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Tomball ISD281-357-3100, 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 Companyspectrumam.com
.....832-500-2221
Village Creek Board Website.....myvillagecreek.com
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
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

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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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CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST 2017

Village Creek was a wondrously decorated for the Holidays. The Landscape Committee, with the Board's approval, did the judging. If you have ever judged anything, you probably understand how difficult that can be. There were several hundred beautifully decorated homes to consider, and the Committee had to narrow it down to ten winners. This year, the Board and Committee created two new categories including five "Honorable Mention" and one called "KIDS' Choice." For this category, Committee members asked a number of community volunteer children (driven around by their parents) to vote on their first and second choice houses. We think they did a great job. The photo shown is the KIDS' Choice Award winner. Their second choice was also given an award.

Best Overall: 12523 Midland Creek

KIDS' Choice: 12711 Wandering Stream

Most Traditional: 12723 Briar Harbor

Most Festive: 17311 Lyric Way

Best Block: Songhollow Drive

Honorable Mention: 17802 Scarlet Forest

Honorable Mention: 17623 Empress Cove

Honorable Mention: 17226 Eagle Ledge

Honorable Mention: 12747 Briar Harbor

Honorable Mention: 12430 Morning Rain



A HOUSE DETECTIVE MYSTERY

The Case of the Loose Handle

Gordon R. Watson

It started out as a typical day at the office. Feet on my old oak desk, I had a cup of black java, read the "Chronicle," and flipped through my notebook. The phone hadn't rung for a day or two. I could hear the heater working overtime trying to keep up with the cold outside. Of course there was the tap, tap, dinging of the Smith-Corona typewriter. The fragrance of fresh coffee hung in the air.

Then my secretary stopped, looked over her glasses, and said, "Do you know the HOT handle on the bathroom sink is loose?"

I didn't. First, I checked to make sure that it was actually loose. The best cases are those where I don't have to do anything except convince someone that the problem doesn't exist. This handle was loose: real loose.

Grabbing a Philips screwdriver, I figured this would be easy. In the old days, you removed the little cover from the top to expose the screw. This handle, however, had a cover, but there was no screw underneath. Nothing. I fiddle with it for a bit, but there was no apparent way to tighten that wobbly handle.

Old-time Detectives sleuthed. I check YouTube.

I had no idea who made this faucet. As I checked out several YouTube videos, it became somewhat apparent that the maker was probably Moen. It was also evident that this should be an easy job. You just unscrew the decorative cover, remove it, and tighten the screw. In this case, the decorative cover gave no hint that it would loosen. YouTube doesn't usually cover the hard stuff, and I think they edit out the cussing parts.

I ended up under the sink with a big wrench, flashlight, penetrating oil, and more just to try to loosen the persnickety 1-1/4" nut. Finally, after lots of Navy words I hadn't used for years, I was able to loosen the reluctant bolt and remove the entire left faucet.

I decided to go to a big box store to get new parts. It quickly was apparent that (lacking a make or model number) it wasn't likely that the gentleman there could help. When I said I thought it was a Moen, he subtly seemed to view Moen with some disparagement. After a futile effort, he ended up suggesting that I go to Moore Plumbing Supply in Tomball.

I dislike going to plumbing stores because of my perception of their prices, but it turned out that Moore wasn't higher than online or hardware stores, and they are so helpful.

I returned home and installed the parts. It worked fine. I did apply some Anti-Seize to the faucet parts so that the next guy (maybe me) may be able to access things from the top. I won't mention, here, that I accidentally hooked the cold to the hot and vice-versa because that

would detract from my credibility. To be fair, the original plumber put the valves on the wall reversed. Still, the buck stops somewhere. A good detective should have noticed that in the beginning. Oh, I did reverse the hot and cold to their proper places. My secretary notices things like that.

LIKE TO WRITE, HAVE QUESTIONS, RECIPES, A GREAT PHOTO OR SUGGESTIONS?

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Go to Peelinc.com and read "How to submit an article." Send articles to Watson.G@sbcglobal.net.

If you are a local business, do consider contacting Peel to place your ad in this publication.

DON'T STOP ME IF YOU HAVE HEARD THIS ONE

Nodrog Nostaw

I find moving to be a
very moving experience.



THE CHUCK WAGON COOKS UP SOME VITTLES

Leek and Potato Soup

The Editor

There is nothing like a great soup on a cold, wintry day (though such days are rare in Tomball). This is a taste tested recipe with "Excellent" hand written on the recipe in the Editor's wife's recipe binder. I agree. My wife makes great soups.

From https://www.ehow.com/video_13811_make-leek-potato.html



INGREDIENTS:

3 c. milk
2 medium peeled and diced potatoes
3 tbsp. butter
3 stalks celery sliced thin
4 well-washed and thinly sliced leeks (white and light green parts only)
3 c. cold water (substitute chicken broth if desired)
Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD:

Melt butter in a large pot.
Add leeks and celery and sauté 10 minutes over medium heat, stirring often.
Add 1 c. water, cover and cook 10 more minutes.
Add potatoes and another 2 c. water. Cover and cook 10 minutes.
Add milk, cover and cook 10 more minutes, or until potatoes are just tender.
Season with salt and pepper to taste and serve.

THE MINIMALIST GARDENER

By Flint Sage

If we receive normal rainfall, Texas A&M recommends turning your lawn sprinkler system off during winter. Shut off and drain your irrigation backflow preventer before hard freezes (anything below 32 F to be safe). Parts for repairs cost \$30 or so. If the valves are hard to turn, buy a 24" piece of ¾" Schedule 40 PVC to slip over one end. The extra leverage usually makes this an easy task.

Many seasonable vegetables can be transplanted this month including, onions (sets), mustard, collards, and kale. Protect them with blankets when freezing is predicted. Sow seeds for carrots, beets, turnips, and radishes. (This is so easy to do and children take delight in pulling these vegies out of the ground and eating them.)

Tomball's USDA Hardiness Zone is 9a. Never plant anything here that cannot tolerate 18 degrees F or so. That was the most recent Tomball low (2002). In our yard, the plant winning the Minimalist Gardner Darwinian Gleaming Star Survival Award is the Kale. It handled the January 2018 freeze like a champ.

Apply light fertilization to all plants. Maintain a layer (2" to 3") of mulch throughout the year to assist in keeping moisture in and weeds out. Note that in areas with shade, weeds tend not to be a problem. Weeds love open areas, so either plant these areas or apply a thick layer of mulch over few layers of newspapers. Mulching is much more comfortable after pruning (not so many branches to deal with).

February is the month to spray fruit trees with oil sprays (before they bud).

February is also a good month to prune deciduous woody plants before spring growth. Look up specific plants to find out the exact time for pruning. Reminder: Unless you have a better reason than tradition, don't cut any limb larger than a pencil off of your crape myrtle tree. As the professionals say, "Don't be a crape murderer." February is a good month to plant and prune roses.

Weeds are awaiting warm weather to take off, so if you see some, pick them. If you must use chemicals, this is a good month to apply a weed and feed product. Bare lawn areas, with lots of weeds, might be a sign of inadequate irrigation at that location. Nothing prevents weeds better than healthy turf.

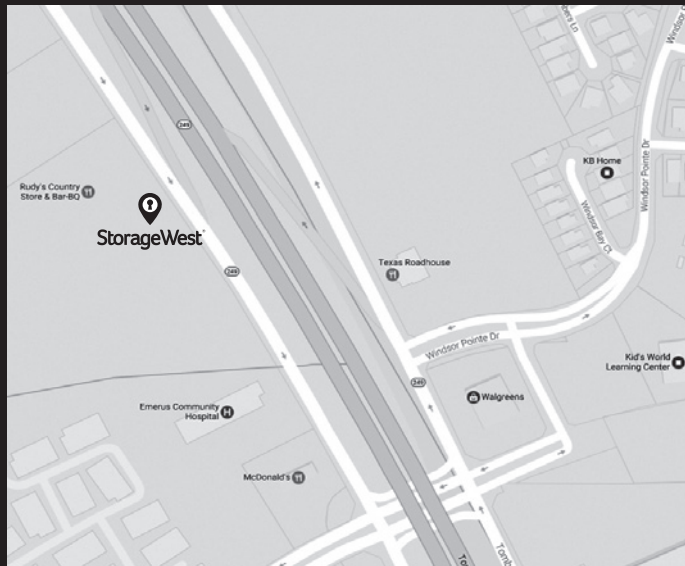
Houston set two records for 2017 at George Bush Airport: 79.7" of rain and the highest average yearly temperature: 72.7 degrees F.

INTERESTING TEXAS FACT

<http://texasfacts.facts.co/funtexasfactsabout/texasfacts.php>

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local attractions. These are not always free, and we pay for our own meals at local restaurants, but the prices are very reasonable. The bus sometimes stops by a Bucee's if it happens to be on the way.

Their web site is at <http://www.fun4seniors.org/>. You may need help the first time you use this, but you can find and reserve trips on this website. For more information, call the Senior Adult Program at 281-893-3726 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.



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