



# The Village Gazette

VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 11 | NOVEMBER 2015

VILLAGE CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## FAQ at Village Creek

1. How big is Village Creek? There are 747 homes in our community.

2. Where is Village Creek located? We are in an unincorporated area of Harris County. Even though our mailing address is Tomball, TX 77377, we are not actually in Tomball.

3. Who do I contact when I have a question, a concern arises or I want to make a recommendation? You can contact Spectrum Management. Otis Chandler is our contact person. His email is [ochandler@spectrumam.com](mailto:ochandler@spectrumam.com). The phone number to call for Village Creek is 832-500-2221. The website is [www.spectrumam.com](http://www.spectrumam.com).

4. How do I stay updated with things going on in Village Creek? All residents are encouraged to register with our

Village Creek website, [www.spectrumam.com](http://www.spectrumam.com). This allows residents to stay informed on upcoming events, be aware of changes and updates, and have the benefit of online voting when elections come up.

5. What if there is a security concern, fire, electrical outage, major water leak, gas leak, street light out, or other important concerns? This information and more is listed in the community newsletter, The Village Gazette. It can also be accessed online at [www.peelinc.com/newsletter.php?newsletter=VC](http://www.peelinc.com/newsletter.php?newsletter=VC).

6. How do I receive the community newsletter? The Village Gazette is published monthly and the homeowner can choose to receive it electronically by email, a printed copy via US Mail or both. Go to [www.peelinc.com/newsletter.php?newsletter=VC](http://www.peelinc.com/newsletter.php?newsletter=VC) to choose your preference.

7. What if I want to volunteer or get more involved with the community, who do I contact? Contact Otis Chandler with Spectrum Management at 832-500-2221 or [ochandler@spectrumam.com](mailto:ochandler@spectrumam.com) and let him know what areas you are interested in.

8. When and where are the HOA Board Meetings typically held? The monthly Board meetings are open to the public and are typically held on the third Monday of each month. The annual homeowners meeting and HOA Board elections are held in July. The location of the meetings is Longwood Golf Club, 13300 Longwood Terrace

Drive, Cypress, TX 77429. Meetings begin at 6:30pm.

9. Who is on the Village Creek Board? The Board members and their term expirations are Keith Edwards (2017), Tim Anderson (2016), Dennis Perry (2016), Pat Lechleiter (2018) and Ron Farrell (2017).

10. What are the Village Creek Community Guidelines? The Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) are the governing legal documents that set up the guidelines for the operation of Village Creek as a non-profit corporation. They can be located on the website by clicking on Documents, then Governing Documents to view and download a copy.

11. Do I need approval to make changes to my home? If you are planning to make a change to the exterior of your home or a change anywhere on your lot, you must first get approval from the Architectural Review Committee

for the Association. There are some exceptions to this requirement based on the governing documents; however, the general rule is yes, you need to get approval first. Getting approval from the Association is always the safest bet. Click on the ARC Request button to submit a request.

12. When are the assessment fees due? The Association assessment fees are due annually on January 1. Click on the Billing Cycle tab for more information.

13. What if I cannot pay my annual HOA dues by January 1? You can find information on the Spectrum website by clicking on Billing Cycle.

14. When is the pool open? The pool is open weekends, starting on Memorial Day weekend, until school lets out for the summer. It is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10am to 8pm during the summer. After school starts back up, it is open only on weekends, including Labor Day, until the end of September. The splash pad is open 10am to 8pm Tuesday through Sunday starting the first weekend in May until the second weekend in October. At the

beginning of each summer, residents must fill out a pool waiver

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS or 911

CenterPoint-Gas Leak .....713-659-3552  
Constables Office .....281-376-3472, [www.cd4.hctx.net](http://www.cd4.hctx.net)  
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  
Otis Chandler.....[ochandler@spectrumam.com](mailto:ochandler@spectrumam.com)  
Fax number.....281-752-5482  
After Hours Emergency Numbers .....281-343-9178  
Dedicated Village Creek Phone:.....832-500-2221  
Dedicated Village Creek email: [villagecreek@spectrumam.com](mailto: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](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

CPS.....713-626-5701  
CenterPoint-Gas.....713-659-2111  
Dead Animal Pick up .....713-699-1113  
Domestic Violence .....281-401-6250  
FBI.....713-693-5000  
Harris County Animal Control .....281-999-3191  
Houston Chronicle .....713-220-7211  
Sweetwater Pools .....281-988-8480  
Lost Pets.....[spectrumam.com](http://spectrumam.com)  
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)  
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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### RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Perry .....  
Tim Anderson .....  
Keith Edwards.....  
Pat Lechleiter .....  
Ron Farrell .....  
Website .....[spectrumam.com](http://spectrumam.com)

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form that can be accessed on the website. To get a pool access card, contact Otis Chandler with Spectrum Management at 832-500-2221 or [ochandler@spectrumam.com](mailto:ochandler@spectrumam.com).

15. Can I reserve the pool for a private party during the summer months? The pool can be reserved by calling

Sweetwater Pools at 281-988-8480. Parties are not allowed during regular pool hours.

16. Are there rules for Village Creek Lake? Fishing is allowed as long as all fish are released back into the lake. No swimming or boating is allowed on the lake.

## Editor Resigns

This will be my last issue of "The Village Gazette." I have enjoyed my time writing for the "Gazette" and being the Editor for the past several years, but it is time ride into the sunset. If any of you want to continue following the exploits of "The House Detective," he will be continuing on line. Contact me at [Watson.g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Watson.g@sbcglobal.net) for details.

Gordon R. Watson

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## The House Detective

By Gordon R. Watson

I was drinking bad black coffee, the kind that ends up with crunchy grounds in the bottom of the cup, flipping through my cases...lots of cold cases, and a few hot ones when my secretary stopped typing on her 1932 Remington typewriter. She looked up. I mean really up, at the wobbling 1930's ceiling fan. It squeaked with old age. It was slightly out of balance and getting more so with time.

"Mr. House Detective," she said. "Are you sure the ceiling fan is turning the right way? It doesn't seem to be blowing much air." She was fanning herself with an old "Real Detective" magazine. Sweat dripped down her brow. I could smell her perfume over the fragrance of a too-old office. I smiled. She looked pretty, sweat or not.

The office was stifling that summer, as you might expect a downtown, second-story Tomball office without air conditioning to be. It was so hot that I never had to heat up my coffee. I looked up. The fan was turning counter-clockwise. "Strange," I thought, "You would think that a fan should run clockwise." I have no idea why I thought that was strange. I went to detective school at the School of Hard Knox near Knoxville. I didn't recall learning about fan rotation.

"Not sure," I said, looking at the fan, "but I will get my best people on it." She smiled. She knew there were only two of us in this private eye business. OK, I don't have a secretary, but I do have a wife who is the sort of person who asks good questions...the sort of person you want around when bad things go wrong to good houses.

I went to work right away, doing a recon of our house. It has eight ceiling fans. I counted 'em. I looked in my files for "Fan Direction." Summer = Counterclockwise. It turned out that only one of them was turning the wrong way. I haven't been everywhere, and certainly not to Casablanca, and I am not sure it is a world standard, but, convention says, looking up at the ceiling, at our house, the fan should be turning counter-clockwise in the summer and clockwise in the winter. I rarely pick a fight with convention.


Mother Nature and fans work well together in summer. Cold air is more dense than hot, so is happy keeping you cool at the lower part of the room. Fans don't really do much to distribute cold air, but

they do create evaporative cooling on your skin. That is, the moving air evaporates your sweat...making you a bit cooler.

In winter, Mother Nature doesn't do so well. There is sort of a dilemma. Cold air falls to the lower part of the room where we live. It displaces the warmer air which accumulates at the ceiling. You would like to force the warmer air downward, but the problem is that you don't want the cooling effect of the moving air. A sort of compromise is that you try to pull the colder air upwards by reversing the fan. There is a mixing action which probably helps the warmer air drop down...even if it doesn't want to.

I honestly do wonder about reversing the fan. I wonder if it doesn't just make more sense to lower the fan speed in winter and try to force the warmer air down without causing significant air-movement-cooling-effect. I wouldn't take this to court to argue either way. I do know that it is a pain in the House Detective's neck to change fan direction each season. Of course, some remotes allow you to do this from the floor. If the fan is high up, and you don't have a reversing-remote, I wouldn't worry about just keeping the fans on low speed using the "summer" mode all year. If you want to reverse fans each year, he is OK with that too. In fact, if you want to leave the fans off, I am OK with that too. You see, sometimes, it is just best not to get involved. The House Detective has had a hard time learning that. Detectives like action, and not getting involved is the opposite of action.

I made a final note in my small, well-worn spiral-bound notebook. "Remind the secretary that a fan has no cooling value if you aren't in the room." In fact, a running fan actually ADDs heat to the room. While very efficient, ceiling fans can add 60 Watts of heat to a room (every hour). In general, if you aren't in the room, turn the fan off... particularly in summer. In winter, you will need to decide whether the fan (reversed or not) has value to keeping you comfortable. The House Detective has moved on to more important cases. I sat back in the creaky old chair, drinking old coffee...waiting for my next call.



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## The Tomball Gardener

By Gordon R. Watson

Freezing is possible here anytime for the next four months. If you are new to Texas weather, make sure you drain and cover your backflow preventer anytime that a hard freeze is expected. If you don't do this, it will probably freeze with a cost of \$40 for parts alone. That's if you can get parts. Check out YouTube for instructions if you don't know how. Insulate any exterior pipes which contain water. Drain pipes and hoses. Cover sensitive plants.

If you are a vegetable gardener, you may plant these vegetables in November: carrots, lettuce, onion multipliers, parsley, radishes, and spinach.

According to Texas Gardner, pull out those annuals that die, and cut back the perennials to desired height. Add mulch around and over the perennials to protect them from freezing.

Watering: Watering can be greatly reduced during the winter. Water if the ground is dry or if a freeze is predicted. If there is no rain during the month, water everything at least one time. For those who use an irrigation timer, it is a good time to make the "seasonal change" as explained in your instruction manual.

November is a great time to plant trees and bushes. According to Texas Gardener, don't fertilize in November. Wait for spring. Avoid pruning woody ornamentals this late in the season.

## Travels with Cahl

By Cahl Rasmussen

When traveling, make sure that your checked bags do not weigh over 50 pounds. If they are over 50 pounds, you will be charged an overweight baggage fee which is more than paying for a second checked bag. Of course, if you have status say with United like Gold, Platinum, or Global Service your allowance is 70 pounds.

Back in 2002, I was working for United Airlines in Denver at the ticketing/check-in counter. I had a passenger check in with 19 bags. Apparently he was traveling back to his home in Africa. So I began calculating the additional baggage fees and two of the 19 bags were overweight. After making the calculations I advised him that the fees were going to be \$1,900. I advised him the reason for such an expensive fee was that two of the bags were overweight. I further told him that if he checked a 20th bag and took the extra weight out of the two overweight bags then the fee would be \$900. He was very happy about saving \$1,000, proceeded to produce nine one hundred dollar bills, and left to go board his flight.

If you decide to travel on Spirit or Frontier Airlines the bag fees vary. If you pay up front when you book your flight the fee is \$25. If you wait to pay for them at the airport at the ticket counter it goes up to

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# Happy Thanksgiving!

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\$50, and if you happen to gate check them at the gate it goes to \$100.

Ever wonder what goes on while an aircraft is sitting at the gate before you board your flight? Well, first of all, when the aircraft arrives, the ramp agents put wheel chocks at the landing gear to keep it from moving, then they hook up the external power supply and the push back tow bar. Now all four or five ramp agents ascend on the forward and aft cargo doors where your luggage, freight, and mail are kept and begin to unload it. An average time to offload just bags is about 20-30 minutes depending on the number of bags. I have worked on the ramp for many years, and the hold is about 3 feet tall, about 8-10 feet wide, and approximately 30-40 feet long (Narrow body aircraft). You are on your knees and one ramp agent is taking bags off of the stack, pushing it to a ramp agent at the door, and he is putting the bag on the bag belt where it rides down to the ramp level. There one or two ramp agents put the bags into carts. Once all of the bags are offloaded, the agent takes the carts to Baggage Make up area and offload the bags onto the belt that delivers them to the carousel where you pick up your bag.

Now while all that is happening, the aircraft is being fueled with anywhere from 60,000-100,000 pounds of fuel depending on the flight time and an alternate in the event of weather at your destination and the flight needs to land somewhere else. The lavatory service will be done, water added, cabin cleaned, and the co-pilot will be conducting a "walk around" to see if he spots anything unusual that might cause

a safety issue for the aircraft.

After everything is off-loaded then the ramp agents will begin the upload according to the load plan for that aircraft. There is only so much weight in the forward compartment, so much weight in the aft compartment, so the aircraft can be balanced for best fuel consumption and savings. If the aircraft becomes overweight then things have to start coming off the plane. First thing off is freight; then bags, then mail; then passengers. If the plane is overweight it can't take off, and that will delay your departure. Once everything is loaded and the weight is OK then the new crew will ask for pushback and you leave the gate, taxi to the taxiway, then runway, then takeoff. That is an average flight on a narrow body aircraft. With wide-body aircraft the ground time is longer because different equipment is used to off load everything in the hold.

One thing on safety. Please don't wear flip flops on a flight. Why? For whatever reason if you need to exit out of an aircraft in an emergency situation your flip flops will pop off your feet once you hit the emergency shoots. With you flip flops now off you are barefoot on a runway, taxiway and in this heat you will burn your feet in summer or freeze them in a winter setting. Also if the aircraft has crashed and you survive you will now be in a hazardous materials environment, like aviation fuel, hydraulic fluid, and lavatory waste, So please think about what you decide to wear on your feet.

Happy travels...

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Houston, TX 77064  
281.949.3737

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## Deputy Cormier's Hints

Don't ever give out personal information over the phone. There are too many phone scams going on. If possible, take control of the conversation and ask them for their name, ID number and phone number to call them back. Normally, they will hang up or give you bogus phone number.

Upgrade your home security system. Try getting the security system that allows you to monitor your home via telephone. Also, consider video surveillance.

Telephone solicitation calls: Calls may be made only between 9am-9pm Monday-Saturday and 12 noon-9pm Sunday. Any calls at other times violate Texas Law. Contact the BBB as well as the Office of the Attorney General.



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all of your real estate needs.*

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



**Kara Puente**

Village Creek Sales Specialist

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