



VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 8 | AUGUST 2018



The July Yard of the Month is 17103 Ligustrum Trail. Thanks for keeping Village Creek Beautiful!

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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THE MINIMALIST GARDENER

By Flint Sage



Trees: Mature trees and bushes will need an inch of water every one to two weeks to stay alive. If your trees are in lawns, you will need to add a bit more water, as they are competing with the lawn for moisture. Younger trees will need even more water to keep their roots in moist soil. Do a slow soaking a few feet from the trunk to a foot or two beyond the canopy (outermost leaves). Summer is not a good month to plant trees or bushes because they need nearly daily watering. Hint: Never buy a plant in the summer and let it sit in the sun outside. It will surely die of thirst.

Lawns: Arrange to keep the mower clippings on the lawn. They act as fertilizer and add organics to our concrete-like clay soil.

Vegetables: August is the time to plant southern peas, okra, and peppers. In general, though, it is the worst month to plant most things as it is too hot!

Fall Color: If you want fall color, this is the time to plant marigolds and petunias. If using seeds, start them in a shady part of the yard. They will need daily water.

Mulch: Mulch keeps water in, keeps the heat out, and significantly reduces the need for weeding. Keep mulch six inches or so away from the tree and bush trunks. Lay down a minimum of three thicknesses of newspapers under the mulch. Wet the papers to keep them from blowing away before mulching.

Roses: Expect roses to look quite bad by late summer. In August, cut back between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the bush. Fertilize each rose with $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of ammonium sulfate in mid-August. Distribute the fertilizer around the drip line. If no blooms appear in the first week of September, add a second application. Water thoroughly after pruning and fertilizing.

2018 was a great year for tomatoes. In general, the smaller tomatoes do better than the large in our garden.

Fruit Trees: According to Texas Gardener Magazine, this is the month to stop fertilizing all fruit trees. I cannot say enough positive things about our Celeste fig tree this year: tasty and abundant figs. The Photo was taken in June, 2018.

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THE VOICE COOKS UP SOME VITTLES

PAULA'S CORN SPOON BREAD



Paula's Classic Corn Spoon Bread is somewhere between cornbread and custard (four servings)

INGREDIENTS

1 cup milk	1/2 cup chopped green onions
1/3 cup yellow cornmeal	2 large eggs, lightly beaten
1/2 tsp kosher salt	2 tablespoons butter,
1 cup shredded Cheddar, divided	cut in small pieces
1 cup canned corn kernels, (drained)	1/8 tsp ground red pepper flakes

DIRECTIONS.

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

In a medium saucepan, whisk together the milk, cornmeal, and salt. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until mixture has thickened, about 5 minutes. Stir in 1/2 cup of the cheese, the corn, and the green onion. Temper the eggs by slowly whisking some of the hot milk mixture into the beaten eggs. Stir the tempered eggs into the milk mixture. Pour the mixture into a 1-quart baking dish. Top with pieces of butter and sprinkle with the red pepper flakes and remaining 1/2 cup of cheese. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until center is set and cheese is lightly browned. Remove from the oven and serve immediately.

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/videos/paulas-corn-spoon-bread-0169347>

Village Creek Committees Updates

Social Committee (Lisa Rawles, Chair)

Remaining 2018 Events:

- The July 4th of July Parade and Party was cancelled because of the extremely wet and stormy weather.
- Back to School *Luau & Kinder Meet & Greet - Saturday, August 18, Kinder Meet and Greet @ 10:00 a.m. Luau @ 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Fall Garage Sale - Friday & Saturday, October 12 & 13
- Cookies with Santa - Sunday, December 2, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*The Kinder Meet & Greet takes place at the Splash Pad. The kindergarteners will meet their principal and a teacher or two. The Social Committee provides snacks and drinks as well as a few school supplies and crafts. It is a great time for children to meet other starting-school students. Public, Private, and Home Schoolers are all welcome, of course.

*At the Luau, there will be complimentary food & beverages, a DJ, games and prizes, as well as giveaways for everyone.

The Pool Committee

(Gordon Watson, Chair; and Stacy Cheeseman)

The Pool House and restrooms were recently given a complete wash-down and cleaning. The HOA now has a contract for weekly cleaning of the indoor areas as well as restroom and water fountain (supplemented by daily housekeeping). The Board purchased four new umbrellas to provide more table shade. Adult swim is available every day from 7 AM to 9 AM except Monday. Please note that both the pool and the splash pad are closed on Mondays.

The Landscape Committee (Sherry Watson, Chairman)

The Committee is working to remove trees and bushes, which are beyond their useful life or are invasive Chinese Tallow trees. A current proposal will remove dead pine trees in several areas, old poorly pruned wax myrtles near the lake, and tallow trees interfering with the growth of healthy trees, which can now grow normally. Some areas will be planted with sod while other areas will receive beautiful new plants. Several proposals were given to the Board for their approval, and new ones will be presented in the upcoming months. Our goal is to "Keep Village Creek beautiful."

The Architectural Review Board

(Steve Winter, Chair; Joe Wright, and Ben Yerby)

The ARC provided the following reviews: Roofs = 1, Fences = 6, Pool = 1, and Patios (Extend/cover/demo) = 3 for a total of 11 projects.

In June, the Village Creek Architectural Review Committee (ARC) processed 11 requests. To date this year, it has handled 70 requests.

Average turn-around time had been seven days. You can help the committee in this process. When filling out your application, please be detailed and always include a site map showing the work location. Be sure to add pictures, structural or design drawings and, if available, the bill of materials provided by your contractor (you may black out the costs and any personal information). If a pool or structure is

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

involved, be sure to show the dimensions of the pool or structure and distances to your property line (fence line) and easements.

Our goal is to turn around applications in 14 days or less. You can help the ARC keep turn-around time to a minimum by providing as much information as you can with the original application. Most delays are caused by having to go back to the homeowner with questions or to get clarifications.



Help the Volunteers on the Board and Architectural Review Committee keep Village Creek Beautiful.

The last thing the volunteers on Village Creek's Board want to do is ask anyone to redo a roof, fence, fence color, house color or anything else not complying with the HOA guidelines. It is time-consuming, expensive, and stressful for everyone. None of it is fun. In fact, it is awful. Only you can keep everyone (including yourself) happy. Whenever you want to do anything significant outside your home, please see if your project complies with the HOA Guidelines found on Spectrumam.com, and always get approval from the ARC. If you have any questions about your project, send Spectrum a note. Approvals take very little time and cost nothing: a bargain compared to having to redo something.



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