that you should use a rain gauge as well all know that rainfall in this area can be highly variable from place to place.

Vegetables: Many seasonable vegetables can be transplanted this month, including asparagus crowns, onions, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, mustard, kohlrabi, collards, kale, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts. Protect them with blankets when freezing is predicted. Seeds can be sown for carrots, beets, turnips, radishes, lettuce, spinach, arugula, and chard.

Freezing: Very cold weather is possible in February (record low in February was 6 degrees F), so continue protection of applicable plants. As a reminder, consider draining your backflow preventer before hard freezes (28 degrees or below or continuous below-freezing nights). Don't forget to reopen the valves when irrigation is required.

Fertilization and Mulch: Apply light fertilization to all plants. Maintain a layer (2" to 3") of mulch throughout the year to assist in keeping moisture in and weeds down. Note that in areas with nice shade, such as under roses, weeds tend not to be a problem. Weeds love open areas, so either plant these areas or apply a thick layer of mulch.

Spraying: This is the month to spray fruit trees with oil sprays (before they bud).

Pruning: February is a good month to prune deciduous woody plants prior to spring growth. Look up specific plants to find out the exact time for pruning. According to "Texas Gardener (TG)," "The most notorious crimes of the season are overly-pruning crape myrtles and cutting large shade trees back so far they look like a giant hat rack..."

Grass: Weeds are awaiting warm weather to take off, so if you see some, now is a good time to hand pick them. If you must use chemicals, this is a good month to apply weed killer. Bare areas, with lots of weeds, might be a sign of poor water distribution of your sprinkler system, so see if bare areas are getting enough water before you spend too much effort on other solutions.

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