



# The Village Gazette

Volume 12, Issue 4  
Village Creek Community Association

April 2015

## LANDSCAPE CORNER

*Village Creek Landscape Committee*

**Landscape Committee Update:** Future plans by the committee include trees at the lake bridge, trees along the walking path above the lake, and front entry work between Spring Cypress and the “guard house.”

**Tree Stakes:** Tree stakes are typically required for only one year. After that, they become a problem to the tree, often entangled in the roots to the point where they cannot be removed by hand. If you have questions about removal, contact the Landscape Committee through [Spectrumam.com](http://Spectrumam.com).

**Vegetables:** Warm weather has arrived, so get those warm weather plants in the ground as soon as possible. Large tomatoes have a short season here, so plant them soon (last month would have been better). Consider cherry tomatoes too, as they tend to survive the summer heat well. Placing mulch around plants, such as tomatoes, will help keep the soil cool for a bit. Plant tomatoes deeply to provide better root growth. Remove leaves before burying that part of the stem.

This is the month to plant okra (which we enjoy, and it is a star performer here) and sweet potatoes (which also grow really well and are tasty). Add some fertilizer for most plants.

**Perennials and Annuals:** Divide clumps and remove old growth now. Plant warm season perennials and annuals. Plant bulbs now. This is the time to plant annuals, though many of us prefer to stick with the less labor-intensive perennials. Plant some sunflower seeds now. Keep the seeds moist until they are well established. For the very large sunflowers, plant the seeds 12” apart rather than a few inches...as the seed package suggests. Plant a few extras in a pot in case some don’t germinate, but most will.

**Trees, Shrubs, and Vines:** Those trees, shrubs, and vines that have been dormant have awakened for their spring, summer, and fall show. Prune lightly if required. Oaks probably shouldn’t be pruned this month because of the potential for disease transmission.

Doug Welsh’s Texas Gardener Magazine (TG) suggests fertilizing trees with inexpensive pure nitrogen such as ammonium sulfate, bat guano, blood meal, or urea. Ammonium sulfate is the most available,

but others apparently can be found at farm and ranch stores and some nurseries. TG says that young trees and shrubs should be “spoon fed” by mixing one to two teaspoons of ammonium sulfate with one gallon of water and drenching the area around the drip line every 2 to 3 weeks. Brown tips may indicate too much fertilizer. Mature trees should be fertilized with granular fertilizer in late winter, mid spring (if no growth is noted), and early summer. Spread 1 to 2 pounds of nitrogen for every 1,000 square feet of drip line. According to TG, studies have shown that surface fertilizer is, “...as effective as, and more efficient than, other methods (such as punching holes or deep-root feeding).” Water deeply after fertilizing: 1 inch of water to drive the nitrogen down to the roots.

**Hint:** High nitrogen fertilizers such as these absolutely need to be watered in (one inch of water or rain, or so) to prevent fertilizer burn of the grass above the tree roots.

**Biblical Information from Texas Gardener:** Thou shalt fertilize trees and shrubs in late winter before growth begins. Thou shalt not fertilize between August 1 and the first frost. Thou shouldst fertilize again after first frost.

**Roses:** According to the Texas Gardener, April is the peak season for roses. When the rose flowers fade, do a light pruning (deadheading) to remove the old blooms. Add ¼ cup fertilizer to each plant soon after...to encourage new growth.

**Lawns:** Healthy grass is your best defense against weeds. Apply lawn fertilizer after the second mowing and monthly thereafter during the growing season. Consider using straight nitrogen lawn fertilizer now. This would be fertilizer such as 12-0-0 (I.e., with no phosphorus and potassium). Make sure you are getting sufficient water to those areas which tend to grow weeds rather than grass. If it doesn’t rain, you will need to irrigate your lawn. A reminder: Strongly consider leaving your grass clippings on the lawn.

**Mulch:** Keep 3 or 4 inches of mulch in all planted areas to keep the soil cool and to minimize water loss.

# The Village Gazette

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

CenterPoint-Gas Leak .....713-659-3552  
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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)

### SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD .....281-357-3100, [www.tomballisd.net](http://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 School .....281-357-3230  
Transportation.....281-357-3193

### HOA MGMT

Spectrum Association Management.....281-343-9178  
Janna Patrick.....[jpatrick@spectrumam.com](mailto:jpatrick@spectrumam.com)  
Fax number.....281-752-5482  
After Hours Emergency Numbers .....281-343-9178  
.....or 877-269-9092

Office Address – 16690 Park Row Houston TX 77084

Payment Address – PO Box 1118 Commerce GA 30529 (or  
drop off check/money order at office address)

Village Creek Community Association Website  
[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)

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Republic Waste.....713-849-0400  
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Yard Stork .....[kpuente@garygreene.com](mailto:kpuente@garygreene.com)

### NEWSLETTER

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## DEPUTY CORMIER'S LAW ENFORCEMENT TIP

If your credit card company calls you advising you of a problem, it could be a good thing, but it could be an effort to scam you. Don't give them any information that they should already have. If you have any doubts, politely advise them that you will call back on the number listed on the back of the credit card.

Dep. Joseph (J.T.) Cormier  
Unit 84816

Harris County Constable, Pct. 4  
Patrol Division - West District  
281.370.9106 (Lakewood Office)  
281.374.0732 (Fax)  
281.376.3472 (24 Hr. Dispatch)

## FUN, FAIR, POSITIVE SOCCER Let the Kids Play!

In 1986, a group of parents in Katy felt there had to be a better way to provide every youth soccer player a positive experience. They saw the main problem as parents who put too much pressure on the kids to perform. They developed a system so the kids could play and enjoy the sport without demands from adults. They modified the rules and designed a process of 5-side rules, equal play with a unique equal substitution system, balanced teams, and parent training to ensure that it would be fair. It would be truly "Made for Kids".

Thus Fun-Fair-Positive Soccer (FFPS) was founded in the spring of 1986, by Jack Hendrie and several parents, to establish a positive environment for youth soccer players. The first season of the Katy youth soccer league registered 150 players. In 1995, Jack decided to expand beyond Katy. FFPS has added 21 additional programs in the last 24 years totaling over 16,000 players, with 25,000 players expected by 2016. FFPS is sure to have a youth soccer community near you. Just enter your zip code on the website at [www.FFPS.org](http://www.FFPS.org) and find it on the map.

## Here's Looking at your Home's Exterior

*By Gordon R. Watson*

Mr. Rogers, was an officer directly above me on the U.S. Navy ship I served on. He was one of the best officers I met: both smart and a gentleman. He had become an officer through the enlisted ranks, so was exceptional by anyone's standards. He said once that when he came aboard a new ship or land station, he spent the first few months making notes of things that were wrong. He did this because he knew that if he didn't write things down, the problems would become normal, and he would forget about them. This is good advice for all of us.

We recently were away for a while. One of the good things about being away is that you can come back to your home and look at things as an outsider might. I walked around our home and took notes of things that are wrong and right. The front entry is a visitor's first impression of your home. No matter how nice it is inside, his first impression is the door, door bell, porch, etc. Here are some things you might look for:

- Exterior paint trim: After ten years or so, paint tends to show some wear. Consider repainting as needed. Waiting too long can mean a bigger job and bigger cost.
- Caulking: Caulking is the flexible material around windows, trim, etc. which provides a barrier to prevent water intrusion between two different exterior materials such as windows and brick, trim and brick, etc. If you look closely at caulking, you may notice it has come loose on one side or the other. Generally, if such a crack has appeared, you will want to remove the loose caulking before you add new. Caulking comes in a variety of colors. While caulking is fairly easy, it does involve ladders and a bit of practice. It may be best left up to the professional who has made his mistakes early in his career. If you do your own caulking, I suggest that you start somewhere where it is least noticeable. Your caulking will normally improve with practice.
- House numbers: Our house numbers are getting a bit faded. I have a plan as to how to repaint these and, if successful, will tell you what I did. Some of our neighbor's house numbers are not faded, so some have no issues.
- Front doors: While walking around the neighborhood campaigning for an HOA candidate, I did an unscientific survey of front doors. I would say that 80% of front doors were acceptable but needed a soap and water cleaning, a coating of Howard Restor-a-Finish Renew and some Howard Sun Shield to protect them from further damage. I don't generally like to promote products, but these are an exception. Check out their web site at <http://www.howardproducts.com/>. 10% of the doors were so badly damaged that they probably will need to be refinished with spar varnish. Another 10% looked great. I gave our own door a "B+" because I had recently used the products noted above. The bottom line

is that a yearly cleaning with soap and water with a yearly wiping down with Sun Shield will generally keep a front door looking great and may avoid a costly refinishing.

- In most cases, door handles will need replacing soon because the finish has been badly damaged over the last ten or more years. In some cases, the do-it-yourselfer can add some life to badly damaged handles by polishing them with steel wool, Brasso, and spray painting with clear coating such as varnish or lacquer. I doubt it will be cost-effective to hire a handyman to polish badly damaged door handles because it is so time-intensive. I have heard from friends that some new handles often come with life-time warranty, so take advantage of such benefits by keeping records. By the way, I did see one entryway in Village Creek that was so spectacular that it belonged in "Better Homes and Gardens." Nice!
- Does your door bell work? I have seen a door surrounded by three or four different doorbell buttons. Which one is right? Has yours been replaced several times without filling the holes? You can buy a grout repair material which may be in a tube or a caulking gun cartridge. Remove the old anchors before you fill the hole with grout.
- Do the lights on the front of your home, work? Is the glass clean? Do the fixtures need repainting? Removing, cleaning, repainting, and replacing well-built fixtures will often be better and simpler than buying new. Make sure the lighting level is sufficient, but not too bright. A good rule is to keep your light on your property.
- Roofs: Most of Village Creek homes have composition shingle roofs, but it is fairly common to have sheet metal over windows or entryways. The sheet metal on our home was apparently not galvanized, so it rusted. I realized that this metal must be saved by removing loose rust and using a product such as and Rustoleum Primer to passivate and protect this metal sheeting. Of course it should be painted to match the home trim as appropriate. Letting this sheet metal continue to rust will result in an expense repair.
- Door Hardware (both indoor and outdoor): For some reason, screws on door handles, loosen, often to the point where the handle begins to move and damage the door finish. I try not to wait until the handle begins moving, but occasionally (maybe every two years), I try to tighten these. Normally you can do this in an hour or so.
- Windows: We commonly get enough rain here that many windows are somewhat self-cleaning, but keep in mind that most windows will need to be cleaned inside and out every so often. Many second-story windows are beyond the amateur's ability to safely clean.
- Are your gutters clear? Again, this is a ladder job, so be careful. You may save money by hiring it done.

## TRAVEL NEWS

*By Cahl Rasmussen*

I was going to discuss Hawaii in this month's newsletter, but I was asked to talk about Duty Free, and how that program works. Also, there are three new airlines that have or will begin service into IAH at the printing of this.

First, the three new airlines coming into IAH are Volaris, which flies three times a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday between IAH and Guadalajara, Mexico. Second, is a seasonal airline, Vacation Express, which will fly from IAH to Freeport, Bahamas beginning May 24th through August 2nd. This will be daily service. Third is Westjet, which is Canada's Low Cost Carrier. It will begin service between IAH and Calgary, Alberta Canada September 8th. This will be a daily flight.

Now, Duty Free is a program in which passenger can purchase alcohol and tobacco at a reduced price only if you are flying internationally. Depending on where you fly you are allowed a certain quantity of alcohol and cigarettes to bring into the visiting country without having to pay duty on these items. Generally, there is a savings of about 15%. Here is how it works:

Let's say I am traveling from Houston to say London. I can go into the Duty Free stores in the airport here in Houston and pick a bottle of, let's say, scotch. I take my bottle off of the shelf and go to pay for the bottle. The clerk will ask to see my international ticket (boarding pass). If I can't produce my international boarding pass to London, then I can't make the purchase of the bottle of scotch. When I do show her my international ticket (boarding pass), they will package the bottle up in a clear plastic bag and put a seal on the bag (almost like evidence tape), and they will deliver the bottle of scotch to you as you board your aircraft for your flight. You do not get to take the bottle with you at time of purchase. Once the bottle is delivered to you on board you must keep the bag sealed until you clear customs at London. If the packaging is tampered with or opened, the customs in London will seize your bottle of scotch, and you will be out of luck. You must keep the bottle in its original packaging all the way through customs at your destination or you will lose it. Anything else you want to buy at the duty free can be consumed when you purchase it. Only alcohol and cigarettes fall under these rules. You also will need to check with the country you are visiting to see how much is allowed to bring in duty free.

*Happy Travels!*

## Required Minimum Distribution from 401K's

*By Gordon R. Watson*

When you are young, you feel that you will never be 70.5 years old. When you get older, you will be amazed at how fast you got there. I suspect that most of Village Creek Community Tomball residents are nowhere near 70.5 years of age, but those who are, need to be reminded that they must start taking money (called Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)) out of certain funds such as 401k's at age 70.5 years. It is the individual's responsibility to assure this happens, I am told, not the firm holding the funds. The distribution is not always automatic.

For those who are younger, you might consider reminding your parents of this issue.

The IRS is among a very few places the Government actually has an income, and the monetary penalties for not complying are, we are told, among the greatest of all tax penalties.

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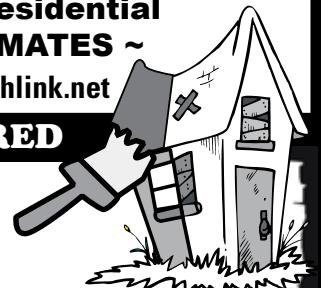
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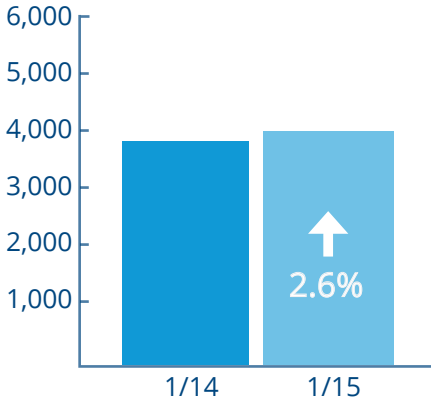
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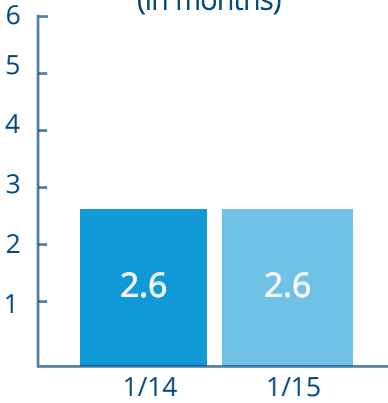
# Houston Real Estate is Blooming!

The time to sell couldn't bee better!

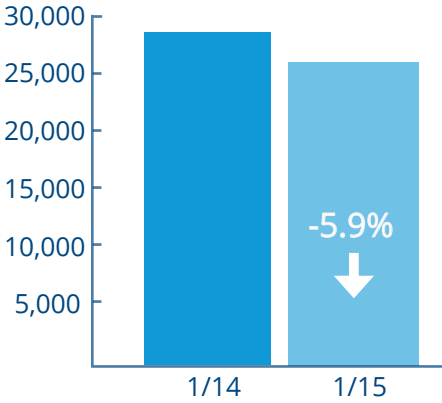
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## KIWANIS CLUB OF CY-FAIR HOUSTON

YOU are cordially invited to attend an introductory meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Cy-Fair Houston at the Hearthstone Country Club.

Why join Kiwanis? Kiwanis is an international service organization focused on changing the world one child and one community at a time. The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club of Houston seeks to serve this community through sponsoring Key Clubs for high school students, Builders Clubs for middle school students, and Aktion clubs for adults with disabilities. Also, we sponsor Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. We provide support to various other organizations in the community that serve children and families. Enjoy the pleasure of being a part of this service.

What is Kiwanis? Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis club, no matter where in the world it's located. Members stage nearly 150,000 service projects and raise nearly US\$100 million every year for communities, families and projects. In addition, Kiwanis

members actively participate in many service projects in their home communities.

Kiwanis members don't just serve—they have fun. Members make new friends by being part of a club where they attend meetings and participate in social events. Kiwanis clubs also provide excellent networking opportunities for professionals. Members meet new people from all over their region and the world through service projects, fundraising and attendance at district and international conventions.

For more information, call John Carroll (Copperfield and Hearthstone areas) at 281-463-0373; George Crowl (Jersey Village area) at 832-467-1998; or Peggy Presnell (Fairfield and CyRanch) at 281-304-7127.

Visit the Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club website at [www.KIWANISHOUSTONCYFAIR.COM](http://www.KIWANISHOUSTONCYFAIR.COM).



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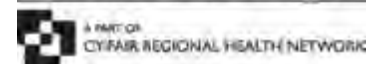
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## The Connection School's Second Annual Golf Tournament to be Held on April 24th

The Connection School of Houston, a non-profit K-12 Christian Classical school serving the Cypress area, will host its second annual fund-raising golf tournament on Friday, April 24th, 2015 to raise money for the educational needs of its current and future students.

The event will be held at Cypress Lakes Golf Course, located in Cypress, Texas. The tournament will include lunch, 18-hole scramble, dinner, raffle, and an awards ceremony. Registration and lunch will begin at 11 AM, and tee-off will be at 1 PM on the day of the tournament.

We encourage you to invite a friend, a co-worker, or simply to join in supporting our needs in any way. Golfer and sponsor registration is now open to the public, and the deadline to sign up is Sunday, April 19th.

For more information, to register for the golf tournament, or to find out how you can make a difference in the lives of the TCSOH students, contact The Connection School at 832-544-6031 or visit [www.TheConnectionSchool.org](http://www.TheConnectionSchool.org).



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## Palatable Plate of the Month

### PEANUTTY PIE CRUST CLUSTERS

Wanting a salty, sweet, treat? This month's Palatable Plate is by the Pillsbury Bakeoff Winner Beth Royals. As with all of the recipes here, please confirm them on-line to assure nothing was omitted or typoized. (Go to [www.pillsbury.com/](http://www.pillsbury.com/) and search for clusters (or any other recipe). One could gain weight just looking at the pictures. Whip up a delicious treat with flaky pie crust squares, peanut butter and toffee.



Got a wonderful new recipe? Send it to Palatable Plate of the Month to share with Village Creek and beyond. Make sure you give credit to the source. Send it to [Watson.g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Watson.g@sbcglobal.net).

#### Ingredients

- One Pillsbury™ refrigerated pie crust, softened as directed on box
- One bag (12 oz) white vanilla baking chips (2 cups)
- One tablespoon Crisco® Baking Sticks Butter Flavor All-Vegetable Shortening
- One tablespoon Jif® Creamy Peanut Butter
- One cup salted cocktail peanuts
- 2/3 cup toffee bits

#### Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350°. Roast nuts on a rimmed baking sheet until dark golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes.
- Heat oven to 450°F. Line 2 cookie sheets with Reynolds® Cut-Rite® Wax Paper.
- Unroll pie crust on work surface. With pizza cutter or knife, cut into 16 rows by 16 rows to make small squares. Arrange squares in single layer on large ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 6 to 8 minutes or until light golden brown. Remove squares from pan to cooling rack. Cool completely, about 5 minutes.
- In large microwavable bowl, microwave baking chips, shortening and peanut butter uncovered on High 1 minute to 1 minute 30 seconds, stirring once, until chips can be stirred smooth. Add pie crust squares, peanuts and toffee bits; stir gently until evenly coated. Immediately drop by heaping tablespoonfuls onto lined cookie sheets. (If mixture gets too thick, microwave on High 15 seconds; stir.) Refrigerate about 15 minutes or until set. Store covered.

These yummy clusters can be frozen in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.



# The Village Gazette

## CYPRESS SYMPHONY



Cypress, TEXAS (March 3, 2015) – The Cypress Symphony hosts its 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala and Season Announcement Dinner presented by Clearwater Utilities at 5pm on April 26, 2015 at the Norris Conference Centers at City Centre. The evening will include revealing

all major works for the 2015/2016 season with introductions by season conductor Jerry Hou, returning after his enthralling performance in January.

Richard Dowling will perform an exclusive recital for gala attendees that will elegantly (or subtly) match the theme of the evening “Stardust” with an emphasis on evening jazz. A Texas native, Dowling is known best for his recordings of American Music and has won the hearts and recognition of many for his performances, including the Houston Tuesday Musical Club Competition and a sold out debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Dowling was the first soloist to appear with the Cypress Symphony in September 2013 at the inaugural concert.

Founder Caroline Ewan comments that “I am thrilled that the symphony is about to embark on its third season. Our mission to enrich and educate the community has the support it needs to expand not only the size of our orchestra, but also the number of communities that we are reaching. Our third season will be our first entre into these two areas. It is a historic and exciting time at the Cypress Symphony.”

The Cypress Symphony, founded by 26-year-old Caroline Ewan, is receiving great support from the northwest Houston community for its energetic performances. The next concert is May 9th at 7PM at the Centrum under the baton of Bohuslav Rattay, Conductor of the El Paso Symphony. Kathy Winkler, violin professor from Rice University, will perform the wonderful “Lark Ascending” by Vaughan-Williams as well as “Appalachian Spring.”

During the fundraising gala, there will be a silent auction presenting items from some of Houston’s best cultural institutions and local artisans. Ms. Ewan and the administrative team will highlight the current status of the Cypress Symphony and present exciting new developments for the 2015/2016 season.

The gala will be held at Norris Conference Centers at CityCentre at 826 Town & Country Blvd, Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77024. Tickets for the gala can be purchased online at [www.CypressSymphony.org](http://www.CypressSymphony.org) or by calling (832) 766-0529. Individual seats for this exclusive event are \$60 with discounts for table purchases or priority seating. Additional tickets and upcoming concert information can be found online at [www.CypressSymphony.org](http://www.CypressSymphony.org).

## The American Legion

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=>

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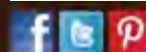
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# The Village Gazette

## COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE IN VILLAGE CREEK

APRIL 17 AND 18, 2015,  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### ***CYPRESS-TOMBALL DEMOCRATS APRIL MEETING***

The next Cypress-Tomball Democrats monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. It will be held at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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.



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## THE CONNECTION SCHOOL OF HOUSTON

The Connection School of Houston is a non-profit K-12 Christian, Classical School serving the Cypress area. Guided by Matthew 22:37-40, we are a Christian community committed to discipline children to love God with all of their hearts, souls, and minds and to love others as themselves. We desire to cultivate wisdom and virtue through Scripture, mentorship, and a classical liberal arts curriculum. Only in our second full year, The Connection School has already grown to nearly one hundred students and over twenty faculty members. We are looking forward to welcoming more families to partner with us and join us in our mission to love the Lord and others.

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year is now open! Prospective students and their parents are invited to join us for an Open House on either April 16th, or May 7th. Each Open House features a tour and class observation from 9:00-11:00 AM and an informational meeting and informal discussion with the faculty from 6:30-8:00 PM

"The Connection School is a family. My teachers go above and beyond to invest their time into my life, and I love that we all have the common goal of experiencing God's love and sharing that love with others."

—Kaitlin, Junior

For more information about The Connection School, please call 832-544-6031, visit [www.TheConnectionSchool.org](http://www.TheConnectionSchool.org), or attend one of our monthly Open House events.

Cypress Symphony presents  
Vaughn William's

## *"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- String Serenade

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



# The Village Gazette

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