



VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 5 | MAY 2018

April's Yard of the Month is at 12430 Morning Rain Drive.



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

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A HOUSE DETECTIVE MYSTERY

The Case of the Overloaded Cabinet

Gordon R. Watson



We often hear that “your time is worth something” and “time is money.” Both of these are true, but when you are retired, things are a little different. Using my own time for repairs rather than using our limited money to buy someone else’s time makes a lot of sense (at least while my body and mind hold out).

My secretary (wife) and I have a morning planning meeting on our patio where we have coffee and share our plans for the day. Tomball’s weather is splendid most of the year. Spring is particularly wonderful. We can hear the birds happily chirping in the bushes. Occasionally, we get a whiff of spring flowers. Crape Myrtles are leafing out. We watch the birds have breakfast at our feeders. Of course, we watch the walkers out exercising or walking their dog(s) around our beautiful lake.

Over the past few days, after pondering buying a new one, I fixed a leak in our eight-year-old Delonghi Magnifica coffee maker (again). Fortunately, I got it all back together, and the coffee is delicious. No more leaks (for now). I had a light day scheduled. I would spend much of the day cleaning up the garage. I tend to neglect cleanup after jobs.

After our meeting, I backed my truck out. Hmmm. The garage storage cabinet doors needed some adjustment. The end door was about six inches below the adjacent door. Wait a second! The entire cabinet had dropped!

I had packed them to the gills with important stuff. I had even piled about fifty pounds of nuts and bolts in there. Unfortunately, everything has a structural limit. These cabinets are structurally sound, but every cabinet has its limits. I had exceeded that limit. The bottom shelf had cracked, and the side panel had dropped about six inches. Frankly, the cabinet was a mess.

It took about a day and a lot of thought, but I decided that I could attach a few 2x4’s with nuts, bolts, and washers to solidify the unit. After assuring myself that the entire shelf wouldn’t collapse and fall on me, I gingerly jacked it up with my trusty floor jack. Amazingly, the structure rose nicely into its original shape. With the jack still holding it, I attached several more structural boards with more than enough galvanized nuts, bolts, and washers. Slowly, I added legs and more support structure. Finally, to my satisfaction, I am pretty sure that it won’t fall again. Oh, I also am going to store my 50 pounds of nuts and bolts elsewhere.

Now I can focus on cleaning up my garage, assuming nothing else fails in the meantime.



CYPRESS FAMILY FESTIVAL

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- Games
- Photo booth
- Snow cones

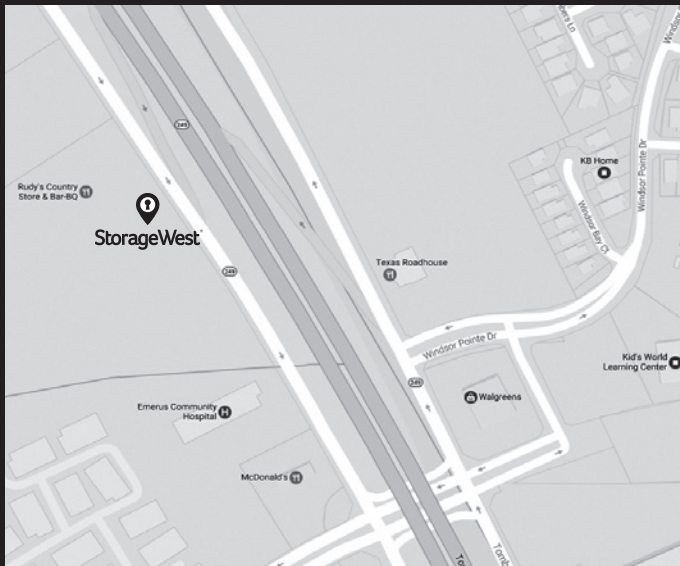
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THE EASTER PARADE AND EGG HUNT WAS PERFECT



Thanks to Village Creek volunteers, the Easter Parade and Egg Hunt was another wondrously fun and entertaining event. As always, the Social Committee Chairman, Lisa Rawles and her husband, Jimmy,

brought the event together and kept it running in expert fashion.

Joseph Cruz thankfully stepped up to be the event's star! He did an awesome job. Mellissa Cruz was kind enough to take photos of families with the Easter Bunny and kept the line flowing.

Dean, Denise, Adeline & Luke Gorby and Hailey & Brock Massey helped with decorating & getting the Easter eggs out for the hunt.

Amy Martin assisted with coordinating the children for the egg hunt, as well as picking up after the event.

Thanks to the Village Creek Board for providing approval and financial backing for this exceptional event.

THE VOICE COOKS UP SOME VITTLES CHICKEN ARTICHOKE DIP

Prep Time: 10 min
Cook Time: 5 min
Total Time: 15 min
Difficulty: 1 = easy
Serves: 8



INGREDIENTS:

1 can Kirkland Signature Chicken Breast in Water, drained
1 (15 oz.) can artichokes hearts, drained
1-cup mayonnaise
1-cup shredded parmesan
1 garlic clove, minced
2 green onions, chopped

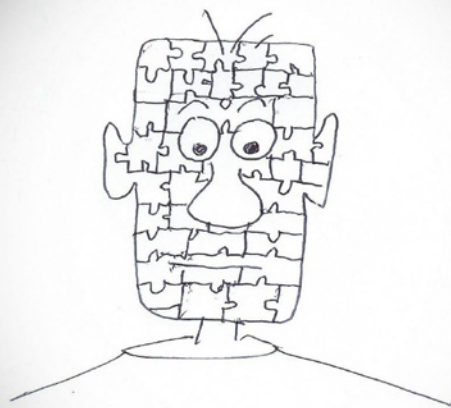
DIRECTIONS:

Squeeze excess liquid from artichokes and chop. Shred chicken. Mix to combine all ingredients.

Place in an oven-safe glass pie plate and microwave on high for 5 minutes.

Serve with corn chips, nacho chips, or crackers.

Grinley



There was little doubt that Grinley was a bit puzzled.

Andy Whitman

DON'T STOP ME IF YOU HAVE HEARD THIS ONE

By Nodrog Nostaw

I looked it up
and found out
that a forklift isn't
something you do
at dinner.



The Voice

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THE FIRE ANT OF TREES: THE CHINESE TALLOW

By Flint Sage with help from The United States Forest Service



The Fire Ant of trees is the Chinese Tallow. Three of these were removed from the Village Creek Spring Cypress entrance about four years ago, and it is likely

more will be removed and replaced with more suitable trees as funds permit.

The Chinese Tallow tree is fairly common in the Village Creek's public (and private) areas. It is estimated that about 50% of Village Creek's forest trees are now invasive Chinese Tallow. The Tallow is deciduous and will grow to 60 feet tall and 3 feet in diameter. It was originally imported to the United States in the 1700's in South Carolina and widely distributed in the Gulf States in an effort to create a soap industry. It is toxic to humans and some animals.

The United States Forest Service has advised that this tree is invasive and harmful to both American forests and wildlife because it will outcompete native species and reduce available forage areas for animals. Often, it will take over an entire forest. It propagates through seeds, cuttings, and roots. It particularly likes riverbanks. In fact several trees have taken root near Village Creek's bridge. It is likely the Village Creek bridge structure is slowly being lifted by one of its roots.

What can be done to get rid of them? For small trees, to assure complete destruction, apply a 20% Garlon 4 in oil). For large trees, apply directly to the stump after cutting down the tree (use Rodeo for trees growing in water). Pull seedlings up seedlings by hand. For a complete description of this harmful tree and additional comments, see the government web site: <https://www.fs.fed.us>

TREES IN FRONT YARD

According to the Village Creek Residential Architectural Guidelines (partially quoted), "...Lots in Village creek require a minimum of three front yard trees." Go to Spectrumam.com and sign in or sign up to read all requirements. The documents are filed under Home/For Homeowner/Community Information and select "Documents" from the little box. Be sure to get Architectural Review Board approval before starting any significant exterior change.

THE MINIMALIST GARDENER



This month, remove the dead Crape myrtle flowers to force more flower growth.

Fruit trees need lots of water now.

Vegetables: Heat tolerant vegetables can be planted now. Among these are sweet potatoes, pumpkins, squashes, okra and southern peas. Plant sunflowers. They are so fast growing. Kids love the big ones. Plant them at least 12" apart.

Trees: Fertilize this month and keep 4" of mulch around the drip line (but keep mulch away from the trunk). Upper horizontal root-tops should almost show.

If you haven't applied your spring lawn fertilizer, apply one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet soon. Want to save money on fertilizer? Consider a local feed store. What does Texas A&M say about buying fertilizers? Check out their web site on this subject. From: <http://aggieturf.tamu.edu/answers4you/fertilization.html>

We can expect the average temperature in May to be about 85, so we are definitely into the watering season. Got a continuously wet spot in your yard? It is likely an irrigation valve leaking internally possibly far away from the actual soggy area.

The photo: These Vegetables and grow well in the Tomball area during early summer (egg plant, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and figs).

Myth: Leaving grass clippings on lawn causes thatch.

Truth: Returning your grass clippings to the lawn will actually make the lawn greener because you are recycling essential nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium back to the soil.

Until next time, Happy Gardening!



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