



# The Village Gazette

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 13 | JANUARY 2016

VILLAGE CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## LANDSCAPE CORNER

*Gordon R. Watson*

Happy New Year! Let's hope that 2016 brings health and happiness to all.

Continue with your freeze protection effort through the remainder of the winter. When the weatherman predicts a "hard freeze" (or similar), shut off and drain your backflow preventer. Water landscape plants, trees, and vegetables before the freeze. Try not to water foliage. As was previously noted, water retains heat in the soil to help prevent freezing. Cover those plants that are prone to freezing. Maintain a layer of mulch on bare areas to retain heat and moisture and to keep weeds down.

**Lawns:** St. Augustine grass is brown and dormant this month. No water should be necessary as long as it rains a bit. Water at least once if there is no rain. Our clay soil becomes rock hard with no moisture, so a little water should be applied to keep meandering roots satisfied.

**Sprinkler System:** This may be a good time to consider adding sprinkler heads to the system if you have areas which have become weedy because of insufficient water.

**Bare-root plant care:** Keep in mind that the roots of bare-root plants **MUST** be kept moist at all times before and after planting.

Plant roses anytime. If planting in January, choose bare root.

Plant annual flowers such as calendula, cyclamen, dianthus, ornamental kale, cabbage, pansies, and petunias. Plant bluebonnet transplants into garden beds.

**Frozen plants:** Avoid pruning frost-damaged trees and bushes until February or March.

Plant cool-season seedlings such as asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, turnip greens, Irish potato, kohlrabi, leaf lettuces, onions, and Swiss chard.

Sow seeds this month for beets, carrots, English peas, greens, leaf lettuces, radishes, sugar snap, snow peas, and turnips.

If you notice any dead or dying plants in Village Creek, please send a note to [contact@spectrumam.com](mailto:contact@spectrumam.com) advising them of the exact location.

Until next time,  
Happy Gardening



# The Village Gazette

## 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

Editor  
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(Articles must be submitted by the 5th of each month)  
Publisher - Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181  
Advertising.....[advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com), 888-687-6444

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

## Village Creek Christmas Lighting Contest Winners

Village Creek was a wonderland of lights during  
December. As always, it is difficult to pick a winner.  
The entire community won by the effort of those are  
able to decorate.

Best Overall: 12523 Midland Creek

Most Traditional: 17623 Empress Cove

Most Festive: 17226 Eagle Ledge

Best Block: (West) Mossy Ledge

Most Traditional Runner-Up: 12747 Briar Harbor

Most Festive Runner-Up: 12710 Wandering Streams

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## Cookies with Santa



"Cookies with Santa" was a winter wonderland of joy for the kids and kids at heart. The excited attendees had delicious cookies, warm and wondrous drinks. Christmas music played. Santa sat before the most beautiful Christmas tree in Texas. Mrs. Santa distributed candies and goodwill to all. The weather was warm and wonderful...a departure from Santa's normal home.

Thanks to the following volunteers for making "Cookies with Santa" a Success:

Lisa Rawles (Chairman)

Jimmy Rawles

Katheryn Elkins

Caren Seal

Sherry Watson

Sharon Gabbert

Rome Gabbert

Ashley Wheeler

Nathan Elkins

Conner Elkins

Anthony Bynum

and, of course, thank you to Santa for taking time out of your busy schedule to visit Village Creek.

A black and white advertisement for TexasDirectAuto.com. The top half features a photograph of a small dog, possibly a Boston Terrier, sitting on a light-colored surface. The dog is wearing a measuring tape around its neck. Next to the dog are two dumbbells and a coiled measuring tape. To the right of the dog, the text "JUST DO IT!" is written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the photograph, the text "SELL US YOUR CAR!™" is written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, the website "TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM" is displayed in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, preceded by a small logo of a car.



## The Strange Case of the Fallen Fence

*Another House Detective Mystery by Gordon R. Watson*

I was at the Tomball Coffee Shop having breakfast. Elvis sang on the juke box. The eggs were perfect: broken, not stirred, hard. The bacon was flat and crispy. The pancakes were the best in Texas. My friend, Dale, told me years ago that all good cooks have their own special “spit” in their pancakes. Now, he didn’t mean “spit” in the bad sense. He meant that good cooks add a bit of spice or other secret ingredient to ordinary foods, such as pancakes, to make them special. The place smelled like a delicious mixture of coffee, bacon, toast, pancakes, and donuts. It was cold outside.



A thin layer of ice had made walking up to the joint difficult. This was a good day to think...indoors.


My moment of peace was interrupted by the waitress. She was leaning my way, waving the black phone with its wiggling spiral cord toward me.

“Mr. Detective. It’s your secretary. Something about a fence that fell down.”

I took the call. To make a short story, long, a client’s fence had fallen down in one of Tomball’s rare winds. I finished my meal in a hurry and drove over to the mystery fence problem. The fence had broken at the point of entry into the earth. From past experience, I knew that a very small portion of the fence post had rotted: only about seven inches (slightly above and below the ground surface). I looked up at the worried client and advised him that the fence was doomed. He shook his head.

I calmed him down in my monotone voice. “This happens. This fence is twelve years old. What I suggest is that when you have it replaced, you ask the contractor to mound the concrete several inches above the expected water level to try to keep the water away from the wood. Water is your enemy. Notice that only seven inches of rot have ruined an eight foot post. If you can keep water away from the new posts, they might last several extra years.”

I put my tools back in my briefcase and walked back out to the car. It was cold and humid with some chance of snow. Snow would be nice. I drove away waving to my client. The Buick Roadmaster heater was just starting to warm my feet.



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## DEPUTY CORMIER'S *Corner*

Deputy Cormier is often in our neighborhood. Our experience with him is that he is easy to talk to and an excellent law enforcement officer. If you need his help, please contact him or his office.

"Village Gazette" Hint of the day: Say hello to a law enforcement officer.

Dep. Joseph (J.T.) Cormier

Unit 84816

Harris County Constable, Pct. 4

Patrol Division - West District

281.370.9106 (Lakewood Office)

281.376.3472 (24 Hr. Dispatch)

Joseph.Cormier@cd4.hctx.net



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## Village Creek's 2015 Rainfall



Village Creek was blessed in 2015 to have nearly 60 inches of rain (before Christmas). About 50 inches is normal for Tomball. The problem with our

rainfall is that it isn't consistent. We often have long periods when it doesn't rain. In July, 2015, for example, it didn't rain at all between the 2nd and the 30th of July. When it doesn't rain, particularly in the heat of summer, plants can be badly damaged or die. Be sure you maintain your sprinkler system and make particularly sure that your trees get sufficient water throughout the year.



**MANY VILLAGE CREEK ROOFS ARE DAMAGED FROM APRIL 19, 2015 WIND & HAIL STORMS. THE HAIL SIZE WAS APPROXIMATELY 3/4" BUT HAS DAMAGED ROOFS THAT ARE AT LEAST 12 YEARS OLD DUE TO THEIR DETERIORATED CONDITION.**

**LIMITED TIME LEFT TO FILE A CLAIM!**

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## Chicken Tortilla Soup

*Total Time: 35 minutes/ Preparation: 10 minutes/ Cook: 25 minutes. 4-6 servings*

### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 2 jalapenos, finely diced
- 6 cups low-sodium or regular chicken broth
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can fire roasted diced tomatoes or similar
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can black beans, rinsed & drained or similar
- 3 chicken breasts boneless & skinless
- 2 limes, juiced, plus wedges for garnish
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup roughly chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 (8-inch) flour tortilla, grilled, cut into thin strips or corn tortilla
- 1 avocado, pitted, sliced
- 1 cup shredded Monterrey cheese

Directions: In a large sauce pan heat the vegetable oil. Add the onions & cook for 2 minutes. Once the onions have softened add the garlic & jalapenos & cook for another minute. Pour the chicken broth, tomatoes & beans into the pot & bring to a boil. Once at a boil, lower heat to simmer and add chicken breasts. Cook the chicken is cooked remove from pot. When cool enough to handle, shred chicken & set aside. Add lime juice & fresh cilantro to the pot. In a serving bowls add a mound of shredded chicken. Ladle (gradually pour) soup over chicken & top with lime wedge, grilled tortilla strips, avocado slices & cheese.



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- Garage Floor Epoxy
- Roofing
- Faux Painting

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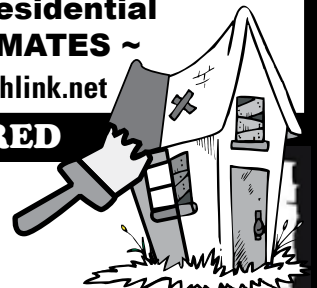
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# TENNIS TIPS

*By USPTA/PTR Master Professional  
Fernando Velasco  
Owner, Manager and Director of Tennis  
Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX*



**STEP 1**



**STEP 2**



**STEP 3**



**STEP 4**

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand and a forehand volley. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a two-handed backhand volley for a right hander. This stroke is used whenever the player is forced to hit a ball in the air. In these pictures player Robyn Fuller from the Grey Rock Tennis Club demonstrates the proper form and technique.

**Step 1: Ready Position:** The body is facing the net. The right hand is holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is next to the right hand. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are a shoulder width apart and the body is in equal balance. For beginners it is okay to use the forehand and backhand grips for the forehand and backhand volleys. As the player gets stronger and the balls come at a faster speed, it will be best to use the continental grip for both volleys.

**Step 2: Back Swing:** Since the volley is usually executed when a player is close to the net and there is very little time to react to the incoming ball, the back swing is very short. The left hand will make a slight change of the grip and the right hand will be relaxed and loose. The left shoulder should take a short turn and the head of the racket should align to the flight of the ball. The left wrist should be “cocked” back slightly and the head of the racket should be above the wrist. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

**Step 3: Point of Contact:** The right foot is now taking a step forward and the racket is making contact with the ball. It is important to keep the left shoulder closed and not rotate the right hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility to find the proper point of contact and give power to the ball.

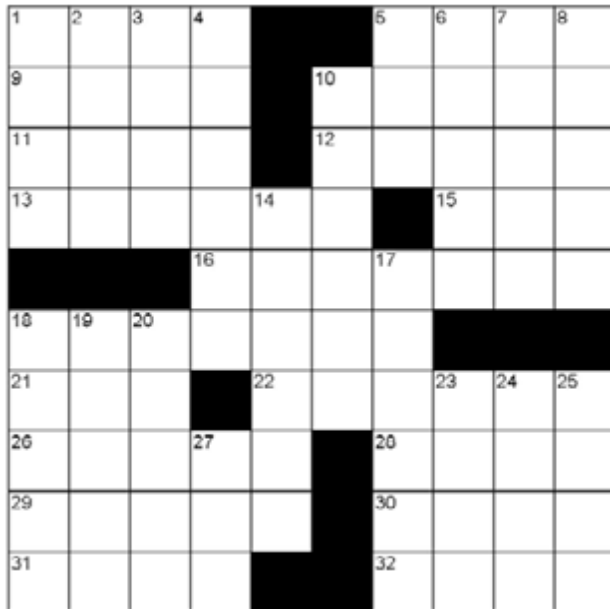
**Step 4: Follow Through:** Once the racket has made contact with the ball, the follow through is very short to allow the player to immediately get back to the ready position. The right arm should be close to the body.

Look for in the next Newsletter: The Serve



# The Village Gazette

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Charge
5. Syrian bishop
9. Against
10. Landing
11. Leaves
12. Boom box
13. Allure
15. African antelope
16. Polite
18. Leafy green
21. Marry
22. Esophagus
26. Woken
28. Goad
29. Type of tooth
30. Refer
31. Posttraumatic stress disorder
32. Sieve

### DOWN

1. Nativity scene piece
2. Competition at the Greek games
3. Capital of the Ukraine
4. Symbol
5. Expression of surprise
6. Emblem
7. Pickle juice
8. A ball out of bounds (2 wds.)
10. Twist violently
14. Ripper
17. Strums
18. Slough
19. Ross \_\_\_\_, philanthropist
20. Gods
23. Brand of sandwich cookie
24. Seaweed substance
25. Cabana
27. Blue

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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

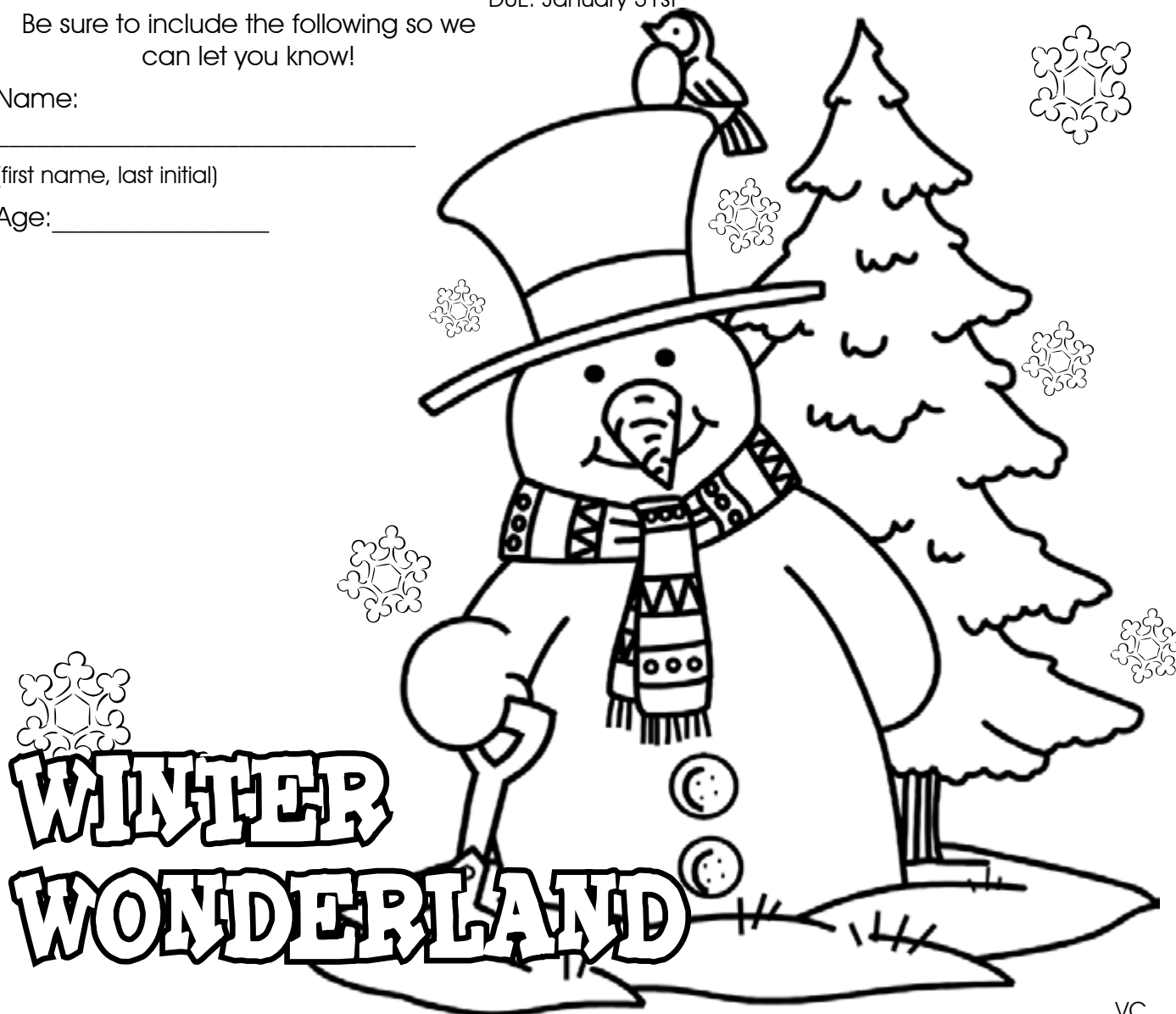
DUE: January 31st

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Age: \_\_\_\_\_



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