



Village Creek's Lake is a resting place for many of our local birds. An egret wades in the clear waters after a heavy rain.



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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

Village Creek Management Company ....[spectrumam.com](http://spectrumam.com)  
 .....832-500-2221  
 Village Creek Board Website.....[myvillagecreek.com](http://myvillagecreek.com)  
 Village Creek Website Unrelated to the Board  
 ..... [VillageCreekCommunity.com](http://VillageCreekCommunity.com)  
 Harris County Animal Control .....281-999-3191  
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 Municipal District Services (24 hrs) .....281-290-6503  
 ... For water leaks, water outages, water quality, or sewer  
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 ..... [www.centerpointenergy.com/outage](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage)  
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[customerservice@besttrash.com](mailto:customerservice@besttrash.com), and [www.best-trash.com](http://www.best-trash.com)

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#### NEWSLETTER

Publisher - Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181  
 Advertising .....[advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com), 888-687-6444  
 Editor.....Gordon R. Watson  
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## YOUR HOA FEES AT WORK

Check out Village Creek's ten new trash receptacles and doggy-bag-dispensing-stations. They are well-made, nice looking, and should last many years. The Board had noticed that the old ones were a bit battle-worn. Note also that there are no longer any troublesome trash cans on the doggy-bag-dispensing-stations. The new repositories will serve that purpose as well.



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## A HOUSE DETECTIVE MYSTERY

### *The Case of the Open Kitchen Drawers*

*Gordon R. Watson*

I enjoyed doing handyman projects around my mom's home. My dad died young (62), and mom died at 92 so she lived alone a long time. During visits, I didn't enjoy sitting around, but I did like to fix things for her. As a compromise, we talked as I worked. I genuinely appreciated that she cleaned up after me. By the time I was through with a job, I did not have to sweep or put much away because she had already taken care of that. I hate to clean up after a hard day's work. I do not remember if I ever told her how much I appreciated that. We think those around us will be here forever.

Built in the middle 1950's, she lived in her home until she died in 2002. The house had many features of that era including drawers fabricated by the contractor. Drawers back then did not have metal sliders as we have today. The slides were wood against wood. They worked fine, but on one of my visits, I decided that they could use a little bit of lubricant. I probably used silicon spray. That stuff is slippery. As I recall, there were about five or six drawers in her kitchen. They worked much better. It is a great feeling making something work better than it did.

The next time I visited, I noticed that all of the kitchen drawers were slightly open, maybe an inch. Puzzled, I asked why she left the drawers open. She responded that she did not. They opened themselves during the day. It was a mystery to her. Detectives love mysteries, at least those that are not self-created.

I pulled one of the drawers out and, using a flashlight, peered inside. Dang! Over the 45 or more years she lived there, the wooden drawers had worn a one-inch-high hill in the cabinet slides. As the drawers closed, they went slightly up these wooden "hills." I am sure the drawers loved this "hill" as they became sort of a sled...slowly sliding down during the next few hours. While there was sufficient friction before I lubricated them, the silicon lubricant was like wax on sled runners. I spent the next hour or so cleaning the lubricant off. It was not like her to complain about my unsuccessful projects. She was a glass-half-full sort of person who enjoyed every day of her life. I miss my mom.



## THE MINIMALIST DARWINIAN GARDENER

*By Flint Sage*

Hopefully, freezing weather is behind us (though always possible in the first two weeks in March). The record low for March was 19 degrees F in 2002. We had freezing rain in March 2014, so don't let your guard down just yet. Unless you don't mind covering plants before a freeze, don't plant any plant that cannot tolerate 18 degrees F. Our planting zone is #9.

Think about planting some vegetables. Those to plant in March are beans, corn, cucumber, eggplant, kohlrabi, mustard, peppers, pumpkin, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Kids love to pick them.

Bare root planting season is over, so any planting of woody plants should be from containerized plants. Among ornamental, woody plants that do well in our area are Ligustrum, Crape Myrtles, Wax Myrtles, Pineapple Guava, Purple Sage, and Bottle Brush. The Chinese Fringe Tree is stunning in March...even in the moonlight.

Our lawns are beginning to come alive again. Along with the grass will come some weeds. It is best to pull these as needed. Certainly, mow them if they are shading the lawn. In general, according to "Texas Gardner," don't fertilize until the grass starts growing and needs mowing. Fertilizing dormant grass will just encourage weed growth. The rule of thumb from them is, "fertilize when you have mowed twice."

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

*By Tnarg Nostaw*

Dog Math: Sit + Shake = Treat

### The Story of the World War I Egg

*Nodrog Nostaw*

The egg made it through the war, but he was shell-shocked. He was a cryptographer, so most of his messages were scrambled. He would have made sergeant if he hadn't been viewed as a country yokel.

He had a soft side, so he had a hard time in battle.

The war did affect him, but, fortunately, he always had a sunny side.

During the Battle of Meringue, he was peppered while under assault.

He had a hard shell, but a very few detractors said he was yellow on the inside.

Upon return, some say he is a mere shell of himself.

Still, by and large, he was a good egg who remains unbeaten.

## THE VOICE COOKS UP SOME VITTLES

Recipe provided (and slightly modified) by Kristin Jones of Village Creek and given five stars by the Editor and his wife.

Original recipe found at [CookingLight.Com](http://CookingLight.Com) or [MyRecipes.Com](http://MyRecipes.Com)



### YIELD:

6 servings (serving size: 1 1/2 cups soup and 2 teaspoons cheese) Sprinkle with cheese.

### INGREDIENTS:

1 teaspoon olive oil  
2 cups chopped onion  
1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper  
1 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
2 cups coarsely chopped spinach  
2/3 cup water  
1 (16-ounce) can navy beans, drained  
2 cups Fresh Vegetable Broth or 1 (14 1/2-ounce) can vegetable broth  
1 (14.5-ounce) can no-salt-added whole tomatoes, undrained and chopped  
1 (14-ounce) can quartered artichoke hearts, drained  
1 (9-ounce) package uncooked fresh cheese tortellini  
1/4 cup (1 ounce) grated fresh Parmesan cheese

### METHOD:

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add chopped onion, bell pepper, seasoning, and garlic; sauté 5 minutes or until tender. Add spinach and next 5 ingredients (spinach through artichokes); bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 2 minutes. Add tortellini; cook until thoroughly heated. Sprinkle with cheese.

## The Problematic Fireplace

*Gordon R. Watson*



Our fireplace has a standing pilot with a manual switch on the wall. The switch sometimes worked and sometimes didn't. Additionally, I also was concerned that the switch (which looks like a light switch) could be accidentally left on for long periods.

To solve these problems, we decided to buy a timer specifically designed for millivolt systems like this. We also considered remote-control switches, but both of us decided we have enough remotes around.

The timer has four settings: 30 minutes, 1 hour, and 2 hours and OFF. The brand we selected was Skytech. The item is pricey (\$100), but we figured that the risks associated with accidentally leaving the fireplace on is worth the extra cost.

I also cleaned the thermocouple lightly with fine sandpaper, and this seems to have helped the intermittent start problem.

While the installation is easy, any handyman job, particularly around natural gas and electricity should be left to those who know what they are doing. We should always consider the cost of fire engines and ambulances when we tackle any job.

# The Photo Shop

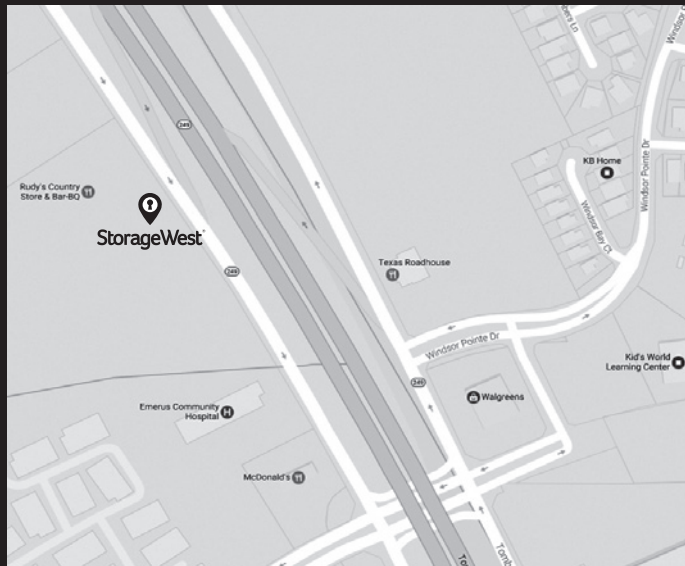
*By Flash Gordon*



*Gordon R. Watson*



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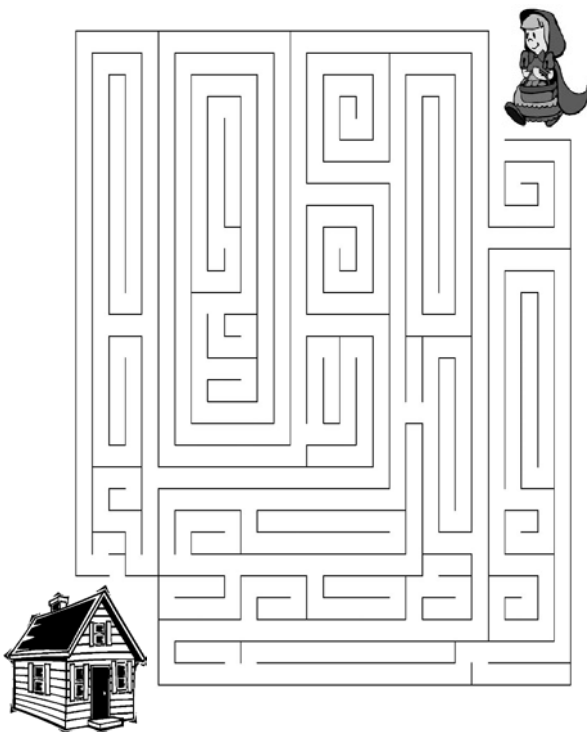
## Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Services provided by TWRC Wildlife Center include an emergency room for injured, ill, and orphaned wildlife, as well as a help-line; both the emergency room and the help-line operate 7 days a week. A veterinarian is on staff to assist with training and emergencies.

Our Center is open 7 days a week from 10am to 2pm. You can call there for help--713-468-8972. You can also try contacting us via our Facebook page or emailing [info@twrcwildlifecenter.org](mailto:info@twrcwildlifecenter.org). Those are monitored by volunteers so you may not get an immediate response.

## Kidz Maze Mania

Little Red Riding Hood has lost her way to Grandma's house. Please hurry and help her get safely to Grandma's House before it gets too dark.



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## SQUIRRELS

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



What do these three words have in common—grey, fox and flyer? If you guessed they are all in the squirrel family, you would be correct. Squirrels are the most widely known and recognized of mammals and inhabit all continents except Antarctica and Australia.

Squirrels have 4 front teeth, two on top and two on the bottom, that continue to grow throughout their lives. Constant gnawing helps to keep them short and sharp.

At TWRC Wildlife Center, we have two non-releasable grey squirrels that are used as Animal Ambassadors. These squirrels don't have access to the outdoors so TWRC must provide them with materials they would find in the wild to keep their teeth trimmed. One of the squirrels has a malocclusion, the result of a fall when he was a baby. Because of the injury, we must file his teeth every month. If not done, it would eventually cause his death because he would be unable to eat.

### Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

- Predominantly grey in color with a whitish belly.
- They are about 14 to 20 inches long with a 7 to 10 inch tail.
- They have 22 teeth.
- Tend to give birth twice a year.

### Fox Squirrels (*Sciurus niger*)

- This is the largest tree squirrel.
- They have a reddish-orange belly.
- They are 18-29 inches long not counting their tail which is about a foot long.
- They have 20 teeth.
- Can have two litters per year but typically only have one.

### Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*)

- There is a membrane, called a patagium, between their front and back legs that allows them to glide from tree to tree. They can glide up to 150 feet.
- They are nocturnal. This is the reason so few people ever see one.
- They are about 9 inches long with a 4 inch tail and weigh about 3 ounces
- Their preferred den sites are holes in stumps and cavities in trees.

Spring babies are already being brought to TWRC Wildlife Center. If you find squirrel babies, we are here to help. During business hours, we're happy to answer your questions over the phone—713-468-TWRC. If it's after hours, go to our website for helpful information: [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org).





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\*SOURCE: [www.RealSatisfied.com](http://www.RealSatisfied.com)



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