



The Village Gazette

VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 9 | SEPTEMBER 2015

VILLAGE CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Village Creek Yard of the Month

August, 2015 | 12430 Morning Rain Drive

Village Creek Yard of the Month for August is 12430 Morning Rain Drive.

Thanks to Plants for all Seasons for donating the \$25 gift certificate for this month's winner. Photograph by Keith Edwards.



The Village Gazette

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

CenterPoint-Gas Leak713-659-3552
Constables Office 281-376-3472, 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 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
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

Editor
Gordon Watson.....watson.g@sbcglobal.net
(Articles must be submitted by the 5th of each month)
Publisher - Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181
Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Perry
Tim Anderson
Keith Edwards.....
Brady Simpson
Websitespectrumam.com

Board of Directors 2015 Remaining Meeting Schedule

Monday, September 21

Monday, October 19

Monday, November 16

Monday, December 21

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Longwood Golf Club,
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THE HOUSE DETECTIVE

THE CASE OF THE CLOUDY GLASSES

By Gordon R. Watson, the House Detective

The House Detective sat in his dingy second story office in downtown Tomball drinking his fifth cup of bad black coffee. He sorted through some old casework. Sometimes an old, unsolved job would have some life and create some cash-flow as they call it these days. In the old days, we just called it cash. His secretary typed away in the background. The air was so warm and thick you could cut it with a dull knife. The window was open, but offered very little new air: The air outside was as still as a statue in the center of the town square. A radio played some soft music. The office smelled old. Old was everywhere: walls, ceiling, carpet, paint, and month-old tobacco smoke. There was a hint of stale beer and cigarette smoke from the bar below. The morning sunlight slid through the dirty second story window and exposed the dust hanging in the room. The phone rang. His secretary took it.

"House Detective Agency. How may we help you? I'll put you through to one of our detectives." She was talking about me. I'm the only detective.

The client had a thirteen year old dishwasher that was leaving a slight coating of something on the drinking glasses. I told her that we only took interesting cases. Actually, to be fair, any case that would help pay the bills was interesting.

The client was my wife. I immediately contemplated what a detective should do. I don't remember ever working on a dishwasher, but lack of experience never stopped me before. I was reminded of the time (in the 1970's) that my boss (a mechanical and electrical engineer) got off of the phone after agreeing to work with a guy who needed his help with a liquid sodium cooling system for some sort of nuclear device. After he explained the call to me, I must have had a puzzled look something like: "Are you crazy? You have never dealt with nuclear devices or liquid sodium!" His response was something like, "All pumps operate on the same principle. Liquids are liquids." Thankfully, the guy never called back. My boss (we were a two man operation) had a policy of never turning down a job. I learned a lot from him. I regret never telling him that.

Anyway, getting back to the mystery, I mentioned the problem to our neighbor, and he suggested using a dishwasher cleaner. He even said he would give us a bottle. Not to worry, my wife remembered that we had a cleaner in our cabinet. We ran it through the machine (without a load). The machine definitely looked sparkling clean, but with later actual loads, the glasses still had the coating. This called for more action. I went to YouTube and a nice chap had taken the filter out of his same make and similar model as ours. It looked simple enough. It wasn't. It never is. I had to do some serious pushing and pulling to get the thing apart...mainly because the YouTube-guy's model was slightly different. Finally, I was able to remove the washing arm and the strainer. Dang. The filter was clean, but the workings below it had enough gunk to make me wonder how sanitary these machines are. I cleaned it all up and reassembled it. Job done! That was simple enough.

I started the machine and looked under the front access panel. Drip.

I had disturbed something. Dang! I emptied it, unscrewed the screws holding it in place, shut off the water, disconnected the water, and pulled the machine out. Once out, I turned it upside down. Frankly, it looked brand new. No calcium deposits from aged, slow leaks. Nothing! I looked around and found some traces of water. There were about six screws holding gaskets on, and I tightened them. Reversing the procedure, I reinstalled it, and turned on the water. Dang! I had a new leak where the copper pipe connected to the machine. No amount of tightening fixed it. I cut off the line and took it to the hardware store. I bought a new copper Ferrell and nut, went home, and put it together. Eureka! No leaks. None!

The case is not actually solved. Subsequent loads have had the same film-on-the glasses problem, but the House Detective's secretary (OK, wife) noticed another significant clue. Sometimes, the soap tablet doesn't entirely dissolve. This might indicate that the soap door is opening too late in the cycle. The House Detective is not done with this one. His only fear is that the client will fire him and buy a new dishwasher. He is working day and night to avoid that undesirable outcome.

NOW HIRING

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The Village Gazette

The Tomball Gardener

By Gordon R. Watson

Vegetables

Cucumbers are an oddity in Village Creek. Throughout the summer, their leaves and stems looked like the plant was dying, but the cucumbers were abundant and tasty. Okra did well this summer. There is nothing quite like fried okra fresh from the garden. Tomatoes were not very successful this year because of stink bugs. We will try again next year.

Vegetable Planting in September (from AgriLife Extension of Texas A&M)

Early September: Beans (Snap, Lima, and Bush).

Middle September: Beets, Chinese cabbage, Collards, Kohlrabi plants, Eggplants, Mustard, Peas (English and snap), and radishes.

Planting Trees and Bushes

September is a great time to plant containerized trees and shrubs that are not cold sensitive. It is not a good month for bare-roots or plants that may be damaged by early freezes. Typically, the days are not as hot as summer, and rains are often more common...conditions which are very good for new plants.

Weather

The average high this month is 89. Low is 68. The record high is 109. Average rainfall is 4.46".

Dead-head (remove old blooms) perennials.

This will encourage the plant to add more blooms.

Mulch anytime

Most weeds hate shade, and mulch provides shade which reduces weeds, and reduces the need for water. Mulch also creates a wonderful fresh look for the yard. We are experimenting with placing layers (about four or so) of newspaper down before we add mulch (at least in some areas). Keep mulch away from tree bark. Putting a pile of mulch against the tree will result in tree disease and roots growing above ground in the mulch. Join the campaign against "tree volcanoes."

Lawn and Garden Watering

As the temperature drops, use the "seasonal adjustment" to lower your watering time to much less than in the heat of summer. Water your plants less, but if it doesn't rain, do water trees and shrubs to assure they have sufficient water.

Lawn Fertilizing

Fall is the most important season to fertilize a lawn. Wait until the growth slows, but has not stopped. For our area, November is a good time to fertilize. READ the instructions on the fertilizer bag, but keep in mind that fertilizer companies love to sell fertilizer.

Until next time, Happy Gardening!

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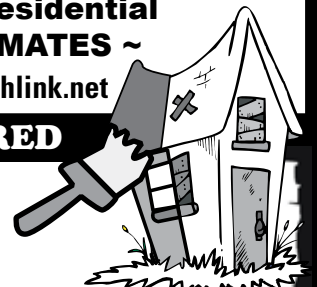
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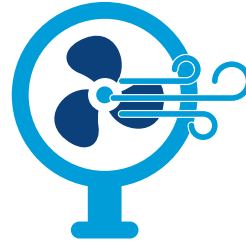


COOL OVER PRESSURE

Wrap a damp cloth around your wrists, neck and feet. Keeping these pressure point areas cool actually brings your overall body temperature down!

SUMMER BREEZE

Make yourself feel fine by adding ice to a large tub and using a standing fan to create your own personal A/C. This method is much more cost effective.



BEDTIME CHILLS

Try using a damp (not soaking wet) sheet as your primary blanket. This technique was used by ancient Egyptians as a night-time cooling technique.

ICE, ICE BABY!

By freezing your bottled water, you can instantly cool your body by holding it to your skin then, once it melts, hydrate yourself with the melted water!



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Recycling Questions and Answers

Recycling Questions from Village Creek and Answers from Republic Industries

Q – When can we put out large objects such as washing machines, dryers, etc., and do residents need to call in prior to placing these items out?

A – Village Creek's heavy trash day is Friday. Light trash is Tuesday. Residents do not have to call to schedule heavy trash pick-up. All heavy trash items should be placed curbside by 7 AM on Friday to ensure pickup. Please note that any appliances (such as refrigerators and freezers) containing Freon must be drained and tagged by a certified technician in order to be removed.



Safety Tips of the Month



- When lifting, lift with your legs. Keep your back straight.
- Try to avoid walking with a load. If you have to carry something, hold it to your body.
- If you must twist, turn with your feet, not your back.
- When you set the load down. Squat. Don't bend your back.
- Buy and use a hand truck. It makes life so much easier (photo from Harbor Freight).

URGENT CARE in Your Neighborhood



- 1** 9110 Barker Cypress at West Road
Cypress, TX 77433
281.517.9900
- 2** 14044 Spring Cypress at Grant Road
Cypress, TX 77429
281.949.3703
- 3** 9138 West Road at Beltway 8
Houston, TX 77064
281.949.3737

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The Village Gazette

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**HOUSTON ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® MLS RANKING REPORT
TOP TEN LISTING COMPANIES | JUNE YTD 2015**

| Rank | Broker Code | Company Name | # of Listings | Volume | Average | % Total |
|------|-------------|--|---------------|------------------|----------------|---------|
| 1 | GGRE | BIGGARE Gary Greene | 1108 | \$475,301,903.00 | \$428,972.00 | 3.31 |
| 2 | COLL | Conwell Banker United, REALTORS® | 783 | \$399,370,077.00 | \$510,691.00 | 2.34 |
| 3 | PRMI | Realty Associates | 718 | \$172,325,834.00 | \$240,008.00 | 2.05 |
| 4 | KWWS | Keller Williams Signature | 629 | \$297,284,930.00 | \$472,634.00 | 1.78 |
| 5 | KWWS | Keller Williams Realty The Woodlands | 543 | \$207,801,432.00 | \$382,690.00 | 1.74 |
| 6 | MYCR | My Central Realty | 505 | \$217,049,040.00 | \$429,800.00 | 1.47 |
| 7 | CRIC | Champions Real Estate Group | 492 | \$513,350,783.00 | \$1,043,419.00 | 1.41 |
| 8 | TSRI | Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty | 471 | \$254,025,807.00 | \$539,329.00 | 1.31 |
| 9 | KWWM | Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan | 439 | \$180,765,490.00 | \$411,766.00 | 1.31 |
| 10 | KWLC | Keller Williams Realty Greater | | | | |

**HOUSTON ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® MLS RANKING REPORT
TOP TEN LISTINGS SOLD COMPANIES | JUNE YTD 2015**

| Rank | Broker Code | Company Name | Sold Listings | \$ Volume Sold | Average | % Total |
|------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------|
| 1 | GGRE | BIGGARE Gary Greene | 1812 | \$524,415,340.00 | \$290,833.00 | 4.45 |
| 2 | COLL | Conwell Banker United, REALTORS® | 1388 | \$403,477,025.00 | \$290,833.00 | 3.23 |
| 3 | KWWS | Keller Williams Signature | 1101 | \$189,802,489.00 | \$172,326.00 | 2.35 |
| 4 | PRMI | Realty Associates | 922 | \$303,683,333.00 | \$329,374.00 | 2.17 |
| 5 | KWWS | Keller Williams Realty The Woodlands | 850 | \$170,733,638.00 | \$200,863.00 | 1.88 |
| 6 | CRIC | Champions Real Estate Group | 659 | \$418,744,018.00 | \$635,271.00 | 1.53 |
| 7 | TSRI | Martha Turner Sotheby's Realty | 611 | \$235,494,457.00 | \$385,424.00 | 1.34 |
| 8 | KWWM | Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan | 578 | \$218,474,728.00 | \$376,271.00 | 1.31 |
| 9 | RELM | Realty Executive Professional | 573 | \$111,744,750.00 | \$193,438.00 | 1.33 |
| 10 | HTEX | Heritage Texas Properties | | | | |

**HOUSTON ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® MLS RANKING
TOP TEN PRODUCING COMPANIES | JUNE YTD 2015**

| Rank | Broker Code | Company Name | Total Homes | \$ Volume Sold | Average | % Total |
|------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|---------|
| 1 | GGRE | BIGGARE Gary Greene | 3765 | \$1,049,495,747.00 | \$278,819.00 | 4.55 |
| 2 | COLL | Conwell Banker United, REALTORS® | 3144 | \$844,895,675.00 | \$270,288.00 | 4.19 |
| 3 | TSRI | Martha Turner Sotheby's Realty | 1270 | \$806,508,445.00 | \$634,258.00 | 3.82 |
| 4 | KWWS | Keller Williams Signature | 815 | \$470,774,058.00 | \$577,231.00 | 2.91 |
| 5 | CRIC | Champions Real Estate Group | 1702 | \$649,405,853.00 | \$381,603.00 | 2.73 |
| 6 | KWWS | Keller Williams Realty The Woodlands | 202 | \$124,238,723.00 | \$615,043.00 | 2.38 |
| 7 | CRIC | Champions Real Estate Group | 2371 | \$115,154,071.00 | \$48,569.00 | 2.04 |
| 8 | TSRI | Martha Turner Sotheby's Realty | 2095 | \$480,217,142.00 | \$229,265.00 | 1.90 |
| 9 | KWWM | Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan | 1349 | \$469,618,451.00 | \$348,046.00 | 1.90 |
| 10 | HTEX | Heritage Texas Properties | 1109 | \$418,408,098.00 | \$377,112.00 | 1.90 |

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