



Photo by Grant Watson

***VILLAGE CREEK IS BLESSED WITH BEAUTIFUL SCENERY.
THESE ARE AMONG THE OLDEST OAKS ON OUR PROPERTY.***

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 Companyspectrumam.com
Email: villagecreek@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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Village Creek Committee Reports

ARC Committee (Steven Winter, Chair; Joe Wright; and one other Member)

During December 2018, there were no ARC requests received or processed. Guess everyone was busy doing other things.

Over the last couple of months, I have had discussions with several homeowners about contractor/homeowner responsibilities after a project is complete. The HOA holds the homeowner responsible for returning their property and Village Creek common property to the same state as when the project began. Usually, this means re-sodding, replacing fences removing excess soil and in some cases replacing bushes moved or damaged during the project. In extreme instances in which community sidewalks, curbs or streets have been damaged this can become very expensive very quickly.

Ensure that your contract with the contractor spells out the remediation they will perform and that they will repair any damages they do to community property so that you don't get caught holding the bag on a big repair bill. Most contractors are very good about this and take care when operating their equipment in the neighborhood, but it is always good to discuss this issue with them before the project begins. It is also a good idea to take some pictures of the access path they will be using and the street and sidewalks in front of your house and your property before the project begins.

Pool Committee (Gordon Watson, Chair, and Stacy Cheeseman)

With the pool closed, the Committee is repairing and maintaining the area including deck cracks, painting, replacing a tabletop, replacing dangerous shelving in the Social Committee Closet, changing hose faucets, and several other projects. We are also working on a Request for Quotation for the Pool Maintenance Contract.

Landscape Committee (Sherry Watson, Chair; Laura Domangue, and Kristin Jonec)

The Committee was busy in December doing the impossible job of judging holiday decorations. This year there were many outstanding displays, but we had only nine awards to give out. We thank all who participated in making Village Creek a winter wonderland.

Regrettably, the committee has planted nothing and made no improvements since the new Board started in July because of financial and landscape contractor concerns. We hope to improve the appearance of large beds that are filled with overgrown plants and invasive Tallow trees. The Board and Committee pruned all of the HOA-owned 200+ street to the 14' level required above the street to avoid County-one-sided-pruning. We encourage all residents to examine their street trees and prune them to a 14 foot clearance. It takes just one phone call reporting tree branches extending into the street for Precinct 4 to send out a one-sided trimming crew.

Social Committee (Lisa Rawles, chair)

The Social Committee's next event is the Spring Community Garage Sale on Friday and Saturday, April 5th & 6th. Individual residents host the sale rather than assemble at a central location. The Social Committee will put up large signs at our two main entrances. Please avoid putting signs on mailboxes, stop, or street signs and remove all signs as soon as feasible.

KNOW YOUR RISK

Take this first step in protecting yourself against heart disease. Join the experts at Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital for:

- Free heart screenings, including cholesterol and blood pressure readings, to learn your 10-year risk for heart disease
- Talk with an expert about your results

Free Heart Screening Event
Thursday, Feb. 28 | 6-8 p.m.

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital
18220 State Hwy. 249
Conference Center, 1st Floor
Houston, TX 77070

Light refreshments provided.

Visit houstonmethodist.org/heart-event to reserve your spot.

Not Available Online

Note to Teenage Job Seekers

A bright resident recently suggested that we change the ages in "Teenage Job Seekers" to Year of Birth rather than Age. This change makes a lot of sense because it avoids the need for a yearly update. Before we can implement that new system, we will need the following for each teen:

1. Year of birth.
2. Any other changes.
3. Your email address (to allow us to contact you without phoning).

Please send changes via email to watson.g@sbcglobal.net. If we do not hear from you before February 28, 2019 (we would greatly prefer hearing before February 9), we will (sadly) remove you from the list. Do not fret though. We will reinstate you if you send us a note with updated information.



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Village Creek Social Event Schedule 2019

Spring Community Garage Sale

Friday & Saturday, April 5 & 6

Easter Parade & Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 13, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Pool Grand Opening Party

Saturday, May 25, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fourth of July Parade and Pool Party

Thursday, July 4, Parade 9:30 a.m. Judging 10:00 a.m.

Back to School Luau & Kinder Meet & Greet

Saturday, August 17, Kinder M&G 10:00 a.m.

Luau 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fall Garage Sale

Friday & Saturday, October 11 & 12

Cookies with Santa

Sunday, December 8, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.



The Case of the Dead Coffee Maker A House Detective Mystery

Gordon R. Watson

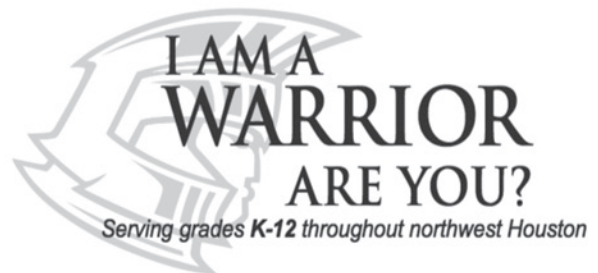
Our Delonghi coffeemaker recently died, or so I thought. We have owned it for about ten years, and I have fixed it about five times. It was a house-warming gift when we first moved here. I cannot imagine I would have bought one on my own, but I genuinely enjoy its excellent coffee. It automatically grinds the coffee, runs water through ground beans, and fills the cup. Anyway, to make a short story long, as I was about to take it out to the garage to repair it, my secretary mentioned that I should check the outlet. Duh. What would I do without her? I used my handy outlet tester (Everyone should have one of these (\$5.50 at Harbor Freight or any hardware store for a bit more). This tool is like a mini-detective. It tells you if the outlet is grounded, missing a neutral, missing a hot, has reversed wires, or is correct. Amazing! Buy one as a gift for anyone: man or woman.

Knowing that the kitchen outlets, by the National Electric Code, must be on a Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI), I started sleuthing around. The GFI on the other side of the kitchen had tripped. I reset it. The GFI outlet worked fine, but the one feeding the coffee maker was still dead. I shut off the power, removed that outlet, and checked the connections. All were tight.

Then I checked the actual GFI and pulled it out of the wall. Aha! The hot lead had entirely separated from the outlet. I tightened it and secured the outlet back in the box. After putting the cover plate back on, I tested the GFI and checked the coffee maker's outlet. Eureka. All was well at the House Detective's home.

Loose wires can cause fires. If you ever notice anything funny like a flickering light or burnt wire fragrance, have a qualified handyman or electrician check it out.

CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



11123 Cypress N. Houston Road, Houston, TX 77065 | 281.469.8829 | CypressChristian.org

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The Minimalist Gardener

By Flint Sage

A&M recommends turning your lawn sprinkler system off during winter if we receive normal rainfall. Drain your irrigation backflow preventer before hard freezes (anything below 32 F to be safe). Parts for repairs cost \$30 or so.

Vegetables: Many seasonable vegetables can be transplanted this month including, onions (sets), mustard, collards, and kale. Protect them with blankets when freezing is predicted. Sow seeds for carrots, beets, turnips, and radishes.

Freezing: Minimalist Darwinian Hint: Never plant anything here that cannot tolerate 18 degrees F or so. That was the most recent Tomball low (2002). We had three days of well below freezing weather in early January 2017 (21, 24, and 21 degrees F). These temperatures damaged many plants. In our yard, the plant winning the Minimalist Gardner Darwinian Gleaming Star Survival Award is the Kale. Several varieties of Kale didn't even notice the low temperatures. We are in Zone 9A (20 to 25 Degrees F).

Fertilization and Mulch: Apply light fertilizer to all plants. Maintain a layer (2" to 3") of mulch throughout the year to assist in keeping moisture in and weeds out. Note that in areas with shade, weeds tend not to be a problem. Weeds love open areas, so either plant these areas or apply a thick layer of mulch over few layers of newspapers. Mulching is much easier after pruning (not so many branches to deal with).

Spraying: This is the month to spray fruit trees with oil sprays (before they bud).

Pruning: February is a good month to prune deciduous woody plants before spring growth. Look up specific plants to find out the exact time for pruning. Reminder: Unless you have a better reason than tradition, don't cut any limb larger than a pencil off of your crape myrtle tree. As the professionals say, "Don't be a crape murderer." February is a good month to plant and prune roses.

Grass: Weeds are awaiting warm weather to take off, so if you see some, hand pick them. If you must use chemicals, this is a good month to apply a weed and feed product but keep it away from plants other than grass. Bare lawn areas, with lots of weeds, might be a sign of inadequate irrigation at that location. Nothing prevents weeds better than healthy turf.

Rainfall: Normal rainfall is about 50" here. In 2018, we received about 60."

Do you want to contact the Board?

The Board's new website at villagecreek.us is quite amazing. Did you know that you can go there, click on CONTACT, and send all of the Board members a message within a minute? Another option is to send both the Board members and the Management Company a message. Either way, it is fast and effective.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." -Aesop

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