



October 2021

Summer is barely over, and although our south-central Texas winter seems far off, now is the time to check your plumbing pipes and begin the winterization process. We only have to think back to February's big freeze to remember that frozen pipes pose homeowners one of the most dangerous and costly problems. You may continue to use your outdoor faucets for another month or so but go through the list below and make sure you are set to cover and insulate faucets and outdoor pipes later this fall.

Winter Plumbing Preparation Check List

1. Outdoor Faucet Care

- a. Disconnect all garden hoses, drain and store them away from the elements.
- b. Be sure to cover your outdoor faucets with insulated foam covers or an old towel/t-shirt to prevent freezing and damaged pipes.
- c. Seal holes and cracks in exterior walls, foundation, and around pipes to prevent the cold from getting into your home.
- d. Turn off and drain your irrigation system.
- e. Know where your home shut-off valve is located and how to use it. (if you don't have one of these, consider having a plumber install one – it will help if there is a leak on your side of the meter).

2. Vacant Homes

- a. Turn off your home shut-off valve.
 - Open an indoor and outdoor faucet to drain pipes. **Remember to close (turn off) these faucets once the waterlines are empty.**
- b. Open all bedroom, bathroom and closet doors, and cabinet doors in the kitchen and bathroom.
- c. Keep the thermostat set at 65 degrees (as recommended by the Insurance Information Institute).

3. Frozen or Broken Pipes

- a. Open a faucet near the frozen point.
- b. Wrap the frozen pipe with a towel.
- c. Repeatedly pour hot water over the towel.
- d. If your pipes break:
 - **Turn off water at your home shut-off valve. If you cannot turn the water off, call 830-914-2331 for help 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**
- e. Make sure that Green Valley has your current contact information (phone number & email). We will send calls, texts, and email alerts to you if an emergency affects your area.

GVSUD Celebrations Anniversaries

John B. & Tracy R. – 9 years,
Marvin F. – 5 years,
Tommy B. & Tommy P. – 2
years & Johnny C. – 1 year

Birthdays

Ruben R., Tommy P., & Kayla E.



Back Row, Left to Right:
Marvin, F., Ruben R., & Tommy B.
Front Row, Left to Right:
Tommy P. & Johnny C



The Facts About Teen Pedestrians

5  /week

There are 5 teen pedestrian deaths every week in the United States.

13% 
 There has been a 13% increase in the pedestrian death rate for 12-19 year olds since 2013.

Age 15-19
 
population pedestrian deaths

In 2015, while teens ages 15-19 made up 26 percent of all children ages 0-19 years, they made up about half of the pedestrian fatalities.

We observed 39,000 middle and high school students and 56,000 drivers in school zones in 2016.

Distracted walking is on the rise. We observed it in 1 in 4 high school students and 1 in 6 middle school students.



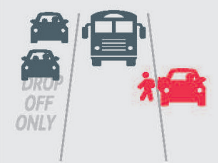
Distracted teens were most likely to be wearing headphones or texting.



Unsafe street crossing behavior was observed in about 80% of students.



Unsafe drop-off or pick-up behavior was observed in nearly 1 in 3 drivers.



School Zone Safety Reminders

Since GVSUD's main entrance is in a Marion school zone, we are very aware of the need for safety. Below are some suggestions for School Zone Safety.

- Stay alert.
- Watch for children crossing the road.
- Be mindful of your surroundings.
- Put away your cellphone.
- Slow down.
- Obey speed limit signs and all traffic rules in school zones.
- Drive safely around school buses.
- Drop off and pick up children at designated areas.

Happy Halloween from Green Valley!

Join in the fun at the Annual Fall Festival Trunk-or-Treat at St. John Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 30. The event will be in the church parking lot from 4 – 7 p.m.

GVSUD team members will be on hand to host an arts and crafts booth in the Activity Center.