



VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2017



According to Ty Thomas, our lake is a “Retention Pond” rather than a “Detention Pond.” A Retention Pond always has water in it. A Detention Pond dries out. The photo by GRW was taken after a heavy rain in January, 2017.

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.com
..... 832-500-2221
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
Best Trash..... 281-313-2378
customerservice@besttrash.com, and www.best-trash.com

Trash and Bulk Waste on both Tuesdays and Fridays
Recycle on Tuesdays only. Recycle only plastics (1-7), steel
and aluminum cans, cardboard, paper, plastic or paper
grocery bags, and glass (any color).

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

Village Creek Activity Schedule

Keeping in mind that things change, according to Lisa Rawles, Social Committee Chairperson, these are details for the Village Creek events in 2017:

Spring Garage Sale

Friday & Saturday, April 7 & 8.

Easter Parade & Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Pool Grand Opening,

Saturday, May 27, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

4th of July Parade

Decorated children's conveyances at 9:30 a.m.

Celebration with conveyances' judging
from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Back to School Luau/Kinder Meet & Greet

Saturday, August 19, Meet & Greet @ 10:00 a.m.,

Luau, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fall Garage Sale

Friday & Saturday, October 13 & 14.

Cookies with Santa

Sunday, December 3, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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The Minimalist Darwinian Gardener

By Flint Sage

Hopefully, freezing weather is behind us (though always possible in the first two weeks in March). The record low for March was 19 degrees F in 2002. I will not miss putting covers on sensitive plants. We had freezing rain last March 2014, so don't let your guard down just yet. Unless you don't mind covering plants before a freeze, don't plant any plant that cannot tolerate 18 degrees F.

Think about planting some vegetables. Those to plant in March are beans, corn, cucumber, eggplant, kohlrabi, mustard, peppers, pumpkin, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.

Bare root planting season is over, so any planting of woody plants should be from containerized plants. Among ornamental, woody plants that do well in our area are Ligustrum, Crape Myrtles, Wax Myrtles, Pineapple Guava, Purple Sage, and Bottle Brush. The Chinese Fringe Tree is stunning in March...even in the moonlight.

Our lawns are beginning to come alive again. Along with the grass will come some weeds. It is best to pull these as needed. Certainly, mow them if they are shading the lawn. In general, according to "Texas Gardner," don't fertilize until the grass starts growing and needs mowing. Fertilizing dormant grass will just

encourage weed growth. The rule of thumb from them is, "fertilize when you have mowed twice."



Photo: Duke, a Great Dane and Village Creek resident, checks out the splendid March Hawthorns.



VILLAGE CREEK

MARKET REPORT FOR JANUARY 2017*

Homes SOLD in January	2
Avg Days on Market	8
Avg Sales Price	\$263,350
Average List Price vs Sales Price Ratio	97%
*Data is from HAR for 1-1-17 through 1-31-17	

As of February 1, 2017:

Homes Active on the Market	12
Price Range	\$199,500 - \$358,000
Homes Under Contract	3
Option Pending	0
Price Range	N/A
Pending Continue to Show	0
Price Range	N/A
Pending	3
Price Range	\$310,000 - \$340,000

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Travel with The Voice

Gordon R. Watson

Americans can now travel directly to Cuba for the first time in over 50 years. Why go to Cuba soon?

- There are no Starbucks, McDonald's, Home Depots, etc.
- There are 30,000 1950's American cars.
- Touristy products are made in Cuba and reasonably priced.
- You can buy as many Cuban cigars as you want for personal use that will fit in your carry-on.
- The sea surrounds Cuba, so it has excellent seafood.
- United Airlines flies directly to Cuba from Houston.
- The tourist spots are relatively crowd-free right now.

- Eat in restaurants recommended by a trusted guide.
- Take along simple things as gifts for hotel maids and others: toothpaste, tooth brushes, candy, crayons, pencils, snacks, etc.

What do you need to know?

- Your credit card may not work in Cuba.
- You will need to carry cash which must be changed to CUC's. We suggest you go with a prepaid tour to avoid needing much cash.
- You will not have reliable internet or phone service.
- You will need to comply with one of the twelve reasons to go to Cuba such as a cultural exchange. You cannot go to Cuba just to play golf and sit on the beach yet.
- You will need a visa and passport.
- Make sure you use bottled water during your stay.



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The Voice

A HOUSE DETECTIVE MYSTERY: **Murder in the Garden**

Gordon R. Watson

My secretary recently advised me that a Possumhaw Holly I planted was nearly dead: drowning from too much water. She stopped typing and explained. I put on my hat, trench coat, gathered my briefcase and rushed out the door.

Our west lawn was getting way too much water from a downspout. We were in the toadstool business. The recently planted bush was barely alive. I moved the bush, but to fix the problem, I thought I would have to dig under the sidewalk and direct the water to the South. I am not sure if you have ever dug under a sidewalk, but getting even a 1/2" pipe under a sidewalk is a challenge, let alone a 4" drain pipe. I wished I had thought more about putting future lines under the sidewalk before the contractor poured the sidewalk eight years ago.

Not to digress too much, but, when we had the sidewalk poured, I had him pour an 8 x 8 slab for a garden shed as well. Because he was a sidewalk guy who always sloped concrete to direct water off of them, and I didn't watch him, he sloped the slab as well. It isn't much fun trying to build a level building on a sloping concrete slab.



But back to the story. I went to the hardware store and bought a Amerimax Home Products Black Extend-A-Spout costing about \$13. This device was easy to install. I cut it to fit so it would not be a tripping hazard. It works perfectly. I would say that 95% of the downspout water now goes to the other side of the sidewalk.

Note that you should buy a few stainless steel self-tapping screws to attach these. Mine didn't come with them.

Want to use The Voice?

The Voice appreciates letters to the editor, short articles, cover photographs, general photographs relating to Village Creek, and recipes. We cannot assure publication, but we will always give your submission thoughtful consideration. Of course, The Voice is published free to more than 747 homes, so if you have a small business, consider advertising in The Voice. Contact them at Peelinc.com.

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ER 281.897.3150
- 2 5655 W. Sam Houston Pkwy. N.
at Tanner Rd,
Houston, TX 77041
281.949.3800
- 3 7015 Barker Cypress at F.M. 529
Cypress, TX 77433
281.949.3600
- 4 8470 Hwy. 6 North at West Rd
Houston, TX 77095
281.949.3799

URGENT CARE

(open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., 7 days a week).
Walk ins welcome, no appointments
necessary.

- 5 9110 Barker Cypress at West Rd
Cypress, TX 77433
281.517.9900
- 6 14044 Spring Cypress at Grant Rd
Cypress, TX 77429
281.949.3703
- 7 9138 West Rd at Beltway 8
Houston, TX 77064
281.949.3737



Cypress Fairbanks
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CyFairHospital.com

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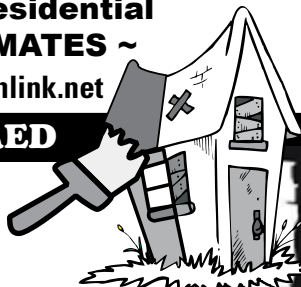
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