



*Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays,
and have a safe and prosperous New Year!*

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 Ph
one..... 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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Spring Cypress Cleanup

By The Editor

Have you ever wondered how the shoulders of portions of Harris County Roads are kept clean? I was collecting the Garage Sale sign from the Village Creek Trail/Spring Cypress entrance a few Sunday mornings ago. I noticed a gentleman cleaning up the median on Spring Cypress. Curious, I went over and chatted. It turned out that his name is Nathan Tang. He is a Pharmacist and resident of Village Creek. He and his daughter have signed up with Harris County Precinct 4's Adopt-A-County Mile program (Watch for the Tang-Family name on the Adopt-A-Country-Mile sign near the Quick Quack Car Wash). As part of the contract, they come out once a month (or more if needed) to clean the mile between North Eldridge to Highway 249. He reports that he picks up three to four 30-gallon trash bags each month. He even takes it home for pickup. He tried to get the area in front of our community, but there is some sort of "landmark monument" (maybe another article to describe someday) on Spring Cypress Road from North Eldridge to Village Creek Trail, so he is limited to North Eldridge to SH 249. I asked him the source of most trash. He responded that "The source of litter or debris could be from the wind blowing them into that area or from unintentional littering by motorists. There is usually more trash near the strip centers or major retailer buildings."

Nathan and his daughter, Katlyn, are both active members of Scouting. Katlyn is also an active member (Senior Patrol Leader) of her Girl Scout Troop.

Village Creek is blessed to have people like the Tang family who "go the extra mile" to keep our area looking good.

Village Creek Volunteers

By The Editor

It is so easy to take our Village Creek volunteers for granted. The appearance is that things "just happen." Several volunteers actually make things happen.

Landscaping is planned and watched. Sick trees need attention. Contracts are created, bid, and implemented,

Holiday decorations are judged and awarded. The community is observed, and "Yard of the Month" is awarded.

Board members meet monthly and communicate nearly daily with day-to-day issues. They ponder questions, sometimes disagree, but finally, agree and move forward.

Our Architectural Review Board handles requests for changes and spends time revisiting our Guidelines.

At the pool, locks, furniture, and umbrellas are fixed. Furniture is monitored to keep things safe. Cleanliness and contracts are watched. Lifeguard performance is observed. Restrooms are maintained.

Events like "Cookies with Santa" happen. Cookies are ordered. Hot chocolate is picked up. Trees are set up. The Pool House and Entries are decorated. Toys must be purchased. Santa must be arranged. Mrs. Santa needs to be confirmed. Of course, other events follow.

Thank a volunteer and wish them a "Merry Christmas." Likely, they rarely hear anything at all.



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The Voice

The Case of the Battle-Worn Porch Light

A House Detective Short Story

By Gordon R. Watson



Years ago, I got to thinking that a home should always be ready to sell. Why would I want to live in a house that isn't as nice for us as for some strangers?

To that end, I am on a campaign to make our home look better. I am starting on the street side.

It all began with us pruning our two oak trees. When I pruned them, it suddenly made our home more visible. Among the things more noticeable are the defects. I repainted our front porch rocking chairs.

Then I painted the little table to match. I bought six bags of mulch to cover up some irrigation pipe that had become exposed. I rejuvenated our front door and installed a new threshold and seal. I then noticed that a sheet metal cover on our roof was rusting. I passivated the rust and painted it.

I remembered our friend, Laura, mentioning that her husband, Tommy, painted his porch lights. Over the past few days, I have painted our four porch lights. They were looking battle-worn. As you may recall, I do love Rust-oleum spray paints. We used the color Hammered Black. They look great. I might mention that I was able to take two entirely apart, but I had to use masking tape on the glass on the other two. Both worked out fine.

Dang. Now the house trim needs repainting. Oh, and I see a spot where the grass isn't getting enough water. Thankfully, in Tomball, fall and winter are great times to work outside.

December is here now, and I need to put up our exterior Christmas decorations. I love doing that, but I am getting older, so they may not be as beautiful (in my mind) as in the past, but I will do my best.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and have the best New Year ever!

Landscape Committee Report

By Sherry Watson, Chair. Laura Domangue and Kristin Jones, Members



You may have noticed that there were several landscape accomplishments over the past few months. The six ailing Chinese Pistache trees adjacent to the Pool House were lifted slightly to improve their health. These were in very wet areas, and this species does not like wet feet. The hope is that these valuable trees will recover. We added a drain in the forest onto Lake Vista (North) across from the old splash pad (now known as Scarlet Forest Park). This drain should help keep mosquitos down. Solving "puddling" is a long-term Board and Committee effort to remove as much standing water as possible. Another drain was improved on the East side of the Pool House to increase safety there.

Soon you will see a new Wax Myrtle to cover up an essential (but ugly) electric meter/irrigation control system on Village Creek Way.

The Holiday Decorating Contest will be underway this month with various awards given to wonderfully decorated homes. We should mention that a few homeowners with beautifully decorated homes have advised us they no longer need awards and to award them to others. It is hard to beat the Holiday Spirit!

Have a wondrous Christmas and Happy Holidays.

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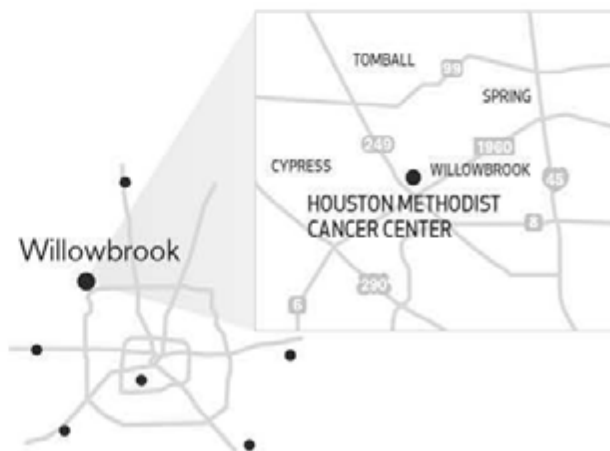
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Christmas Decorating

By Architectural Review Committee

Steve Winter, Chair. Ben Yerby, Joe Wright, and John Mudd, Members



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 before 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 decorations 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, so be sure your ladder is well supported, and you have considered all safety precautions before you climb on your roof. Did you know that the majority of accidents on construction sites are caused by improper use of ladders? The holiday will be much merrier if you are not in a cast or worse.

Happy Holidays!

The Minimalist Texas Harris County Gardener

By Flint Sage

Freezing is possible anytime for the next four months. Watch the weather news. If the predicted temperature is below 33 degrees F, make sure you drain and cover your backflow preventer (and any exposed water pipe). If you don't do this, it may freeze with a cost of \$40 for parts alone (if you can get parts). Cannot turn the backflow valve? Use a 24" (or so) length of ¾" PVC pipe for leverage. Insulate any exterior pipes which contain water. Even a blanket will help. Drain pipes and hoses. Cover sensitive plants. Water the soil beneath plants the day before a freeze. Water plants the day before the freezing. Moist soil is excellent to help store heat. Add mulch under the perennials to help protect them from freezing.

For the survival of the fittest gardener: Read the plant label and avoid buying plants that are susceptible to freezing here. We are Zone 9a: 20 to 25 (F). Don't remember our zone? Search for USDA Plant Hardiness Map and enter your zip code.

Pull out those dead annuals.

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 that all plants need an occasional drink, even in the winter.

December is a great time to plant trees and bushes.

According to A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast, do not fertilize lawns between October and Mid-March.



Cookies with Santa



Cookies with Santa is on December 15 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Of course, The Voice is written a month ahead of the distribution date, so be sure to watch for any changes on the Village Creek digital sign and other sources. Since 5:00 PM is the closing time, show up before then to have your chat with jolly Santa Claus. We expect a wondrous time of hot chocolate, delicious cookies, crunchy candy, friendly conversations with Santa, and Mrs. Santa, along with stunning decorations and joyous music.



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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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