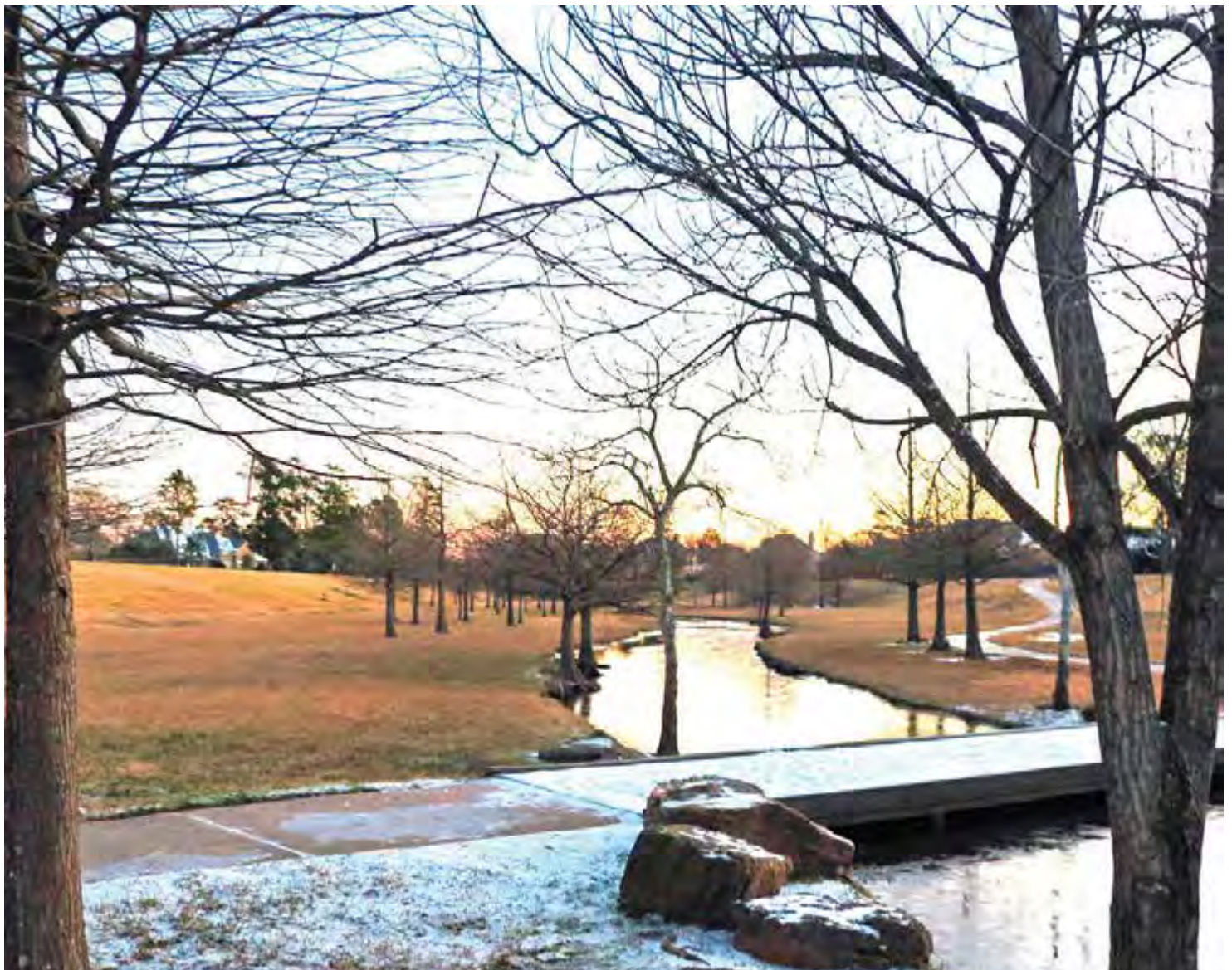




VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 1 | DECEMBER 2020



*Village Creek usually has very mild winter weather, but we do, rarely, get a dusting of snow or frost. Happy, prosperous, safe, and healthy 2020!*



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### IN CASE OF ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 911

#### SCHOOLS

Tomball ISD ..... 281-357-3100, [www.tomballisd.net](http://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](mailto:pam.hummel@crest-management.com) Ph  
one.....281-945-4618, Site  
Mgr.  
Website.....[www.Crest-Management.com](http://www.Crest-Management.com)

Village Creek Board Website.....[myvillagecreek.com](http://myvillagecreek.com)

Village Creek Website ..... Unrelated to the Board

.....[VillageCreekCommunity.com](http://VillageCreekCommunity.com)

Harris County Animal

Control.....281-999-3191

Lost/Found Pets ..... [Nextdoor.com](http://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](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage)

Harris County traffic signal outages..... 713-881-3210

Best Trash..... 281-313-2378

[customerservice@besttrash.com](mailto:customerservice@besttrash.com), and [www.best-trash.com](http://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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Editor..... Gordon R. Watson

..... [villagecreek@peelinc.com](mailto:villagecreek@peelinc.com) or [Watson.g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Watson.g@sbcglobal.net)

## THE CASE OF THE DARK HOOD THE HOUSE DETECTIVE

*Gordon R. Watson*



January started like any other January in Tomball: cold and dreary. The landscape was brown and gray, with no hope of Spring coming. Inside, with a cheery fire in its place, the house was pleasantly warm. I was cooking a toasted cheese sandwich for my grandson (who has advised me that I shouldn't let it go to my head, but my sandwiches are better than any restaurant's grilled cheese sandwich). My secret is that I use so much butter and olive oil to cook them that they really should be called "deep-fried cheese sandwiches." But I digest, or is that digest?

The lighting above our stove was originally a feeble 40-watt incandescent bulb. I have wanted to improve luminesce for a long time but had never found just the right answer. I finally found a perfect LED fixture on Amazon (search for T8 LED LIGHT FIXTURE 2 FT 1680lm 14 watts). It came in two pieces: each 12" long and each includes a power cord with a plug and switch. I removed both switches and hardwired them into the original switch.

The lights work perfectly. They are much brighter than the original. I love LEDs (in general). They save energy and reduce carbon pollution.

Oh, one other thing. We had a yearly problem with wasps entering our stove's roof vent and meandering quite a distance to our stove hood where they could go no farther.

I bought some stainless-steel screen, went up on our roof, and inserted the screen into the vent. It is somewhat challenging to add a screen, but I think I managed. Wasps will be happier if they don't travel to our stove hood.

## RESERVE AND OPERATING FUNDS

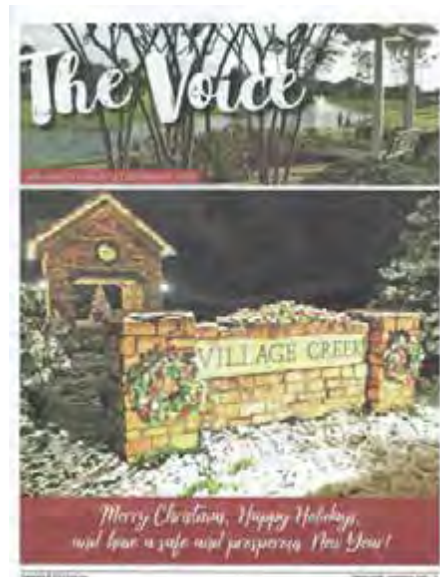
The Village Creek Community Association has two separate funding sources: One is the Operating Account, and the other is the Reserve Account. The Operating Account provides funding for the day-to-day maintenance and operations with about thirty-five different needs such as landscaping, pool contract, insurance, management company, maintenance, etc.

The Reserve Account is a savings account for significant future needs. Every few years, we hire a company to create a Reserve Study, which predicts what we will need for the next 30 years. At this writing, our current account contains about \$247,000. As part of each budget, the Board adds to this amount.

Photo: We recently replaced out several exterior electrical breaker boxes. In this case, the funding came from the Operating Fund.



## THE VOICE IS ONLINE TOO



The on-line version of *The Voice* has far clearer photographs than the printed copy. It is usually available on the first of the month. You can also view any issue back to 2004 (fifteen years). If you wish to compare our Community paper with others, you may look at any issue from other newspapers Peel

publishes (nearly 100 locations in Austin, Houston, and San Antonio).

*The Voice* is paid for entirely by advertisements. If you have a business, please consider advertising with them. Peel's web site is at [peelinc.com](http://peelinc.com).

*The Voice*, by the way, is unrelated and not controlled by the Village Creek Association Board.

## THANK YOU, VILLAGE CREEK

Volunteers, as always, decorated the community again this year. The following spent several hours early in December making Village Creek festive:

Thank you, 2019 Village Creek Decorating Volunteers Kris Rademacher, Jerry Rademacher, Sherry Watson (Landscape Committee), Eula Jones, James Paley, Brian Martin (Board Member), and Gordon Watson (Board Member-not pictured).



## KEEP VILLAGE CREEK SAFE



A Summary of a Discussion at a recent Board Meeting

A widespread Village Creek complaint is excessive street parking. Our streets are very narrow, and parked vehicles are a hazard for several reasons, including playing (hidden) children about to enter the street, the inability of emergency vehicles and school buses to safely

navigate quickly around our neighborhood, and the difficult of neighbors trying to back out of their driveway.

The street parking rules in beautiful Village Creek are precise. The Deed Restrictions (highly condensed) say the following:

- Nothing other than a pickup or car may be parked on a driveway for longer than 48 consecutive hours.
  - No car or pickup owned by the home's occupant shall be parked on any street overnight.
  - No guest of the owner may park on any street in the Subdivision overnight or on any driveway in the Subdivision for longer than 48 consecutive hours.
- Pickup Truck/Car: Any personal owned, non-commercial vehicle of  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton or less regardless of make, model, body style, or propulsion.

Be kind. When possible, avoid street parking. We all know how difficult and unsafe it is to drive in vehicle-packed streets. A recent house-fire reminded us of how important it is for fire trucks to access the Village Creek streets.



# OUTSMARTING CANCER

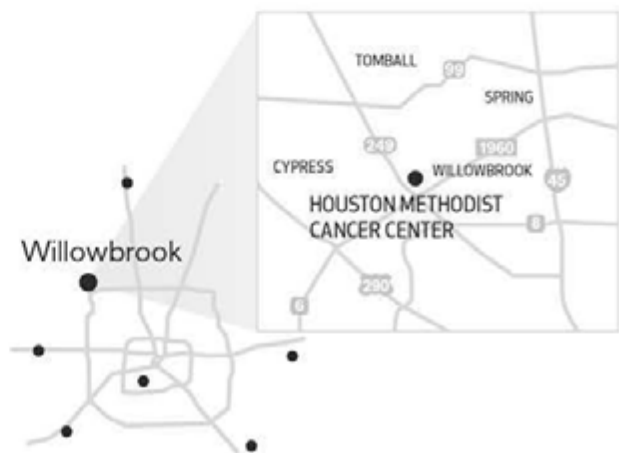
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[houstonmethodist.org/cancer-wb](http://houstonmethodist.org/cancer-wb)



## FLOATING A NEWSPAPER IDEA

*The Editor*



Jerry, a resident, recently found numerous free newspapers floating in our beautiful lake. When he told me about this, my first thought was that the delivery person dumped them there. That is likely not the case. He pointed out that, with their plastic cover,

they float nicely. When we had a storm a while back, the water washed them down the street to the nearest storm drain where they effortlessly sailed into our lake.

Forever the watchful volunteer, he collected those he could (actually going home for his pool skimmer). If you think about it, most of these newspapers eventually make it into the wilds where some poor critter might ingest the plastic.

While we will never stop the delivery of free newspapers, I can see now the importance of collecting them before they escape to the storm drain.

## VILLAGE CREEK BOARD MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

**NOVEMBER 16, 2019**

*The Editor*

Note: These are not official minutes of the meeting and are only intended to summarize the meeting for those unable to attend. The official minutes will be provided at the next meeting.

Members in Attendance: Brian Martin (President), Greg Davis (Vice President), Cynthia Moody (Treasurer), and Gordon Watson (Secretary). Ty Thomas (Director) was unable to attend.

Attendees: Four residents.

1) Constable Report: There was one disturbance, one suspicious person, three false alarms, eight routine neighborhood checks, six vacation checks, six welfare checks, two traffic initiatives, and ten "other" issues.

2) Financial Report: Because of more than expected repair and other costs, the Board has decided to review the budgeting vs. spending. Likely, nonessential expenses (such as landscape improvements) will be curtailed until 2020.

3) Ratifications between the Meetings

a) Our irrigation was winterized (shut off).

b) New electrical outlets installed at Pool House for safety.

c) The Pool House sewer line was inspected because of a toilet overflow during the summer. The line sags underground outside the Pool House, but the clog likely was temporary and unrelated to the sagging line (\$387).

d) New chlorine tablet feeders were installed to replace aging old ones (\$325).

e) One large dead Oak was removed at the north-central area of the lake (\$750).

4) Committee Reports

a) ARC: In Steve Winter's absence, ARC Member, Ben Yerby, was asked if there was anything to report. He advised that solar installations are more common. He noted there were a few fence and drain issues around the Community.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

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# The Voice

(Continued from Page 5)

b) Landscape: Sherry Watson, Chair, reported several improvements, including the following:

i) New Wax Myrtle on Village Creek Trail to hide an electrical meter stand.

ii) New drain near Lake Vista (northwest) in the forest to drain a low area.

iii) Six Chinese Pistache were planted several years ago near Pool House, but have struggled because of wet roots. To try to save them, six were raised and fertilized.

iv) Added gravel to a drain near Pool House to solve a safety hazard.

c) Social: The Board discussed Cookies with Santa and how we will proceed. The Board has arranged to purchase and install new Christmas trees to replace those damaged during a high wind last year. Professional installers will install Pool House holiday lights and the trees. Cookies with Santa is scheduled for December 15, 2019, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

d) Pool: The Pool Committee, Gordon Watson, Chair, has added five new electrical receptacles for the holiday lighting to solve a long-term yearly extension cord trip hazard.

5) New Business

a) Rye Grass is incompatible with Saint Augustine Grass, and Crest Management will advise Monteverde Gardens (M.G.) to reimburse us for the value of Rye Grass seed. Also, M.G. be notified that irrigation

water was shut off for freeze protection.

b) The Architectural Review Guidelines are in the process of being reviewed. We have decided that the new guidelines will require a standard fence height on all fences viewable from the street or public areas. When the Board and ARC Committee have a final draft, the draft will be presented to the Community for final review and comments.

c) The Board is looking at changing attorneys to have an attorney who not only handles neighborhood billing issues but also provides advice for day to day legal needs.

d) A Board member expressed concerns about providing the agenda and follow up meeting notes in a timelier fashion. After discussion, the Board decided that these could be improved.

e) A resident expressed concerns about overnight parking and pointed out that a few residents are not complying with the Deed Restrictions. The Board has decided to place an article in "The Voice" expressing the rules and concerns about street parking and safety.



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## ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE GUIDELINES



The Board and Architectural Review Committee are nearly ready to ask the public to review our proposed new ARC Guidelines. Since this document essentially provides guidance on how we want our community to be, this is your opportunity to make a difference. Watch for announcements and take part in reviewing and commenting on this important document.

## THE MINIMALIST GARDENER

By Flint Sage



Continue with your freeze protection effort through the remainder of the winter. When the weatherman predicts a "hard freeze" (or similar), shut off and drain your backflow preventer. Water landscape plants, trees, and vegetables before the freeze. Try not to water foliage. Water is very good at retaining heat in

the soil to help prevent freezing. Maintain a layer of mulch on bare areas to retain heat and moisture and to keep weeds down. Best of all, read plant labels before you buy. If they won't tolerate freezing, consider planting something different.

**Lawns:** Very little water is required, but water plants and lawns once a month if it doesn't rain.

Plant roses anytime. If planting in January, choose bare root.

Plant annual flowers such as calendula, cyclamen, dianthus, ornamental kale, cabbage, pansies, and petunias. Plant bluebonnet transplants into garden beds.

**Pruning:** Avoid pruning frost-damaged trees and bushes until February or March. Don't be a Crape Murderer. Crape Myrtles are trees and should be allowed to grow as trees. Unless you have a good reason, please don't cut off any branch larger than a pencil. There are many varieties of crapes, so select a shorter variety if height is a problem.

Plant cool-season seedlings such as asparagus, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, turnip greens, Irish potato, kohlrabi, leaf lettuces, onions, and swiss chard. Sow seeds this month for beets, carrots, English peas, greens, leaf lettuces, radishes, sugar snap, snow peas, and turnips.

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## Teenage Job Seekers

	Year	Born	Baby Sitting	House Sitting	Pet Sitting	Yard Work	Phone
Aidan Caudle	2005	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	713-806-6924
Zachary Caudle	2005	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	713-806-6924
Kaylee Caudle*	2005	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	713-806-6924
Tucker Golden*	2003	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	832-652-9003
Sarah Plaxco*+~ <sup>R</sup>	2000	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	832-651-1462
Travis Plaxco*+~ <sup>R</sup>	2003	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	.....★	832-651-1462

\* CPR Training + First Aid Training ~ Baby-sitting Course

<sup>R</sup> Has References MH Mother's Helper

## ATTENTION TEENAGERS

The Teenage Job Seekers listing service is offered free of charge to all Village Creek teenagers seeking work. Teens who live in Village Creek should submit their information to [villagecreek@peelinc.com](mailto:villagecreek@peelinc.com) by the 5th of each month for publication in the following month's issue. You must be age 13 to 19 to be on the list. Please include any certifications, training, and what type of job you would like to do. Note that there is a yard work category now. Please update your information yearly.

## DO YOU WANT TO CONTACT THE BOARD?

The Board's new website at [villagecreek.us](http://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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