



The Village Gazette

VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 8 | AUGUST 2015

VILLAGE CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Village Creek Yard of the Month

July, 2015 | 12718 Wandering Streams

Village Creek Yard of the Month for July is 12718 Wandering Streams.

Thank you to Plants for all Seasons for donating a gift certificate. Photograph by Keith Edwards.



The Village Gazette

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 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 School.....281-357-3230
 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
 Dedicated Village Creek Phone:.....832-500-2221
 Dedicated Village Creek email: villagecreek@spectrumam.com
 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
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 Lost Pets.....spectrumam.com
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NEWSLETTER

Editor
 Gordon Watson.....watson.g@sbcglobal.net
 (Articles must be submitted by the 5th of each month)
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 Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

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Cormier Safety Tips of the Month

Accident Scams are turning into Car Jacking

If you are driving and a group of people in another vehicle tell you that you hit their vehicle (and you didn't), DO NOT PULL OVER OR STOP. These people may be CARJACKING and ROBBING the driver for the vehicle. The carjackers may all be in one sometimes two vehicles. If this happens to YOU call the police, put your HAZARD LIGHTS ON and LOCK your doors immediately. STAY ON THE PHONE the entire time. Be safe.
 Dep. Joseph (J.T.) Cormier



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THE HOUSE DETECTIVE

Getting Hurt and the Mysterious Chirp

By Gordon R. Watson, the House Detective

One of the problems with doing anything is that there is always the possibility of getting hurt. I marvel at the roofers around us working high in the air without any sort of safety harness. I hope they all make it through this work without sliding off of one of those high roofs. Only a few things scare me: clowns and carnies, mainly. But roofs scare me as well. I once got caught on our second story when my ladder fell over with the wind. I have no recollection of why I was on our roof. I am sure it was important. I shouted to get my wife's attention. I even tried calling to her down through the chimney. Nothing! It was so windy that the neighbors couldn't hear me. They were inside their cozy homes. These were the days before cell phones. I ended up getting so mad that I jumped down to the first floor roof...then jumped across to a shed roof and dropped to the ground: unhurt because my body was still a bit flexible. Spiderman stuff. My body's not that flexible anymore.

I recently picked our sleeping six-year old grandson out of his center car seat. I knew that he was way too heavy, but hated to wake the little guy up. If that wasn't sufficient punishment for my body, I carried him into the restaurant. People are so nice to you when you are carrying a sleeping little kid, and his great-grandmother is nearby pushing a walker. People smile and open doors. Of course, in Texas, most are pretty nice all of the time.

Anyway, that went real well until the next day. I was in the garage, working on something or another, and suddenly, I could barely walk. I struggled inside to advise my wife that my life was pretty much over (or something dramatic like that). I spent the next several days basically unable to walk or sleep. I wondered if I would ever walk or sleep again. It happened that I had a regularly scheduled doctor's appointment within a few days.

I came in with a list of things to discuss. You know, like talking to a mechanic about your car. "My oil needs changing, the tire pressure is low, etc." He felt my back. He knew right away that it was a muscle issue. I am sure he gave it a medical name like they always do: One of those meaningless Greek names. He gave me some muscle relaxant (or a placebo). He asked me if I wanted to see a physical therapist. "Nah." I guess the medicine (or the body's own healing ability) did

the trick because I was pretty much back to normal after a week or two. In the future, I fully intend to wake up my grandson rather lift him out of his car seat. I once asked a safety engineer at the company I worked with about carrying heavy things. His advice was to never walk with anything heavy. My grandson can walk while groggy next time. Maybe he can open doors for the rest of us.

Last night, I heard one of those faint chirps that are becoming commonplace around our homes. You know: the battery is dying in the smoke detector, etc. We also have water alarms (with the same sort of low-battery chirp) around to make things even more interesting. I figure that we have about six or seven smoke detectors, and same number of water leak detectors. The odd thing about last night's beep was that it happened every two minutes rather than the typical water or smoke detector spacing of one minute. Finding one of these

chirpers is, as you know, frustrating because you have to wait another minute for a hint. In this case, the wait was two minutes.

As I lay there, I knew that I wouldn't be able to sleep. It might be something important. "Ah, I thought." I bet it is the refrigerator filter warning." I got up, went to the refrigerator, pushed the filter button. "Dang." It had 25% of its life left (don't necessarily believe it, but that is a different story). That wasn't it. Then I noticed it. A sliver of light shown through the refrigerator door. Eureka! That was it. Our refrigerator is so smart that its computer department noticed that some fool (probably me) had left the door open. The computer transistors, capacitors, and resistors talked it over with each other and decided that this was so important that it should notify a sleeping human that they needed to get up to close the door. This decision wasn't taken lightly. After all, it was midnight. The head transistor made the decision. Yogurt was in danger. It notified the beep department, and they started sending the refrigerator owner a signal. Once the human had finally found and fixed the problem, the computer went back to watching over the refrigerator's compressor, fans, filter, and other more technical things. One of these days, these machines are going to figure out that they don't need us anymore.

I had a quick midnight snack or two and went back to bed.



The Village Gazette

TRAVEL WITH CAHL

By Cahl Rasmussen

Editors note: Cahl is a Village Creek resident and works at George H. Bush International Airport. He is not a travel agent, but he enjoys travel and the airport industry.

Since it has been awhile since I last wrote to you all, I thought I would tell you what is new and coming to Bush airport. First of all, ANA or All Nippon Airways and Eva Airlines have started service to Houston from Tokyo and Taipei respectively. Air New Zealand will start service December 15th with four times a week service to Auckland, New Zealand, and West Jet will start service to Calgary, Canada in September.

As of this writing, Terminals A and B have new restaurants in them. In Terminal A, the new restaurants now open are Cadillac Bar, Wendy's, Jack in the Box, and Rays BBQ. Gone are McDonalds, The Grove, Lotus Chinese, Schlotsky's, Uno Mexican, and Chili's. In Terminal B, the Starbucks in the ticket lobby is now a Peet's Coffee. Inside the security area are Steak & Shake, Rays BBQ, and Smash Burger. Gone are McDonalds, Shipley's Doughnuts, Peet's Coffee and Salt Lick BBQ.

In Terminal C, eventually Hard Rock Café and McDonalds will be arriving. Once plans are finalized on all of the restaurants in Terminals A, B, and C, I will write again giving the final list of restaurants. Also in Terminal E all of the Chase ATM's have been removed and replaced with Travelex ATM's. Travelex is the same company that does currency exchange at the airport. I don't use them, so I am not sure if there is a fee attached to using these ATMs, but my guess is that there is.

For anyone traveling internationally, if you have not gotten Global Entry, I highly recommend it. Over the past weeks, since school has been out, average wait time to clear immigration and then customs has been over two hours. After an 8 to 10 hour flight, I don't think I would want to wait that long to finally get out of the airport. So, if you have booked, or are thinking about booking a flight overseas, then consider Global Entry. For \$100 for 5 years it is worth the investment in time savings alone.

I hope all of this information has been helpful and I will look forward to speaking to you all again next time. Next time's topic.... Africa.

Happy Travels!



Village Creek's 4th of July Celebration was a Blast

Village Creek's Social Committee Chairman, Lisa Rawles, reports that the 4th of July event was a sparkling success. Volunteers for the event were Kellie Crenshaw, TJ Crenshaw and her wonderful family, her sister Janna & her husband, Micky, and their children. The latter were visiting from out of town and offered to help. They enjoy our community each and every time they come to visit. Lisa says that she must give them all a huge thank you!!! The event had a great turnout. Special thanks also to the Constable that lead the parade for the safety of our families during the parade.



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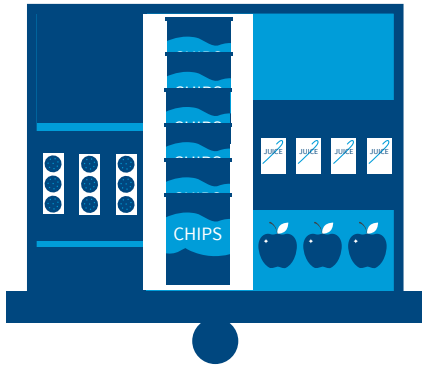
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FLORY TEAM TIPS FOR A BETTER BACK TO SCHOOL

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GET AN A+ IN ORGANIZATION

When prepping for the new school year, designate a drawer in your kitchen for school lunch items. That way, you have everything lined up and ready to go in the mornings. This also helps to keep countertops decluttered for showings. The less clutter, the better!

GIVE YOUR REFRIGERATOR A RECESS

Does it always seem that your fridge is stocked, but there's nothing to eat? Organize your fridge by putting foods in clear containers. Not only will you see what you have on hand, it will stay fresher longer! It also makes pre-packing lunches for the kids easier!



HAVE MORE THAN ONE KID?

Try color coding your containers for each child. It will keep things organized, and each kid will feel special!

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Landscape Corner

Rain and Irrigation: Our rainfall has been better this year, and it makes all the difference in our landscaping. Nothing matches Mother Nature's rain. I am sure that we would all love to just turn our systems off. However, if it doesn't rain, plan to supplement rain with a bit of irrigation.

Trees: On average, Houston gets about one inch of rain each week (about 50" per year). Mature trees and bushes will need an inch of water every one to two weeks to just stay alive. If your trees are in lawns, you will need to add a bit more water, as they are competing with the lawn for moisture. Younger trees will need even more water to keep their roots in moist soil. Do a slow soaking a few feet from the trunk to a foot or two beyond the canopy (outer-most leaves). A soaker hose works well for watering trees, but any method will do.

Lawns: Arrange to keep the mower clippings on the lawn. With the exception of golf course putting greens, there are few arguments for bagging clippings. If your water system is automated, water several times a day to allow water to soak in rather than all at one time. If possible,

water during mornings or evenings rather than in the heat of the day (to minimize loss of water through evaporation). Cut your grass high (three inches or more). If you have bare spots, August is a good month to fix those problems. Add sod or plugs, and make sure you keep the new grass moist during the first few weeks. Also consider that bare spots may be caused by inadequate sprinkler coverage. In those cases, adjust or add sprinkler heads as needed.

Vegetables: We had poor results with tomatoes in 2015 year. We were told the cause was stink bugs, but we are not so sure. As the heat rises, tomatoes pretty much die out. The cucumber vines look very bad, but the production is quite good. The best vegetables for the hot part of the summer are okra and southern pea seeds and transplants of eggplant and peppers. In general, though, it is the worst month to plant most things (too hot).

Fall Color: If you want fall color, this is the time to plant marigolds and petunias. If using seeds, start them in a shady part of the yard.

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Learning through Experience

Gordon R. Watson

One of San Francisco's radio stations had a good financial adviser. One thing she said stuck with me: she said she knew how to invest money, but she didn't know how to minimize spending it. For most of us, investing is pretty much a guess. On the other hand, there are sometimes easy ways to avoid spending. As an example, my wife recently called a company (one that provides us with a regular service) to cancel our contract. They had just increased the monthly fee, and I thought we could find a cheaper solution. When they received her call, the person on the line had the authority to significantly reduce our cost (several hundred per year). Not bad for a phone call. Sadly, the company could have acknowledge our allegiance to their services, called us, and reduced the fee. Instead they tried to increase the cost. The lesson? Where you have choices of suppliers (TV, Phone, Alarms, Pest Control, Pool Cleaning, etc.), give them a call yearly. Nicely mention that you are considering leaving their services because you can no longer afford it. Ask if they can convince you not to leave. Many would probably like to get less from you than nothing.

SUDOKU

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View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Asparagus Casserole

From "Come Cook with Us, Oldham County Homemakers Association" (near Louisville, Kentucky)

1923-1974, page 297

- 1-1/2 c. Waverly or Keebler cracker crumbs (use club crackers...not saltines)
- 2 #3 cans (total of eight cups) green asparagus (Editor's note: The person submitting this recipe suggests that fresh asparagus, slightly steamed, will produce even better results).
- 1/4 lb. butter
- 1/2 c. toasted almonds
- Cream sauce:
 - 4 T. butter
 - 1 jar (5 ounces) Kraft Old English cheese
 - 1-1/2 c. milk
 - 3 T. flour

Melt 1/4 lb. butter with cracker crumbs; spread in bottom and sides of casserole. Arrange asparagus on crumbs and sprinkle with almonds. Make cream sauce with cheese and pour over asparagus. Save 2 T. crumbs to sprinkle over top. Bake at 350 degrees for half hour.

Virginia Stoess

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Tomball Art League Meeting

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Original artwork by local artists judged by Linda Dumas

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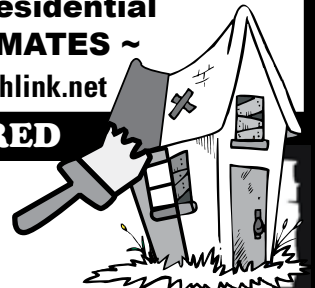
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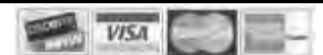
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