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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

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Village Creek Website Unrelated to the Board  
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Lost/Found Pets ..... [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com)  
Harris County Veterinary Public Health.....281-999-3191  
Municipal District Services (24 hrs) .....281-290-6503  
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Harris County traffic signal outages.....713-881-3210  
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Digging? Two days prior to ANY digging in your yard, call  
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#### NEWSLETTER

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## The Minimalist Gardener

*By Flint Sage*

**Trees:** Mature trees and bushes will need an inch of water every one to two weeks to just stay alive. If your trees are in lawns, you will need to add a bit more water, as they are competing with the lawn for moisture. Younger trees will need even more water to keep their roots in moist soil. Do a slow soaking a few feet from the trunk to a foot or two beyond the canopy (outermost leaves). Summer is not a good month to plant trees or bushes because they need nearly daily watering.

**Lawns:** Arrange to keep the mower clippings on the lawn. There are few arguments for bagging clippings.

**Vegetables:** August is the time to plant southern peas, okra, and peppers. In general, though, it is the worst month to plant most things as it is too hot!

**Fall Color:** If you want fall color, this is the time to plant marigolds and petunias. If using seeds, start them in a shady part of the yard. They will need daily water.

**Mulch:** Mulch keeps water in, keeps the heat out, and significantly reduces the need for weeding. Keep mulch six inches or so away from the tree and bush trunks. Lay down a minimum of three thicknesses of newspapers under the mulch. Wet the papers to keep them from blowing away before mulching.

**Roses:** Expect roses to look quite bad by late summer. In August, cut back between ¼ and 1/3 of the bush. Fertilize each rose with ½ pound of ammonium sulfate in mid-August. Distribute the fertilizer around the drip line. If no blooms appear in the first week of September, add a second application. Water thoroughly after pruning and fertilizing.

We tried Chinese Okra this year (photo). We had some huge ones that got lost in the abundant large leaves. These plants remind me of Kudzu. They are vines that try to cover everything. We removed them before they covered the entire State. We probably won't plant them next year.

**Fruit Trees:** According to Texas Gardener Magazine, this is the month to stop fertilizing all fruit trees.

## DON'T STOP ME IF YOU HAVE HEARD THIS ONE

*Nodrog Nostaw*

I am puzzled. In real-estate ads, some bodies of water are called "stunning lakes." Why, during property tax season, are the same bodies of water commonly known as, "swamp, mosquito-infested detention ponds?"

## A HOUSE DETECTIVE MYSTERY

# *A Strange Noise in the Hot Night*

Gordon R. Watson

Late one summer evening, I was packing my luggage for a case in California. Suddenly, I heard a loud mechanical noise outside. I had never heard it before: a sort of intermittent mechanical screeching. I grabbed my flashlight and headed out the back door to the side of our home. I approached the air conditioner. After a moment of sleuthing, I deduced that the condenser fan was the culprit. The timing was unfortunate. I had intended to replace the fifteen-year-old motor preemptively, but it was too late for that. I decided to shut the unit down and order the fan so that it would arrive before I returned in ten days. I have a smaller A/C upstairs, and I thought there was a chance that, if I left the upstairs door open, heavier, cold air from it would cascade down the stairs to help cool the first floor. My plane left the next day.

When I returned late in the day, ten days later, the lower house temperature was 80 Deg F and the upper room at 90. I checked the second floor A/C and found it had failed as well. I spent the next few hours moving fans around, opening windows, and getting ready for a sweltering evening. I recalled that Hurricane Ike forced many Tomball residents to spend two weeks or more without power or A/C. I could take it.

The night was warm but tolerable. The next morning, I replaced the fan motor without any particular issues. Thankfully, the fan was specific to the unit (shaft was the right length and no extra wires).

Being somewhat color-deficient, I was pleased that both the old and new conductors (three) had numbers and written abbreviations for colors as well. The unit started up just fine with no vibration.

I moved to the second. I knew that the condenser fan worked, so I tested the compressor capacitor. It had failed. Knowing how commonly capacitors fail, I had a spare, so the replacement was easy. The second A/C unit started without a hitch.

Tomball is quiet at night. Homes here are well insulated, often with brick walls, so the nights are usually tranquil except for maybe train whistles in the distance, birds tapping on rain gutters, mockingbirds singing, or frogs croaking after rain. I slept well with the air conditioning coming on a few times to keep the house cool from the 80-degree temperature outside.

Then I awoke at about 4:30 AM. I heard a noise which was very similar to or the same as that I heard ten days earlier. Had I missed something? Had the compressor failed rather than the condenser fan?

I put on some clothing, grabbed a flashlight, and walked along the sidewalk to the A/C units. Both were humming along, running fine. I was puzzled for a moment. Then I heard it. The mosquito spraying truck was driving around the neighborhood with its strange screeching sound. I went back to bed. Thankfully, things are sometimes things are not what they seem.



## The Voice Cooks up some Vittles MISSISSIPPI ROAST

### What You Need

- 3- pound chuck roast
- 1- ounce packet of dry ranch seasoning mix
- 1- ounce packet of dry au jus gravy mix
- 6 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup water
- 5-6 pepperoncini

### Directions

1. Pour 1/4 cup of water into the insert of your slow cooker. Lay the chuck roast on top.

2. Sprinkle the dry ranch seasoning mix on top of the chuck roast, then sprinkle the dry au jus mix on top, then place 6 tbsp. of butter on top of the roast, and finally 5-6 pepperoncini around the roast.

3. Cook on low for 8 hours.

4. Shred and serve with gravy.

### Cook's Thoughts

You may serve this with a side of mashed potatoes and vegetables, or serve it on top of white/brown rice, or make a sandwich. Avoid adding salt because the gravy is fairly salty already.

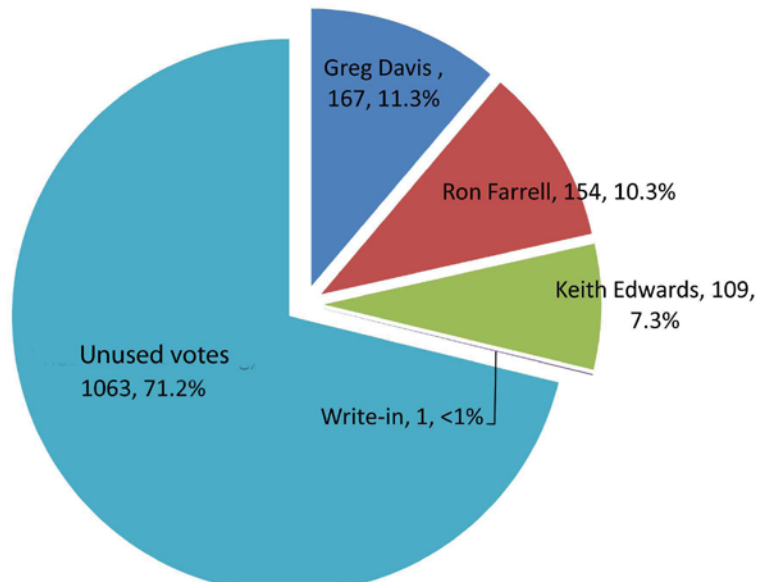
If you wish, add vegetables to the slow cooker to cook along with the roast. Add Potatoes, carrots, celery, or anything else you wish 2-3 hours before the roast is done.

## Remaining Village Creek Events for 2017 (Confirm at Marquee)

Fall Garage Sale, Friday &  
Saturday, October 13 & 14

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

### Village Creek Board Election Results



\*There were two votes per home and there are 747 homes in Village Creek, so  $2 \times 747 = 1494$  votes possible. The number of homes not voting was calculated by the following formula:  $1494 \text{ votes possible} - \text{votes for each candidate} = 1494 - 167 - 154 - 109 - 1 = 1063$ . Note that not all homes voted for two candidates, so this chart is not exact. In the previous election, about 75% of residents didn't vote.

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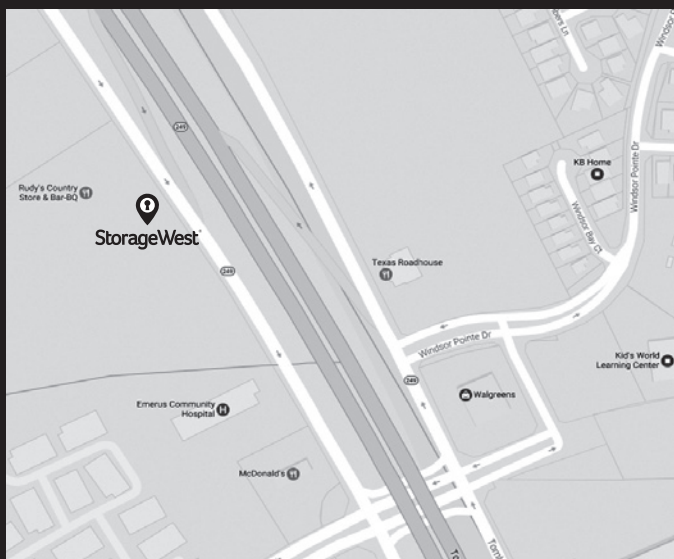
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## HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A PLANT?

By Flint Sage



Crape Myrtle leaves (see photo). Their answer:

"That appears to be a combination of some fungal leaf spots along with the plant getting rid of some old leaves. While you could repeatedly treat with a fungicide, I've found that with some cultural care the plant seems to survive and outgrow the problem. Avoid keeping the soil too soggy wet. Fertilize the plants a little to promote fresh new growth."

Robert "Skip" Richter  
County Extension Agent - Horticulture  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Harris County

## PLANT OF THE MONTH: THRYALLIS (GALPHIMIA GLAUCA)

By Flint Sage

Thryallis is a Tomball-proven plant. It is drought-resistant and likes full sun (but can tolerate partial shade as well). It will get 4' to 6' tall and about 4' wide. It likes good drainage and not a lot of water once established. It has beautiful yellow flowers until a frost. It is deciduous in our area. It can tolerate temperatures to 25 degrees F so it may freeze here. If it does freeze, cut it back and it will rebound for summer. Prune to shape if it grows beyond where you want it. Fire Ants do not seem to mound around ours.



## Who represents you in Government

**Want to know who represents you in Government?**

From the "Houston Chronicle," July 26, 2017

Type in [tinyurl.com/TxWhoRepsMe](http://tinyurl.com/TxWhoRepsMe).

Put in your address and the information pops up! The following includes just the names. The web site provides access to all contact information.

### **Texas U.S. Senators**

Senator John Cornyn and Senator Ted Cruz.

### **Texas U.S. Representative**

Congressional District 10--Congressman Michael T. McCaul

### **Texas State Senator**

Texas State Senate District 7--Senator Paul Bettencourt

### **Texas State Representative**

Texas State House District 130--Representative Tom Oliverson

### **Texas State Board of Education Member**

Texas State SBOE District 6--Ms. Donna Baborich

## The Voice on Health and Volunteering

Memorial Hermann Health System recognizes the vital importance of volunteers, and the newly opened Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital is no different. The hospital is now taking applications for its volunteer program. Four-hour volunteer shifts are available seven days a week from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Learn more at: <http://www.memorialhermann.org/locations/cypress/volunteer-at-memorial-hermann-cypress-hospital/>

The American Cancer Society (ACS) says one in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. September is Prostate Cancer Awareness month, and urologists are using this time to urge men to talk with their doctors about beginning annual prostate cancer screenings between 40 and 50 years of age. Visit [www.memorialhermann.org/prostatecancer/](http://www.memorialhermann.org/prostatecancer/) to learn more about prostate cancer screenings, diagnosis, and treatments.

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