



Happy Holidays from Beautiful Village Creek!



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Tomball Memorial High School..... 281-357-3230
Transportation..... 281-357-3193

SERVICES

Village Creek Management Company spectrumam.com
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Village Creek Board Website..... myvillagecreek.com
Village Creek Website Unrelated to the Board
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THE HOUSE DETECTIVE The Mystery of the Christmas Night Flight

by Gordon R. Watson

I have always liked Christmas. The music is beautiful. Fragrances of fresh cookies and fir trees fill the air. The decorations are stunning. Our favorite candies are delectable. Snow falls gently for many. For children, there is the mystery of it all with thoughts of Santa Claus, elves, reindeer, and gifts.

Last year, because we wanted to see both sides of our family, we travelled on Christmas Day night. After a perfect Christmas dinner, we drove to Bush International. Of course, there was no snow, but it was still one of those mysteriously beautiful Christmas nights. We passed rows of homes covered with red, blue, and green lights. Very few cars travel on Christmas night. Christmas music played on the radio. I was immersed in the holiday.

I was looking forward to the flight to San Francisco. The plane would be nearly empty. The flight attendants would wear Santa hats and have delightful decorations hanging across the door. "Jingle Bells" would emanate from the plane's sound system. The fragrance of hot apple cider would hang in the air. There might even be a small pine tree with a few ornaments. To break up the monotony of the flight, the attendants would lead the small group of people on the plane in reciting "'Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Bush International was surprisingly busy. We carried and pulled our luggage inside and checked in. Christmas music faintly mixed with the noisy crowd. Christmas decorations covered the storefronts. Children went by with their Santa hats. We scurried to our gate. The wait was not long, and we were soon walking down the jet-way. I could hardly wait for the joyous experience awaiting us.

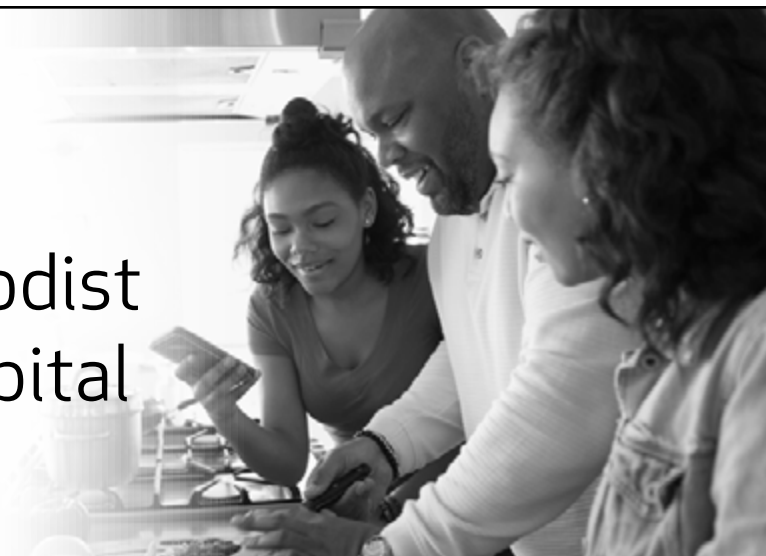
We went through the plane's door. The attendant welcomed us. Oddly, there was no holiday greeting. The plane fragrance was only that of an aircraft: jet exhaust, electronics, and oil. There was no spicy apple cider in the air. We walked down the crowded aisle. There were no delightful hanging decorations or Christmas tree: not even a fake one. There were no empty seats. As passengers stuffed luggage into the overhead bins, we squeezed by and made our way to our seats. Christmas had disappeared inside that holiday-less aircraft punctuated by the slamming and securing of the door.

The plane moved away from the gate. There was no snow falling on the wings. There was no sign of the holiday. The aircraft taxied for several minutes. Arriving at the runway, it stopped and turned. Pausing, the engines sped up, the brakes released, and we roared off into the dark, starry night.

Upon reaching altitude, an attendant walked down the aisle. When she reached our row and asked what we wanted to drink, I noticed

(Continued on Page 4)

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The Voice

Cookies with Santa



Do not forget Village Creek's Annual Cookies with Santa on December 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00. Bring your camera, lots of film, and your kiddies for a free photo opportunity with Santa or a great family picture in front of our stunning Christmas tree. With or without kiddies, drop by to hear the wondrous music, watch the frolicking fun, and have a piping hot drink and a delectable cookie or two. This terrific happening is organized yearly by creative Lisa Rawles, Social Committee Chair, and assisted by her busy helpers. We cannot promise snow, but we can guarantee all the ingredients of a good time.

(Continued from Page 2)

it. She had a small button on her lapel. I looked closely. It said, "It's OK to wish me a Merry Christmas." I looked at her, smiled, and said, "Merry Christmas." Settling into my seat, now content, I fell asleep and dreamed of hot cider, cookies, ribbon candy, gifts, fireplaces, Santa, snow and angels.

Merry Christmas to All.

Holiday Greetings from the Board

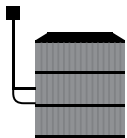


Cookies with Santa and The Holiday Decorating contest are the December events not to miss. Both can be enjoyed by adults and children of all ages. Be safe and, above all, have an enjoyable Holiday Season.

Your Volunteer Board,

Greg Davis, Brian Martin, Cynthia Moody, Ty Thomas and Gordon Watson

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Committees Report

Architectural Review Committee:

Steven Winter, Chair; Joe Wright, and one other Volunteer.

Note: The ARC needs more members. Please consider volunteering for this valuable position.

The ARC processed seven requests in October: Two roofs, one Patio Cover with outdoor Kitchen, one window replacement, one fence, and one shed. One application was received for backyard landscaping but did not require ARC approval.

Written by Steven Winter:

The holidays are upon us, and it is time once again to decorate our houses in the holiday spirit (as well as make the electric companies very happy with the additional revenue). The Village Creek Guideline says, "Holiday decorations are permitted and will not require approval. Decorations may be installed no sooner than 30 days prior to the holiday and must be removed within 15 days after the holiday for which they are intended. The ARC reserves the right to require the removal of decorations that either generate complaints or are deemed offensive."

I do not think we have ever had to do that but please be mindful of light pollution and how it may affect your neighbors. I have always been impressed by the decoration in our community and, as always, I urge you to be careful when you put up your decorations especially this year. We have had a lot of rain and the ground is soft, be sure your ladder is well supported and you have taken all safety precautions in consideration before you climb on your roof. The holiday will be much merrier if you are not in a cast or worse.

Pool Committee:

Gordon Watson, Chair, Stacy Cheeseman, Member

The Board has approved replacing the unsafe shelving in the Social Committee storage closet. Other minor repairs will take place as well. The Committee invites any suggestions about the pool or pool house. Send them to Watson.g@sbcglobal.net.

Landscape Committee:

Sherry Watson, Chair, Kristin Jonec and Laura Domangue, Members

As a courtesy to Village Creek, Precinct 4 notified the HOA that trees on Village Creek Trail and Lake Vista Drive West needed trimming. This allowed the Board and the Landscape Committee to postpone the Precinct 4 trimming and trim our trees. We raised the canopy to a height of 14 feet leaving our oaks in a lovely well-manicured condition. About 101, street trees were trimmed in this first phase. There are around 100 more HOA-owned street trees that still require trimming. As the budget allows, trees near sidewalks and trees located in open park-like areas will require trimming as well.

The focus of the Landscape Committee beginning in February has been to remove dead, dying, invasive, overgrown, misplaced trees and shrubs. The intent is to eliminate or reduce some landscape beds using sod which is more affordable. No planting of grass has been done since March due to bids being unaffordable and unacceptable. No landscape plants were planted under the direction of the Committee. There are a number of proposals for improvements before the Board some which have been approved, but landscape contractor issues and concerns about the budget have postponed the completion these proposals.

Holiday Decoration Contest Guidelines

The Landscape Committee will again take on the impossible task of determining which of the hundreds of beautifully decorated Village Creek homes deserves to be recognized as a winner. Landscape Committee members will do the judging. Above all, the Committee thanks all of those residents who go to the effort to bring some happiness into all our lives by sharing a great American tradition. Work safely, drive safely, and enjoy this Holiday Season.

Categories

Best Overall House
Most Festive
Most Traditional
Kids' Choice
Honorable Mention (5)



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The Voice Cooks Up Some Vittles *Grandmother's Sandwich Cookies*



Submitted by April Watson and given five stars by her family and friends.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 slightly beaten egg whites
- 1/2 cup finely chopped blanched almonds (optional)
- 1/4 cup pearl sugar (or substitute regular sugar)
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup raspberry jam

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 375°. Cream together butter and 3/4 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg. Sift flour and salt together; add to creamed butter mixture. Mix thoroughly.

Divide dough in half. Roll first half into 1/8" thickness on a lightly floured surface. Use a 2 1/2" round cookie cutter (or the top of a round glass) to cut out circles.

Roll second portion out into 1/8" thickness. Cut out 2 1/2" circles and then use a thimble to cut out smaller circles inside these rounds (Note: You can also use a linzer cookie cutter or a small 1/2" cutter for this).

Brush these "wheels" with egg white and sprinkle with pearl sugar and chopped almonds (optional).

Place cookies on ungreased baking sheet and bake on center rack of oven for 8-10 minutes. Remove and cool on counter.

Place a scant 1/2 tsp. of jelly in the middle of the round cookies and cover with the "wheels" to create sandwich cookies.

Yield: 3 1/2 dozen jelly cookies.

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