



VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 5 | MAY 2019



*The April, 2019, Village Creek Yard of the Month is located
at 12722 Briar Harbor Drive.*

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

IN CASE OF ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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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
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 Control281-999-3191
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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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

Landscape Committee Report

Sherry Watson, Volunteer Chair



Volunteer Members, Kristin Jonec and Laura Domangue
Sod will soon be planted to fill in areas where pine trees died to the East of the pool. Areas near Ajuga Court where wax myrtles, one large pine tree leaning toward a home, and a Chinese Tallow tree were removed next to resident's homes will be planted with sod. Sod will also be planted in empty areas near the northeast corner of Village Creek Trail and Lake Vista East. Empty beds on Village Creek Trail, on Lake Vista West near Ligustrum Trail, and on Lake Vista West between Mossy Ledge and Opal Valley will be planted with sod as funds allow.

The Landscape Committee is currently working on a Master Plan which will include prioritized landscape improvements for the future. Some future suggested improvements in no order at this time that are being considered in the plan are:

1. Landscape the five islands
2. Add five bald cypress trees near the bridge area of the lake (Board approved)
3. Reduce the number of annuals with more affordable perennials
4. Plant evergreen plants in open grassy areas
5. Plant more Basham Party Pink Crape Myrtles on Lake Vista West near Mossy Ledge.
6. Reduce landscape bed size throughout Village Creek using sod to make the beds a more affordable size
7. Plant oaks on the sidewalk around the lake
8. Trim all oaks that have not been trimmed in Village Creek to promote growth
9. Continue with Phase 2 to protect our two forests by removing invasive Chinese Tallow trees, vines, dead understory plants, etc.
10. Improve an area on Scarlet Forest Drive which has been neglected for years.

The Landscape Committee welcomes ideas from residents that could be added to the Master Plan.

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Three Live Oak Trees No Longer Required



Village Creek now requires only two trees in your front yard (and even that is negotiable). Take a good look at your yard and maybe bring a long tape measure with you. A Live Oak (which most of us have) will grow to 40' to 80' tall and spread 80'. The trunk can attain a diameter of 9.5'. The accompanying photo shows a Live Oak in the older part of Tomball. It shows the scale of what you can eventually expect in your yard. One Live Oak can dwarf a home. Before you make any exterior changes such as removing a tree, submit an Architectural Review Committee (ARC) request through our management company, Crest. You will find that the ARC and Crest are **EXCEPTIONALLY** user-friendly.

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Village Creek Committee Updates

Architectural Review Committee: Steven Winter, Chair; Joe Wright, an Anonymous Volunteer, and John Mudd.

So here we are. The new management company is on board, and as with any change in management, there are differences. First, and most important, the old process of filling out a paper form and mailing it or scanning it and emailing it to the management company for an ARC approval is gone. It's all done online now. All the requirements for submission are still the same. You will need to submit the supporting documents, plat drawing, pictures and descriptions of work BUT it is all done in one place now.

To start the process, you need to go to the Crest Management web site at crest-management.com and select exterior modification (hint: it's in the middle of the page under "Home Owner Login"). From there you will be asked to enter your address, and the process begins. After answering several questions, filling in the blanks and attaching the supporting documents your application is submitted. I did the process several times myself, and each time I got an acknowledgment back from Crest within minutes.

You don't need to be a registered user with a login to submit an Exterior Modification request, BUT I would encourage you to take a few minutes and register for a homeowner account. Registering will allow you access to your HOA account, documents, notifications and a whole range of other benefits. It is well worth the time and effort.

As always if you have questions or issues, feel free to contact me. I will be glad to assist. Steve Winter, Chairman ARC Committee, stevenfwinter@gmail.com 713-724-6576.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot. This will probably be the last month we will report application numbers. Going forward they will be reported by the management company. In March, there were seven requests processed. All were approved in an average of five days. There were three roofs, two fence requests, one patio cover and one front door replacement.

Social Committee

Lisa Rawles, Chair

Summer will start for families with a Pool Grand Opening Party on Saturday, May 25, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Expect to be entertained by a superb DJ, games,

food, drinks, and fun.

The Committee recently installed two new shelving units in the Social Committee closet. These worked well to organize the area and, above all, solve a safety and storage issue with the old shelving.

Pool Committee

Gordon Watson, Chair and Stacy Cheeseman, Member

We have a new pool management company as of April 21st. The Board requested and received bids from three bidders. The Board chose Aquatics Management. They were the lowest bidder (\$36,650/year) and, in discussions, they seemed have good ideas about lifeguard work ethic. They also had advice about electrical safety which others did not. While time will tell, we believe that they are a good company. The contract costs have been about the same since at least 2015 when it was \$36,342 per year. Their responsibilities are to provide lifeguards, maintain floors, pool, splash pad and decks. The Board spent about \$13,000 this year maintaining the building, deck, fencing, furniture, and fences. We have ordered a new shade for the east-most table. It was over five years old and ripped by a vandal.



The Voice

Our Tax Dollars at Work

Harris County Precinct 4 and its storm drain repair crew recently saved Village Creek money (and from having a potential accident) at Eagle Ledge and Lake Vista West.

This crew has repaired four separate Village Creek sinkholes above storm drains. Caused by storm drain piping gaps, sinkholes allow surface water and soil to migrate through the earth to the storm drainpipe and create a sinkhole at the surface. They are undesirable because they remove dirt from our landscape, add silt to our lake, and can cause people to fall.

One Samaritan Village Resident (J.R.) recently found a 48" deep sinkhole under a sidewalk at Eagle ledge and Lake Vista West. At his suggestion, a Board Member contacted Precinct 4 at <https://www.hcp4.net/assistance/> to see if they would repair it. Sure enough. They were out within a few weeks. This repair saved Village Creek \$425 (real dollars) for this particular sidewalk repair (and the potential for a sidewalk collapse and an accident). Of course, nothing is free, but at least our tax dollars are coming back to our community.

If you notice a sinkhole, please contact the Board at villagecreek.us and give us an exact location. If you prefer, contact the county directly.

By the way, Precinct 4 has limits. They will not repair sidewalk damage unless it is caused by a storm drain problem.



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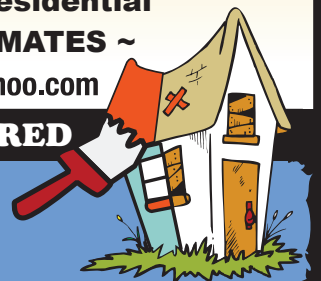
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As a successful real estate agent, I specialize in real estate marketing and will create a comprehensive customized plan with you to showcase your home.

Please feel free to call or email me anytime with questions.



Kara Puente

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