



When Hurricane Harvey finally moved on, the skies cleared. The weather was splendid. After being home-bound, more than the usual number of families enjoyed the lake.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### IN CASE OF ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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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

#### SERVICES

Village Creek Management Company....[spectrumam.com](http://spectrumam.com)  
.....832-500-2221  
Village Creek Website Unrelated to the Board  
..... [VillageCreekCommunity.com](http://VillageCreekCommunity.com)  
Harris County Animal Control .....281-999-3191  
Lost/Found Pets ..... [Nextdoor.com](http://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](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage)  
Harris County traffic signal outages.....713-881-3210  
Best Trash.....281-313-2378  
[customerservice@besttrash.com](mailto:customerservice@besttrash.com), and [www.best-trash.com](http://www.best-trash.com)

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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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## THE MINIMALIST GARDENER

*By Flint Sage*

The fall months are a good time to consider planting trees and shrubs. Summer is undesirable because of the need to keep the root ball damp with our interesting heat.

Fertilize your Saint Augustine lawns when you no longer need to mow your lawn every week. According to Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac, this will commonly happen on October 15th +/- one week. Apply a fertilizer with these numbers: 2-1-2 or 1-0-1. Check the bag for the area covered (Frankly, though, the Minimalist Gardener doesn't ponder numbers or coverage much). Control weeds with a healthy turf rather than herbicides; however, if 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, unhealthy turf indicates 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.

Plant beets, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, collards, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, parsley, peas, radish, spinach, and turnips.

Mulch anytime. There is little bad to be said about a three or four-inch layer of mulch, but keep it away from tree trunks. Placing a few layers of magazines or newspapers under the mulch is a good idea. As you lay down the paper, weigh it with a handful of mulch to keep it in place.

Assuming the heat drops a bit, The Texas Garden Almanac says we can shut off our 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? It is all about risks associated with a beetle that carries oak wilt fungus. According to The University of Texas at Austin, do NOT prune between February and June. The best time is during a cold period from November through January. Reasonably safe times are the hottest months from July through September.

### 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.



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

*Nodrog Nostaw*

I recently had to repair the transmission on our car. The reverse went out. It was quite expensive. We had to get a reverse mortgage.



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community newsletters

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A PACKAGE OR ENVELOPE THAT IS NOT YOURS?

*The Editor*

Upon a request from a neighbor, I recently sent a note to the U.S. Postal Service asking what they want us to do if we receive a letter or package addressed to someone else. Here is their answer (from Tomball Veterans Post Office):

1. If you receive a package for another address in error please call us at (281) 516-0513 and we will arrange for it to be picked up and re-delivered.
2. For the letter mail if you receive other customers mail please place back in your mail box with a note to the carrier so they can deliver to the correct address.

Of course there are other ways this issue can be handled such as you delivering mail items to the right home, but this is entirely up to you. We have delivered packages in the past, but it is fairly common for the doorbell to be ignored. At that point, you have a dilemma. Leaving the package on the step is not a perfect solution. What is important is that the packages and envelopes are delivered to owner one way or another because it is the neighborly thing to do.

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# The Voice

## A HOUSE DETECTIVE MYSTERY

### *Pickups with Snorkels*

*Gordon R. Watson*

While working on a case in Australia a few years back, I noticed that a fair percentage of pickup trucks had snorkels attached. Snorkels mount to the front of a pickup truck from the engine to the left or right of the windshield. When driving through deep water, one reason for engine failure is water is sucked in through the air cleaner, I guess the Aussies use snorkels either to ford streams more efficiently or just because they look cool.

I am no stranger to being impractically cool. I once bought a four-wheel drive pickup that never got dirty. To make a short story long, the recent floods in Houston made me think that there is probably a huge market here for snorkels both because they might allow people to drive through deep water and also because they look cool. I may check into one for my truck. I realize that flooded electronics failure is also a problem, so maybe I will just settle for it being cool. I do wonder what the car salesperson would do if I asked for the deep water package as an option. I suppose there would be a temporary pause in the conversation of some sort. Given they may obstruct forward vision, I have no idea if these are allowed by Texas laws. You are on your own in that regard.



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

*By Flint Sage*



A Tomball-proven plant. It is drought-resistant. We water ours with a drip system. It likes full sun (but can tolerate partial shade as well). Ours is 7' tall and about 10' 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, but ours did not freeze in last winter's cold spell. 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.

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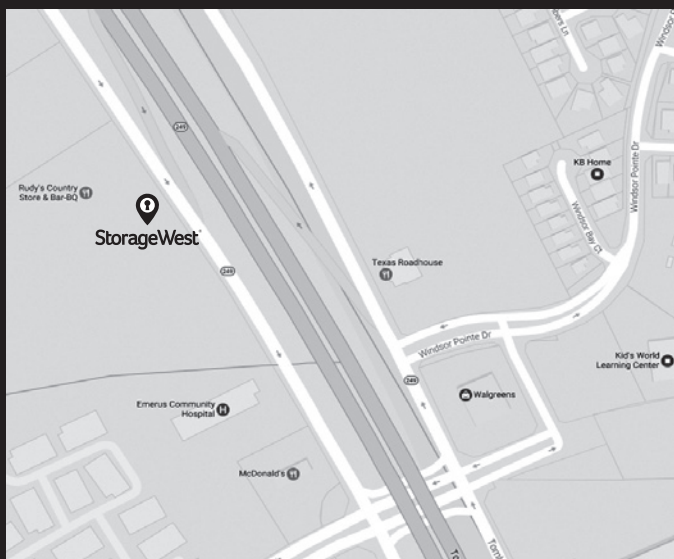
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## THE VOICE COOKS UP SOME VITTLES

### Chicken Salad with a Twist



*From Kathleen Conner, Randol Cooks, San Jose, California*

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 (6 oz.) pkg. corkscrew macaroni (or your choice)  
3 c. cooked chicken  
1/2 c. Italian dressing  
1/2 c. mayonnaise  
3 Tbsp. lemon juice  
1 Tbsp. prepared mustard  
1 medium onion, chopped  
3/4 c. ripe olive slices  
1 c. diced cucumbers  
1 c. diced celery  
1 tsp. pepper  
Salt to taste  
Lettuce

#### DIRECTIONS:

Cook macaroni following the package directions. Mix cooked chicken and Italian dressing with hot macaroni. Cool. Blend mayonnaise, lemon juice and mustard. Stir in chopped onion, olives, cucumbers, celery and pepper. Add to macaroni mixture. Salt to taste. Mix well. Chill two or more hours to blend flavors. Service in lettuce cups. Makes 4 to 6 servings.



**THE VOICE  
HAS HINTS**

*The Editor*

**Charities:** Many people in Texas are in need. One problem many of us have is finding a charity which minimizes its overhead costs while maximizing its giving. Check them out at Charity Navigator. They rate charities to assist you in choosing a good one. <https://www.charitynavigator.org/>

**Identity Theft:** Equifax recently was hacked. They lost millions of names, addresses, social security numbers, etc. To find out if you were one of them, (anyone could be), contact [equifaxsecurity2017.com](http://equifaxsecurity2017.com) or call 866-447-7559. They are offering free credit monitoring for a year for victims.

## Ty-Wraps are not Sandwiches from Thailand

*Gordon R. Watson*

You may know them as “Ty-Raps, tie wraps, cable ties, hose ties, steggel ties, zap straps or zip ties,” but, whatever you call them, I am not sure that there is a more useful product than cable ties. I would feel lost if my supply were to run out. The original was called a Ty-Rap and was invented in 1958 by Maurus C. Logan as a means to simplify securing aircraft cables together at Boeing (Wikipedia). A while back, I needed to secure a metal lazy-susan bearing device to a plastic lazy-susan in our pantry. Screws in this case would have been in the way. To solve the problem, I just looped a cable tie through two holes to secure the two together. My guess is that this solution will last many years. Cable ties are commonly a plastic of one sort or another, but stainless steel wire wraps are available and will last for years in our intense exterior ultraviolet sunlight and humidity. You can find wire wraps at hardware stores, commonly in the electrical department. If they are not part of your life, give them a try. They are one of those things that can fix almost anything.





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