

# The Village Gazette



Volume 12, Issue 2  
Village Creek Community Association

March 2015

## THE CASE OF THE VISUALLY INSULTING AIR CONDITIONING LINES



Being retired, I sometimes run out of things to do. I suppose that it would be more accurate to say that I run out of things to do that I WANT to do. I have noticed that our exterior air conditioning lines

(the two black, insulated copper lines from the exterior air conditioning unit to the inside air conditioning unit) had become a bit ragged. As time goes on, this insulation ages. It becomes both displeasing to the eye and probably causes a slight a/c inefficiency. Most likely, this aging is caused by ultra violet rays and, maybe, ozone in the outside air. I don't like things that look like they need fixing, so I decided to solve the problem by hiding the issue. I purchased some 6" plastic corrugated irrigation pipe from a hardware store, slit it with a box cutter (I didn't even cut myself this time), and slid it over the two lines. Like a physician, I try to "cause no harm." I was careful not to damage the lines and the control wires which usually run alongside of them. Before I did this, I made sure that the hole through the exterior wall the lines go through was filled with expandable foam to assure that critters, such as mice, cannot make their way into our home. To finish off the wall end, I built a small painted wooden box (no back and no bottom). I screwed a horizontal piece of wood to the grout area (I don't like to drill into brick). Then I screwed the box to the strip of wood.

Did you know that your hardware store has screws which will easily screw into grout with just a small pilot hole drilled with a masonry bit? One screw brand name is Spax. Another is Tapcon (the latter comes with its own masonry drill bit). If I ever want to remove this screw, I will just take it out and fill the hole with some

Quikrete Mortar Repair.

The decorative, painted, plant stem and leaves on the box is a simple little piece of art created by cutting a pattern with a razor blade into wax paper and spray painting over it.

I suspect I need to seal up the bottom end of the cover with steel wool or other material to keep wasps and mice from entering there, so I need to remember to get around to that. I don't intend to fill the bottom and top of the cover with expandable foam because a repairman may need to remove this someday, and I don't want to make his life more difficult than it already is.

### DEPUTY CORMIER'S LAW ENFORCEMENT TIP

If you have a GPS, set your HOME address to be an address NEAR you (not your actual home address). The reason is that if your car is broken into while you are away from home, this would be a hint that you are not home, and your home may be a target as well as your car.

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Harris County Constable, Pct. 4  
Patrol Division - West District  
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281.374.0732 (Fax)  
281.376.3472 (24 Hr. Dispatch)

# The Village Gazette

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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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)

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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

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[www.spectrumam.com](http://www.spectrumam.com) (register to access)

(must have account number and valid email address to register,  
call the above office number if you need assistance)

### SERVICES

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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](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage)  
Sex Offenders.....[www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us)  
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### NEWSLETTER

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## Split Tee Scoop

Gordon R. Watson



I recently found a product which has been useful to me in adding an irrigation system to our yard. It is another PVC piping product called a “snap-on saddle.” It might also be called a “split-tee.” The ones I have used are both ½” and ¾”. Not all hardware stores stock them. You may need to buy them on line in some cases. Let’s say you want to add a ¾” pipe to an existing ¾” pipe. Normally, you have to cut the line and put a normal ¾” x ¾” x ¾” PVC tee in. This is often nearly impossible to do because the line has to “give” a bit for you to make space to install it. A plumber might use a union to accomplish this correctly. The new “snap-on” tee allows you to apply PVC cement, snap on the fitting, drill a hole, and attach the new PVC pipe. It’s that simple. I am not sure these are a suitable for anything except irrigation piping downstream of the electric irrigation valve, so do your own research if you want to add this to a pipe under significant pressure. Always follow instructions.

## Cypress Symphony presents "The Lark Ascending"

May 9th, 2015 at The Centrum, 7:00 P.M

Bohuslav Rattay, guest conductor  
Kathleen Winkler, violin soloist

### Program:

Vaughn Williams- Lark Ascending  
Copland- Appalachian Spring  
Tchaikovsky- Serenade for Strings  
Sedgwick- The Listening Game

[cypresssymphony.org](http://cypresssymphony.org) for tickets

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## LANDSCAPE CORNER

*Village Creek Landscape Committee*

Hopefully, freezing weather is behind us (though always possible in March). The record low for March was 19 degrees F in 2002. I will not miss putting covers on sensitive plants. We had a freezing rain last March, 2014, so don't let your guard down just yet.

Think about planting some vegetables. Those to plant in March are beans, corn, cucumber, eggplant, kohlrabi, mustard, peppers, pumpkin, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Want a great calendar for figuring out what vegetables to plant and when? Get it on line from Harris Country Extension at <http://harris.agrilife.org/files/2011/05/VegPlantingChart.pdf>.

Bare root planting season is over, so any planting of woody plants should be from containerized plants. Among ornamental, woody plants that do really well in our area are Ligustrum, Crape Myrtles, Wax Myrtles, Pineapple Guava, Purple Sage, and Bottle Brush.

Our lawns are beginning to come alive again. Along with the grass will come some weeds. It is best to just pull these as needed. Certainly mow them if they are shading the lawn. In general, according to "Texas Gardner," don't fertilize until the grass starts growing and needs mowing. Fertilizing dormant grass will just encourage weed growth. The rule of thumb from them is, "fertilize

when you have mowed the grass twice." They also say to use "1/2 to 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet," and "choose a product with a high first number, a low second number, and a moderate third number." Finally, "To know how much to apply, per 1,000 square feet of lawn, take the first number and divide it into 100. The answer will be the pound(s) of fertilizer needed to apply one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn." According to Texas A&M, cool season weeds such as henbit, chickweed and clover are a serious problem in dormant St. Augustine grass. These weeds can be controlled by hormone-type herbicides in early spring.

Consider getting rid of your tree volcanoes (if you still have them). Gardeners love to pile mulch high on tree trunks, but this practice is harmful to the trees. You should be able to see the tree begin to flare out at the bottom and maybe even some horizontal root tops.

The Landscape Committee consists of volunteers, and we will not notice all of the potential landscape issues. If you notice anything out of order such as dead or dying shrubs or trees, or any landscape matter, please contact us through the new Management Company, Spectrum. All of their contact information is on the second page of the "Village Gazette."



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## Recipe of the Month

### BACON BAKLAVA

"Sunset" Magazine's Winning Reader Recipe

This month's recipe of the month is from December's Issue of Sunset Magazine. Can you imagine a more unusual list of ingredients? We recommend that you go to their web site (<http://www.myrecipes.com/recipe/bacon-baklava>) to confirm the recipe. If you have a favorite recipe, please submit it to [Watson.g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Watson.g@sbcglobal.net) for possible inclusion in a future issue.



#### Ingredients

- 1 cup chopped walnut pieces
- 1 pound plus 3 oz. bacon, chopped
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon red chile flakes
- 1 cup butter, melted, foam skimmed
- 1 pkg. frozen filo dough (1 lb., sheets about 13 in. by 17 in.), thawed
- 1 cup (12 oz.) orange marmalade, preferably thin-cut, such as Bonne Maman
- 1/4 cup orange-flavored liqueur, such as Cointreau

#### Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350°. Roast nuts on a rimmed baking sheet until dark golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes.
- Cook bacon in a large frying pan over medium-high heat, stirring often, until crisp, 10 to 12 minutes. Transfer to paper towels and let cool. Set aside 1/4 cup.
- Mix nuts, brown sugar, chile flakes, and larger amount of bacon in a medium bowl.
- Use a pastry brush to lightly coat a 9- by 13-in. baking dish with some melted butter. Arrange a sheet of filo in

dish, crinkling so it fits. Brush with about 1 tbsp. butter. Layer 2 more sheets the same way, pressing down lightly before brushing with butter. Sprinkle 2/3 cup bacon mixture over filo.

- Repeat layers of 3 sheets of filo, butter, and bacon mixture until you use all the ingredients, ending with 4 sheets of filo. Brush any remaining butter over the top.
- Using the tip of a paring knife, cut baklava lengthwise into 1-in.-wide rows. Cut off a corner. Working from there, cut baklava crosswise on the diagonal into 1-in. rows to make diamond-shaped pieces. As you work, hold down top layer of filo with your fingers on either side of knife.
- Bake baklava until deep golden brown and flaky, about 45 minutes. In the last few minutes, heat marmalade, liqueur, and 1/4 cup water in a small saucepan, stirring, until mixture starts to boil. Pour hot mixture evenly over baklava and let cool completely. Cut into pieces and top with reserved bacon.
- Make ahead: Up to 1 day, chilled airtight.

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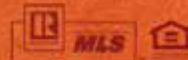
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## *Spot Light on Village Creek Volunteers*

Hi. My name is Sherry Watson. I was born in Louisville, Mississippi and was raised as a U.S. Army child; living in England and several Army bases in the United States. My dad's last duty was at Fort Ord near Salinas, California where I went to Salinas High School and Hartnell College. I finished my college education at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi. My husband and I met and married in Salinas. We have two children. I taught all grade levels up to 5th grade in several towns in California and retired as a school librarian after teaching 39 years.

We moved to Village Creek about five years ago after our grandson was born. Our daughter-in-law asked us to look at our current home. We fell in love with it and Village Creek.

About four years ago, I began going to Board meetings. The Board had just formed a Landscape Committee to take care of the landscaping which had been hard hit by the drought and age over



the first ten or more years. I volunteered to be Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee did a study of the approximately 110 landscape beds in our community, took pictures, and wrote a 110 page study with solutions. The Board liked it, and we began working with Earthcare to implement the improvements. I am proud of what we have accomplished, but fully understand that much more needs to be done. Future focus will be on finishing the entrance near Spring Cypress Road, making even more improvements on Lake Vista near Northpointe, adding trees everywhere, and assuring the improvements we have made are maintained and remain beautiful. I am happy that

I can share my love of growing beautiful plants with the residents of Village Creek. If we all work together, I know that we can keep "Village Creek beautiful."

I currently volunteer in my grandson's classroom as a helper. In addition, I have been volunteering in the school library for three years.



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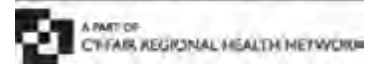
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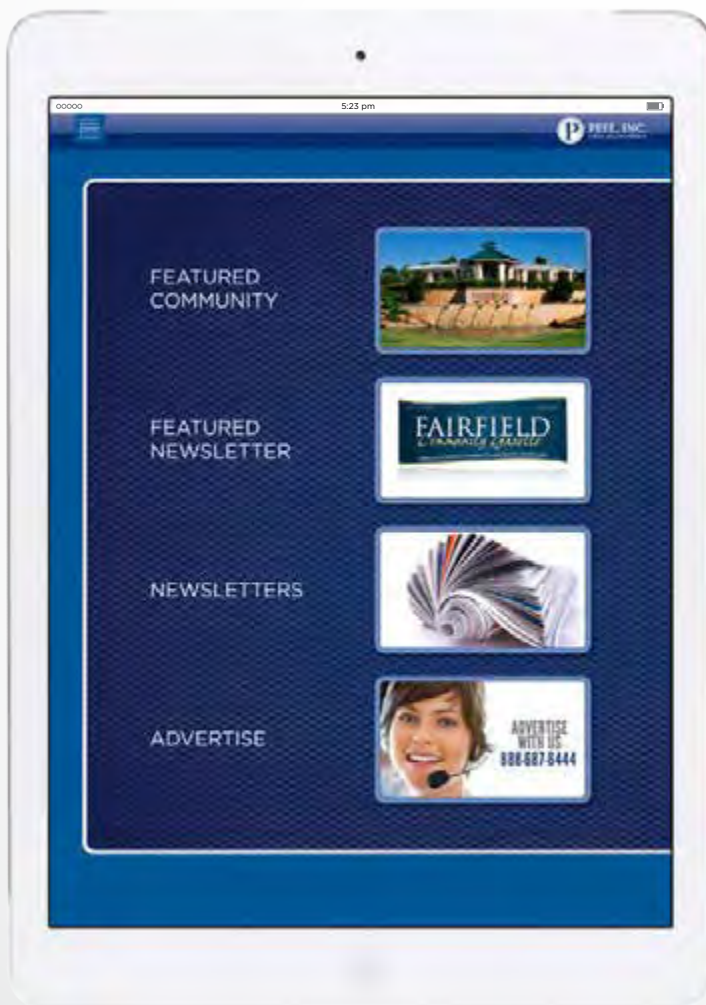
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## KIWANIS CLUB OF CY-FAIR HOUSTON

Kiwanis wants YOU! Start the New Year by joining with the Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club in giving service to others. We work with Key Clubs, Builders Clubs, and Boy and Girl Scout troops to build leadership and orientation toward service to others, and with community based organizations that provide goods and services to the needy in our community and our world. Visit the Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club and learn about the projects in which its members participate to enrich and improve life for citizens worldwide. Internationally, both Kiwanis and Key Club are participating in the ELIMINATE PROJECT aimed at the eradication of maternal/neonatal tetanus.

Businesses of the community are encouraged to support a representative for membership in Kiwanis. We welcome business and organization representatives as well as individual memberships.

Regular meetings of the club will occur on February 3, 10, and 17 at the Hearthstone Country Club at 12:15 p.m. We invite you to be our guest for lunch and fellowship and for informative programs. For more information, call John Carroll at 281-463-0373, George Crowl at 832-467-1998 or Peggy Presnell at 281-304-7127.

We welcome your visit at our Club meeting and your consideration of membership in our service organization. Join Now.



### ***CYPRESS-TOMBALL DEMOCRATS MARCH MEETING***

The next Cypress-Tomball Democrats monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. It will be held at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Members are asked to bring four dozen filled plastic eggs for the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt to be held on March 28.

All are welcome to attend the meeting and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month. The meetings are open to all, and always feature great fellowship and informative guest speakers. For more information, visit the website at [www.cytomdems.com](http://www.cytomdems.com); contact Glenn Etienne at [cytomdems@yahoo.com](mailto:cytomdems@yahoo.com); or "Like" the club on Facebook.

## Northwest Houston Business & Professional Women

You are invited to a networking event. The HIP (healthy, inspiring and powerful) women of Northwest Houston Business & Professional Women (BPW) invite you to join us on Thursday, March 19, 11 AM – 1 PM at Northgate Country Club, 17110 Northgate Forest Drive, Houston, TX 77068. Networking starts at 11 AM, followed by lunch at 11:30, an inspirational message from outgoing President, Karen Monroe and introduction of the 2015 Board. Register by Tuesday, March 17 at [www.nwhoustonbpw@yahoo.com](mailto:www.nwhoustonbpw@yahoo.com). We welcome your visit and hope you will consider joining this organization to learn how to grow your business through networking.



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## MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR TRACK TEAM

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Middle School and High School Registration for Track Team

The Northwest Flyers Track Club will host two orientation/registration sessions for all middle and high school athletes and their parents interested in joining for the 2015 season. The events will be held on Saturday, March 28th at 11:00 a.m., and Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m., at Valley Ranch Grill & Barbeque, 22548 S.H. 249 @ Spring Cypress, Houston.

The Northwest Flyers is a youth (ages 6-18) track organization, affiliated with USA Track & Field. The club provides a full program of "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, shot put and javelin. It is an excellent "off-season" program for young athletes who currently compete on their middle school or high school track teams.

The club was founded 28 years ago by local Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the northwest Houston area. Last year, the Northwest Flyers sent 87 young athletes to compete at U.S. Junior Olympics National Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Humble, Texas.

Visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org> for registration forms and information prior to the session, or contact Linette Roach at (281) 587-8442, or [linette.roach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linette.roach@sbcglobal.net).



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# The Village Gazette

## Teenage Job Seekers

	Age	Baby Sitting	House Sitting	Pet Sitting	Yard Work	Phone
Allen, Whitney	18	•	•	•	•	281-704-9935
Benton, Emily <sup>R</sup>	15	•	•	•	•	281-320-1826
Chandler, Michelle <sup>RMH</sup>	14	•	•	•	•	281-379-2840
Clegg, Claire <sup>R</sup>	17	•	•	•	•	281-290-9015
Clegg, Kerry <sup>R</sup>	16	•	•	•	•	281-290-9015
Gray, Alexandra <sup>*+R</sup>	16	•	•	•	•	832-349-5170
Lambert, Kelsey <sup>*+R</sup>	17	•	•	•	•	281-370-3878
Lambert, Mallory <sup>+R</sup>	15	•	•	•	•	281-370-3878
Manweiler, Allison <sup>R</sup>	16	•	•	•	•	281-520-0649
Manweiler, Caroline <sup>R</sup>	15	•	•	•	•	281-520-0649
Pier, Samantha	15	•	•	•	•	832-557-1970
Plaxco, Sarah <sup>*+R</sup>	14	•	•	•	•	832-477-1950

\* CPR Training + First Aid Training ~ Baby-sitting Course

<sup>R</sup> Has References MH Mother's Helper

\*\*\*The Village Gazette "Job Seekers" column is almost certainly out of date (particularly with ages). Please review it this month and send any changes to Gordon Watson at [Watson.g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Watson.g@sbcglobal.net). I will update it for next month's edition. Thanks!\*\*\*

## Attention Teenagers

The Teenage Job Seekers listing service is offered free of charge to all Village Creek teenagers seeking work. Teens who live in Village Creek should submit their information to [Watson.g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Watson.g@sbcglobal.net) by the 5th of each month for publication in the following month's issue. You must be age 13 to 19 to be on the list. Please include any certifications, training, and what type of job you would like to do. Note that there is a yard work category now.

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