



VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2020



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THE LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE HOPES TO ADD  
AT LEAST TEN TREES EACH YEAR ALONG THE LAKE  
WALKWAY AS FUNDING PERMITS.**

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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)

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#### NEWSLETTER

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## Pulling up Stakes

*The Editor*

There were at least three fence stakes hidden in our forest on Midland Creek. They were an eyesore for a long time. The stakes annoyed Jerry Radamacher enough that he wanted to do something about it. He asked me to accompany him to see if we could pull them out with a cool stake puller he purchased from Tractor Supply (one of my favorite stores). I drove and took photos while he did all of the work. He did get them out. They had probably been there for 50 to 100 years. If you see Jerry, give him a thanks for all he does.



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## Yellow Dust Everywhere

*The Editor*

If it happens that the March issue of The Voice arrives on or about March 1, something else may also arrive as well: yellow pine pollen.

Those of you new to Village Creek may see your car and pretty much everything else covered with this pine pollen. Don't fret. It is easily blown away as you drive, and, above all, we are told that since it is such a large and visible pollen, it tends not to be the main cause of allergies.

Unfortunately, there are some other pollens in the air such as oak, ash, juniper, and cedar that can cause problems. If you happen to have any of these trees in your yard, don't bother cutting them down as pollens can travel very long distances.

Hang in there. This event generally starts at the beginning of March and end about ten days later.



### 2020 MARKET STATS VILLAGE CREEK

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#### VILLAGE CREEK 2020\*

**Homes Active on the Market 5**  
Lowest Sales Price \$260,000  
Highest Sales Price \$385,000  
Average Price Per Sq. Ft. \$106.84

**Pending Sales 3**  
Lowest Sales Price \$239,000  
Highest Sales Price \$409,000  
Average Price Per Sq. Ft. \$111.05  
Average Days on Market 51 Days

**Homes Closed in 2019 42**  
Lowest Sales Price \$220,000  
Highest Sales Price \$404,000  
Average Price Per Sq. Ft. \$105.07  
Average Days on Market 44 Days

\*Data is from HAR for 1-1-19 through 2-05-20

**We are residents of Village Creek and have  
SOLD over 40 homes in the subdivision!**

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# The Voice

## WHAT ARE THOSE MUD MOUNDS NEAR THE LAKE?

*The Editor (with help from the internet)*



For those new to the South, you may want to know what those strange dirt mounds around the lake are. They are crayfish mounds. Crayfish are also known as crawfish, crawdads, freshwater lobsters, mudbugs, yabbies', etc. They are related to lobsters and look similar.

You will find the mounds on the northeast end of the Lake area where water accumulates after a rain. In general, you may find them anywhere where the soil remains damp and near a source of water. Crayfish burrow and are nocturnal, so you will not see them during the day. A typical crayfish is about 7" in length.

Louisiana produces 95% of the U.S. crawfish (about 100,000,000 pounds of crawfish a year) and is their official state crustacean. They forage for food at night and will eat almost anything. The dirt mounds are most common after a rain when they need to do some housekeeping for their burrows. Their burrows can go as deep as six feet down.

Those of us not born in the South learn something new every day.

## CHINESE FRINGE TREE

*Flint Sage  
(with help from Buchanan's Native Plants  
in Houston and Texas A&M)*

Our Chinese Fringe tree may be in bloom as you read this. You can see it in a yard on the northeast end of the lake (above the little stream).

The photo shows it as beautifully shaped, but ours is actually bent in an odd shape. The blooms are lovely and fragrant as well. The tree grows to 20 feet high and 20 feet wide as well. Ours is about 10 feet tall and 10 feet wide at 10 or so years. Some use it as a hedge. It does require some sunlight. Ours is in full sun. It thrives in our Zone 9 and does not need to be pampered when cold. Often, the Fringe tree's canopy starts a few feet above the ground. Ours, unintentionally or by ignorance, has a canopy starting at about six feet. The tree is a slow grower but can be expected to live 70 years or more. It has been known to do well in either dry or standing water.

Also, consider the American Fringe tree. (Quoted from Texas A&M Agrilife Extentions) It is native to much of the U.S.A. American Fringe Tree (*C. virginicus*) Generally a small tree, this species can ultimately grow to 30 feet tall with a distinctive rounded growth habit. It's hardy throughout the state and is easy to grow in sandy, acidic soils. The flowers aren't as white as those on the Chinese species -- they tend to blend more with the leaves -- but the effect is still very attractive in the landscape.



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## The Minimalist Darwinian Gardener

By Flint Sage



I hope that freezing weather is behind us (though always possible in the first two weeks in March). The record low for March was 19 degrees F in 2002. We had freezing rain in March 2014, so do not let your guard down just yet. Unless you do not mind covering plants before a freeze, do not plant any plant that cannot tolerate 18 degrees F. Our planting zone is #9a.

Think about planting some vegetables. Those to plant in March are beans, corn, cucumber, eggplant, kohlrabi, mustard, peppers, pumpkin, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Kids love to pick vegetables.

Bare root planting season is over, so any planting of woody plants should be from containerized plants. Among ornamental, woody plants that do well in our area are Ligustrum, Crape Myrtles, Wax Myrtles, Pineapple Guava, Purple Sage, and Bottle Brush. The Lord Byron Viburnum is stunning in March.

Our lawns are beginning to come alive again. Along with the grass will come some weeds. It is best to pull these as needed. Certainly, mow them if they are shading the lawn. In general, do not fertilize until the grass starts growing and needs mowing. Feeding dormant grass will encourage weed growth. The rule of thumb is, "fertilize when you have mowed twice."

## 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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