



Happy Holidays Village Creek

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 Board Website..... myvillagecreek.com
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

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

THE MINIMALIST TEXAS HARRIS COUNTY GARDENER

By Flint Sage

Freezing is possible anytime for the next four months. Make sure you drain and cover your backflow preventer (and any exposed water pipe) when a hard freeze is expected. If you don't do this, it will probably freeze with a cost of \$40 for parts alone (if you can get parts). Cannot turn the backflow valve? Use a short length of ¾" PVC pipe for leverage. Insulate any exterior pipes which contain water. Drain pipes and hoses. Cover sensitive plants. Water the soil beneath plants the day before a freeze. Moist soil is excellent to help keep warmth in. Add mulch under the perennials to protect them from freezing.

For the survival of the fittest gardener: Read the plant label and avoid growing plants that are susceptible to freezing here.

Pull out those annuals that have died and cut back the perennials to desired height.

Watering: Watering can be greatly reduced during the winter. If there is no rain during the month, water everything at least one time. For those who use an irrigation timer, it is a good time to make the "seasonal change" as explained in your instruction manual. Remember that all plants need an occasional drink, even in the winter.

December is a great time to plant trees and bushes.

According to A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast, do not fertilize lawns between October and Mid March.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: CHRISTMAS CACTUS

A BIT OF COLOR FOR CHRISTMAS

By Flint Sage



About eight years ago, a relative gave my wife a Christmas Cactus: a long-lived, delightful Christmas plant that blooms during the holiday season. It is from the Brazilian Rain Forest, so needs some loving care in the U.S.A.

Don't expose it to either freezing or direct sunlight. The plant likes to have damp soil, but not wet. It creates white, fuchsia, purple, red, pink, or peach blossoms. In general, keep it inside in indirect sunlight away from heat sources such as fireplaces. If you happen to get one of these plants, search the internet with the keywords, "Kathy Huber Houston Chronicle Christmas Cactus." Kathy wrote a wonderfully detailed article about caring for this beautiful cactus.

A HOUSE DETECTIVE MYSTERY

The Case of the Missing Santa

Gordon R. Watson

About five years ago, I made a plywood Santa for a front yard Christmas decoration. He was about four feet tall. He wasn't life-sized because he had to fit up in our garage attic during his off-season. Another good reason that I made him 4' tall is that plywood normally is 4' x 8', so I didn't waste much wood. I am by no means an artist, so I went online and found a drawing of a rotund Santa who would fit the bill. The only problem was that the photo was about 7" by 5" and I needed something bigger. Using the technique of "scaling up," I drew small squares on the photograph, and then larger squares on a sheet of plywood. Then I freehanded Santa's outline and features (eyes, nose, mouth, etc.) on the plywood.

Finally, I used my old trusty old Black and Decker jigsaw to cut it out. Someone recently asked me what a good motorized saw would be for home use if they didn't own a saw. I recommended the jigsaw as one of the best saws around. One good thing is that they are relatively safe. They also can cut either straight or curves. I have had one for years and (knock on wood) I haven't hurt myself yet with a jigsaw. I can't say the same about many other saws. But that is another painful story.

One thing I wanted this Santa to do is to wave his arm. Waving added a new dimension to the project. To make an arm wave, I needed to convert a motor's circular motion to a back and forth motion, sort of like the pistons in a car engine. I happened to have kept an old household oscillating fan which was about right for the job. This kind of fan slowly moves side to side to keep everyone in the room happy. I put the fan mechanism and the arm together, and, with a little tweaking, it worked. Then I added the paint. I love painting such things as Santa. It is impressive what red, black, blue, white, and pink color can do to bring something to life. I have set him up for maybe five consecutive years. Through December, he waved reliably to those who circled our court.

Last year, I noticed that the fan was beginning to make a loud screeching noise when it started up. My neighbors probably wondered what that five-minute daily sundown cacophony was, but they are forgiving people who have gotten used to living near an eccentric inventor.

I did get to thinking that this might be Santa's last year. I don't like to put things out to pasture, but everything has a beginning and end. One morning before Christmas Day, I went out to get the paper. Santa was gone. Disappeared! I don't know what happened to him. For all I know, he missed the snow and headed back to the North Pole. The funny thing is that the missing Santa bothered others more than me. I hope Santa found a new home with someone who loves him as much as I did. Above all, nothing will stop me from enjoying the beautiful Spirit of Christmas. Merry Christmas to all!



DON'T STOP ME IF YOU HAVE HEARD THIS ONE

Nodrog Nostaw

Many years ago, my sister made a wooden fake chimney, placed it on our roof and put a hand-made, stuffed Santa in it to represent Santa going down the chimney. In my brother, George's, fourth grade class, the teacher asked each child what



they wanted for Christmas. One of the clever students said, "I don't think we will be getting anything this year because Santa is stuck in George's chimney."



ADVERTISE
Your Business Here
Call 512.263.9181
for details
www.peelinc.com



Betty Crocker Date-Filled Cookies

The Editor

During the Christmas Holidays, my mom made wonderful date-filled cookies. She made so many that she kept a year's supply in her International Harvester chest-type freezer. When I visited her, throughout the year, I ate quite a few frozen cookies. My daughter and I later continued the same cookie-making tradition until she left home. This recipe is from my mom's well-worn Betty Crocker's Picture Cook Book, Second Edition, 1956. My mom used Ethel's Sugar Cookie Recipe as the basic cookie. Hint: While my daughter and I were never very successful in rolling the dough thin, that is the key to making a great cookie.

Mix thoroughly:

¾ cup soft shortening (part butter)

1 cup sugar

2 eggs

½ tsp. flavoring (vanilla or lemon or a combination of the two)

Sift together and stir in:

2-1/2 cups sifted Gold Medal Flour

1 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt

Chill dough. Roll very thin (1/16"). Cut 3" rounds or squares. Place on lightly greased baking sheet. Place a rounded teaspoon full of cooled filling on each. Fold over like a turnover, pressing the edges together with floured fork tines.

Temperature: 400 degrees F

Time: Bake 6 to 10 minutes

Amount: About 4 doz. 3" cookies

DATE, FIG, RAISIN, OR PRUNE FILLING

Cook together slowly, stirring constantly until thickened...

2 cups dates, figs, or raisins, finely cut up, or 2 cups mashed cooked prunes (2-2/3 cups uncooked)

¾ cup sugar

¾ cup water

Add, if desired....1/2 cup chopped nuts

Cool.

Filling is sufficient for about 5 dozen cookies.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



100 Books for Children

*This is a partial
list. Go to their
website for more:*

*[http://www.
goodreads.com/
list/show/496.
The_Must_
Have_Series_for_
Children_Ages_6_
to_12](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/496.The_Must_Have_Series_for_Children_Ages_6_to_12)*

Books for All Ages

1. The Giving Tree
2. Where the Sidewalk Ends: the Poems and Drawing of Shel Silverstein
3. Little Women
4. The Wizard of Oz
5. Heidi

Books for preschoolers

1. The Very Hungry Caterpillar
2. Goodnight Moon
3. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?
4. The Rainbow Fish
5. Corduroy
6. The Snowy Day

Books for Children Ages 4-8

1. The Polar Express
2. Green Eggs and Ham
3. The Cat in the Hat
4. Where the Wild Things Are
5. Love You Forever

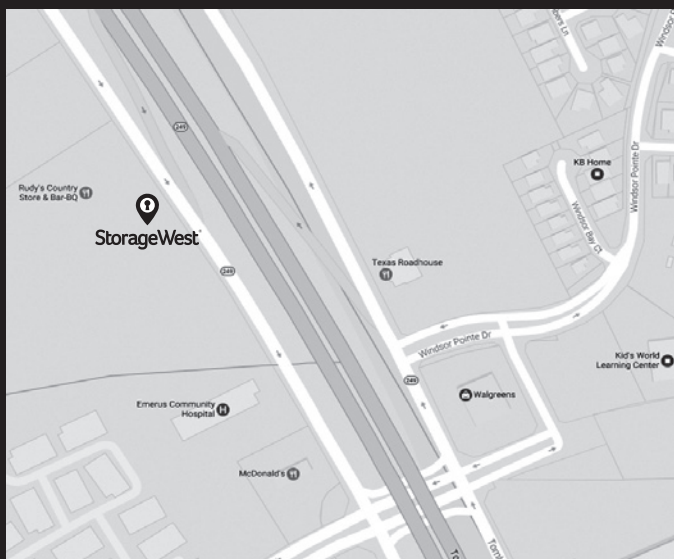
Books for Children Ages 9-12

1. Charlotte's Web
2. Hatchet
3. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
4. Bridge to Terabithia
5. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Books for Young Adults

1. Where the Red Fern Grows
2. The Hobbit
3. Summer of the Monkeys
4. The Cay by Theodore Taylor
5. The Sign of the Beaver

Ready to Serve your Storage Needs



Storage West

24455 Highway 249

Tomball, TX 77375

346-808-1030

- We Sell Boxes & Moving Supplies
- Free Move-In-Truck
- Air Conditioned Units
- Individually Alarmed Units
- Fire Sprinklers
- Over 50 Security Cameras On-Site

Call Us Toll Free

877-917-7990

www.StorageWest.com

2nd Month Free

with this coupon

Must present coupon to receive discount
Valid on Select Units Only

Not valid with any other offer. Expires December 31st, 2017



The Voice

The Voice is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use The Voice contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

Not Available Online

BASHANS PAINTING & HOME REPAIR

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- HardiPlank Replacement
- Sheetrock Repair
- Cabinet Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Fence Repair/Replacement
- Custom Staining
- Gutter Repair & Replacement
- Crown Molding
- Wallpaper Removal
- Wood Replacement
- Interior Carpentry
- Wallpaper Removal & Texture
- Garage Floor Epoxy
- Roofing
- Faux Painting

NO MONEY UP FRONT

20 Years Experience • References Available

Commercial/Residential

~ FREE ESTIMATES ~

BashansPainting@earthlink.net

♦ FULLY INSURED

281-347-6702

281-731-3383 cell



HARDIPLANK®



WIRED

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

SERVICING ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

- Panel Upgrades
- Home Inspections
- TV Install/Mounting
- Troubleshooting
- Remodeling
- Landscaping Lighting
- Home Generators

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL 24-7 SERVICE
LICENSED & INSURED

**Take \$25.00 Off Your
Next Service Call**



FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

713.467.1125 or 281.897.0001

www.WiredES.com



TECL 22809 Master 100394



A FEW HOLIDAY EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

Please check websites or marquee for updates.

December: Winter in the Woodlands

<http://woodlandsevents.com>

December: Village Creek Lighting Contest.

Judging on December 16th.

December 3: Village Creek's annual December extravaganza, "Cookies with Santa":

December 3rd, 2 PM to 4 PM at the pool area. It is a joyous yearly event provided by the Board and Social Committee. Kiddies will love the colorful gift bags filled to the top with creative gifts. Bring your camera as you will have a splendid photo opportunity while your child tells Santa what he/she wishes for Christmas. Santa's helpers will provide cookies, cold white milk, and hot chocolate for both kiddies and adults. Holiday music will fill the air with joy.

December 8th through 10th: Tomball German Christmas Market

<https://www.tomballgermanchristmasmarket.com/>

December 9: Tomball Christmas on Commerce

(11:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

www.tomballtx.gov

Village Creek's New Website

A good way to see what the Board is doing, make comments, or give suggestions is our new website. Its address is myvillagecreek.com. You will need to provide a few details, but is reasonably easy to access. If you are having trouble, contact Greg Davis at greg@greg-davis.com and he will assist you.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Quoted and edited for length from Library of Congress and ThoughtCo.com

Before electric Christmas lights, families would use candles to light up their Christmas trees. This was often dangerous and led to many home fires. Edison created the very first strand of electric lights. In 1880, they were strung around the outside of his Menlo Park Laboratory. Edward H. Johnson (of the Edison Company) put the very first string of electric Christmas tree lights together in 1882. He hand-wired 80 red, white and blue light bulbs and wound them around his Christmas tree. The tree also revolved.

Until 1903, when General Electric began to offer pre-assembled kits of Christmas lights, strung lights were very expensive (\$2,000) and reserved for the wealthy and electrically savvy. The wiring required the hiring of the services of a wireman, our modern-day electrician.

Albert Sadacca is credited for seeing a future in selling electric Christmas lights. The Sadacca family owned a novelty lighting company and in 1917, Albert, a teenager at the time, suggested that its store offer brightly colored strands of Christmas lights to the public. By the 1920's Albert and his brothers organized the National Outfit Manufacturers Association (NOMA), a trade association. NOMA soon became NOMA Electric Co., with its members cornering the Christmas light market until the 1960's.

Of course, incandescent lights are slowly being replaced with LED's which have the advantages of creating little heat, having longer life, and using less energy usage. While many came before and after him in this field, Nick Holonyak of G.E. created the first visible light LED (Red). Others followed with other vital colors.



CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



I AM A WARRIOR ARE YOU?

Serving grades K-12 throughout northwest Houston.



11123 Cypress N. Houston Road, Houston, TX 77065 | 281.469.8829 | CypressChristian.org



PEEL, INC.

308 Meadowlark St. South
Lakeway, TX 78734

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

VC

BEST HOLIDAY LIGHTS!

CENTRAL HOUSTON

River Oaks Boulevard
'Zoo Lights' at Houston Zoo*
Lights in the Heights Festival

NORTHWEST HOUSTON

Franck's Christmas Light Show, Copperfield
Prestonwood Forest
Shepherd Park & Candlelight Plaza

NORTH

Christmas Ranch - Cleveland
Dearing Dazzle - Conroe
Dodd Family Holidays - The Woodlands
Gullo House of Lights - Magnolia
Schultz Holiday Lights - Spring

WEST

Candy Wonderland, Spring Shadows - Houston
Christmas Katy - Pin Oak Subdivision - Katy

SOUTHEAST

Dickinson Festival of Lights - Dickinson
Magnolia Creek - League City
Moss Lights - League City

SOUTH

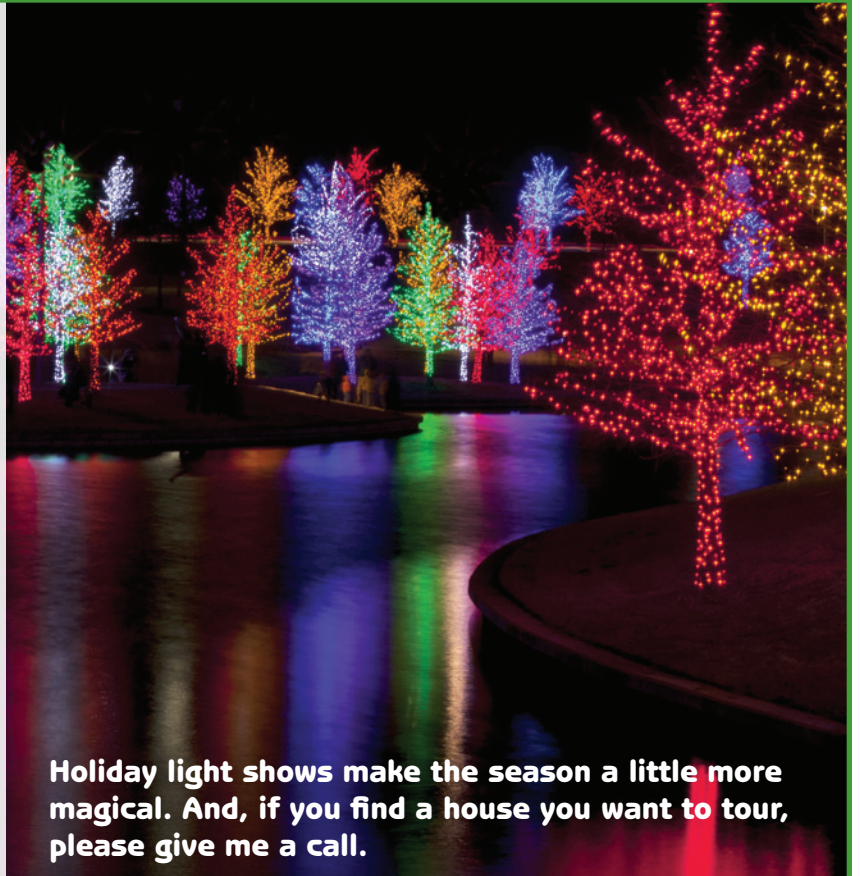
Green Tee Terrace - Pearland

SOUTHWEST

Pecan Grove Subdivision - Richmond
Sugar Land Holiday Lights, Constellation Field

GALVESTON

Moody Gardens Festival of Lights*



Holiday light shows make the season a little more magical. And, if you find a house you want to tour, please give me a call.



Kara Puente

Village Creek Sales Specialist

#1 Village Creek Realtor

281-610-5402

Office: 281-444-5140

kpuente@garygreene.com

**Better
Homes**
and Gardens®
REAL ESTATE

**GARY
GREENE**

Expect BetterSM

©2016 Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate LLC. Better Homes and Gardens® is a registered trademark of Meredith Corporation licensed to Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate LLC. Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Franchise is Independently Owned and Operated.