



The Voice

VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY 2020



Lonesome Village Creek Common Persimmon tree with the Moon peeking through the branches.

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 ManagementPam 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, 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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Landscape Committee Summary 2019 and Proposed 2020

Sherry Watson, Chair; Kristin Jonec and Laura Domangue, Members

- Monteverde Gardens, our landscape contractor, declined to do work beyond their contract (such as planting for additional money) shortly after coming on Board in July 2018. They wished to do only the work that fell within their contract. Their two-year contract ends in July 2020.
- Land Crafters, our previous contractor, was hired, with Board approval, to plant any new landscape, but this did not take place until many months into the contract when the weather was suitable.
- In July of last year, the Board hired Land Crafters to take charge of all irrigation for Village Creek.
- Pedro's Tree Service removed numerous trees and other plants. They also trimmed many of our oak trees, which has encouraged new growth.
- The Landscape Committee waited through the long hot summer for the excellent fall planting season to arrive. It was at this time that the Board decided to cut back on nonessential spending. Five to ten projects with Estimates ready to present to the Board remained in the planning stages.
- In 2020, if approved by the Board, you will see Crape Myrtles and Vitex planted along Village Creek Trail and Lake Vista West north of Mossy Ledge.
- If approved, you will see the remainder of the oaks in Village Creek trimmed to promote growth.
- If approved, you will see tree trimming and tree removal in Sky Haven Park.
- If approved, you will see ten Mexican Live Oaks planted around the lake to provide shade for our many walkers.
- If approved, you will see more trimming, cleaning up, and removal of Chinese Tallow trees in our magnificent forest.

Village Creek's Park Benches



There are about fourteen park benches in Village Creek. Most are about fifteen years old. A few years ago, they were repainted and have been touched up regularly since then. The Board is replacing them as they become beyond reasonable repair with recycled plastic benches which look much like the originals except that they should not require the regular touch-up the current ones do. In January, two were replaced: one at the pool playground and the other at Mossy Ledge Park. While the Board is aware of many, many infrastructure issues, there is always a good chance that a resident knows something the Board does not. If you see any problems with our infrastructure, contact villagecreek.us and send the Board and Committee Members a note from there.

Cookies with Santa

Cookies with Santa was a great success with lots of obliging volunteers. Joyful music and holiday fragrances filled the air. While beaming children patiently waited in line to discuss their wishes with jolly Santa Claus, thoughtful Mrs. Claus handed out tiny, tingling bells and small bags of flavorsome candy. As attendees departed, they partook thirst-quenching water or hot chocolate carefully fashioned by our sensational servers. Along with the beverage, attendees could enjoy an ambrosial cookie. Finally, they chose a delightful and delicious candy cane to take along to relish later.



Cookies with Santa Volunteers

Lisa Rawles, our Social Committee Chair, was unable to help out this year, and we found out how much work she has done over the past many years. Still, somehow, with numerous volunteers taking up the slack, the event worked out well. We thank those who stepped forward to make Cookies with Santa a success.



Front Row sitting: Grant Watson and Kate Martin
 Standing: Gordon Watson, James Paley, Brian Martin, Amy Martin, Cynthia Moody and Chris Radamacher.
 Sitting: Sherry Watson and Santa Claus, and Cole Martin (kneeling), Not in photo: Eula Jones and Madison Paley were there, but missed the photograph.

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

SUMMARY OF 2019 -OR- "A WHOLE LOT OF FENCING GOING ON!"

Well, that puts a cap on 2019. I hope everyone had a great year and got everything done they wanted to. If not, then there is always 2020.

Below is a summary of the Architectural Review or Exterior Modification requests submitted during 2019. All totaled, 96 applications were filed, and only seven were declined, and of those three were approved on re-application. The primary reason for denial was either they were oversized, as in larger than allowed by the Covenants or the requested materials to be used were not approved in the Deed Restrictions.

As usual, fence replacement led the list as the most requested item, followed by tree changes and roof replacement. It makes sense because original fences, roofs, and trees are all 20 years old now. A surprise was the number of Solar Panel installations, five (5) in total, and we can see this number getting larger next year as incentives begin to expire and Spark Spread in Texas (generation capacity -vs.- demand) gets more lopsided.

Requested item approved	Count
Arbor	1
Driveway extension	1
Fence Replacement/Modification/Stain	41
Generator Installation	1
Paint Exterior Color Change	3
Patio Attached/Free Standing	4
Pergola	1
Play Structure	1
Pool/Spa	4
Roof Replace/Repair	10
Shed/Storage structure	2
Sidewalk replacement	1
Solar Panel Installation	5
Storm Door add/replace	1
Tree Removal/Replacement/Addition	11
Water line replacement	1
Window replacement	1
Requested item denied (reason)	
Driveway Extension (improper size)	1
Gazebo (improper size and material)	1
Patio Cover (improper size and material)	1
Play Structure (improper size)	2
Shed/Storage (improper size and material)	2
Requests for 2019	96

The Architectural Review committee wishes you and your family a very healthy and prosperous new year.

Ben, Joe, John and Steve

Holiday Decorating Contest Winners



Best Overall

17818 Scarlet Forest Drive

Most Traditional

17122 Ligustrum Trail

Most Festive

17423 Sunset Arbor Drive

Kids' Choice

17107 Ligustrum Trail

Honorable Mention

17518 Sunset Arbor Drive

12635 Midland Creek Drive

12838 Carriage Glen Drive

12806 Sienna Trails Drive

17223 Cobble Shores Drive

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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.

February weather averages: High: 75, Low: 40, Rainfall: 0.06"

(Shown on the Cover)

The Lonesome Common Persimmon

By Flint Sage (with help from wildflowers.org)



We planted a Common Persimmon Tree somewhere around eight (or so) years ago as a stick purchased at a Garden Show in Houston. It is sort of a shining star as it has grown nicely with no complaints and very little care or pruning. Other trees we have planted have died and gone by the wayside. Depending on soil conditions, these can grow up to 100 feet.

Ours is about 20 feet tall at this point. We didn't know that it takes two Common Persimmon to create fruit. Ours has never had fruit, so there apparently aren't any nearby. The fruit is delicious and was prized by American Indians. Of course, 'possums, deer, and birds also feed on it. It is possible these are good next to sidewalks because (according to wildflowers.org) the root system is deep rather than on the surface. This root habit seems to be true of ours as well. You might consider planting one so that our tree can grow some fruit. We promise to share.

Photo by-Rebekah-D.-Wallace-University-of-Georgia-Bugwood.org

Board Meeting Minutes

The following are the unapproved abbreviated for publication minutes from the December 16, 2019 Village Creek Board Meeting. The official minutes were sent to those registered at villagecreek.us.

IN ATTENDANCE

Representing the Members of the Village Creek Community Association, Inc., were the following Board members:

Brian Martin – President
Greg Davis – Vice President
Ty Thomas – Director
Gordon Watson – Secretary
Cynthia Moody - Treasurer

Representing Crest Management, was:

Pam Hummel, CMCA, AMS, Community Manager

Constable Report

The constable's report had 40 calls listed. There were 3 suspicious vehicle, 3 alarms, 2 neighborhood checks, 12 vacation checks, 4 traffic initiatives and 16 other calls.

Financial Report

The Board presented the November 2019 financial report to the homeowners that were present. Pam Hummel reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement. As of November 30, 2019, the Association has a 95.8% collection rate for 2019 Assessments. Total Cash \$164,981.45 Total Reserve Funds \$236,918.22, Total Assessment Receivables \$34,390.40 and Total Assets \$457,240.99. As reported in the October 2019 minutes, because of more than expected repair and other costs, the Board has decided to review the budgeting vs. spending. Nonessential expenses (such as landscape improvements) will be curtailed until 2020.

Committee Reports

ARC – Steve Winter reported that there was one approved and one pending ARC request. Steve Winter also provided update ARC Guidelines for the board to review.

Landscape – Sherry Watson, Chair, provided a handout that stated:

- Monteverde Gardens, our landscape contractor, has stated that the reserve forest is not part of their contract, so they do no work there.
- Areas where annuals are located are being over watered due to grass, trees and plants being located in those areas.
- Since the Committee was not allowed to use its budget, it was requested by the Chair that if money is available, the Committee should be allowed to include what was not used this year in 2020.

• In 2020, when Land Crafters requires a signature for final payment, Director Greg Davis agreed to sign the invoice (after the Board's approval).

• Cynthia Moody said that all the irrigation water should be turned off.

Social – The Board discussed Cookies with Santa and how well the event turned out. The board has also found a new holiday decorations vendor, Holy Lights that did a great job with the trees and lighting.

Pool – Gordon Watson, Pool Chair stated that he drained all of the plumbing lines in the pool house to allow for the upcoming freeze.

New Business

• A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the 2020 contract from Lake Management.

(Continued on Page 6)

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(Continued from Page 5)

- The 2018 Audit was presented to the board for approval. The board asked that the auditor provide a more thorough investigation of the concerns that they had with Spectrum. Pam Hummel will reach out to Elaine Combs to discuss the board's concerns.

- The ARC Guideline revisions were presented to the board. Homeowner review and comments will be solicited prior to board approval.

- At the request of a home owner, the Board discussed adding a pickle ball court located at the parking lot. Given safety, funding and other concerns, this item has been shelved indefinitely.

- The board will interview new attorneys beginning with the January 2020 meeting.

- Director Watson suggested that an Infrastructure Committee should be formed. The board opened up discussion about various issues relating to Committees. Director Watson left the meeting at this time. There was not a definitive answer for this topic and it will be reviewed in a future board meeting.

- The board and attorney are reviewing rules and guidelines related to fences.

Homeowner Forum

Three homeowners were in attendance. There were no questions from the homeowners.

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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