



*The June Yard of the Month is at 12635 Edengrove. Thanks for keeping Village Creek beautiful!*





## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### IN CASE OF ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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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 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  
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)

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

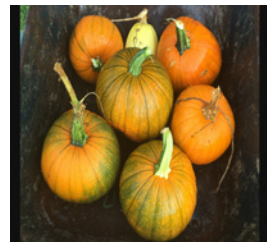
Publisher - Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181  
Advertising .....[advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com), 888-687-6444  
Editor.....Gordon R. Watson  
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## VILLAGE CREEK BOARD ELECTIONS

There are three Village Creek HOA Board positions available. For up to date information about the candidates, please read the information provided by Spectrum and [VillageCreekCommunity.Com](http://VillageCreekCommunity.Com).

## THE MINIMALIST GARDENER

*By Flint Sage*



**Vegetables:** This is a great month to plant eggplant, cantaloupe, okra, southern peas, sweet potato, pumpkin, and watermelon. If you have not tried battered, deep-fried okra at home, you haven't tried okra. I even like it raw and crunchy right off the plant or on a salad.

**Trees and Bushes:** Trees and bushes, particularly young ones, will need some water. Do not over-water, but allow the roots to be moist (neither wet nor dry). If it does not rain during the week, give them a deep watering. Dig down a few inches in the root area to check the moisture. For trees, it is desirable to have the soil damp (not wet) 12" below the surface. Fertilize new plants with a lawn fertilizer (about 1 to 2 cups per inch of trunk diameter). Water it in well! A berm around young trees will help you provide sufficient water to their young roots.

**Lawns:** We get a lot of rain in Tomball, but often not regularly. You will need to make up the deficiency using your irrigation system. Strive to irrigate weekly with deep watering. Deep watering encourages deep roots. Most people water too little too often. Note that irrigation timers can be set to water several times during one day to allow time for the water to absorb into the soil. For those areas having sparse grass, it is possible they are not getting enough water. Add or adjust sprinkler heads accordingly.

**Reminder:** Most experts advise keeping lawn clippings on the lawn. They are the same as adding fertilizer plus they enhance the soil over time. Cut lawns about 3" high.

**Personal Health:** Garden in the early morning if possible. Drink lots of water. Wear a hat and sunscreen. Use repellent. Consider kneeling on foam pads or kneepads. They protect the knees and also give you a bit of protection from fire ants. Wear gloves for the same reasons.

When bitten by fire ants, I recently discovered that the pain went away in about the same time by not doing anything rather than doing something. It is essential to brush the pesky critters away as quickly as possible, though.

Until next time, Happy Gardening!



# SPORTS PHYSICALS

FOR ALL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

**SATURDAY, JULY 28**  
**8 A.M. – NOON**

**Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine at Willowbrook**  
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- IMPACT Baseline Concussion Testing will be available for \$5 (athlete must be 12 years or older)

Call **281.737.2120** for more information.

## **DON'T FORGET:**

- Wear light, comfortable clothing
- Bring glasses or wear contacts, if you have corrected vision
- Bring your school physical form with medical history completed
- Bring signed physical consent form
- No appointment necessary

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## THE VOICE COOKS UP SOME VITTLES RANCH MIX SALTINE CRACKERS



Our neighbor, Lisa Stanford, sent some of these over, and we found them deliciously delectable, and wondrously crunchy. She makes hers with a product intended for this purpose called, "The Original) Savory Party Cracker Seasoning." This recipe is by Audrey from allrecipes.com.

### **An excellent snack for ranch lovers. Easy to make and cheap.**

- 1 (1 ounce) package ranch dressing mix
- 1-1/2 cups vegetable oil
- 1 (16 ounce) package saltine crackers

Place ranch dressing mix and vegetable oil in a 2-gallon re-sealable bag; seal and shake until well combined. Add crackers and shake until they are thoroughly coated. Set aside for 3 hours to allow crackers to absorb coating, shaking bag every 1/2 hour.

## THINKING HOLIDAYS?

The Ladies Auxiliary from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church will hold their 26th Annual Gingerbread Village Holiday Market on October 27, 2018.

If you are interested in showcasing your arts, craft, products, etc., consider joining us as a vendor this year!

For an application or more information regarding this event, please email: [gingerbreadvillage@yahoo.com](mailto:gingerbreadvillage@yahoo.com).

## A HOUSE DETECTIVE MYSTERY

### *The Case of the New Fence*

*Gordon R. Watson*

We recently had our fence replaced. We have four neighbors, and all of them agreed it was time. We can say that the fences lasted about sixteen years, which is not too bad. I do not enjoy putting up fences. Digging by hand, even with a posthole digger, is not much fun. It also is not easy to keep things level and plumb. I do like to stain fences to prevent the wood from deteriorating, and I do want to do the work myself. I stained the last fence we had built two years ago using a roller. The fence was about 100 long, and I think it took three or four days. Even then, the results were not very good because I missed several places. This time, our neighbor offered to loan me his paint sprayer, but I do not like to borrow things that can break. My theory is that if I borrow it and it breaks, I will have to buy him a new one. I might as well have bought a new one for myself in the first place. It seems like a win-win situation.

Anyway, to make a short story long, my secretary suggested that I buy a sprayer. The last time I bought a sprayer, I had to refill it every few minutes. It was a slow process that wasn't much fun. However, this time I found a Harbor Freight airless sprayer (#62915) which allowed drawing the stain right out of a five-gallon bucket. These cost about \$215, but I think I got it on sale with a 20% off coupon. A similar one at a hardware store cost almost \$300. Interestingly, the five-gallon container of stain costs about the same as Harbor Freight's sprayer.

Because I had a lot of fence to spray, I temporarily repurposed our garden wagon as a way to move the sprayer and paint around (without spilling paint). I actually could not believe how much fun it was to use this sprayer. It took me about four hours to stain over 300 feet of fence. I had enough left over to repaint a water feature cover as well (plus a quart for future touch-up).

I should add that it is imperative to follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and long-term storage. These things do not tolerate dry paint in their mechanism.





## VILLAGE CREEK BOARD AND COMMITTEE NEWS

Many ungainly and poorly pruned wax myrtles planted when Village Creek was new were removed and the otherwise empty beds were filled with sod. The plan of the HOA Landscape Committee is to replace these plants with other plants in different locations.

New Gold Lantana plants on Village Creek Trail killed by the winter freeze have been replaced and will be blooming yellow flowers all summer and fall long.

A proposal has been submitted to the Board to remove several invasive Tallow trees and other poorly growing trees around the bridge area. These will eventually be replaced with Bald Cypress which will match the other trees along the canal area.

The Landscape Committee Chairperson has notified her contact at MUD 5 about several areas of corrosion in the metal railing at the outflow area of the lake. They have also been asked to look at the outflow area to make sure that mud and silt are not hampering the outflow level. MUD 5 has reported that the lake is currently in good condition.

The Pool house had minor drywall damage in the two restrooms from last winter's freeze. This damage was repaired and repainted. The pool equipment is in good condition and ready for this year's

pool and splash pad fun.

The basketball courts have been improved with signs added which should discourage unauthorized use.



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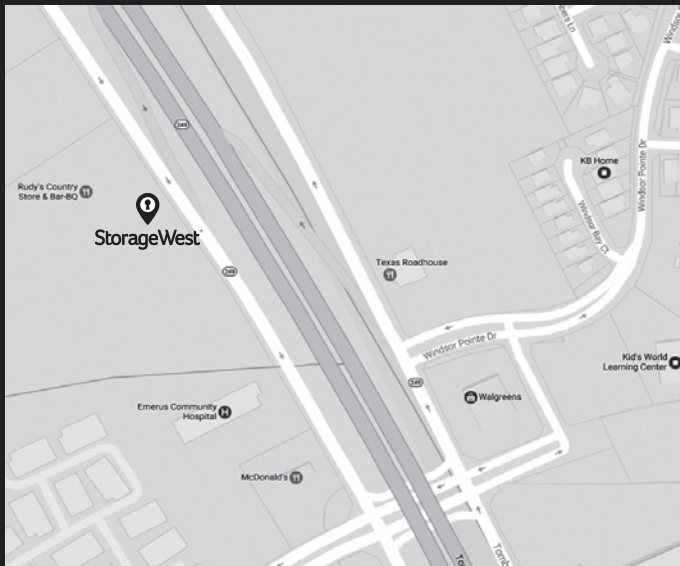
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## THE VILLAGE CREEK POOL AND SPLASH PAD ARE OPEN!



The Pool Grand Opening was on May 28th. Once again, with Board approval, the Social Committee succeeded in creating a Memorial Day extravaganza. Committee Chairperson, Lisa Rawles and her able assistant, Jimmy Rawles put on a splashy event with lots of good music, fun, food, drinks, and games. The weather cooperated, and a great crowd of delighted kids and adults turned out to enjoy the day.

## 2018 SOCIAL EVENT CALENDAR

*From Lisa Rawles, Social Committee Chairman and myvillagecreek.com. Check other sources like VillageCreekCommunity.com for updates.*

### Splash Pad:

- The Splash Pad will be open Tuesdays through Sundays from 9 AM to 8 PM and will be closed for maintenance on Mondays. The last day the splash pad will be open is Sunday, September 30, 2018.

### Pool:

- June 1 through August 19th: Closed Mondays for maintenance. Open Tuesdays through Sundays: 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- August 20th through September 23rd: Closed Monday through Friday. Open Saturdays and Sundays: 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM.
- Labor Day, September 3rd: 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Lap swim: 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM (No lifeguard on duty during lap hours). Closed Mondays.
- Fourth of July Parade - Wednesday, July 4, Parade 9:30 AM. Judging 10:00 AM.
- Back to School Luau & Kinder Meet & Greet - Saturday, August 18, Kinder Meet and Greet 10:00 AM Luau 11:00 AM. – 1:00 PM.
- Fall Garage Sale - Friday & Saturday, October 12 & 13
- Cookies with Santa - Sunday, December 2, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

## THE HOUSE DETECTIVE *The Cool Condensate Caper*

*Gordon R. Watson*

Have you ever wondered how much water the average Village Creek home's air conditioner produces during a summer day? I recently had an opportunity to (roughly) measure it during a recent repair project. We have two a/c units, and this study includes only one. The other a/c unit serves only one upstairs room separated with a closed door. This study is not yet ready for publication in Scientific American.

It turns out that the number at our home is about 13 gallons per day (extrapolated from three different days using a three-hour snapshot each day). If we assume that the air conditioner runs for six months, our house creates 2,340 gallons each year. If I multiply that number times the number of homes in Village Creek (747), our community produces 1,747,948 gallons per year. That is a big chunk of water 61 feet high x 61 feet wide x 61 feet deep. That amounts to about 4% of our sewage.

Where does this water go? In most cases, it flows by gravity from our attic's a/c unit, down a pipe in the wall, to a pipe under a bathroom sink, to the sanitary sewer. Some States do not allow air conditioning condensate to go to the sanitary sewer because the water is so clean that it does not need treatment and requires expensive processing costs and plant expansion. Those cities usually send it to the storm drain (commercial) or French drain (residential).

## NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY AGGIE MOM'S CLUB

**WWW.NWHCAGGIEMOMS.ORG**

Calling all NEW and current Aggie moms! We would love to see you at one of the Aggie Mom mixers this summer, hosted by the Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's club. This is a great opportunity for you to meet other Aggie moms, and to meet members of the NWHC Aggie Mom's Club, in a fun & casual get-together! The dates for the mixers are in June & July. Please check our website (above) for details on dates & locations. Come alone or bring another Aggie Mom with you! Dress is casual.

And please mark your calendars for Tues, August 14th at 6:30 pm. at the Houston Distributing Company, 7100 High Life Drive, Houston, Texas!! This our annual Howdy party, and a great way to meet other Aggie Moms, find out about upcoming events, and enter for a chance to win a door prize! We welcome all Aggie Moms, whether of freshman Aggies, current Aggie students or former Aggies. We'd love to meet you!

## BE AWARE BE PREPARED

### STRONG HURRICANE SEASON

**A slightly above average hurricane season is expected (from CNN.com).**

**The 2018 Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30.**

The Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project team predicts a slightly above average Atlantic hurricane season. The team forecasts seven Atlantic hurricanes and three major Atlantic hurricanes.

Basic Emergency Kit (go to <https://www.ready.gov/kit> for many more suggestions):

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench to turn off water and natural gas
- Manual can opener for food
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

## GUESTS IN YOUR ATTIC

*By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center*



Who doesn't enjoy seeing squirrels scamper from tree to tree? Everyone loves seeing birds at their feeders. Who doesn't love seeing the does with their fawns? We live side by side with wildlife. Is it any wonder that conflicts arise between humans and the animals?

This is baby season for raccoons. You may find that a mama raccoon has taken up residence in your attic or garage. The best advice we can offer you is to leave her alone. Within a couple of weeks, she will lead her babies out of your attic or garage to live in the wild. If you just can't wait, here are a couple of things you can try. Put a bright light in the area at night and play some LOUD music. Some say talk radio is best. You can throw some moth balls in the area or ammonia-soaked cotton balls. She will probably choose to move the babies to a darker, quieter place outside. When she moves out, it's your responsibility to find out how she got in and block the entrance or your attic will always look like an apartment for rent to wildlife.

We often receive calls from homeowners asking for advice on how to stop raccoons that are getting into trash cans. Solution: try using some bungee cords to secure the top. Another issue we hear about is that raccoons are eating food that is being put out for feral cats. Since raccoons are nocturnal, simply removing the cat food at night will fix the problem except in the spring when mama raccoons can be seen looking for food during the day. No, they are not rabid! They are just hungry. Some homeowners ask about trapping and relocating. While removal may seem like a solution, it usually only creates an enticing vacancy for another animal in search of a meal. Remove raccoons from an area and it's only a matter of time before others move in to take their place. Additionally, the survival rate of relocated raccoons is very low. Raccoons are territorial and putting a lone raccoon into an area already populated with other raccoons can often result in death as the other raccoons will consider him/her as an intruder.

There are products available that may help not only with raccoons but other animals as well. One such product is the motion-activated sprinkler. When an animal gets close to the food source, the sprinkler goes off and scares them away. Just do an internet search and I'm certain you'll find other products that may work as well.

With urban sprawl and loss of habitats, we need to learn to live in harmony with wildlife. TWRC Wildlife Center can often help you find solutions to your issues. Check our website at [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org) or call us at 713-468-8972.

An advertisement for Peel Inc. It features a large, stylized blue letter 'P' on the left. To the right of the 'P' is a red rectangular box with the word 'ADVERTISE' in white, followed by 'Your Business Here' and 'Call 512.263.9181 for details'. At the bottom right, the website 'www.peelinc.com' is listed.



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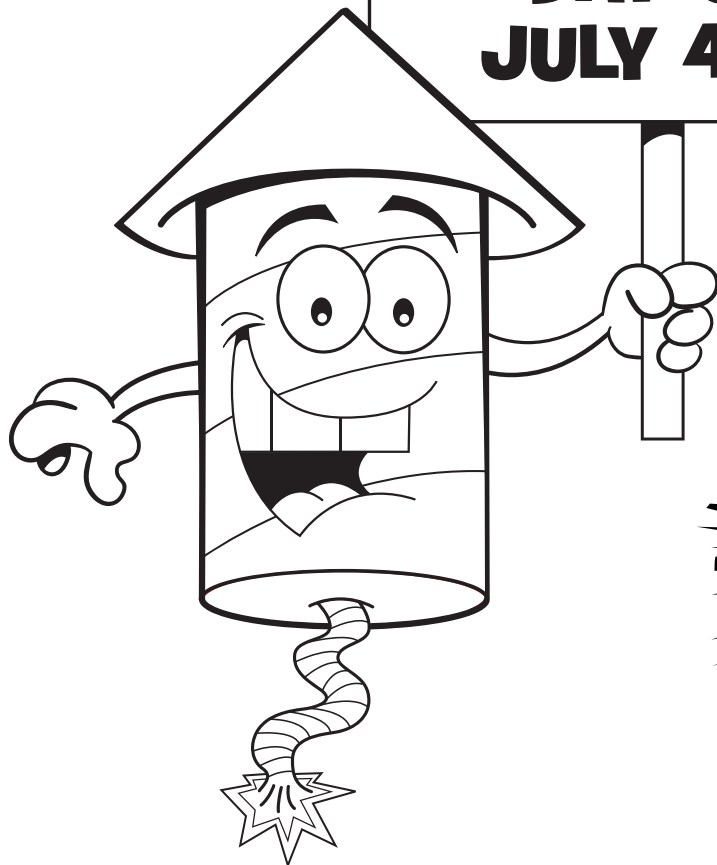
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