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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 Control281-999-3191
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
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Street lights out & power outages.....
..... www.centerpointenergy.com/outage
Harris County traffic signal outages.....713-881-3210
Best Trash.....281-313-2378
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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

Publisher - Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181
Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Editor.....Gordon R. Watson
... villagecreek@peelinc.com or Watson.g@sbcglobal.net

Do I need approval to make changes to my home?

Quoted from Frequently Asked Questions on Spectrumam.com:

"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."

Editor's note: Getting approval is a reasonably easy process. If you don't get approval, it can be a difficult experience for both the Board and you.



DON'T STOP ME IF YOU HAVE HEARD THIS ONE

By Nodrog Nostaw

Real Estate Notice: Water on the farm is
suitable for mixing water colors. It is artesian.

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DETAILS

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The Minimalist Gardener

By Flint Sage

A must-read publication is Texas A & M's "Maintaining St. Augustine Grass," by Taylor & Gray. The following is a summary, but there is so much in the article that you must read it completely. Some highlights are the following:

- a. 3" mowing height for both sunny and shady areas.
- b. Leave clippings on the lawn.
- c. Water to a depth of six inches. Note that watering several times during the watering day is best. (Example: 5 minutes three times rather than 15 minutes once).
- d. Water only when the grass begins showing signs of distress (usually 5 to 10 days, depending on weather).
- e. Note that "Texas Gardener Magazine" says that NO fertilizer should be required in the summer if you leave clippings on the lawn.

Continue planting heat-loving vegetables such as corn, eggplant, southern peas, okra, cantaloupe, sweet potatoes, pepper plants, squash, watermelon, and pumpkins. Soil, for most vegetable

gardens, should be maintained damp (not wet) 3" below the surface.

Water young trees weekly to assure the roots stay damp (not wet). Water older trees if there isn't any rain. Keep mulch around plants to retain moisture. Keep mulch away from trunks. You should see the "flare" at the bottom of the tree.



Photo: The Mexican Olive Tree produces blooms nearly year-round.



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Village Creek News

Pat Lechleiter resigned from the Board. She was an excellent Board member who will be missed by Village Creek. She began her term in July 2015. We thank her for her service to our community.

Village Creek will hold an important election in July where there will be at least two Board positions open. As a Board member, you will share responsibility for over \$500,000 in yearly cash inflow. What qualifications are needed? Passion for Village Creek, ability to avoid personal biases, get along with people, willing to accept other's ideas, openness, willingness to speak up when needed, thoughtfulness, the ability to stick to the rules, the ability to prioritize, etc. The list is longer than I can even imagine. An ex-Board member says he enjoyed the job. Sometimes tough decisions must be made, but knowing you are serving the community well is often all the reward needed. Contact Spectrumam.com for information.

Most of us won't run for the Board. The rest of us should vote. While "The Voice" is written a month ahead of publication, such internet sites as Nextdoor.com and VillageCreekCommunity.Com will have day-to-day updates on the election and election process. Please read them and share with your friends and neighbors.

SOCIETY GARLIC: PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Flint Sage



I do not know where Society Garlic received its elegant name. My guess is that ordinary garlic belongs in the vegetable garden, but Society Garlic has achieved flower garden status. Perhaps it is also because it is a well-behaved plant that isn't invasive or overgrown.

It spreads about 1' and rises to about 1.5'. It is a bulb, so can be divided. Plant in a rock garden or just in a planter bed. It is not very picky about sunlight and will be happy in partial shade as well though you may not get as many flowers in the shade. Expect it to remain green all year. It needs a bit of water, but not too much. Some articles say it is edible, but you will need to do your research in that regard.

The purple flowers appear in spring to early summer. The foliage will be green. The flowers have no obvious fragrance that I have noticed. The stems have slight garlic fragrance, particularly when rubbed or cut.

Society Garlic is a Tomball-proven plant which has no problems with disease or pests. Ours didn't freeze this year. We also have noticed that fire ants do not mound around these.

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THE HOUSE DETECTIVE:

The Mystery of the Defective Generator

June is a hot and humid month in Tomball. We sweat more than most Americans, so we drink lots of water and iced tea. Some evenings, after work, my secretary and I sit on the back porch and have a beverage. As the sun heads to the horizon, we watch people stroll down Tomball's streets and go over the day's cases.

Detectives are very busy in the summer. While some problems stay hidden during winter, they show up in summer. We often need to dig deeply into our briefcase for the right tool to solve mysteries.

I recently purchased a welder to repair a broken device in our backyard. I have never owned a welder. This one is from Harbor Freight and received fairly good reviews. It needs an 110-volt, 20 amp receptacle. Our outside 110-volt receptacles are only 15 amp.

I wondered how I was going to power it. Then I remembered that a few years ago, we bought a generator to provide electricity to the office when the power goes off. It is a fairly large generator, and it is perfect to provide welder power. It has a 20 amp receptacle, and there would be no need to have a lengthy and costly extension cord.

I pulled the generator out of storage. Given how fast time goes, I

am pretty sure I hadn't used it for several years. The last time it ran, I am fairly certain I let it exhaust the fuel supply. After adding fuel, I found the battery was dead, so I used my truck's battery. Rrrrrr. Rrrrrr. Nothing. It didn't even give a hint that it would start. I thought back to my dad who didn't like to hear endless futile attempts at starting an engine.

Engines require three things to make them work: spark, compression, and a fuel/air mixture. I knew I had the first two because when I sprayed Starter Fluid (ether) into the carburetor, it would run for a bit. The problem was fuel. I took the carburetor apart and found that there was dried fuel residue clogging the jet. I had a small wire that fit nicely through the little jet orifice. Once I had cleaned it, I put it back together and, thankfully, the engine roared to life.

Once the generator was running, I was able to do the welding needed. What did I learn? Take care of tools, and they will take care of you. I don't want to be working on a generator during a hurricane.

My weld quality?

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Things are happening in Beautiful Village Creek

BOARD MEETINGS: Begin at 6:30 p.m. and at Fairwood Recreation Center, 14701 Spring Cypress Road, Cypress, TX 77429.

July Annual Meeting: Two Board member's Terms are expiring. Think. Notice. Look. VOTE! While you may not affect national politics much, you can affect how your HOA fees are used.

Upcoming Events

- 4th of July Parade with decorated children's conveyances at 9:30 a.m. begins at Pedlars Court. 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.

Pool Cards?

For all information relating to pool cards, go online to Spectrumam.com and click the box showing "Pool Cards." By phone, call 281-343-9178

The Voice Travels

The Editor



There is no need to travel to Europe to see interesting old churches. We have some nearby. If in the area, consider visiting one of the 20 or so "Painted Churches" in Schulenburg, Ammanansville,

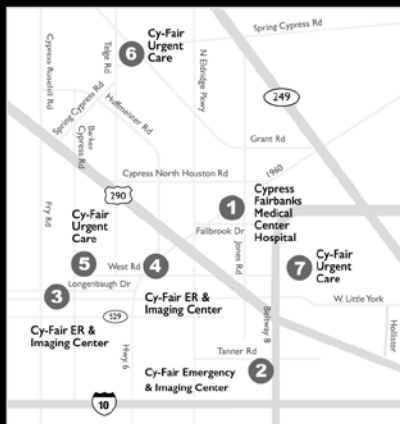
Praha, Dubina, Fredericksburg, Lavaca or one of the other towns.

The churches look somewhat ordinary from the outside, but the German and Czech immigrants in the 19th Century wanted a bit of their homeland in Texas, so they painted the ordinary interiors with bright colors of murals, marble, and foliage.

Go to <http://www.klru.org/paintedchurches/> for more information.

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- 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

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- 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

At Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital, we understand that waiting in the ER and Urgent Care is no fun. That's why we offer an online check-in service at CyFairHospital.com for all seven locations to select your arrival time and comfortably wait at home.



18265 3/17 © 2017 Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital. All rights reserved.



A Village Creek Tasted Recipe **The Voice Cooks up some Vittles**

Spinach, Jicama and Mango Salad with Cotija Vinaigrette

FROM: FIESTA MARKET'S COOKING CLASS

Yield: 4 Servings

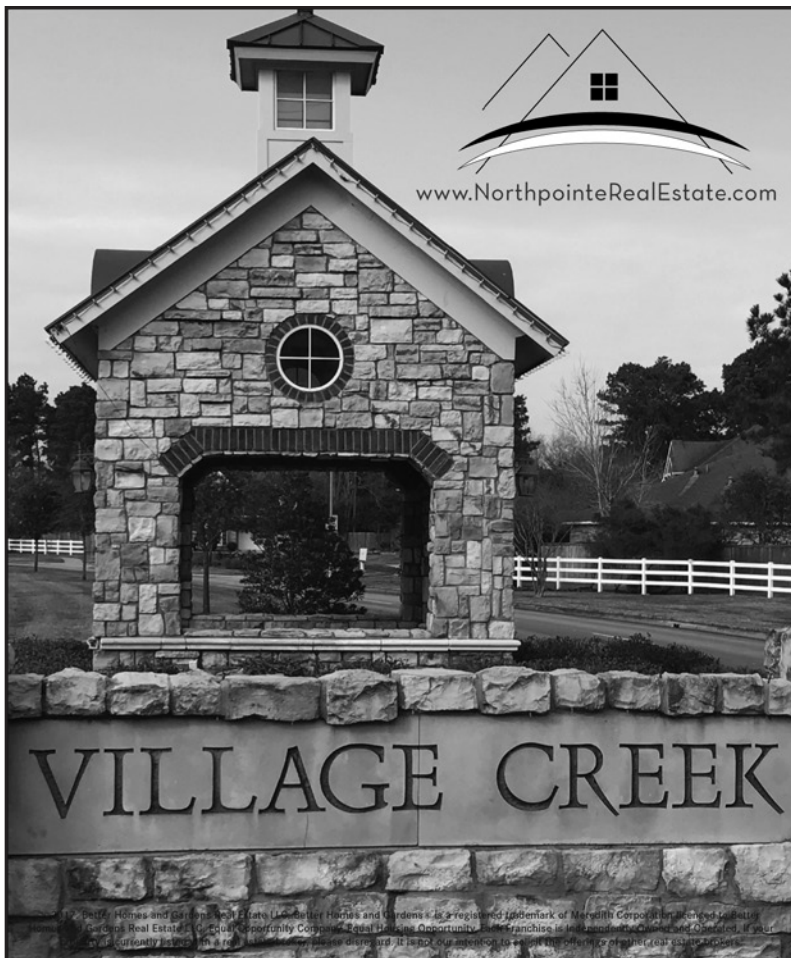
- 4 tablespoons sliced almonds
- 4 cups baby spinach, washed and dried
- 1 medium jicama, peeled and cut into thin matchsticks
- 1 ripe mango, peeled, cut off the pit and thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons crumbled cotija cheese

Directions

In a small dry skillet, toast the almonds, stirring until aromatic and lightly browned.

In a large bowl, toss the spinach, jicama, and mango.

In a small bowl, whisk together the vinegar, oil, and salt. Stir in the crumbled cotija cheese. Add the dressing to the salad (pouring down the side of the bowl) and toss. Divide the salad among four serving plates and sprinkle the almonds on top.



VILLAGE CREEK

MARKET REPORT FOR APRIL 2017*

Homes SOLD in April	5
Avg Days on Market	24
Avg Sales Price	\$289,450
Average List Price vs Sales Price Ratio	96%

*Data is from HAR for 4-1-17 through 4-30-17

As of May 1, 2017:

Homes Active on the Market	8
Price Range	\$224,900 - \$353,900

Homes Under Contract 8

Option Pending	3
Price Range	\$225,000 - \$389,000
Pending Continue to Show	1
Price Range	\$289,000
Pending	4
Price Range	\$249,000 - \$358,900

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HOUSE FLIES TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



Moving into summer, we should prepare for the inevitable.... house flies. While many see house flies as a nuisance, they are capable of spreading diseases such as dysentery or food poisoning. Due to the locations house flies frequent- garbage, manure, and

carion- they can pick up bacteria and other disease organisms which can transfer to other areas where they may land such as dishes, food, or countertops. House flies regurgitate onto food to liquefy it before eating and they can further contaminate items by defecating upon surfaces.

The common house fly has two wings and is dull gray with black stripes on the thorax (the section where the wings are attached). Adult flies can only eat liquid foods and have sponging mouthparts specialized to help them feed.

Eggs are usually laid on decaying matter such as animal fecal material, grass clippings, or garbage. Around 100-150 eggs are laid by the female. Depending upon temperature (warmer temperatures speed things up); eggs may hatch within 8 hours to 2 days.

Maggots, the immature stage of a fly, are small, white, carrot-shaped, and legless. There are 3 larval molts then mature larvae seek a dry location for pupation. Pupae are reddish brown and somewhat oval in shape.

During the summer, house flies may live up to 2.5 weeks while during cooler times of the year they may live up to 3 months.

The key to fly management is sanitation, or cleaning. Eliminate breeding sites by picking up animal waste one to two times per week; empty garbage cans regularly; clean garbage cans at least once a month with soapy water. Keep garbage cans located away from doors that lead into the home and make sure they have tight fitting lids.

Other items that can help reduce fly problems include keeping window screens in good repair; making sure doors and windows have a tight seal and weather stripping is in good condition; and using fly swatters or sticky fly paper to get rid of adult flies.



For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Village Creek Community Association, Inc. 2017 Splash Pad and Swimming Pool Schedule Opening and Closing Times and Dates

Splash Pad Schedule

Open Tuesdays through Sundays: 9 AM to 8 PM.

Closed Mondays.

Last day is Sunday, October 1, 2017.

Pool Schedule

June 2nd through August 27

Tuesdays through Sundays: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Mondays: Closed

August 28th through September 24th

Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Mondays through Fridays: Closed

Exception:

Monday, September 4th (Labor Day): 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Lap Swim Schedule

Open Tuesdays thru Sundays,

June through August from 7 AM - 9 AM

There will be NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY during Lap Swim hours.

If you have questions,

please contact Otis Chandler at 281-343-9178

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Registration Now Open!

July 17-21

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
13131 Fry Rd. Cypress, TX

Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church VBS registration opens March 5th! Join us for an In and Out, Over, Under Adventure July 17-21! This year's theme is Maker Fun Factory. Our VBS is completely Gluten, and nut free. The cost is \$30.00. Registration ends July 2. If you have any questions, please contact Taylor at taylor@aidanschurch.org. Saint Aidan's Episcopal address is 13131 Fry Road, just south of Hwy 290.

Register at our website: <http://aidanschurch.org>



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