



WE ARE THANKFUL TO THE BOARD, LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE, AND LAND CRAFTERS FOR PLANTING SIX NEW BALD CYPRESS TREES AT OUR BEAUTIFUL LAKE.

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	Pam Hummel
Email.....	pam.hummel@crest-management.com
Phone.....	281-945-4618, Site Mgr.
Website.....	www.Crest-Management.com

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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.....	villagecreek@peelinc.com or Watson.g@sbcbglobal.net

Word from the Board

By Cynthia Moody, Board Treasurer



At the beginning of my first term as Treasurer of the Village Creek Board, I have to admit that I had no idea what I was supposed to do. I envisioned that the management company would tell me what the job encompassed. That wasn't the case as there was no internship. As Treasurer, I decided to start being proactive, so I began to look at the budget and ask to see

invoices. Our previous management company was slow to give them to me, and I realized with much help from the other board members that something was not right. We finally got copies of some invoices which didn't seem to match what we were told. We began to ask questions and realized that Village Creek was paying extra for services that were already within our original contracts. Not only that, but we were charged taxes even though we are a tax-exempt entity. We complained and finally, after many phone calls and emails, returned to the original contract costs.

In the meantime, our management company representative informed us that he was leaving. Long story short, we begin searching for a new management company and now have Crest Management who does have training for new and old board members. I surely wish that I had had that training before and do appreciate it. Now, in my second term, I see all invoices before payment and check that they are for approved services and not charging taxes.

Thank you for reelecting me. I am still learning so much about being a good board member. It is a pleasure to represent you and also work with the fantastic Village Creek Board Members as well as all of our wonderful volunteers.

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The Minimalist Harris County Gardener

By Flint Sage

When a "hard freeze" is forecast, make sure you drain and cover your backflow preventer (and any other exposed pipe).

Stick with Darwin's Theory and buy plants for our USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9a (20 to 25 Degrees F). Houston is not tropical during the winter.

If you cannot turn the backflow preventer valve handles, slip a 1" x 24" PVC pipe over them. The leverage will make it easy to turn the valves. Hardware stores often sell 24" lengths, which are perfect.

Vegetables grow year' round in Harris County. You can plant these vegetables in November: carrots, lettuce, onion multipliers, parsley, radishes, and spinach.

Pull out those annuals that die and cut back the perennials to the desired height.

Watering: Greatly reduce watering during the winter. If there is no rain during the month, water everything at least one time. For those who use an irrigation timer, it is an excellent time to make the "seasonal change" as explained in your instruction manual. Remember, if we have a dry-spell that all plants need an occasional drink, even in the winter.

November is a great time to plant trees and bushes.

According to Texas Gardener, don't fertilize in November. Wait for spring.



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The Voice

Landscape Committee

Sherry Watson, Chair

Laura Domangue and Kristin Jones, Members

The Landscape Committee recently arranged with the Board for Land Crafters to plant six new Bald Cypress trees near the bridge. Most of the trees along the stream and lake are Bald Cypress. Bald Cypress have the following characteristics:

- Highly shade-producing.
- Can grow 50' to 70' tall and spread to 25'.
- They grow up to two feet in height per year.
- Require six hours of direct sun or more.
- Are a deciduous conifer.
- Features short needles arranged in pairs along slender branchlets. Their coloring ranges from yellow-green in spring to soft green in summer to reddish- or orangish-brown in autumn.
- Yields cones that appear as little globes approximately 1" in length that contain triangular seeds and are attractive to wildlife.
- Grows in a pyramidal shape.
- Adapts well to wet and dry conditions.
- Develops "cypress knees" only in wet conditions.
- The purpose of the "knees" is unknown.
- Is the State Tree of Louisiana.
- Native to East Texas and much of the East Coast.



Reminder: Our Village Creek Street Trees

The Editor

Village Creek residents have thousands of beautiful Live Oak trees in their front yards. These trees are now maturing and creating a stunning canopy over our streets. For school bus safety (and other vehicles), we must maintain a 14' clearance over the road (and 8' above sidewalks). If we do not voluntarily keep these clearances, Precinct 4 will come out and make sure that happens. Because these trees do not belong to Harris County, their "pruning" is not a beautification effort. Instead, it is probably an incentive for us to take care of our trees. The Voice hopes that we will all take care of our trees and avoid Precinct 4's help.

(Continued on Page 6)

Village Creek Architectural Review Committee

Members: Joe Wright, John Mudd, Steven Winter, and Ben Yerby

By Steven Winter, Chair

Last month I wrote about the new rules on Solar Panels. Some residents have asked me where these rules come from and where they can find them. Well, here is the simple answer: The founding members of The Village Creek Association drafted and filed with Harris County a set of restrictions entitled "Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Village Creek" and "The Village Creek Community Association Architectural Policy." With each new Village Creek Section, the declaration was extended to cover that section.

You should have received a copy of the document with your closing documents at the time of your home purchase. By buying a property in the Village Creek neighborhood, the homeowner agrees to abide by these rules and conditions for the common good of all residents. The enforcement of these rules is the duty of the elected HOA Board and the Management Company working on their behalf.

In order to make these rules more understandable, the Board was given the power to publish guidelines. These guidelines define and detail how the Board wants to enforce the restrictions and conditions in the Covenants and Policies documents. While the Covenants and Policy documents require a 2/3 majority of the residents to change, the guidelines only require a simple majority Board vote. The original guidelines needed updating for the situations of today, so the Current Board asked the Architectural Review Committee to draft changes to the Guideline document. After many months of review and work by the Board and the ARC Committee, the revised Residential Architectural Guidelines are nearly ready for public review and comment.

Over the next several months, the Board will publish and seek comments from the residents on the revised guidelines. The exact method for public review is currently under discussion. In the next several editions of The Voice, I will explain several of the major changes and how you can make your voice be heard. Don't miss this opportunity to shape our community.

If you have never seen the Covenants, Architectural Policy or the current Guidelines, they are available for reading and download on the Crest Management and VillageCreek.us.



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The Voice

(Continued from Page 4)

While it is easiest to hire a tree pruner, if you are able and need the exercise, my friend, Joel, told me that he loved his Black and Decker PP120 20-Volt Lithium-Ion Cordless Pole Saw (\$129 or so). I bought one, and I love it too! I am in my mid-seventies but found it reasonably easy to prune our two front yard oaks. One battery charge, remarkably, lasts longer than I do. I strongly suggest you read up on it and also check out YouTube videos to learn how to prune. Hint: Remove any branch that is heading downward. Do a little at a time. I cut and bag the limbs and try to put them out no later than 5:00 PM before trash pickup the next day.

Above all, stay safe. Chain saws are extremely dangerous and deserve respect.

Getting to Know the Volunteers

Steven Winter, Architectural Review Committee Chair

Steven Winter was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and attended various schools leading to a degree in Industrial Electronics. Then, in 1969, Uncle Sam canceled his student deferment and sent him on an all-expenses-paid trip to South East Asia.

For the next 25 years, Steve served in the military or as a technical mercenary visiting many of the 'garden spots' in the world doing many 'interesting' things.

Finally, in 1994, he decided to get a 'real job' and entered the civilian work force. He worked for several heavy construction companies designing and building instrumentation for power plants. In 1997, Steve joined a fledgling little electric company called Dynegy, where he would work for the next 20 years until his retirement in 2017.

Steven attends most of the Board Meetings, and the Board can count on him to answer any question about Architectural Review Committee concerns. The Pool Committee was greatly appreciative of his help with our aging splash pad computer.

Today Steve still works on special projects, but primarily he spends his time entertaining his wife Sandi and granddaughter Lily.

Meet Village Creek Volunteers

John Mudd, Architectural Review Committee

John Mudd was born in St. Louis, Missouri, but his family moved to Houston when he was two. He worked in Engineering since 1998 while working nearly full time to pay for his way through college. In 2005, John earned his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from The University of Houston. He currently is a Sr. Project Manager with a Civil Engineering firm that deals mostly with public utilities and general Civil infrastructure. John is part of a large consortium of Engineering Firms working on one of the City's most significant water line projects to date. It includes installing several miles of huge 108-inch diameter water line. John is happily married to his wife for 14 years, and have three children, Jace (23), Elyssa (16) and Camryn (10). John and his family have been a part of the Tomball community for the last eleven years and within the Village Creek community for the previous 3.5 years. John decided to help make a positive impact in the community by joining the Architectural Review Committee in 2018.



*We ♥ Our
Volunteers*

Dogs in Harris County Must be on Leash

Dogs are like members of the family, and Village Creek residents are generally very responsible with their dogs. Unfortunately, a very few dog owners do not keep their pets on a leash. Harris County requires all dogs to be on a leash, and the owner must be in control of the animal.

An adult walking around the lake was recently bitten (unprovoked) by a dog that was off of a leash.. Harris County laws are generally quite flexible for most things, but when it comes to dogs and other animals, the rules are quite rigid. Complying with the Harris County rules could prevent an injury, a lawsuit, and the designation of a "Dangerous Dog." Here are a few Harris County regulations regarding dog bites (highly condensed):

- Bite: Any abrasion, scratch, puncture, tear, or piercing of the skin that causes bleeding and is caused by or suspected of being caused by an animal.

- A dog becomes a Dangerous Dog if the dog attacks and causes bodily injury or appears to have intended bodily injury.

- A dog determined to be a Dangerous Dog is added to a Harris County list of Dangerous Dogs. This list is not a good place to be. For more information see the website shown below.

<https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/Animals-and-Pets/HCAAnimal-Control-Agencies>

Hint: Adults and children should be wary of any dog they do not know.

Photo: A family dog enjoying life at a British Pub (note the Leash).



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Not Available Online

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.

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