



The Village Gazette

VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 7 | JULY 2015

VILLAGE CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Village Creek Yard of the Month

June, 2015 | 17422 Sunset Arbor

Thanks to Plants for all Seasons for donating the \$25 gift certificate for this month's winner. Note that last month's winner was inadvertently a repeat of the previous month. The actual winner for May was 12634 Willow Breeze. The corrected "Village Gazette" can be found (in color) at <http://www.peelinc.com>



The Village Gazette

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

CenterPoint-Gas Leak713-659-3552
Constables Office281-376-3472, www.cd4.hctx.net
Klein Fire Dept.281-376-4449
Poison Control Center800-764-7661
Willowbrook Methodist281-477-1000
EMERGENCY 24 HOUR LINE281-537-0957
(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
Otis Chandler.....ochandler@spectrumam.com
Fax number.....281-752-5482
After Hours Emergency Numbers281-343-9178
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 (register to access)
(must have account number and valid email address to register,
call the above office number if you need assistance)

SERVICES

CPS.....713-626-5701
CenterPoint-Gas.....713-659-2111
Dead Animal Pick up713-699-1113
Domestic Violence281-401-6250
FBI.....713-693-5000
Harris County Animal Control281-999-3191
Houston Chronicle713-220-7211
Sweetwater Pools281-988-8480
Lost Pets.....spectrumam.com
Municipal District Services (24 hrs)281-290-6500
Reliant-Street lights713-923-3213
.....www.centerpointenergy.com/outage
Sex Offenders.....www.familywatchdog.us
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)

NEWSLETTER

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Our Drinking Water

By Gordon R. Watson

The following article is based, in part, on a phone discussion with Mr. Ken Love of MUD #5.

The agency responsible for providing Village Creek water is the Municipal Utility District, #5. Our water is currently coming from wells and conveyed to us by plastic pipe.

Every year, usually in June, and certainly by July, MUD #5 mails every customer a Consumer Confidence Report which is intended to show measured quality assurance of our drinking water.

Village Creek, and other neighborhoods, have sections of pipes where the flow rate is, sometimes, so low that the pipes need to be flushed to assure that the water stays fresh. This flushing occurs once a month. In addition, every fire hydrant in Village Creek is connected to the same drinking water pipe. These are flushed two times a year. Flushing these hydrants is done primarily to assure they work when they need to, and, it also helps keep the drinking water lines filled with fresh water.

Water in our homes should be clear with no unusual odor. Of course, your home's own pipes, filters, softener, or water heater may create water quality problems. Water heaters, as they age, often have a sediment of calcium carbonate (white color) which can get into your hot water system. They can also rust which would create a coloration of the water...usually reddish. Odors smelling like rotten eggs can be produced by your own water heater as it ages.

If you do have a water-quality problem (odor, color, or taste), and don't know the source, MUD #5 does want you to report the problem. You can contact them at 281-290-6503.



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THE HOUSE DETECTIVE

The Mystery of the Missing Engine

By Gordon R. Watson

I was minding my own business, driving my 2008 pickup down Highway 249's frontage road toward a hardware store. Suddenly, a bunch of things happened: the engine started missing, a wheel seemed to be falling off, and my speed dropped from 50 to 40 in a very short time. I pondered my situation. It felt like the time, when I was much younger, when I neglected to tighten all of the wheel lug nuts. The CHECK ENGINE light came on. Then some sort of BRAKE warning light came on. I am pretty sure that the truck's computer was as surprised about this as I because it seemed to wake out of a long sleep and just react with every possible tool it had...hit the brakes, shut off the engine, stop the fuel, cause the truck to shudder! "Just do something." Warning lights came on everywhere. Some I had never seen before lit up the truck cabin (and it was 10:00 AM). I checked the rearview mirror to see if my engine was bouncing down the road behind me. No. Then, it sort of smoothed out except that it was fairly obvious that the engine was missing. No, I don't mean that the engine was missing. One of the eight cylinders was obviously having issues. The truck is 7 years old, but it only has 15,000 miles on it, it isn't exactly worn out. The computer calmed down and relit the engine fire, but it kept all of the warning lights on...just in case.

I continued on my journey to pick up some hardware. After shopping, I returned to the truck, I was pleased that it actually started, and we limped home. Not a grand ride, but not too bad either.

As I drove home (on seven cylinders), I remembered that I had a similar problem several years back. It turned out to be fixed by the dealer with a new \$10 spark plug (they said it was platinum, but I am pretty sure it is solid gold) and a spark plug coil \$60 (gold plated) plus \$300 in labor (the service manager's name was I.M. Rich, as I recall). Total? \$370. Much of this was more or less covered by an extended warranty. When a warranty expires, I more or less give up on going to dealers for repairs. Yes, they have free donuts, soft drinks, designer coffees, wide screen TV, really nice furniture, nice background music, neat new trucks and cars that make me want a new car, a really pleasant, clean service manager between the mechanic with oil on his coveralls and me. Oh, yes, and it is nice to have a "free" wash job. But I found a smaller shop that seemed less expensive. They have a single-service coffee maker, unmatched couch and chairs, lots of magazines, and sometimes, Wi-Fi. Oh, and the hand scribbled sign on the wall saying, "Jesus can have credit. All others pay cash." I think I saw Jesus there, once, having some work done on his 1964 VW Van. Not sure about that.

Then I pondered it some more. I have always wanted to buy get one of those OBD2 scanners for my car. These are small mystery instruments that real mechanics use to help them trouble-shoot

a car problem. OBD, I think, stands for On Board Diagnostics. (Not, Oh, boy, another Doozer). The "2" is the second (better, I am sure) version. Anyway, to make a short story long, I bought it at the local parts store (\$50). As an aside, as I was questioning the clerk about which scanner to buy, she mentioned that they "use this same model, free, for customers." In other words, parts stores will scan your car for free. It crossed my mind to cancel my transaction, about then, but I continued. Not sure why. I also bought a new \$10 spark plug and a new \$60 spark plug coil. Same cost as the dealer...except for the free donuts, labor, TV, etc. part. The coil also has a lifetime warranty.

A rule for people who do things themselves is that it ALWAYS is more difficult than you or others think it is going to be. As is the norm these days, I did go to YouTube and looked up spark plug coil along with my truck make and model. As it turned out, the truck was pretty much identical to mine, which is a blessing (as they say in Texas). The nice YouTube gentleman advised me that it was an easy job. The funny thing was that he made a big deal about making sure you use a fluorescent bulb in your trouble-light because you wouldn't want an incandescent bulb to break around gasoline. He didn't seem to be bothered by the fact that there was no bulb guard on his fluorescent bulb, and that a broken fluorescent bulb around flowing gasoline is no picnic either, or that he was wearing flip-flops instead of reasonable shoes. Still, he seemed like a likeable chap. The YouTube was very good except that he glossed over little things like, "how the heck do you get this electrical connector apart?"

As an aside, I know that I was taking a risk here. For all I knew, the problem was with the fuel system. I would have been out \$120. But I would have had a cherished OBD2 tester to store in my tool box.

I put the OBD2 analyzer into the socket. Did you know that the OBD2 socket can usually easily be found by getting on your knees outside your car and looking under your dash? I am sure my neighbors thought I was praying. OK, I was praying that I could find the OBD2 socket. Eureka! Praise the Lord! I found it, and turned it on.

There they were: two codes. As instructed by the OBD2's manufacturer's instructions, I went to the computer. There they were: Electrical problem with #1 cylinder and some sort of anti-skid failure. I figured (hoped) that the anti-skid failure was just the computer over-reacting after being rudely awakened during "the event." I knew what I needed to know: the problem was with cylinder #1. We are not born knowing which cylinder is #1, but because my dad was a mechanic, I did, vaguely, know that. Still I checked on line to be sure (facing the grille, right side, front on a

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V8). All V8's? I doubt it. There will always be some company that does it differently. I won't name names. Oh, except, I am puzzled why the old Volkswagens used bolts instead of nuts on their wheels. I am sure there is a trick to putting on their spare wheels.

I replaced the spark plug first because I really wanted to know which had the problem: the coil or the spark plug. Murphy's law: it wasn't the inexpensive spark plug. I put it all back together. It worked. Dang! What a nice feeling to save \$300 or so.

One advantage to having your own OBD2 computer is that you can reset your OBD computer to get rid of the check engine and anti-skid lights, without going back to the parts store. Not to digress, but I once bought a used truck in which the owner had removed the check engine light before he sold it. I will get over that someday. It has only been twenty years or so.

Do I think everyone should get one of these? Nah. My dad was a really good mechanic, and I am sure I learned a lot of things that I take for granted...sort of like the YouTube guys who leave out pretty much everything the amateur needs to know. Most of us should find a good mechanic and let him take care of these things. Sometimes the House Detective just gets lucky.

Village Creek Recycles

By Gordon R. Watson

This column will occasionally appear in the "Gazette" because it is of interest to every home. This will be the first of a series.

Test question: Can I put glass of any sort in Village Creek's recycling container? Answer: No.

Sorry. If we do add non-recyclable materials to the recycle bin, we create a problem at the recycling center

I contacted our Trash/Recycling Company, Republic Services, Inc., the other day to try to update Village Creek on anything new, and they sent me the list below:

It is fairly common to hear that some people recycle an item that I don't, vice versa. In an effort to clarify things, I asked them to send me their list of what Village Creek can recycle. The biggest surprise is that they apparently don't sort by plastic number anymore. They simply tell which type of contents they are interested in. I have removed a few items which don't apply to the average home. If you want the entire list, send me an email at Watson.g@sbcglobal.net, and I will be glad to send it to you.

Acceptable Items: Bond Paper (white & colored), Aluminum Cans, Calculator Tape, Steel cans, Computer Paper (Plain White or Colored Bars), Bi-Metal Cans, Envelopes, Plastic bottles such as Liquid Detergent, Shampoo, Milk, and Water, or Juice, Legal pad, Junk Mail, Paper with Letterhead/Stationary, Magazines, Newspapers, Photocopy Paper, Scratch Paper, Telephone Messages, Typing Paper & Cardboard.

Non - Acceptable Items: Food or Beverage Waste, Candy Wrappers, Carbon Paper, Floor Sweepings, Non-Paper Packing Material, Rubber Bands, Stickers/Labels, Tissue Products (e.g. napkins), Vacuum Cleaner Bags, Plastic Packaging Wrap & Glass.

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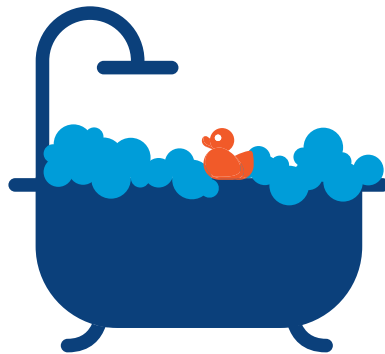


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The Village Gazette

Second Annual Pool Grand Opening Party was Huge Splashing Success

The Second Annual Pool Grand Opening Party was held on Saturday, May 23, 2015, between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. A soakingly wet, wonderful time was had by all. The hosts, Lisa and Jimmy Rawles, served wonderful American-ized pizza and immensely delicious cupcakes. World-class and exceptionally talented DJs played intensely wondrous music to enhance the festive mood of the day! The children played hugely popular games, and, many received prizes for their exquisite gamesmanship. Thanks to the Rawles for a wondrously wet and stupendous pool opening celebration!

VILLAGE CREEK BOARD NEWS

- Tim Anderson and Dennis Perry were appointed in May to fill two positions that had been vacated by previous board resignations
- Tom Brogan resigned from the board in May. His position will be filled at the annual election in July.

The House Detective The Case of the Buzzing Mosquito

We have lived in Texas for about five years. This is the first year that I recall having mosquitos buzzing around us while we are trying to sleep. I assume, at some point, they "bite," us, but they usually go away with a few swats. Knowing mosquitos have become somewhat dangerous, I did a bit of investigating. First, I noticed that they hung around our back patio door. When someone goes in, they probably just fly in.

I did hear recently that only the female mosquito "bites," and that a more proper term is that they poke their blood sucking device in rather than bite. Of course this is all very obvious and well known. In the old days, mosquito bites were not really all that dangerous. When I was a boy in Eastern Montana, it was quite common to let them fill up with my blood and then slap them. There wasn't a lot of entertainment in Eastern Montana in the 1950's.

But I digress. I knew we had to figure out how to find them during the day, as they seem to do their biting at night. I guess they are nocturnal to some degree. Quite by accident, I noticed two of them standing on a cut apple in our kitchen. Swatted them with a heavy cloth. I think I got both of them. Then I tried cutting an apple slice to attract more. Sure enough, it worked. I was able to swat another.

Now, I make it a habit to leave an apple slice out day and night.



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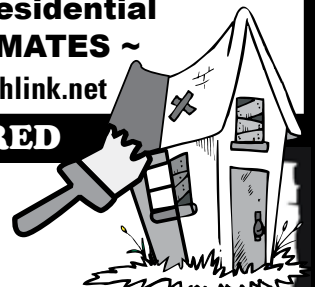
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