



VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 10 | OCTOBER 2016

A Village Creek Hidden Gem

If you ever want a bit of solitude, visit Village Creek's Sky Haven Park. Turn off of Lake Vista East at Sky Haven Drive. You will see the park just ahead. This park has two nice shady park benches and two swings (child and infant). There are sidewalks and plenty of natural shade here for relaxation, and there is a large lawn area as well.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

IN CASE OF ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 911

SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD	281-357-3100, 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

SERVICES

Village Creek Management Company	spectrumam.com832-500-2221
Village Creek Website Unrelated to the Board.....	VillageCreekCommunity.com
Harris County Animal Control	281-999-3191
Lost/Found Pets	Nextdoor.com
Harris County Veterinary Public Health.....	281-999-3191
Municipal District Services (24 hrs)	281-290-6503
... For water leaks, water outages, water quality, or sewer leaks or stoppage.	
Street lights out & power outages	www.centerpointenergy.com/outage
Harris County traffic signal outages.....	713-881-3210
Republic Waste.....	713-849-0400
Trash on Tue and Fri. Heavy items on Fri only.	
Recycle Fri (#1 through #7 plastics; aluminum, steel & tin containers; glass bottles and containers; newspapers; cardboard; and mixed paper)	
Digging? Two days prior to ANY digging in your yard, call 811 or use http://www.lonestar811.com/	

NEWSLETTER

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Editor.....	Gordon R. Watson
... villagecreek@peelinc.com or Watson.g@sbcglobal.net	

The Voice of a Resident Why We Don't Attend HOA Meetings

by James Paley

Why don't we attend HOA meetings? Is it because we don't know Longwood from the Shortwood Golf Course? It would help if we had the address. Maybe we are happy when we see our HOA dues at work being used in a positive manner, such as landscape being maintained, trash being picked up on time, and seeing the street lights come on promptly at dusk.

Would we go if we were unhappy or have an agenda item to discuss? We could go to a meeting and request security gates like some other neighborhoods that remind us of a prison and having people sneak in behind the residents. Furthermore, if we are going to be confined to our homes, maybe we should have speed bumps. Forget that, I'm glad we are law abiding citizens and know how to control our speed in a residential neighborhood. It would help if there was a message board at both ends of the subdivision since there are two entries and exit points.

Could it be we are busy and don't want to attend after work? Perhaps there would be more resident participation if meetings were held on weekends which is when most events are anyway. Now that's a thought! Like I said from the beginning, we like having amenities that our dues pay for such as a pool, basketball court, splash pad and a pathway around the pond and neighborhood. We all live in nice homes and a neighborhood we are proud to call our own. I guess I could come by one day. Do you serve refreshments?

Editor's note: The last Village Creek Board meeting was attended by less than 1% of residents. There were only two attendees. Village Creek has 747 homes.

Village Creek News

- There has been a change of location for Board Meetings. The location is not easily visible from Spring Cypress, so plan on leaving a bit early for the meeting. They are normally held on the third Monday of the month. Check the marque or Spectrumam.com for the latest information. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held at Fairwood Recreation Center, 14701 Spring Cypress Road, Cypress, TX 77429.
- The Village Creek Community Garage Sale is scheduled for Oct. 14-15 (Friday and Saturday). This is a community-wide garage sale with the articles on display and transactions taking place at individual homes throughout the community. Please check Spectrumam.com and the marque located on Village Creek Trail at the Pool House for the latest information. Note that we sometimes put items marked "FREE" on the curb during this event. This is a great event to get rid of things you no longer need.

Tomball Gardener by Flint Sage



The fall months are a good time to consider planting trees and shrubs.

Fertilize your Saint Augustine lawns. As a general rule, when you no longer need to mow your lawn every week, it is time to fertilize. This will commonly happen on October 15th +/- one week, according to Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac.

Apply a fertilizer with these numbers: 2-1-2 or 1-0-1. Check the bag for area covered. Weeds are best controlled with a healthy turf rather than herbicides; however, if absolutely needed, apply weed killers as directed on the container.

Does your lawn have bare spots or spots with some grass other than Saint Augustine? Commonly, those areas in our lawn which have unhealthy turf are a weakness in our irrigation system. Nothing

shows an irrigation system's weakness better than a drought. While it has been a wet year overall, we have had extended periods of local drought.

Go to Agrilife Extension to find the right vegetables to plant in October (or any month). It's called Vegetable Garden Planting Dates for Harris County.

Mulch anytime. There is little bad to be said about a three or four inch layer of mulch. Keep it away from tree trunks.

Assuming the heat drops a bit, the Texas Garden Almanac says we can shut off our lawn irrigation system in October with the caution that, if there is no rain, you should turn it back on to water every 3 or 4 weeks. You will need to water your vegetables during their growing season.

What is the best time to trim oaks? According to The University of Texas at Austin (<http://www.wildflower.org/expert/show.php?id=2428>), do NOT trim between February and June. The best time is during a cold period from November through January. Reasonable safe times are the hottest months from July through September. These trimming months are based on risks associated with a beetle that carries oak wilt fungus.





Join us for a Pink Champagne Brunch!

In Honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Saturday, October 15, 2016
10 - Noon
11307 FM 1960 W.

Bring a friend and spend a morning with the Breast Care Physicians of Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital

Learn more about:

- Current Options
- Prevention and Screening
- 3D Mammograms
- Risk Factors
- Latest Treatments
- Survivorship

A delicious complimentary brunch buffet will be served.

Space is limited. Please call to register: 1-888-511-PINK (7465).

The House Detective:

The Wood Floor Escapade

Gordon R. Watson

The House Detective's office carpet was looking like it was the carpet from a crime scene: stains, popcorn, footprints, faded spots. Its days were numbered, so my secretary and I decided to have a contractor put some new wood flooring in our room upstairs.

It is funny about doing a project. Things snowball. We decided that it would be good to paint the room before we did the floors. Then I mentioned this would be a good time to put in a new water heater since it would need to go up the stairs to the Texas Basement (for those not in Texas, a Texas Basement is an attic with moderately easy access). Then, a piece of furniture, the letter file, looked like

it could use refinishing. Projects like this go on and on, but I will bore you in a later issue.

The contractor did a good job. As I often say, "If you want something done right, hire it done." I did decide to do the baseboards. We bought baseboards that were an inch higher than the old ones to cover up the caulking line left by the old ones.

The baseboard job went OK, but these things aren't as easy as the guy on YouTube said it would be. Several things pop up such as unlevelled floors, walls that are not flat, etc. One of the biggest challenges was putting baseboard around the rounded corners used in houses today. My secretary did find a good YouTube explaining how to do this (incidentally by a woman), and, once I saw it, things went better.

What did I learn? First, get a nail gun and compressor. I don't have a nail gun and still don't, but should have bought one. Hammers and nails are really difficult to use for the amateur. Second, if you do use a hammer, hammer the nail as far in as you can get it without damaging the wood. Insert nails on the wood flat spot, not a curve. Then use a nail set. What's a nail set? A punch designed to drive finish nails below the surface so they can be hidden with wood filler. I got to thinking that the very first tool I ever owned is a nail set. I bought it from the woodworking teacher in Montana in 1956, and I still have it. Get a good stud finder. You cannot beat the C. H. Hanson 03040 (\$8.00). It basically is a fancy, very powerful magnet that will hang it from hidden stud nails. It needs no batteries. If it has an issue, it is that being such a good magnet, it often sticks to other tools. I lost my last one, but suspect that it is stuck to a tool or toolbox somewhere. Use painters tape to keep track of studs. Finally, start your work in the room where no one will see your first effort (a closet, in my case).

An advertisement for Cypress Christian School. On the left is a black and white photo of a young boy smiling. To the right, the text reads: CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, CypressChristian.org, K-12 • Established 1978, Serving Northwest Houston, 281.469.8829.

CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CypressChristian.org
K-12 • Established 1978
Serving Northwest Houston
281.469.8829

THE VOICE COOKS SOME VITTLES BUTTERSCOTCH CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box yellow Cake mix
- 1 (3 oz.) box instant vanilla pudding
- 1 (12 oz.) pkg. butterscotch chips
- 1 c. nuts (pecans or walnuts) coarsely chopped
- 1 c. flaked coconut
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. sour cream
- 2/3 c. oil

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325 F. Combine cake mix, pudding mix, chips, nuts, and coconut. Stir in eggs, sour cream and oil. Mix well by hand. Bake in a Bundt pan, greased well and floured, for 1 hour or until done. Cool 5 minutes before turning out of pan.

This month's recipe is excellent. The editor is not much of a fan of cakes, but this one is an exception. It is from Louisville, Mississippi, probably from the Murphy Creek Baptist Church Cook Book. Kathy Davis is the person supplying the recipe.



An advertisement for TexasDirectAuto.com. On the left, a black and white Chihuahua puppy is shown with its hair styled into a large, spiky, mohawk-like shape. The background is dark with white lightning bolts. The text "SO EASY IT'S SHOCKING!" is written in large, bold, white, stylized letters with a black outline. Below this, the website "TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM" is written in white, and "SELL US YOUR CAR!™" is written in large, bold, white, stylized letters with a black outline. A small Texas state flag icon is to the left of the website name.

Day Trips Information

Commissioner R. Jack Cagle provides day trips transportation services to Harris County Precinct 4 residents 50 and older. The goal for all Precinct 4 senior adults to participate in educational and recreational transportation at community and area events is met by a fleet of wheelchair equipped vehicles (up to four wheelchairs per vehicle).

Organized groups with members 50 and older that meet within the boundaries of Precinct 4 can register for day trips transportation with the Senior Adult Program by submitting a completed Senior Adult Trip Coordinator and Group Contact form (PDF). Church groups, civic associations, gardening clubs, and community service organizations are just some of the groups that are registered with the precinct's transportation program.

<http://hcp4.net/Community/SAP/DayTrips>, Harris County Precinct 4, Senior Adult Program, Phone: 281-893-3726

Art Show

Do you like art? Are you an artist? Tomball has a convenient art show for you on October 8, 2016, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. Artwork is by local artists. Artist registration is on line at thetomballartleague.com. Judging will be by Doug Hiser. It is open to the public and free! There will be ribbons and cash rewards. Location? Lone Star College, Beckendorf Conference Center, 30555 Tomball, Parkway, Tomball, TX 77375. Contact Joan Barkovich at jmmbarkovich@gmail.com

Veteran's Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

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Prescription Drug Costs

By the Editor

Doctors commonly don't know the cost of prescription drugs they prescribe, so it is always good to help him/her make a cost-effective decision. Here are two things we all should do:

- Take your insurance plan's drug list to the doctor to find the drugs the plan covers. If possible, use those drugs that are well-covered (with the doctor's concurrence, of course).
- For drugs not well-covered, use GoodRx.com and WeRx.com to find the lowest costs in our area. You might be surprised at the cost differences. Don't rule out the mom and pop drug stores. Their prices may surprise you.



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GREAT BUSINESS RATES TOO!



Texas Association of Sports Officials

In the late 1930s, the Southwest Conference (SWC) recognized the need for training sports officials and developing local officials associations under the umbrella of the Southwest Officials Association (SOA) throughout the state. While the SWC was motivated by a commitment to improving officiating and athletics, the overriding belief was that such a structure would result in better trained officials for SWC competition. As a result, the Southwest Conference Official's Association (SWOA) was formed to handle football and basketball officiating duties.

Though originally formed to train collegiate officials, many high school officials joined the SWOA ranks. In 1977, the Texas football, basketball, and baseball officiating associations recognized the need to form a statewide governing body for high school officials. As a result, the Southwest Officials Association (SOA) was formed, with an office based in Dallas. Since the formation of the SOA in 1977, the volleyball, softball, and soccer divisions were added under the SOA umbrella.

In 1999 the SOA changed its name to the Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO). After a brief tenure in Mesquite and Austin, The TASO office relocated to its current location in Richardson.

With the University Interscholastic League (UIL) governing high school athletics in Texas, and the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS), the largest organization of private schools in Texas, TASO provides officials for UIL and TAPPS contests. Though independent of both organizations, TASO works closely with the UIL and TAPPS in providing officials for sports contests.

Unlike most every other state, TASO is an independent organization of sports officials governed by sports officials. Each of the six divisions is individually governed by a board of directors comprised of officers and regional directors elected

by the membership throughout the state. Overall TASO policy is set by the TASO board of directors. The TASO board of directors is comprised of the president and president-elect (or vice president), of each of the six sports.

Current TASO membership is approximately 14,000 members in 155 local chapter throughout the state.

For more information, or if becoming a sports official interests you, please refer to <http://www.taso.org>.



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6 Steps to Resell Your Designer Items, DIY

Have you wondered what it takes to resell your upscale, designer goods online? It's an interesting question to ask ourselves at minimum once a year. Either way, you know its time, when you start to feel the itch to visit the fabulous Container Store in search for new space-saving hangers, a handbag organizer, or even a new shoe stand.

Worse yet, your husband asks you to give him back his hangers. You know...the ones you have been slowly sneaking out of his microscopic section of the closet. Or he desperately begins to search all over the house, again, for his favorite Chucks. You just don't have the heart to tell him you threw them out three years ago. You want to make it up to him with a designer brand, but you don't have the space or discretionary funds. It's time to make some extra money from cleaning out your closet.

Ok, so you've decided to give this project a try. How will you actually make it happen, DIY-style? Here are 6 easy steps to get motivated and more importantly: Execute!

Step 1: Scope Your Closet for "Resting" Designer Items

You and I know how much those cute Prada pumps cost you and how much you loved them the two or three times you had an occasion to wear them. They're so gently used, they look new. It's breaking your heart to consider it (I know), but it's been 5 years and they're "resting" quietly in their posh shoebox, in that remote corner of your shoe stand, desperate for fresh air. Give them a lifeline; a new home.

And that's not your only item. You know where they are... those designer handbags, shoes, sunglasses, scarves; items that sell amazingly well on eBay or other online resellers. Millions of buyers search eBay for items like yours, looking for designer bargains, every hour, on the hour. And when I say "bargain," I don't mean cheap, I mean a fairly reasonable resale value. Some nice change for those organizers, your husband's new shoes, or to donate to charity (maybe all three).

Ok, so you have selected the items you want to sell, now what?

Step 2: Create a Personal eBay Seller Account

This step is fairly intuitive. eBay has a friendly user-interface and tons of educational content, but I'll provide you a brief overview to clarify some frequently asked questions (Ones that I also had). Whatever you do, don't fumble around with the numerous links on eBay. Go straight to work:

Select the "Register" tab on eBay's Home Page

Start with a personal account. Once you gain experience you may consider opening a business account.

Think of a catchy nickname. This is especially important if you might sell with certain frequency; I chose, Fashion Reloved, a suitable name for the types of items I sell online. It's worked out wonders for me. Begin by listing a few fast-selling items maybe on the lower priced end and just try to sell them. You'll go through the experience, develop your proof of concept, and also secure customers, gain positive feedback and attain ratings to show you are a responsible seller.

Make sure you highlight your product's best features with familiar

search terms in order to draw the most traffic: "NWT - New with tags", Prada, Worn once / 2 times, mention retail price. Sometimes including the shipping in the price as in listing the item with free shipping will attract more traffic to the item.

Now you are ready to post images and descriptions. You may be asking yourself, "Ok, but from where, how, what do I say? Don't worry. Read on, I've got it covered!

Step 3: Channel Your Inner Photographer

In the Resale World, Photography is King! Great images will sell your product quickly, for top-dollar. Take very detailed photographs of your item. Depending on your commitment to reselling, I recommend either investing in small photography studio items for your home or renting space at a local photography studio (it can be quite inexpensive). This will ensure controlled lighting, closeup details, and overall quality. You'll also need a professional camera. If you're going to sell only intermittently, an iPhone camera, may do. Make sure you take images from different angles and be transparent in showing any nicks or imperfections; honesty is always the best sellers policy.

For example: if you are selling a handbag, you will need to take a picture from each angle including its corners, the inside, the handles, the closure, pockets and don't forget the bottom (it usually shows the most wear). For clothing, it helps to have a mannequin or a friend, willing to model the clothes. For a fun, outdoor photoshoot, the best lighting is either after sunrise and right before sunset. Be creative and resourceful. Look at your favorite Instagram images or Pinterest pins as a way to spark ideas.

You don't have to be professional photographer, but the key is in the details. That is why the next step is very important.

Step 4: Paint a "Literal" Picture

Photography is must, but don't skimp on the product description. It's very important to be as thorough as possible. You may want to include information such as, when the item was purchased and where; what comes with the item, such as an authenticity card, dust bag, original packaging, accessories; and don't forget the measurements. Take a little time to research websites that sell a similar designer item, it will help you tremendously to write your descriptions. Generate trust by being transparent; point out the good, the bad, and the ugly. Buyers prefer brutal honesty.

Step 5: Ship with Love

Once the item sells and the payment is made, find a nice quality box and package the item carefully, with appropriate cushioning or bubble wrap to avoid damage during shipping. For items weighing less than 16 ounces, the post office is the most efficient option to ship and they have nice boxes, insurance, and tracking. On more valuable items, Fedex or UPS will be the way to go. Make sure you pay for adequate insurance. Depending on the item's price tag, you may offer free or discounted standard shipping for multiple items purchased.

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued from Page 10)

Step 6: Skip Steps 2 - 5 and Go Directly to Boardwalk

You may be too busy to try reselling DIY-style, but there is a shortcut that would save time, significantly: Contact a reseller. They are professionally set up to take care of steps 2-5 for you. The strongest pro is the time savings; the strongest con (maybe) is that you'll share the proceeds with your reseller.

For this step, you'll want to do some research on online resellers: check their reviews, credentials, and ask for references. Ask if they have an independent website (it shows the sellers commitment and inspires trust). Review their terms and conditions as well as their contracts and how much they will pay you. Compare your top candidates and make a selection.

Best Advice for Step 6: I recommend finding someone local to personally meet and interview, especially for very high-end, high price-tag products (LV, Hermes, Prada). If you are still doubtful or undecided, try each reseller out with one of your lower-scale designer items. There are trustworthy online resellers, especially ones with some longevity, testimonials, and serious traction on eBay, so don't be scared to try.

There are other options, like big-box online resellers, but they standardize their terms and may try to undercut your gains

significantly. And of course, brick-and-mortar secondhand or consignment stores are great, but with their overhead costs, they're likely be bound to offering you a lower cash payout and may not even be willing to take your item. This most often occurs with very high-ticket items that may not sell fast enough, attract theft risks, or constrain their cash flow.

Independent eBay resellers have more flexibility, lower theft risk, and typically only work on consignment. They can sometimes offer as high as 70% of the consignment selling price; granted, they may take a bit longer to sell your item, but they will personally work to sell it for top dollar. You'll additionally benefit from having face-to-face contact, have someone reliable to confidently refer to your friends and someone to count on in the future...For the next time you clean out your closet (or your husband's ;-)!)

Magdalena Silva, Author. Owner at Fashion Reloved, LLC / Aspiring Photographer / Former Engineer / Grateful Austinite / Happy Mom. I look forward to reading and replying to your comments. I'm glad to help you make the best decision for your upscale items, determine pricing and lend a hand in vetting a reseller. Drop me an email at service@fashionreloved.com

Thank you,
Magdalena

REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

and many others...

- Atascocita CIA
- Blackhorse Ranch
- Briar Hills
- Bridgeland
- Canyon Gate at Northpointe
- Cardiff Ranch
- Cypress Creek Lakes
- Cypress Mill
- Cypress Park
- Eagle Springs
- Fairfield
- Grand Lake Estates
- Lakeshore
- Lakes of Fairhaven
- Lakes of Rosehill
- Lakes on Eldridge
- Lakes on Eldridge North
- Laurel Creek
- Legends Ranch
- Meyerland
- Normandy Forest
- North Lake Forest
- Park Creek
- Park Lakes
- Riata Ranch
- Shadow Creek Ranch
- Silverlake
- Steeplechase
- Sterling Lakes
- Stone Forest
- Summerwood
- Towne Lakes
- Village Creek
- Villages of Decker Oaks
- Villages of NorthPointe
- Walden on Lake Houston
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